

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Second Front

A second front has been opened on the nazis, and not by any of the United Nations. It has been opened by a group of Germans themselves, a group of German refugees and war prisoners in Russia who joined in a manifesto proposing plans for a post-war Germany.

Admitting that "the war is lost already," the manifesto declares that "Germany must not die," and drops a hint for action in the sentence: "The army must play a decisive part." The important part of the manifesto is its proposal for establishment of a democratic German government, "without the weakness of the Weimar republic." It calls also for the "lawful and unmerciful trial" of those responsible for the war, but recommends amnesty for Hitler's followers who denounce him and join the movement for a free Germany.

Granted that the group is small and now powerless, it still is heartening to know that the spirit of freedom still is breathed by some Germans, and that they are looking forward to the time when they can create for themselves a government based on freedom rather than force and militarism.

The German army may, at the time it deems proper, take over authority and ask for an armistice, as it did in the first world war. But the generals are not the ones to govern Germany. One difficulty both for Germany and Italy is the lack of any organization of men of liberal temper who might undertake the tasks of government. The group in Russia who are bold enough to speak out now may be a nucleus around which men of similar mind may rally and furnish a frame of leadership for the future Germany.

News of this "second front," if the names bear any significance, may help adulterate loyalty within Germany, which is necessary before there could be internal collapse. The alternate of a democratic Germany may carry wider appeal within that country than we dream of. The Russians were smart in allowing Pravda, the soviet newspaper, to publish the manifesto.

'Now Is the Time'

State capitol news includes a report that the board of control has authorized the purchase of used cars, new cars no longer being available. This news highlights the growing difficulties in motor transportation. The country has been skating along on its stocks of cars in hands of private owners when the order came to cease automobile manufacture, and the stocks in dealers' hands at that time. The latter have passed into the former class almost completely. Meantime cars are wearing out and some are being wrecked. The state, whose employees have to do a vast amount of travel by motor car, is now forced to turn to owners of used cars to obtain necessary replacements.

Going along by the used car lots one has been surprised to see the number of cars of late model and good appearance. These cars come in considerable numbers from men who are drafted and sell their cars before leaving. As time goes on the supply of good cars must dwindle. What will be done then?

If necessary, cars might be taken from those using them for non-essential purposes. The Oregonian suggests there may be many cars up on blocks for the duration. If so, they should be turned in on the present high market and put to work. Then there would be many who have little use for a car, who would be willing to sell it to some one with real need.

The country has not reached the stage of desperation where it must round up second-hand cars as it did aluminum pots and iron kettles. But no automobile in good condition should be kept in its stall unused for weeks at a time.

"Now is the time for all good automobiles to come to the aid of their country."

Halsey & Horne

The Medford Mail-Tribune points out the head-on collision of opinion between Admiral Halsey, who the first of the year predicted Japan's defeat in 1943 and later reiterated his prophecy, and the recent statement of Vice-Admiral Horne that the navy is counting on a six-year war with Japan. The two utterances don't jibe; and we may offer the rough guess that the truth, as to time, lies in between, probably nearer to Admiral Halsey's date than to Admiral Horne's limit.

At the newspaper convention in Eugene last month, one of the speakers reported on his visit with Admiral Halsey shortly after his now-famous utterance. The Admiral admitted he "stuck his chin out," but, judging from his pictures, he has a formidable chin that he doesn't hesitate to stick out, and judging by his moves as naval commander, he doesn't hesitate to send his fleet out where they can get some shooting. But the admiral's explanation was that the country was being fed so much gloom by various crepe-hangers that he thought a dose of optimism was needed. So he gave an injection of high-powered joy-talk that at least helped balance the public mind.

All such predictions are only predictions, though assuredly those in possession of the most information should be the ones best qualified to stick pins in calendars—and they aren't doing it. Admiral Horne was not really predicting a war of six years; he was stating very preparations which ought to be on a very conservative basis.

Just as soon as our hands are free in Europe the concentration of naval and air power in the Pacific will make Japan curl up at the edges and then at the center. And we may not need to wait till the nazis are disposed of. In a boxing match you don't have to wait till the knock-out punch to tell which guy is going to win. When it becomes clear that Hitler in Europe is getting groggy, the allies can commence shifting more strength to take care of Japan. And it is not impossible that Halsey may be correct—within twelve or eighteen months.

Misdirected Appeal

If the enemy should win, what would be our fate? The nation would be dismembered, the people reduced to a herd of slaves, the strongest would be sent to work in the mines of the Urals and the steppes. The weaker would grow flowers for the ladies or design pottery for British baronets. Our museums would be looted, our arsenals closed, our ports emptied of our shipping, our factories silent, our fields abandoned, our hotels thronged with noisy and drunken English and American tourists. —Fascist Party Secretary Scorza on Radio Rome, following allied appeal for surrender.

A dismal picture, though the part about raising flowers and the closing of arsenals is not calculated to horrify peace-loving Italians. But that about the hotels being thronged with English and American tourists positively was the wrong slant. The Italians would be delighted to entertain tourists, as of yore—and little disturbed at the thought that some would not be strictly sober.

Decentralization

War production authorities are finally learning to take the jobs to the labor supply rather than to shift labor to the jobs. The proposed pilot plant to get alumina from clay may dodge Portland and Longview, where the labor is now fully employed, and go to Cottage Grove, where labor could probably be obtained. The Boeing Aircraft company is completing a branch plant at Aberdeen and plans seven more branches in smaller cities from Bellingham to Chehalis.

This decentralization of industry will have beneficial effect. Not only will further congestion in great centers be avoided, but better working conditions will be obtained in the smaller communities.

Bombing of any city is shocking to American ideals; and Americans have not engaged in bombing merely as a reprisal on the enemy, but rather to destroy points of military value. That was true in the bombing of Tokyo, and has been true in the bombing of German and French cities. Extreme care was exercised in dropping bombs in Rome. The bombers flew over in broad daylight, had their targets clearly marked for them, and avoided areas of religious or historical interest. If the Italians do not want more bombs to fall on Rome, they can declare it an open city and it will be unmolested.

The United Mine Workers and its president John L. Lewis has finally recognized the authority of the war labor board by submitting a wage contract for the board's approval and expressing a willingness to appear before the board. This ends the defiance by Lewis of a government agency. However, Lewis can say that since his former expression of disregard for the board, congress has passed a law establishing its authority, which is true. But it is something to have this maverick bulldogged by law.

Here is one order that all loyal civilians will comply with: no sales of turkeys to civilians during August and September, while the army and navy provide supplies for turkey dinners for soldiers and sailors on Thanksgiving day and Christmas. The birds must be bought early to make sure they reach Attu, New Zealand, Iceland and Iran by Thanksgiving time.

Interpreting the War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
AP War Analyst for The Statesman

The fall of Palermo, Sicilian capital, to American armored forces, moving more swiftly than did the once-vanquished Nazi panzer spearheads at the outset of the war, does more than write all western and central Sicily off the war books.

It clamps a powerful, steel-shod western jaw on the two main Sicilian lateral communication routes north and south of the Peloritan mountains. American pressure eastward on either will take axis forces on the flank. An indicated 15-mile further Canadian advance from the Ramacca region in the east center of the allied line toward Adrano would turn the inshore end of the Nazi line on the south and southwest slopes of Mt. Etna holding up the British advance at Catania.

Nazi retreat into the jumbled hills of the Messina peninsula under the triple allied pressure is closely impending, with small prospect that any considerable part of the shattered axis armies in Sicily can escape to the Italian mainland. They are now dependent for reinforcements and supplies on such small trickles of aid as can reach them at night across the Messina strait in light surface craft. There is virtually no airfield remaining open to them in all Sicily.

How long it may take to mop up the last axis resistance in northeastern Sicily can only be guessed at, but it will be only a matter of days. West of the American break-through to the north coast at Palermo, there is little reason to expect any major fighting. And that western end of the island, with its harbors, its network of hard-surfaced roads and railways and its span of only 90 miles to Cap Bon in Tunisia is already pointing an ominous allied threat at Sardinia, Corsica and the southeastern coast of metropolitan France itself.

Western Sicily is the logical first advance base for the mounting of a French-American drive to liberate continental France. It seems obvious that the return to France when it comes, will be under American, not British auspices, with French troops in the van.

The first step to Sicily has now been taken. The next to Sardinia and Corsica cannot be long delayed to complete a land-based allied blockade line about Italy proper to the west.

Both are in a virtual state of siege now. From bases in northwestern Sicily allied planes can sweep the Tyrrhenian and Ligurian seas that were Italy's south and east coasts. British-American naval power based on Sicily can range those Italian waters at will with little fear of what is left of Italy's once powerful fleet. Sardinia and Corsica are as much a trap for their isolated axis garrisons as Sicily proved, and it remains to be seen whether they will offer even a token resistance.



Sword (or Bomb) of Damocles . . .

Today's Radio Programs

ESLM-SATURDAY-1230 Kc.	Next day's programs appear on comics page.	1:15-Races.
7:30-News.	12:15-Music.	1:30-Minutrel Melodies.
7:45-Morning Moods.	12:30-William Winter.	2:00-Not for Glory.
8:15-Harry Brewer's City News.	12:45-POB Detroit.	2:30-Trio.
8:30-Tango Time.	1:00-Report from London.	2:45-News by Alex Drier.
8:45-Posters Call.	1:15-Music.	3:00-News.
9:15-Music.	1:30-Calling Pan-America.	3:30-Not of Living.
9:30-Popular Music.	1:45-Newsday of the Air.	4:00-For This We Fight.
10:00-Jack Feeney.	2:00-Newsday of the Air.	4:30-Noah Webster Says.
10:30-Gene Krupa.	2:15-Music.	5:00-Hollywood Open House.
10:45-News.	2:30-News.	5:15-That They Might Live.
11:00-Campus Freshmen.	2:45-News.	5:45-Louis P. Lochner.
11:20-Hits of Yesterday.	3:00-Music.	6:00-National Barn Dance.
11:30-News.	3:15-News.	6:30-Can You Top This?
11:45-Old Chisholm Trail.	3:30-News.	7:00-National Dollar Band.
12:00-News.	3:45-News.	7:30-Grand Ol' Opry.
12:15-Hillbilly Serenade.	4:00-Music.	8:00-News.
12:30-News.	4:15-News.	8:15-Drama.
1:00-Henry King's Orchestra.	4:30-State Traffic.	8:30-Mr. Smith Goes to Town.
1:15-Milady's Melodies.	4:45-Air-File of the Air.	8:45-Oregon in Congress.
1:30-Harry Brewer's Novelty Orch.	5:00-Music.	9:00-Music.
1:45-Isle of Paradise.	5:15-News.	9:15-Mystery of the Month.
2:00-Sincerely Yours.	5:30-News.	9:30-Neighbors.
2:15-News.	5:45-News.	10:15-Pasadena Auditorium Orch.
2:30-Broadway Band Wagon.	6:00-News.	10:30-News.
2:45-ESLM Concert Hour.	6:15-News.	11:00-Music.
3:00-Jack Feeney's Tango.	6:30-News.	11:30-News.
3:15-News.	6:45-News.	11:45-News.
3:30-Testum Tunes.	7:00-News.	12:00-3 a.m.-Swing Shift.
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