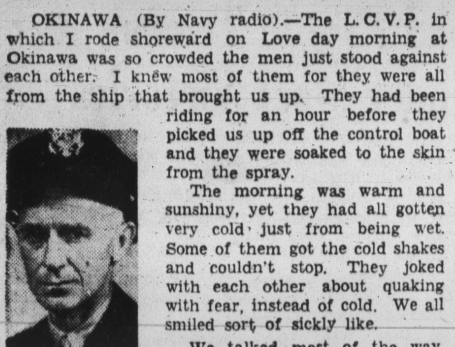


Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle



OKINAWA (By Navy radio).—The L.C.V.P. in which I rode shoreward on Love day morning at Okinawa was so crowded the men just stood against each other. I knew most of them for they were all from the ship that brought us up. They had been riding for an hour before they picked us up off the control boat and they were soaked to the skin from the spray.

The morning was warm and sunny, yet they had all gotten very cold just from being wet. Some of them got the cold shakes and couldn't stop. They joked with each other about the jacking with fear, instead of cold. We all smiled sort of sickly like.

We talked most of the way, but I can't remember much of what we said. We were all sort of tensed up inside. These Pacific islands have one bad feature that we never had to contend with in any of the European invasions. And that is a reef that lies just under water, three or four hundred yards out. Hence a boat of any size can't run up to the beach, for it can't get over the reef.

Consequently, we had to transfer again about a half mile from shore. We ran up along a fleet of amphibious—amphibious tractors—which were waiting there for us.

Small Fires Burning On Island

THESE ARE like big trucks, only they're built up like a tractor. When in the water the tractor treads, built up like a propeller. The moment it touches bottom it crawls along like a tractor. They can go miles to sea or miles inland, either one.

Our packs were so heavy it was hard to get from one boat to the other. It took our load about 10 minutes to transfer. And then we started the last lap, the one that really counted.

The terrific bombardment had completely stopped about a minute before H-hour. By now almost an hour had passed, and the ships were again firing, spasmodically.

Small fires were burning inland and a great cloud of black smoke rose from the airport, up on high ground. But the pall of smoke and dust which had covered the beach had blown away, and we could

clearly see the men on shore and the wave ahead of us landing.

We had all expected to go onto the beach in a hailstorm of tracer bullets, mortar shells throwing sand, and artillery shells whistling into the water ahead of us. And yet we couldn't see a bit of thing ahead. We hoped it was true. We hoped.

While we were hoping, somebody took out his canteen and had a drink. People get awfully thirsty as they approach a beachhead. The canteen went around. When it came to me I took a big gulp, and almost choked. For it wasn't water at all, but straight brandy!

During the bombardment and all during the landings a lone four-engine Liberator bomber flew slowly back and forth over the beach. We marveled at his audacity for he seemed an easy target for ack-ack. Yet he didn't seem to get shot at.

Weather Couldn't Have Been Better

LIBERATORS ARE too big for carriers to handle so it would have had to come all the way from the Philippines or Iwo Jima or Saipan. We presumed it carried photographers. It seemed incongruous, lumbering around up there alone so nonchalantly.

We were musing on the Liberator when suddenly the amphibious hit bottom, tilted way over on one side as though it was going to upset, then tilted back with a big bump, that almost threw us off our feet.

We were crossing the coral reef. It was a good crossing at that. The water was smooth and there were no rollers on the reef. The gods were good to us on that invasion day.

The weather was warm and spring-like. The sun shone brightly. There was no wind. It couldn't have been better.

From the reef on in, the amphibious joggled and tilted as it rode the rough coral bottom. Then at last it climbed out of the water and onto the sand.

We ran up about 20 feet from the water's edge. The driver let down the ramp that forms the rear end of the amphibious and we stepped out. We were on Okinawa an hour and a half after H-hour without getting shot at and we hadn't even got our feet wet.

The first words I heard on Japanese soil were from an incredulous marine who said,

"Hell, this is just like one of MacArthur's landings."

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

A "SIGN OF THE TIMES" was reported seen in the window of the Taystee Bar B-Q, 225 N. Pennsylvania: "No ribs, no chicken, no Bar B-Q, no business, going fishin', see you next season. Look for our new location, etc." ... And Grandmother's Kitchen, in the Loraine hotel, has started closing Saturdays "because of the meat shortage."

Luther Tex, city street department superintendent, says not to forget the tin can collection next week. Same schedule—north of 16th st. Monday and Tuesday, south of 16th, Wednesday and Thursday. Also, this is clean-up week. So get busy.

If you live out in the vicinity of Michigan and Tibbs and have a pet dog, take good care of it. It's reported there's a dog poisoner at work out there.

Arthur Robert Berg, 412 N. Tibbs, reports that his little black and tan dog was poisoned—strychnine—Wednesday afternoon. And Mr. Berg has heard of eight other dogs poisoned recently in the same vicinity.

H. H. (Dutch) Behrent offers free of charge a tip on how to protect blossoms and plants from frost. If it frosts and your plants aren't covered, says Dutch, get out bright and early, before the sun hits the plants, and sprinkle them with the garden hose. That, he says, will remove the ice and frost without damage.

Lots of people covered shrubs and even small fruit trees with sheets, quilts, etc., Wednesday night and Thursday night to save them from the frost. But Bud Haak, who lives in the 6100 block E. St. Clair, went them one better. He covered a 30-foot peach tree with a parachute. It was a defective army chute, which he obtained about a year ago. Made a nice cover.

LT. BROSNAN in Town

OLD INSIDE is all puffed up over getting mentioned in Private Detective magazine. And in the leading story, at that—"Death of Dr. Garden." On page 16, it says, "The drowned, spotted, was read in that newspaper column, Inside Indianapolis, that Mrs. Mallot had removed the weight."

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WARTIME LIVING

A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON ON HOME FRONT

Clothing for All at Lower Prices Is Aim

By S. BURTON LEASE and DOUGLAS HEATH

WASHINGTON, April 7.—The average adult has a wardrobe for last for about 18 months.

If every manufacturer were to close down and every retail shop were to withdraw its stock from the market, the citizens would be fully clothed, the office of civilian requirements says.

Children are excluded from this statement because they outgrow their clothing, so that it cannot be judged on the wearability basis.

But there isn't going to be any such shutdown.

While there won't be as much clothing made as we would like to buy and much of it won't be first-choice as to color, style or finish—we could go on for a long time maintaining wardrobes almost as complete as they are now.

Hitler has held on long enough now so that men's fall and winter suits are going to be scarce next season.

Cutting should start by mid-May. The big tailors doubt that they could hope to get even if V-day were tomorrow—to get enough material.

A RECENT canvass indicates that various major producers expect to turn out from 25 to 50 per cent as many fall and winter suits as last year.

There won't be any significant quantity of hard-finished worsteds. But the OCR believes one should have no difficulty finding pretty satisfactory tweeds and soft-finished worsted suitings.

AS FOR this summer, tropical worsteds, which are what most of us would like, will be pretty scarce. There won't be more than a fifth as many as last year.

But other summer suitings, notably cotton rayon, will be in better supply.

Over-all, there should be more than half as many summer suits in the stores as last year. But many of them will be delivered late. You won't find them all on the racks at the beginning of the season, as you used to do.

MEN'S SHIRTS are tight. Production last year was about 70 per cent of normal, and with the difficult cotton textile situation it is going to be hard to improve this.

More and more, as clothing stocks shrink, housewives have resorted to makeover and make-do in meeting family apparel requirements.

The OCR made a year-end sampling that showed the supply from 30 to 50 per cent under demand.

The labor department's survey shows the supply from 80 to 90 per cent behind demand, with some panic buying, causing artificially exaggerated shortages.

Both can't be right.

IF MEN take it easy, and not upset the apple cart, the OCR believes that the shirt supply can be brought up to 80 per cent of demand, which would give every man all the shirts he really needs.

To get around the tendency of manufacturers, when textiles are limited, to use them up in the more expensive garments and run short on low-priced items, the WPB has issued a series of "M-388" orders, backed by OPA price regulations, that have provoked a storm in the garment industry but appear promising to laymen.

FOUR-FIFTHS of all woolen and cotton fabrics available for civilian use, and three-fourths of all rayon and other synthetic fabrics, are set aside for use in low and medium-priced garments and for children.

For men, this means that any manufacturer whose suits wholesale for \$32.25 or less can get priorities on enough wool to make up to 50 per cent of the suits he made in the corresponding quarter last year.

For women, it means, for example, that manufacturers will get priority assistance on slips retailing up to \$5.75—and the lower the retail price, the more priority help the manufacturer can obtain. For girls, dresses wholesaling at \$3.75 or less will be encouraged.

THERE will be left over, for benefit of new firms and for the making of higher-priced garments, one-fifth of the cotton and wool and a quarter of the rayon.

This experiment, obviously is not designed to increase the number of garments available, but rather to help the family budget by enforcing new emphasis upon the price classes the family of ordinary income can afford.

It also should help to eliminate an exaggerated impression of clothing shortages that comes when a buyer who is accustomed to \$32.50 suits, and now thinks he might pay \$50, can find nothing under \$20 or \$30 and walks out to report that "there isn't a suit in the store."

Industry, he added, cannot absorb higher per-hour wages and shorter work days without raising prices of finished products.

"If any scheme of maintaining the wartime weekly take-home pay is to be attempted in the face of reduced hours of work, it may well be that we will discover we are pricing ourselves right out of a job," he said.

GEORGE BUCKLEY, representing the United Automobile Workers (C. I. O.), told the conference that high wages are necessary in all sections of the country to insure maximum purchasing power and full employment.

A. F. Hinrichs, acting commissioner of labor statistics, predicted that "strong pressure" on unskilled wage rates will accompany the expected sharp drop in employment after the war ends.

This, he said, will be followed by a rapid recovery "perhaps moving to boom proportions" in which wage conditions "will be disturbed as a result of production cost revisions." The present 40-cent wage minimum, he added, is no longer "an effective measure of labor forces since most pay is above that level."

What its tax outlook is going to be?

TO ILLUSTRATE the point, Mr. Trundell, who said he represented 97 concerns, cited the case of one of them. This company, he said, made a profit before taxes last year of \$195,000.

"But what do you think it had left after taxes were deducted? Exactly \$10,000." He asked how venture capital could be attracted to small businesses in view of such a situation.

M. R. Fletcher, vice president of the Association of American Railroads, suggested a nine-point post-war fiscal policy.

HIS recommendations, he said, were based on a report of his subcommittee on taxation of the railroad committee for the study of transportation. It matched, almost

item for item, the Legion's own program.

The points were:

1. The budget should be balanced and a suitable provision made for payment of the public debt.

2. The present tax system must be revised, because it "violates every principle of sound taxation."

3. Normal tax rates on individual incomes should be increased and personal exemptions lowered or abolished. (The states should abandon income taxes and the federal government should keep away from a sales tax.)

4. Personal surtaxes should be substantially reduced.

5. Corporate income should be taxed only once. This should be at the same rate as the normal tax applicable to individuals.

6. Corporate excess profits taxes and surtaxes should be abolished.

7. Fair and consistent treatment should be accorded capital gains and losses.

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