

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Stays Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Cost of German 'Victory'

Von Rundstedt is pulling his armies back from the penetration of 50 miles into Belgium, back to the Siegfried line. That is, he is pulling back all he can. Some thousands of his troops are not returning—casualties of war; and hundreds of his tanks and trucks are burned and riddled scrap by the roadside. Yet the Berlin radio claims the counter-offensive was a great success. It reasons that it weakened the American armies and gave Germany the initiative.

There is no doubt that the thrust unbalanced the allied armies and definitely destroyed their hopes of a decision this winter. Its initial success gave a fresh lift to German morale, sufficient probably to carry Germans at home and in the field over the winter. But the time which the nazis have been striving for, what good will it be to them? None at all unless there develop divisions among the allies permitting a negotiated peace. And that seems quite improbable.

Just now the Russians are driving again across Poland, after a pause of six months; and they have won the battles about Budapest, clinching their hold in Hungary. As the giant presses of the several armies confronting the nazis apply their steady pressures Von Rundstedt may long for his picked panzer divisions which he threw so recklessly into the western front. The Germans may think their drive was a success, but the flush of victory will quickly fade. Surely the commanders realize now that their armies attained only their minimum objective: blunting the allied offensive. When they count the cost in lives and materiel that success will seem too expensive. As for German morale, nothing is so disheartening as the raising of false hopes. When they know that their soldiers are back where they started from, less those who are not coming back, they will feel that their last hope is gone.

The parallel with the German offensive of 1918 has previously been noted. History does seem to be repeating itself. The December break-through was probably the last flash of German military might in this war.

Stalin's Turn to Travel

For obvious reasons no announcement is made of the time or place for the meeting of Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt. President Roosevelt, in a recent press conference, said would be "anon" rather than "soon," and remarked something about a joint capital city which would of course solve the place question. It is evident that Churchill and Roosevelt encounter some difficulty in arranging meetings with Marshal Stalin. Churchill has been to Moscow twice; the three met once at Teheran. Why shouldn't Stalin come to Washington or London for the next conference? Because of his physical disability it is not easy for Roosevelt to travel. Churchill has done his full share of journeying by sea and by air. Stalin has left his country but once, to go to Teheran.

The reason advanced for Stalin's not going is that he is a commander-in-chief who works at his job. But Russia's war situation is relaxed enough now to permit him to take his hand off the throttle for a few days, and a plane can bring him to Washington in a matter of hours.

It really might strengthen Stalin's standing with the western powers for him to show himself in Paris or London or Washington. His Polish policy has cost him a lot of friendly interest which a personal call might offset. Stalin and Russia may think themselves secure; but times change. No person, no nation ever has too many friends when a crisis comes. And returning calls is elemental in good etiquette.

Portland's drunk tank is rivaling the Oregon state hospital for unfavorable publicity. Its death list now numbers 22. The real blame seems to rest on old King Alcohol, however, and not on the mayor and chief of police.

France is anxious to have General de Gaulle sit with the big three. France needs to work its passage for a time with some first class fighting, and not just get to the peace table by the path of penitence.

Editorial Comment

HOW ABOUT IT, MR. BYRNES?

Hardly has the whisky distilling industry entered upon its second 30-day holiday from the production of war alcohol than the rumor is spread that another vacation is in prospect for April. This is unbelievable, almost fantastic, in the face of the situation repeatedly described by War Mobilizer Byrnes. Are manpower, materials, and transportation facilities to be diverted from the war effort for the manufacture of a non-essential?

During the present month, the distilleries plan the production of 40,000,000 gallons of spirituous liquors. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain which might much better have gone into the production of more meat for a sharply rationed civilian population are to be poured into the mash tubs. To transport this grain to the distilleries takes hundreds of freight cars and the efforts of essential railroad workers. Their labor is wasted.

The liquor industry says that unless it is allowed these holidays there will be shortages of whisky. Of the so-called potable spirits now distilled, part goes into storage for use after aging. The rest—raw alcohol, called "neutral spirits" is mixed with whisky for immediate use. This calls for the employment of many hands, mostly women, in the bottling houses, who could serve their country better, and make more money, in war plants.

One of the chief materials used in the marketing of whisky is kraft paper for cartons. Cartons are vitally needed for the packaging of munitions. The nation is saving paper for this purpose. Is the government to allot paper cartons for the whisky people to waste? And what of the corks, labels, bottles, and the labor diverted for their manufacture?

What if there is a whisky shortage? Butter, bacon, beef—a score of food articles—as well as clothing, are scarce and the nation manages to survive. Has the whisky business a government priority? Is it a sacred cow? Must the war effort suffer for the sake of tipplers' appetites and distillers' profits?—Christian Science Monitor.

Soldier Conduct Abroad

Americans are pleased when they get "good conduct" reports about their boys overseas. From Australia came many testimonials in praise of the men of the 41st division, which made the home folks of the northwest swell with pride.

But not always is the conduct of the American soldier above reproach. We have found that true at home, in the vicinity of training camps. The Dalles Chronicle, for instance, relates incidents regarding men of the engineers' camp at Rufus where they are studying a river-crossing problem, of violation of local laws, chiefly from drunkenness. In England, though we have not heard much about it, there have also been cases of misconduct, sometimes of serious character. As might be expected, many are sex cases, assault, etc.

The worst case was the killing of British diplomat, Sir Eric Teichman, on his own estate by poachers. Hearing guns shot on his property Sir Eric went out to investigate, did not return. Later his body was found with a bullet hole through the head, and some yards away blank shells from an American army rifle. For this offense Pvt. George E. Smith of Pittsburgh has been found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging, by a courtmartial of 12 American officers. Of Smith an army psychiatrist testified he was "a mentally defective homicidal degenerate." His army record showed he had been courtmartialled eight times.

It is not enough to pass offenses off by merely saying the army is a cross-section of America, the worst with the best. The army has a responsibility of screening out those with signs of being "mentally defective homicidal degenerates" like Private Smith. And army officers, especially abroad, have the duty to maintain strict discipline even among men on passes.

Fortunately the record as a whole is good, and the excesses are more than outweighed by the open-heartedness of the American soldier, especially where children are concerned. The kiddies soon learn the doughboy is their friend, and of course they pester him for handouts of gum and candy, with which he is quite generous. We hear about this side of soldier deportment. It is well that we know there is another and less favorable side, regrettable as the fact may be.

A senator in California introduced a bill to abolish that state's personal income tax. The author is quoted as saying "Our state income tax only brings in \$48,500,000 annually," and that isn't "sufficient money to warrant the extreme annoyance to the individual." Just California chickenfeed, so to speak; but enough to make Oregon's mouth water.

Turkey is now permitting supply ships to pass through the Dardanelles; but Turkey waited until the war barometer showed clear skies for years ahead before doing anything. Like politicians clambering for the bandwagon, Franco's gesture to democracy and Turkey's concession at the straits shows clearly who is not going to win the war.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

German reports of a vast Red army winter offensive in progress from the Danube to East Prussia "aimed at ending the war" in Europe lack full Russian confirmation.

But they were too circumstantial for doubt that a supreme military crisis is developing in nazidom, caught in a gigantic Russian-Allied vice.

Enemy broadcasts painted an even darker picture than any published Allied or Russian estimate of the situation.

The Nazi home front thus could have no reasonable doubt that battles of decision were shaping up or had been already fought and lost east and west alike.

That could be sensed in Belgium where the counter bulge created in Allied lines by the German December attack was fast crumbling away. The German retreat was still far short of a complete rout but it was verging that way just as the full strain of the massive Russian main attack fell upon the foe in Poland.

It hardly needed Moscow's formal announcement to confirm the German report of White Russian armies on the move in the northern as well as the southern Vistula bridgeheads and also west of the Narw above Warsaw.

In the first broad fronted Russian thrust to expand the upper Vistula bridgehead Krakow was menaced. The Nida tributary of the Vistula, the only important water hazard or other natural military barrier guarding the old Polish capital on the east, had been crossed by the Russians on a wide front northeast of the city.

The main attack appeared driving due west on a 30-mile wide front midway between Krakow and Kielce, rear anchorages of the whole south flank of the German defense line in Poland north of the Carpathians. It seemed aimed at by-passing both the Krakow and Kielce bastions to strike directly at the concentrated hub of Nazi war industries in the southeast, the Gleiwitz-Katowice city group only 80 miles or less beyond Russian advance elements. But instead of by-passing Kielce, the Russians captured it.

Red forces were already astride the main rail and road communications between the Warsaw and Krakow flanks of the German front. They were virtually split apart by the Russian drive beyond the Nida with an implication that the German defense deployment had been caught off guard, expecting the Russian thrust to swing northward down the west bank of the Vistula rather than to strike westward.

The expanding upper Vistula salient has now been driven more than 60 miles deep beyond the original Russian crossings.

As far as it can be traced on the maps that main Russian bridgehead beyond the Vistula begins to shape up as the northern arm of a huge Red army pincer attempt to storm simultaneously the Galician gateway to central Germany, the Danube gap and the Danzig corridor. Russian capture of Lwow, northeast of tottering Budapest, is a potential threat to the upper Oder valley, far to the northwest.



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Too Bad He Already Owes It to Himself

Literary GUIDPOST

By W. G. RAY

"ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN" by George and Helen Waite Papashvily (Harper; \$2).

George Papashvily, born in Georgia, Russia; came steerage to America; worked as dishwasher, mechanic, movie extra, restaurant owner, inventor; married, bought a farm, buried an old friend—

"That's all that happens in 'Anything Can Happen,' yet this story, the husband's autobiography as set down by his American wife, has spots by turn hilarious, witty, courageous, poignant.

Even before George left the ship he was done out of his fine silver-lamb hat by a sharper. He was arrested when friends, over his protests, stripped a tree in New York's Van Cortlandt park of its blossoms. He had a funny experience carrying a piece of dough which, in a hot trolley, kept swelling out of the paper wrapping. He hunted and hunted for a man who spoke Georgian and found one who then heard it for the first time in 30 years.

This Russian, who has grown so fond of American ways, traveled over much of this country: New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit, San Francisco. He visited Virginia and South Carolina and moved into the country near Bethlehem, Pa.—Mrs. Papashvily now owns and runs an Allentown bookshop.

There are some phrases with poetical feeling: George is "full of prance"; the tree in the park is "foaming over with white blossoms"; the ears of the two Georgians talking their beloved native language are "full of hearing."

At its best the story is very fine, has intimations of Saroyan and sounds naive, honest and real. But there are occasional lapses to a more common level. The story does not become dishonest, certainly, but it ceases to be naive and turns into something manufactured, from the head rather than the heart.

Maybe the text is strained in an effort to prove, by some of George's adventures, that this is a grand country to adopt. Maybe in the attempt to show how good George actually is the effect has been to make him look goody-goody.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 15—Excerpts from a recent talk of mine, "The Revolution in Values":

Ours is a capitalistic system which depends for its strength and power upon soundness—not only in finance, taxation, prices, and such economic matters, but also political soundness built upon the confidence of its people.

In red ink, Paul Mallon must write on our books the greatest debt in history, eventually to be 300 billions of dollars. We must service and pay this debt, carry it as our war burden, for we financed this war, not only our part of it, but that of everyone else, including Russia to some extent. But Russia will have no such burden. She has for herself destroyed our concept of financial values.

At the heart core of this war is the revolution in values which started long before the war and will continue long after. I have spoken only of the corruption of financial values, or one phase of them which destroyed the morality of money.

This war indeed is only a superficial phase of the revolution in all values, the decline of morality in politics, international diplomacy, education, and, indeed, the individual lives of men.

Consider politics. The promised word no longer has popular value. You seldom hear the word "honor" any more. It is considered Victorian to be honorable.

The people have come to accept the doctrine of immediacy, of doing what sounds best at a given moment. They scorn traditional values as restraints and inhibitions. They themselves are no more tied to soundness than the money of the world.

Take international diplomacy. Repudiations of treaties before ink is dry represents the same departure from soundness in values, as that of the political leader from the promised word, and that of money from the shadow of substance. The doctrine of immediacy is what guides nations. Their own desires of the moment rule their conduct and make the world.

In education there has been the same corruption of realistic values which we have noted in money, politics, and international relations—the doctrine that children should be raised also according to their own desires. Education is to be a sightseeing affair. They even taught the philosophy of following desire in sex, which hardly seemed to me a matter to require teaching.

There is no phase of existence which has not been touched by the revolution in values, the erection of ideals of immediacy. In the end, all the world must come back to values. But is it to come back to the realization of soundness only after thoroughly exploring and suffering the collapse of the fabulous foolishness of immediate desire as a guide to life?

Will we have to go completely through the revolution to the bottom and let each man know the falsity of these indulgent fictions before all can grasp the resurgence of reason founded upon the experience of the war catch definite hold now and lead our people on to realism and common sense?

I do not know. My judgment is that revolutions generally run the course of extremity before they settle down into sense. First, there must arise a powerful leadership for good before there can be good.

Above all, no matter what the immediate future course, there must be no compromise of ideals. Those who know the true values of life also know that one day these will be restored to popular acceptance. That, too, is inevitable.

Therefore, it is the duty of those who believe in soundness to stand steadfast in this waning drifting condition. It is their duty to nurture the light in darkness for the future time when it will again lighten the fires in every home and bring warming comfort to future people.

Of the realization of simple substances must sound knowledge and sound value eventually come. Money will be worth only what circumstance or some future authority declares it to be worth. Our international safety will be only such as our ingenuity and constant alertness can prescribe.

There is no safety in numbers, even in modern weapons, because these become obsolete overnight. Planes in which we trusted at the outset of this war can hardly be used as trainers today. Time is fast. So is obsolescence. Only alertness can endure.

Wages, hours, prices, all the other economic factors have suffered the same swift deterioration of their values as the planes in the past three years. A wage is no better than the goods it will buy.

By such considerations should values be truly measured, not in the high talk you hear so frequently today in the search for artifices, magic formulas, economic contrivances and devices to bring us all ease, luxury, heaven on earth, but which are only cheating our reason of the lesson of arithmetic.

These are the factors of the world today. These problems must be met and solved. They are critical. They need not be fatal. They demand the earnest energy and utmost effort of those who know the truth among the people.

We must restore morality in values. We must do this in relation to money and peace treaties as well as to juvenile delinquency. We must promote a new moral order in relation to

Kenneth L. Dixon AT THE FRONT
Fearless U. S. Medic Always Shows Up Where Needed Most

WITH THE AEF ON THE BELGIAN FRONT, Jan. 15—(AP)—They call him Doc Ward—and don't put any quotation marks around that Doc, because it isn't a slang term and it isn't a gag.

It's part of a living legend which you hear up here. The voices of doughboys freezing in their foxholes holes grow warmer and prouder as they tell about him.

He isn't a doctor. He's a medical aid sergeant and his right name is Robert E. Ward. He's 27 and he comes from Princeville, Ill., where his mother now lives.

But he is Doc Ward to the entire 334th regiment. And his legend has spread until the whole 84th division claims him.

"He has personally saved the lives of at least a hundred men," said Capt. James V. Johnston of Portland, Ore., his current commander.

But that is not the complete total, even in his own division where he has roamed two regi-

ments caring for wounded and carrying them out to safety. Doughboys of the 103rd infantry and Tommies of British units have seen his tall, heavy frame standing over them when they lay wounded and writhing in pain.

They have seen his sad, quiet face bend down and then things got easier. No matter how hot the fighting was, Doc carried them out.

He worked with those outfits when his own company was resting or in reserve—for Doc can't seem to rest.

"He lives with a broken heart," said the battalion chaplain one day. "He has had too many men die in his arms."

Maybe that's it. There is nothing in his background out of the ordinary. He had no medical training other than what the army gave him. He went to high school and then got a half-year of business college training. Then he helped with payrolls and answered the telephone and did things like that for the Public Service company in Peoria.

That's his background. That and something which has given (Continued on page 7)

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURES

The lead front page local news caption in the Wednesday, Jan. 3, Statesman reads "Salem Council Turns Over Leaf and Refuses to Backtrack on Past Action". Paragraph three states "35 per cent of council meeting time was devoted (in 1944) to 'unmaking' resolutions and ordinances."

Isn't it time that the council did more than decide to stand pat? Where such an amount of work needs to be done over the procedure of business must need to be changed. There may be more than one fault in the present procedure.

One defect, at least, is flagrant. A little over a month ago a group of applications for beer licenses for 1945 were to be presented to the Council. Included was one for Tom Hill and his new partner for the confectionery near Parrish junior high school. Having known of this before the application, not after, Isabel, some in-

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Your Federal Income Tax

No. 12 Farmer's Losses

Losses incurred in the operation of farms as business enterprises are deductible from gross income. If farm products are held for favorable markets, no deduction on account of shrinkage in weight or physical value, or by reason of deterioration in storage, is allowed, except as such shrinkage may be reflected in an inventory if used in determining profits.

The destruction by frost, storm, or fire of a prospective crop is not a deductible loss in computing income since it represents the loss of anticipated profits which have never been reported as income. Likewise, a farmer engaged in raising and selling livestock, such as cattle, sheep, and hogs, is not entitled to claim as a loss the value of animals that perish from among those animals that were raised on the farm, except as such loss is reflected in an inventory, if used. If livestock has been purchased for any purpose, and afterward dies from disease, exposure, or injury, or is killed by order of the authorities of a State or the United States, the actual purchase price of such livestock, less any depreciation allowable as a deduction in respect of such perished livestock, may be deducted as a loss if the loss is not

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nations and political issues as well as to people. We must further it in every way possible before this confused world can become sound.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



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DIAMONDS WATCHES JEWELRY
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Exquisite Diamond Rings!
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