

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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"C'Did Be Dot Our Goot Fuehrer Vas Misinformed?"



### EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

**IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.**  
**LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.**

### TODAY'S TEXT

Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winneps; of that where-with the Lord thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.—Deuteronomy 15:14.

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

He that will not stoop for a pin will never be worth a pound.—Pepys.

### Nazi Versus German

When this war began the German people doubtless believed that Hitler was sending them into battle to win land, power and glory for themselves. It may be that even Hitler deluded himself with the same notion at first. But the fiction has long since been dispelled.

To any German with access to even a smattering of truthful news it must have been clear for some time that the war was being fought for the nazis, not the Germans. Today that fact is abundantly evident to all.

Since the allied breakthrough from the Rhine, the German civilian has been sampling the fate of the people of occupied Europe during their temporary conquest. Unarmed citizens have been machine gunned when they tried to surrender. Guns at their backs have forced the untrained aged and children to face the allied guns before them.

Probably the nazis defend their inhumanity on the grounds that it is a German's "duty" to defend his father-

land against the "hated invaders," the "terror bombers," the "bolsheviks," or whatever. Theoretically, that might be so. But actually it is obvious that the heiling throngs of yesterday are by now heartily sick of the nazis and their war.

But the nazis are not so busy with efforts to save their own skins that they neglect to punish civilians even in territory that has fallen to the invader. For example, they could spare three men to return to Aachen and assassinate Franz Oppenhof, the allied-appointed mayor of that city.

The nazis may call Oppenhof a "collaborator." But even they must realize that the term has a different meaning here.

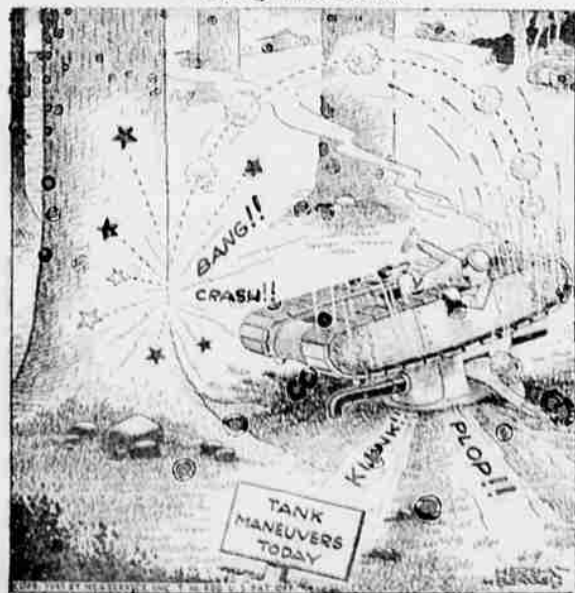
Aachen's fall ushered in the alleged "new order." It was the beginning of the last act in the terrible drama of nazi ambition. That's all that it was. But life still had to be lived. And it was Oppenhof's job to help restore a semblance of orderly life, and to help dispense a stern but reasonable justice.

For that Oppenhof was murdered. The nazis had threatened to kill those who aided the allies. Now that threat was carried out. It can scarcely be the last of such murders. Oppenhof's fate will become known. His story will be whispered in the conquered portions of Germany and proclaimed where the nazis still stand.

Thus any non-nazi asked by the allies to serve in civil government will fear for his life. And so long as any ardent nazis remain at large there will be reason to fear. A desire to end the hopeless struggle and aid in a restoration of peaceful living will be overshadowed by the constant dread of the nazi assassin's bullet.

Thus the inevitable may be defied a little longer. It cannot avert the nazis' defeat. But it can aid and complicate the conqueror's task and prolong to some extent the fighting and the occupation.

### Funny Business



"Do you suppose we'd better go around it or try it again?"

### SO THEY SAY

We cannot deny the American command the ability to make use of the overwhelming material at their disposal. The targets and energy with which these were followed up remind us of German methods in the first years of the war.

—Lt. Gen. Kurt Dittmar, German military analyst.

War preparedness in the future will not be a matter of storing up vast stocks of war supplies. To be properly prepared we will have to maintain a high stage of development in the design of all types of war material.

—Maj. Gen. Levin H. Campbell, Jr., chief of ordnance.

When the definitive history of this war comes to be written, it will be seen that men and women of all races and religions have contributed in significant measure to the final triumph over the monster fascism.

—Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Pacific ocean area commander.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

(Drew Pearson's column today takes the form of an open letter to Josef Stalin on the vital question of permanent peace.)

Dear Marshal Stalin:

I am taking the unusual step of writing you in this way because I am not sure that you realize what is happening in the United States. I am sure you must have reports from your embassy. But almost no embassy, sitting aloof in Washington, can accurately gauge the American people.

Perhaps your embassy has reported that in the last two years, much of the old anti-Soviet suspicion has vanished and that the great bulk of the American people are anxious to cooperate with Russia for future peace as they have for winning the war.

In the last two weeks, however, this friendly feeling has received a jolt. I don't know whether your embassy has reported it, but it is true.

It has received a jolt because of the general impression that the Yalta promises are not being kept and that the rights of little nations are being trampled on. To put it bluntly the American people are beginning to wonder whether Russia is really sincere about keeping the peace after the war, unless that peace is one which she dominates.

Never having visited the United States—and we hope you will some day—you probably have no conception of the overwhelming hope of the American people that the ideals of this war shall be achieved and that their sons will not have to go out and fight another war. This is not merely a hope, it is a passion. It is the American people's one great goal.

The other day I attended a small dinner where a coal mine operator from West Virginia awarded prizes to the high school children of his city for the best essays on how to erect a permanent peace machinery. R. M. Davis, the man who gave the prizes, has even written a constitution for the United Nations—and a pretty good one at that, with one vote for every nation—and he has circulated thousands of copies throughout the country.

Davis is a former street-car conductor and nine-mule driver. He is just one of millions of Americans who are thinking about this problem of permanent peace. He represents America. And the kids who received the prizes were sons of German, Dutch, French parents. They represent America too—all thinking about the same thing.

Shortly after the armistice in the last war, I was stationed in one of the war-torn valleys of Serbia in command of 100 Bulgar prisoners and a mule transport team of 100 Albanians. And in the evenings, the Bulgar prisoners, with their Serbian guards and the Albanians (who didn't relish being conscripted into the Serbian army) would sit around the campfire and talk of peace.

The war was over and they were awaiting the results of the Paris peace conference before they could go home. There was no animosity between the Bulgar prisoners and their Serbian guards or the Albanian conscripts. Their animosity was toward the rulers who made them fight.

And their great hope was in Woodrow Wilson. They put special faith in his guarantees for small nations. So they talked about Woodrow Wilson and their hopes for permanent peace until long into the night.

I saw some of these people after the Paris peace conference, after the United States had withdrawn from the League, after it became evident that Europe was drifting toward another catastrophe. They were bitter and disillusioned. They felt we had let them down.

And they were right. The American people were suspicious of Europe then. We had our isolationists. And we pulled out of the peace machinery of the world.

But we won't do it again. The R. M. Davises and the school children of the country and the mothers of the sons who have fought in this war and the sons who are coming back from the war will never permit another letdown—unless they figure that the major powers of Europe are letting them down first.

This time, it is not us but Russia which is suspicious and has its isolationists. This is only natural and partly our fault. For the state department and the chanceries of Europe kept Russia isolated for years. Naturally that kind of atmosphere breeds isolationists. But this time you can't afford to make the same mistake we did before.

Since Yalta we have learned that the Soviet is concerned over the votes of small nations in the United Nations meetings; is worried that they may gang up on her; and believes that the 20 Pan-American republics will all follow the United States as a bloc.

But I remember the day after we landed marines in Nicaragua and sent troops to the

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### Side Glances



"Do you know when the war's going to end, Mrs. Jones? Mama says you know lots of things that never even get into the paper!"

### McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

#### THE SMOTHER PLAY, HARDEST IN BRIDGE

(This is the first of six articles on the smother play, the most difficult play in bridge to recognize.)

I ran this series several years ago and do not believe I have seen more than two smother plays since. It was first brought to my attention years ago by the late Phil E. Leon of Cleveland and it was named by Sam Nai-

urally South did not cover, nor did he cover the jack.

Declarer then cashed three rounds of clubs—then came the ace, king and a low spade.

North was in and must now lead either his queen of diamonds or the ten of trumps, which East trumps with the nine spot.

Now South is literally smothered out of his king of hearts. If he over trumps, the declarer will over trump in dummy with the ace; if he puts on the eight of trump, East's nine holds the trick and the last trick goes to the ace of hearts.

### IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago, April 7

Wheat by the carload lot, broken up into 50-pound packages, was being shipped by parcel post to Burns. The Sawyer-Clark company is the shipper and the grain was loaded at Island City's postoffice. The order was placed on condition that the wheat was to be sent by parcel post.

L. Meigarde, a masseur at Hot Lake, returned from 10 months in Tronjem and other Norway points. He was accompanied here by his brother, Gus Meigarde.

Karl J. Stackland, Cove orchardist, returned from the east where he visited fruit centers.

15 Years Ago

The highest temperature ever recorded in La Grande in the first week of April was the 78 degree maximum April 6. In 1925 the temperature reached 78 on April 9, and on the following day it was 80.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knautz of the Iowa district had as their guests Sunday at their country home, Mr. and Mrs. John Hamann, Mr. and Mrs. John Speckhart, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hamann and Charles Hamann.

10 Years Ago, April 7

A building permit was issued to the Masonic building association and \$1,000 alterations and repairs on the two-story brick structure on Adams avenue, which was to be occupied by the Sprouse-Reitz company as soon as the alterations were completed.

It was reported the average citizen of Oregon paid \$14.81 per year in taxes to maintain his city government. La Grande's per capita tax was \$12.39.

### Questions & Answers

Q—What is the legend of Honnef, Germany, across the Rhine from Remagen?

A—Near Honnef is Drachenfels (Dragon's Rock), 1065 feet high, with a cave said to be the one in which Siegfried slew the dragon.

Q—How do Marines on Iwo protect themselves from the swirling volcanic dust?

A—They wear gauze surgical masks.

Q—Where does the name Pomerania, German province invaded by the Russians, come from?

A—An ancient tribe called Pomorie, or Pommern ("on the sea"), which lived there in Charlemagne's time.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

"That's very nice," the mother of a hero son said when she was told her boy had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"That's nice," she said again when she was given an account of her son's bravery and daring. But when she was told he was coming home on leave—she really got excited.

That was big news to her — important news. Her son was coming home for his first leave after two years of fighting.

"He's coming home," is always the big news for women who have waited and worried while their men faced the dangers and hardships of war. Women are interested in the experiences of their men, and are proud if they distinguish themselves by bravery. They think it is fine when they hear that

their son or husband has been decorated.

But when is he coming home? That is the only really important news for a woman while her son or husband is in uniform. All the rest is relatively unimportant, compared with that.

And there is probably not a woman in the country who loves a man as his wife or mother loves him who wouldn't have reacted as did the mother of the hero who said, "That nice," to the news that her son had won the Congressional Medal of Honor—but sobbed with happiness when she was told, "He's coming home."

It's nice that a man's a hero, but it's wonderful to know that the waiting and worrying are over and that at last he is coming home.

That is a woman's honest reaction to war.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Revolt of the congressionally created Advisory Board of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion focuses attention on the entire advisory committee system that has grown up in Washington during the war years. There are now nearly 800 of these semi-official committees functioning. Over 12,500 citizens serve on them, with out pay and almost entirely without travel expenses which must be borne by the companies or organizations which the individual members represent. This is one part of government which doesn't cost the taxpayers anything directly, at any rate.

The idea back of all this advising is to bring the government closer to the people and vice-versa. But what all these committees do, what advice they give, where they're going and whether the system should be extended to give congress a lot more free advice than it already gets, are subjects of intriguing speculation for anyone interested in his government.

In the case of the OWMR Advisory Board of 12 members headed by Gov. O. Max Gardner of North Carolina and made up of the usual front men for the big labor organizations, farm organizations and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, its revolt was brought on because it didn't have anything to do. Nobody was asking it for any advice.

The president promptly took care of that by handing the board the hottest potato cookin' on his stove—What should we do about paying guaranteed annual wages?

A study on "Industry-Government Cooperation" made by Carl Henry Monsees of the WFB shows that there are some 750 Industry Advisory Committees set up in WFB, OPA, WFA, OPT, and Ordnance Branch of War Department. WMC goes a little further by having Management-Labor Advisory Committees. WFB also has labor advisory representatives but keeps them separate from the Industry Advisory Committees.

Whatever the set-up, the purposes are broadly the same—to give government war agencies the best technical advice

possible on production, distribution and pricing policies so as to make government regulations workable. There has been considerable screaming that the government doesn't listen to the advice which the industry representatives give, but that exposes the principal danger of this advisory system, which is that private interests are taken into the confidence of the government, thereby have an open door to give advice that is contrary to the best interests of the general public.

Labor representatives also yell that their spokesmen should be permitted to sit with industry representatives on all advisory committees so that management doesn't gain an unfair advantage over the working people. As mentioned above, this is the system of the Manpower Commission Advisory committees.

But industry and trade association people charge there is just as much danger in letting labor representatives have too much of a voice. What this proves, if anything, is that government representatives have to make the final decision in the interests of the people, so what they should do is listen to the advice of interested parties and then do as they please or at least do what they think is best.

In getting up all the wartime advisory committees, the government has made efforts to guard against these dangers. Membership of each committee is chosen to get a fair cross section of the industry, geographically as well as by size of company, so that big business doesn't freeze out small business. Trade association lobbyist are shunned like the plague and that annoys them no end.

The committees are created and permitted to function with the consent of the Anti-Trust division of the Department of Justice. There are careful rules of procedure, worked out by John Lord O'Brian, former WFB counsel. They have admittedly done an extremely useful job in wartime. They will continue to have a job to do in the period of reconversion. After that, no telling.

### This Curious World



NEXT: The world's icebox.