

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe" From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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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.

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 Nazi 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 uneager 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 those 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 within 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 oust 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, where 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 \$200,000,000,000 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 how much they are about to pay in government paying their undertaker 20, 30 or 40 years from now.



The Finishing Touches

Today's Radio Programs

Table listing radio programs for KBLM, KOIN, KEK, KGW, and KAOZ across various days and times, including program titles and hosts.

Death Goes Native

By MAX LONG

Chapter 18 Continued "You see," I said to Komako, "that's Delmar's ring. He was wearing it the night he was killed." I glanced at Turva. "You know it's Delmar's."

"Where you get it, Henry?" Komako asked. "I—I found it," Henry muttered.

Turva spoke up fiercely. "He found it this afternoon in his canoe, wedged into a crack in the bottom of his home-made locker. He brought it to me first, and after consulting Mrs. Delmar, we decided he should keep it. Both kids are so happy over it I don't want it spoiled!"

Komako studied her spirited face in the flickering light, then turned and looked long at Henry. Mary began to cry and Turva put her arm about her.

"Henry," Komako said heavily, "you not take ring off body when you was diving?"

"No! It was in my boat. I didn't look in my locker until this afternoon."

Komako stood silent, considering, then turned to Mary. "More better you let me keep ring till we find how it get from Delmar's finger to Henry's boat. That not spoil your engaging?"

"Still weeping, Mary took off the ring and handed it to Komako. He pocketed it where it would lie with the bunch of keys which was the only other tangible clue we had gathered."

"I think you're brutal!" Turva said indignantly. "Come, Mary, let's wash your face and go back to the party. I'll see that you get the ring again."

Komako began to question Henry, falling into their own language which was easier for them both. Henry's face took on a stubborn resentful look as he gave short answers. Finally Komako sent him back to the shouting joyous dancers, and gazed thoughtfully after him for some moments.

"Well?" I demanded. He shrugged. "Everything too bad! What he say seems all right—but I think he not tell everything. Come, we walk a while. Settle dinner and do some thinking."

Chapter 19 The fragrant willing leis were heavy on our shoulders as we turned away from the music and merriment and followed the trail down to the beach. There the starlight was soft on the sand, and as we emerged from the trees we saw two figures standing out in dark silhouette against the sky. One was unmistakably Mokino's spare little figure, and the mountain beside him could be only his gentle wife. They were gazing out across the water, and in their hands were plates heaped with food.

Komako whispered in my ear. "They bring part of luau for shark. Always share good things with him." I chuckled. "Only Hawaiians would make such a pet of—"

I was interrupted by an exclamation.

12:45—On the Farm Front. 1:30—Music. 1:45—Joint Recital. 1:55—Sheila Carter. 2:15—Texas Rangers. 2:30—Star Dance Parade. 2:45—Wartime Women. 2:50—News. 2:55—Philip Keyne-Gordon. 3:15—Johnson Family. 3:30—Overseas Report. 3:45—Jerry Sears. 4:00—Pulton Lewis. 4:15—Music. 4:25—Rainbow Rendezvous. 4:45—News. 5:00—Leans Back and Listen. 5:15—Superman. 5:30—Chick Carter. 5:45—Mobbitt Commentary. 6:00—Gabriel Heater. 6:15—Music. 6:45—Homer Rodeheaver. 7:00—Raymond Clapper. 7:15—Movie Parade. 7:30—Fantasy. 7:45—Music. 8:00—American Forum. 8:15—News. 8:25—Rex Miller. 8:45—Pulton Lewis. 8:55—Orchestra. 9:15—Treasury Star Parade. 9:30—News. 9:45—You Tell 'Em. 11:30—Band.

QUESTION: S. A. R. writes that someone has told her about how much fun it is to start ferns and the asks if there are ferns which bloom and bear seeds or from where the fern seed is obtained.

ANSWER: Spores are the seeds to which she refers. These are on the back of fern fronds and in most cases resemble rust. Ripened spores may be shaken from the fronds, put in a paper sack to dry, and planted in ten days or two weeks. They should be sown in flats of light moist soil. Do not cover the spores with earth. Peculiar little growths, not at all resembling the parent plant, soon appear. When these are large enough to handle, transplant them. One can grow good ferns this way in about ten months.

QUESTION: B. B. L. asks what is meant by a "formal garden." Says she saw a little shrub advertised and the ad said it was particularly good in "a formal garden."

ANSWER: A garden geometrical in shape, laid out with regularity, and planted in classic design is styled as "formal." Very trim shrubs are best in a formal garden, and unless one has a lot of time to put into the garden, one should not attempt a formal garden. Neatness is an all important factor. No untrimmed edges can get by in this type of garden.

Modernize Your Old, Outmoded Jewelry

Advertisement for 'Security Set' jewelry featuring an image of a diamond ring and text describing the process of modernizing old jewelry.