

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

Published Every Thursday at 167 Main Street, Ashland, Oregon

Carryl H. & Marion C. Wines, Editors, Publishers

Entered as second-class mail matter in the post office at Ashland, Oregon, February 15, 1935, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

"PERFECT SHIPPING" NEEDS YOU

Transportation and shipping agencies have moved mountains of freight in these critical war years. The public and the military services generally feel that a good job has been done. But those in the transportation and shipping business are not satisfied. Just moving the goods is not enough. They must be moved without damage in transit. To cut down on needless destruction, thousands of shippers, through their Shippers' Advisory Boards, are conducting a month-long campaign during April in conjunction with the railroads and other forms of transport. Their goal is perfect shipping. The public, as well as those employed in the shipping and transport business, must cooperate if the goal is to be approached. Most damage results from improper packing and labeling of shipments. The following is the advice of shipping experts:

"If it's package goods, put it up as well as possible. That's the first ounce of prevention."

"Use the most suitable container available. Your choice may be narrowed 'way down, but it's just as true as ever that square pegs don't fit in round holes."

"Make doubtful boxes better by reinforcing, padding, partitions and all such measures that take up shock."

"Make the finished package as damage proof as possible. A good job can usually be done through proper use of adhesives, gummed tape, stitching, metal strap, rope, cord or twine, and, in wooden crates or boxes, enough of the right nails in the right places."

"Be careful to mark shipments accurately and plainly. Use complete address—name, street, number, city and state. Show your name and address also preceded by 'from.' Much delay, loss and disappointment is caused by illegible and faulty addressing."

"Be sure to remove old labels, tags and all previous markings."

This advice is not complicated. It can mean the saving of millions of dollars worth of freight if all of us will do our part.

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AN OLD STORY

It is dismaying to witness France's DeGaulle saying: "We intend to act in such a way that individual merit and private initiative will remain as the basis of national activity . . . We do not imagine our French economy of tomorrow without a 'free sector,' as large as possible . . . (But) we declare that the state must hold the master switches." The last words cancel out the preceding pleasant phases. Where the state holds the master switches, the individual becomes a cipher.

Why should any people, any nation be subservient to a small group of men holding master switches? The excuse that dictatorship can be confined to the operation of certain industries and will not be felt by the people, is bunk. The same fallacious theory is being espoused in this country. We hear that our natural resources and other basic industries should be controlled or owned by the government. The idea is encouraged that a limited dictatorship would promote employment and security. This is also bunk.

When the test of war came, this country, where the people were least dominated by government, was the most productive. Other nations whose industries and people functioned by the grace of a dictatorial hand on a master switch, made a poor showing by comparison. It has been up to the United States and its independent industries, to provide the machines of victory and the fuel to run them, to say nothing of the men.

Certainly, no bureaucratized government enterprise, European style, produces the 500,000 barrels per day of 100-octane gasoline that keeps the allies' planes in the air. Certainly no nation has turned out the planes, tanks, guns, ships and all the other necessities of war as has this free country.

Such men and such industries, which are the source of our amazing production in all lines, need no controlling hand on a master switch deciding for them what must be done tomorrow and the day after. The stand for freedom and progress. They are symbols of individual opportunity. Destroy them and you destroy the substance of America.

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THE TREATMENT OF WAR PRISONERS

From time to time, we read or hear, of the treatment of war prisoners in this country, and many of us, no doubt, have gotten the opinion that prisoners of war are having a pretty soft existence. Our army officials who have charge of guarding war prisoners evidently lean over backward to observe the Geneva rules set forth for war prisoners. It has been told around, which of course is very unreliable, that most of the prisoners would rather be in the prison camps than on the outside as they are well fed and have very little to do. If reports are true, they have an easy existence.

When one considers some of the evidence being uncovered of the treatment of allied prisoners of war in

enemy hands, it sort of riles us up, when we hear of the soft life of German prisoners in this country. We do not mean that we should retaliate by treating our prisoners as prisoners in enemy lands have treated our men, but Germans being held in this country certainly should be made to understand that they are prisoners and not guests of this country.

We note with interest that in a recent Gallup poll, 71 per cent of the people interviewed thought that prisoners of war were being treated too easily. There must be some basis for the contention and talk that prisoners have a pretty "soft" life in the prison camps.

Life With the WACs in New Guinea

By Frances Gallatin

VISIT TO A NATIVE VILLAGE

A visit to a native village is quite an experience. Trucks took us close to the settlement, but the last mile or two of the main road and into the jungle clearing was made on foot. We had to cross several streams on log bridges, two logs wide. Fortunately there was a rope handrail or many of us would have hesitated and perhaps fallen in to the rocky water below. We also climbed a hill into which log steps had been placed. After living on the ground floor for several months—stairs were a novelty again and many puffs were heard as we reached the top.

After following a narrow path we finally reached a leveled, cleared area, where thatched native huts were paced in even rows. The ceremonial dances were in progress when we arrived, so of course they took our immediate attention. All the dancers were dressed in costumes—very colorful and attractive. The head-dresses were the most interesting. All sorts of things adorned their fuzzy hair—(a number of bleached heads were visible—you know they will do anything for a bottle of peroxide to lighten their hair). Among the adornments were shell, strings, of beads, ribbons, colored paper strips, bones, flowers and even cut-outs from Lucky Strike packages. The leaders of each group were rather gruesome looking because of their painted faces—which gave them a ferocious look!

There were almost as many native spectators as GI's—predominately youthful. In fact, not having seen children for several months and certainly not in great numbers, it certainly floored me to have so many swarming about. Those native women are really trying to increase the birthrate in New Guinea. The youngsters seemed like a happy bunch, laughing, running after each other, staring at us jabbering away with a few understandable requests for gum and cigarettes. It's rather strange to see a boy of six or seven, gravely light a cigarette and puff it like a veteran. Some of them look well but many are decidedly sick—they are thin, with rickety bodies, their bellies protrude and there are evidences of skin diseases. You can bet I stayed clear of many of them—in fact I was a bit annoyed when one pushed me and another spit when I refused to give them anything. I saw few little girls—a number of young women with strong healthy bodies. I just wondered if they killed off the weak females, and just let the healthy ones survive. The same state of health seems to exist among the adults—many of which are rather well formed and strong looking. The old women were a bit horrible looking—their skin shriveled, their heads shaved and many with red rimmed eyes. They just sat in the doorway to their huts smoking cigarettes or just sitting as if in a stupor.

To go back to the dancers, their patter was quite rhythmic, but rather monotonous because there were so few changes in

their drum beat and the step which consisted of a shuffling and stamping. Combined with this, at times the leader and at times the whole group would yell and cry out until their voices would end in a shriek.

We wandered through the village peeping in the doors of the huts which didn't compare with the clean looking outside areas, brightened by gay flowers. Scrawny looking, disease ridden dogs slinking around gathering up scraps of food which fell through the cracks in the floor or dropped from the kettle, cooking over the outdoor fire.

After about an hour's visit, the odor of the village, increased by the excitement and furor of the dancers, made it very apparent that I could stand a whiff of fresh air, so my Australian companion and I followed the trail out, crossed the log bridges and sat in the truck until everyone was ready to leave. It was an interesting experience, and it will be one of the many things to remember about New Guinea.

By Sgt. Marge Curry, WAC

What About Germany

By Ruth Taylor

Everyone else has ventured an opinion as to what must be done with Germany, so here is my two cents worth.

The advice given to date ranges all the way from maudlin sympathy for a "poor misguided people", to a Nazi-like cry for revenge. But it seems to me that the one thing that has been overlooked is - what are we trying to accomplish? Do we want another war? Or do we want peace based upon a firm foundation of justice?

To those who plead for leniency, I would ask - "Are you willing to open the jails in your own town and let the thieves and murderers loose upon your own family?" To those who cry for revenge, I would recommend the seventh verse of the eighth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.

Some advocate the backing of an anti-Nazi Group. That is good

Germany in the society of nations.

provided the group comes from within, and has established its good faith by direct action against the Nazis. This cannot be a group from without or under foreign domination for as such it cannot win the German people. The regeneration must come from within. We must, as Lord Vansittart put it, break Germany of its national fallacy that only the weak repent. To which he added: "There are just men in Germany but they are always out."

Although the public does not realize it, the organized German trade unions were the first group to be destroyed by Hitler. Next came the Jews. Then the Catholics. From the scattered remnants of the democratic elements may come the rebirth of Germany - but the move must come from them. All we can do is to give them opportunity to act. We cannot permit the continued enslavement of the worker and leave free the industrialists and the Junkers. Nazism is only today's mask of German imperialism.

Here is a warning from the past: "Justice is the only possible basis for the settlements of the accounts of this terrible war. Justice is what Germany shall have. But it must be justice for all. There must be justice for the dead and wounded, and for all those who have been orphaned and bereaved that Europe might be freed from Prussian despotism." It was Woodrow Wilson who said that in 1919. Our sentimentalists destroyed it. What will we do?

We cannot and we do not want to destroy a nation, but we can wipe out the cancer at the heart of that nation. This time the cure must be permanent even if the knife cuts deep. The German people must earn their way back to health. Until they have done so, there is no place for

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THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



"When this war is all over, Judge, there will be some mighty interesting books written about it. Expect we'll learn a lot of things we didn't know before."

"Yes. First, when the record is finally written: we'll realize what a gigantic operation this war really was and how important to final victory many factors really were."

"Take, for example, just one industry. Few people realize the importance of the great work done by the beverage distillers during the war. A high government official

called it 'an almost unparalleled example of the overnight conversion of an entire industry from peace to war.' He also said not so many months ago, while speaking about synthetic rubber, 'It is fair to regard the rubber manufactured to date as being almost solely the product of the beverage distilling industry.' That's the type of thing I have in mind . . . the way great American industries at home cooperated to help our brave fighting men abroad."

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