

Laughter and jeers greeted his words.

"But, gentlemen, examine the workmanship. Sheer as gossamer, made by the finest silk artists in all France!"

"Tuppence ha'penny" shouted one.

"'Arf crown" bid another.

"But these gloves are worth thousands of pounds", the auctioneer pleaded.

Amid raucous laughter, a grizzled man in the garb of a sea captain raised his voice. "I'll give you five pounds for the lot; not a penny more."

In vain the auctioneer tried to raise a higher bid. And since the law said that the goods went to the highest bidder, the captain got the bale. Then he and another sailor loaded it on a dray and drove away with it.

A week later at the customs auction at Brighton, a similar bale of gloves was offered. No one would bid on it except the captain, who got it for five pounds. With the help of the other sailor, he loaded it on the dray beside the other bale.

As they drove off, the captain laughed happily. "Matey, we're rich. These gloves are ours now, and they have the customs stamp on them. They will fetch fifty thousand pounds on the London market".

"But, Cap'n, why didn't some hother bloke bid them hin hand sell them hin Lunnon?"

The Captain roared with meiriment. "Because no one but ourselves was at both auctions, and because the bale we dumped at Weymouth was all left-hand gloves and the one at Brighton was all right-hand ones!"

— FRANCIS CORCORAN, '46

FREEDOM OR SLAVERY

The chaotic condition of Europe after the war furnishes much food for thought. While much could be written about the present state of affairs of all European countries, it will suffice here to consider only those which are now referred to as constituting the Russian sphere of influence. Before expressing any opinions on their present condition, it would be well to consider how it happened that they are now in such a plight.

For ten years before World War II, two rival armed nations were mobilizing their resources in Europe, Soviet Russia in the East, and Nazi Germany in the West. Both

were arming for the clash each knew would eventually come. The fact that Poland was situated between the two is the only reason that we instead of Russia, were at war with Germany first.

Both Germany and Russia pursued a policy of expansion at the expense of their neighbors, Germany annexed Austria first; the Sudetenland, and finally all of Checks-Slovakia and Danzig followed later. Russia employed a system of so called free elections to engulf Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Finally, when we were at war with Germany, the Russian Bear considered the time opportune for delivering a blow at Finland.

During the war which raged for six years in Europe, the people of those eastern countries were the innocent victims of the ambitious designs of both Germany and Russia. First, they had to submit to Hitler's "New Order" or suffer the consequences. Finally, they were forced to undergo "Liberation" by the Russians. Both these powers employed the same policy in regard to those countries, that of setting up puppet regimes which would carry out their programs.

The war has ended. Germany has been severely beaten and Nazism has ceased to exist as an organized creed; but have we wiped out National Socialism only to pave the way for Communism? The Allies all helped to defeat Hitler's New Order in Europe, but none of them opposed Stalin's policy of installing "friendly governments" in those same countries. A compromise was effected in the case of Poland, but the Polish regime is still controlled by Communists.

Of the remaining countries of eastern Europe, only in Greece have the Communists suffered a set-back. Roumania is now a mere vassal of Russia. Marshall Tito holds firm control of Yugo-Slavia. The Red Flag flies in Vienna. Eastern Germany is under the direct influence of Communism. Finally the Bulgarian election, which was to have elected the people's choice of government, has been indefinitely postponed because the campaign was not being carried on without intimidation.

Will the peoples of these countries have the opportunity of electing their own governments without interference? Will the term "Liberation" come to mean more to them than the mere substitution of one dictatorial regime for another? Will the thousands who have fought and died for the cause of freedom have done so in vain? Only the future can reveal the answers to these questions. We, on our part, can only hope that, at the Peace Conference,

Britain will not forget the reasons for her declaration of war, that Britain will not forsake her promise to respect the right of all people to choose the form of government under which they wish to live, and that Britain and the United States will not lose sight of the Four Freedoms, of which we have heard so little of late, but which formed such an integral part of our aims early in the war. Only then will those peoples be able to feel that they have been liberated in the full sense of the word. Then and only then will we have a just and lasting peace.

— CYRIL SINNOTT, '49

THE GIRL REPORTER

Mike Walsh looked up from the report which he had been reading and scowled, "What's the matter with Sherman's Agency anyway?" he cried. "We send them to look for a man reporter and they send us a woman. A woman, mind you! And I'll bet she can't even spell correctly."

Fred Baker, his assistant, looked up and there were lines of worry etched deeply on his forehead. He, too, was discouraged, but he managed to smile and say, "Don't take it so hard, Mike, she may be all right, although I doubt it. We have to get someone, and with most of our boys away we still have to carry on."

"I know, but it's going to be awfully hard to get used to it. A woman working in this office! Just imagine! And likely she'll be full of whims, and of course she'll have one of those freak 'hair-do's'." Oh, man!" and he sighed wearily.

"Well I'm not so full of whims and my hair is still natural," came a voice from the doorway, and the two men whirled about to see a young lady of about twenty with long curly hair and the most beautiful face they had ever seen.

"Uh! . . . eek! Let me offer you a chair," Mike stammered, trying to cover his embarrassment.

"Thank you," she replied. "My name is Sheila Murphy. I have been sent here by Sherman's Agency and am to report to Mr. Walsh."

"I am Mr. Walsh," Mike replied, and in a few minutes Sheila was being shown about the little office. Her desk was to be in the next room where she could be easily summoned.

Uneventful days passed and then one afternoon Sheila was called to Mike's office. "Miss Murphy," he said, "word has just been received that Jimmy Craig, a soldier from