

Heppner Gazette Times

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LET US NOT BE TOO SMUG

Life in the interior country, aside from the wartime regulations under which all of us are struggling to carry on, goes on much as in times of peace and except for occasional visitations from the big bombers from nearby training bases there is little to remind us that the greatest war of all time is in progress over a large portion of the globe. Not being in direct contact with actual warfare, or even in a zone of preparation, it is easy for us to sit back and say to ourselves, "Oh well, it can't happen here."

That is exactly the attitude our enemies want us to assume. Axis strategy has been one of attack on unsuspecting and unprepared points. In attacking such vulnerable spots they can better impress us with their superior military strength as well as offer convincing proof to their folks at home of the invincibility of their war machines. It matters not that they slaughter unprotected people and destroy their property. There is no humanity in their make-up and the more people they can kill the stronger their belief in the righteousness of their cause.

It must be remembered that distance has been annihilated by the airplane. Once remote sections no longer are invulnerable. It may not be possible for the Japs to strike the Pacific coast area with sufficient force to wreak extensive havoc, but there is a possibility that they may be able to slip through our well-defended coast line with a few planes loaded with fire bombs if nothing more. There is nothing to prevent light bombers from dropping a few bombs on industrial centers. They likely would never return to their home base but what does that matter if they succeed in creating a little havoc on American soil to pay us back for the bombing of Tokio.

There are signs that the home defense program has slipped during the past year, not only in Morrow county but other counties as well. The state defense council has set about to rejuvenate the entire set-up. In a recent meet-

ing at Salem it was pointed out that the danger from invasion has not been entirely eliminated; that the Japs are still strongly entrenched on Kiska despite efforts of our forces to dislodge them, and that these forces may be the spearhead of an attack on our coast line. This is not war-scare propaganda but a sensible viewpoint of a situation freighted with dire possibilities.

Extending the possibilities a little farther, it was pointed out by Mayor J. O. Turner at the men's luncheon meeting that even Heppner is not out of the danger zone. True it is not in an official combat zone but it is on an air lane between bases located in eastern and central Oregon and these bases probably would be the objective of any enemy craft able to reach the interior.

There may not be any danger of such an attack, but we must remember that we are in a desperate war and that the folks at home are left much to their own devices for protection. It is well to strengthen the home defenses—for each individual to learn about fighting fire bombs, first aid and numerous other means of combatting a ruthless and bloodthirsty enemy.

Let us give some thought to the matter of home defense. If we become too smug we may get smacked.

SAVE THE TIN CANS!

Complaint has been registered with the Gazette Times relative to the disposal of tin cans along roadsides. There is nothing more displeasing to the eye than a rubbish pile deposited along a thoroughfare and persons engaged in such practice should be directed to regularly established dump grounds. The pity of it is that people who stoop to dumping trash along the roadways usually do so surreptitiously, preferring to keep their actions covered by darkness, and it is somewhat of a problem to catch them.

It has been stated repeatedly that all tin cans should be saved and methods for storing them have been outlined. Don't give up because there has not been a definite date set for collection. Do your patriotic duty by saving the cans and preparing them for further duty in the war effort. In depositing them along the highways you are being unpatriotic on two counts. Spare the highways these unsightly rubbish heaps and better serve your country by turning the tin in for reprocessing.

During the 1942 African campaign, a British signal cypher "Rommel's panzers retire" was decoded as "Rommel's pants are on fire."

Selective Service Procedure Explained

Methods of procedure for employers to follow in seeking deferment of draft age seems to be misunderstood by a good many people, according to Judge Bert Johnson, member of local board No. 1, Morrow county.

It is a matter of common knowledge that every able-bodied male of military age is subject to call for service the judge states and no employer can say that he has not been warned that his employees are likely to be called.

In order to obtain deferment of an employe, the burden of proof is on the employer to show to the satisfaction of the selective service board that the man is doing more in his present occupation to win the war than he would do as a member of the armed forces.

This must be proved to the local board before and not after the man has been placed in Class A-1.

Regulations provide that the decision of the board shall be based solely upon the written information in the file. If the employer has not filed a written statement prior to the board's decision, he has no one but himself to blame if the decision does not go, to his liking.

MRS. BENTON ORDAINED

Mrs. Joel Benton, recently called to serve the Christian church at Lexington, was ordained Sunday evening in a special service at the Heppner Church of Christ.

Martin B. Clark preached the ordination sermon and Wendell Herbison delivered the charge. In his talk Mr. Herbison stated it was a rare privilege for him to have a part in ordaining Mrs. Benton as it was just two years ago at Marshfield that her husband, the late Joel R. Benton, performed the same service for him.

To buy, sell or trade, use the G-T advertising columns.

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN INVITED TO VISIT SCHOOL

An opportunity for pre-school children to get an insight on school life has been offered by the primary department of the Heppner school. Children of that age received invitations this week to visit the primary room during the week of April 12-16.

Parents whose children will be starting to school next fall have been instructed to give the child's name, date of birth, parents' names and address. Anyone not receiving an invitation but reads this should get in touch with Miss Myrthena Martin, primary teacher, at once.

MOVES TO COAST

Mrs. Anna Q. Thomson informs the Gazette Times that her daughter, Mrs. J. Edward Bennett, is now located at the Red Cross Station hospital, Santa Ana Army Air base, Santa Ana, Calif. Mrs. Bennett, nee Beatrice Thomson, was married in Washington D. C., late in February.

RETURNS TO COLLEGE

William Barratt has returned to Oregon State college from Fort Lewis after spending a few days with the army. He will remain in school for graduation in June. After that he expects to rejoin the service.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Mrs. Harvey Bauman entertained a number of guests at her home Wednesday evening in honor of her daughter Marjorie's birthday.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

Other statements to the contrary, I have entered into no partnership in the contracting and building business, nor do I contemplate such a move.

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