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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Percy

The plea is now for America

to get behind Russia and Britain,

and agree on a European policy.

Putting a 1944 twist on a Civil

War gag, America better get out

in front, where she can watch

the alleged pair of brotherly

nations.

The Columbia river gorge

wind last week varied from 92

to 135 mph, according to the

press of the region. In any event,

it was a wind of insufficient

force to flap the late Democratic

candidate loose from the presi-

dential coat-tails, while playing

seven-up on same.

The Older Girls have only

this week left to demand snow

for Christmas, and the right to

command Junior to knock it off

his shoes, before he dares come

in the house.

"It was announced the place

would be operated for the ben-

efit of the public, and not for

profit"—(Exchange). If lucky,

they will just break even.

Willis Scott, the Little App-

cowman towned Sat. He report-

ed he was having indifferent

success trapping wildcats, who

were not languid about getting

caught.

HOMEBREW MEMORIES

(Independence Enterprise)

"One evening recently while

Dean Walker was attending a

meeting Mrs. Walker was

home alone. Early in the eve-

ning she was startled by hear-

ing an explosion from the

basement of their home which

sounded like a time bomb.

She thought it might have

been the hot water tank, but

was too frightened to investi-

gate. A short time later six

more explosions followed and

she was really frightened.

When Mr. Walker arrived

home he found that some jars

of sauerkraut in the basement

fruit closet had exploded and

caused the trouble."

Stockholm reports when allied

planes appeared over Berchtes-

gaden, the hide-out of Herr Hit-

ler, his "personal batteries"

drove them off. Coming from

Stockholm this news should be

taken with a sack of salt. In the

past, their news has always been

best when not confined to the

truth. The idea, however, is a

dandy, and why the allies have

not appeared before, in fact or

fancy, is not known. It is here

Der Fuehrer goes to paint, write

poetry, chew rugs, and think up

new cussedness.

"Needless to say, the Mexican

was released, as he could not

have killed his wife when he did

not have one."—(Colfax, Cal.,

Record). The perfect alibi.

The government refused to

allow Finland to pay her war

debt installment last week.

Nevertheless, the worst maul-

ed of all the Baltic lands, despite

the snub, put up a valiant

though futile fight to be honest.

J. Tannehill (Jaybird) Walker,

6, mingled with the Sat. night

crowd in his cowboy suit. He has

everything a regulation, honest-

to-goodness cowboy has but

bow-legs.

The Japanese are losing ad-

mirals at the rate of ten per cent

per week, and are in danger of

running short of this form of

praise-hats. The Mikado, asserted

to be a "divinity", has not yet

kicked the imperial bucket.

Politicians of the world have

messed the general situation al-

most beyond belief. On the

record to date, they should stay

home and let the generals make

and sign the peace terms.

Closing time for Classified Ads 9

a. m. — Too Late to Classify 12:30

p. m.

That Hood River Incident

The surprising thing is not the regrettable action of the Hood River Legion Post regarding its Japanese members, but that there has not been much more of this sort of intolerance in World War No. II.

In World War No. I there were all sorts of ridiculous things done in the name of patriotism, and as part of vertiable orgies of impotent race hatreds regarding the enemy,—then the Germans only.

Not only was German opera kicked out of the country and the teaching of German barred in the colleges and schools, but no grocers in this country dared handle sauer kraut without labelling it "Liberty Cabbage!"

IN this war, however, the American people have pretty well kept their heads. Not only are several thousand Japanese wearing the U. S. uniform, and bringing honor and glory to it; but literally hundreds of thousands of boys of German ancestry, are fighting and dying for their country, both in the Far East and abroad. They are doing a good job, too!

The enemy is as heartily hated and distrusted as was true quarter of a century ago,—more so perhaps,—but little if any war hysteria is indulged in. This war is taken with far more seriousness, determination and dignity this time. Which is all to the good.

THIS is not to belittle or condone the undemocratic action of the Hood River Post in any way. For as Secretary of War Stimson well said, erasing the names of American war veterans in good standing and with good war records, who had demonstrated their loyalty in actual combat, simply because their skins are yellow and subsequently their native country became involved in this war, is to renounce and outrage the very ideals and principles for which this country and the democracies of the world are now fighting.

The wave of condemnation that has swept the country as a result, emanating not only from high government officials but from other American Legion posts, is entirely deserved and extremely heartening.

BUT we repeat, the striking thing is NOT that one Legion post in the country lost its head, or one small group of American citizens yielded to the primitive mob spirit that is such a natural part of a bitter war; but that all in all there has been so little of this sort of thing, since Pearl Harbor.

In fact this Hood River incident brings into sharp relief the comparative freedom in this country from emotional excesses and vindictive bigotry in this war, and how the American people as a whole have sobered and matured, between two wars and a matter of a comparatively few years.

A War Of Surprises

The only certain thing about this war is its uncertainty. This has been true from the outset.

It seems like ancient history now, but only a little over three years ago Hitler with a great fanfare of trumpets proclaimed that all organized resistance in Russia had been destroyed,—the battle on the eastern front had been won.

And he believed it. So did Japan. As far as that goes, our own War College experts at Washington, D. C., believed it.

More than that.

ON paper, the Germans had killed enough Russians, taken a sufficient number of Russian prisoners and occupied enough Russian territory, to sustain such a statement, as far as the principles of a traditional military science were concerned.

The organized Russian resistance that Stalin had been able to get together that first summer of the war, HAD been destroyed. Petrograd had been isolated. Moscow WAS tottering on the abyss. The Soviet government and practically all industrial Russia in fear of disaster had been moved a thousand miles east safely beyond the Urals.

THEN something happened. Secure beyond those mountains, Stalin proceeded to raise new armies, establish new war industries, in short replace the original system of organized resistance that had gone, with an entirely new one, making Stalingrad a Waterloo for the Nazi Napoleon, and driving the disorganized and humiliated "Teutonic Knights" back to the land they came from.

LAST August this department received word—not for publication—but from a high and reliable source in Washington, D. C., that the war definitely would be over in Europe "sometime in October."

This was not just another "shot-in-the-dark." It was "official", the war might well end BEFORE October, but it would certainly not extend BEYOND that month.

As the clinching point it was stated that the WPB had issued orders to reduce production and even dismantle certain munition factories which with Germany out of the war would no longer be needed.

THEN once more quite obviously SOMETHING happened.

Precisely what we don't know. But there is no doubt of this: the war in Europe did not end in October, and it is still going at this writing, and not as well from an allied standpoint as expected. So what?

Nothing except what we remarked above, namely,—the only CERTAIN thing about this war, is its uncertainty.

SMOKES BOOM BUSINESS
Chicago —(U.P.)—Something new has been added to the menu of Mrs. Lou Clark's coffee shop. And she's doing a land-office business. Mrs. Clark's

success is the precious cigarette. She gives away one smoke with each meal.

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AMERICANS DRIVE
12 MILES INLAND
ON MINDORO ISLE

Allied Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The liberation of the Philippines gained momentum today with American forces driving 12 miles inland on newly-invaded Mindoro with 130 miles of Manila and splitting the Yamashita line on Leyte into three disorganized segments in a powerful offensive.

Radio Tokyo said an American fleet of "considerable strength" had been sighted in the Sulu sea south of Mindoro and speculated that another amphibious landing was in prospect, perhaps on Luzon, site of Manila and Gen. Douglas MacArthur's ultimate objective in the Philippines.

Repair Airfields
American and Australian engineers on Mindoro, already were rushing repairs to captured San Jose airfield and building new air strips on what Gen. Douglas MacArthur called "excellent sites" to cover the next phase of the Philippines campaign.

Japanese resistance, both in the air and on the ground, continued negligible. Apparently paralyzed by the day and night raids on their Philippines airbases by American carrier and land-based planes, the Japanese were able to get few aircraft off the ground and most of those were shot down.

American patrol planes strafed and set afire a coastal vessel and two small freighters off the northeast coast and damaged a third freighter off the east coast, but there was no official indication whether these were engaged in reinforcing the Mindoro garrison.

Leyte End Near
On Leyte, some 300 miles southeast of Mindoro, American forces brought the final annihilation of 20,000 to 25,000 Japanese trapped in the northwest corner of the island within sight with a series of surprise attacks from the south and east.

The increasing enemy casualties, coupled with the double breaching of the Yamashita line, indicated that the Japanese were becoming disorganized and were cracking under constant American pressure.

Cut off from supplies and reinforcements by the American invasion of Mindoro, the remaining Japanese on Leyte appeared doomed to death or capture. There was evidence that some enemy troops already were suffering from hunger.

WANT ROOSEVELT
STATEMENT UPON
FOREIGN POLICY

Washington, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Sens. Arthur H. Vandenberg, R. Mich., and Claude Pepper, D. Fla., agreed today that the time has come for President Roosevelt to enunciate American foreign policy in the light of recent European political developments and their effect on the four freedoms and the Atlantic charter.

Their agreement came during senate debate on confirmation of six high state department nominations, endorsed by Vandenberg but opposed by Pepper.

Senate Also
Pepper agreed with Vandenberg that President Roosevelt should make a foreign policy declaration, but he contended that the senate at the same time should make known its own sentiments by its action on the six nominations.

Pepper said confirmation of the nominations would place the state department under domination by "conservatives" rather than men with "liberal views." He asked the senate to delay action and request President Roosevelt to withdraw the list.

He said the senate could thus serve notice on the world that it intends to follow a progressive and liberal policy in foreign affairs.

The wrangle over the nominations threatened to upset plans for Christmas adjournment of congress on Wednesday. Virtually all other business of the session was finished and house members already were starting home in large numbers.

OFFICERS GIVE BLOOD
AS CHRISTMAS PRESENT

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Five hundred army officers headed by Brig. Gen. G. H. Kells, commander of the San Francisco port of embarkation, gave their blood today in a mass donation at the Jones street blood bank.

It was their Christmas gift to GIs on the battlefronts.

Five million motor vehicles will be registered in California by 1955, it is estimated; there are about 3,000,000 registered now.



THE GUYS THEY LEFT BEHIND—After putting planes in ship-shape order, these ground crew men sent B-29's off from Saipan for raid on Tokyo with a cheery "Good Luck." These fellows love their ships and worry like mothers when they're "out there."

SHORTAGES ON
WAR FRONTS TO
UNDERGO PROBE

Fifth Army Headquarters in Italy, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Rep. J. Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, ranking Republican member of the house military affairs committee, told the United Press today he plans to lead an investigation into what he described as six imminent critical shortages on the western front.

Following a tour of the Italian war front with other junketing congressmen, Thomas said two of these shortages directly affected the progress of the war, two were threatening increased casualties, and the other two affected morale.

Under the first classification he listed what he said was a growing shortage of heavy ammunition and rubber tires. Insufficient hospital ships and whole blood for transfusions, Thomas said, were threatening increased casualties, while shortages of cigarettes, chaplains and supplies were classified as major morale factors.

Thomas said there was plenty of blood plasma, but that whole blood was scarce because it lasts only four to five days and must be transported by plane. The Italian theater, he added, was not suffering from these shortages anywhere near the same degree as the western front.

The congressmen agreed that the home front had no conception of the difficulties encountered by American forces in Italy, particularly the mountainous terrain.

RUSSIANS SMASH
SOUTH SLOVAKIA
ON WIDE FRONT

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Armored Soviet forces smashed through to the southern Czechoslovak border on a 68-mile front today, a Moscow communiqué announced tonight as the battle for Budapest flared with renewed violence after red army troops rammed a narrow edge through one of the main defense lines five miles northeast of the city.

Driving north from the Miskolc area, the Russians captured more than 30 inhabited places and cleared the entire 20-mile long area between Saterlajauhely and the Hernad river.

The advance, in which a total of 1,850 prisoners were taken, brought the soviet lines within 14 miles south of the big rail and highway junction of Kassa. The multi-pronged drive, which brought red army columns thundering toward the Slovak railway center of Kassa trapped thousands of Germans in the Bukka mountains.

Medford Airmen
Get Home Leave

Due to arrive in the United States soon on furlough from the European theater of operations where they served in the 8th Air Force are Capt. Robert W. Crews, son of Mrs. Lucy Crews, 737 W. 14th St., and First Lt. Donald R. Grigsby, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Grigsby, Rt. 4, box 191-A, according to announcement from their headquarters.

Capt. Crews has served 19 months as a B-17 pilot, completing 31 missions, totaling 240 combat flying hours. Lt. Grigsby has served 12 months as a B-24 bombardier, completing 30 missions, totaling 249 combat flying hours.

Gripmen on San Francisco's cable cars never fail to call out "Hang on for the curve!" when the car approaches a 90 degree turn.

Faces Trial



(Acme Telephoto)
Charles Chaplin presents a typical Chaplinesque pose in Los Angeles Court as he nears Superior Judge Henry M. Wynn rule that a jury must determine whether he is sane at jury duty a custody duty assignment. Carol Ann.

JURY SELECTION
IN CHAPLIN CASE
TEDIOUS PROCESS

Hollywood, Dec. 18.—The tedious process of picking out jurors to head Joan Barry's claims that Charlie Chaplin fathered her child droned smoothly on today after a brief flurry in which four possibilities decided they already had made up their minds.

By mid-afternoon 24 prospective jurors had been questioned and a tentative panel of five elderly men, five elderly housewives and two young women sat in the jury box.

The plaintiff's attorney had used three and the defense two of the six peremptory challenges each had at the start.

Defense Attorney Charles E. (Pat) Millikan precipitated the break in routine by excusing middle-aged Mrs. Margaret Stephenson for reasons of his own.

Next up was Mrs. Harriet B. Affeld, who stalked through the gate and announced: "Your honor, I read the papers, and I already have formed an opinion."

Mrs. Jessie G. Ragland, called next, sat down before speaking her mind.

"I've read about it," she said, "and I'm in sympathy with Miss Barry, and I think that would disqualify me. The defendant would have to do a lot of proving."

Bomb Rail Yards
in Western Reich

London, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—Five hundred American heavy bombers attacked rail yards at Cologne, Coblenz, Mainz, and elsewhere in western Germany today and many other large formations of Allied bombers flew out over the channel apparently for new assaults on the Nazi communication lines behind the front.

The raids followed a heavy three-pronged night assault by more than 1,300 RAF heavy bombers which crashed an estimated 5,750 tons of explosives on Duisburg, Munich and Ulm, all high priority transport centers supplying the German armies on the western front.

The Dead Sea valley is more than 1200 feet below the level of the Mediterranean sea.

WOMAN VICTIM OF
PARTNER'S BULLET
TAUGHT ART HERE

Eugene, Dec. 18.—Miss Gladys Turley, 26, in Lane county jail here charged with shooting and wounding her friend and farm partner, Miss Pauline Conradt, 32, is to be arraigned in circuit court here today.

Miss Turley, a newspaper reporter, remained in jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond, while Miss Conradt, an interior decorator, was in serious condition at a hospital here.

The shooting occurred at the home of friends in Eugene, where Miss Conradt had gone as a dinner guest, Friday night, and was believed due to jealousy over the interior decorator's soldier-boy friend having caused a rift in the relations between the two closely-linked women. The women have been operating a small farm jointly on the Willamette highway.

Both Express Grief
Miss Conradt suffered a wound just below the chest and has two bullet holes in the back.

Saturday night, Miss Turley sent word to her erstwhile friend via interviewers saying "I want Pauline to know that I am sorry and that I have waived indictment and want to take my punishment."

Miss Conradt's comment was "I am terribly sorry for Gladys. It will be much worse for her than for me."

Pauline Conradt, 32, who was in serious condition Sunday from wounds inflicted by her business partner at a dinner party in Eugene Friday night, taught art at Medford high school during 1938-39 and supervised art in Medford grade schools part of that same period, according to E. H. Hedrick, Medford school superintendent.

NEW SECRET WEAPON
IN USE BY GERMANS

U. S. Ninth Army Headquarters, Western Front, Dec. 18.—(U.P.)—The Germans are using a new type secret weapon along the western front, it can be revealed today. The weapon appears to be a small rocket projectile, but the details still cannot be disclosed.

California fishermen of trawling purse seiners work on shares: the owner of the boat gets one third of the haul, and the skipper gets a small percentage above that of the rest of the crew, which share the remaining two-thirds equally.

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