

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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The Major Battles Are Ahead

Sicily is ours. All of it now; a week ago it was all ours except a rapidly shrinking triangle on the northeast. Now the United Nations are in full control, and may proceed to stabilize their military government on the island.

Sicily is no small dot on the map. It's the largest island in the Mediterranean, with about four million inhabitants, economically and strategically important. Its conquest would be worth celebrating—if we had time to celebrate. We haven't.

Sicily was conquered with comparative ease. The only serious resistance was put up by the Germans. Italian opposition was meek from the start, almost lacking after the eclipse of Mussolini. The Germans, toward the last, fought a rear-guard action; it is safe to assume that as in Tunisia, our losses have been comparatively light.

In conquering Sicily it was necessary for our forces to obtain control of the narrow Messina strait, which means that beachheads on the Italian mainland are already virtually in our possession, might be established at any moment with the forces now on hand. The hop across the strait may come at any moment but for strategic reasons may be briefly delayed. For that matter, there are hints that our next major blow may fall elsewhere.

Surrender or no surrender on the part of Badoglio's government, southern Italy is ripe for occupation. That government's action will make little difference; again the resistance will be German, at such points as the Germans choose to make a stand.

But—the "fortress of Europe" remains to be cracked. Thus far we have attempted it only by air. Although as Paul Mallon suggests today War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes may have painted a bit too dark a picture of the military odds involved, he most assuredly was correct in his declaration that "the major battles lie ahead of us and not behind us."

Without discounting the effectiveness of recent unprecedented bombing damage, it should be realized that Axis Europe is a big, productive concern. It includes 350 million people and at least 150 million of them—slightly more than the total population of the United States—are either fighting or working at war production; and incidentally, not 40 or 48 hours a week, but 70 or 80.

France, Norway and the other occupied lands may be suffering food shortages; Germany is not, to anything near the point of real hardship. Food rations there are 50 per cent greater than they were in 1917 and '18.

Germany produces 40 million tons of iron and steel per year and though purely as a statistic that doesn't compare with our 88 million tons, actually it compares quite favorably. Germany doesn't need as much steel as we do for civilian activities; and Germany last year sank to the bottom of the ocean almost half the difference between its steel production and ours.

That brings up another axis advantage—position. Germany fights outward from the center of the "fortress," with short and relatively secure communication lines. The United Nations must transport troops and supplies around the outside. Our problem of supply and communication is tremendous—and the only solution to that problem is more and more production.

No need to worry about what our fighters can and will do. But "the major battles lie ahead" and there is no slightest excuse for a letdown on the home production front.

Chiang's Leadership

Off the linotype of the usually sound Editor Hugh Ball of the Hood River News comes an editorial expressing opposition to the pending bill for repeal of the Chinese exclusion act. While The Statesman believes it is practical and just and definitely in our own interest to repeal the exclusion act and permit the Chinese to enter under the general restricted immigration act, we will not debate the question with Editor Ball at this time. What is startling is the following extract from his editorial:

Today, through one of those curious tricks of diplomacy, the Chinese, or that relatively small part of them still under control of Chiang Kai-Shek, are our friends and fighting our battles. But there is nobody, not even at Washington, who can say with any degree of certainty, just how long secession of Chiang's leaders can continue to the Japanese-controlled nationalist government at Nanking and leave Chiang with anything but a disorganized group of guerrillas who, with another winter coming along, may be wondering whether a belly filled with rice two or three times a day isn't likely to be more sustaining than the hope that some day Chiang may be in control of the rich areas now controlled by the Japanese.

We challenge this as a statement of fact. It is not a "curious trick of diplomacy" that the Chinese are our friends and "fighting our battles." For many decades, and particularly since the time when the first Roosevelt set aside our portion of the Boxer indemnity for the education of Chinese youth in American schools, the Chinese people have been friendly to the United States. And China is primarily fighting its own battle, not ours. The unity lies in having a common enemy—Japan.

Nor is it a fact that there has been any significant secession of Chiang's leaders to the puppet government at Nanking. Quite the contrary. The Japs themselves have been disappointed in the failure of the puppet regime to attract support either of Chinese leaders or of the Chinese people.

The only considerable segment of the Chinese population unfriendly to Chiang is the communist group; and they are united under Chiang in the common purpose of fighting the Japs. In fact one reason for communist antagonism to Chiang originally was the belief that he was not active enough in resisting Japanese aggression.

Rarely in history will you find a people who

have remained as loyal to a leader as the Chinese have to Chiang Kai-Shek. Through six harrowing years, marked by defeat after defeat, in spite of torture and deprivation, in spite of inflation, in spite of the loss of all Pacific ports and the occupation of the most populous portion of China, the people of China have held fast to the determination to expel the invader and loyal to the leadership of the generalissimo.

Unless Editor Ball has special and private information to the contrary, which has been denied to readers of the general press he is gravely in error in his implication that there is defection among Chiang's leaders, and that relatively only a small part of the Chinese people are still under control of Chiang. The statements do not help his thesis and do tend to impair confidence in a great and gallant ally.

"Physical jerks speed the guns" says the caption, in a British publication, over a picture of a man exercising with anti-aircraft shells in lieu of dumbbells. Over here, we wouldn't call anyone who was helping to win the war a "jerk." Words don't all have exactly the same meanings in all the "English-speaking" lands.

Our president and the British prime minister signed a joint statement on progress of the anti-submarine warfare last week, without using their given names or initials or title. Just commander-in-chief style.

Cities which have banned the sale of liquor within their borders, nevertheless are entitled to participate in the distribution of liquor permit funds, the attorney general has ruled. But surely they'll spurn this tainted money!

Rome is to be declared an "open city"—but not the kind San Francisco used to be.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, August 18.—The unofficial vice president, James F. Byrnes, (acting in lieu of Mr. Wallace, who is off on a new left-wing political tangent) gave some shocking figures of Nazi military superiority in his radio round-up.

He said we had met only 7 per cent of the axis divisions so far, that only 40 per cent of the axis army was on the Russian front, and we will have only 90 divisions at our ultimate peak.

No one would contradict these figures, but they need some explanation. The truth is the Germans have about 300 divisions. Italy had (but not now) about 70, and the axis satellites furnished about 70 more, a total axis strength of 440 divisions. The 7 per cent we have met so far would be around 31 divisions, an approximately accurate figure for the north African and Sicilian campaigns.

Forty per cent axis strength on the Russian front is also approximately correct, the best estimate being 190 to 200 divisions involved there. But all these are Nazis, except about 10 divisions of the satellites, so that only about 80 German divisions remain to meet our 90. (which may prove to be 100 and does not include British and Canadians.)

The 140 axis divisions attributed to Italy and the satellites originally are just about half shot. Some were destroyed in Africa and Sicily, and the remaining bulk is scattered through the Balkans and reported unengaged for combat. The available 80 divisions of real Nazis left in Europe to face us includes reserves and administrative divisions, and are scattered from Norway to Italy and from Poland to France.

Mr. Byrnes well may be correct in saying the major battles lie ahead, and he is certainly sound in warning against complacency, but the British and Canadians will give us a heavy superiority in numbers for these battles.

The administration's big, patent political medicine for all the post-war ills of man and beast—social security—is not gaining expected support in Congress.

In fact, Senate Finance Chairman George and a number of the other most influential authorities have decided the pending Wagner bill will not be taken up until after taxes. They are also beginning to shake their heads in doubt about it ever being allowed to pass in anything like its present form.

The British parliament has done about the same thing with the Beveridge report, which was advanced like the Roosevelt program, to provide "security for all from the cradle to the grave."

These plans are supposed to be the nucleus of the liberal post-war program, and there have been suggestions that as soon as the war is over, the laborites in England may out Mr. Churchill and ride to power behind this social security banner.

But even many a liberal is beginning to wonder if the program is liberal or can provide security. The Wagner bill calls, for instance, for a 12 per cent payroll tax to finance government attendance at the cradle, grave and in the interim—6 per cent on employer and 6 per cent on the worker. All other taxes on men and business are levied on profits.

You have to make some money before you are taxed. But in this tremendous new taxation program, the government would collect before earnings, if any, are computed. The tax therefore would be a capital levy on a business not making money.

It would help big business monopolies, whose high prices can be fixed to provide profits. It would be destructive of small or independent business. It would confiscate worker and business savings and hide them in a stagnant government pool.

But even so, would it provide security? The government could collect billions of dollars annually from the worker's pocketbook and the business cash register, but with inflation hanging over our heads and a \$200,000,000 post-war debt upon our shoulders, would any great number of people ever get back the dollar value that would be paid in either at the cradle or in the grave?

The liberals thought the scheme would be a great vote catcher, but the voters who have been in touch with congressmen seem more concerned about destructive tax rates they will have to pay in now than they are about the prospect of the government paying their undertaker 20, 30 or 40 years from now.



The Finishing Touches

Today's Radio Programs

KSL—THURSDAY—1200 K.

7:00—News.

7:05—Rise 'n' Shine.

7:30—Morning Moods.

8:00—Music.

8:30—Tango Time.

9:00—Pastor's Call.

9:15—Music.

9:30—Wasco County Farm Home Program.

9:45—Music.

10:00—News.

10:30—Song and Dance.

10:45—Music.

11:00—News.

12:00—Organ of Yesterday.

12:15—News.

12:30—Hilbilly Serenade.

12:45—Music.

1:00—Lust and Abner.

1:20—Ray Noble's Orchestra.

1:30—Hilbilly Melodies.

1:45—Military Mart.

2:00—Music Paradise.

2:15—U.S. Army.

2:30—Hillbilly Band Wagon.

2:45—Kalamazoo Concert Hour.

2:50—Langworth String Orchestra.

3:00—News.

3:15—Charles Magnate.

3:30—Voice of the Underground.

3:45—War Commentaries.

3:50—Evening Serenade.

3:55—Popular Music.

4:00—Music in Brief.

4:15—Music.

7:00—Keystone Karavan.

8:00—War Front in Review.

8:15—Music.

8:45—Lawless Twenties.

9:00—News.

9:15—Guillermo Gale.

9:30—Music.

9:45—Between the Lines.

10:00—News.

KOIN—CBS—THURSDAY—450 K.

6:00—Breakfast Farmer Reporter.

6:15—Texas Rangers.

6:30—Death of Kojima.

7:10—Aunt Jemima.

7:15—News.

7:30—John Jacob Astor.

7:45—Mabel Pringle.

8:00—Consumer News.

8:15—Valiant Lady.

8:30—Sister America Loves.

8:45—Kate Smith Speaks.

8:55—Brother Sister.

9:15—Portrait of Helen Trent.

9:45—Our Gal Sunday.

10:00—Life Can Be Beautiful.

10:15—Perfume.

10:30—Vic and Sade.

10:45—The Goldbergs.

11:00—Young Dr. Malone.

11:15—Young Jordan.

11:30—We Love and Learn.

11:45—News.

12:00—Bob Anderson.

12:15—Bachelor's Children.

1:00—Home Front Reporter.

1:15—Dave Lane.

1:30—Music.

1:45—Newspaper of the Air.

2:00—This Life Is Mine.

2:15—American Women.

2:30—Traffic Safety.

2:45—Concert.

3:00—News.

4:15—Easy Aces.

4:30—Tracer of Lost Persons.

4:45—Stop, Look and Listen.

5:00—Mother and Dad.

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