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Why Fight In Italy?

We have received the following query (unsigned) on a post-card:

We have a boy in Italy who has been fighting for over a year. Perhaps you can tell us, why we are fighting in Italy when Italy has surrendered and the Italians themselves are at peace? What is the big idea anyway? The Roosevelt administration claims we need more men and ammunition in Europe so there must be universal conscription. Why don't we send our men and guns in Italy where they are needed, instead of keeping them in Italy where they aren't?

But of course they ARE.

If American troops were withdrawn from Italy, Germany would soon over-run the country, and be in a position to make serious trouble for the allies in the Mediterranean and throughout the Balkans,—perhaps even in Africa.

More than that Germany would then be in a position to hold Italy with one or two divisions and send all the rest of her forces,—perhaps 10 or 12 divisions of well trained and well equipped troops to bolster her eastern or western fronts.

THERE are military experts of standing who do maintain the entire Italian campaign, from an allied standpoint, was a strategic mistake.

That may be true.

But it is also true, as we see it, that once committed in Italy, the allied troops can not be withdrawn until the German armies have been driven out.

A more pertinent question in fact might be: WHY hard-pressed as she is, Germany doesn't abandon Italy, rush her Italian armies to her eastern and western fronts?

The answer to that, in all likelihood, is Germany's determination to hang on to northern Italy as long as possible because practically all of the Italian munition factories are concentrated there,—a source of valuable supply to her forces everywhere.

Silly Business

A copy of House Bill 13 has come to this desk, with a request for editorial comment.

The bill approved by the House, would make illegal the use of mobile registration booths in Multnomah county.

Final action is now up to the State Senate.

WELL we hope the Senate uses some horse-sense, and gives this effort to restrict registration in Portland and environs, a swift kick where it will do the most good!

We know the argument in favor of the measure,—it is to spike the New Deal and P.A.C. effort to register migrant workers in Portland shipyards, and thus defeat the popular will as represented by Grand Old Party!

But that is a lot of unadulterated whang-doodle. This mobile registration is for REGISTRATION not for voting, and assuming the procedure is properly regulated according to the election laws,—and no one claims otherwise—such a movement should be encouraged not prohibited.

The Republicans have a large majority in the Senate and if partisan lines are drawn can easily pass the measure. We trust enough Republicans will see the ultimate folly of such a course to defeat it.

War Casualties

To the Editor: I am told some country newspaper editor in New York state has taken the Russian daily war reports as printed in the Times and added up the German casualties since June 1941, as officially reported and they show a total of 24,000,000 Germans killed, 32,000,000 wounded and 40,000,000 prisoners, a total of nearly 100,000,000, when Germany has a total population of only around 70,000,000. Do you know whether this is true or not, and if so could you get me the name of the newspaper? It has always seemed to me the casualties claimed by Russia have been outlandish, but never supposed they could be as crazy as this. D. A. Adams, Applegate, Oregon, Jan. 24.

Never heard of it and can't believe it is true. The new World Almanac out next month might contain information regarding war casualties, which would clear up the matter.

As has often been remarked in this department however, enemy claims of casualties can not be taken at their face value regardless of the source.

We believe the United States claims are nearer the truth than those of any other belligerent with the possible exception of England, but our own reports of enemy casualties can by the nature of things only be guesses, for the very simple reason the enemy dead and wounded are seldom if ever available for any kind of accurate count.

RUSSIA is among the least reliable of the belligerents in casualty claims, but no worse than Germany, and not as bad as Japan. Hitler not only claimed to have inflicted 10,000,000 casualties on Russia the first year, but less than 90 days after the invasion of that country, stated officially that Russia had been defeated,—knocked out of the war,—as far as any further effective resistance was concerned. As for "Nefarious Nippon" the American fleet has been wiped off the face of the map at least half a dozen times according to Tokyo communiques.

OUR advice to Mr. Adams, or anyone else interested in the matter is to disregard all casualty claims made by any country of its enemy, for they deal with facts that can't be known, or even estimated with anything approaching factual accuracy.

ST. MARY'S QUINTET TO OPPOSE J'VILLE FRIDAY

St. Mary's high Wildcats will travel to Jacksonville tomorrow night for an eastern division county "B" league game slated to start at 7:30. The lineup for St. Mary's will probably see Howard and Harold Rickman at the forward spots, Jim Miller at center, and Dick Iven and either Bob Fasel or Bob Messer at the guard posts.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, Jan. 25 — Mr. Roosevelt has been edged up to his promised meeting with Stalin and Churchill by a series of foreign affairs speeches which seemed to set a new American background for the discussions.



Paul Mallon

Wheeler and Connally, and George Foster Dulles, the Dewey advisor.

These may have appeared somewhat confusing to the public, but together they constituted a format affording Mr. Roosevelt knowledge of what is wanted in various quarters and therefore how far he can go.

FOR instance, the Vandenberg opus was confusedly interpreted as a conversion of an isolationist to the internationalist viewpoint. The gleeful internationalists hailed the speech from that standpoint, and so did the somewhat disappointed nationalists who seemed to fear its import. Actually it was only a Vandenberg plan which did not join either side. His program, which is even at this late date being confusingly reported in magazines, seemed to me to be simply this:

Russia and Britain are dividing Europe into spheres of influence, while our ideals and our policy languish. We want freedom for all peoples, apparently real democratic freedom, not just delivrance of Europe from the bonds of fascism into the chains of communism.

Vandenberg, therefore, proposed to pledge free future use by the president of our armed forces in the postwar world to prevent remilitarization by Germany and Japan only. He did not pledge their free use or any kind of use, to perpetuate forever the conquests Russia is making in Poland, or the Balkans or a British sphere of influence in Greece. Indeed, he mentioned the possibility that there might be an unjust peace, and he obviously did not want our armies backing that kind of a proposition. That was the essence of Vandenberg's idea.

NOW Wheeler, also, I think, was not clearly understood. He said he favored the Connally plan for an interim council of nations, and this was hailed as his conversion. But Wheeler did not want free use of our troops in any future war for any purpose.

His main point was that the next war threat is not likely to arise from Germany or Japan but from Russia, France, China, Britain or us—the big five with the arms, whereas Germany and Japan are to be completely crushed.

IT IS clear, therefore, that both Vandenberg and Wheeler have said only they wish to co-operate in a just peace.

Similarly the speech of the Dewey internationalist advisor, Mr. Dulles, was reported as an attack on American aloofness in foreign policy and was misunderstood as an assault upon isolationists. What Mr. Dulles said was that current conditions in Europe are due to Russian and British policies. Russia, he put it has been assigned responsibility in Europe "in large part" and Britain "in small part" for this he held the administration responsible.

Wheeler is the only one who came right out and plainly implied he did not expect Russia and the others to agree to anything that would be acceptable to him, but the same thought was not absent from the carefully framed Vandenberg plan or from the Dulles speech.

Mr. Roosevelt is thus being sent forth with what appears to be a popular mandate to break power politics in Europe—nothing more. To whatever extent he fails in that, the plan he brings home will be in public jeopardy judging from the popular reaction to these talks.

BIRTHS

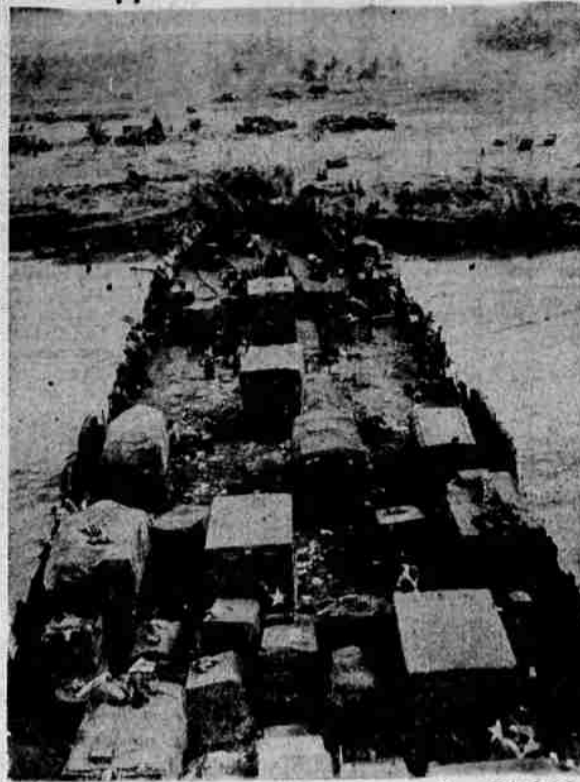
EDMONDS—To Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Rt. 2, box 216, January 25, 1945, girl, 7 lbs., at Community hospital.

JONES — To Pvt. and Mrs. Otis, 230 Wabash, January 25, 1945, boy, 6 lbs., at Community hospital.

Prescription Filled Over 15 Million Times

Recommended to do just two things: relieve constipation and gas on the stomach. This successful prescription is now put up under the name of ADLERIKA. Get a bottle of Adlerika next time you stop at your druggist's and see for yourself how quickly gas is relieved and gentle but thorough bowel action follows. Good for old and young. Caution, use only as directed. Get Adlerika from your druggist today.

Supplies Unloaded Under Fire



Unloading on Luzon as Jap artillery shells still explode on the Linsayen Gulf beachhead, this LST disgorges its vital cargo of trucks and ammunition. Troops, armor and supplies have poured ashore in Luzon in quantities unequalled in any previous Pacific operation.

Letter From Washington

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH Member of Congress From Oregon

Washington, D. C.—(Special Correspondence.)

Inauguration. This is inauguration week here at the nation's capital, but there seems to be only passing interest in the occasion. Reasons for the routine nature of the event are several: Most interest is centered on the war and problems connected with it; the inauguration is the fourth consecutive time for the same man; and the ceremony itself has been planned with the least possible fanfare. The inauguration will not be held on the capitol steps as is customary. There will be no seating capacity for a large guest list, and there will be no parade from the White House to the capitol.

The inauguration will take place on the "back porch" of the White House. The list of those invited to stand in the White House yard is limited to members of congress and their wives, top government officials, various dignitaries, and members of the "One Thousand club."

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH. Rumors to the effect that the president is a sick man were rampant during the campaign and have been rather prevalent since. Last week, I had an opportunity to observe the president at rather close range. I attended a banquet at which he was present. I can report to you that his color was good—the color and complexion of a healthy man, he was obviously vigorous, he sat at the table three hours, enjoyed the entertainment, laughed frequently, chatted with those seated near him, and although he did not make a formal speech, he twice took the microphone at the speaker's table and made amusing comments. His voice was the same strong voice that has always charmed radio listeners.

MANPOWER. Selective Service head, General Hershey, this week appeared before a rather large unofficial committee of house members and was questioned regarding the new order to induct young men from farms. I sat through most of the meeting. A summary of the information obtained can be briefly stated as follows: The armed services have notified selective service that more men are needed. Available sources for the requirement are limited. Under the selective service law, local draft boards have wide authority. Selective service officials request local boards to make inductions and reclassifications that are not required by law, but with the wide latitude given local boards in the law, such requests from selective service headquarters may be complied with. Accordingly, local boards may use their best judgment in reclassifying

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although the use of a pen-name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarity and condensation.

Status of Community Property Law in Oregon

To the editor: It has been brought to my attention that a subscriber has requested an article from one of the Jackson county representatives relative to the effect of the recent decision of the supreme court of the United States on the Oregon community property law.

Since the supreme court of Oregon has not passed on the subject, it might be deemed presumptuous for me to express my views; but your subscriber is entitled to an answer which reflects the opinion of the writer and this opinion may, or may not, be fully accepted, ratified and approved by my fellow members of the bar.

The decision of the supreme court was restricted to the effect of an Oklahoma community property law (upon which Oregon law was based) on individual federal income tax returns filed by husband and wife from

that state. It was held the law was invalid insofar as it attempted to provide a means whereby husband and wife could level their income, file individual returns and thereby lessen their federal income tax liability. The decision does not invalidate the law with reference to other matters. The answer to the question of your subscriber is that the decision has no effect on the law in its application to any other situation arising under it except those relating to federal income taxes. For instance, for state tax purposes, the attorney general has ruled the law is still effective in Oregon.

This community property law we find is very generally misunderstood, and I would recommend that interested persons consult their lawyer with reference to it.

Frank J. Van Dyke, Representative, 19th District of Oregon.

To the editor: Do you suppose you could do anything to help educate the ad-answering public? Time after time we've run ads in your paper—usually the answers pour in—but what do we get? Often times nothing more than a name, when we are drastically in need of help.

Now, if they only could use a little salesmanship talk—tell their age, experience, present position, habits, family (if any), etc., it would give a busy man something to go on—we do not have time to investigate 20-30 applicants personally, and no doubt miss contacting the one man for the job.

Yours for more intelligent answers, EVELYN HAMILTON, Medford, Oregon.

MID-AIR CRASH TAKES 16 LIVES

Dyersburg, Tenn., Jan. 25.—(U.P.)—Sixteen men were killed Wednesday night when two Flying Fortresses collided near here officials of the Dyersburg army air base, where the planes were based, announced today.

Four other members of the crews parachuted to safety. The planes reportedly were flying in formation when the accident occurred. A wing on one of the big four-engined bombers was said to have sheared off when it struck the other plane, which also went down out of control.

Both aircraft burned.

CARD OF THANKS We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their kindness and sympathy during our bereavement and for the floral offerings. The Andersen Family.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 9:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

No. 7394 In the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Jackson, Probate Department. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed administratrix of the estate of Felicite Dieu, deceased, and has qualified. Any and all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present said claims duly verified, at the office of the county clerk in Jackson County, Oregon, within six months from date of this notice.

Date of first publication Thursday, January 25, 1945. Date of last publication Thursday, February 22, 1945. MARGARET LUTHKE Administratrix Charles Coston 517 Davis Building, Attorney for administratrix, Portland, Oregon.

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co. History 'rom the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY

January 25, 1935 (It was Saturday) Legislature with one-third of session over, passes only three bills, none of any importance.

Congress plans early vote on bonus bill despite presidential opposition.

Cloudy and unsettled. High 38, low 30 degrees.

O.S.C. defeats Washington twice in row to strengthen conference. "Red" McDonald among players on State squad.

Jacksonville mining operations cause main street to drop six feet.

Farm enumerators for county named.

Mrs. Roosevelt pleads for America to join world court.

Frank DeSouza nominated in senate for postmaster here.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

January 25, 1925 (It was Monday) State prohibition enforcement officer under fire at legislative hearing.

Jackson County Protective Sportsmen association at meeting opposes any change in fish laws at present time.

Rain. High 46, low 36 degrees. Emigrant dam near Ashland is now filling and large number of motorists visit it.

Attorney Arthur I. Moulton of Portland to deliver annual Lincoln banquet address.

Local radio fans incorporate and will wage war on static. Among the incorporators are W. A. Gates, Ralph Bardwell, T. E. Daniels and Frank De Souza.

Coast business shows gain in December.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO TODAY

January 25, 1911 (It was Wednesday) Progressives to oppose second term for President Taft.

Prospects bright for federal experiment station in valley.

Rogue River Electric company to build new plant this summer.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

TO EASE MISERY OF CHILD'S COLD RUB ON VICKS VAPORUB

GREEN FIR SLABS \$7.50

GREEN PINE SLABS \$6.00

300 Cu. Foot Loads For Immediate Delivery Phone 731 Central Point

SOUTHERN OREGON FUEL CO.

The BACK SEAT DRIVER

DON'T DRINK WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING!!



EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission

DIXIE CAFE

We're featuring Boyd's coffee made with the latest coffee-making equipment at the Dixie Cafe.

127 E. 6th St., Medford