

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Stilwell as Prophet

General Joe Stilwell, commander of U. S. ground forces, has been on Okinawa checking up on the fighting there. In an interview he discounted prospects of an early end of the Japanese war. He said it may last two years. Since "Vinegar Joe" has had plenty of experience fighting the Japs and planning for victory in the Pacific, his judgment is probably as good as we can find.

Barring a sudden decision of the Japs to capitulate, of which there is not the slightest indication, two years does not seem excessive as an estimate if everything has to be done the hard way, by killing off the Jap fighting men. Okinawa has fewer than 500 square miles, which is a space only 20 by 25 miles in dimensions; yet it has taken 72 days to drive the Japs back to the last bit of ground they hold. Measure that with the area of Japan's home islands, which surely will be defended as resolutely, and Stilwell's estimate may seem optimistic.

The veteran of the Burma-China campaigns said it would take an invading army of 500,000 men to strike at Honshu. Think what this means in terms of ships and munitions and supplies for the initial strike and then for the continued supply of men and material. This will be no mere crossing of the English channel as in the Normandy invasion. If the Philippines are the base it means a haul of 1847 miles from Manila to Tokyo. It is doubtful if we are anywhere near ready to mount such an attack. Recalling how long it took to build up supplies for the invasion of Europe we can understand better the length of time required to pile up strength for the final onslaught on Tokyo.

We may as well draw a deep breath and settle down seriously to this business of licking the Japs. It is going to be an operation taking a lot of time, a lot of men, a lot of production, a lot of bond buying, a lot of taxation, a lot of blood plasma, a lot of Red Cross work, a lot of volunteer work of various kinds. Nor should we think we can do the job in a one-handed way, with one hand free for normal activity. If we use both hands vigorously we can get the job done that much sooner.

All Americans, therefore, should get under various war projects (right now the seventh war loan) and carry their burdens without faltering until the job in the Pacific is finally concluded.

Very Confusing

Really the Russians should make up their minds about Hitler's fate. The correspondents who were admitted to Berlin last week wired back the report that the Russians had located one body which they felt sure was Hitler's. Next day came the quote from Marshal Zhukov giving his opinion that Hitler was alive and in hiding. All of which is very confusing, and say the least, which may have been quite as der fuhrer wished it.

We have the following stories of Hitler's fate:

Admiral Doenitz: Died at his command post in the reichschancellerie.

Himmler: So sick he would not live two days more.

His secretary: Remained at reichschancellerie with Eva Braun determined to meet his death there.

His doctor: Hitler was very ill and I administered a drug to end his misery.

And now the two Russian reports, neither one of which offers much credibility.

Oddly enough, no one other than the doctor has come forward with any report of Hitler's final fate. It is scarcely conceivable that all who were with him at the last perished. If any survive they have kept the secret well.

The doctor's story lacks corroboration.

While many are disappointed not to know positively that the chief villain of Europe's recent tragedy is dead, there is no doubt that his Germany that was to reign for a thousand years has fallen in utter ruin. These are fears that rumors of Hitler redivivus will keep the underground brownshirts alive and plotting.

On the other hand those rumors will haunt the allies and make them do their police job more thoroughly.

Birthdays greeting to The Gervais Star, which has its 54th anniversary last week. Mr. and Mrs. I. V. McAdoo took over the weekly newspaper 18 years ago, continued to publish it in Salem for a time when fire destroyed the plant in 1929, and since December of that year have produced it in its own home in Gervais.

Editorial Comment

A SAILOR'S SAY ON SUITS

Civilian, did you ever try dancing in bell-bottom trousers? Did you ever have on a sailor suit and try to find anything like a pocket that would hold folding money, I. D. cards, change, knife, matches handkerchief, and the other things a fellow likes to carry? That is, except for that one little patch on the left-hand breast of your jumper.

And speaking of jumpers, did you ever have to press one of the things? You do it with the garment turned inside out, you know. And, boy, how it has to be folded—just so! And how you have to go over those white stripes on your dress blues with bleaching fluid! And that huge collar—ever try to put on a pea jacket without mussing it all up? It simply can't be done alone.

And who do you suppose ever designed those ridiculous, practically useless hats—including the absurd blue "flat-tie"? And the fellow who thought up the 12-button square patch on the front of the pants that make 'em look like you had 'em on backwards deserves the Pulitzer prize for sabotage.

Well, civilians, it's good news that the navy has a special board on the job planning modernized sailor uniforms. Anything could be an improvement. But the tough part of it is that it won't come till VJ-Day, when we hope to be on the way toward getting back home and into loud sports suits. Anyhow, that's how sailors feel about it—Christian Science Monthly.

Cigaret Tax

Here we get to vote again on a cigaret tax, this time with a school support label attached. This measure, which was passed by the legislature with referendum, is the legislature's final attempt to dig up money for public schools. More money is diverted from state income tax surplus for schools, but that goes to reduce local property taxes and not for increased spending. Moreover, it is by no means permanent, being only what is left in the reservoir after state needs are all taken care of.

We find no great enthusiasm for this measure. The foes of a sales tax denounce it as an entering wedge for that hated means of raising money—although they make no effort to repeal the gas tax which is also a sales tax. Some people do not like it because cigarets and other forms of tobacco are already burdened with heavy federal taxes. Still others say it is poor morals to teach the kids the evil effects of tobacco and then tax cigarets to pay the teacher her salary. Another argument against the proposed tax is the pinning of its proceeds to a special purpose instead of putting them into the general fund for such appropriation as the legislature may see fit.

The argument for the cigaret tax is that it is productive, that many states have such a tax, and that this chiseling on a vice is standard practice in government; also that the schools need the money.

There seems little doubt that the negative side will appeal to more voters than the affirmative. However, as a gesture of sympathy for school support the writer expects to vote in the affirmative on the cigaret tax question.

Parks to Be Improved

The budget commission did a good job in providing additional money for public parks, lifting the budget allowance to \$21,550 as against \$6,667 for the current year. Of the sum allowed, \$10,000 is to go into park improvements.

This gives good response to the appeals from various parts of the city for betterment of parks. In addition there will be available for park improvement proceeds of a special tax which will amount to about \$35,000. This will go a long way to overcome the city's deficiency in this regard.

If the Bush pasture is purchased, as we trust it will be, no money in amounts of any consequence should be diverted from these sums which are needed for improvement of parks the city already owns; and as far as we are informed no such diversion is contemplated. The Pasture can be left as woodland and meadow until the city is ready to develop it. The only matter of urgency with respect to it is to acquire the land and save it for Salem's permanent public use.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Associated Press War Analyst

General MacArthur's inclusions of the Labuan beachhead on the west coast of Borneo on his airborne inspection trip of his long front sufficiently testifies to his intense interest in developments there.

The Borneo squeeze-play by Australian and Dutch troops with American air and naval support has a definite relationship to the whole allied strategic conception against Japan. Recapture of oil sources in northern Borneo would help solve Pacific logistic problems.

That probably is the first primary objective although air and sea bases on Borneo would supplement the firm control of the south China sea already established from the Philippines. It is the oil pools of northern Borneo at which both the east and west coast operations are directly aimed, however. Both on the Tarakan side and in Sarawak and Brunai in the west where first Australian main island footholds have been gained the oil is of such high grade that it can be used in ship's bunkers directly from the wells.

That is virtually the only oil source beyond the Pacific to which naval and supply line shipping can look at any early date to refill its tanks. Otherwise the whole vast needs of the army and navy on the Pacific front must be supplied from the United States.

There is no information as to the present state of Borneo wells. That the Japanese succeeded in getting them into production on a considerable scale soon after their conquest of the big island has been indicated by their use of Brunai bay and other Borneo harbors as fleet bases until they were driven out by MacArthur's advance to the Philippines.

Enemy efforts to destroy the wells and equipment are to be expected on Borneo if that has not already been done. The Japanese position there is hopeless in any case and with Japanese use of the south China sea for communications purposes reduced to no more than a trickle of shipping at best, the oil on Borneo is of small value to the foe.

The useful flow can be restored more quickly on Borneo than in Burma or on other oil producing islands of the Dutch Indies, nevertheless, due to the high grade of the product as it comes from the wells. No doubt the allied forces closing in on northern Borneo are closely followed up by the skilled workers and the equipment to get the wells going again at the earliest possible moment.

British observers meanwhile note that for the second successive wet monsoon season in Burma British forces are managing to conduct active campaigns. The divisions which cleared lower Burma and captured Rangoon have made no pause to refit and rest or to await formation of the new British 12th army based at Rangoon.

Gen. Horace Sewell, official British commentator, notes that the stage is being set in Burma for a post-monsoon offensive "likely to have far reaching effect in southeast Asia." Sewell added: "As the main strategic plan develops in southeast Asia and China the Japanese in Siam and Indo-China may be squeezed between the British and the Chinese."



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Fighting Togs

The Literary News Behind the News

By W. G. ROGERS

"THE BRICK FOXHOLE" by Richard Brooks (Harper, \$2.50).

If you can get over one hurdle, you'll find this an unusually good novel, grim, realistic, exciting, written in a clipped, staccato style.

The hurdle comes in the first few pages, when Jeff Mitchell, stuck in an army camp at home, lets himself believe an utterly unbelievable rumor that his young wife Mary has been unfaithful. Clear that high one, and it's swift sailing to the climax. Jeff sets out on leave for Washington to even things up, and a girl named Ginny gives him all the help he needs. Then a man has his head bashed in with the flat top of a toilet, there's a police and MP hunt, and a scene in a movie, and another in a museum. It gets you to tingling all over, for one reason or another, and you tingle to page 238, where it ends.

But this is more than a thriller. Who killed Cock Robin is part of it, but after you're finished, the question is less who, rather why. Brooks has something to say, as well as a story to tell. It's a grand treat to find worthwhile thinking fixed securely as the basis for a tale so tense and gripping.

"SHORT STORIES" by James Street (Dial, \$2.50).

These 14 stories are each accompanied by a foreword telling how it happened to be written. This idea seems to be coming more and more into fashion, and I confess I find it an added reason for wanting to go on and read how it all turned out. Most of these stories, which have a sentimental popular appeal, have appeared in the Saturday Evening Post or Collier's, and some have been made into radio scripts or movies.

"HALF-A-HUNDRED TALES BY GREAT AMERICAN WRITERS," edited with introduction by Charles Grayson (Blakiston, \$3).

This is an anthology that makes more sense than most; it's composed of stories not included in most other anthologies. The selections are good. Among the authors are Bronfield, Faulkner, Hammett, Hergesheimer, McFee, Pyle, Sherwood, Steele, Thurber, Tully, Wilder, Richard Wright.

The rebec was an ancient musical instrument somewhat like the violin.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Hon. Spy learn despicable American habit—wish to know if after 50 years faithful service, Imperial Government will present him with engraved gold watch?"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, June 11.—(AP)—In a very quiet way, Mr. Truman has started choosing judges on a democratic party basis rather than for their new dealism.

If he has any intention of reforming the federal judiciary, however, it will require his lifetime at least. In four terms, Mr. Roosevelt chose about 85 per cent of the present judiciary. His appointees were not weighed so much in strictly judicial scales, for superior legal minds or even-handed sense of justice, but for their advocacy of new dealism and its social ideology.

You can begin to see a fresh line being started by Mr. Truman, in the facts down behind his first three choices. These set what seemed to be strictly a party rule, holding that where the new dealers are locally in control he will name their men, but where democrats wield the dominant influence he will nominate theirs — arbitrating any clashes with compromise selections of his own.

You can also see behind the ins and outs of these first three cases why Attorney General Biddle is being ushered out of office so hurriedly. Truman's first appointment was Donald Gilliam as federal judge of North Carolina. Gilliam is not a reactionary and not a new dealer, but was recommended by a southern anti-new deal democrat, Senator Bailey. Gilliam has a good reputation as a lawyer, yet Bailey's effort to get him nominated was blocked in the justice department by Biddle for months before Truman came in. Biddle wanted to dispense ideologies as well as justice from the bench, says Bailey. The senator trotted down to the White House, saw Mr. Truman, and Biddle was overruled.

For the Minnesota federal judgeship, the inside story is that Democratic National Chairman Bob Hannegan intervened between factions to name another man against a Biddle candidate. At any rate, Mr. Truman nominated Dennis Donovan, of Duluth, who was attorney for the Oliver

Iron Mining company, although organized labor is friendly to him. He also is a qualified man, and Hannegan complimented Duluth for going to Roosevelt in the last election—if "compliment" is the proper word. At any rate Biddle wanted District Attorney Victor Anderson, although labor did not.

The third appointee for the eastern district of Michigan, Arthur A. Kocinski, Detroit, was charged with being a communist although the charge seems to have been false, judged by the evidence here. Kocinski once presided at a banquet of a Slavic organization which is pro-communist, but the chief speaker at the same banquet was Biddle himself. More convincing proof, however, is that Kocinski is a Catholic and a member of the board of a Catholic institution. At any rate Biddle held up his appointment many months, for one reason or another, although it bore the backing of the Polish congressman of Detroit, and had the support of the state party organization as well as the national committee. Kocinski is CIO and a new dealer, but his naming can be accurately characterized as a party appointment.

These three all have in common the backing of their state, senatorial or congressional organization, although strictly only one of a new dealer. They also have in common the opposition of the departing attorney general.

This change of judicial line has proved popular in congress; nevertheless, it must be reported the honeymoon is about over. When the new president followed the Roosevelt pathway and rebuked the house rules committee for blocking the fair employment practices bill for Negroes, one southern democratic leader (a senator) privately prophesied the south would not stay with Truman as long as it did with Roosevelt. "If sharp sectional issues, like this, develop," it is his view the south took much from Mr. Roosevelt for his lifting of the cotton price and other anti-depression measures.

In any event, it must be reported that where Truman has followed the Roosevelt line (\$25 a week employment insurance instead of \$20, as well as FEPC) congress is developing signs of formidable resistance.

Rep. Stockman (R-Ore) reports he has asked the immigration committee, of which he is a member, to hold hearings in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Klamath Falls, Ore., and Portland.

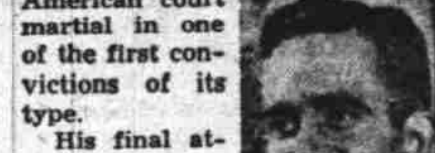
Stockman just returned from a week's hearings in New York, where proposals concerned liberalizing naturalization requirements, admission of aliens and deportation problems.

ICC to Investigate Oregon Train Wreck

PORTLAND, Ore., June 11.—(AP) Interstate commerce commission inspector G. B. Winter will hold formal investigation Tuesday into the railroad wreck which yesterday injured 18 persons. Winter today inspected the scene of the passenger-freight train wreckage at Willbridge station near here after taking testimony from train crewmen.

Kenneth L. Dixon
Yank Nations and Cigarettes Convict
17-Year-Old SS Man

By Kenneth L. Dixon
BAD HARBURG, Germany, (AP)—Siegfried Benz, 17-year-old Nazi storm trooper who tried to carry on the war two weeks after Germany's surrender, has been sentenced to death by an American court martial in one of the first convictions of its type.



His final attempt to kill Yanks failed, but he was convicted of "continuing the armed attack on Allied forces in defiance of the terms" of Germany's surrender.

He was captured in the Harz mountains sector after having fired on and thrown hand grenades at three members of the U. S. 280th field artillery.

German civilians throughout the U. S. 83rd division's occupation zone immediately began to speculate as to what would happen to Siegfried. After all he had killed no one—at least this last time. And did not everyone say Americans were soft?

They got their answer after a four-hour trial marked by no sign of softness except a determination to give Benz a fair trial.

Now there is considerable thoughtful discussion because the story of the trial spread over the grapevine almost as fast as did word of Siegfried's doom.

The devout follower of Hitler sat pokerfaced while Lt. Royden B. Bowen, cub plane observer from Houston, Tex., and Cpl. William B. Hunter of Fresno, Calif., gave the testimony which condemned him. It was those two and Cpl. Robert Engbreton of Bear Lake, Minn., who captured Benz and killed his aide.

They told how they had been informed of the SS hiding place by German civilians who had been fired on by the two Nazis, and how they had discovered a small camouflaged tent.

"I called on the occupants to come out several times. So did one of the German civilians with me but we received no response," Bowen testified. Swiftly Cpls. Edgar Shipper and William Bser, both new Yorkers, appointed to aid the storm troopers defense, translated for him.

Seigfried sat stolidly and continued to chew his gum. Bowen said he then fired two shots into the ground and a hand grenade was tossed from the tent.

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued From Page 1)

small parcels of material left-overs from other jobs, or get hold of reject lumber. If you watch such jobs and note how slowly they progress you will see how difficult it is to build under present conditions unless one has a green light in the way of a favorable priority.

The recent modification of order L-41 does life the requirement for a permit on amounts for home construction up to \$1000, for commercial stores and shops up to \$5000 and for industrial buildings up to \$25,000. But until supplies are released from the mills to retailers the builder has a very difficult job to get lumber for any job which doesn't have a priority.

When will more lumber be available for civilian, non-priority use? Not until the Jap war is much farther along. Every time the army moves to occupy a new island fresh bases must be built and lumber is the material first in demand. Then, for the long shipment across the Pacific, sturdy boxes or crates are required for munitions and all heavy supplies.

The earliest date that has been mentioned for an increase in lumber for private use is in the fall or about the first of the year; and the chances are that even then the increase will be small. By next spring, though, it would seem that the government's needs, except for current use, would be pretty well met, and that fair supplies of lumber will reach retailers for general distribution.

If you are planning to build, patience remains a prime virtue.

All three Yanks look over but it would have been too late if the grenade had not been a dud. "Hunter then emptied a clip from his carbine into the tent," Bowen continued. "After that there were two pistol shots from inside the tent and another grenade that failed to explode." Shortly after that Benz surrendered.

A search of the tent revealed that Hunter's shots had mortally wounded the other storm trooper, which the prosecution insisted proved that Benz had fired the pistol at the Yanks and had thrown at least the last hand grenade.

It was on this point that Siegfried's attorney — an American captain — based much of his defense, stressing that the young storm trooper who was slain had thrown the first grenade and that Benz denied any knowledge of the pistol shots or the second grenade.

However, the main defense was built around Siegfried's contention that he did not know that the war was over. He testified that he had been in hiding for three weeks and had not spoken with any civilians or seen any American military government proclamations.

But the prosecutor — another captain — promptly proved that one such proclamation printed in German was posted less than 500 yards from Siegfried's hideout.

That point probably convicted Siegfried. But although he sat still expressionless to the trial's end, his counsel fought on to save his life, asking the court's leniency on the grounds that Benz was captured without any American being killed.

It was that sort of thing that puzzled the German civilians — this business of an American pleading for the fanatical enemy's life even in the court room. These Harz mountains have housed many examples of German military justice but instead of courtrooms it consisted of crematoriums, concentration camps and torture chambers.

But if this was a sign of "decadent democracy's softness" it was belied swiftly by the court's pronouncement of the death sentence. Yet even the Germans understood the probable reason why the court denied leniency. Inside his tent they had found American ration and American cigarettes. But they had found no sign of the American soldiers to whom these articles had once belonged.

Two Japs in Klamath Area, Marine Says

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., June 10.—(AP)—Mounted patrols and marine corps combat veterans to-night searched the timber and brush covered mountains north of here for two men a marine said were Japanese.

The two men were sighted yesterday afternoon on a lonely mountain trail by PFC. Wayne Curtis, who said he knew from experience at Guadalcanal they were Japanese.

Curtis told Colonel George Van Orden, commanding officer at the marine corps barracks here, that the men stepped onto the trail he was hiking on and didn't see him immediately. "When he called 'Hey, you, there' they turned, saw him and dashed into the thick brush and disappeared up the steep mountainside.

Veterans Hospital May Be Enlarged

WASHINGTON, June 11.—(AP)—Senator Cordon (R-Ore) has referred a proposal to expand the Sam Jackson veterans' hospital at Portland, Ore., to the veterans administration.

The proposal asks addition of 2,000 beds which Cordon said he understood the administration has authority to build without additional legislation.

Rep. Angell (R-Ore) recently urged an enlargement of the 500 bed hospital.

Medford Will Vote On \$825,000 Bonds

MEDFORD, Ore., June 11.—(AP)—City electors will vote tomorrow on six improvement proposals in a special municipal bond election asking \$825,000 for new sewers, sewage disposal, bridges and park work and library expansion.

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