

23, 1944
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Co., held first
recently. Second
was Construction
Co., with 3.6 per
cent. The Delta
Shipbuilding
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per cent, was in sixth

BOY DIES
March 22 (U.P.)—
A boy died tomorrow for
Paul Kyle, son of
Fred Kyle, who
lives in his farm home

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Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

WITH THE ALLIED BEACHHEAD FORCES IN ITALY, March 23 (Wireless).—We were due to sail for the Anzio beachhead a few hours after I got aboard our LST.

But at the last minute came a warning of a storm of gale force brewing in the Mediterranean, so we laid over for 24 hours.

Some of the sailors took the opportunity next day to go ashore, and asked if I didn't want to go along. But I said, "What for? I've been ashore for three months already." So I stayed aboard, and just killed a full day doing nothing.

We were tied up along the waterfront street of a small port city near Naples. All day long the dock was a riot of Italians grouped down below to catch cookies and chocolates and knick-knacks the sailors and soldiers would throw down to them.

There must have been 200 people on the dock, either participating in the long-shot chance of actually catching something, or there just to look on.

Most of them were children, boys and girls both. Mostly they were ragged and dirty. Yet they were good-natured.

Every time a package of crackers went down from above, humanity fought and stamped up over it like a bunch of football players. Now and then some youngster would get hurt, and make a terrible face and cry. But mostly they'd laugh and look a little sheepish, and dash back in again after the next one.

Pass the Biscuits

ALL ITALIAN children call all American soldiers "Hey, Joe," and all along the dock was a chicken-yard bedlam of "Hey, Joe, Joe-see-ut." Each one crying at the top of his lungs to call attention to himself, and holding up his hands.

The soldiers' favorite was a stocky little fellow of about 8, with coal-black hair and a constant good humor. He was about the only one of them who wasn't ragged, the reason being that he was entirely clad in military garb.

He had on a blue navy sweater. Then for pants he had the biggest pair of British tropical shorts you ever saw, which came clear below his knees.

His legs were bare. He had on gray army socks rolled down to his shoetops. And on his feet were

a pair of brand-new American GI shoes, which must have been at least size 8. To top it all off, he had a beguiling grin with a tooth out in the middle of it.

Pretty teen-age Italian girls in red sweaters would come and stand at the edge of the throng watching the fun. But the sailors and soldiers at the rail would soon spot them, and the play for them would start. Reluctant and timid at first, they would finally obey the sailors' demand that they try to catch something too, and pretty soon would be in there battling for broken crackers.

Most Americans are touched by the raggedness and apparent hunger of the children over here. But it was hard to feel sorry for these kids, for although maybe some of them really were hungry, the rest of them were just having a wonderful mob-scene sort of good time.

Hunger Was Genuine

IT WAS the old woman in the crowd that I could hardly bear to look at. Throughout the day there must have been a couple of dozen who came, tried for half an hour to catch something, and finally went dejectedly away.

They were horrible specimens of poverty and insanitation. They were old and pitiful, and repulsive. But their hunger most surely was genuine.

One elderly woman, dressed in tattered black and carrying a thin old shopping bag on her arm, stood at the far edge of the crowd, vainly beseeching a toss in her direction. Finally one sailor, who had just started out a large box of nabiscos pieced by piece, changed his mind and threw the entire box toward the old woman.

It was a good throw and a good catch. She got it like an outfielder. But no sooner did she have it in her arms than the crowd was upon her. Kids and adults both tore at the box, scratched and yelled and grabbed, and in five seconds the box was empty and torn.

The poor old woman never let go. She clung to it as though it were something human. And when the last cracker was gone she walked sort of blindly away, her head back and her eyes toward the sky, weeping with a hideous face just like that of a heart-broken child, still gripping the empty box.

It was a lot of fun watching this foreign riot of childish emotions and adult greed that day. But some of it was too real—grind born of too great a necessity—and I was glad when word came that we would sail that night.

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

TRAFFIC WAS heavy on N. Meridian yesterday morning when a shrieking siren heralded the approach of a city ambulance on Michigan st. An elderly Negro with a strong sense of civic consciousness stepped off the curb and flagged down the cars until the ambulance passed. Then he motioned traffic to go ahead, and went on about his business. We need more such citizens...

Speaking of traffic, we're a little discouraged about the prospects of ever getting our pedestrians educated to observe traffic regulations without a policeman standing there holding a club over their heads. We've observed the downtown section the last few days during the afternoon hours when the police were not on watch, and the number of folks walking against the red light was disheartening... Municipal Judge John Niblack is being ribbed by some of his friends with the suggestion he turn his musical talents to advantage in his campaign for the Republican nomination for prosecutor. In his younger days, Judge Niblack was quite a virtuoso on the harmonica and mandolin, with "Pretty Little Redwing" as his favorite selection. So far, he has resisted the idea... Victor Weller, the former state trooper, is home on 15-day furlough after completing his boot training at Great Lakes. And we're told many of his feminine admirers in the statehouse are happy to see him again.

Reds' Rule Committee

"SEE RED" was the slogan adopted by the Red Cross campaign committee of the Public Service Co. of Indiana. The reason: It was an all-red-haired committee. The chairman, John Mellett, is a "red-head"—or was before his hair started turning pink—and he chose a red-haired committee from each department. They are Les Leonard, Alice Rudebeck, Iva Williams, June Herrell, Avis Worth, Lillian Martin, Bertha Fesmire and Katherine Todd. Their goal was \$1500—50 per cent above last year's contributions by the 330 employees—and it looks as if they'll make it... Bob McMurray, an executive of the same com-

pany, left Tuesday for Annapolis to report as a lieutenant commander. A graduate of the naval academy, he received his commission last Friday. . . . A couple of gals driving across 42d st. were horrified the other evening to see what appeared to be a human leg, unattached to a body, laying in the street beneath a parked car. Stopping quickly, they turned their car's spotlight on the leg, and then discovered it merely was a wooden leg. They haven't figured out yet how it got there. . . . Even the dining car porters have to use psychology. Jim Dilley reports that while on a recent trip to New York, he got aboard the Spirit of St. Louis. Shortly after the train pulled out, the dining car porter came through shouting: "Dinner now being served. No dining car service after Columbus." Everybody rushed for the dinner and stood in line. It suddenly dawned on Jim that the train wouldn't reach Columbus for another three hours. He mentioned this to the porter, who replied: "Sure, but if you don't scare them, they'll all wait until we're almost there."

Key Troubles

MRS. AL BLOEMKER frequently has trouble finding her car keys around home, we hear, but that's nothing to the trouble she had Tuesday. She drove downtown to buy a new coat, visiting three stores in the process. When she got ready to go home, she couldn't find the car keys. She had a vague impression of having dropped them in her coat pocket, but they weren't there. Then she realized she might have dropped them in the pocket of one of the coats she was trying on. She started backtracking and about an hour later found them in the pocket of a coat in one of the stores. . . . The Shortridge Daily Echo reports that James C. Beane, English teacher who returned to Shortridge recently after nearly two years with the army air force (intelligence) "hasn't become assimilated yet." We echo the Echo: "Other day when the buzzer sounded to announce the close of class, the pupils made the usual scramble for the door, when what to their consternation did they hear but the strident command of the erstwhile captain—H-A-W-L-T!" The pupils froze in their places until Mr. Beane gave the command, in somewhat less strident tones, "Dismissed!"

Calls Cabinet 'Yes Men'

ON DOMESTIC policy, he charges the administration with poor administration and the President with having a cabinet of "yes men." Outstanding men are needed, he says. He holds up two cabinet members as horrible examples—Secretary of Agriculture Wickard and Secretary of Labor Perkins.

The independent commissions in Washington, he says, should be more independent. They are too much under the executive thumb. He then reads his bill of particulars in proof that he's not a Democrat or New Dealer.

On foreign policy, he specifies, he has disagreed in a number of instances with the administration, including most recently the Polish question. He even went so far as to accuse the administration of having no foreign policy.

Difficult Task

THIS is a difficult task. He is trying to show, on the one hand, that he is not a New Dealer, not still a Democrat, not "another Roosevelt" and, on the other, that he is not an old-line G.O.P.-type Republican.

When he arrived here, he found the air full of talk that he is not a real Republican. He has been dangerous these rumors before his audiences—rumors, as he describes them, that "I'm a carbon copy of Roosevelt," that "I'm in league with Roosevelt," that "I'm trying to help the administration."

"I've never talked politics with President Roosevelt in my life," he says.

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Just Pathological

"They are not thinkers—they are just pathological," he says.

On the other hand, he denounces standpat Republicanism as bitterly as any Democrat ever did, and, if he should get nominated, President Roosevelt, or any of his campaign speakers, would be able to quote him at length without bothering to coin any new phrases.

He tempts his criticism of the New Deal by admitting that it has achieved some worthwhile reforms. He speaks harshly of those who are against everything just to be against, who react adversely to everything the administration does.

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Questions Logicality

COMMITTEE members hesitated to comment publicly, but one said privately: "It looks as if Miss Summer is proposing that congress take over military operations."

"That doesn't sound very logical to me," he added.

In a letter addressed to all members of the military affairs committee, Miss Summer said that "this is the opportunity for the American congress to initiate a service of historic magnitude."

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