

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Britain's Whole Show

There are at least two parts of the now-famous Churchill speech of April, 1942, which indicate the British prime minister either was not as fully informed of American war progress as one might suppose or was still unwilling to take the house of commons fully into his confidence.

The speech, in secret session, was the one in which he disclosed that Singapore had surrendered to far inferior Japanese forces, numerically, but asked that no formal investigation be instigated because of its possible effect on the war effort.

His variance from the truth lay in two comments: (1) that remnants of the Pacific fleet (American) had been withdrawn from Pearl Harbor to bases 2000 miles eastward on the United States coastline, and (2) that in large measure the losses of capital ships in that holocaust of Dec. 7, 1941, had been made up.

The truth was that the remnants of our fleet had not been withdrawn from the mid-Pacific but even then were carrying the war, via supply lines and hit-run offensives, further to the westward, and that capital ship losses hadn't even begun to be replaced—there wasn't a battle-ready battleship in the Pacific from the day of Pearl Harbor until several months after the following April when Churchill gave his state-of-affairs talk before the house.

In an over-all comment on the Pacific, however, Churchill was right—he said the United States had temporarily lost control of the sea. The prime minister also made known a good many military secrets in that talk, and didn't gloss over several extremely unpleasant truths. He cannot be charged with trying to mislead the commons in regard to the war picture as a whole.

The only logical conclusion which presents itself, then, is that liaison information between the allies was not all that could have been desired in those initial months of American participation. It would be interesting to learn from Churchill himself whether that was true, or whether for reasons of morale he did not wish to go quite as far with the information at hand as would seem to have been warranted in view of his other disclosures.

## Weapon Research

The signal corps of the army had barely finished its announcement of making radar contact with the moon last week when this week the Ordnance branch reports that V-2 type rockets capable of rising 50 miles from the surface of the earth have been perfected.

The Ordnance department goes on to suggest that tying the two achievements together may not be far distant, or may even have already been accomplished. It states that guided rockets capable of striking any portion of the earth's surface "are not beyond the range of possibility."

Thus the essential element of atom warfare seems almost within grasp: The atom-armed rocket, capable of striking accurately any target in the earth's surface within a few minutes of the making of the firing contact.

It seems likely that the principles of the long-distance rocket are known to the major allied countries. German technicians are said to be working on the American version already perfected, and the British and Russians are probably as well informed and as far advanced as our own services. The atom bomb secret itself is, so far as we know, still ours, but for how long is less clear. It is possible to envisage warfare with atom-charged rockets, but hardly likely that such warfare can be one-sided.

These technical announcements should be, of course, the best possible spur to the delegates of the United Nations Organization now meeting in London to perfect the organization of the world for peace. They are a reminder that while debate and political calculating goes forward, it goes hand in hand with the silent but ever more implacable advance of research in the fields which produce ever more efficient and deadly weapons.

## Scouts on the March

An "E" flag of some kind has been well earned by leaders of the Cascade council, Boy Scouts of America, and it is fitting that the council's recent fine report for 1945 should be closely followed by national observance of Boy Scout week, February 8 to 14.

This year's theme—Scouts of the World—Building Together—is particularly adapted to the times, since there are scouts in 70 nations which from here on out have a choice of "building together" or being torn completely apart.

Boy Scouts and their younger Cub brothers performed fine service in many ways during the years of war. Their work on the home front was in direct proportion to the valor which so many thousand scouts and former scouts exhibited in all branches of the armed forces.

The Cascade council's goal of 1800 scouts and 1200 cubs by the end of 1946 is well worth while.

It costs \$375 for a one-way trip by air across the Atlantic. Prediction is that the fare will go down to \$300 or even to \$200 within the next few years. At that price and with American wages what they are, the hired girl can revisit Ireland or Sweden during her vacation.

Were it not for bombs and bullets this newspaper would rather report fighting the Germans and Japs than the present fighting between labor and capital.

Statesman headline: Aquatic Show Set Wednesday at Willamette. But not in the Willamette at this season.

## The Fire Loss Grows

The need for better fire protection generally in Oregon is pointed up sharply by summary figures for 1945 which show that this state, with hardly 1 per cent of the nation's population, had more than 4 per cent of the large-loss conflagrations (\$250,000 loss or more) last year. Total damage in this state also approximated 4 per cent of the national toll.

Statistics provided by the National Fire Protection association indicate there were 163 large-loss fires in 1945 (seven of them in Oregon), and that total loss approximated \$122,000,000 (\$5,650,000 in Oregon). And more tragic yet is the fact that this huge latter figure, a new record, constituted only 25 per cent of the damage from all fires, large and small. The nation's total fire loss was given as \$455,000,000.

Oregon's seven large-loss fires were listed as those of the Oregon Shipbuilding yard in Portland, \$3,000,000; the Tillamook burn, \$1,000,000; Timber Structures, Inc., Portland, \$500,000; Oregon Pulp mill, Salem, \$350,000; Iron Fireman, Portland, \$300,000; Kerr-Gifford Flour mill, Pendleton, \$250,000; Hudson-Duncan Packing plant, Portland, \$250,000.

Contributing factors to such fires were given thusly: "Lack of adequate private fire protection such as automatic sprinklers or fire alarm systems featured in 116 of these large-loss fires, closely followed by such factors as inferior construction, excessive areas, congested stocks, high-valued material, lack of fire doors or vertical fire cut-offs, and the presence of flammable liquids and gases."

Warehouse fires were the most frequent, but mercantile stores, airplane hangars and metal-working plants were close runners-up. But what is still more pertinent is the fact that the west coast states were linked with the central and mid-Atlantic states as an area of highest incidence. And even more pertinent—22 of the greater fires occurred at plants outside city limits, "beyond normal fire protected areas."

The tragedy of death—more than 10,000 fatalities were recorded in fires of 1945—came more frequently in conflagrations at private homes which averaged an estimated 1000 a day. So it is not only greater fire protection of major plants, but greater care at home, that is vitally essential to reduce a menace which threatens to cost the nation a half-billion dollars this year.

## Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 30—The Pearl Harbor investigation has cleared the air over the greatest naval disaster of all history, only by dividing the fog into two parts. If you look carefully through the accumulated mass of testified details, you will find there is not much remaining confusion about the facts. But there is such a divergence of interpretation over what the facts mean that an agreed report is impossible. The democrats will write one version, the republicans another. Any objective historian will have to seek to assign the blame in future, calmer, non-political years.

But he can start with the following conclusions which represent the studied impression of impartial observers who have heard it all and were canvassed by me for their personal conclusions: Adm. Kimmel and Gen. Short cleared themselves of lone responsibility and required Washington to share the blame. They showed they had not been advised sufficiently of information in the possession of Washington officials to take the precautions necessary or otherwise prepare themselves for such a disaster. They did not escape responsibility, but the evidence showed clearly why Washington never dared court-martial them.

### FDR Escapes Lightly

Everyone here, in the White House, army and navy, failed to escape. Mr. Roosevelt escaped lighter than the others. His name was brought into the inquiry only in connection with his efforts, a year or more earlier, to keep the fleet based in Hawaii instead of on the west coast. He was proved responsible for the over-all policy which kept the fleet there. By inference he shares some degree of the responsibility of Gen. Marshall and navy for failing to make their Hawaiian agents aware of an attack they knew was coming somewhere. Their testified excuse is that they got their information from secret code and did not want to use the normal avenues of communication, including the telephone, for fear the Japs would find out their code had been broken by us.

### No Secret Agreement

Mr. Roosevelt also was shown to have been responsible for moving three battleships, an aircraft carrier and several destroyers into the Atlantic, earlier, thereby weakening the fleet, but it was not shown definitely, as suspected, that he and Churchill had an agreement for aggressive parallel diplomatic action against Japan (some contended this provoked the Japs to attack).

Washington did know the Japs had established a "wind code" to notify their outlying forces ("east wind rain" meant a break with the United States). But the committee never found that a message executing this code had been received here.

The Roberts commission is supposed to have seen one and a naval commander said he saw one, but no one could find it. Many facts of the Roberts investigation were confused when War Secretary Stimson and Navy Secretary Forrestal both sent investigators out checking, but these confusions do not alter the fact that it is practically impossible to point to one or two men and say he or they were wholly or chiefly to blame.

As one democratic committeeman finally put it, everyone from "the highest in Washington to the lieutenant in Hawaii who misinterpreted the radar report muffed the situation."



Paging Hairbreadth Harry!

## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

THE LONG NOVEMBER, by James Benese Nablo (Dutton, \$2.50)

Joe Mack, nipped by a sniper in the shoulder, hides in an Italian house for the three hours until dark when he plans to slip by the Germans who fill the street outside the windows.

This was not his first tight fix. Born in Canada but spending some years in this country, he was a child in World War I, a young fellow trying desperately to earn a living during the depression, a rich man when Hitler cut loose. He smuggled liquor across the border, dug meals out of refuse dumped in Chicago alleyways, bunked at the Salvation Army, worked as truck driver's helper, labored dangerously in a mine. The one thing he seems not to have lacked was women.

Waiting in some pain for the moment when he can flee to his own lines he recalls all the long Novembers since 1929. Though thoughts of Steffie, the girl he loved, come oftenest to his mind, he reviews with some bitterness and sarcasm the services rendered him by the countries which now expect their money back, which put him in uniform and send him out to fight. He was starved, cheated, deprived of his girl; he saw labor repressed and the rich prosper.

It isn't his war, he decides, any more than it was his kind of a society which recruited him. Bearing a neat little wound, he can go back home to safety. At least that's his intention during most of his three hours' wait.

This is a tough, young, eager book, told in clipped, masculine language by Joe Mack himself. It may be GI Mack, or thousands of the boys instead of just one. And where it is a little too loud voiced to be literature, it's apt to be that worthy substitute, life. CAN YOU TOP THIS? by "Senator"



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manufacturer "fills the pipeline" to all his outlets and furnishes a few pieces to each dealer his production is pretty well absorbed. There is a pent-up demand from nearly five years of self-denial which cannot be met in the space of a few months.

A present threat is the steel strike. Enormous quantities of steel sheets are consumed in the manufacture of refrigerators, washers, ranges. The equipment manufacturers probably did not have large inventories when the strike broke and halted deliveries. When the stocks on hand are used up, the production line will have to stop until steel manufacturing is resumed.

Why not sell the present samples now on dealers' floors? Because they have been shipped by the manufacturer solely for display purposes; and franchise agreements often require such exhibition. First automobiles are in the same category. They are held for display of glories to come, but are not being sold at present.

The lady's plaint carries a warning to businessman and manufacturer. The public is going to get tired of excuses before long. The war is over; production should start and deliver.

Ed Ford, Harry Hershfield and Joe Laurie, Jr. (Dialer, \$2.50)

Here in black and white are eggs of the professional funny men heard over NBC. Sometimes they're good for a laugh, but sometimes they work pretty hard for their money, or for yours.

eries should follow in increasing volume. If they do not the public which has waited with great patience thus far will become not just irritated, but irate. Manufacturers, workers, merchants all have a responsibility to the consumers whom they have undertaken to supply with essential goods. They should all "get in line" to furnish the supplies the people greatly need and are able to pay for.

## Oregon Navy Man Praises Halsey, Stassen

Commodore Roger Simpson, who commanded a destroyer flotilla in Adm. William Halsey's famed task force 38, visited Wednesday with his cousin, Mrs. Bill Delf, 495 N. Summer st. Simpson grew up in Oregon, graduating from Newport high school. After two years at the University of Oregon he was appointed to Annapolis in 1917 and made the navy his career.

In the early days of the war Simpson was in command of a destroyer in the south Pacific and later of a group of destroyers. He took part in the long running fight with the Jap fleet in the Solomons when American naval forces were slight. Later, after a tour of duty in the states, Simpson rejoined Admiral Halsey to command a flotilla in the closing days of the war. His ships were the first to enter Tokyo bay, arriving there August 29.

His assignment at Tokyo was to rescue U. S. prisoners of war. He had as his chief of staff Commodore (now Captain) Harold E. Stassen, loaned from Halsey's staff. In three weeks they got out the prisoners from the Tokyo area, some of whom they found in most deplorable conditions.

Simpson has high praise for Captain Stassen, finding him an executive of excellent judgment. He is also highly eulogistic of Admiral Halsey, under whom he served through much of his navy career. Halsey's remark at the beginning of 1942 that Hirohito would regret that he started the war before the end of that year was sheer bluff, but it worked, says Simpson, to hold back the Jap fleet at Truk and give Americans time to build up their fleet. "All America got into the war," was Simpson's comment. "Our great production of ships and planes and supplies was what enabled us to win."

Simpson's home is in Long Beach. He will soon go out to Okinawa on his next tour of duty.

## Mammoth Tourist Trade Expected

GRANTS PASS, Jan. 31 (AP)—Oregon will have more tourists than can be handled by present tourist courts and similar accommodations, Harold Say, state highway commission travel bureau director, told auto court operators here last night.

E. Bancroft Wells of the Portland Chamber of Commerce said his organization was spending \$80,000 to sell Oregon to Oregonians, to attract tourists, and to school those who meet tourists in the best methods of treating them to assure repeat visits.

## Battered Body Identified in California Case

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF., Jan. 31 (AP)—Sheriff Emmet Shay announced tonight that the body of a woman found Wednesday night near Fontana, had been identified by Ernest Miegltz of Los Angeles as that of his wife, Alice, 35.

Shay said Miegltz told him that his wife left Los Angeles last Tuesday by bus to visit a friend, Mrs. Anita Allela, in San Bernardino, but she never reached there. The husband saw a picture of the woman's dress and jewelry in a newspaper, came here and, after viewing the body, positively identified her, Shay reported.

The body was found in a lonely wasteland section, the head badly battered and the right hand nearly severed. Dr. Albert Hirst, autopsy surgeon, said he discovered more than 20 separate fractures of the skull.

When she left home, Miegltz said, his wife had about \$50 in her purse. The purse and money have not been found, but some jewelry remained on her fingers. Miegltz is an employe of a Los Angeles streetcar company.

## 25,970 Troops Expected at Ports Today

By the Associated Press  
More than 25,970 veterans are due to return to this country on 31 vessels at four west and two east coast ports today.

West coast arrivals: San Francisco, 8068 personnel, 12 vessels; Los Angeles, 3527, three ships; San Diego, at least 6674, five Seattle, Wash., one vessel, 1280.

At Los Angeles—Miscellaneous on following: Westmoreland, Oahu, 137; Sea Rudder, Yokohama, 2187; Morrison R. Waite, Noumea A, 13.

At Seattle—USS General Pinkney from Sasebo, 1280 miscellaneous.

At San Diego—Assault transport Wakefield from Tsingtao, China, 6653 personnel including units of First and Sixth marine divisions, navy and coast guard.

Miscellaneous on following vessels: Destroyers Orleck and Craig, Canal Zone, 21 navy; auxiliary ships YF 889 and YF 890 from Pearl Harbor, no passenger information.

At San Francisco—Miscellaneous personnel on following: General Mitchell, 119 navy, 5169 army; Montour from Okinawa, 1424 navy; Santa Cruz from Kwajalein, 351 navy; 743 army; Valencia, 151 navy; C. Brannon from Pearl Harbor, 54 navy; Harris from Pearl Harbor, 57 navy; Unicorn, Wakeforest Victory, Dufillo, Haas and Davis Shanks, few each.

## Club Carnival Royalty Meet Student Body

The Civics Club Carnival princesses were introduced at a formal introduction ceremony in the Salem high school auditorium Thursday morning. The nineteen candidates for queen and their escorts are: Mariann Croisan, Jim Barlow; Beverly Kenney, George Adams; Pat Larson, Dick Close; Jean Hatfield, Del Kleen; Jean Doolittle, Frank Brownell; Nellie King, Jerry Hayes; Carolyn Davis, Johnny Bull; Madeline Keene, Don Beltz; Leola Vandiver, Wayne Hauser; Delores Clement, Pete Hoar; Joyce Everson, Don Johnson; Barbara Sundt, Al Bellinger; Pat Ages, Don Pickett; Mary Reimann, Bud Craig; Avis Steimer, Webby Ross; Joan Randall, Vern Each; Lorna Arnold, Doug Carter; Miriam Shellenberger, Bunny Mason, and Dorothy Bergavik, Dalton Hobbs.

The student body election of queen will take place Monday, but the winner will not be presented until the night of February 8. The two girls next highest in votes will be crown princesses at the carnival.

## Yakima Cherry Men Invite Local Growers to Meeting

The Cherry Institute of Yakima, Wash., has extended an invitation to Marion county cherry growers to attend a cherry institute meeting in Yakima Saturday.

The program is arranged to permit cherry growers to discuss their problems with each other and with agricultural leaders of Washington, President George L. Oliver of Yakima has advised. Subjects listed for presentation by Washington cherry leaders include the cherry virus situation, orchard fertilization, fruit fly control, cherry pollination and airplane spraying.

Opening session is called for 9:45 a.m. The discussions will continue through the day.

## Board Shortens Interview Hours

To speed handling of sugar applications, Marjorie Leo, OPA rationing representative, announced this week in Portland that no "personal interviews" will be given to applicants after 3 p.m. each day, in order that her small staff may have a few hours to act on applications by mail which compose the bulk of the work load.

The staff in the Bedell building now handles sugar rationing for the entire Oregon district including southwestern Washington counties. Sugar applications, except those for industrial and institutional users, are available at local boards, she said.

## Labor Request Rejected by Chile Leader

SANTIAGO, Chile, Friday, Feb. 1.—(AP) Acting President Alfredo Dubalde announced today that the government had decided it could not grant radical party demands for reorganization of the cabinet along leftist lines—one of the conditions laid down by the Chilean labor confederation in return for calling off a general strike.

Dubalde said that reorganization of the cabinet at the present time would only add to general unrest and might precipitate a new domestic crisis.

Only a short time before Dubalde made his announcement leaders of the confederation of labor had issued a communique protesting the government's delay in living up to promises which the confederation said it had received before calling off the general strike.

It was expected that the powerful radical party, member of the leftist popular front which put the present regime in power, would reply to Dubalde's announcement with a manifesto withdrawing its support of the government.

## Mountains Still Offer Hazards To Motorists

Oregon highway conditions were improved today, with roads almost normal except in the mountains and a few eastern Oregon points.

The highway commission's daily road report included:

Government Camp—Snowing, 11 inches new snow, total snow 34 inches. Temperature 28 degrees, packed snow throughout district.

Santiam Junction—Snowing lightly, 30 degrees, half inch new snow. Total snow at summit 115 inches, at Junction 68 inches. Chains advised.

Odell Lake—Snowing lightly, 21 degrees. Total snow at summit 136 inches. Packed snow on Willamette highway east of Milepost 46, which partly sanded but chains advised. One-way traffic above oakridge.

Siskiyou Summit—Packed snow very slick. Chains necessary.

Klamath Falls—All roads in district sanded.

## Movie on Optometry Shown to Vets at YMCA

"The Future of Sight," a film depicting the need for optometrists and explaining the profession, was shown at the YMCA Thursday night to a group of war veterans.

It was the first meeting of a vocational series being planned by the YMCA veterans' committee. The YMCA movie "Men of Tomorrow" also was shown.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Now, Otis, when you meet father try to make a good impression—try to let him think he knows as much as you do!"

**DIAMONDS**  
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Just one of the many fine diamond engagement rings you will find at Stevens. Also matched sets and diamond wedding rings.

Budget Payments

339 Court