

Austria Builds Up Well Trained Army Of 45,000

VIENNA (UPI)—In three years, Austria has built from scratch a small but well-trained army of 45,000 men, almost all infantry.

At the end of the British-French-American - Soviet occupation in 1955, each of the four powers gave Austria vast stores of military material, including cantonments, small arms, vehicles, some tanks and ammunition.

Since then, Austria has purchased a number of Bofors 40 mm antiaircraft guns from Sweden and a few British planes for its small air force.

Now, Defense Minister Ferdinand Graf told United Press International, he is planning to equip all infantrymen with rapid-fire sub-machine guns or "sturm gewehr," and is even negotiating with Communist Czechoslovakia on the possible purchase of rocket artillery. This artillery consists of units of 32 barrels each, mounted on carriers. They were developed during World War II.

Graf said any rocket artillery more modern than this was too expensive for such a small nation as Austria, which has a population of only 7,000,000.

Even such items as the American-made Matador guided missile, which can carry either a conven-

tional or atomic warhead, and with which the West Germans will be equipped in about a year would be too expensive, he said.

Graf explained that the Austrian ground forces now are formed into 10 brigades, nine infantry and one armored. The self-sufficient brigades can fight in isolation for long periods or can be grouped together in "building block" fashion to form a heavy concentration. This is the same system now being used by the new West German army.

The problems raised by Austria's geographical situation, in the heart of Europe and between the world's two major power blocs, are formidable, Graf said.

"For the Warsaw Pact states," he said, "Austria forms a strategic operational springboard for an advance into West Germany, to the Swiss border, towards Upper Italy and to the Adriatic."

Graf believes Austria is secure if it shows a strong national defense — strong enough to be respected by all sides. But, he warns, "A military vacuum would have a magnetic effect." In that case, each great power bloc would feel it must step in and control the ground in Austria.

Florists Invite Kremlin To Say It With Flowers

NEW YORK (UPI)—Some 24,000 of the world's florists are trying to get Nikita S. Khrushchev to say it with flowers.

They are members of Interflora, which arranges for the exchange of flowers across international boundaries, and they'd like to add Russia to the 126 countries of their network.

The florists have assigned a spunky little Frenchman, Maurice Debie, to the task of winning over the Soviet premier, but Debie says: "Like other East-West parleys, slow negotiations are holding up the project."

Debie, who is president of the Interflora network, explained his mission this way:

"I'm certain that the exchange of floral gifts between people of all nations cannot help but improve international relations and promote the cause of global understanding."

standing.

"The language of flowers is truly a universal medium which translates the wishes for joy, for love and for sympathy into every tongue."

On official of the Florists Telegraph Delivery Association, New York, said that if only one of the 92 floral shops in Moscow were to join Interflora, the Soviets could put the language of flowers to the test on a global basis.

To express indifference, for example, the FTDA suggests the Russians could send dogwood. China aster would mean "will consider the offer"; blooms in variegated pink would mean "offer rejected."

Jonquils: "Please return my affection." Daisy: "Love me, love me not." Blue violet: "I'm always loyal." White violet: "I'm innocent" or "Who, me?"

Hospitals Clean Up To Battle Big Epidemics

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Hospitals are resorting to their oldest weapon—cleanliness—to combat a serious wave of infections resulting from overuse of new antibiotic drugs.

The U.S. Public Health Service reports that the rub-and-scrub campaign is being pressed from coast to coast. It reflects genuine alarm among hospital officials about the rapid spread of drug-resistant germs that have caused more than 100 hospital epidemics in the past five years.

The germs are a variant of the common staphylococci, pus-forming organisms that cause boils, abscesses and other external and internal infections. Doctors have coined the term "golden staph" to identify the variant, which is found primarily in the supposedly antiseptic surroundings of hospitals.

The "golden staph" germs not only are immune to the new antibiotic drugs—they actually seem to thrive on them.

Some researchers believe that the antibiotics, by killing off other micro-organisms, give the golden staph a free field to multiply. Others say that hospitals in recent years have relied so heavily on the so-called miracle drugs to control infections that they have tended to become careless about old-fashioned sanitation.

For either or both of these reasons, golden staph germs have bred rapidly in hospitals. They are particularly menacing to newborn

babies and their mothers, and to surgical patients.

The Public Health Service called experts from all parts of the nation to a conference on the problem in Atlanta, Georgia, in mid-September.

There was general agreement that the golden staph has become a serious concern for virtually every hospital. One estimate given at the conference, and not challenged by any of the participants, was that 20 per cent of the newborn babies and five per cent of the surgical patients in the average hospital develop some kind of staph infection.

In many cases, the infection may be as minor as a boil. But sometimes it is more serious, leading to pneumonia and death. The most recent severe outbreak took place in a Houston, Texas, hospital early this year. Of 261 patients who became infected, 22 died.

Following up the Atlanta conference, the Public Health Service is now holding a series of regional meetings with hospital officials, urging them to (1) cut down on unnecessary use of antibiotics; and (2) enforce sterner sanitation measures in all hospital operations, especially nurseries and surgery.

The problem is also being attacked on the research front. The National Institutes of Health, research arm of the Public Health Service, received a \$1,000,000 appropriation from the last session of Congress to press studies on the golden staph.

Archeologists Seek Ocean Treasures

ROME (UPI)—Winter weather gives thousands of underwater archeologists a chance to dry their treasures and plan for next year's ocean and lakebed searches.

Underwater archeology became a big hobby about a year ago in Italy and the number of enthusiasts, nearly all amateurs, has increased by several thousand. They take their annual vacations at coastal and lakeside towns for the sole purpose of diving under water to look for ancient relics.

At present, they are cataloguing their finds, or checking with each other on some happy underwater hunting ground they may have missed. This new sport is hazardous in winter weather because of sudden storms and squalls.

Thousands of ancient shipwrecks can be found around the Italian coasts, as well as hundreds of thousands of amphoras, or vases, of Greek and Roman origin.

Some of the major finds of the past season included:

—An ancient boat dating back more than 1,000 years, found in Lake Trasimeno, about 90 miles north of Rome.

—Scores of other shipwrecks of ancient origin at points along the Italian, Sardinian and Sicilian coasts. Off Syracuse, Sicily, for example, an entire Greek Navy of 200 warships and transports was discovered at the beginning of the year. This fleet, the authorities said, was probably sunk in the year 279 B.C.

—A shipwreck discovered off Syracuse was a Roman transport that carried a cargo of Greek marble and metal sheets.

Many of these ships and their cargoes will be placed on public view in museums.

Firm Leases Wide Range Of 'Things'

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—The pilot of a twin-engine transport plane in Colorado and the skipper of a barge off the Virginia coast have one thing in common.

The craft they command both belong to a behind-the-scenes enterprise in the business world, the United States Leasing Corp., an 8-year-old firm that rents out everything from bulldozers to cash registers.

Unlike the leasing of property, and even fleets of automobiles, the leasing of a wide range of machines, store fixtures and equipment is fairly new.

Leasing became feasible because of "tight" money policies and because companies sought to avoid being saddled with equipment that became obsolete before it could be depreciated.

Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone, USAF, Ret., chief executive officer of U.S. Leasing, points out that "some firms in the electronics and missiles fields lease all equipment, right down to the stapler on the secretary's desk." In leasing business equipment, the firm needing it specifies whose material it wants and then makes a lease agreement for a reasonable period. U.S. Leasing then pays the seller at the standard price when the equipment is delivered to the lessee. When a lease is up it may be extended at a lower rate.

General Stone adds that while leasing costs more than outright purchase, the cost must be weighed against the increased earnings that result from keeping working capital liquid.

JAZZ WEEKEND
NEWPORT, R.I. (UPI)—The sixth annual Newport Jazz Festival will be held in 1959 on the July 4th weekend in Freebody Park.

OSC To Expand Work In Oceanography In 1959

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Plans to establish a new department of oceanography at Oregon State College and to expand OSC ocean research off the Oregon coast have been announced by A. L. Strand, president, and Dr. John R. Richards, chancellor of the state system of higher education.

The new department would concentrate on graduate student training and research. It will be organized as the expanded research program is developed in coming months.

In the past five years, OSC has received research grants totaling more than \$75,000 for the first extensive studies ever made of the tides, inlets, water temperature and salinity of Oregon's 300 miles of coastal water.

Most of the \$75,000 has come from the office of naval research,

which recently announced plans for a vast new 10-year national program of research in waters surrounding the U.S. OSC is one of the 10 institutions proposed by ONR to conduct the studies and to assist in training vitally needed oceanographers. The 10 schools are strategically located along the East and West Coasts and the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Wayne V. Burt is in charge of teaching and research programs in oceanography at the college.

The 10-year program is aimed at providing basic information about deep ocean areas, and waters, the coastal shelf and the ocean floor around the United States. The Oregon coast is the fourth longest of any state and OSC is among the most favorably located schools in the country for ocean research, President Strand noted.

"An expanded educational and research program in the field of oceanography would be of great importance to the college and the economy of the state," Dr. Strand said. "In addition to the national need for trained oceanographers, OSC graduate students in fisheries, geology, natural resources, meteorology, engineering, zoology and science education would benefit from advanced work in oceanography."

"Research in oceanography has direct economic application to fisheries, engineering, and geological survey work," Strand continued. Findings would be of value also to many state agencies, such as the fish commission and the state sanitary authority, he added.

Water temperature studies now underway by Burt are in cooperation with the Coast Guard and the state fish commission is co-operating in work on pollution drainage in Oregon coastal harbors.

Studies are coordinated also with research in California coastal waters by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, another of the 10 institutions proposed as research leaders in the 10-year national program.

Whole Family Attends College

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (UPI)—Merwin F. Bennett, his wife and two children all are students at Mississippi Southern College. They call it togetherness.

Bennett explained that he and his wife cut short their education to raise a family. They operated a dairy farm until the children, a son and daughter, were old enough to enter college. Mother and dad then saw their chance and signed up, too.

Bennett and son Merwin are juniors, daughter Virginia is a sophomore and Mrs. Bennett is a freshman.

FOR CLEAN LICENSE TAGS

NEW YORK (UPI)—It's against the law to allow your license plates to become so dirty they can't be read. They shouldn't be allowed to hang by one bolt either. A good idea is to give the plates a solid waxing as you wax your car. The wax acts as a cover for the plates and makes them much easier to keep clean. It also cuts down on rust.

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