

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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German Mystery

The mystery about German military strength on land and air appears to be solved by the revelation that it doesn't exist, at least not in the magnitude and terror that had been advertised. The allied invasion of Normandy, while not a pushover in any sense of the word, did not draw out the Luftwaffe in any numbers, and the German equipment was conventional—much of it horse-drawn artillery. While many think the Germans are holding back their strength to wage a decisive battle in France or Belgium we have a strong suspicion that they just do not have their vaunted strength. It has been drained out on a multitude of battlefields and in countless numbers of air raid sorties.

Certainly General Rommel has done nothing in France that would clinch his title to the "fox" of warfare. He failed to go all out to pinch off the allies at the beaches. His counter attacks were individual actions not mounted in full force. His troops fought defensive battles, not offensive. His battle plan seemed fragmentary—a series of local actions rather than the careful working out of an overall plan.

The excuse was offered that the Germans have to be on guard lest the allies strike at some other point. True enough, but that hardly warrants letting them secure a foothold on the peninsula and a splendid port from which to supply a continuous offensive.

There seems to be but one conclusion—the Germans are so weakened they can no longer wage a continental war. Pressed now from the east and the south and the west, with other attacks threatened at intermediate points of the compass they can only resist as best they can, without hope of effecting more than a stay of time through some local success.

When the battle of the western armies is finally joined in France or Belgium it may be in the nature of some classic Waterloo or Leipzig. More probably it will be a melee, with defense lines fractured at points until the whole line crumples and spearheading columns race through to envelop segments of the enemy armies, resembling in reverse the battle of France of 1940.

There is excellent promise that the war will end this fall. The perimeter of festung Europe is cracked, and when the field armies are cut up then the surrender will surely follow in short order. The German generals are schooled in classic warfare, which calls for admission of defeat when the score is definitely adverse. The top will be that by saving German lives Germany will be in better position to build up its forces for a third attempt to conquer Europe. That argument will convince the generals, and only the threats of Himmler's rats will prevent them from following its logic.

If the Normandy invasion is a sample, and we believe it is, the Germans are already defeated, because their power is gone. A union of crushing blows will force an early conclusion of the fighting and they will avoid the stalemate of trench warfare through another winter. Air power and land power in machines and artillery will bring a decision within a matter of months.

The war has gone far enough to make Hitler speechless which is some relief. Maybe he and Mussolini are talking things over. The subject of conversation might be whether to surrender or commit suicide.

The Corvallis Gazette-Times thinks people do not take political platforms seriously any more. Why should they, when they reflect on what happened to the 1932 democratic platform?

No scientist has yet explained the affinity of a telephone pole for a swiftly moving automobile.

Interpreting The War News

By JAMES D. WHITE
Associated Press Staff Writer
(Submitting for Kirok L. Simpson)

Japan is at a turning point in South Central China, where Premier-General Tojo will choose between a passive defense based on the Maginot line mentality and an aggressive counteroffensive which if successful could prolong the war in the Orient.

The evidence is that he is choosing the latter course.

Literally, the Japanese army already is at a fork in the road. From the strategic rail junction of Hengyang which it now besieges, one railway runs south to Canton, another southwest to Kweilin.

Chungking dispatches now openly express the fear that the Japs may take the road to Kweilin, 180 miles away. Beyond, another 80 miles, is Liuchow. From Liuchow, 200 miles to the northwest lies Kweiyang, and west from Kweiyang 300 miles is Kunming. Japanese dispatches speak of every one of these cities as centers of American air activity.

Chungking, the wartime capital, lies 200 miles straight north of Kweiyang.

The danger of such a drive on Kweilin has been obvious since it became apparent that this summer the Japanese would take Changsha and for the first time invade the approaches to American air bases in southeast and southwest China, but the suggestion did not get past the Chinese censor until yesterday. No official hint was given as to why this subject now becomes mentionable, but it is possible that the Japs may already be on the road to Kweilin from Hengyang which may have been bypassed.

All fronts in the far east are complicated, but the one sector which makes them comprehensible is the uniformity of Japanese policy and the way it lies in various fronts to a single objective.

With this principle in mind, widely separated pieces of strategy can be fitted into a pattern whereby Japan seeks to paralyze the weakest spot in the allied line against her. In simple truth and without reflection upon the bravery and patience of the Chinese, this weak spot is China.

No More WASPS

Because the house of representatives rejected a bill to authorize the commissioning of members of the WASPS (women's air service pilots) as commissioned officers in the army the air force is ordering discontinuance of WASP training, when present classes terminate. There will be over 1000 WASPS by that time, their chief work being to ferry planes across country.

The reason for rejection of the bill was that there now are thousands of male pilots or trainees who have been put to work in the infantry or other military units. It was argued that if we have these males already fully or partially trained, why should we be training more women and why commission the WASPS as officers? Leading the drive for this recognition was Miss Jacqueline Cochran, noted woman flier, wife of Floyd Odlum. She has been head of the women's air service pilots and a vigorous advocate of their employment as army pilots for non-combat missions.

The action of the house seems fully justified. The training program for the army air force was unduly expanded; and the navy's too for that matter, as the navy admits now in stopping training of men for the naval air corps. It is a waste of money and time to train women now for such duty, unless the men who have been released are more urgently needed in the other services.

A study should be made of the operations of the various women's auxiliary forces to determine whether the value is worth the cost. The training course alone is very expensive, and while the current compensation is low as compared with girls in civilian employment when one considers all the additional benefits present and prospective the total cost will probably be as large as if civilians had been hired—and fired. The WASPs and the WAVES and the SPARS and the WASPs and the women marines are doing excellent work; but there is still the question whether their recruitment is the best method of meeting the need for the services they render. Perhaps in the next war there will be selective service (draft) for women as well as men.

Students of Medicine

Dr. Baird, dean of the state medical school, asserts that the failure to allow deferment for men in pre-medical education will cause a shortage of physicians in the future. But perhaps he speaks more from his fears than from facts. For by the shotgun method recently adopted medical schools have been turning out three-year doctors in larger numbers than formerly. Their schools have in fact been crowded, becoming in degree at least temporary storm-cellars for inductees. Over a 10-year term it is doubtful if there will prove to be much falling off in numbers of medical graduates. Even if there is, there will be similar or even greater declines in other professions (except the ministry) and in other trades and occupations.

Moreover it is doubtful if the diminution in numbers of medical students will last for long. Within a year the war will surely come to an end in Europe, which will lighten the demands of the draft. Men will be coming back from the army, some of whom will want to study medicine. Before long the school will be putting up its bars again rather than wondering what it will do for students.

In the long run it is better to give students a good, thorough, four-year course in medicine than to turn them out in mass production methods.

The government is planning to build two school projects in Vanport City, at a total cost of nearly half a million dollars. Probably the bureaucrats figure there should be vacant schoolhouses to go with the vacant apartment houses in what was touted to be Oregon's second largest city but turned out to be just another Medford.

Mr. Justice William O. Douglas has come to Oregon for his vacation. The political rumor mounds of Washington no longer grind out Douglas' name as one slated for high political office, so the judge is just working at judging now.

There is one point of agreement at Chicago, and that is the fact that the air is extremely hot. But what else could be expected considering the number of radio commentators who have swarmed there?

Editorial Comment

United States Prestige

While we are not prepared to go all the way with the college professor who says the prestige and influence of the United States abroad is at its lowest in four years, it is easy to find a reason for whatever truth there is in his declaration.

There has been too much posing as the savior of other nations, too much loud talk about lifting up the rest of the world toward our level, too many glory boys sent out to offer to change things for other people.

All this smug patronizing has not done us a bit of good. It has been swallowed where dollars came along with it, for the sake of the dollars only, but with deep-seated resentment of the attitude from which the largesse came.

It does not occur to our international do-gooders that other peoples may not care at all to be made over into our image. They may find no compliment in the suggestion. A lot of testimony is coming from South America, for example, that the millions we have flung around there with consequent dislocation of normal economies and with so much benevolent unction have made South Americans like us less than they did before, which was not too much. In Europe peoples that sorely need and eagerly take out help do not enjoy either our patronizing air or our bland assurances that we are going to direct their lives for them henceforth.

The United States is too powerful to lack prestige and influence abroad, but we have some ways to mend before our prestige and influence include universal affection.—San Francisco Chronicle.



"Piece-De-Resistance"

Today's Radio Programs

KSLM-NBS-Wednesday-1200 Kc.
6:00-Music Timekeeper.
6:30-It's The Truth.
6:45-News.
7:00-News.
7:15-Farm & Home Program.
7:30-Handy Man.
7:45-Today's Top Trades.
8:00-Dr. Talbot.
8:30-News.
8:45-Orchestra.
9:00-Booker Carter.
9:15-Pastor's Call.
9:30-Midland U.S.A.
9:45-Amazing Jennifer Logan.
10:00-News.
10:15-Jack Berch.
10:30-Luncheon with Lopez.
10:45-American Woman's Jury.
11:00-Cedric Foster.
11:15-Waltz Time.
11:30-Skyline Serenade.
11:45-Kellogg Musical Library.
12:00-Organist.
12:15-The Snatch.
12:30-Hillbilly Serenade.
12:45-Nashville Varieties.
1:00-News.
1:15-Interlude.
1:30-First Night.
1:45-Afternoon Melodies.
2:00-News.
2:15-Young Army Service Forces.
2:30-Concert.
2:45-Radio Hour.
3:00-Just Plain Bill.
3:15-Concert.
3:30-Concert Hour.
3:45-Johnson Family.
3:55-Musical News.
4:15-Merry Moon.
4:30-Safety Legion.
4:45-Roundup Revelers.
5:00-News.
5:15-Superman.
5:30-Tom Mix.
5:45-Gordon Burke.
6:00-Gabriel Heatter.
6:15-Screen Test.
6:30-First Night.
6:45-World Commentary.
7:00-Lowell Thomas.
7:15-World Commentary.
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10:00-Old Timers Orchestra.
10:30-News.
10:45-Music.
11:00-Sign Off.

KGW-NBC-Wednesday-620 Kc.
6:00-Dawn Patrol.
6:30-Birth and Madness.
6:45-News.
7:00-News.
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