

The Oregon Statesman

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"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Reconversion Obstacles

Donald Nelson found grease on the rails when he tried to speed up reconversion. He is ready to allot limited quantities of aluminum, steel, etc., which now are getting to be surplus, for the making of pots, pans, hairpins and other consumer goods, but fails to get cooperation from other government bodies.

First, while Nelson was in the hospital, the army and navy persuaded Nelson's assistants in WPB to hold up his orders for reconversion. Then, when he was better, a showdown was had and a compromise worked out by Jimmy Byrnes, was finally adopted. This is to permit resumption of manufacturing for civilian use by August 15. But now the manpower commission puts more grease on the rails for Nelson, with its order for the reduction of workers in non-essential industries so more help will be available for war industries.

The main pinch now is manpower rather than materials. There is plenty of synthetic rubber, but too few tiremakers. War industries complain that they are losing workers as men drift away seeking non-war employment. The new orders are designed to freeze men more tightly to war work. All of this reacts against reconversion on any large scale. But it doesn't make Nelson very happy to see his plans interfered with, and plants whose war orders have run out are impatient to resume civilian production.

Goebbels Total War

Dr. Joseph Goebbels, to whose title of minister of propaganda and enlightenment is now added that of "plenipotentiary," whatever that means, uses the famous bomb plot against Hitler as a basis for fresh appeals and orders for "total war." But this is just a repetition of what was demanded in February, 1943. The language used was about the same—total war, total effort to insure victory or avert catastrophe. Goering and Goebbels have been squeezing the sponge of German strength for many months. How much more can be pressed out in a new "total war" effort?

Already men of 65 and women of 50 are employed in war industry, and youths of 15 are used in factories or urged to volunteer for the army. Many of the German generals have been killed or captured and now a fresh purge of the officer class is ordered. Hasn't war nearly reached the phase of total exhaustion in Germany? Goebbels knows it has, fanatic though he is. But he and his fellow plotters know they dare not surrender; so all they can do is to drag their own country down into utter ruin along with themselves.

von Papen Goes Home

Franz von Papen has left Ankara for Berlin. This German Tallyrand, who has survived many purges, goes home while Hitler is having another of his blood-orgies. It was said that only half of the axis diplomats were willing to leave Turkey for their homelands, preferring internment at Ankara to cabbage and potatoes at home. First report said that von Papen himself was remaining.

With his ability to live up to nature's first law, that of self-preservation, it will not be surprising if von Papen is on hand to welcome the allies to Berlin and to lend his hand in setting up a new government. So far, at least, he hasn't been a Nazi, not even giving the Nazi salute when he left Turkey. He will try to connect with a job, no matter what the ideology of the regime.

Patriotism for many people consists in telling other people what they ought to do.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

THE HOME BODY

The "fierce light which beats upon a throne" is not much more fierce than that which beats on a nominee of a national convention. And so it has begun to beat on Sen. Harry S. Truman, democratic nominee for the vice-presidency. And out of the beating has come the disclosure that the candidate's wife is on the federal payroll as her husband's secretary. The salary is the pleasant little sum of \$4500.

It will be remembered that Mrs. Garner was her husband's secretary when he was vice-president but no one cared to make anything of the fact because she was, in truth, a secretary and she worked at the job. Though opposing him politically we have defended Walter Pierce in this column more than once for the employment of his wife, Cornelia Marvin Pierce, as his secretary when he was a representative in congress. Like Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Pierce was truly a working secretary and she earned her pay.

Mrs. Truman, wife of the candidate, does not appear to be, by any means, a working secretary. Her services, all rendered at home, are of a vague nature. Her husband consults her, takes her advice and she goes over his speeches. It is for this that she bears the title of secretary and draws down \$375 a month.

Were there no salary, we suppose, she would do none of these things and the family conversation would be devoted to such subjects as the weather, the Missouri compromise, the chances of the Cardinals, how Henry Wallace got re-negotiated and what the family owes to Boss Pendergast. —Bend Bulletin.

GI JOE'S NEEDS

Congress in 1776 promised to grant each soldier of the Revolution two linen hunting shirts, two pairs of overalls, one leather or woolen waistcoat with sleeves, one pair of breeches, a hat or leather cap, two shirts, two pairs of hose and two pairs of shoes. Few actually got that much.

Today's GI Joe goes to war with everything from a dog tag to a Bible furnished by Uncle Sam. Altogether, says a summary prepared by the Library of Congress, it costs the army \$299.47 to outfit an infantryman. To get him abroad requires, eight tons of shipping, and it takes another month to keep him supplied.

Modern warfare and weapons never dreamed of back in '76 are the reason. Another reason is these same weapons shoot so much faster that GI Joe today has to have much more ammunition. Where his 1776 counterpart would shoot one bullet he can fire scores. —Pathfinder.

Breaking a Strike

There will be popular approval of the rather tardy action of federal authorities in arresting four of the leaders of the Philadelphia transit workers' union on charges of violating the Smith-Connally act. This strike interfered seriously with war production, causing it to slump some 15 per cent. Merchants lost \$5 million in business; the strikers themselves \$250,000 in wages; the traction company \$650,000 in fares, to say nothing of the great inconvenience to the 1,500,000 daily patrons of the transit lines.

What was the reason for the strike? Race prejudice. Because eight negroes were being promoted and given a chance to train as trolley operators the union struck, tying up transportation in the city and touching off race riots. It was a disgraceful episode, doing grave damage to the war effort and seeking to deny essential rights to colored workers.

What broke the strike wasn't the presence of the army but the threat of denying the workers further employment on the lines or in war industry for the duration. That brought them to time, not the unreasonableness of their position or the interference with the city's daily life. It is to be hoped that legal penalties may be imposed on those responsible for the strike. And white folks need a lot of education on civil rights, too.

If Misery Loves Company

Living within seeing distance of Portland's wartime growth in population we are apt to regard it as unique. The fact is that there are other war-swollen districts in the country which must present similar problems to those of Portland. The increase in the Portland area is just about median for areas of this type.

The census bureau has recently done sample counts in 10 of these districts. It reports the Portland-Vancouver area (Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties in Oregon, Clark in Washington) as 660,583, a gain of 31.8% over the 1940 census. Other districts show gains as follows:

Charleston county, SC.	38.1%
Detroit - Willow Run	8.0
Hampton - Roads, Va.	43.8
Los Angeles	15.1
Mobile county, Ala.	64.7
Puget Sound	20.7
San Diego county, Calif.	43.7
San Francisco bay	25.9

Portland has not been alone in its congestion-miseries; nor will it be alone in its postwar difficulties. It is doubtful if any of these areas have gone as far as Portland in trying to solve the problems that loom when peace returns.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

There was more than a hint of desperation in the first heavy German counterattack to strike American lines in France since the break-through into Brittany and the Loire valley.

It came too late to have done more than slow up the many-fanged Yankee blitz even had it reached its indicated objective, the Avranches gateway. Nor was it strong enough so far as yet revealed to be rated as more than a delaying action, probably intended to permit a sweeping withdrawal of the crumbling German left flank.

The site of the attack, between Mortain and Sourdeval just south of American captured Vire on the main Vire-Domfront highway, was admirably chosen by the foe if that was his purpose. That represents the span between the See and the Selunes rivers which reach the sea above and below Avranches some 20 miles farther east. The blow dealt American lines some three miles deep, ousted the captors of Mortain and probably cut direct westward communication for the armored spearhead which had reached and passed Domfront 12 miles east-southeast of Mortain.

That American stab along the Avranches-Mortain-Domfront-Alencon highway threatens to turn successive Nazi defense positions behind the Orne, Dives and other lesser rivers west of the Seine if not checked. The seemingly impending German retreat to the Seine on that flank under pressure of British and Canadian armies on the northern end of the allied line could be turned into a rout by a deep American eastward break-through.

The Nazi counter thrust into the See-Selunes corridor, if it has been blunted and contained as early reports indicated, probably will be quickly pulled back to escape being crushed between American elements at Vire in the north and at Domfront in the south. The Germans may have risked that with up to four armored divisions in order to extricate their army from a far larger pocket forming between the Americans at Domfront on the right and British and Canadian forces which have forced the Orne line at Thury-Harcourt south of Caen.

It becomes increasingly apparent each day that orders from the highest Nazi sources are compelling commanders in France to cling desperately to every inch of ground in the north, even at the price of the loss of all Brittany and the intensifying American threat in the Loire valley to Paris itself. There are credible reports of flight from Paris and Vichy of Nazi and French collaborationist elements foreshadowing their possible evacuation.

They raise a question as to whether Berlin is not prepared to abandon all central western and south western France; but still determined to cling to the channel coast up to the Seine and beyond to safeguard the sites of robot-bomb attacks on Britain to the last.

On the Brittany bulge itself American forces have now fully demonstrated the accuracy of allied information that the German defenses consisted of little more than a thin coastal crust, a hollow shell. It is conceivable that the Americans are already preparing to shift their forward supply bases to the south coast Breton ports and beaches which will inevitably fall. It is for that reason that the German threat to the Avranches gateway, even if it had succeeded, probably would have impeded General Bradley's Loire valley operations only briefly if at all.

Rapid expansion of Bradley's forces, even the landing of French troops from Africa, once the Breton ports and beaches are cleared, would permit the American commander to turn the full weight of his powerful armored echelons eastward up the Loire with little delay and bring the battle of western and northwestern France to a decision on schedule.



Magic Carpet of 1944

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

for two dependents, \$35 for three or more dependents.

Last February congress fixed the muster-out pay for soldiers, establishing the range from \$100 to \$300, depending on length of service and whether service was overseas. This Truman-Kilgore-Murray bill adds to that an installment of \$100 to \$150 for each year of service, plus one additional installment if the service was overseas.

While the press reports are not clear, it is presumed that the unemployment allowances for displaced civilian war workers will be the same as for veterans, a maximum of \$35 a week. When one considers that these workers have enjoyed the highest wages in history and can draw on regular unemployment compensation funds it is clear that the purpose of the democratic majority is to clinch votes for the Roosevelt-Truman ticket in 1944. It looks like 1936 all over again—another "rain of checks" drawn on the federal treasury.

If the GI bill was correct on June 22 when it was enacted, why is it not right now, six weeks later? What change has occurred to make its provisions inadequate? Suppose the Truman-Kilgore bill passes, what assurance do we have that the democrats will not raise their bid again in September or October? Aren't we just entering a period of "auction" in which senators and congressmen bid for votes, using the public treasury for the pay-off?

Republican members of the committee protested the bill, although their opposition seems to have been based more on the prospect of federal control than on the increases in the bounties. Of course the democrats may figure it smart politics to put the republicans in the hole on this bill, as they tried to on the soldiers' vote bill.

The new bill will be thoroughly debated in the senate, and strong opposition is expected. Not all the democrats will support it. Sen. George's committee favors leaving unemployment

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Terrors of new weapons of destruction conceived in this war hit the front pages daily.

The robot bomb has now been doubled in size. Nazi-bred rumors predict one eventually which will cross the ocean and descend on New York. The Sunday supplement dreams of warfare are supposed to have come true.

By these and other new implements, many of which we ourselves have alertly developed through necessity, the people have come to realize that weapons of the future will spread greater destruction. Single implements will increasingly kill more and more thousands of persons.

The average run of comment holds, therefore, that we must rely heavily on our navy and our air force in the postwar period. We have a navy now reputed at nearly 5 to 1 over Britain, and so many ships in the Pacific that it may prove difficult to assign them all an effective war task. As one naval authority has told me:

"We have so many ships we do not know what to do with them."

The American air force also will come out of this war the greatest in the world. Our army, they say, never again will be allowed to deteriorate as it has in the past.

Thus, we are preparing in the future to maintain ourselves in permanent peace. It seems to me that, in this instance again, we are fooling ourselves.

No weapon, no new device of destruction, ever assured security to a nation. The French built a Maginot line, which was

compensation to the states, as at present, except that federal civil employees in war work put out of jobs would be covered, with the federal government reimbursing the states.

It may be that the hottest part of the political campaign will be the senate debates on this bill.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"If I'd known the steps had changed this much, I wouldn't have asked you to dance, son."

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Yankies in Italy
Getting Bitter Over
Optimism at Home

WITH THE AEF IN ITALY, July 31.—(Delayed)—(P)—Soldiers still fighting along the Italian front and airmen still flying missions against the enemy are getting just a little bitter these days about all the optimistic speculation back home over how soon the war will end.

It isn't that they weren't cheered by news of internal strife in Germany and other optimistic trends. And they won't deny things are looking a lot brighter. But, they remind you of these things:

1. Until the shooting stops, there is no peace.
2. The shooting has not stopped.
3. As long as the war continues, the smart soldier does not let his mind dwell on the possibilities of an early peace or a quick return home.
4. Knowing full well how demoralizing such thoughts can be, German propagandists are taking full advantage of all allied optimistic talk.

Points one and two need no further discussion. If they aren't obvious, read the latest—and continuing—casualty lists. A soldier doesn't have to. He sees the dead and wounded daily. Point three is something everyone knows all along any front. With the war's end seeming to be somewhere in the dim and distant future and the chances of going home equally far away, the average soldier slips into a fatalistic frame of mind—which may be the best mental status for a fighting man.

For instance, I knew a sergeant who gained considerable

fame for his almost foolhardy courage. He volunteered for countless patrols. Once, he served as a one-man tank trap, taking on two Tigers with Molotov cocktails. Several times, he cleaned out German machine-gun nests either single-handed or else he led squads which did the job. Stories about him were legion.

But then someone made the mistake of telling that sergeant he had been recommended for rotation leave—and during the few days which elapsed before it was approved and he was pulled out of the line to go home, he was a changed man. His mind, which long accepted the likelihood of death or injury, suddenly rejected it in favor of going home to his wife and child, alive and whole. He stayed glued to his foxhole until his orders came through—and not a soul blamed him.

That happens again and again. Before Anzio, several correspondents with reputations for taking almost any risk to get a good story were told they would get home leave as soon as the operation was over. And these guys who had taken all kinds of shelling, bombing, strafing, mortar and small arms fire in their stride suddenly were shaken by the worst fears they ever had known.

Figuring that as a pretty average reaction, you can imagine what it does to a fighting man who is seeing men die around him every day when he hears that all the big shots are saying the war will be over any week now—or gets a letter stating that "it looks like you'll be home in time for the football season this fall, Johnny."

As for point number four, all winter and all spring, Germans have been firing propaganda leaflets over the lines and broadcasting radio speeches, saying in effect:

"The war's almost over, Yank. It's too bad you're going to be killed right at the last, isn't it?"

Now the nazis are pulling all stops out, asking allied soldiers why they're still fighting when they're liable to get killed and the war's practically over, anyhow. Luckily, the doughboys can still laugh at anything the German propagandists say.

But, it's a strange, ironic twist of war that soldiers' spirits are shaken and embittered somewhat by the well meant but unwitting words of the folks back home. They have to be strengthened by their utter disbelief in the same words when they're spoken by the enemy.

Disaster Unit Works Quick After Blast

The disaster chairman for Marion County chapter of the American Red Cross, Mr. L. O. Arens, has been advised of the quick work accomplished by the disaster volunteers in and near Port Chicago at the time of the disaster explosion of navy boats there July 17th.

Don Cramer, known to many Salem residents, was in charge of the operation, assisted by the local Martinez Red Cross chapter people.

Emergency first aid, nursing, shelter, canteen, registration, and communication services were immediately made available to the unfortunate populace. Blood plasma collected through the Red Cross was immediately made available by the navy for the use of the injured, both navy personnel and civilians.

Special mention was made in the communication of the services given by the nurses' aides who worked under the direction of the Red Cross nurses and served over 350 persons at the first aid station. Another special mention was made of the important service rendered by the registration and information committee. Frantic inquiries pouring in from relatives all over the United States were expeditiously handled by the information and communication group.

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MISERY HAS TROUBLES

HOBOKEN, N.J.—(P)—A sailor borrowed a car from a friend and went for a ride, got a flat tire, while fixing it he was arrested for driving without a license or owner's card. His friend arrived in police court to explain everything, but the sailor lost 13 hours of his two-day liberty pass. His name? Matthew Misery.

PAGING SIR WALTER!

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—(P)—A young lady seeking to cross a rain-drenched street, finally pulled off her shoes, waded across in her bare feet, slipped the shoes back on and went merrily on her way.