

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Mothers Day

By congressional act the second Monday in May is designated as Mothers day. This year it falls on May 13. By proclamation of President Truman observance of this day is to be combined with services of prayer and thanksgiving for the victory in Europe.

It was in 1914 that congress adopted a resolution introduced by Senator Heflin of Alabama to establish Mothers day. The basis for the resolution appeared in the clauses:

"Whereas, the service rendered the United States by the American mother is the greatest source of the country's strength and inspiration; and

Whereas, we honor ourselves and the Mothers of America when we do anything to give emphasis to the home as the fountain-head of the state; and

Whereas, the American Mother is doing so much for the home, the moral uplift and religion, hence so much for good government and humanity; . . .

Under the resolution the president was authorized to call upon government officials to display the flag on government buildings and on the people to display the flag at their homes or other suitable places on Mothers day.

The day is regarded as of special significance by the American War Mothers, the organization of mothers of men who have entered military service in wartime. Gold Star Mothers is the name given to those who have lost sons in the fighting of their country's wars. In view of the sacrifices of the present war Mothers day this year is expected to attract particular attention.

## 'A Last Word'

Ernie Pyle didn't live to see the end of the war in Europe, but he saw it coming and the closing chapter of his recent book "Brave Men" anticipates the end of the European struggle. It was written last August "under an apple tree in a lovely green orchard in the interior of France." He wrote that "the end of the war will be a gigantic relief, but it cannot be a matter of hilarity for most of us." Thoughts of the change to peace arrested him:

"It will seem odd when, at some given hour, the shooting stops and everything suddenly changes again. It will be odd to drive down an unknown road without that little knot of fear in your stomach; odd not to listen with animal-like alertness for the meaning of every distant sound; odd to have your spirit released from the perpetual weight that is compounded of fear and death and dirt and noise and anguish."

Victory, as Ernie Pyle saw it, was the result of many things—of the preceding battles which had drained enemy strength, of Russia, and the western desert, and the bombings and the blocking of the sea." He wrote:

"We have won because we have had magnificent top leadership . . . Surely America made its two perfect choices in General Eisenhower and General Bradley."

"We won because we were audacious. One could not help but be moved by the colossus of the invasion. It was a bold and mighty thing, one of the epics of all history."

"We have won this war because our men are brave . . . We did not win it because destiny created us better than all other peoples. I hope that in victory we are more grateful than we are proud."

Always writing from the heart Pyle had a prophet's insight when he wrote the last chapter of his book. Fittingly it is entitled "A Last Word." He wrote more when he got to the Pacific, but this chapter has a freshness as though it had been written from some village in the heart of Germany just as news came of the final surrender.

## Slices of Weather

Early May gave us a preview of summer, with clear days and temperatures to break previous records. So valley people were caught by surprise with a week of generous spring rains. Spring flowers drooped. The dogwood blossoms looked wilted and they showed ill effect from the beating raindrops. One looked on the ground under the red hawthornes to see if the color had faded and run down on the green grass.

But our surprise at a not unseasonal down-pour of rain was nothing to compare with heavy snows in New England and killing frosts in the east central states. The snowstorm in New England did damage, it is estimated, to equal or exceed that of the famous hurricane in 1938, while fruits and crops were badly hurt in the frosts that struck north of the Ohio river.

Ours indeed is a mild and in many ways not unwelcome punishment, these late rainy days; and with pharisaical unctious we may once more express our pride that our climate is not like that of the benighted lands east of the Rockies.

## Music and Victory

Last week was Music week. It occurred when the world was exploding with events of tremendous moment, so may not have received the attention either in the press or among the public it usually does. It ran into victory celebrations and victory news. But the week was appropriately recognized with many musical events scheduled, both full programs and special numbers before organizations. Music is something which lives in spite of conditions in human affairs, bringing its outlet for man's highest emotions and stimulating feelings as does no other art.

Mrs. Walter Denton, indefatigable worker in the cause of Music week, has expressed herself as well pleased with the response this year; but when the war is really over we can foresee a Music week that will really overwhelm her, with all of her enthusiasm. It is a good cause, and fortunate here in having so ardent a champion.

Speaking of inflation, there is China where the retail price index at Chungking for March was 1044 times the pre-war level. The old merchants must have had to make over their counting boards to do their figuring on

## Army on Okinawa

Some time back the San Francisco Examiner criticized the marine tactics as being expensive in life. That was during the invasion of Iwo Jima. The Examiner threw a bouquet at General MacArthur and indicated that the army knew how to attain its objectives an easier way.

The attacks on Okinawa have been under an army officer, Maj. Gen. Simon Buckner. The marines had the north end of the island and cleaned up that portion neatly and speedily. The army had the southern portion and the progress has been slow, even more difficult than on Iwo Jima. Now the sixth marine division has been brought in to help the army capture Naha, the capital.

One should not jump at the conclusion however that in this test the marines have demonstrated better fighting quality than the army. The latter had the tougher job to do. It has come up against the type of resistance the marines faced in other invasions of small islands, strong fortifications supported by intense artillery and mortar fire. The army has had to use the same tactics as the marines: attack point by point, with liberal use of flame-throwers. After Okinawa though we should hear no more talk like that of the Examiner in comparison of battle tactics.

## Big Wheat Crop

A record-breaking crop of winter wheat is forecast by the department of agriculture—835,186,000 bushels, which would be greater than the record crop of 1931: 825,396,000. Bad weather could damage the wheat crop between now and harvest time; but it is evident that the crop this year will be huge. Last year the farmers and grain companies and railroads had a most difficult time taking care of the crop, and they will not be in any better shape this year, as the burden of transportation shifts to the west where wheat is grown. Perhaps rolling stock may be borrowed from the east to help out. Unless preparation is made there may be considerable loss.

This wheat crop, along with other cereals, will provide an ample supply of starches for our diet. The great deficiency, both at home and in Europe, is in meats and fats. If some of the wheat surplus can be turned into meat our diet will be in better balance. While there may be disproportion in our agricultural production it is gratifying that the wheat prospect is so favorable. It comes, too, as the fifth in a row of good crops—nature has been kind to us in these war years.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
Associated Press War Analyst

A vastly augmented aerial attack apparently faces Japan at a time when there are pronounced signs of the collapse of her ability to meet even the present scale American bombing forays in critical areas.

This becomes evident on the heels of a statement by high American air officers in Europe predicting the early arrival in Japanese skies of Allied bombers by the thousand, instead of the hundred.

Nowhere, except in virtually futile suicide assaults on shipping off Okinawa is the Japanese air force giving effective opposition, not even over Japan itself.

The mass raid on Japanese home oil storage installations, estimated to have involved up to 400 Superfortresses, was made without loss or indicated damage to a single ship by enemy action. In the Hunan theatre in China, most critical for Japanese hopes of retaining the China-Indo China communications corridor, American observers at the 14th air force base, Chihyang, report no enemy air echelons supporting ground troops routed by a Chinese counterattack closely coordinated with General Chennault's airmen.

Farther south, American press observers in Calcutta note that in recaptured Burma, in French Indo China and even on the Malay peninsula the campaign of Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten to open the western approaches to the China sea is taking shape with little Japanese air interference. It is estimated by the Allies that not more than 400 enemy combat planes are available for duty in all that vast stretch of territory in process of redemption from enemy hands. Japanese air power ceased months ago to be a factor in the fighting in the Philippines. It has so far offered no substantial opposition to the steady air blasting of Formosa, Nipponese China sea Gibraltar.

So far as current field reports from any sector of the war in the Pacific go, it would seem that Japan is facing the terrible ordeal of mass air bombardment virtually undefended from above as Allied power shifts from Europe for that purpose. On her home islands as well as her remaining island or mainland outposts, she is all but roofless under the brewing storm.

The absence of Japanese air elements in any substantial force from the battle in Hunan is particularly significant. Chinese accounts with apparent American confirmation say that the enemy threw up to 80,000 men into the futile attempt to reach and stamp out General Chennault's Chihyang base. In the face of American planes that was plain murder. It lends credibility to Chinese reports of wholesale slaughter of enemy troops in addition to those penned up for annihilation west of Paoching.

Given sufficient air power to back up that resurgent Chinese force, American high officials in China say that with or without the help of amphibious operations on the China coast itself the Japanese hold on central China could be broken. Their reported elation at the success of joint American-Chinese air-ground cooperation in defense of Chihyang which has turned into a potential major counterattack threatening the enemy's China-Indo China corridor is marked. It can hardly be doubted that it rises in part from the knowledge that the air power to turn the trick, despite Chinese inferiority in battle equipment on the ground, is due to reach them soon from Europe. That does not lessen the fact, however, that developments in western Hunan synchronizing with Victory week, complete and final in Europe, are the most encouraging to come in China in months. There is real possibility there that Japanese armies in China can be split apart at the Hunan waistline leaving those in the north and south to be mopped up separately.



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## How to Lose a War—In One Easy Lesson

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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SAN FRANCISCO, May 12—The Pacific coast has about the same postwar worry as the rest

of the country but in more accentuated and positive form because of the vast expansion throughout the state in planes, shippers and other war industries.

The Kaiser shipyards in-

dustries, for example, has been losing about 5,000 employees a month. The last four pages of their newspaper in its last issue contained want-ads of workers seeking ride-sharing automobile seats to return home.

Their yards payroll at Richmond near here has been cut from peak employment of 93,000 down to 49,000 already and it has had 500,000 different persons employed in the past four years.

I met the emperor of this most fabulous accumulation of American industries during the war, Henry J. Kaiser, and talked with him for more than an hour. His is not only the largest but most varied of all the nation's strictly new war enterprises and contains 100 industries. Thus he also has the biggest of all the problems of reconversion and I was interested in ascertaining how he would meet it.

He is a crisp, heavy-set man with a knowledge of what is needed and with unlimited ideas of how to do the job. He has both business hope and faith—a confidence that the imagination of the American People will devise methods of carrying forward our industrial postwar system and faith that it cannot fail.

What he—aggressive lone wolf industrial fighter that he is—thinks the country needs primarily is competition. The first postwar industry to which he is turning his attention is, naturally, shipping. He was growling about another business leader, who made a speech a few days back advocating scrapping of the American merchant marine. We now have more ships than any nation ever had on the seas, (number is a military secret) and he thinks they should be used. This will require government subsidy in his opinion because competing European lines have subsidies. I judge that he

is also in coal and steel, and in each industry he attempts to maintain a competitive spirit. He keeps three offices in Washington instead of one and thus promotes greater work energy among his own employees—and, of course, more production.

I suspect his own reconversion plan is already well under way. There is much well advised talk about him expanding into foreign production in Latin America and elsewhere.

His enthusiastic spirit is symbolic of the feeling among other business men with whom I talk throughout this area. In this respect it is somewhat different from the east where the trend runs to pessimism or doubt. The San Francisco area, for instance, is a war-choked settlement as short of everything (homes, meat, cigarettes, hotel and train accommodations, not to liquor) as is New York. Although the labor is going home in droves, no one seems particularly worried for these reasons:

Ev—yone out here figures the Jap war to take another year (my guess is somewhat less than that) and sees San Francisco and the Pacific coast as gateways to

the newly opened island empires of the Pacific and the Orient. This is really the gateway to a new era. As surely as we have been drawn in this war closer to China, the largest postwar Oriental power, just as surely may we expect a doubling of our trade westward and perhaps more. Shrewdly, Mr. Kaiser has picked the right industry for his No. 1 postwar priority. All air transportation and communications as well as shipping will be routed here.

There is much remaining of the forty-niner gold strike ambition among these business people.

## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

"LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER," by Josephine Lawrence (Appleton-Century; \$2.75).

The cagey publisher doesn't give away the theme of this ingenious novel on the jacket, and probably the critic shouldn't, either, but it will be hard to review it without saying what it's all about.

Young Cecilia Warren makes what her family and friends call the big mistake, socially. You see her leading up to it, you see it accomplished, then you see the consequences. The situation is

entertaining, superficially; Miss Lawrence's appallingly deft touch fascinates you. But it's a snake's-eye fascination; basically the idea is about as funny as mayhem or murder, and in thinking it over afterward, you will wince twice for every once you chuckle.

The theme is fundamental and most germane to our unhappy times. The title, like all by this author, an excellent one, is from Paul's epistle to the Hebrews. It's precise and accurate, it reveals the subject exactly.

The men and women, even the children, consider one another in remarks that are sometimes just thoughtless and sometimes completely venomous. You may have uttered one of them yourself; and though I blush to say it, I may have, and Miss Lawrence may have. Yet it is such remarks as these which betray our democracy today and the world of tomorrow for which we are fighting; they reveal a habit of mind, or entire lack of a mind, which constitutes a devastating, all too true indictment of us Americans as irresponsible provincials.

The characters are such people as you meet every day . . . which just makes it all the worse. Some are likable, some despicable.

The book is more successful as propaganda than as novel; that it, I might have been tempted to skip a few pages here and there unless I had appreciated what Miss Lawrence was up to. But I hope you read it. Read and learn how you can be grown up but feeble-minded, how the tongue in your own head is poison, how a generalization is heinous.

Practical Religion

—by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,  
Counselor on Religious Life,  
Willamette University

In some religious circles self-abasement is stressed to such an extent that even self-respect is considered a sin.

It must be granted that Christian living has little room for conceit or egotism. But self-respect is necessary for effective living; it is basic to the Christian way of life. Personality weakens when a man can no longer respect himself.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" implies that our regard for others lies in regard for ourselves. We are all endowed with a spark of the Divine and with the capacity for losing that spark or developing it.

## Kenneth L. Dixon AT THE FRONT

Yanks in Germany  
Still Can't Believe  
War There is Over

IN GERMANY —(P)—For days now this war officially has been ended. That fact has been announced, ratified, confirmed and celebrated internationally.

But along this Elbe river front gripped in a strange sort of skeptical apathy—it still seems impossible to believe.

Men lie in the sun or drill as they did in garrison life back home. Doughboys play baseball around command posts. Artillerymen pitch horseshoes near their silent guns.

It is a strange atmosphere, like a lull between attacks, rather than an end to hostilities. There is no exhilaration anywhere.

Lights have come on again all along the front. You don't have to risk night accidents by black-out driving. That alone should underscore the existence of peace in Europe. But it doesn't.

Perhaps it is because the soldiers' nervous systems have reacted too many times to the "Wolf, wolf" cries of peace only to reach the combat line again and find there was no peace. That has happened many times in the long trek from Tunisia to this last river they crossed.

It was that way in Rome. For some reason we all felt the war was over—probably only because we had been looking forward to taking the Eternal City for so long that it had come to represent journey's end. And that wasn't the first time.

When the Tunisian campaign ended, thousands of doughboys thought they were going home. Instead, they struck Sicily's southern shores. When that whirlwind campaign closed, they again had visions of ringing their front doorbells. They thought perhaps the fighting was finished for them. Italy ended that illusion.

In the column racing up through southern France there was plenty of exhilaration everywhere—a strong heady feeling that victory was only a matter of days or weeks at the most. When the northern and southern armies joined in the heart of France, the doughboys began making postwar plans.

Still it wasn't over. Somewhere along that long, bloody road there must have come a saturation point for such hopes. Now that the real thing has arrived soldiers find themselves unable to react even enough to believe it.

They knew it was over even though southern France there was plenty of exhilaration everywhere—a strong heady feeling that victory was only a matter of days or weeks at the most. When the northern and southern armies joined in the heart of France, the doughboys began making postwar plans.

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before the official announcement. For that matter, they had known it for weeks, but the final touch came when one of the army's intelligence officers put out this terse summary:

"For the first time in 11 months there is no contact with the enemy. The victory which was won on Omaha and Utah beaches has reached its climax. Today belongs to the men of this army who fought and conquered the enemy from Normandy to the Elbe. There is no enemy situation to report for there is no longer an enemy to defeat."

Except that it might have said "from Tunisia to the Elbe." That seemed to cover it. Soldiers read the news and went to chow without comment.

That remains their attitude today. Across this German country there are plows and harrows at work in the fields. Shattered cities are being cleaned for a generation's reconstruction. The sun sparkles on the brightly painted inner linings to helmets which are being worn without the protective steel covers for the first time.

Blaring out through command post radios is martial music—stirring victory music. Nobody seems to notice.

Perhaps it is only a momentary moribidity through which the soldiers will pass swiftly, but at the moment they seem engulfed in it.

Germany has become a "morning after" house of damage and destruction and amidst the burns and stains left by war's orgy soldiers still go through the motions with the slow uncomprehending gestures of men too dazed to know the party's over.

## Flashes of Life

IOWA CITY, Ia.—(P)—Postman Norman Nordin was making his rounds when he spotted a fox, which turned out to be not too sly. Nordin gave chase, threw his raincoat over him and held on until police arrived and removed him to the city park.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—(P)—Released by Police Judge Foster Wheatly with a promise never to slap his estranged wife again, a soldier on furlough ferreted his pockets in vain for \$2.50 to pay costs on a night's sojourn in jail. With red face, he asked—and got—a loan from his wife.

PUEBLO, Colo.—(P)—Look out, Ma, the truant officer is after you. County Judge Hubert Glover, after hearing the case of a boy, 14, who has been absent from school 60 days this semester, told the mother that in the future she must spend two hours in jail or pay a \$2 fine for every day the lad is absent.

WRANGELL, Alaska.—(P)—A two-column blank space at the top of the page appeared in the Wrangell Sentinel with a notation "This space reserved for Hirohito." On one side of the blank space was a story headed "Mussolini Shot in Back of Head," on the other one headed "Hitler, Goebbels Suicide."

## Planes Lines Facing Even Busier Times

The end of the war in Europe by no means will lessen the demand for transportation of air passengers, mail and express, it is declared by W. A. Patterson, president of United Air Lines, who pointed out that air speed will become increasingly important in the war against Japan. He also declared that the airlines will figure prominently in travel and shipments generated by the start of the industrial conversion period.

"Our transcontinental air carriers, particularly United, will have to face an increased demand for air traffic to Pacific coast ports, as activities in the Pacific war theater are stepped up," the executive said. "Also, industry will utilize air transportation because of the advantages which speed will offer in converting from war production to civilian production."

"The movement of hundreds of thousands of soldiers from the European to the Pacific war theater, coupled with the hundreds of thousands of furloughs which will be granted, will tend to keep the airlines on a wartime basis after victory in Europe."

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Certainly, that's Denise Darling and Gloria Glamour! You oughta know movie stars look different off the screen."

## Practical Religion

—by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,  
Counselor on Religious Life,  
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