

# Spain Expects Hitler to Drive Through Nation to Gibraltar

### Many Possibilities Hinge Upon Move Including Taking Over of Portugal; People Against Resistance Policy

(Editor's note: Here follows an important story dealing with Spain's predicament in the European war. It was written for The Oregon Statesman's special news service by John Lloyd, the noted foreign correspondent, whose experiences include covering revolutions in Latin America, the Spanish war, life in Russia and the fall of France. He has just returned to the United States after six months in Spain.)

By JOHN LLOYD  
Special To The Statesman

NEW YORK, May 14.—(The Special News Service)—Observers in Spain are convinced the Germans have plans worked out to the last detail for a drive across the peninsula to attempt to close the western entrance to the Mediterranean at Gibraltar.

If there is a question in their minds it is not over existence of such plans but rather as to when and if they will be put into operation. The emphasis at the present moment is on the "when."

I have spent six months on the ground and I doubt if a day went by when some aspect of this question was not discussed. Two points should be clarified at once,—first, that a "drive" does not necessarily mean Spanish opposition, and second, that the decision may well be one-sided.

Should the moment come when Hitler considers the campaign necessary, he will make the decision and the Spaniards will be faced by the choice of resisting or facilitating the operations.

Facilitating the operations could take one of two forms. It could amount to Spain joining actively in the war. Or it could be simply opening up an avenue for German troops to come through.

Talk of possible resistance, never even hinted at officially, all but ceased after the Yugoslav collapse and the developments in Greece. There can be no doubt that the suffering and unsuccessful defense in those two countries deeply impressed the Spanish people.

The people I talked with—close followers of the situation—felt when I left Spain that the odds, so long as there is no marked change in the tide of war, are strongly against any organized military effort to resist.

It is the general belief, on the other hand, that every effort will be made to avoid the issue. The Franco government is thought by a great many observers to be genuinely desirous of remaining out of the war.

A widely held opinion is that had Spain been headed by any government not outspokenly favorable to the axis she would long ago have been occupied. In other words, a violent flirtation with the axis, sincere or otherwise, has kept Spain out of the war and out of the occupied status up to the present.

Matters that must be kept primarily in consideration in any study of the possibilities of German action across the peninsula are:

1. Will the German high command, if it decides to press the campaign in the near east, feel it is necessary simultaneously to attempt to close the western end of the Mediterranean?
  2. Will Hitler decide, regardless of whether the war is pressed home immediately against Suez, that he must complete his continental hegemony either by forcing Spain into the conflict or by setting up his own artillery along the Gibraltar straits?
- Spain, if she found it necessary finally to go to war, could do so gracefully in a sense, owing to the systematic propaganda campaign her government and more especially the Franco party have been waging over a long period. References have repeatedly been made in speeches and the

press to the country's determination to "pursue her destiny," to attain her "just" awards in Africa and to assume her place in the "universal movement." The axis has been eulogized, the democracies assailed, and German and Italian help to Franco during the civil war stressed.

No face saver would be necessary, therefore, should the government, finding it opportune or inevitable, determine to cast in its lot fully with the axis powers.

Now, as to the likely moves in case Spain should enter the war or the Germans should go through Spain to set up their standards on the Mediterranean:

For one thing, Portugal probably would be occupied, and if this were attempted by the Germans, any resistance, observers feel, would be shortlived. An interesting development of recent weeks has been regular shipment of troops by the Portuguese south to the Azores. These troops and equipment being sent with them could be salvaged in case Portugal itself were occupied.

For another thing, Gibraltar is prepared as probably never before in its history. It bristles with artillery, is garrisoned for a determined defense and is stocked almost to overflowing with war materials and food supplies.

The British express conviction that here at least the Germans could not pass. Observers, with a few voices to the contrary, either doubt the rock could be taken or feel the loss of life would be so great that even a victorious attack might prove dangerous in its repercussions.

Naval and military men say, however, that Gibraltar could be merely besieged and harassed while canon planted on the Spanish shore could command the entrance to the Mediterranean almost as effectively as from the fortress itself.

The Germans, then, could either attempt to take the rock, with the consequent risks, or sit off and fire away at shipping from the Spanish shores. They would have the advantage of air bases in close proximity.

Naval experts were of the opinion that complete stoppage of traffic through the straits would be difficult to achieve, even with Gibraltar in German hands. They incline to the belief ships could get through under cover of darkness.

Gibraltar and Portugal are two of the principal places which would be affected by a German occupation of Spain, but there is a third and, perhaps, even more vital point.

This is Spanish Morocco and Tangier, now under Spanish control, where the Germans might gain an important base for operations in Africa.

A base of this kind might be supplied easily and through it a steady stream of troops might be poured.

Other circumstances would have to combine, however, to make

## Plans Talk



MRS. CHARLES WEISS

## President of GOP Women to Visit Oregon

PORTLAND, May 13.—Mrs. Charles W. Weiss, jr., of Rochester, N.Y., president of the National Federation of Women's Republican Clubs, is slated to arrive in Portland next Wednesday and is to be honored at a dinner that night at the Hotel Benson. She is the first of the presidents of the national organization to visit Oregon and the Pacific coast during the term of office.

Oregon chapter of Pro America Republican Women is sponsor for the dinner, with the Oregon Republican club, Young Republicans and the Republican state central committee as co-sponsors.

Among the prominent guests at the event are Gov. Governor Charles A. Sprague and Mrs. Sprague; Secretary of State Earl Snell and Mrs. Snell; and State Treasurer Leslie W. Scott and Mrs. Scott.

Mrs. Roy T. Bishop, state president of Pro America, and first vice-president of the national federation, will preside at the dinner. On Thursday, Pro America is holding a semi-annual meeting, at which Mrs. Weiss will speak. This meeting, also open to the public, is scheduled at the Masonic temple in Portland.

## Locale of Summer War Games Set in Southwest Washington

FORT LEWIS, May 13.—(AP)—A 1700 square-mile rectangle of rugged southwest Washington country will comprise the area where approximately 100,000 soldiers from throughout the far west will stage late-summer war games, Fort Lewis officers disclosed Tuesday.

The region, slashed with rivers, filled with timber-cloaked hills and interspersed with prairies, will include sections of six counties—Mason, Grays Harbor, Thurston, Lewis, Pacific and Cowlitz.

Virtually all troops in the far west will battle in the area from August 15 to September 5. Officers said four divisions, all at full war time strength, would participate in the war games, biggest in Pacific coast history.

Fort Lewis will contribute the regular army's 3rd and the 41st, former national guard division made up of men from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The

40th division, composed primarily of California, Utah and Nevada guardsmen, will come up from San Luis Obispo, Calif. The fourth division will be the regular army's 7th, now based at Fort Ord, Calif.

The 100,000 figure will be reached by adding IX army corps troops and staffs of the fourth army, commanded by Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt.

The battle area, roughly, is 75 miles long and 26 miles wide. Its northern line runs from Matlock to a point east of Shelton. The eastern border runs west of Olympia, through Chehalis, Winlock and Castle Rock to the Kelso-Longview district. The southern border parallels the Columbia river, from Kelso to Okanogan. The western edge of the war zone follows the Wahkiakum county line then runs northward through Lebam, Brooklyn and Satsop to Matlock.

Pointing out that "here is a real opportunity for people of western Washington to make a worthy contribution to national defense at an important time," army officials announced they would tour the area between now and August 1 to arrange for army occupancy of the land.

Disclosure of the region where the southwest Washington "war" will be fought came as 35,000 Fort Lewis soldiers made final preparations for California war games next month. The first troops will begin leaving for the San Luis Obispo region Monday. They are scheduled, to return here early in July.

## Death Takes Salem Woman

Three months of illness ended Monday night in the death of Mrs. Julia Anna Harms, wife of Henry H. Harms, at her home here. She had been a Salem resident for the past 20 years.

The daughter of the late August Boelter and Mrs. Anna Boelter of Salem, Mrs. Harms was a member of the Calvary Baptist church and was for many years director of the Episcopal church choir and a well-known soloist. She was a member of Chemeketa chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Survivors are the husband; sons, Wilbur Harms of Camas, Wash., and Donald Harms of Salem; mother, Mrs. Anna Boelter; brothers, Edwin D. Boelter of Seattle; Austin E. and Milton W. Boelter of Minneapolis; William G. Boelter of Syracuse, NY; sister, Mrs. Saramay Barber of Camas, Wash.

Funeral services will be at 2 p. m. Friday at the Rose Lawn funeral home. Rev. Frank Starnard will officiate. Burial will be at Belcrest Memorial park.

## Question of Sufficient Labor For Strawberry Crop Puzzles

With strawberry picking getting underway this week the question of whether or not there will be sufficient pickers to harvest the crop has steadily been growing in importance.

"So far we have been able to pretty well keep up with requests from growers," W. H. Baillie, manager of the Salem office of the state employment service, said Tuesday. "However, we can not anticipate what the future requirements will be."

Between two and three hundred pickers have already been sent out, Baillie said, and 421 orders received last week are now being filled for growers in the Stayton, Sublimity, Silverton and Silver Creek Falls areas. In addition 427 orders for workers were received at the office on Monday and Tuesday.

With the weather the determining factor in deciding how picking will progress, an estimate was given by Baillie that picking would probably be well underway about May 15 and at its peak about 10 days later. Growers are not asking for more rain but neither do they wish extremely hot weather, which will cause the berries to shrivel. Call for all types of farm labor-

ers, men for the hop fields and for one sharecropper have reached the office, Baillie said. The close of school will probably relieve to some extent the shortage of farm help.

## Salem Chapter FFA Activities Told to Club

Some of the outstanding achievements of the Salem chapter, Future Farmers of America, and brief outlines of their varied activities and aims were told by eight members of the local group at the luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis club Tuesday.

In recognition of his assistance and interest, the group which has a roster of 61, added an honorary member, Gene Vandenevnde, Kiwanis member. He was presented with his pin by Vernon Johnson, president of the FFA.

Over \$23,500, or an average of \$385 each, has been invested by the boys in their projects. From these they have earned \$17,575, David Ramseyer, vice president, said.

Proof of the Salem chapter's success in this line was evident when mention was made that of the 7000 chapters in the United States the local chapter has been judged one of the ten best. One of its members, Herman Grimmer, was a candidate for the American farmer, and three have been named state farmers.

At the state fair the boys received over \$700 in premiums and the selling of fat livestock. The keystone certificate for public activities and champion dairy judging team of the state are among other honors received by the group.

Taking part in the program were Johnson; Ramseyer; Robert Lang, secretary; William Zenger, treasurer; Leonard Schmalz, reporter; Norman Alexander, Loye Satter and Loren Wiederkehr.

German operations from Spanish Morocco and Tangier profitable.

The reference here is to expansion of the German field of operations into French Morocco and thence down to Dakar. Also of creation of such a threat to General Weygand's Algerian flank as to make him hesitate should he wish to throw in his lot with Britain.

Weygand's North African army has been the Vichy government's card in the hole in its dealings with Germany. It has been a threat which Hitler could not disregard. So long as it is intact and can at a given moment go over to the English the reichsfeuhrer presumably has to pull his punches.

Landing of a powerful German force in Spanish Morocco might considerably alter the situation. The Spaniards lay claim to part of French North African territory and if their lot were cast with Germany, pressure on Weygand might well immediately become so embarrassing as to precipitate a drastic decision by the French generalissimo.

## New Packard Clipper Has Public Okeh

With the series of Packard Clipper announcement meetings concluded, W. M. Packer, vice president of distribution, returned to Detroit last week with enthusiastic reports on Clipper acceptance.

Launched less than a month ago, the Clipper won immediate acceptance in showroom displays throughout the nation. Before the introductory Clipper meetings were concluded popular endorsement forced Packard officials to revise their original forecasts and authorize a 56 per cent production increase. Original estimates called for the production of 10,600 Clippers during the spring quarter. The upward revision is now set at 16,600.

Returning from the final Clipper meeting in Portland, Packer summed up the Clipper debut while making plans to supply increased customer demand. Said he:

"Our own enthusiasm for the ultra-modern Clipper has been equaled and surpassed by public acclaim that has already necessitated a production increase in excess of our initial estimates. Although the Clipper represents a sensational break with traditional Packard styling, it is gratifying to note that its endorsement has come from old and new Packard customers alike."

## Groups Named For Patriotic Orders Program

Roster of Salem organizations participating in the program of the Federation of Patriotic Orders was announced Tuesday to include the following groups and their heads:

Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. W. E. Hanson; Woman's Relief corps, Mrs. Mary B. Lickel; Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Mrs. Rose B. Garrett; Sons of Union Veterans, L. P. Bennett; Daughters of Union Veterans, Mrs. Beatrice Henry; Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans, Laura Tandy; United Spanish War Veterans, Sherman Nelson; Auxiliary to United Spanish War Veterans, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson; American Legion, Capitol post No. 9, Ray Stumbo; Auxiliary to Capitol post, Mrs. Harold Perkins; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Col. C. A. Robertson; Auxiliary

## Divorce Suit Filed at Dallas

DALLAS—A suit for divorce was filed in the circuit court of Polk county Friday by Elinor M. Fox against Dean E. Fox.

They were married at Tacoma in January, 1935. The plaintiff charges cruel and inhuman treatment. She now has the custody of a minor child and asks for his future control and custody. The plaintiff asks for \$30 a month for the child and for costs and disbursements in connection with the suit.

Carson and Carson, Salem, are attorneys for the plaintiff.

to Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mrs. Dollie Wickert; Disabled American War Veterans, Charles Norton; Auxiliary to Disabled American War Veterans, Mrs. Bess Mehlhoff; American War Mothers, Mrs. Minnie Humphreys; American Legion, Kingwood post No. 81, E. A. Dickson; Auxiliary to Kingwood post, Mrs. Hazel Lacey.



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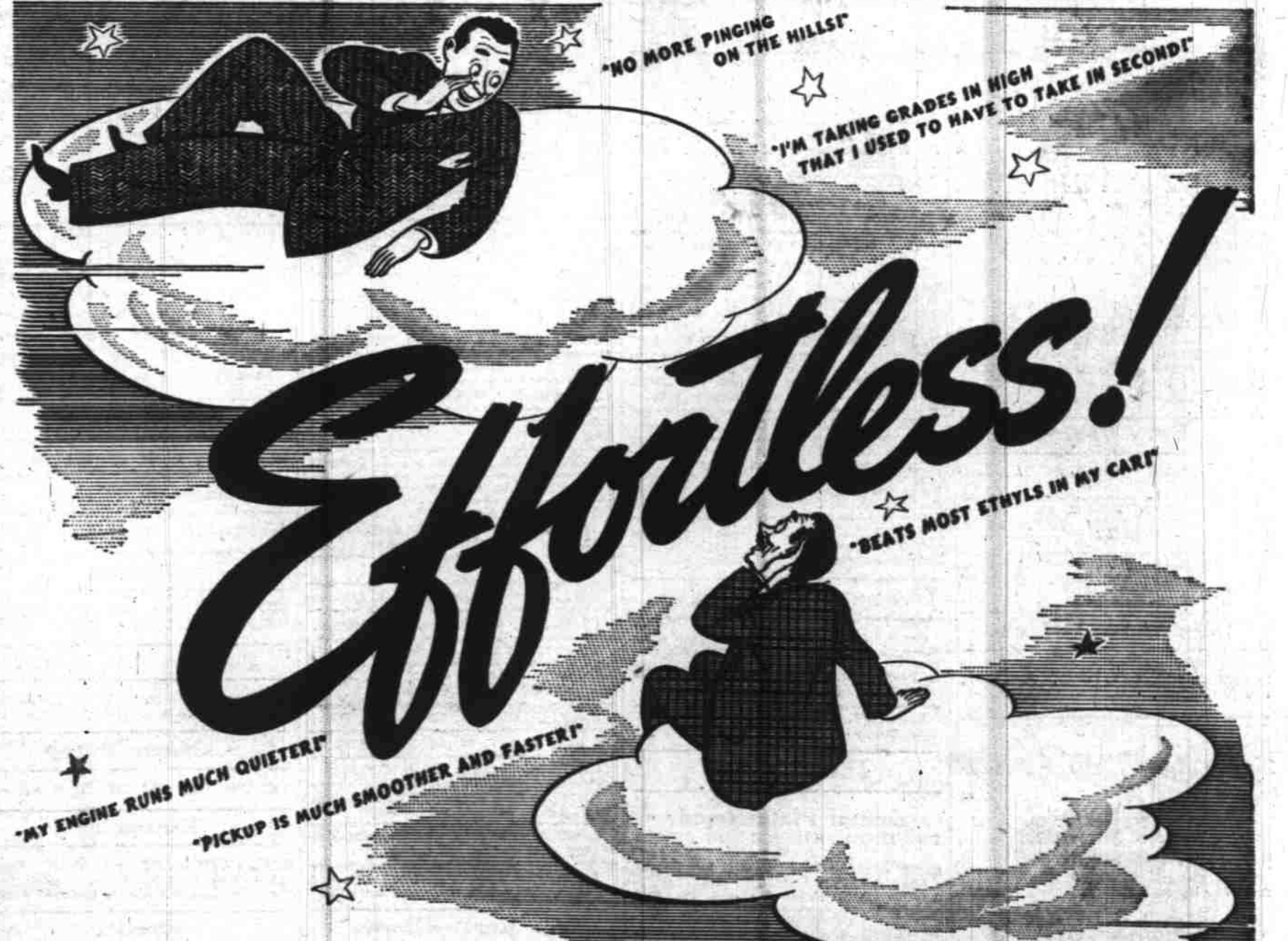
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