

Writer Finds Neutral Spain West Country In Europe

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New York Correspondent

Spain is full of on-the-spot news. Events have conspired to make the life and living in the neutral country, and the neutral spot in Europe is Madrid.

Madrid has attracted the usual hangers-on to the gay life. The sophisticated exiles from all over Europe before the war thronged the city. In Paris have now descended like locusts on the Ritz.

Madrid is a brittle and unsteady lot, as annoying to the Spaniards as to anyone else, and its presence in Spain is a constant embarrassment. But in any lights are blazing, the city is booming, the bands playing, and the sky is the limit over town.

New movie palaces, marked by neon facades, operate around the clock and get play from the Spaniards. It was told that Stockwell I was the largest per-capita attendance of any city in the world. The Spaniards are just movie-mad.

It is only the superficial evidence of an economic change in a change that started with the improvement in the speed as the Spanish became more and more that their country was being dragged into the war.

Spain is more desperately in Spain than in any other on the continent. Spain's railroads in the Spanish war; the system just fell to pieces. She must depend on the distribution of food from the producing areas, and for the commercial life. She depends on tractors for her farming operations.

Spain's full peace-time capacity for petroleum is 100,000 tons per year, the chief of American Petroleum Commission explained to me in Madrid. Spain is bringing in 10 percent of that amount. This stage is larger than for any country in Europe.

With the increased flow of goods and merchandise, the Spaniards began to turn in a replacement boom. And our troops landed in North Africa, Spain began demobilizing army to something like 200,000 men. Spain's economy received another virtuous impact from ex-soldiers' re-employment work.

Madrid itself is in the middle of a building boom. New modern apartment houses, offices are going up everywhere. The famous University district, so badly damaged by the civil war, has been rebuilt. The university has made twice its former size the modernistic buildings like a world's fair.

Spain's food supply situation is uneven.

and by no means solved. But it is so much better than it used to be, and so much better than elsewhere in Europe, that by continental standards the improvement is dramatic. Only bread is rationed today. From an agricultural standpoint, Spain always has been a marginal country at best, and she is not now on the high road toward ample food. But there is much valuable land in Spain which is being developed by the new irrigation projects in the south, and at the same time the waterways are being harnessed into new industrial development through hydro-electric systems.

Commercial articles are actually plentiful: woollens, textiles, shoes and linens, radios, household accessories, furniture, electrical appliances and luxury items of every sort are on sale. Madrid is the best place in Europe to buy what you want. The streets are crowded, the shops are full and the people are spending.

It is this spending rather than actual scarcity which now represents Spain's real problem. Farmers and employees of every sort are exchanging their pesos in a big way, and the velocity of this money turnover has set the whole country on an inflationary whirl. Prices are high, and that is the rub. As all over Europe, including England, the official attempt to control prices has been a big help to the Black Market. It is this factor in Spain—the whirling currency factor—which is the big feature now.

Nazis Can't Pay Debts
Germany still owes Spain vast sums of money for materials purchased in the past. When the Spaniards became convinced that Germany cannot win the war, they pressed her for the payment of these balances. Not a German fund, which they felt would finally be worthless, but by the delivery into Spain of ordinary commercial goods.

This demand has embarrassed the Germans—for, of course, the Germans are long on worthless money and short on commercial goods. The effect has been to further widen the breach between Germany and Spain. For as the Germans fail to pay their debts by shipping electrical goods, street cars, structural steel and everything else from sealing wax to ships, and tried instead to substitute a bookkeeping entry within Germany, the Spaniards feel swindled by the "good neighbor policy" which the Germans have touted so loudly in the years just past.

Spain has had her war. It is something of a surprise to realize that she is the first country in Europe to emerge in a post-war revival.

Around Oregon—

By the Associated Press
The OPA liquor rollback will become effective in Oregon March 1 but State Liquor Administrator Ray Conway said he doesn't know whether it will make prices higher or lower. . . . The labor department children's bureau said 498 requests by Oregon servicemen's families for maternity and infant care were approved in December. . . .

The Central Lincoln People's Utility district announced at Newport retirement of \$8000 in revenue bonds, part of \$731,000 issued last year for purchase of West Coast Power company facilities. . . . Traffic violations have cost 319 Oregon and southwestern Washington motorists from 1 to 16 gasoline coupons since December 1, the district OPA reported at Portland night.

Oregon Shipbuilding corporation will deliver the Peter Moran, its 32nd and last Liberty ship at Portland Friday night.

PACIFIC GETS NEW ACE
GUADALCANAL, S. I., Feb. 3. (AP) Lt. Robert M. Hanson, Newtonville, Mass., a marine flyer, shot down four Jap planes, including two new models, in the allied raids on Rabaul Sunday to boost his total of enemy planes downed to 25 and make him the leading south Pacific ace now in action.

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HERE FRIDAY, SATURDAY, and MONDAY
FEBRUARY 4-5-7
9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE HEARING TEST
and PRIVATE DEMONSTRATION of new SYMPHONIC ACOUSTICON Hearing Aid based on U. S. Govt. Findings
The new Symphonic Acousticon has been called by many of its users, the *finest hearing aid ever made*. It embodies magnificent craftsmanship which gives tonal clarity and beauty of sound to your grateful ears. Such a great instrument is possible only because of the knowledge and skill accumulated by Acousticon engineers and technicians through 42 years of experience. This is the longest experience in the hearing aid industry.

ACOUSTICON INSTITUTE
214 Miner Bldg. Phone 3636

Open House at USO

An invitation to Eugeneans to attend the open house of the Eugene USO club and participate in the celebration of the national USO's third birthday, was extended Thursday by Mrs. Omar Fendall, secretary.

Hours for the open house will be from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Mrs. Fendall announced. "This weekend is the time for every person who has contributed to USO, to find out what facilities and entertainment the servicemen receive in Eugene," Mrs. Fendall stated.

Although the third birthday of the national organization is being observed, the Eugene club was not established until November, 1942 at its present site, Broadway and Pearl. Mrs. Fendall reports that it has always appealed to boys stopping over in Eugene and that an average of 2000 service boys and girls a month pass through its doors.

Club women of the Eugene vicinity have been very generous with their time in serving at and all revealed. She said that she baking for the canteen, Mrs. Fendall would not estimate the number of sandwiches, cookies, cakes and pies they have made for the husky appetites of the USO guests.

Mrs. Fendall also gives credit for the success of the Eugene USO to the Eugene girls, who have signed up as junior hostesses, and who help entertain the barracks-weary soldiers on their furloughs here.

In a recent survey taken of soldiers' attitudes toward the USO it was found that the five most popular activities were writing letters, dancing, reading magazines, listening to the radio, and meeting girls. The USO secretary is anxious that Eugene people acquaint themselves with the local club's facilities in meeting these popular demands.

ELK RELEASED

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Fifty head of elk from the Jackson Hole, Wyo., herd have been released in Owyhee county, south of west Idaho, the Idaho fish and game department said today.

TODAY on the HOME FRONT
By JAMES MARLOW and GEORGE ZIELKE

WASHINGTON — (AP) — For a great many workers, it's high time to start saving money for income tax payments coming due in March—payments which may be a lot bigger than they realize.

This is true particularly of persons who weren't required to make a declaration of estimated tax (and pay up) last September or December.

In general, a sizeable amount will be due March 15 from any individual who didn't pay on such a declaration—if:

1. The worker earned enough to become an income tax payer for the first time in 1943. Or—

2. Earned substantially more in 1943 than in 1942.

This is because the withholding from wages and salaries during the first half of 1943 was for the victory tax only, and didn't cover any of the regular income tax.

For those with increased income in 1943 over 1942, the payments they made last March and June, based on 1942 income, wouldn't make up for that half year of 1943 regular tax.

Also, everyone who owed an income tax of more than \$50 for both 1942 and 1943 will have some "unforgotten" tax to pay.

Persons who started working in 1943 may get the biggest jolt. For instance, a single person who earned \$25 a week throughout 1942 and didn't owe a tax for 1942 will have to pay up to \$73.75 on March 15—almost three weeks' pay! That's over and above all the amounts taken out of pay for taxes during 1943.

And a single person who earned \$40 a week all through 1943 and who didn't owe a tax for 1942 will face a tax bill of up to \$140 on March 15—three and a half weeks' pay! Again, that's in addition to amounts taken out of pay during 1943.

Taxpayers who filed declarations of estimated tax last September or December had to get up-to-date on their 1943 liability, but most of them, too, will still owe something in March—half the uncanceled portion of one year's tax (congress canceled 75 percent or at least \$50 of either the 1942 or 1943 tax, whichever was lower).

In addition, these taxpayers (in the declaration brackets) will have to file 1944 declarations —

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MONTGOMERY WARD

and start paying on them—probably in April. This responsibility was delayed because congress still hasn't passed the new tax bill.

Introduction of the Irish potato was responsible largely for the tripling of Ireland's population in 60 years after 1785.

Order Chicks Now!

FROM MONTGOMERY WARD

Don't get caught short in the big peak chick-buying market of late March and April. Don't be disappointed this year, as were thousands of would-be chick buyers last year . . . because they waited too long before ordering chicks. Place your chick order now . . . at Wards . . . whether you want chicks immediately or later. Orders placed now will naturally have priority . . . even during the rush season of March and April. But if you possibly can . . . this year start your chicks early. An early start means higher profits for you . . . and extra assurance of getting chicks when you want them!

BUY WAR STAMPS AT WARDS

POULTRY PROFIT RECORDS PROVE . . .

100 AS HATCHED 2-STAR NEW HAMPSHIRE 15.00

Every Ward chick is a Star Quality Chick . . . produced by a Ward Approved Flock . . . and hatched in a Ward Approved Hatchery operating in strict compliance with the accepted rules for the production of quality chicks. Every flock is tested for B.W.D. . . . and reactors are immediately removed. Flocks are constantly culled and poor producers thrown out. Constant, fresh infusions of breeding blood from the high-producing flocks of the world's most famous poultrymen mean extra quality chicks—chicks of extra vigor and livability, that grow up to produce extra eggs . . . and extra profits for you. All chicks are warranted true to name and breed. This year . . . place your order early . . . and order from Wards . . . to make sure of getting top-quality, high-producing chicks that live and lay!

EVERYTHING FOR POULTRY

For years, Wards has been headquarters for top-quality poultry equipment—the kind of equipment that cuts your work and increases your profits. Whatever you need for a high-producing poultry flock . . . you'll find it at Wards . . . at typically low Ward money-saving prices!

BUY NOW . . . PAY WARDS LATER

Take advantage of a best-ever poultry market. Start a larger flock this year. Buy your chicks now . . . and the equipment you need for your larger flock. Pay Wards later on a convenient Monthly Payment Plan. Let Wards finance your larger flock and extra poultry profits this year!

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McGrady Yellow
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Dr. Kirk
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Dark Night
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Mad. Cecil Brunner
Tallman
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Hodley
Roses Thom
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K. A. Victoria
Paul Scarlet

Many others, too numerous to mention here.

GRADE I and I 1/2 . . . 65c and 45c

PATENTED BUSHES

1.00 to 2.00

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Pearl Harbor
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Ramon Bach
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