

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Have We Kept Faith?

The movie "The White Cliffs of Dover" is as thoroughly British as "Mrs. Miniver", but with an American accent; another picture of England at War, with flash-backs to 1914-1918; touchingly sentimental, to be sure. But what we wish to comment on regarding it is the closing sentence of the narrative:

God will never forgive us if we break faith with our dead again.

This implies past breaking of faith with "our dead." The idea has gained currency in recent months, with political connotations, that if the United States had joined the league of nations the present war would not have occurred. Such an idea belongs in the catalog of "ifs" of history. It is not susceptible of proof; and quite potent arguments can be mounted in the negative.

Did "we", either English or American or French "break faith" with the dead of World War I? No indeed. The history of the period between the wars is filled with deliberate and constructive effort to keep that faith, and to make that the "war to end all wars."

It is true that the United States did not join the league of nations, yet that body itself failed to act on the report of its own Lytton committee which condemned the Japanese rape of Manchuria. The league failed to restrain Italy's sordid conquest of Ethiopia and collapsed in the face of German aggression. It was not the non-membership of the United States which produced this palsy in the league.

Now consider what was done to promote and preserve peace, after the first world war. There was the disarmament conference called by Pres. Harding, out of which came the treaties for the scrapping of navies and suspension of naval construction. This was hailed as a great step toward peace, though now it is derided as a silly gesture and a crippling blow to our own defense. A series of treaties were promulgated, all looking to peace. Notable among them were the peace of Locarno, which it was thought would heal Franco-German relations; the nine-power treaty to maintain peace in the Orient; and finally the Kellogg-Briand pact to outlaw war.

In the face of this record the accusation of broken faith with "our dead" is false, as far as efforts to prevent war is concerned. Perhaps it might better be said of Britain and the United States that they failed their soldier dead in allowing their military establishments to deteriorate. Even the humiliating appeasement of Munich was in part a heroic effort to make political sacrifice in the hope (vain as it proved) of maintaining Europe's peace.

This war is not a product of broken faith of the people or the rulers of the former allied and associated nations. This is an egocentric cataclysm, the creation of a single malignant but dominating personality, Adolf Hitler. Carlyle could find in him another of his examples of great men. Though we deny him qualities of heroism we must admit that Hitler possesses a human dynamism which entranced 75 millions of people, forged them into a thunderbolt of Mars and nearly wrecked the whole world. There can be little or no insurance against the emergence of such a perverted genius.

Failure to prevent a war which was incubated in the vengeful ambition and distorted imagination of a set of gangsters should bring no sense of guilt to British and Americans and French. Turn though we should to some form of collective security, we will for a long time to come still find our chief insurance in an adequate military establishment supporting an enlightened statesmanship.

Have we kept faith with the dead of Flanders field, of Ypres, of Verdun, of Chateau Thierry, of the Argonne? Yet, we have kept faith. The torch, passed on to us, has not fallen to the ground. When the issue again became clear the liberty-loving peoples of the earth rallied to suppress the military despotism flowing like hot lava out of central Europe.

It is to keep faith with our dead of 1917-1918 that our soldiers and sailors fight in Italy and France and in the Atlantic. It is to keep faith with our dead that millions labor in factory and in mine and in field and forest to supply our armies and navies with the sinews of war. If we had failed to meet this challenge, if in craven isolation we had clung to our burrows and refused to bare our breasts to stop the hellish Hitlerite horde, then in truth it might be said that our dead of World War I had died in vain.

No, the thesis of "White Cliffs of Dover" is wrong. No one can with propriety set limits to God's forgiving grace, and when that is based on false insinuation the sacrifice is the greater. We have not broken faith with our heroic dead of the past, nor shall we break faith with our dead in this great struggle. The people of the United States will continue to labor for peace, to deal justly with all nations, to cooperate with all peoples of goodwill; but also they will stand ready, should the need arise, again to raise the sword in defense of human liberty.

Barbara Hutton Grant asserts that her one-time husband, the Danish countess Haugwitz-Reventlow, makes paramount his desire for money and the accumulation of wealth without work or effort and so is holding their son in Canada for "ransom." Barbara didn't work very hard herself for her accumulation of wealth. She selected a rich man for grandfather.

Over at Sherwood a farmer got to drinking Sunday, quarreled with his family, then on Monday shot his 17-year-old daughter in the head and killed her. Some nice people in Oregon—and some not so nice.

George Bernard Shaw, the old snort, is still cheating the undertaker. He was 86 years old Wednesday. The crusty old coddler told an interviewer that the state of the world "is still plain hell." Then why does he loiter around?

Tire Shortage

Just when the resignation of Col. Dewey, director of the rubber administration, is announced, together with his recommendation that the administration be terminated as a separate office, comes word of the reduction of the August allotment of heavy duty tires for civilian needs of well over 50 per cent. Instead of the 135,000 provided in July, the number of tire casings for August is set at 60,000. This cut affects chiefly truck and bus operations, and comes at a time when these are at the height for the whole year. The further warning is given that the September supply may not be much larger.

A variety of reasons are attributed for the slash in tires for civilian use. The military demand undoubtedly increases as combat lines extend. There is a shortage of skilled mechanics in rubber plants. The production rate for tires combining natural and synthetic rubber is slower than for natural rubber alone.

It is evident now that OPA means business, and that we are really scraping the bottom of our tire bin. The reduction may result in curtailment of truck and bus mileage, may lay up some of these vehicles. However, it is more probable that by patching the old tires can be made to do for a few weeks longer. Closer planning of travel and greater conservation must be enforced to tide us over this critical period. The injunction should be heeded both by truck and bus owners, by their drivers, and by those who use these vehicles.

Maybe this abrupt slash is what we need to impress us with the fact that the war is not over yet.

Lieutenant General McNair

The performance of ground troops in action on many fronts is eloquent testimony to the quality of training they received under the directions of Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, who unfortunately was killed while observing action in Normandy. Previously he had been wounded by enemy fire in Tunisia. His death is a serious loss, because he was regarded as one of the best of our officers, a man once described by Gen. Marshall as "the brains of the army."

Perhaps his great work was accomplished in the organization and training of the army's ground troops; but undoubtedly he would have made further great contribution as a directing general in tactical operations. To him, his fellow-officers, the army, and the people give a sad farewell.

The growing lodge of German generals held captive by Russia signed an appeal to their brothers-in-arms to toss in the towel and call it a day. They blame everything on Hitler and his intuition. The breach between the Nazi gangsters and the military caste is evidently real.

Henry Ford plans to put out a cheaper car after the war, more like his model A. But Henry isn't going back to model T, though that was the model which earned him fame and fortune.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Nazi admission that Russian spearheads had punched across the Vistula southeast of Warsaw headlined the war news from Europe although sustained second day progress of a closely knit American air-tank advance in Normandy holds promise of significant events to come in the west.

As the air escorted tank columns mushroomed out to east and west from the deep penetration of enemy lines below St. Lo there seemed no question that the desperate Nazi effort to contain the allied invasion had failed. Front line dispatches told of American infantry swarming through the air-and-tank cut gaps to consolidate the ground, disrupt German rear echelon services and outflank his battle lines in both directions.

Long range heavy guns were falling into American hands unopposed by their fleeing Nazi crews. The toll of German prisoners was mounting hourly to indicate that an allied breakthrough that must force a general German retreat across the whole Normandy front had been achieved.

West of the St. Lo dent American troops had taken Lessey and passed the Periers Nazi roadblock to threaten Coutances from the north while tank columns rolling down the St. Lo-Coutances highway pressed upon it at even closer range from the east. There was little doubt that German hasty retreat from the Coutances-Lessey coastal triangle of the Cherbourg peninsula was in progress to escape a closing allied trap.

The massive air-tank blow gives evidence of near perfection in assault teamwork by army ground and air forces. Nazi-invented blitzkrieg tactics are being American improved and turned against their authors.

There are glittering possibilities in the developing situation. While it is as yet doubtful that the allied immediate purpose goes farther than to widen and deepen the Normandy bridgehead to accommodate larger forces in preparation for more decisive action, the means for immediate exploitation of enemy confusion appears to be at hand. The situation in German ranks as well as in Germany itself invites bold action.

Russian crossing of the Vistula on the 30 mile span where they had reached the river southeast of Warsaw had not been confirmed by Moscow but seemed highly probable. Red forces had seized east bank towns, Dablin and Pulawy, guarding the important rail and road crossings west of Lublin. Nazi evacuation of Breszt Litovsk was clearly impending since the breach in the Vistula line meant Warsaw was due for flanking, not frontal attack, and the Breszt Litovsk garrison was in growing danger of being cut off and annihilated.

Once beyond the river in the Dablin-Pulawy sector in any force, the Russians could swing northward to take the old Polish capital from the rear, its vulnerable side, or cut its communication lines. Whatever the Russian plan, however, the battle is rolling back upon Warsaw again just two months short of five years from the day it fell to German arms, September 27, 1939, and launched the world into the greatest war it has ever known.



The New Salesman

News Behind the News The Safety Valve

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, July 27—Behind Rubber Director Dewey's resignation is a tire situation with which no man who has done a great job might want to be connected.

Dewey hinted at it in a polite way in his withdrawal statement. He said "The only crisis in prospect" was in heavy duty tires where a manpower shortage exists.

The whole truth is Dewey asked the joint manpower commission months ago for 6000 men—a mere 6000—he said were necessary to complete his tire program. He heard nothing from it. Apparently not even an answer was given.

His statement about a crisis also was too polite to reflect his inner mind. The best authorities on the complex subject do not see how the proposed production of tires for this year is going to be met. They see a prospect of a breakdown affecting all tires for civilian, bus and truck use.

Now here is Dewey, an outstanding man in his business, who has done everything he can. In plant construction, synthetic rubber production and in creating a reservoir of natural rubber he has been an admitted success in his job.

But tires are being doled out faster than they are being produced while production is lagging behind schedule. The schedule for the year was 22,000,000 tires (incidentally less than half peacetime output).

During the first six months of the year, the factories were producing something more than 1,000,000 a month, about 9,000,000 in the first six months. If they can reach the 22,000,000 figure the last six months, they will be doing better than well.

In the early months of the year, the government started doling out 1,000,000 tires a month. In May this figure was increased 250,000 and the same increases were made in June and July. The quotas for August and September have been increased almost as much again to

a figure of 1,950,000 a month. That will carry everyone up to a month before election. Quotas for October and November have not been set.

The increases could be partly explained by the fact that a stock pile of synthetics had been accumulated by Dewey, amounting to around 4,000,000. With the war near an end, and nearly everyone in actual need of tires, some increase in quotas seemed justified. But where the crack underneath in the planning is apparent is in the lagging production.

Former Rubber Synthesist Jeffers got out as a success in office when his program had reached a governmental situation beyond his control.

It seems to me Dewey may be following the example of his predecessor, but this time the office is to be completely liquidated and the program continued by the various government agencies operating the synthetic plants.

Dewey is a Baruch man. The guiding hand of this one of the few sound administration ghosts chose him. This is not strictly true of Jeffers.

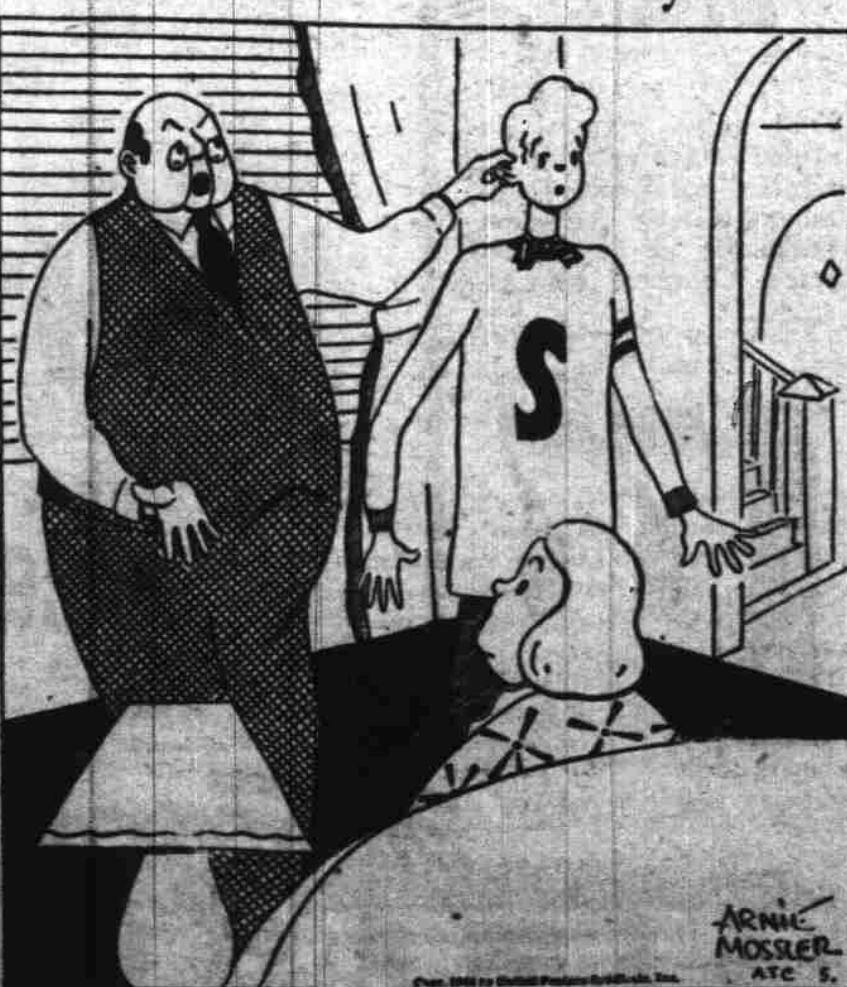
Although it is not generally known, Jeffers was Baruch's second choice for the job. First was his own aide Hancock.

There is another break noticeable in the inner casing of this tire situation. Dewey is a private synthetic rubber manufacturer. He has long advocated a specific post war program for continuance of synthetic tire making.

In many plants the government started, construction and working cost were not too high to prevent commercial private operation. Dewey wanted the government to set aside plants which cost too much, and keep them aside for possible future emergencies, and turn the others over to private business.

But Mr. Roosevelt recently said something at a press conference along the line that he did not expect the government to continue to subsidize the rubber business after the war. It was accepted as a crack at the Dewey program, although strictly speaking Dewey planned no subsidy.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"Your son suggests that I go to the costume party as a BARRAGE BALLOON!"

Russell L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT

WITH BRAZILIAN FORCES IN ITALY, July 26—(Delayed) (AP)—The prospect of carrying wounded over Italy's rugged and mountainous terrain poses no particularly new horrors for the husky litter bearers of Brazilian medical units.

Many of them were born and raised in mountain country, and all of them had intensive training in Brazil's towering mountain crags.

"These look about the same as Brazil's mountains," said Pvt. Sebastiao Fernandez de Farias, a 22-year-old farm boy from the state of Rio Santa Isabel de Rio Preto. "Carrying wounded through hill country never is an easy job but at least it is not new to us. We had a good many months of it back in Brazil."

"That's right," agreed Pvt. Braz Fontes, 20, another farm boy from Valencia. "However, doing it under fire will be something else again. We're used to mountains, but we won't be used to battle."

The two stocky litter-bearers were sitting around the camp speculating with other medics on an old question most intriguing to all green troops—what combat would be like.

Cpl. Santos Roche of Rio de Janeiro, serving as interpreter, hastened to explain that the litter bearers' attitude was not one of cockiness but simply "these mountains are so much like Brazil's the men are not worried about that phase of the work."

All the Brazilian medical troops are extremely anxious to learn as much as possible about battle conditions. This unit is similar to American companies operating just behind the combat lines. It has two officers, more than 100 men and serves at the first point to which wounded are brought by battalion aid workers.

"We are not sure yet whether we get combat experience before our troops," said Sgt. Paulo Canton, medical assistant from Sao Paulo City. "Right now, I am just taking care of minor ailments and accidents."

"They might send us up to operate with American medical units to get some experience before our own troops get into combat."

"That would be a good thing," said Sgt. Edilson Souto Siqueira of Niteroy, Rio state, who is the chief non-com of this unit. "Then we'd be better prepared to take care of the wounded when our troops go into the line."

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"Jethro Hammer" by Michael Venning (Coward - McCann; \$2.50).

The only group with less humor than book publishers that I have found in a fairly long newspaper career would be painters (picture, not house). Painters seem wholly without conversation, in my experience.

In "Publishers' Weekly" for July 8 appeared this paragraph: "Coward-McCann will publish 'Jethro Hammer' by Michael Venning on July 24 at \$2.50. The book was announced some time ago under the title 'A Long Time Dead,' at \$2. The book is being resold to the trade. The publisher is cancelling all orders on hand for 'A Long Time Dead.'"

Without even a giggle, the publisher has changed the title of a \$2 book, and reissued it at \$2.50. The reason, as a couple of letters from him have explained, is that when people about the publishing house got to reading Mr. Venning's book they decided it was too good for a mere word. And then the curious idea that a "novel" cannot sell for less than \$2.50, became operative, so exactly the same text and, for all I know, exactly the same printing and binding job, automatically became worth four bits more. Nobody laughed—except me, of course.

The publisher is quite right about Mr. Venning's book. It is a good novel. It is also a mystery of the unfair type—the kind that drives real whodunit fans to drink, but doesn't bother the more balanced reader at all. Mr. Venning holds out on his reader; he provides no clue by which even the most astute customer could pin the crime on the rear end of the right donkey.

It is the side-matter that makes "Jethro Hammer" good. Jethro is a founding who is taken in by a village blacksmith. He never quite "belongs," and when the blacksmith dies after making millions, the other children throw Jethro out. Jethro, in his turn, ruins the family by usual standards; actually, his action is the making of the lot.

fourth term. The sound thinking people must remember that the democratic candidate for the fourth term is the same man that demanded power to reorganize the federal government, to pack the supreme court and federal courts with his own appointees, and has plunged America so deeply in debt we are bankrupt.

He must be defeated at the polls next November and save America for true Americans.

We must believe in a civilization of construction, not destruction. We are faced with the most momentous privilege in casting our vote for a man whose greatest desire is to restore America to what it has stood for, the last 150 years.

A. B. Sharpe,
Salem, Ore.

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