

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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After Three Years

Without doubt the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor found the American people in sober mood. The ebullient optimism of four months ago was not in evidence. The tenseness of the clinch along the Rhine and the near stalemate on rain-bound Leyte served to impress the people with the knowledge that the two wars are far from ended. The sagging front in China also indicated a prolonging of the war in the east for lack of the expected support in China. Finally the casualties mount and they come home, with depressing effect.

Yet if we look at the map and review what has been accomplished in the past year there is reason for much solid satisfaction. First of all there is the successful invasion of the continent of Europe from the west. A year ago the Germans were boastful that their wall would not be breached and we were fearful of its cost and not too sanguine of its initial success. Now the allies are knocking at Germany's very doors.

In the past year, too, the Americans have swept into the Philippines, establishing themselves securely there. They have virtually destroyed the Japanese navy as a power, and have begun regular and systematic bombing of Tokyo and other Japanese centers of war industry. The outlying bases of Japan in the Pacific have been pretty well cleaned out or neutralized.

There is no real ground for pessimism as to the result even though there is disappointment over the dashing of hopes of an early end of the war in Europe to permit concentration on Japan. This new sober mood is needed so our war plant may not falter in its production of needed materials, especially ammunition, planes and ships. It has also stimulated purchases of war bonds.

What America must do is to draw a fresh breath, pull the belt up a notch and pitch in for another year of hard going. Surely before the fourth Pearl Harbor day comes the decision in Europe will have been reached, the Philippines recovered, and perhaps a beginning made of the assault on China or Japan.

FDR Loses Round

The re-appointment of the president's appointments of five men to top positions in the state department to the foreign relations committee for further study was a real blow to Roosevelt and to Stettinius. It was not a party matter, the 37 votes for the motion to refer and the 27 against being well divided between the two parties. When senators as staunch in their support of the president as Wagner of New York and Guffey of Pennsylvania vote as they did for the motion it means a real rebuff to the administration. We may expect now the administration forces to apply pressures to secure confirmation, but that may be difficult for nominations of Poet MacLeish and Cotton-merchant Clayton.

Meanwhile Stettinius has been decisive with reference to political affairs in Italy and Greece, boldly indicating a disagreement with British interference there—to the chagrin of the British. His position of strict non-interference may be hard to sustain however; because this nation too has a concern that liberated countries be not hamstrung at the start with decrepit and unpopular regimes.

At least this is true, that Henry Ford, II, is getting plenty of free advertising about the cheaper new car he is promising. The old magic isn't quite as powerful as it used to be. He can build a car to sell for less, no doubt; but will it be one that the people will want to buy. Public taste has been veering more toward better appointments and more comfort rather than toward cheaper and cruder transportation. That was true before the war; and certainly the war hasn't dulled the appetite for luxury.

Pleased to note that A. M. Dalrymple has been appointed bailiff in Judge McCulloch's federal district court in Portland. A stalwart old-school democrat, A. M. has been a Marion county figure for a long time, and pretty nearly a courthouse fixture in the tax office. We'll miss him here, but wish him good luck in the big city.

The state department has recommended the repeal of the Johnson act barring loans to governments that have defaulted on their debt. The Statesman recommended that several days ago. Nothing like being ahead of the procession.

Editorial Comment

ART
We sympathize with the aspirations of the young Negroes who have organized the Association of Young Writers and Artists, at Atlanta, Georgia. But it is sympathy that does not include much hope of notable production by this means. It is not the way that art has been created by any race, Caucasian, Chinese or Negro. The reason is that art is self-expression and not collective production.
Milton, Shakespeare or Walt Whitman did not produce as members of a writers' club. Michelangelo, so far as his art went, was a lone wolf. Beethoven worked not with the help of fellow aspirants but against traditions. Verdi was refused admission to the conservatory, which had no time to waste on a pupil without a vestige of talent. Von Suppe, reproached by a student he told to come back in a few years, with the fact that Von Suppe himself composed and produced at 16 years of age, replied that he had not asked anybody how to do it. Other musicians said Wagner was crazy. Maybe he was. But he is accepted now both as a master of music and on popular appeal as well. The "Pilgrims' Chorus" or "Evening Star," has sold more records to this generation than "Pistol Packin' Mama."
Talent in some fields is the better for help. Caruso had a sponsor for the costly transition from a street vendor in Italy to the Metropolitan. But it was a sponsor, not a congress of aspirants, that recognized the talent and provided the support Paul Laurence-Dunbar, a pride to any race that can claim him, was not a group product, but a poet who wrote because he was a poet. In arts even more than sciences, self-expression is individualistic, often against contemporary standards. In the sciences Booker T. Washington and Dr. George Washington Carver were not products of a parliamentary motion.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Log Truckers Protest

A fresh round is reported in the never-ending battle between the log truckers and the state police. It is more accurate to refer to it as a war between the truckers and the highway department, for the state police merely enforce the laws under the regulations of the highway department.

It all comes from this: truckers want to haul maximum loads of logs and are under constant temptation to overload if they think they won't get caught. Then they admittedly can't determine weight of logs in the woods, yet it is weight which is limited and the impact of weight on roads which wears them out.

Various plans have been tried, with ill success. The weighing system with fines for overload, was criticized because it delayed haulers. A year or so ago the highway department thought it had the answer: when an overload was found, require the trucker to dump a log or cut off the end to bring his load within legal limits. Now the loggers in the Eugene area are rising in protest against this plan. They say it wastes needed timber and the time of loggers and truckers. So they demand a change and threaten "drastic action" if something isn't done about it.

What the loggers really want is a footage scale instead of weight measure. Few operators have scales in the woods to weigh loads as they are being made up, but they could easily scale the logs. The trouble with this is that there is a wide difference in weight per thousand board feet of logs because of difference in moisture content, etc.

The plain truth is that heavy log trucking knocks the life out of roads, and the overloads speed up the destruction. There is a tolerance of 10 per cent, over the established maximum but the truckers do not choose to regard this tolerance as a margin for their safety, they try to load up to the top of the tolerance and then complain if they get caught.

It seems futile to try to work out any plans which the truckers will respect, though this is not true of many operators. It doesn't make much difference what the plan is, unless it is enforced strictly the trucks will be overloaded and the highways ruined.

"Purple Heart" Boxes

Members of the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary over the state are serving as Santa Claus to the 4700 wounded or sick service men in the veterans' facilities in Oregon, at Portland and Roseburg, at the naval hospital in Astoria and the marine barracks at Klamath Falls. Already the response has been highly gratifying, according to reports of local members. Gifts such as one would give to active service men are asked for, and should be fitted in to the local Legion post.

Inspired by Eddie Cantor who has been trouping the "Purple Heart" circuit to entertain men and women in the service, the boxes are called "purple heart" boxes. They give the civilians a chance in a personal way to show gratitude to those who are paying in injuries or illness the price of our nation's security.

No sooner do the Belgians get free than they start quarreling among themselves. They ought to be spanked, or given a return visit of the German gaulleiter.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The center of gravity—and interest—in the west in Europe has shifted from the Cologne plain to the Saar basin with American fracture of the Saar river defense line on an indicated widening front.

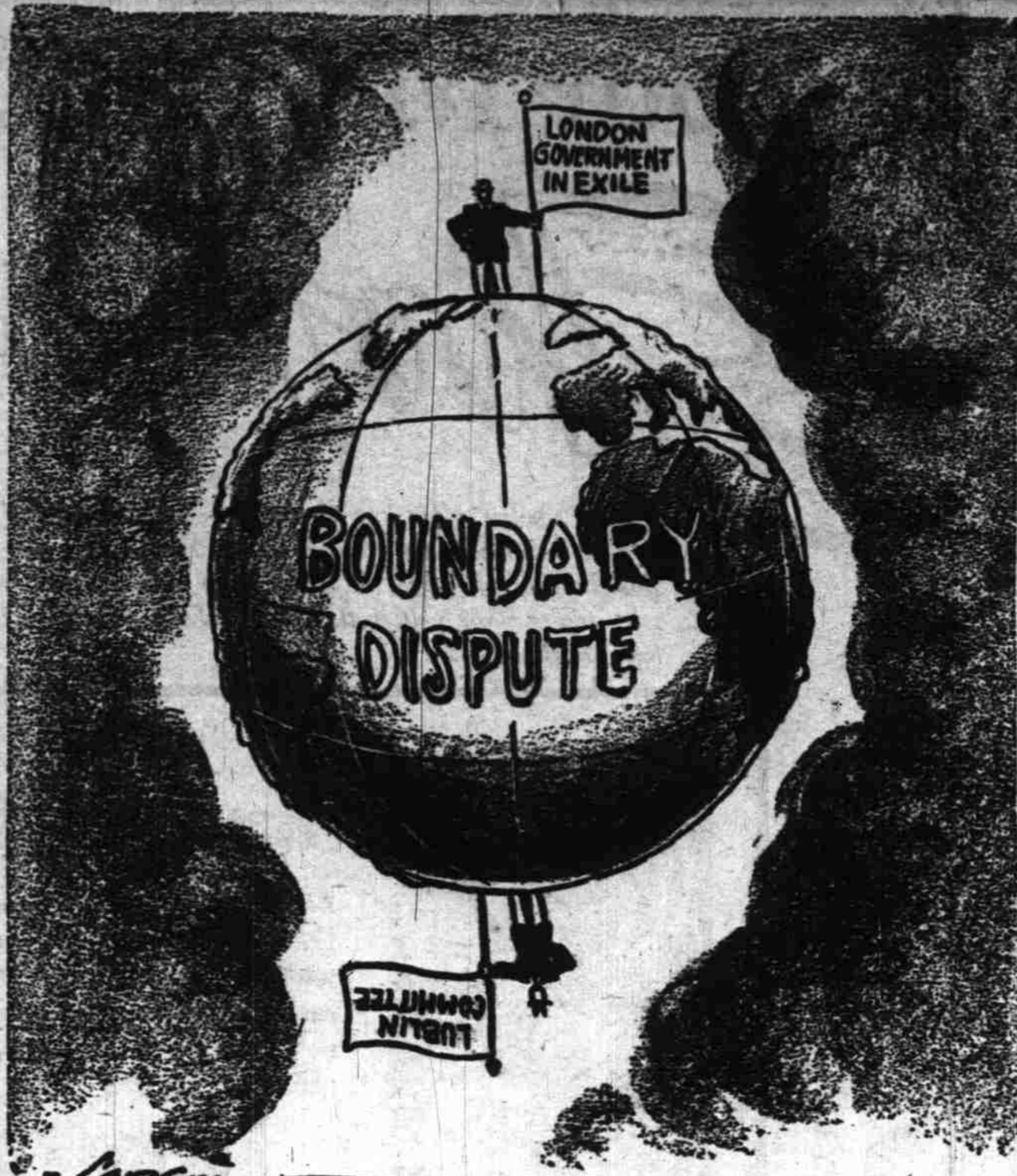
A crisis for the Nazi foe, calling for substantial reinforcements he can ill spare from the northern battle zone, is fast taking shape. However, there is still every reason to assume that the main allied attack front is in the Aachen-Arnhem area. For can it be doubted that the over-all Nazi command is hardly less concerned with the massive and fast-moving thrust to Vienna developing in southern Hungary. There is every reason to believe that the last reserve pool in Germany is being tapped now by the Nazis, just as Moscow has asserted, to meet that tremendous red army surge. Whether by design or not, it is timed to aid the allied campaign in the west through diversion of enemy forces to Hungary that otherwise might have gone to bolster badly shaken West Rhine defenses.

Just how critical the Russian threat to Vienna could become is obvious on any large scale map of Hungary. With the corner of Hungary south of Lake Balaton between the Danube and the Drava, cleared by the Russians of the foe to the marsh lands that border the southwestern extremity of the 90-mile-long lake, red columns are beginning to converge toward Vienna around both ends of the water barrier it forms. They are in position to by-pass both besieged Budapest and lake Balaton for a two-prong drive up the Danube watershed into Austria. The short road lies through Szekesfehervar between lake Balaton and lake Valencei southwest of Budapest in the little Hungarian plain. No serious water barrier bars the way and the terrain is much the same as that of the great Hungarian plain east of the Danube over which the Russians swept so swiftly to invest Btadapest.

Just beyond the heavily fortified junction city and above the two lakes, however, Russian forces heading up the Danube watershed south of the river will encounter two other natural obstacles behind which the Nazis may hope to make an effective stand. The first is the heavily forested Bakony plateau. It parallels the lie of the long lake below it and its northeastern extension runs clear to the Danube bend above Budapest. Its heights run up between 2000 and 3000 feet and there are few easy passes.

North of Bakony forest and the highland spine of the Alps it covers, the river Raba forms a substantial bulwark if the Bakony plateau falls to halt the Russian attack tide; but its defense would call for strong troop concentrations.

It still remains to be disclosed whether the Russian campaign in Hungary is the main red army winter effort, or largely a diversion stroke designed to thin down the German fronts on the Vistula in Poland, where the lines have been dormant for many weeks.



'Poles Apart'

The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby

"ACCOUNT RENDERED," by Vera Brittain (Macmillan, \$3.).

This is the gracious season when books stop arriving by the dozen, and it is possible to go back a little and consider some that have been shouldered aside by the press of their neighbors. Vera Brittain's "Account Rendered" is one of these.

Miss Brittain is a propagandist, not a novelist, and she should never have cast "Account Rendered" in the latter mould. And the lady is so anxious that all her readers should get her priceless point that she batters her book (and her readers) into a kind of pulp.

In theory she is writing a novel about an impossible, not to say boring, fellow named Halkin. Halkin was a youth at the time of World War I, and unfortunately he was sent to France just after his mother, upon whom he had a fixation, was buried. Actually, Halkin was buried, too. A shell tossed a lot of earth over him and since he was ripe for a psychosis, the dirt gave it to him. He was subject to memory lapses—not just minor ones such as we all have when names escape us, but longer and much more serious ones. This is all gone into diligently by Miss Brittain but it could be skipped.

Halkin is a pianist, presumably, and after the war is done he prepares for a London debut which never comes off because he has another of his memory lapses, plus a collapse. Eventually he goes off to run his father's business, and later still he breaks up at the beginning of this war. All this Miss Brittain tells by the back-and-fill method; the book drips flashbacks, many of which only muddled me up, and 90 per cent of which could be avoided handsly. There are, in addition, allusions that don't appear to hitch, and a curious frenzy which attacks whenever Miss Brittain's pacifist propaganda begins to bubble up. Miss Brittain has every right to be a pacifist, and no right at all to call this thin, unreal book a novel.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The cold fanaticism of the Nazi defense is noticeable in the little observed fact that today, six months after the invasion of France (June 6) they still hold four large French ports and some of the smaller Belgian landings. They possess Loriet with possibly 25,000 men; St. Nazaire with 30,000, the river entrance to Bordeaux with 20,000, and also Dunkerque.



PAUL MALLON

These large bodies of suicide troops have been supplied by air from Germany to some extent, although winter wind and weather have lately made that task more difficult. Some boats from Spain may have slipped into St. Nazaire with food, at least. An occasional submarine is reputed to have taken in medical supplies and others also to all four points. To supplement their meager stores the strong forces sally forth at night and raid the farms miles beyond their defense lines. We have not attempted to attack these places, as their reduction would be costly and we are now opening their other better ports to full traffic. The growing use of Antwerp will soon show effect upon the Aachen line.

Why these Nazis fight with such suicidal stubbornness in the face of coming death not only for themselves but their cause is a subject of study by the most eminent authorities here because the course of the war, and its largely on this factor. Any idea that Germans are extraordinary people is pure nonsense. Their troops now are less than ordinary and include even the physically unfit. Determination is imposed upon them and they are a people accustomed to following orders. Stories that Hitler is dead or insane may not be accurate. Yet he has gone into the background and Himmler has carried through a last ditch mobilization of the people which is maintaining discipline. The true story probably

is Himmler got control because Hitler fell out with Goering and the army leaders, became involved in hot quarreling. No one could maintain discipline except Himmler and his secret police. The army took the military reins from Hitler and cooperated with Himmler to enable him to maintain civilian discipline.

Furthermore, the Prussian generals have been able to maintain army morale throughout the retreat from France, the Balkans and eastern Europe. This retreat was sold to the soldier and the people as an orderly withdrawal to reduce the length of the fighting line for the final battles near home, and to some extent it was. While they lost a lot of men (30,000 to 40,000 Nazis are still on the Aegean islands, the generals maintained complete authority. With Himmler functioning ruthlessly through his secret police at home and the Prussians holding the men in uniform, the preservation of this fictitious morale can continue until physically crushed by us.

Another factor has helped them. The United Nations agreement to insist upon unconditional surrender left the masses no loophole except subservience and encouraged last-ditch resistance. We insisted upon these terms because we gave them an armistice without occupation last time, only to find generosity did not pay. Yet we must admit our justifiable position has worked against us in the latest fighting.

Authorities have continued to resist moderation of the terms because they knew this was what Germany has been playing for now, for more than a year. To do so would seem to be capitulation. Indeed, what terms could be popularly acceptable, without military occupation, which amounts to unconditional surrender. Also we are dealing with a world revolutionary movement. The Russians, who know some things about world revolutions. Entertain no terms but death. At any rate, no other terms have been requested by Germany, as far as is known.

Excellent military men back from the front think the kind of ruthless pressure we are maintaining now will bring the Nazi soldiers to their knees within two months. Authorities here generally agree with Churchill that the full crushing power of our spring drive must be imposed upon the Nazis before the Himmler-Prussian military hold on their morale is broken. Certainly the condition calls for increasing our hard and ruthless power—and the utmost purchasing of bonds at home to furnish that power.

Kaiser Shipbuilders Will Work Six Days

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 7.—(AP) Tinhatt's who've been working round the calendar for 15 weeks to speed the building of attack transports will abandon the seven-day week next Sunday.

Officials of the Kaiser yard here and Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation at Portland—the two yards which had attack transport contracts—announced the resumption of the six-day week in a joint statement.

Grelle Heads Growers

HILLSBORO, Ore., Dec. 7.—(AP) C. E. Grelle, Portland, was elected president of the Western Nut Growers association by 450 delegates at the annual meeting here yesterday.

Kenneth L. Dixon
U. S. Entrance into Germany Nowadays Hardly Even Noticed
... AT THE FRONT!

IN GERMANY, Dec. 1—(Delayed)—(AP)—War makes many little things suddenly loom large and reduces many big moments to dull nothingness. For most GIs—except perhaps for the first few to arrive—the entrance into Germany nowadays is hardly even noticed.



Kenneth L. Dixon

It has been something to look forward to for the past three years. Back in December, 1941, the very thought of conquering allied troops crossing the German border was fraught with dramatic import. Then such gags as "Tokyo here we come" or "Berlin, I'm on my way" were popular everywhere as farewells resounded throughout mobilizing America.

Even through Africa and Italy everything seemed pointed toward a first day in Germany.

But there didn't seem to be much difference this cold, bleak and rainy day as truckload after truckload of doughboys rolled across the Dutch-German frontier. Riding along behind them—also entering the reich for the first time—I found no trace of that mystical transformation we had been unconsciously expecting since Pearl Harbor.

There was not even a sign saying "Germany." The only mark of the border was a half-buried pillbox alongside the road. Engineers in muddy clothes were digging it out sufficiently to blow it up to prevent its use again. In it the Germans had refused to surrender, so the doughboys had welded its iron door shut and tank-doors had scooped up great

masses of mud and dirt and buried it. Then the allied drive had moved on.

There was no apparent difference in the countryside. The towns were blasted a bit more and a bit more abandoned than had been those of war-ridden friendly countries, but that was all. The rain was just as cold, the sky just as bleak and cheerless. The jolting blasts of our own artillery had the same grim, monotonous undertone. The incoming shells had the same high, nerve-scraping whine.

A few civilians slogged silently along the road with their heads down. Some soldier said he didn't think much of German women. As the column of trucks sloshed over the rolling country dotted with huge slagpiles marking coal mines. It passed a group of tanks padding relentlessly through the muck with a racketing rumble that drowned out other sounds.

Except when in action, tanks are unpopular on any front. They draw enemy artillery fire and their thundering din makes it impossible to hear shells coming in.

The tankers looked cold and miserable. Even the camouflaging twigs and tree branches fastened to the Sherman's backs dropped disconsolately in the icy rain.

Alongside the road, engineers worked endlessly maintaining it, digging drainage ditches again and again, shoveling gravel into ruts. Mudsmeared men, they seldom bothered even to swear as the vehicles splashed them again in passing.

The trucks halted for a 10-minute break. Behind a nearby Sherman, a bunch of tankers (Continued on page 11)

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page 1)

long been a strong desire among the Greeks to get rid of him.

The British, traditional friends of free Greece, have supported the monarchy here, as in Italy. Concerned about its postwar position, Great Britain has sought to bring the Mediterranean countries within its sphere of influence. This is a natural move to safeguard its lifeline to the far east. The concern of Britain with Spain, with Italy, with Jugo-Slavia and with Greece relates quite as much to its own future security as with the immediate objective of defeating Germany in this war. The blunt statement of Anthony Eden in parliament that Britain considers it has the right to take a hand in the formation of an Italian cabinet is of a piece with the use of British troops to sustain the government of Premier Papandreu in Greece.

No one can say that the British were not aware of the attitude of the Greek underground. In August of 1943 representatives of the underground were taken by submarine from Greece to Cairo for conference with the exiled Greek government there, headed by Premier Emmanuel Tsouderos. At the end of the conference the representatives of the Greek resistance parties formally advised Premier Tsouderos as follows:

"For the sake of national unity, which alone insures the success of the national struggle, and the normal development of the country, it is necessary that it be announced that the king will not return to Greece before the people have decided on the form of government."

King George rejected the advice and the premier sided with the king. The friction continued and increased. In April of this year Sophocles Venizelos, son of the former premier, tried to form a government when Tsouderos resigned, but he failed. Papandreu, who had escaped from an Athens prison where the Germans had him confined, became premier and endeavored to reconcile

the conflicting monarchist and democratic groups. As soon as Greece was liberated, through British assistance, the forces of the resistance, headed by the most powerful group, the EAM, national liberation party, sought a showdown with the returned Greek government and the present civil war is the outcome.

While the communist element is strong in the various underground and resistance parties in Europe the general indications are that these forces are less concerned with an immediate communist program than they are with preventing a return to power of the fascist elements, the collaborationists, and the monarchists. The EAM for instance, the oldest and largest of the Greek guerrilla groups, set up two aims early in its career: "first, liberation of the country from foreign occupation, and second, establishment of a popular government after the liberation." The support the Greek people have given to this movement is attributed to "their reaction to the misery, starvation and moral degradation to which they have been subjected." The struggle now going on is not simply a red plot to impose a dictatorship.

Writing to the nation last May Basil Viavianos, editor of a Greek language newspaper in New York, made the following comment on British policy in Greece: "The British government's policy toward Greece runs counter to British public opinion. It is inspired by fear of communism and of Russian influence in the Balkans, but it is destined to have the opposite effect from what its sponsors intend. It will lose them friends throughout eastern Europe and will paralyze the Greek armed forces and the Greek underground resistance at a time when their cooperation can be extremely useful to the war effort and to the restoration of a true democratic order in the Balkans."

That prophecy seems now in the way of fulfillment. The repercussions of this strife in Greece may be far-reaching. Regardless of the immediate issues, it will awaken distrust of British motives and create fears that allied victory will not bring the reforms the peoples have been longing for. Once again the political offensive fails to support the military operations, to the hurt of the allied cause.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"It seems incredible that your daughter is no longer a gangling gawky kid, but budding into glorious womanhood—doesn't it, mother?"

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Diamonds Necklaces
Watches Rings
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