

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY  
CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

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### Now It Can Be Told

We are getting some of the "now-it-can-be-told" material. Some weeks ago The Statesman offered the opinion that there was some validity to Jap reports of damage to American warships. Now we are told that the great carrier Franklin was badly damaged by Jap armor-piercing bombs. While the ship was saved through the gallantry of its crew, it suffered heavy losses in personnel and was put out of commission for months. The Franklin was hit on March 19. On January 6 the battleship New Mexico had its navigating bridge knocked out with an aerial bomb which killed the captain and 27 other officers and men. This was the time when Lt. Gen. Herbert Lumsden, British observer, and William Chickering, Time correspondent, were killed. Their deaths were reported but little mention was made of the damage which forced the ship back to Pearl Harbor for repairs.

Publication is delayed allegedly because of military security, but the Japs keep score on their hits the same as we do; and our navy men know when a ship is put out of action. The truth is that our repair yards are busy all the time patching holes in armor plate and repairing battle damage. We do not know that the public has been deprived of much essential information when reports are withheld for a few months; but the people ought to know that waging the navy's war in the Pacific is costly in men and in ships. Off Okinawa our fleet has taken a hard beating from the swarms of Jap planes. And it will continue to suffer punishment as it ploughs a path in the sea for the American advance on Tokyo.

### Hitting Jap Oil Plants

Bombers over Japan are aiming at the same objectives as over Germany. Chief among these targets are the synthetic oil plants. Now that Japan is steadily being cut off from the oil fields of Burma and Java and Borneo, it is forced to depend more and more on synthetic fuel. In raids last week American planes wrecked or damaged oil storage depots and fuel stations. The effect is to impair Japan's ability to wage war with weapons requiring petroleum for fuel. Among them are airplanes and naval vessels.

Japan's estimated requirements for petroleum in the early stages of the war were 33,000,000 barrels a year. Of this, 10,000,000 was produced in eight synthetic plants. While the reduction of the Jap fleet diminishes the demand for petroleum, the enemy still would need to import oil from the south if it were available. Burma is lost; the Aussies are taking the Tarakan fields near Borneo; and sea lanes are insecure. With American planes knocking out large synthetic oil plants at home Japan faces the same fate as the Germans: grounding of planes and stalling of tanks for lack of fuel.

### Dogs as Killers

The killing of a woman in Florida by a pack of bull pit terriers is a reversal of the usual role of dogs. Rated as man's best friend, dogs very rarely attack and kill a human being, without provocation. Recently a dog romped too playfully over a baby and caused the baby's death, but that was not a case of vicious attack. Against this record is the long one of faithfulness where many a dog has risked his life for his master.

There are breeds, to be sure, which are inclined to vicious traits. Their control is a matter of discipline or of restraint. Some, like police dogs, are trained for special guard duty, but very seldom is a dog like this permitted to run at large.

The Florida pack of 26 were all put to death, as they deserved; and the sad experience should warn dog-breeders of the necessity of keeping them with savage inclinations confined or under leash. But the incident in Florida should not be used as an excuse for setting out dog poison.

### Editorial Comment

#### OUR FIRST WOMAN CITIZEN

In the honor that has come to Marian Lowry Fischer from her friends in the Zonta club, all of her associates in The Register-Guard take pride. Since she came to this town as a University student, Marian has worked for this newspaper, but it would be more adequate to say that she has worked constantly for Lane county and Eugene.

With all her vigor, Marian denies that there is any such thing as a "first citizen," but we cannot let her deny that for many years she has been one of our foremost citizens in influence. It would be difficult to mention any activity or project for the improvement of this community which has not come to Marian for aid—and got it.

"If we can get Marian Lowry to help us with some stories and pictures..." It is a familiar formula. However, this is not the time or place to try to recount the history of Marian Lowry Fischer. In a few weeks, she will leave us to join her husband whose business (radio KSLM) has taken him to Salem. A great many people are going to miss Marian—her keen interest in everything and everybody in this community, her amazing energy and enthusiasm, her "rightness" which cut through every kind of fraud or sham—and though Salem may be her home henceforth, she has made her place forever as "a first citizen of Eugene."

When Zonta announced its selection of "first woman citizen," we could not resist running that old picture of her and waiting about how for the first time in her long career here she had "fallen down" on a news story on her own "beat." That was just one way of trying to tell the kind of loyalty Marian Lowry Fischer has put into her work as a reporter. Her work has had a quality which money and honors can only partly repay. Implicit in every allied move against Japan is the same concept that dominated major strategy against Germany—the fastest possible utter defeat for the enemy while holding allied losses to the irreducible minimum.

By present indications application of air power on a more devastating scale even than the fallen Nazi regime experienced is a major element of that program. It may even bring a fuller test of the claim of air enthusiasts than they can do the whole

### Reporter Keeps Pledge

With Edward Kennedy's filing of a dispatch on the German surrender there was general protest among newspaper workers against his violation of an implied pledge of confidence. Now there will be universal support extended to Albert Deutsch, Washington correspondent for PM, who refuses to violate a confidence even in the face of contempt proceedings by a congressional committee. Deutsch had written a series of articles, contents of which were sharply critical of the veterans' administration. Called up before a house investigating committee Deutsch was asked who his informants were. He refused to name them, asserting he had obtained his information with the assurance that he would not divulge names. Among his informants were five employees of the VA. Deutsch said he was bound by his personal integrity and professional ethics not to divulge names of those who supplied him with information. The committee then instituted contempt proceedings against him.

It is standard practice and conventional ethics among newspaper men to protect sources of information. This operates definitely in the public interest. If every reporter were required to tell the names of those furnishing him information he would get little of the kind which most needs publicizing. Stories of graft and crime and political misdeeds are often published which are factually accurate; but the reporter does not disclose who tipped him off or gave him the story. Those giving him the facts realize this and realize further that the reporter if he is any man at all will not welch under pressure.

The house committee may proceed; it may put Deutsch in jail; but it will never get him to break the confidence reposed in him. Instead of jumping on the reporter that committee should move more directly to get at facts for itself and to apply remedies that appear to be needed. The VA is certainly coming in for sharp criticism on the way it is administering the law to assist returning veterans. Improving administration is more important than cracking down on a reporter.

### Refresher for Lawyers

The Oregon state bar is making definite plans to assist members of the legal profession who have been absent on military duty to brush up before reentering legal practice on their return from war. The bar plans to set up a School of Review in the law. It will last for one month and will offer five hours of lectures per day. The refresher courses will cover all the important law school subjects. The school will not compete with existing law schools as it is only temporary, giving service men a chance to review their law before hanging out their shingles again.

A tuition of \$80 will be charged for the course and the school will be one to qualify the veterans attending it for financial assistance under the GI bill.

The state bar is to be commended for thus moving to help lawyer-veterans to effect a successful readjustment to civil life.

Eastern Oregon farmers are pushing out their vests these days and talking about the "million-dollar rain" which came last week. It assures a good crop of winter wheat and will improve prospects for other crops and make more grass grow on the ranges. Farmers in this valley have no time to stick their thumbs in the armpits of their vests. The rain has piled up gobs of work and brought on a fine growth of weeds, so there is no time to lose in rejoicing over the extra-generous downfall.

### Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Job accepted for the clean-up. / The allied policy against the Germans was to build up enough strength of all sorts for a fast knockout.

That controlling motive was apparent in preparations for the D-day invasion of France. That operation was held back until every possible precaution against failure had been taken. Face to face with the full weight of the wehrmacht the allies had to be sure they had the power in the air and on the ground to drive through to a relatively quick victory. Otherwise they might be bled white by losses, short of triumph.

The only alternative proposed was reliance upon air power alone to bring Germany to her knees. Prime Minister Churchill at one early stage told congress in Washington that idea was at least worth a trial but not at the expense of preparations to do the job the hard way.

In the aftermath of the European victory no doubt there will arise debate as to whether, in the light of what is now known about the bombing damage on Germany, further delay in crossing the channel in force might not have been justified. In the inner sanctum of the allied high command application of what was learned in Germany of battle technique in air and on the ground to the circumstances of the war with Japan is in progress.

It probably will be months before events beyond the Pacific tend to reveal the decisions already taken or to come; but even now it seems clear that air power is due to get another chance.

There are air minded veterans who believe Japan could be knocked out of the war by air, or at least so greatly softened that the final occupation of the Japanese islands by ground troops would be at relatively small casualty cost.

They contend that even the overwhelming allied air superiority ratio against Germany will be surpassed once the full weight of Anglo-American air power is deployed in the east for action. They argue, also, that Japan both in dispersion of her war plants and the meagerness of her internal transportation and communication systems is more vulnerable than was Germany.

The test of what the Japanese can take from the air is certainly coming at no very distant date. Redeployment of allied air power against Japan on a scale of destructive power far beyond anything Germany suffered at its worst is too close prospect to doubt it. The results could go far to foreshadow how and when Japan's total collapse will come.



Distributed by King Features Syndicate by arrangement with The Washington Star

### Invitation From Moscow

#### The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

"THE AESTHETIC ADVENTURE," by William Gaunt (Narcourt, Brace, & Co.).

The story of "art for art's sake," in both painting and literature, from Gautier and Baudelaire to Cezanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin, is told in this wholly delightful book.

While it begins and ends with Frenchmen... though Roger Fry is the culminating figure... it is really the story as it unfolded, pathetic, dramatic and brilliant, across the channel in England.

Strangely enough, as it shows the British public clinging with a stolid obstinacy to Victorian idealism and bitterly hostile to a historically significant section of art and letters, it gives the effect of reducing Britain culturally to an insular and provincial status. Strangely enough, too, quite a few Americans, or men of American blood, appear importantly in these pages; beginning with Poe, they include Whistler, Clyde Fitch, Frank Harris, Joseph Pennell, John Singer Sargent.

The leading figures, besides Whistler and Fry, are Swinburne, Pater, Ruskin, Oscar Wilde, George Moore, Beardsley; these and others are brought to life vividly, sometimes with no more than a single illuminating or devastating phrase. The two most exciting single incidents are court scenes: Whistler's libel suit against Ruskin and Wilde's action against the Marquess of Queensberry, which ended in Wilde's conviction on the grounds of pederasty, that England had outlawed only ten years before.

Gaunt deserves a sound clap on the back, which as an Englishman is perhaps what he deserves it on the counts: for seeing the overall, general movement which reached into this century, and for reducing it, from an unimaginably vast wealth of material, to assimilable proportions.

It's a work of real scholarship, but written with such engaging wit that the man who never heard of Wilson Steer or John Lane or Theodore Duret will love every word. With his "Bandits in a Landscape," Gaunt became my favorite writer on art. With this book, he remains just that.

#### News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, May 19—Here is the story no one could get at San Francisco—the inside story of why Sidney Hillman, Russian labor, and leftists of British trade unions happened to assemble their new world labor order on Oakland, across the bay, just at the very day of the opening of the world peace conference, and what they were up to.

All inquiries were pushed aside out there with the explanation that this new world labor power, called the World Trade Union Congress, was merely looking for reflected publicity from its proximity to the conference, or something similarly inconsequential.

It is no wonder the story was hidden securely beneath a rubble of confusing explanations because it would have disclosed a coup de conference planned by Mr. Hillman and his Russian associates—a coup which was squelched completely in a secret meeting of the conference steering committee. Despite intervention by no less a power than Molotov himself. These are the facts:

The Oakland labor assembly was completely under control of Hillman and the Russians, with the British riding quietly behind them. The head of the Russian labor delegation at Oakland was also an official delegate for Russia in the San Francisco peace meeting and the pipeline between.

Through him the Hillman crowd worked up a program whereby they would all get into the conference and into the permanent peace setup by being established as the group to handle world labor problems. They succeeded in getting the economic committee of the conference to approve their entry as consultants. The economic committee includes strong representation of smaller nations, particularly Latin America.

A resolution carrying out this purpose was handed by the economic committee to the steering committee which is composed of all nations. After some warm

discussion, that guiding committee of the conference decided it would not even go into the matter thoroughly and defeated the resolution.

When Hillman saw this coming he got Molotov to champion his cause, and it was the Russian foreign minister who pressed the matter as far as it went in the steering committee.

By his adroitness Hillman thus outskipped himself and disclosed his hand. That Molotov would champion his cause was all-too-obvious evidence to everyone on the inside that their fears and suspicions about Hillman's trade union congress had solid ground—that it was more Russian than worldly.

A few days later the Oakland meeting quietly adjourned without taking any noticeable action and Mr. Hillman went off to southern California for a rest. The frustration of the coup represented a victory for Bill Green, the AFL president, who has been vigorously fighting Hillman's attempt since the last election to establish with the communist a world labor front.

Green demanded in resolutions passed by his executive council (May 8) that world labor be represented in the future world order by the international labor office, a successful creature of the old League of Nations. Shrewdly he did not seek the place for his own AFL world group which is represented by an organization known as the International Federation of Trades Unions.

He did not seek to steal for himself the world authority and power which he would deny to the CIO crowd, but would leave it to an established League of Nations organization. His position was impregnable.

I hear that even the British have become suspicious of Hillman's effort to align with the communists in a front which would in some ways be as powerful as the peace setup of the nations and—if Hillman's coup had gone through—able to influence the judgment of nations. The Russian unions are not free trade unions but subdivisions of the government.

I understand that even Sir Walter Citrine, the British ultra-liberal leader, is looking for open doors behind him to escape politely the agreement Hillman and the Russians effected in London some months ago establishing this new organization.

The British trade unions which were unanimously represented in that London gathering have now split, and I do not expect they will go very much further with Hillman and the Russian effort to capture world labor control.

Hillman, by this effort coming atop his domestic electoral activities, has lost much ground in Washington, particularly in congress.

No doubt he will try to come back and continue to build world labor power against the AFL's international unions, but the chances that he could become a great world control influence (as he tried domestically) seem to have been stopped definitely by the San Francisco action.

Also in his coming world combat with AFL, I would bet against him. Totalitarian trade unions are hardly what American workmen want. His league with the Russians (especially as it loses British support) may hurt the CIO in domestic labor dealings.

War Isn't Ended For Doughboys of Tomahawk Corps

### IN OCCUPIED GERMANY—

(P)—V-day didn't mean a thing as far as any cessation of hostilities was concerned for 21 doughboy specialists who work out of the nineteenth (Tomahawk) corps here in Germany.

It meant peace for thousands of others but these 21 men Kenneth Dixon are fighting Germans just as hard as they did ten days ago and risking their lives just as often in an effort to neutralize Nazi terror.

They are soldiers of the 110th, 115th and 122nd bomb disposal squads and for weeks to come they will continue to dig up and defuse unexploded German shells, neutralize booby traps and mines and disconnect enemy demolition charges and time bombs in ammunition dumps.

Two things stand in their favor; the top training that the army can give and plenty of experience. That they know their job is obvious for they have yet to suffer a single casualty despite handling more than 100 different types of German fuses since they hit Normandy. Once you talk to them you understand why they have such an unheated record.

First, their job is strictly voluntary and they eat, sleep and live their work.

They realize that their lives depend on getting along together and on the quick exchange of every bit of new information. They never cease talking shop.

Commanded by Lt. Allen E. Snyder of Maplewood, Mo., the 110th squad has been awarded the silver star, but they are not cocky about it nor are the other squads jealous. Everybody understands that it was merely the 110th's turn that day when the emergency call came in and

somebody had to do something about the burning ammunition truck blocking the main supply route. So the 110th did it.

Doing the job meant that Snyder and six enlisted men had to pull ammunition from the burning vehicle and neutralize it. It meant pulling grenades from the fire and taping down bared firing pins. It meant working while ammunition was still exploding. And it meant exploring the area and neutralizing anti-tank mines and howitzer shells scattered by the explosions.

Neither the 115th nor the 122nd squads begrudge the 110th its silver star, nor do they doubt they could have done the same job if it had been their turn.

That's the way they work. Each squad takes its turn on emergency jobs. Lt. Lawrence P. Fritz of Baltimore, Md., commander of the 115th squad, figures his toughest job was neutralizing seven bombs under a crashed airplane. He took out the fuses by hand, one of them under water. He and Snyder collaborated one day to recover a bomb under enemy observation and fire.

Lt. Robert W. Zinn of St. Albans, W.Va., and his 122nd squad remember especially the day when they and a naval officer pulled a 155 mm dud from a basin at Le Havre.

Crossing the Roer river the so-called "suicide specialists"—a name which their record belies—got one of their hardest workouts. The Tomahawk corps gave them the job of getting the ammunition over. In four days the three squads moved more than 500 tons of ammunition across the river. The squads' luck held, but of the men attached to them for the job, two drivers were killed and six others were injured by artillery fire.

Not all of their jobs have (Continued on page 6)

IT SEEMS TO ME (Continued from page 1)

of gravels and clays from the surrounding highlands and the deposit of volcanic material forced or attended the withdrawal of the sea from what is now interior Oregon. The resulting stratum is given the name of the John Clarno formation. It became folded and eroded with the passage of time. Upon it later fell great showers of ashes, probably wind-borne from the vents of volcanoes along the line of the present Cascades. These great showers of ashes caught the diversified flora and fauna of the time and imprisoned them. This layer is called the John Day formation. On it was laid down what is commonly called the Columbia river basalt flow—the dark-colored rock characteristic of great areas of the northwest, particularly east of the Cascade range. This was formed by a succession of lava flows, and makes what is one of the most extensive deposits of lava known on the earth's surface. Dr. Hodge estimated that 100,000 cubic miles of this lava flowed from the bowels of the earth. Spreading over an area of nearly 200,000 sq. mi. (twice the area of Oregon) to an average depth of 3000 ft., it has laid a cover on the older strata of the earth. Because of the thickness of this lava cover we have not been able to discover what minerals or petroleum wealth may lie in the older formations like the Clarno.

Through faulting of the earth and erosion, this thick layer of

practical religion

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

Ancestor worship is generally looked upon as an undesirable element in the ancient religions of the Chinese and other oriental peoples. Enlightened Christians consider it not only a superstition but also a factor which retards progress.

Yet we have a form of ancestor worship even in modern Christian America. It expresses itself in such statements as these: "It has always been done this way, therefore it must be continued this way." Or, "It has never been done, and therefore can't be done." This is definitely a backward view rather than a forward vision.

Certainly we should respect the great leaders and achievements of the past. We are indebted to our ancestors for much of that which we now enjoy. But the past should inspire us to a better future rather than retard our advancement. As one contemporary puts it: "Fats off to the past. Coats off to the future!"

gerous new opposition growth. Mr. Green's cry that his AFL represents American trade union concepts, however, is apt to be popular where it counts most, in the United States, including Washington, the center of national power.

### GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I'm not talking for publication, boys, but I don't want you leaving empty handed—if you raise your eyebrows inquisitively, I'll send you my head!"

Graduation Gifts from Stevens. Leather-Cased, Fitted Military Kits. Dresser Sets, handsome and practical. STEVENS & SON, 339 Court Street