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The Battle of the Marianas

Only last Thursday the Oregonian in commenting editorially on the attack on the Mariana bases of Japan by an American task force declared that "the activity in the Pacific is nicely calculated to prevent the public from becoming impatient—little more. For that reason we decline to ballyhoo such a raid," although in the initial effort 13 Jap ships had been sunk, 16 others damaged and 141 enemy planes destroyed. The Oregonian continued:

"They (the American people) do not need to have this stupid pretense imposed upon them to the effect that full-scale offensives are being operated on both fronts, when actually the blow is against Europe and the Pacific actions are 'just enough.' Let's look at it that way and have done with this shoddy manipulation of the public mind."

Now the Mariana attack was as important in the Pacific war as the allied landing in Normandy in the European theater, and as daring. The Marianas are the heart of Japan's defensive line, the attack is not mere island hopping. Saipan will afford a base for shuttle bombing by Super-Fortresses of the Japanese mainland, hence Japan's desperate resistance, both on land, sea and in the air.

The seizure of Saipan has evidently accomplished Admiral Nimitz' objective by bringing out the Japanese naval fleet and air force in an all-out defense and a show-down battle. Already 600 enemy planes have been destroyed along with many ships by the Americans, and it is reported that a show-down naval battle is in progress, for the first time since Midway. Nimitz said at a press conference:

"If a full-dress knock-down, drag-out naval battle comes, it will be a development worked for by the Pacific fleet ever since Midway. I know of nothing else we can do to provoke those people into a naval battle. American forces invaded the Marianas on the assumption that the Japanese would bring out everything they possibly could. We've put muscle enough into our 5th fleet to take care of everything the Jap could muster. There is enough power to be favorable to us in a decisive engagement. We hope the Japanese will stay in that area, as long as they do, we have a chance to get at them."

Yet the swivel chair strategist of the Oregonian calls this all-out American attack on the enemy "a shoddy manipulation of the public mind" to "prevent the public from becoming impatient!"

Allies Rule Air

The full extent of the destruction wrought by months of raiding by the Allies over Europe begins to reveal itself in the failure of the German Luftwaffe to make a better showing in opposition to the invasion. So far the allied superiority in the air has amounted to absolute dominance.

From the first day, when our fliers laid an unbroken ceiling over the landing forces crossing the channel and on the beaches, the American and British air forces have completely controlled the skies over the Normandy peninsula and beyond it. This mastery has been exercised with consummate skill, daring and effectiveness. While swarms of fighter craft suppressed feeble attempts of the Nazi airmen to interfere, fleets of light, medium and heavy bombers have been operating in direct support of our ground forces. Even our largest bombers have been used to lash at tactical targets behind the enemy lines such as refueling points where troops and transports were concentrated. They have likewise extended a protecting curtain of bombs in an area extending 50 miles inland from the deepest point of penetration. All the while they have continued their strategic bombing of the Reich, with particular emphasis on railroad junctions and other facilities needed by the enemy to bring up reinforcements.

While there is doubtless some basis for the argument that Nazi air reserves are being held back for the defense of more important interior positions and of Germany itself, the failure of the Luftwaffe to offer stronger resistance to the Allies gaining a toe-hold on the continent can reasonably be interpreted as a sign of weakness; that whittled down in the air by its resistance to our long continued bombing of the Reich and deprived of replacements by the success of the bombing it dared not risk further depletion by engaging in battle with our highly superior air forces. Germany's much-vaunted mastery of the air has vanished and with it her last chance of victory or even of a stalemate.

The Wail of a Self Starter

Henry Black, the Portland painter whose name appeared on the republican primary ballot as a candidate for president of the United States, as a candidate for the United States senate, and as a candidate for delegate to the national republican convention is quoted in Washington dispatches as claiming that he would have won the senatorial nomination except for opponents' "free publicity."

Black told the senate campaign expenditures committee that both Senator Guy Cordon and ex-Governor Charles A. Sprague—his opponents for the seat of the late Charles L. McNary—received three times more newspaper space than he did. He recommended that newspapers be compelled to give all candidates equal space, and that congressional aspirants be permitted to mail campaign advertising under a frank.

Mr. Black has the modesty and self assurance that characterizes self-starters under our primary system. He has an unconscious sense of humor that adds zest to political zest. Everyone is out of step but the plural candidate with his impervious egotism. No petitions were filed by voters in behalf of any of his candidacies, he represented no group or faction, and no contributions were listed for his campaigns. He evidently catapulted himself into the election with his recorded \$1475 contributions evidently out of his own pocket, and his messianic delusions.

Mr. Black's remedy is as logical as his candidacy. He wants a law making it compulsory on newspapers to give all candidates equal space and the government to mail campaign literature free. Most of his rival candidates paid for whatever publicity they received by advertising. He had the same privilege. Editorial opinion is not for sale and not to be commandeered as long as a free press exists.

Morse Addresses Labor Convention

Eugene, June 21 (AP)—The Oregon state Federation of Labor's 42nd annual convention went into its second day today after hearing Wayne L. Morse urge post-war labor-management collective bargaining and less government handling of labor's affairs.

As a former member of the war labor board, the republican

nominee for U. S. senator had a part in settling many wartime labor-management issues.

The state must accept federal aid in providing post-war employment but must not surrender its sovereignty, declared Gov. Earl Snell. The state can not handle the burden alone, he said.

L. C. Stoll, state manpower director, credited the AFL in Oregon with leading the way in showing the nation the virtue of a voluntary plan to meet wartime production schedules.



The War Today

By DeWitt Mackenzie

An interpretative analysis of war developments by a famous Associated Press war correspondent.

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.

Capturing of Cherbourg, now dependent on how many Germans want to die first, will bring the allies to a new phase of the invasion—the establishment of a continental base from which to start for Germany.

That means a concentration which quite possibly would need to occupy all northwestern France, including the Brittany peninsula (Brest) from Loire (St. Nazaire) to the present beachhead, and Le Havre, which commands the Seine basin.

Otherwise, there seems to be little anchor for the allied southern flank as it turns for the advance into France. Hitler went through northern France in 1940 without regard for French threats on his southern flank. But, while his army may be the one to disintegrate this time, allied commanders may not want to chance it.

There could be many reasons for recent bombings of Avranches, Laval, Rennes, Bain, and Nantes, but designs on the Brittany peninsula would be a good one.

For purposes of surprise, the allies did the illogical in landing. As someone put it, they selected an area where nobody could establish a successful beachhead, and then did it. But when preparing for battles on a large scale—presumably more than a million men will be on each side when the campaign really gets going—terrain cannot be ignored.

Two Logical Flanks
The Loire and the Seine are quite logical flanks for a drive toward Paris.

Of course the location of the present beachhead is the only indication we have that the drive will be toward Paris. The allies still have plenty for a new landing around Calais and an ultimate campaign across the traditional battlefields of northern France and Belgium. But the enemy is much more concentrated and highly prepared there. His rocket bomb emplacements indicate that, since his use of them when landings in the area failed to materialize he had been saving them for defense.

Both areas meet the requirements of General Eisenhower.

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23 Delegates Leave Tonight

Portland, June 21 (AP)—Twenty-three of the republican delegates, alternates and party officials who will represent Oregon at the republican national convention will leave here tonight.

The group will arrive in Chicago Saturday morning and will caucus that afternoon with earlier Oregon arrivals, said Henry Collier, delegation chairman.

The delegates are pledged to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York for the presidential nomination and to Gov. Earl Warren of California for the vice-presidential nomination on a basis of write-in votes in the May 19 primary election.

There are more than 1,150 war department theaters in 615 army posts.

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Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Reporting for Duty

New York—PFC Eunice Sheppard of the marine corps women's reserve, Danbury, Conn., reporting for duty after completing boot training, entered headquarters, peered intently about the room where eight marines sat at desks.

Snapping at attention: "Sir," she said, "I joined the marines to free a man to fight. Who's leaving?"

Well Wisher

Salt Lake City—H. P. Leatham, Utah drivers' license bureau director, asked an applicant to explain a five-year discrepancy between her listed age and birth date.

"It's a helluva state of affairs when a gal in an attempt to grow old gracefully can't deduct five years off'n her age without getting caught," wrote the applicant in reply.

Leatham sent the license and appended this note: "May you never grow old."

Star Salesman

Pueblo, Colo.—St. Herb Schulman hopes the stork is an understanding bird.

After starring in a war bond show presented by the Pueblo air base, the sergeant planned to leave for New York to await the arrival of an heir. But the war bond committee asked another performance.

So Sgt. Schulman will stay in Pueblo—so more war bonds can be sold.

Manpower Note

Los Angeles—A jury of 12 women was chosen to try a murder case. Three alternates were selected also. They're women, too.

Timely Tumble

Shenandoah, Ia.—Water Commissioner Nye had a lucky fall.

Nye dislocated an arm and was taken to a hospital where a doctor was summoned, the operating room and anesthetic prepared.

Just as he was getting onto the operating table he slipped and the injured arm snapped back in place.

Volatile oils present in a cedar crest kill moth larvae.

Jackson Gains In Valuations

Medford, June 21 (AP)—Jackson county's real property taxable value for 1944-45 has been set at \$22,847,110 by Assessor C. A. Myers, a gain of \$252,550 over the 1943-44 fiscal year.

The personal property valuation was fixed at \$4,900,560, up \$150. Total taxable valuation, not including public utilities, increased \$633,700.

Forum

Contributions to this column must be confined to 300 words and signed by writer.

To the Editor—Through my clipping service I have received reports in your paper of June 12 and 13, regarding the senatorial situation in Salem. I am sure you have no ill-will toward me, and I call to your attention that the statement made by Wayne Pettit in the Oregonian, the only man I talked to while in Salem, was correct. Unfortunately, the A.P. somehow misquoted him, changing the complexion of the story entirely. I corrected this twice before it was finally in line with Mr. Pettit's story.

Your item of June 12 undoubtedly came from the A.P. Your item of June 13 still did not clearly state the facts. In fact, it very unfairly misrepresents my attitude as evidenced by the last paragraph of that item. I was not seeking to have the offices declared vacant. I did not ask the attorney general's office for an opinion and my contention was not overruled. This action was taken, entirely I believe, by the secretary of the state's office.

It seems to me in fairness that I should not be charged with action against my fellow senators in the state senate.

Lew Wallace.

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(SWELL OCCASION)



...or celebrating a Scotch ship-launching

Gey braw are the Scotch words for it at Clydebank when a new carrier goes down the ways. Your American celebrates it with his familiar invitation, Have a "Coke". It's a phrase of friendship that is heard wherever American is spoken, a cordial gesture that brings people together. In many lands around the globe, Coca-Cola is spreading the custom of the pause that refreshes, has become a symbol of refreshing good will, just as it is when you serve it at home.

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It's natural for popular names to acquire friendly abbreviations. That's why you hear Coca-Cola called "Coke".