

EIGHT—MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE Friday, March 17, 1944

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Official Paper of the City of Medford Official Paper of Jackson County. United Fruit—Full Lined Wine. MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION.

Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry. The Washington, D. C., and London governments are reportedly worried over the "political content" of the war in Europe. This causes the suspicion to arise in the public mind, operations in that theater of war have been delayed more by politicians than the weather.

The twofold aim of genuine ration allowance effective next Wednesday will leave more plentiful commodities available after April 8 at a time when the country is in the grip of a spring fever throughout the commonwealth.

As YOU'RE NOTICED (Palo Alto, Cal.) Times: "Society editors, who have a special urge to give certain things a sort of exalted status by fanning up the language employed in describing them, are quite fond of the word 'high noon' when designating midday as the hour of a deed."

"Jeff Kirk won 82 years of age doesn't look a day over 45 and is as active as a kitten. He demonstrated some of his activities" (Hesper News) — Foxy Grandpa.

The OPA announces cheaper shoes minus points will be available for children May 1 to May 20. This is timely and in line for inauguration of the long barefoot season.

Congress is apt to be flooded with pension bills, for everything and everybody reports state. None has yet shown up providing remuneration for CCC veterans for time lost suffering from poison oak.

THE BUREAUCRAT: "At head of the division of provision for revision. Was a man of prompt decision. Merlon Quirk, the Ph. D. in callisthenics, PDG in pubescence. He had just the proper background for the job."

"From the pastoral aroma of Aloha, Oklahoma. With a pitance of a salary in hand. His acceptance had been whetted even aside and abetted. By emolument that netted some five grand.

"To with energy estate this fomite left his white, and hastened on to Washington, D. C. Where with verve and vim and vigor, he went hunting for the nigger. In the woodpile of the WPA. (Houston News)

If F. D. R. Doesn't "Choose"

According to a review of recent voting in the congress, the Republicans hang together better than the Democrats. It used to be just the way around when the New Deal was launched—the Democrats voted as a solid bloc; the Republicans split, six ways to Sunday.

FOR there appears to be practically no doubt of this: Regardless of how the presidential campaign may come out, the next congress will NOT be pro-Roosevelt.

In other words, voting for a fourth term for F.D.R. will mean voting for a divided government; for a constant conflict between the executive and legislative branches of the government—an unfortunate condition in time of war, although on vital war measures the prevailing congressional unity would no doubt be approximately maintained.

But in time of peace and particularly of reconstruction, could anything from the standpoint of successful federal administration, be more unfortunate? And no doubt at least half of the next administration will be of that type:

IF President Roosevelt should refuse to be a candidate for another term—don't laugh, it is still POSSIBLE—no doubt the main reason would be his realization of this situation; and his perfectly natural desire not to end his presidential career in headache, frustration and heartbreak which such an impasse would undoubtedly impose.

Inexcusable Censorship?

Now what possible excuse can the army censorship have for suppressing the facts regarding that tragic mistake in the Sicilian campaign? Certainly the Germans knew all the facts, for they were responsible for the tragedy. So the stock alibi of withholding valuable information from the enemy cannot apply.

The German Command in some way apparently got wind of the parachute expedition, scattering camouflaged Luftwaffe bombers among the American planes, the former dropping bombs on an allied convoy, when the expedition—for some strange reason—flew directly over the British and American ships.

Naturally the latter assuming the expedition was an enemy force opened a heavy anti-aircraft fire which brought down 23 U. S. transports with a loss of 410 men!

A typical Nazi trick, but one which, of course, would never have worked with a more experienced combat group, will never work—or probably be attempted—again.

BUT now the cat is out of the bag, thanks to some remarks made by a sergeant, Jack Poise, of the "Stars and Stripes" before the Commonweal club of San Francisco.

And the incident, in the main, is confirmed by the war department. What is the result? All harm a frank recital of the facts could have done American morale at the time is done now. There is no benefit there.

And added to that is the loss of public confidence, an increased fear that the army and navy censorships are withholding bad news and exaggerating good news, and that "we the people" really don't know what is going on in this war, and as long as such stupid censorship controls, never will.

"—And West is West"

While on this subject of war news there seems to be a decided difference between the news techniques on the other side of the Atlantic and the other side of the Pacific.

True the news reports of the latter have been better and therefore there has been less temptation to color or suppress any portions of them.

But there is more to it than that. The entire news attitude toward the Pacific area appears to be more realistic and adult—and for that matter more modest—than that toward Europe.

TAKE Secretary Stimson's report on the success of the campaign in Italy for example, and the same day a news report from the Tremaine area in the Pacific.

The Stimson report tries to make out the Italian campaign has attained all its chief objectives, though the drive for Rome has been bogged down near Cassino for over three months.

The Tremaine report claims nothing, editorially speaking, but relates such eloquent facts as the destruction of nearly 900 Jap planes in 16 weeks, the practical elimination of every major Jap air base from Truk to Port Moresby, including the key points of Rabaul and Kavengi, and what amounts to the driving of the Jap fleet, air and sea, from the South Pacific.

Such facts taken with the equally unpleasant facts of the Tarawa landing in the same field which were promptly released, certainly set an example which those who handle the war news in the European area might well follow!

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10 and 20 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY March 17, 1934 (It was Saturday) First Lady flies back from Porto Rico, and will observe 25th wedding date in White House.

Cloudy. High 77, low 30-35. Columbia Preps and Ashland to play in state tournament Wednesday.

Medford Rogues to hold first practice tomorrow and have new uniforms for season. Garden seed for relief families to be distributed tomorrow.

Survey of county show today. Former crown prince of Germany now selling plates.

Three world flight planes pass over city at 2:15 this afternoon. Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, super-chief, now in Germany.

Merle Chastain is named all state forward and "Tut" Wilkins all state guard with Knapp and Reichstein on the second team.

THIS Chinese have shown up on the north Burma front what

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, March 17.—The Germans have been able to get together enough bombing planes to stage a new campaign against London.

The number of planes at their base back in the French coast is estimated by the French to be able to send 50 to 100 planes three or four miles a week.

That is all behind the heavy smoke (15 to 200 bombs) attack on the British capital early this week. The best check lends confidence to the conviction they cannot sustain even such a moderate-scale offensive as that one, and have no facilities to expand their newly-reopened air front.

There may be more severe than officially reported. There may be more truth in this general suspicion than it is not considered good to tell very exact details of.

FOR THAT SPRING "DATE"

SAT. NITE



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bombing damage but the more

significant truths of the situation are simply these: ABOUT six weeks ago the Germans renewed small-scale night air attacks, using about 30 planes one or two planes at a time, some very accurate. They hit some south England cities but concentrated mainly upon London.

Their raids recently were not shot hit-and-run bombing on large-area targets. No accurate attack on a war industry center has been made. They may have had some military objectives but their main objective plainly was to rattle, psychologically the effect of the British-American forces on Germany with some show of encouraging retaliation.

If they could get the planes they might make it hurt, because their bases are closer to their objectives than ours are, but great stores and replacement are needed for sustained air campaigns and these the Germans obviously do not have.

They got three free planes together apparently by scavenging them from the Russian front and saving from their dwindling production for some months past.

The most they can do, therefore, is to knock down some buildings, stir up fear and cause suffering and death to the British civilian population. They cannot impose concentration for the moment front by previous raid or bring decisive consequences of any military nature.

Incidentally, our bombers vented over Germany the past week significantly have encountered little or no German fighter plane opposition. The fighter force was weakened by the previous two weeks of battling.

They can do if armed, trained and fed. They routed the famed 18th Jap division (famed as far as the Japs are concerned for having taken Singapore, killed 2,500 and dispersed into the jungle those who were able to run. In this they beat all kinds of Jap fighting—frontal assaults, jungle circling, tree hanging and what not.

Their main objective was to destroy the Jap threat to the new road into China from India, still nearing completion. The Chinese used the American tanks and equipment well, fighting under a military American officer, Col. Holtwell H. Brown, son of the colonel, George Holtwell Brown. In charge of planning the operation was Gen. Stilwell who somehow always seems able to produce

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strong, moving action.

Although the British have just about come out even in their south Burma campaign, this Burma

west Burma experience should impress Lord Mountbatten as to what may be possible in the south Burma campaign, this Burma

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