

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Why Are Experts Wrong?

These are tough times for experts, especially military experts.

They are still trying to explain how the Germans put on an offensive that broke the American lines in the Ardennes two weeks ago, when they—ALL of them—were convinced the Germans could no more stage an offensive than Jess Willard could stage a comeback, and so declared, time after time.

How could all of them have been mistaken? Naturally they are trying to find an "out" that will leave them a few shreds of prestige and not compel them to give up the exceedingly lucrative profession of telling the untutored masses, what is really doing in this war from day to day, and what isn't.

SOME of them blame the Allied Intelligence Service. Others claim Intelligence was OK, but the High Command was dumb—failed to interpret the information given correctly. According to Drew Pearson there are still others who place the blame on the late General McNair, for insisting on young Colonels, instead of older and more experienced ones.

And so the merry hunt for alibis goes on—and on—with not one expert as far as we have been able to learn, even suggesting that perhaps the experts themselves were somewhat to blame.

WE DON'T mean for the break-through of course. We mean to blame for the fact that not one of them guessed that what happened, would happen. How come?

THE answer, as we see it, is plain. In one word it was PARTISANSHIP.

It was essentially the same quality that in the recent presidential election impelled some otherwise level-headed citizens to not only believe in an overwhelming victory for Governor Dewey, but to back their belief with hard-earned cash.

These Republican partisans had the same sources of information the non-partisan observers had, but their partisan emotions completely clouded their minds—they did not see the situation as it was but as they wanted it to be. And it proved expensive!

THE American war experts did the same thing, and for essentially the same reason, and now from the standpoint of their respective reputations, we fear it will also prove expensive.

There was not a nonpartisan, coldly objective observer among them. True the U. S. war reports stressed the favorable and underplayed the unfavorable news. But all these "experts" had the benefit of enemy war reports as well, and many of them also a background of military experience and information which would have allowed a discriminating perspective. But the plain truth is, none of them gave any credit to enemy reports whatever, and never came within a thousand miles of securing what could be called a perspective—discriminating or otherwise.

CHARLES Bolte, war "expert" for the Nation, is typical of the lot. He categorically pontificated last October that Germany would be out of the war by November 15th. Before that date and after it, his "expert" interpretations of the current war news supported that prediction until the calendar finally demonstrated he didn't know what he was talking about.

That didn't cure him, however. He went on in the same over confident, boastful-wishful-thinking vein, right up to the 16th of December, and now like all his brother craftsmen, he is trying to figure out what in heck happened.

The London Press

Though the Western Front is virtually at its front door, the staid old London Times is apparently unimpressed by the war or its proximity and continues to devote its entire front page to classified advertising—readers must turn to page four to learn how goes the battle. This peculiarity of one segment of the British press is noted along with many other practices strange to American journalism, in a perusal of London newspapers received by the Mail Tribune through the courtesy of Mr. Dowsley Clark, chief of the news bureau of the Office of War Information in Washington, D. C.

THE London Times, Star and Daily Telegraph all differ greatly in format but share a weakness for front page advertising.

The Telegraph, which most nearly approximates American style, publishes two-column plugs on page one for "Bovril," a hot drink, and "Bitumastic," an anti-corrosion preparation, while the flashy little five-column tabloid-type Star front pages an appeal to the altar-bound to get their wedding rings at Bravington's.

BESIDES using page one for classified ads, the Times also devotes its entire back page to this purpose and in the pages between dresses practically all its news stories with drab, one-column "label" headlines.

AS IN the United States, British women are beseeched to aid in the war effort, the Star carrying an advertisement seeking "Naffy" recruits to operate canteens and clubs for British forces in liberated countries on the continent. Also, as in the United States, the 'teen-agers give cause for worry, according to letters to the editor, and pleas for funds for juvenile clubs.

THE comparatively small amount of display advertising in the three editions suggests a shortage of newsprint and consequent high prices for advertising space.

The three London newspapers are on display in the front window of the Mail Tribune. — E. C. F.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, Jan. 4.—The big business of horse racing died yesterday without a tear or protest. Its death for an indefinite period was "requested" by Assistant President James F. Byrnes—so they say—but there was more to it than that. When as huge an animal as that one rolls over



Paul Mallon

without raising a hoof, to stay the gentle nudge, the circumstances suggest an interesting untold situation within.

What brought the climax was some inner dickering Mr. Byrnes did with certain tracks in southern California. There, war workers from the most vital of all war industrial plants were waging as high as \$2,000,000 a day from the swollen war incomes at one track (normal would be \$500,000 to \$600,000), absconding themselves from their work at the machines to enjoy the privilege.

Something had to be done. Byrnes called the California track people in, demanded that they take some steps. When no one seemed to have any idea of how to handle the situation Byrnes threatened to close down the offending area. The track people threatened to fight, taking the position that if they would be closed down, all tracks would have to be closed. That prospect did not shock Mr. Byrnes much.

Since last October, before the election, an unsatisfactory condition in racing has been getting worse. Trainers and horsemen were asking for more and more gas and tires to get around. The betting public was using gas and rubber in increasing quantities to and from tracks. Then a new track was opened in Florida, the Gulf Stream, and some new building equipment had to be obtained there. The OPA pounced down on gas users, practically ruining attendance, but the track kept open for duration of the meet.

THE better or best influences in racing were getting a little sick of conditions themselves. Circumstances were so plainly running further and further beyond control that a quiet death for the whole business seemed about the only way out, and insiders had been expecting it since the close of the Maryland meeting.

While the government's excuse for acting was lame, no one seemed to care much. Around here, for instance, government authorities are saying manpower conditions demanded action, but in Florida there are practically no war industries.

The state there (and hence, the people), as elsewhere, will be the greatest loser. From the betting the treasury of Florida expected to take its usual \$7,000,000 in the few months of this winter season. The federal government, too will lose its heavy taxes on the incomes of the racing corporations which operate the tracks.

IT IS my firm belief no one makes any money out of racing except governments. They run a kitty while fools win and lose their money by betting. Even consistent winners never really are winners unless they quit, because their winnings are always at stake in the next day's ventures.

A gambler can never be said to really own anything until after he quits, because his possession, while gambling, only represents stakes, which he should one day lose under the law of averages.

The only way gambling ever made sense to me is if it pays off in fun commensurate with amounts lost—that is, if played for fun and not with the gambler's purpose.

But common sense in wagering did not enter into this decision. The government had been wanting to close down the tracks since before the last elections (when it dare not be done) and Mr. Byrnes took the threats of the California tracks at face value during the Christmas rush of December 23 when the action would be least noticed.

WHETHER the government did the right thing is open to question. This government seems to know no remedy for any difficulty except to move in grand sweeps. Never does it appear to possess the ingenuity to deal with what is wrong, and cure it and only it, with justice. To put out a fire, it never uses a hose but starts a backfire.

Thus, all horse racing is done for at least a year (I am well informed) and perhaps for the duration of the war. Everything connected with it has become a 1945 total loss (therefore deductible from taxes instead of paying taxes into the war ef-



INVASION BABE MEETS DAD—Lt. Comdr. Walter Chewning, of Cynwyd, Pa., arriving at Union Station in Chicago, after 15 months spent on aircraft carrier in the Pacific, greets his wife and six-months-old son Jeffrey, born on D-Day, when Allied Forces were storming the coast of Normandy.

JACKSON COUNTY FARM NOTES

Compiled by County Office O. S. C. Extension Service

Jersey Breeders' Meeting Jan. 6

A meeting of the Rogue River Valley Jersey club will be held in the courthouse auditorium at 1:30 p. m., Saturday, Jan. 6. This organization includes Jersey breeders of Jackson and Josephine counties and this will be the regular annual meeting. J. W. Slater, western fieldman for the American Jersey Cattle club, will be present to discuss the Jersey program and assist the local club in organizing its activities for the coming year. All Jersey breeders and farmers interested in Jerseys are invited.

Dairy Feed Payments Now Being Made

Dairy feed payments for the months of November and December are now being paid in the county AAA office. These payments for sales of milk and butterfat during January, February and March will be lumped together and one payment for the three-month period made to producers in April. Producers will have to save sales slips and cream receipts for all three months and present them to their county AAA committee when the one payment is made after March 31. Rates are the same for all three months—10 cents a pound for butterfat and 70 cents a hundredweight for whole milk.

Although the present dairy payment program has been authorized only through March, 1945, WFA officials have said that the necessary price assistance to producers to meet the high milk production goal can be expected to be continued, either through payments or in some other form.

Crawler Tractors Will Be Scarce

Oregon's first quarter 1945 quota of crawler tractors for agricultural use does not provide any grounds for optimism, according to N. C. Donaldson, executive assistant to the state AAA committee. The new state quota of 48 machines compares with the authorized releases of 80 units in the fourth quarter of 1944.

The armed services continue to take 85 per cent of the output of track-laying tractors, and in-

fort) and 23,000 horses will feed for a year without earning anything for anyone.

The people in the business will be of no war value as the jockeys are too small and the trainers too old. A large inflation sponge has been lost. And it all is happening because people made fools of themselves and their swollen pocketbooks.

There is more to this situation than horse racing.

Boy Scout News

By C. D. Griffiths, Scoutmaster

After a short breathing spell over the holidays, Troop 2 resumed regular weekly meetings with attendance of 26 Scouts Tuesday and arranged for activities in this new year.

A benefit dance will be given January 12 at Lincoln school gym at 8 p. m. A juke box has been arranged for popular music and the D.A.V. orchestra will supply old time pieces.

Jr. A.S.M. Dick Hake and Sr. P.L. Ted Sidwell are working on a basketball schedule.

The troop is planning a trip Sunday to continue work on their camping site.

A troop court of honor has been set for February 20.

Bliss Heine was a visitor Tuesday evening and offered his services to help organize a drum and bugle corps.

A Green Bar meeting will be held at the gym January 10 at 7 p. m. with Sr. Patrol Leader Ted Sidwell presiding.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

Cherry Gummosis Can Be Restricted

While there is no known control for the disease that causes cankers and gumming on stone fruit trees, there is a treatment that will restrict its damage. Young trees, on which the disease is most severe, respond best to the treatment, but older trees especially the scaffold limbs may also be treated to advantage.

The treatment consists of making long slits from the ground line up onto the scaffold limbs. Two slits should be made on a one-year-old tree while on older trees the slits should be about an inch apart. On large trees two inches is close enough. The slits should go through the bark, but not into the wood.

In order to sterilize these slits and add to their disease resistance, they should be treated with a copper nitrate solution prepared from a formula. This solution is available at local drug stores.

These slits do not cure the disease, but merely cause a growth of new tissue which is resistant. If an infection occurs between the slits, it will not cross them so can do only a limited amount of damage to a tree.

Cherries are affected worse than other fruits and should be treated sometime this month. This disease should not be confused with gumming occurring at points of injury or from cuts or cracks. Gumming from these points is natural.

—C. B. Cordy, Assistant County Agent.

CAMP ADAIR NOW NAVY HOSPITAL

Portland, Jan. 4.—The former army training establishment at Camp Adair has now been officially designated a United States naval hospital, according to instructions received in Portland from Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal.

No patients are expected until March, Portland navy officials disclosed, and the time intervening will be used to collect a hospital staff of doctors, nurses and corpsmen and to prepare hospital facilities.

During the past months the army has moved out of the former training camp, taking with it most of the camp's equipment. With the announcement by Forrestal the navy officially takes over the hospital.

THE GRANGE

Central Point Grange

A varied program, with special music, a humorous skit and a speaker, will be given at the meeting of Central Point Grange Friday of this week, scheduled for 8 p. m. at the grange hall. Miss Marian Farrell, county home demonstration agent, will be speaker.

WEATHER

Northern California—Fog and increasing cloudiness in interior valleys today and tonight and in coastal valleys this morning. Otherwise clear. Increasing high cloudiness Friday, night fog clearing interior valleys by noon. Warmer Friday.

MRS. BURELSON AGAIN OWNER OF LADIES' STORE

Re-purchase of Burelson's Ladies Ready-to-Wear store at 31 North Central avenue by Mrs. E. T. Burelson was announced today. Mrs. Burelson stated that she had bought the business from R. E. Lance who has extensive interests in both retail and wholesale lines of ready-to-wear in various sections of the country to which he wished to devote additional time. Mr. Lance's ownership lasted but a year and during this time Mrs. Burelson continued to manage the business.

"I have great faith in the business future of Medford and Jackson county," Mrs. Burelson stated, "and decided to buy back the store and continue in business here." Burelson's store has been in operation here for the past 16 years and at the same location for the past ten years. Transfer of the business took effect Dec. 31.

OPA VIOLATIONS FOUND ON CARS

Stating that a number of used passenger car ceiling price violations have been reported in the Medford area, the price clerk of the local war price and ration board today pointed out that an enforcement drive against these violations is now in progress in the entire Portland OPA district. Several persons in this district have been assessed fines amounting to twice the sum of the overcharge, it was said.

"Violation of used car ceiling prices is serious," according to Sol Stern, OPA enforcement attorney. "Most of the violators take the form of upgrading, side payments, unreasonable low trade-in allowances, requirements to buy on time and illegal charges for extras." Stern states that of the first 40 cases investigated in Portland, several price violations were discovered. Sales by dealers and by individuals seem to be about on a 50-50 basis, Stern said.

THIRTY-DAY SENTENCE FOR GIRL SHOPLIFTER

Ethel Alice Selken, 18, of Vancouver, Wash., entered a plea of guilty to petty larceny yesterday and was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail by Justice of the Peace W. P. Tucker. She was accused of taking articles from the J. C. Penney, Montgomery Ward and M & M stores in this city. The girl has lived here since last February, and has relatives in Vancouver, she informed authorities.

Lyle T. Wilcox, charged with violation of the basic rule, was assessed \$2.50 and costs. Edson L. Rawson, charged with failure to stop at a stop sign, was fined \$1 and costs.

SEABEE RECRUITING GOING GOOD IN AREA

The first month of Seabee recruiting after more than a year of closure has resulted in this area again doing an excellent job in helping to fill the initial quotas of skilled workers, it is reported by Herb Crain of the Medford navy recruiting station.

Need for experienced workers in most types of construction and cargo-handling trades, however, still is urgent, the navy representative emphasizes, and the new month's quotas are larger than those in December.

Daily Weather Report

Forecast: Medford and vicinity: Cloudy with rain tonight and Friday. Slightly warmer tonight.

Oregon: Cloudy with occasional rain over the state tonight and Friday. Snow at higher elevations. Not quite so cold tonight.

Local Data: Temperature: High 33; low 25. Total monthly precipitation, trace.

Deficiency for the month, 24 inch. Total precipitation since September 1, 1944, 6.22 inches. Deficiency for the season, 1.30 inches.

Relative humidity at 4:30 p. m. yesterday, 90%; 4:30 today, 91%.

Tomorrow: Sunrise 8:34 a. m. Sunset 5:54 p. m. Past 24 hours: High 33; low 25.

Boise 44 25, Boston 31 30, Chicago 23 -1, Denver 45 24, Eureka 38 40, Havre 20 4, Los Angeles 29 40, Medford 33 30, New York 33 34, Omaha 27 4, Phoenix 66 39, Portland 47 38, Reno 47 12, Roseburg 48 35, Salt Lake 45 23, San Francisco 50 38, Seattle 48 39, Spokane 45 32, Washington, D. C. 43 43, Yakima 27 27.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 5:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember

PARTS and SERVICE for all Makes of WASHERS and REFRIGERATORS YOUNGER'S APPLIANCE SERVICE CO. 31 N. Bartlett Phone 2419