

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Distillery Patriotism

A recent Jap broadcast told how the American people were almost starving for lack of food, and added that whiskey was selling at \$15 or \$20 a pint—or was it a quart? The last was the only statement approximating the truth, and that only in the bootleg trade in the hot war industry spots where money burns the workers' pockets.

However the progress report of the senatorial committee investigating the alcoholic industry, filed a few days ago, is highly critical of the nation's distilleries who have used patriotism as a cloak for greed, and so have contributed to the black markets of the country. The committee, which is composed of Senators McCarran, Kilgore, Murdock and Ferguson, finds that in the case of some of the more important companies, instead of rationing beverage spirits, profits were rationed. The report covers the distilling industry and deals particularly with the Big Four: National, Schenley, Distillers Corporation-Seagrams and Hiram Walker. The particular charges brought against distilleries are:

1. Hoarding of their own whiskey stocks and cutting them with blends, with the apparent intention of holding their aged whiskeys for marketing at higher prices after the war.
2. Getting around OPA ceiling prices by putting out new brands of blended whiskeys at higher prices.
3. Monopolistic practices in buying up smaller distilleries and acquiring a large proportion of the California wine industry, besides owning or controlling distilleries in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

The report calls attention to advertising of the Distilled Spirits Institute, a trade association of distilleries, entitled, "The Truth About the Whiskey Shortage," and bluntly comments: "The committee's investigations have indicated that the statement is a misrepresentation of the facts as they existed then (Nov. 1943) and as they exist today."

For example the advertising said there were in late 1943 203 million proof gallons of whiskey available. The committee after making its check concludes:

"Therefore, instead of the 203,000,000 proof gallons available for consumption in November, 1943, there was really the equivalent of about 350,000,000 gallons of salable whiskey available."

In its summary the committee report says: In general the committee believes that in view of the recent action of the war production board, allowing the distillers to produce beverage spirits for a 30-day period, it is incumbent upon the distillers to show their good faith by releasing more whiskey from their bonded warehouses to help alleviate a condition which has been occasioned at least as much by the hoarding of the distillers rather than by any hoarding which may be chargeable to the American public. It is obvious that the large distillers wish to retain substantial stocks of aged whiskeys in their bonded warehouses until after the war, so that they will be in better position to command higher prices and realize greater profits at the expense of an unsuspecting public, whom the liquor industry had hoped would be educated into the belief that the alleged whiskey shortage was not the fruit of the liquor industry.

The gouging of the consumers is a more or less temporary wartime phenomenon, in which the distillers have plenty of company. There is perhaps greater menace to the country in the concentration of ownership in few hands and those moving to acquire substantial interest in the wine industry of California. Power so large and so concentrated can easily operate to the detriment of the country, preventing the control which is necessary to maintain some semblance of decency in the liquor business.

The Oregon City Enterprise says that "in the conference with the governors Mr. Dewey 'settled the areas of conflict' between the national and state governments." We doubt it. There aren't 24 cabinet positions.

"Russians Get over Biebrza" says our headline. Considering all the tough spelling behind them and all the Polish pronunciation ahead of them Biebrza was easy.

If they are having waste paper drives in Germany we fancy a good many copies of "Mein Kampf" are being contributed.

This utility grade beef may do for chronic jawers, but most people rate it as the grade they made liberty steak of in the last war.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

AMERICAN SOLDIERS

The Canadian troop newspaper Maple Leaf recently carried an editorial giving high praise to our armies in northern France. With a self-effacement not commonly found among fighting men, it says: "The major credit for placing the Germans in their present precarious position belongs to Lieutenant General Omar Bradley's American armies. It is true that the Canadians and British played their part, and played it well . . . but the audacity of the American thrusts has caught the fancy of every allied soldier."

With thanks to the Canadians, and with as much objectivity as we can muster, we agree. The American soldier at his best has always shown himself to be as good as any other soldier, from anywhere. Americans when trained fought very well in many of the Revolutionary battles. At Trenton, for example, there was an audacious thrust credited to Washington's generalship, but it was successful it had men with the spirit to put it through. Audacity in operations, in the Civil War, is attached to famous names like Stonewall Jackson's, but in each case it was founded on subordinate officers and on the fighting men who had the drive to win. The last World War and our lesser wars, the Mexican and Spanish-American, prove again that Americans, properly trained and led, and with experience, are as good as those of any other nation.

The Canadian editorial refers to us as their "allies from another of the 'decadent democracies.'" Democracy never was decadent. Hitler just thought it was. —San Francisco Chronicle.

The Issue Joined

The senate having substituted the George bill for the Murray-Kilgore bill on the subject of compensation to workers, the house is now considering the subject, and efforts are being made to revive the defeated senate measure in its original or in modified form. This debate is in a way pivotal. It divides the proponents of the spending theory of making the country rich from the opponents of that theory. The arguments are pretty well boiled down in the following quotations from senators joining in the debate. For the Murray-Kilgore bill, Senator Murray said:

The reversion bill which has been reported from the military affairs committee provides congress with the opportunity to discharge its responsibilities to the American people. It is a statesmanlike measure which will enable us to avoid another depression such as that which followed in the wake of the first world war. Its enactment by the congress will lay the basis for our achieving an expanding and thriving economy, with improved standards of living for all the people of our country.

Senator Taft of Ohio offered the following compact argument in opposition:

Mr. President, the Murray-Kilgore bill violates every principle of sound government in the post war era. In the first place, it suppresses local self-government; it places in the federal government all control of labor, all control of unemployment compensation, all control of re-employment. In the second place, it delegates complete legislative power. I suppose there is no senator here who has not said he is in favor of congress passing the laws and not giving the power to some bureaucrat to do so. Yet it is proposed, by the pending bill, simply to hand over to some bureaucrat the power to make any law and, in effect, do anything he thinks necessary to help in this supposed post war emergency.

In the third place, it would destroy individual liberty, because it would impose an NRA control over all industry, and impose a work administrator's control over all individuals.

Finally, it proposes unlimited spending. It adopts the theory that every problem we have to meet is to be solved simply by more government power and more government spending. There is no member of the senate who has not talked against bureaucracy and the establishment of bureaus, yet here it is proposed that we establish a whole series of new bureaus to deal with every problem which congress itself has not adequately considered.

Thus the old battle is renewed between the new deal theory of spending ourselves into prosperity by use of the federal treasury and public credit and the other and older conception of avoidance of mounting debt and continuing deficits. Before the guns cool or even stop firing the domestic battle is resumed. Our previous experience demonstrated however that the stimulant of public spending may grow into the narcotic of dependence on Washington.

One thing is certain, that if congress yields to the easy spenders even before the need is clear then any hope of restoring fiscal conservatism is at an end.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Paris seemed close to delivery from its Nazi oppressors as American guns boomed distantly in the ears of its people; but an even greater prize lay close within allied grasp.

Complete destruction of all German armies west of the Seine obviously was being prepared in the north by the Americans and Canadians, even before the allied meat-chopper attack in the Normandy pocket had finished its deadly task. To the south steel shod American and Franco-American prongs were reaching via the Loire and the Rhone for a junction that would leave tens of thousands of Nazi garrison and occupation troops cut off in west central and southern France to be dealt with mercilessly by resurgent French patriot forces.

This is a more alluring objective in military eyes than the taking of Paris itself. There are broad German hints of coming Nazi evacuation of the city in any case, and it will not be subjected by the allies to war damage if it can be avoided. The Germans' plight is growing more desperate hour by hour from sea to sea across the once Nazi boasted fortress Europe that has proved in fact to have only a defensive crust along its French coast lines and little within it to back that up.

The staggering fact about German reports, now allied confirmed, of a new multiple break through by the hard-hitting American third army to seize Orleans, Chartres and Dreux and fling a 100 mile arc of triple threat close about Paris is that a relatively early allied north-south junction somewhere around the headwaters of the Loire and the Rhone is a clear cut possibility.

The danger to shattered fragments of the Nazi seventh army, streaming eastward from the Normandy debacle to the Seine, is more imminent. Defying bad weather, allied planes are harrying every highroad and byroad, and blasting every standing bridge to hold the enemy in that developing trap west of the Seine for annihilation.

Yet it is the right wing of General Patton's bold new breakthrough drive, storming up the Loire to take Orleans in its stride, that seems to hold greater possibilities. At Orleans the cutting edge of General Eisenhower's massive forces was only 200 miles, air line, from Lyon in the upper Rhone valley. To the south General Patch's southern invasion host firmly planted in its two-day-old beachhead 50 miles wide and 30 deep, was less than 200 miles from the upper Rhone metropolis.

Franco-American forces are in a position to invest both Toulon and Marseilles, or to cut them off and reach the Rhone valley above them. They have the active aid of French patriot forces. That insures accurate information as to enemy movements and opportunities for flanking stabs through the mountains around the enemy's attempted stands. It also means detachment of strong German forces from operations to check either Patton or Patch as they push toward a junction to deal with French guerrillas.

It seems unquestionable that sooner or later—and probably sooner—the Nazi high command must signal a sweeping general retreat from most of France or risk such utter defeat there that hope of holding out long on Germany's own frontiers would be slim.



"Evening in Paris"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—The military experts are writing of four German armies in France, but they are paying an undeserved compliment to three.



PAUL MALLON

The biggest and best, if not the only real enemy army on the western front, is north of the Seine and Somme rivers, guarding the lowland gateways into Germany and determined to cling to the spot launching platforms (upon which Hitler has built a false and desperate last-breath faith among his people at home, causing them to expect this wanton destruction will weaken the Allies will to battle, whereas it only speeds and strengthens us.)

As for the other "armies," none actually deserve the name. The Nazi Seventh army has been considerably used up fighting its way out of the Falaise entrapment. We may never feel disappointed that we did not completely crush and capture it.

But the Germans have been similarly trapped, possibly 10 or 12 times in this war, as deeply as at Falaise. Only once, at Stalingrad, did they fail to escape with the bulk of their forces from the vigilant and swift Russians.

They got considerable portions of their forces out this time, by bitterly holding their strong center on the Caen front so long. In three weeks there, the British and Canadians were not able to advance more than a few miles. Our delay there gave time to the Germans to prepare in the rear against the brilliant flank circling of our armored divisions.

The Nazis put the bulk of their remaining force between Falaise and Argentan, on both sides of the mouth of the Bag. We could not get enough power far around to Argentan to close it from the south, and the Nazi positions on the north side of the Bag were full battline defenses which could not be penetrated readily.

The Germans slipped their men out of the Bag at night, moving them across fields, using the roads for light vehicles, leaving behind, on the outer line of the Bag, fairly strong rear guard

pockets with good artillery centers, expecting these to be gobbled up as our line was able to advance.

On the southern side of the Bag, there was not a strong battle line, the first few days, but on a thin front presented by our armored force. Thus, the Nazis escaped a complete kill, but their army was so weakened its future fighting power is questionable. (As a matter of complete truth, this Nazi Seventh army was technically two, being made up of the major elements of the two armies.)

Nothing like an army and not much of a fighting force remains in southwest France. The grouping of a few divisions there has been drained for reinforcements the past 10 days.

The Fourth and so-called southern army, facing our new invasion of the Riviera aimed up the Rhone valley (read again the column published April 13, which described as "an ideal plan" for grand invasions the two routes we are pursuing up the Seine and the Rhone to Paris) contains no more than 8 to 10 divisions scattered along the river.

Then the Germans have some troops at Vichy, and others in central France before Paris. This distribution of their forces does not suggest that they intend to retire to the Maginot line or the Seigfried, but rather plan to hold the north bank of the Seine-Marne or Seine-Oise-Aisne and perhaps later the Somme-Oise-Aisne their major remaining army being within those river lines already.

The Maginot would not be of much use to them as its rear is presented to us, and the Seigfried is within Germany, too close to home for them. Excellent defensive positions are available to the Nazis throughout eastern France in the hills and mountains, there being only a few gateways into Germany, the southern one around Belfort near the Swiss border, the Lorraine gate in the center and in the north the Ardennes, through which the Germans moved west to conquer France.

But our intentions are to use up their remaining fighting force so thoroughly as to end their power of resistance and conclude the war on French lowland soil.

The Literary Guidepost

"FURLOUGH" by Franz Hoellering (Viking; \$2.50).

Christopher La Farge is not the only one who can use fiction to report fact. There is also Fritz Hoellering, who used to be a German editor. Mr. Hoellering fought the Nazi party while he still had the materials for a battle, and when he was tossed out of Germany he came, like so many others, to America. According to his publisher, he has been trying to find himself since.

"Furlough" is the second novel he has published since he came to this country, and unlike the first, it was written in English. It is written well, too, in spite of a kind of soft focus that unfamiliarity with the colloquial meanings of certain words sometimes gives his prose. The novel has a great many fine points—its sincerity, its truthful presentation of the fact underlying Germany today, the strange way in which the demonic character of certain Germans is accurately transcribed. But it has a serious lack, which is humor.

Mr. Hoellering would probably say there is nothing funny in Germany today, and probably he would add that his purpose is not to entertain, but to "report" in fiction the truth about Germany as she begins to break under the strain of a futile war. These things are true, and nobody would expect "Furlough" to be a comedy. But for artistic reasons some relief must be admitted; page after page of macabre horror, or pity, or dull reaction to a hated regime grow monotonous, and at last indigestible.

Mr. Hoellering's Hans is the typical young Nazi, thoroughly indoctrinated, strong with the strength of the movement. He is trapped in a shell-hole with another German soldier. The stranger curses Hitler and the war, and Hans obeys the order to shoot defeatists. But the stranger has papers for a furlough, and Hans' desire for a few days of freedom at home leads him to steal all the man's papers, and disappear. What he finds at home—the web of underground movements, the dull hatred of Nazi ideology, the inescapable fear, and the wild Nazi profiteering—these things shake Hans deeply.

Today's Garden

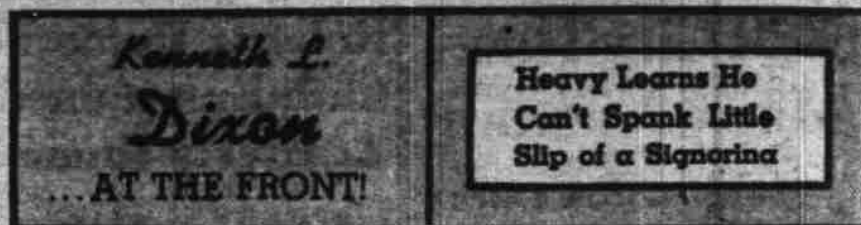
By LILLIE MADSEN

Mrs. S. R. wants to know how to prevent her perennial phlox from "reverting." She reports that she had some lovely pink ones and now they have "all turned back into magenta shades."

Answer: The phlox do not revert. But if the flower heads are permitted to go to seed, they will reseed themselves and the seedlings will crowd out the hybrid sorts, giving the impression of "reverting." Remove the flower heads as soon as they begin to fade.

Mrs. F. C. asks, if it is too late to sow delphinium seed. A friend just sent her some choice seed, she writes, and wants to know if it will grow if planted now. She is afraid she may lose it if she keeps it over.

Answer: Now is a very good time to plant delphiniums. She should have a nice growth yet this fall. But the little seedlings must be carefully watched when they come up or slugs or cut worms may do away with them in short order. Scatter sharp sand over the seed bed after the seeds are planted and be careful not to wash this away. As soon as the seedlings begin to appear, scatter bait for the cutworms.



AT THE FRONT!

Heavy Learns He Can't Spank Little Slip of a Signorina

WITH THE AEF IN ITALY, Aug. 3—(delayed)—(P)—It was all a mistake. Besides he was getting gyped, and what's more, no red-blooded American soldier would take that sort of treatment from a little slip of a signorina anyhow.

But Pfc. Arnold (Heavy) Lindholm still had to tell it to the GI judge.

Heavy, a 45th division dough-boy who hails from Fairport Harbor, Ohio, was visiting an Italian town when he saw a shooting gallery operated by the signorina in question. Giving the eye to his combat infantrymen's badge the wily girl asked Heavy to try his luck with the BB gun. Expert with a carbine, Heavy was somewhat hurt when he failed to hit a single target with a full clip of BB shot. He asked for another gun, while watching other GI's giggle for a grim and glowing half hour. He squeezed

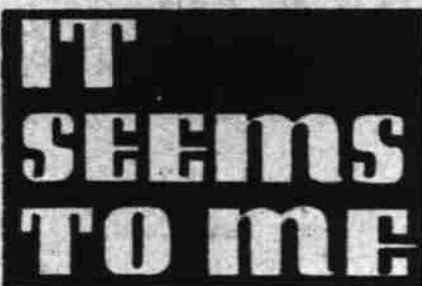
the trigger methodically without hitting anything at all worth a prize.

Convinced that the gun and the Jane were crooked, he handed the girl a two lira note—the equivalent of two cents—and told her to buy herself a morning paper and be doggone glad she got that much. Then he walked away muttering to himself.

Suddenly his muttering shifted to howls of pain. The little lady's Latin temper had gone sky high at the very thought of getting only two lira for all those BB shot. She had grabbed up a BB gun, rested it on the counter for accuracy and let Heavy have it—right in the seat of the pants.

Now the Buckeye boy wouldn't strike a lady but there's nothing in the etiquette book which prohibits an occasional padding when and where it will do the most good. Exhibiting cool courage in the face of intense fire, Pfc. Lindholm stormed the shooting gallery, seized the signorina, turned her across his knee and started spanking.

Wiles and violence having failed, the signorina—now sore in both mind and body—resorted to women's oldest weapon and began sweeping, and the MP's stopped the spanking and hauled Heavy off to the clink.



fled to this country from Europe to escape compulsory military service. While no one puts faith in the Bryan theory that "a million men would spring to arms" in the event of attack, the opposition to peacetime conscription is almost instinctive.

Likewise there will be opposition to stretching our sovereignty from Dakar to Guadalcanal and from Iceland to the Kuriles to obtain a protective screen for this continent. Other nations will raise the cry of imperialism, and the Atlantic charter will be cited in protest. The sincerity of our participation in a world organization for peace will be doubted.

Against these arguments the cold fact will be advanced that twice within our generation this country has become involved in world war, that modern invention makes our former geographical isolation insufficient protection; and that our constant lack of preparedness in the past has been an invitation to aggressor nations to start wars, hoping for victory before we could become armed.

It seems to me that before we decide just what our future military policy should be the whole subject should be given thorough study, either under the direction of congressional committees or by some commission composed of military experts and well-informed civilians. Military policy depends in considerable degree on what our political intentions are and our economic plans. One of our troubles has been that our foreign policy was largely improvised and that our military and naval policy was adopted without much reference to our diplomatic designs.

There is one thing which stands out, and that is, that the American people will sink no warships when this fracas is over. In fact, they will insist on a substantial military establishment, navy, air force and army which should only be relaxed as world conditions stabilize and as the proposed world order really gave promise of functioning. But definitely we should work toward the ideal of a world order in which international disputes could be settled in a world court and aggressor nations promptly crushed by the combined force of the peace-loving states.

It would be a grave mistake to think that one year of military training for young males will give us an adequate military defense. This war has shown how necessary it was to develop entirely new types of training which never had been included even in regular army training: jungle fighting, commando and amphibious operations. The new weapons like the rocket and the robot hint of future development which again may change type of warfare. Hence the need for comprehensive planning and continuous study of military problems.

And we must not forget that one of the best forms of military preparedness is in the field of diplomacy. To avert World War III is far more desirable than to have to win it.

The best paraphrase of the week comes from Cpl. Charley Brink of Plymouth, N.C., who did his stuff on Nathan Hale's historic statement during the heat of an attack which was being somewhat more than strongly resisted by the Germans. "My only regret," quoth Charley as the bullets flew, "is that I have but one life to give for my country—which if I had two I'd feel safer."

Biddle Works On Machine Shop Strike

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17—(P)—Attorney General Francis Biddle conferred late today with officers of the navy and the federal bureau of investigation and declared the Department of Justice would cooperate in seeing that machinists complied with the government order for overtime work.

Rear Adm. H. G. Bowen, acting under presidential designation of control of five machine shops, to end the union ban against more than 48 work hours a week, said he "was not satisfied with the compliance of members of Local 68 (AFL) to the orders of the officer in charge."

Bowen, analyzing the return-to-work situation in four of the five plants seized by the navy Tuesday, said that many men reported for the eight-hour day instead of for the overtime schedule posted by the navy. The five shops employ a total of 535 machinists. The Admiral asserted he "was proceeding with the certification of workers" to enforce the return-to-work sanctions.

This meant he was sending more names to the office of price administration, the war manpower commission and selective service for application of individual penalties against men who refused to return to their job.

Nat J. L. Pieper, agent in charge of the FBI here, said the FBI was investigating the situation to determine whether there had been any violations of the war labor disputes act.

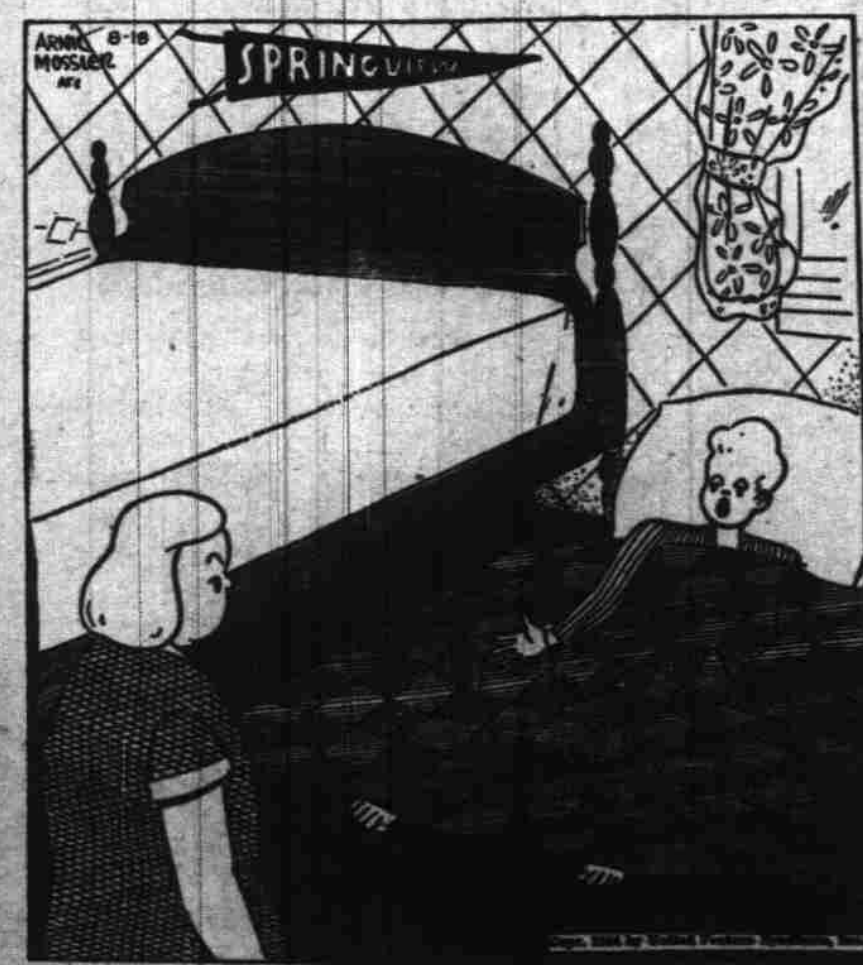
Truck Tire Committee Sets 3-Point Program

PORTLAND, Aug. 17—(P)—The newly-formed Oregon emergency truck tire committee tonight prepared to launch a three-point program to make more heavy tires available for this area.

The program, which has the approval of the district OPA and office of defense transportation (ODT), will make these requests: That the army check its needs thoroughly to make as many tires as possible available for civilian use, that more manpower be allotted tire manufacturers, and that additional tires be released from stock piles.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler

By LILLIE MADSEN



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