

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Massed for the Kill

With synchronized leaps General Patton's Third army and four allied armies opposite the Ruhr have crossed the Rhine. They are proceeding now to a general deployment on the east bank preliminary to the final cruncher blows against the German armies. Capture of Berlin and junction with the Russian armies now standing at the Oder will be early objectives, but the real aim will be to destroy swiftly Germany's fighting forces. All signs show that this cannot be far off. Radio Berlin, which has predicted the crossings of the lower Rhine as speechless Saturday morning after the blows fell. Finally there came the hollow assurance that the German high command "adopts the supreme principle of continuing the battle no matter under what conditions." That indicates resignation to conditions which have gone beyond its control.

The crossing at Remagen two weeks ago was what would be called in sports a lucky break. Dashing Americans swept so fast to the crossing that the Germans stupidly watching the clock instead of the enemy failed to set off the demolition charges set for destroying the bridge.

General Patton's Third army made a brilliant coup in effecting a crossing on Thursday night without the loss of a man. This was a carefully planned maneuver. Instead of depending on engineers to throw ponton bridges over the river on which men and machines could cross, Patton brought along amphibious and without giving the Germans warning by an artillery overture started ferrying his troops across. The bridgehead was secured before the Germans could get roused to know what was happening.

On the lower Rhine which the German armies have been guarding no such surprise was possible. So there was an artillery prelude. Parachute troops dropped down from the skies to help secure the bridgeheads and to link up positions with the ground forces. Armies which have crossed the lower Rhine include the U.S. Ninth, the British Second, the allied First airborne and elements of the Canadian First army. Already they are stabbing at the industrial cities of the Ruhr.

This is the climax of the long years of preparation, and the months of careful planning by General Eisenhower and associates. Everywhere is evidence of masterful strategy, the massing of ample power on the west bank so the crossings would be certain of success. This will be followed up with a flow of military might which leaves the German armies in utterly hopeless confusion.

From this point on deterioration within Germany is bound to be rapid. Great blocs of soldiers, cut off from command posts and short of supplies, will be forced to surrender. Defeatism will run ahead of the advancing allies. Even the Gestapo and SS elements will lose their grip and they themselves may break to save their own skins. Soon, save for the bitter-end Nazis the very name of Hitler will be a cursed byword within the Reich. We cannot set the date for V-E day; but it cannot be far off now.

## Philippines' Losses

The figures on Japanese and American losses in the Philippines campaign are so disproportionate as to prompt skepticism over their accuracy. The army communique reports Jap losses at 232,000 troops during the five months of operations in the Philippines. This includes the many thousands drowned when their transports were sunk off Leyte. But for Luzon alone the report is 145,000 Japanese dead and captured. American losses during the whole five months including the Leyte and Luzon campaigns are given at 3813 killed, 196 missing and 14,750 wounded, a total of 18,579. The ratio of losses, particularly as to Luzon, seems incredible. On Luzon the Japs fought no large-scale, all-out battles, except in Manila, but delaying actions and then retreated. We can't help but wonder how the enemy losses are computed, whether by actual count of bodies or estimates.

Citizens at Newberg are applying for a charter for a new state bank, with a capitalization of \$65,000. Recently new state banks were opened at Arlington and Tillamook. Both Tillamook and Newberg have been served with one branch bank each, while Arlington has had no bank since the closures of the early 1930's. Without doubt the repeal of the double liability provision of the constitution has encouraged local capital to embark in bank financing. The superintendent of banks however will not encourage starting of banks in communities where the prospects of success are restricted. The state does not want a repetition of bank failures when periods of business reversal come.

In the Gervais Star Mayor Gus Moisan warns dog owners: "Your dog is running over your neighbor's garden and flower beds; loose dogs will not be tolerated this spring; so from this day keep your dog tied or penned up." When dogs in towns the size of Gervais have to be tied or penned up the phrase "a dog's life" regains something of its old meaning.

We wonder if it takes these girls as long to dress in calf-length blue-denim pants with their shirt-tails hanging outside as it did their grandmothers who dressed in frills and founces over several layers of petticoats. Probably, to get the desired effect.

The Astorian Budget quotes a Washington correspondent as saying "the absence of cheap, practical clothes reached a point that is almost a scandal." Summers past we have had the same near scandal from absence of clothes, though dealers' stocks were ample.

The GOP publicity chief at Washington is missing, but his clothes were found on a bridge across the Potomac. Might have been a delayed action repercussion of November 7 last.

## Tax Snoopers at Miami

Secretary Morgenthau says that his agents are going to smell around in Miami and other fleshpots of luxury to see just who is spending what. His object is not puritanical. He is not trying to reform the wastrels. He is leaving to Director Byrnes the application of such moral discipline as the country needs, like the curfew. Morgenthau is merely hunting for tax dollars. He has a suspicion that goodly portion of the spending money being passed around in the bistros and casinos of the American Riviera rightfully belongs to Uncle Sam.

The treasury agents will get a line on the names of the big time pleasure-seekers. They may inquire whether a month at Palm Springs is being charged as a business expense. They may check to see if some good time Charlies are spending on a champagne spree but reporting only a beer income for tax purposes. They may pick up the scent on some black marketeers, the boys who deal in "ten grand" and up, for cash; no records kept; no OPA embarrassment; no income tax record.

These boys know there's a war on, all right; and they mean to get theirs. Morgenthau's snoopers may do the country a good turn by putting a crimp in their operations.

## Defacing the Capitol

High school students who came to Salem for the basketball tournament caused damage to the state capitol and grief to the secretary of state's office when they defaced walls of the capitol on the stairway leading to the dome. Names of 141 persons were written on the walls with lipstick and ink and some carving was done with knives. Some of these names were of Salem students. All names have been turned over to the superintendent of public instruction and the officers of the high school athletic association. We had thought that youth had outgrown the primitive period which produced the couplet "Fools' names, like fools' faces

Are always seen in public places.

Evidently that is not the case. Some discipline should be meted out to the young people at least to the extent of making them contribute to repairing the damage done, estimated at \$200. And next year there should be advance warning against defacement of the capitol, plus closer local surveillance when youth visit the building.

When the heroes of Bataan arrived in San Francisco they were treated to a beefsteak dinner at the Palace hotel. They fell to with zest, hailing the steaks as one of the prizes of American freedom. Who wouldn't? Beefsteak remains one of the great symbols of the American standard of living.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The Allies tightened the vise with a vengeance this weekend upon Nazi Germany.

The crushing military pressure being exerted from both east and west should bring a quick termination whether the Germans are offering a brittle shell or a hard core of final defense.

With the massive new crossings of the Rhine, coupled with the Russian onslaught east of Berlin, the final strategy pattern upon which the Allies are counting to break Germany's will to fight on is emerging from beneath the smokescreen of military security.

Soon the world should know whether the Nazi war machine, bomb torn as it has been, is capable of creaking along for an indefinite time, or is likely to collapse suddenly in ruins.

Four Allied armies and four airforces are involved in the newest onslaught against Germany. General Eisenhower was employing apparently more than 1,250,000 troops in an effort to bring Germany to her knees within the shortest possible time.

Germany appeared doomed as the last March week-end dawned.

Mighty Red armies in the upper Oder valley were on the move again. Knocking at the gateways that lead into the southern end of the great central plain backed up against the Bavarian Alps where Hitlerism and Hitler himself seemingly planned to make their last stand.

Leaving a suicide Nazi garrison still holding out in Breslau to die on the vine, Ukrainian troops had virtually cleared the whole wide sweep of the Oder valley to the eastern flank of the Sudeten mountains. In the center they had set foot on approaches to the Sudeten passes that lead over directly to Prague. Northward they were poised at Lauban to strike westward toward Dresden or wheel southward through the Zittau gap and converge on Prague. Southward at half encircled Ratibor they were beginning to force a passage through the Moravian corridor that leads either southwestward to Vienna or northwestward to Prague. The sweep of that 80-mile wide new Russian offensive seemed to justify Moscow speculation that Prague might be its ultimate objective.

Five important city bastions in upper Silesia were obviously marked for early Russian seizure including Frankenstein, guardian of the central Sudeten passes, and Ratibor. Linked with swift and startling Allied victories across the Rhine the Red army breakthrough drive in Silesia gained added significance. It loomed as the beginning in the east of a concerted Russian-Allied plan to drive to a juncture somewhere in the heart of south central Germany to match a similar junction drive from the lower Rhine and Oder that would split Nazidom apart in the north.

There is no reasonable doubt that in the joint Russian-Allied strategic directives drawn up at Yalta and now being put into execution, weight was given to the unchallenged conclusion that bitter as Nazi defense of bomb-smashed Berlin might be, it has already been written off by the Nazis as no more than a delaying action. That is based on the inner defense conception with the central German plain and particularly the Alpine backed southern end of that plain as the final citadel.

The obvious answer is to split Germany apart in the south and the north simultaneously. The fact that she is bled white for manpower makes it all the more desirable to mount multiple offensives on all active fronts rather than to mass either east or west for single breakthrough drives.



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## Goldflocks

IT SEEMS TO ME  
(Continued from page 1)

deals only with individuals whose addiction to liquor has gotten control of their lives. The method is not to employ drugs but to use what might be called mental and moral therapy, to enable the individual to regain control of himself and of his habits. The success the group has had accounts for its growth.

There are different reactions to indulgence in alcoholic beverages. Some persons seem able to do so with no temptation to over-indulgence. Others are affected differently. It may be that their systems crave continued dosages of alcohol once they have taken a drink. Or it may be that they have some physical allergy so that a small quantity of alcohol completely befuddles them. Or it may be that they lack moral discipline to govern themselves.

In any event these are the people whom temperance claims for victims to their own ruin and disgrace and the humiliation of their friends and relatives. It is this class which Alcoholics Anonymous seeks to aid in recovery of their self-control. Obviously for them there is no such thing as moderation in drinking. They should leave liquor absolutely alone. A. A. by own methods builds up the moral resistance of the individual so he can abstain.

The first essential to rehabilitation is recognition by the addict that he has lost control of himself; and he must have a sincere desire to redeem himself. The treatment consists in building up this resolution for self-help and to supplement it by encouraging the individual to call on divine help for his own strengthening. Then when he is freed of the chains of his habit he is expected to tell his experience to other alcoholics to help them to overcome their habit.

This movement cannot be laughed off as just another reform. It has proven its worth in the hard tests of life. It is no universal panacea. Some will not respond to its treatment. The salvage of men and women from the disease of alcoholism is important business. The approach of Alcoholics Anonymous is untaught by commercialism and unaccompanied by freak methods.

It uses wholesome methods of applied psychology and religion to effect individual transformation. While it is regrettable that any persons be confirmed

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON  
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WASHINGTON, March 24—John R. Steelman, the government's labor mediator through-

out the new deal and before, quit his post some months back and is now announcing that he will be a private labor consultant, devoting himself especially to the subject of "real wages"—in short the purchasing power of the dollar you earn, its real value in bread and butter, and not just the number of dollars paid.

More and more people are getting interested in this overlooked subject. It seems to me Mr. Steelman is practically saying that after many years of fixing wage rates as a national arbiter—and he fixed more of them than any living person—he has become convinced that the actual rate does not mean as much as its economic value.

A friend of mine has produced some striking evidence on this avoided matter. Paying out his money for food at his A & P store in New York City, he was struck with wonder about how much the same food cost when Mr. Roosevelt first came into office with the new deal.

He went back into newspaper files and photostated the advertisements of the A & P markets for March 2, 20, 27 and 30, 1933, around the time Mr. R. first took the oath of office, and compared the prices with the very same quality in the very same A & P markets this past March 15. He found out exactly how much his food dollar had been deflated.

Butter had more than doubled in price, from 21 cents to 48 cents a pound. Frying chickens were up from 21 cents to 47 cents a pound; sliced bacon from 19 cents to 41 cents.

Potatoes had more than tripled from 15 pounds for 19 cents to 5 pounds for 24 cents. Quaker oats cost 12 cents instead of 5 cents (20 ounces in each case.) Canned salmon was up from 8 cents to 22 cents for

ed alcoholics it is indeed of great social value to have some organization like Alcoholics Anonymous take as its special concern the rehabilitating of such persons for normal, healthy living.

## "THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



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Kenneth L. Dixon  
AT THE FRONT!  
New U. S. 15th Army's  
Commanding General  
Likes to Move Fast

By Tom Yarbrough  
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

U.S. 15th ARMY HEADQUARTERS—(P) The new 15th army's makeup, mission and whereabouts on the western front remain secrets, but it's commanding general's name is on record and it is no secret that he is a man who likes to move fast.

He is Virginia-born Lt. Gen. Leonard Townsend Gerow, who has been in the army 33 of his 58 years. The famous Fifth corps which he commanded from July, 1943, until he won his third star and command of the 15th army last January, was the corps that liberated Paris.

The Fifth corps went many places in brilliant form, from the Normandy beaches to Germany, gaining a growing reputation for its dashing spirit. Gerow says he would have liked to have stayed with the corps all the way to Berlin.

Personally, Gerow is an intense man who talks fast but easily and with warm feeling. He has the soft speech of Virginia, and a ready amiability, but his force and incisiveness cut straight to the heart of the subject at hand.

"We have to do things fast," he says, with a quick gesture, "especially in the pursuit phase which we are now entering, and avoid written orders as much as possible."

Gerow was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work on the war plans and with the 29th infantry, the citation speaking of his "invaluable contribution to our military effort through his foresight and sound planning" and "his exceptional qualities of leadership in conducting the training of his division despite serious shortages in personnel and equipment."

Gerow recently received the British award of commander of the Order of the Bath in recognition of outstanding work before and after the Normandy landings. He was commanding general of U.S. field forces in Europe for 11 months before the Invasion.

He was the first American corps commander ashore on D-day and he was the first into Paris.

The Fifth corps' most spectacular job was closing the Falaise gap last August and forming the Chambois pocket where thousands of Germans were slaughtered or captured.

Gerow won the Silver Star at Paris, with a citation which said, "although many intersections were blocked by barricades manned by German troops, he proceeded unhesitatingly through dangerous streets to effect an important conference with the commanding general of French forces within the city."

That wasn't the first time in Paris for Gerow. He was there as a factory worker whose increases in wages can never keep up with the rising price era we have been in and which is to continue (the administration promises) for the postwar period?

But he is the most favored of all, while the average man of the country in the office, store, school, even government itself must get along on what is relatively his old established salary.

It has long seemed to me that Mr. Roosevelt's figurers had better drop their pencils and their political statizing and go into the A & P for a better judge of what has happened. If they did government policy might soon be readjusted for the greater good of the greater number of people.

## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers  
"AGE OF THUNDER," by Frederic Prokosch (Harper, \$2.50).

Fight preoccupies many of us, fight from the thought of war, from the scene of war, from its great dangers. Perhaps novelists don't mind; they benefit directly from the worldwide conflict, for it makes escape plots timely.

But we benefit, too, when a capable and sensitive writer (and poet) like Prokosch uses the theme. In his new novel, an Al-lier soldier, Jean-Nicolas Martin, half American and half French, is parachuted into the country near Anancy and joins a band of six escaping over the Alps to Switzerland.

The underground route has developed some breaks; men whom the Allies want to save have never reached their haven. Martin's perilous mission is to find out what's wrong, and do it in five nights.

At the very start Prokosch creates suspense; whether out in the open country or in the French inn, the air is heavy with mystery; every gesture is ominous, every eye is bright with menace or dull with terror. Lives are at stake. One of those who flee by night and hide by day is a traitor. Is it Quivar, the Negro? Is it Milliquet, the man in black?

But your attention is thrown quickly upon other dubious characters. You see a cross-section of the blood-soaked but beautiful hills where the maquis fights for its existence, where everyone

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