

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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"Soft Underbelly"

Allied forces have launched a new invasion of France, this time in southern France on its Mediterranean coast. The early reports indicate rather light resistance, so this may prove the "soft underbelly" of Europe of which Winston Churchill spoke many months ago. The initial invasion, in Italy, proved everything but soft. Only now have the invaders got as far north as the Arno river, so far behind schedule that they can offer little direct assistance to operations on other fronts. If the new undertaking in France proves easy, it may be that the Italian operation will be allowed to stabilize.

The new French landings were made along the French Riviera, west of Nice and east of Marseille and Toulon. Having proven in Normandy that it is possible to land armies on open beaches and then to sustain them, the allies avoided the well fortified strong points of Toulon, the French naval base, and Marseille, the great seaport city. The evident strategy is to strike for the Rhone valley above these cities, isolate and then reduce them, and at the same time press north up the Rhone to a juncture with the armies fighting west of Paris. Thus all the German troops in southern France will be pressed in a new vise, unless they start running for the Rhine.

Ominous as the new thrust is for the Germans it sounds the crack of doom for Vichy. That nest of rats must now be shivering as they hear the rattle of allied arms only some 250 miles away in two directions. Greasy little Pierre Laval with his black tie and swarthy complexion, worst rat of all, must be getting blacker in the face now as he fumes over his bum guess that Hitler had conquered the world—or is he white with fear of the fate that is now inevitable. Doddering old Marshal Petain, does he know what is happening? Or will death intervene mercifully to end the disgraceful climax of his not undistinguished career?

What a catalog of nations is listed as participating in the new operation—United Nations in fact as well as name! American, British, French, Canadian, Dutch, Polish, Greek and Belgian vessels made up the armada; while American, British and French troops made the landings on the beaches and from the air. How glorious this homecoming must seem to the French who thus were given the chance to aid personally in the redemption of their native land! And how electric must be the response within France to the news of these French landings! It was the city of Marseille which gave the French revolutionists their fighting hymn; and now from the Marseille country the song is given fresh meaning:

Allons, enfants de la patrie!
Le jour de gloire est arrivé!

The sons of France will indeed be awakened, conscious that their hour of glory is returning.

Unemployment Negligible

Reduction of staff at the state unemployment compensation commission was due to the continued decline in case-load of claimants. For July the total number of claims filed in the state was 234, against 927 in July of 1943. For the seven months of this year the state total was 8067 and for 1943 17,010, a decrease of over 50 per cent. Marion county's decrease for the year is not so pronounced, the number of claims for the first seven months of 1944 being 1092, against 1589 for the year preceding.

While unemployment is almost non-existent it is sure to increase later on during the readjustment period. Shipbuilding alone accounts for one-third of our reported payrolls now. As this work falls off workers will be displaced and it will take an interval of time before all can be reemployed. In that period the huge fund of \$50 millions in the unemployment compensation account will be available to cushion the shock.

If you want to see an interesting color effect notice how the tops of the marble lamp posts flanking the main entrance to the postoffice are turning a soft green. Each post is surmounted by a bronze light fixture, and evidently the rains are washing a copper stain from the bronze down the white marble. That is the way marble gets its coloring in nature, through drainage of colored waters through the compressed limestone.

Republicans who are worried over the democratic warning about not changing horses in the middle of the stream ought to be resourceful, like Alexander Botts, who in a recent SEP story, diverted the stream.

Over at Pendleton they are talking about enlisting foot-marchers in one of their round-up parades. Whasstea matter? Have the Pendletonians forgotten how to sit on a horse in the three years since the last show?

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

DEPENDS ON HITLER

John Gunther, well known student of foreign affairs and war correspondent, sees serious trouble ahead if the Germans are not beaten this year.

Should the Germans be able to somehow stave off defeat, and extend the struggle into the spring of 1945, he fears Hitler's threat to do the Samson act and pull the temple of Europe down as he falls, may be carried out.

So he makes a strong plea for no let-up in the all-out offensive either at the front or behind it, so that no later than the coming New Year's Eve, the epitaph of the axis in Europe may be formally engraved on the stones of time. —Medford Mail-Tribune.

THEY WILL DECIDE

All of the campaigning or lack of campaigning by the presidential candidates, all the speech-making and tub-thumping and rallies are going to be aimed at only one quarter of the American electorate. At least that is the assertion of Dr. George Gallup's poll, which says that three out of four voters have already made up their minds. —East-Oregonian.

Affairs in Italy

The political news from Italy is a bit disquieting. A crisis in the new cabinet of Premier Ivanoe Bonomi is reported, and predictions have been offered of a reorganization of government which would give former premiers Vittorio Orlando, of World War I fame, and Marshall Pietro Badoglio cabinet places. It is natural to connect these rumors with the presence of Prime Minister Churchill in Rome, for previously he had insisted on the inclusion of Badoglio in the Italian government.

The danger of such interference is that it will sour the Italians on allied war aims and lodge power in Italy in hands that at least were quiescent as far as fascism was concerned, instead of being open opponents. Italy needs to be spared such authority, and the Bonomi cabinet ought to be supported by the allies, because it appears to be representative of the various opposition parties to the old regime. Certainly it should be given a chance to reorganize Italy's government and to renew its economic life.

It is to be expected that every interest will seek to gain its advantage in the Italian political make-over. Business, labor, religious, social, political groups will be rivals for the seats of authority. The opportunity is in hand to constitute a government under intelligent direction which will really function in the interest of the people as a whole, and not for moth-eaten nobility or class-conscious revolutionists.

An Italian socialist leader has published an open letter to the British labor party saying "we ask for no interference in our internal affairs from outside," but soliciting British labor aid in restoring Italy's transportation system as the key to its economic revival. Allied participation cannot end however just with military action. It must extend to recognition and support of the elements in Italian political life which give the best promise of solving the problems of the Italian people. That can hardly be done with old stagers like Orlando and two-timers like Badoglio.

When a group of army aviators descended on Reedsport they bought up all the ten-gallon hats obtained for a local rodeo and displayed in the clothing store. Well, aviators have as much license to wear ten-gallon hats as the crab fishermen of Reedsport have to hold a rodeo. But they would look odd wearing chaps and spurs while flying B-29s.

Governors of states are becoming real vocal about states rights. At the last conference, in Portland, the initial demand was for federal money for roads.

The new Japanese premier has warned his people that Japan faces "difficulties of unprecedented seriousness." Another masterpiece of understatement.

Germany makes great claims for its new V-2 secret weapon. They say it can be fired from any place, even ships at sea—as if they had ships.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Pinched now between allied forces in Normandy and in the French Riviera, Hitler's clutch on all France from the English channel to the Mediterranean and west of the Seine and the Rhone rivers is in process of being torn loose.

There were intimations that a sweeping German retreat in the west to shorten defense lines and conserve dwindling reserves might already have begun, thus accounting for the surprising lack of opposition to the allies in the south when the first waves hit the beaches.

Official word as to just where General Wilson, allied commander in the Mediterranean theater, had sent in his French, American and British landing forces was lacking for hours. Nazi reports placed the scene of operations between Toulon and Nice with its center of gravity along a 30-mile strip of coast between St. Raphael and Cap Dramont.

That would cover the better landing sites for the French Riviera coast, at best a difficult region for a major invasion effort. Beaches are narrow and backed by sharply rising mountains. Even enemy token resistance probably would have proved costly in allied casualties. That makes it all the more significant that there was no organized effort to beat back the invasion drive and that residents of the region reported the Germans had been pulling out for days, taking heavy portable guns with them.

General Wilson, joining the French leader, General DeGaulle, in his call for a general French uprising against the foe, said his purpose was to form a junction with General Eisenhower's allied armies and sweep the Germans out of all France. Despite the obvious physical difficulties confronting his troops behind the Riviera beaches, there are certain other definite advantages in the allied selection of that theater for the stroke rather than farther westward in the Rhone delta.

For one, the invasion of the French Riviera is certain to have an immediate impact on the German defensive deployment in Italy. It is only in Italy that troops could be found to bar the road from southeastern France into the Italian plains in rear of the Gothic defense line above the Arno. And there is every evidence that General Alexander, allied field commander in Italy, is shifting his forces for a new smash at the Gothic line.

Another advantage gained by the allies in picking the Riviera site is the scope of French Maquis resistance to the Germans in that region. French underground forces have all but dominated the mountainous area east of the Rhone. The hardest Italian forces to be rallied against the Germans as the attack from the south progresses are to be found in the mountains along the Franco-Italian border.

Whether Wilson drives northward between the Rhone and that border, northwestward to reach the lower Rhone valley in an attempt to join with Eisenhower's forces in central France, or eastward toward Italy, his invasion theater is well sheltered from enemy counter attack by both the terrain and the probable active French and Italian underground cooperation.



The Last Big "Putsch?"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—The big four conference, which is to plan the post war world organization, has drawn astonishingly little notice—yet the subject is the most hotly discussed among our people.

Books carrying formulas on how to secure international peace by a mechanical arrangement of nations have been best sellers for two years. Practically everyone, except the statesmen involved, has a plan.

If you just carve Germany up into three small nations, peace will be assured, some say. Others want international alliances, hemispheric dominations and other means of peace by force.

Debates amongst us rage to the point of bitterness. It is even supposed to be an issue in the presidential campaign, although I have yet seen no one lay a finger on the precise point of difference.

This domestic agitation is not equalled in the news from Russia, Britain or China. The Russians and British evidently are moving in more specific ways.

At the Bretton Woods monetary conference, the Russians, for instance, were bound rigidly by instructions.

They were embarrassed because, in the negotiation of any compromise, they were compelled virtually to adjourn the conference for a few days until they heard from Stalin. He approved their work generally, but he did not release his authority.

This coming conference is to be held at the under-secretary level. The top men are not to attend. But their working assistants are to decide what form the world organization is to take, whether force shall be pledged to stop aggression, the voting strength of the participants, and such things.

It was to have been held in July, then August 14, now August 31, the last two weeks of de-

lay being caused by the Russians not being ready.

Incidentally, the delays also may postpone the expected campaign trip of Mr. Roosevelt to Europe for a meeting at which the leaders would adopt what the assistants agree upon here.

The under-secretaries meeting apparently must drag out longer than Bretton Woods.

But, meanwhile, steps are being taken daily which suggest we may be deluding ourselves by looking solely at the sky, toward mechanical world organizations, while ignoring the news every day from Europe and the meaning behind it.

Our leadership, for instance, has not brought peace or assurance of it to Italy. A good reporter, Anne McCormick, has been writing daily from Rome that orderly economics or politics is not yet at hand. Women in the market place find little food, stop talking when an American comes in.

Here, obviously, it is not a question of shipping food to Italy, but of providing an orderly way in which Italy can supply herself, and distribute what she can raise to satisfy her people's needs.

Then further, the communists there have formed a working arrangement with the socialists in the six-party government under allied control. The Christian democrats are holding back, declining to join that arrangement, possibly in the belief that communal-socialism is not essentially either Christian or democratic, as we understand those words.

At any rate, the post war world order in Italy is far from settled, and nothing done here August 21 is apt to be as important to the peace of Italy as the existing situation there.

So also in Poland, where conflicting governments, drawn roughly along the same lines as in Italy, went to Moscow to talk over their differences, and not to the international commission of allies.

While Stalin says all he wants is an "independent democratic Poland," everyone knows that a Poland, independent and demo-

cratic like the United States, would not be tolerated by Moscow, that no Polish government can exist without Stalin's approval and support.

Out of the Balkans has come apparently authentic word that the British intend to give Russia the dominant influence in Rumania and Bulgaria, provided they can keep Greece and Yugoslavia in their "orbit."

No wonder then, that so little popular attention is paid the planning of the under-secretaries. We already have an international organization through the various functioning committees. We even have a police force on the job in Italy, France, Poland, etc. Our international agreements so far have been only agreements to agree.

As far as carving Germany is concerned, Ambassador Winant is known to have brought to Europe the armistice terms several months ago.

Is our public mind not falling behind the times?

The Literary Guidepost

"FREEDOM ROAD" by Howard Fast (Duell, Sloan & Pearce; \$2.75).

Howard Fast, being New York born and New York raised, may not realize how explosive his "Freedom Road" is. Or on the other hand, he may realize it all the better, since the novel is an end product of a typical New York ideology. Mr. Fast's book is designed to show that after the war between the states, a workable government and even a workable economy was under way in the south (and specifically in South Carolina), but that this system was sabotaged by the half-bankrupt planters.

These, in Mr. Fast's version, were determined to hold their power and willing to use the Klan as an instrument even though most of them were too intelligent to believe in the organization for what it was. In the end, when the federal government withdrew its troops from South Carolina, the experiment of white-black cooperation fell under the tyrannical power of the "upper classes."

That is Mr. Fast's thesis.

Mr. Fast is a clever and a proven writer. He has listed some of his sources in an "afterword," although surely not all, since there are only a half dozen or so, plus newspapers and magazines. This is disarming—he says, in effect, my sympathies are with the black man and I drew my information from these publications. Please judge my book on this basis.

On this basis it is a good book. There is a flame in it, because Mr. Fast is very angry indeed. He (like most native New Yorkers) hasn't the vaguest idea how a negro thinks and little more idea of their speech habits, but in spite of this, some of his negroes are recognizable as people rather than as figureheads. His hero is a huge negro named Gideon Jackson, who educates himself in an incredibly short time, emerging as a leader of people and not merely his own race.

Perhaps Mr. Fast has made a one-sided picture—personally, I think he has. But the ruling question is whether he had made the picture he started out to paint, and I think he has done that, too.

OLD FILM IS GOOD

DENVER—(P)—Ed Eisenhand, Denver photographer, found a camera that hadn't been used for 16 years. Developing the film inside, he made satisfactory pictures from it.

Palace Guards Prove Top Fighters In Italian Drive

By SID FEDER
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

WITH AN AMERICAN BATTALION ON THE ITALIAN FRONT, Aug. 2—(Delayed)—(P)—The rest of the regiment doesn't go around needing the "Palace Guards" about their soft touch any more—not since the guards quit guarding and came to Rome the hard way.

This battalion used to be the standing guard with this regiment of a veteran division while on duty in the rear areas in Africa and Sicily and in the southern part of Italy.

"Get in the Palace Guards and see the war in the movies," was one of the usual cracks from the "outside" Joes, although General Eisenhower personally had ordered them to this duty.

Their commander, Lt. Col. Bruno Marchi, one-time football and basketball coach at Newton and Ft. Dodge, Ia., high schools, originally thought the order was for commando work, and marched his men 25 miles in four hours and 40 minutes to take up the assignment—winning his unit the name of "March's Flying Cadets."

Finally sent to Anzio in March, the guards since have been fighting for all but seven of more than 120 days—and there's no longer any razzing.

In the drive from the beachhead to the Arno, the guards personally captured such German strongpoints as Lanuvio on the road to Rome, where the Germans were dug in eight to 10 feet

deep in solid rock emplacements. There the casualties were the heaviest the division had suffered in any one spot.

Then they took Cecina where the enemy had made a fierce, armored and infantry stand; and Castagneto, where they rounded up an entire German command post. For three hours after they took over, the guards were "welcoming" Nazi staff officers who came driving in, thinking the headquarters still was in German hands.

There have been awards of three distinguished service crosses, three silver stars and three bronze stars in the outfit. This is par for the course in any one battalion which has seen such gallant goings on as that turned in by Lt. Beryl Newman, husky South Dakota ex-footballer who once played every position in the line for 60 minutes against Minnesota.

On the breakout from the beachhead, Lt. Newman got out in front with only a platoon. Two machineguns opened fire from a peaceful looking olive grove on a hillside. The platoon was pinned down, but he walked right into the fire, killing two of the Germans wounding another pair and polishing off the guns. Then he called his unit to come up as he broke into a nearby house and captured 11 more Germans.

"He's the bravest guy I ever saw," said Capt. Hugh Jacob of Clinton, S. C. It was Jacob's company which took Lanuvio.

Then, there's Lt. John Garris of Leroy, Ala. He went out with a patrol on the beachhead one night and came back with 14 Germans. And count in Lt. Orva Morris of Sparrows Point, Md., who silenced three German machineguns with his carbine.

This is just about the most athletic-minded battalion in the Fifth army. Their basketball team, sparked by Sgt. Don Huckleberry of Purdue and Wayne Gaddis of Iowa and Don Sheldon, crack sniper from Webster City, Ia., ran up a winning string of 38 in a row last winter. Sgt. Bob Lanse, a big, rangy right-hander who belongs to the Cleveland Indians, stars in the baseball outfit.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

strength and for victory, on V-day it should be the prayer of gratitude:

"O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy army, hath gotten him the victory."

The churches themselves, individually or collectively can make their plans for V-day and publicize them, as was done on D-day.

It would also be proper for the mayor and the president of the chamber of commerce to effect some preliminary organization for the appropriate recognition of victory over Germany, though the emphasis should be put on preserving the spontaneity and sincerity which the event should bring out, rather than to have a celebration cast in stereotyped form.

All this is preliminary to this observation: I doubt if we have a V-day. We are more likely to have vvvvvv-days. We have been thinking in terms of 1918 when the German high command formally besought a general armistice, as the Kaiser fled to Holland. It is not probable that this will occur in this war. Hitler will not surrender. He will retreat to his mountain home, perhaps commit suicide; but he will not authorize a general capitulation to the invading armies.

No other competent civil authority exists which can surrender in the name of the German people. The recent purge will serve to prevent a surrender by the high command of the army. What we will see is the disintegration of the German armies, surrender piecemeal.

There will be a high point when Berlin is captured, another high point when Hitler is killed or captured. But German pockets of resistance may remain for weeks, as Nazi fanatics continue to fight in local areas.

All this is speculative, of course; but it is quite in character for Hitler not to yield. There still remains the possibility of internal revolt as urged by German generals captive in Russia, but the spectacle of the "people's court" and fear of reprisals on families will probably keep the military leaders in line, hopeless though the prospect is.

But the end is in sight, there will finally be a day when the allies will complete their triumph over the German armies; and then will follow a Z-day when the second world war will come to an end, and that may not be as far off as some people think, either. And we should be ready to rejoice and to offer Te Deums when these days arrive.

Today's Garden

By LILLIE MADSEN

Mrs. B. P. A. asks: At what time of the year should the daphne odora be pruned?

Answer: This should be pruned only if grown thin and straggly. And pruning should be done immediately after flowering. When the daphne is tipped back, bloom will be sacrificed. However, if this shrub has grown out of bounds and is shabby in appearance, cut back some of the branches just as it finishes flowering. The following season others may be cut back. Eventually you will have it shaped up without sacrificing all of the bloom in one season. I have seen the daphne pruned quite heavily to good effect.

Mrs. E. O. N. asks when to plant peonies, and what to use as fertilizer.

Answer: Peonies should be planted in September. It is well to prepare the bed in advance to allow for settling. Peonies must not be planted too deeply and if they are planted in a newly dug bed which settles, the roots may set too far into the ground. When the bed has been prepared, water well to settle the soil. For each plant, a hole one foot deep and 18 inches wide, should be dug. Use top soil to fill in the hole. Mix it with some sand and a cupful of bone meal in the lower part of the hole. Set the tops about three inches below the surface of the soil.

Marines Recast Past Glory by Blasting Mine Path in D-Day Attack

LONDON—(P)—The English channel was cleared of hundreds of Nazi floating mines on D-Day by U.S. marines armed with rifles stationed in the rigging of auxiliary naval craft in the van of the invading fleet. Sharpshooters popped off the mines on the horizon as fast as they hoisted into view.

This expedient was chosen since it was impossible to sweep the waters clear of floating mines before D-Day without giving away the secret. Although novel in this war, the role of marine sharpshooters in the rigging of vessels is as old as the corps.

Stevens

SPARKLING ORNAMENTS

Charming details are the proof of a well-dressed woman. A carefully selected ornament will complement your new dress and add glamour to an old one.

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