Tacoma's First Modern-Day Mayor

"Hurry" CAIN

MOST WASHINGTONIANS HAVE NEVER heard of Harry P. Cain. Although his name is now little more than a footnote in the state's history, for 20 years he lit up the political landscape of both Washingtons and left an example of independent thinking and commitment to one's ideals rarely found in today's public servants. He spent six years of his political career as the acknowledged public face of Tacoma, even though he was absent for two and a half of them.

A fervent supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the early New Deal, president of the Pierce County Young Democrats, commercial banker, director of the immensely successful Washington State Golden Jubilee Celebration, arguably Tacoma's most popular mayor, legitimate war hero, conservative Republican U.S. senator, dissident member of President Eisenhower's Subversive Activities Control Board, and acclaimed civil libertarian, Harry Cain was impossible to categorize or contain. Trim and athletic, he projected a personal magnetism, a certain boyish enthusiasm, and a rich speaking voice that could not be ignored. Beyond his colorful prose and booming oratory, Harry Cain was a man who cared deeply for his country and the rights of others, and fervently believed in defending both.

Named after his maternal uncle, Harry Pulliam Cain was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on January 10, 1906, to George William Cain and Grace Elizabeth Pulliam. His twin brother, usually called Bill or Willie, was named George William after their father. Of Scots-Irish descent, the family migrated to Nashville from Virginia, Kentucky, and Alabama. In 1910 the Cains moved to Tacoma where the senior George William Cain joined a respected trade publication called the *West Coast Lumberman*, eventually becoming its president and manager. The Cains quickly became active in Tacoma literary and social circles, but Grace increasingly suffered from depression and committed suicide in 1917, when the twins were only 11 years old. Her death devastated Harry, who had been particularly devoted to her.

BY C. MARK SMITH

Shortly after his mother's death, Harry contracted Bell's palsy, which left him with partially paralyzed facial muscles. For months he could not speak at all, and then only with difficulty. He later told an interviewer that in order to regain his ability to speak he drove himself "relentlessly—speaking with pebbles in my mouth, practicing in front of mirrors to control my facial muscles, going off where I could talk loudly and shout." That he later became one of the best speakers of his era is testimony to his efforts.

George Cain made exceptional efforts to ensure that his now motherless sons grew up with an understanding and appreciation of their southern heritage and experienced the influence of female family members. He accomplished both by taking the boys on an annual Christmas pilgrimage to the 2,500-acre cotton plantation in southern Tennessee owned by one of his sisters.

In their high school years Harry and Bill attended Hill Military Academy in Portland, where both brothers excelled. Harry was considered the class athlete while his brother was considered the class brain. Bill made the school's honor roll every year. Harry made it sometimes but managed to win nine varsity letters in athletics. He was associate editor of the school's yearbook and editor of the *Cadet* student newspaper for two years. In his senior year Harry was named cadet captain and president of the "H" Club for student athletes. Bill was named cadet major, the highest honor at the academy. After graduation Harry remained in Portland to take post-graduate courses in English and Spanish and to study practical journalism as a police reporter for the now-defunct *Portland News-Telegram* while Bill went on to Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) where he studied engineering.

In 1925, after consulting with his father, Harry decided to enroll at the prestigious, liberal arts-oriented University of the South, in Sewanee, Tennessee. The lofty physical location of the campus—situated atop the Cumberland Plateau, 900 feet above the valley below—added to its remoteness; and this, along with its sometimes quaint traditions and personal honor code, provided an ideal opportunity for students to become fully immersed in academics and campus social life. At Sewanee, Cain studied history, literature, German and classical languages, was a varsity athlete in four sports, a member of the school's drama society, a varsity debater, and editor of the

school's newspaper. His work at the school paper, *The Purple*, was good enough to occasion an offer of employment as a reporter for the *New York Times*. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in June 1929.

Returning home to Tacoma after graduation for what he thought would be a short visit, Cain learned that his father was ill and planned to retire. Turning down the *Times*' offer, he moved back to Tacoma. Within a month Cain found a position as clerk with the Tacoma branch of the Bank of California, where many of his new customers were local Filipino and Japanese-American truck farmers and small business owners. The stock market crash occurred four months later. "I ran from bank to bank with checks that were by that time no good, and I learned an awful lot about the personalities of those in the banking business and the misery and sorrow that was so much a part of the business in 1929." Over the next 10 years Cain was promoted to ever more responsible positions and ultimately worked in the trust department and as the bank's director of business development.

Though he had not been politically active beforehand, Cain worked "like the demon" for Franklin Roosevelt's presidential campaign in 1932 and quickly became the vocal and active president of the Pierce County Young Democrats, making new community contacts along the way. He was also active in the large and politically active Tacoma Young Men's Business Club. Cain actively supported FDR and the New Deal during Roosevelt's first two terms but became disillusioned with what he considered the intrusive and centralized nature of the president's "second" New Deal.

During the 1930s, Cain became increasingly well-known in Tacoma. He was an avid "joiner" and developed an unusually wide circle of friends as a result of his local banking relationships, involvement with local theater groups, membership in various civic organizations, and as a talented local golfer. In September 1934 he married Marjorie Dils of Seattle, director of one of the rival local theaters, after a whirlwind romance.

In 1936 Cain took a leave of absence from the bank while he and Marjorie went on a decidedly low-budget but experience-filled trip to England and continental Europe. He studied European banking methods at the London School of Economics during the day and went with his wife to the theater at night. He listened with great interest to the debates in the House of Commons and at London's Hyde Park regarding the British government's policy of appeasement toward Nazi Germany.

During a side trip to the Continent, the Cains heard Hitler and other Nazi leaders speak to a crowd of 150,000 at a Munich rally. Cain talked about what he had heard with Western reporters and came home convinced of the need to spread the alarm about Hitler's Germany. He began by talking to local groups, then to statewide audiences. Although some felt he was an alarmist, many thought he was an engaging and entertaining speaker. Because he was always "good copy," Cain

Senator Harry Cain (c. 1946), who got his start in politics in 1940 as the energetic, forward-thinking mayor of Tacoma.

Because he was always "good copy," Cain managed to establish close ties to the local media. It was said that he never met a camera or a microphone he didn't like.

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In 1939 33-year-old Harry Cain was chosen to head the state's upcoming Golden Jubilee Celebration, much of which would take place in Tacoma. Cain proved to be a tireless and enthusiastic promoter for the city, assembling a team of other well-connected young men who created an unforgettable extravaganza. The week-long celebration included air shows, a 14-mile-long parade watched by an estimated 250,000 people, a water carnival, golf tournament, rodeo, and visits from six United States Navy battleships. The highlight of the celebration was the extravagant theatrical "Saga of the West" pageant covering the history of the state, performed in Tacoma's Stadium Bowl before sell-out audiences. Cain encouraged everyone's participation in the festival, including minority groups, and suggested changing Tacoma's nickname from "City of Destiny" to "City of Nations" to reflect its ethnic diversity.

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As community awareness of Cain's capabilities grew, friends began to suggest that he run for mayor. When the previously elected mayor, J. C. Siegle, died in office in April 1939, the city commissioners had appointed a respected furniture merchant, J. J. Kaufman, to serve as interim mayor until a special election could be held in 1940. Cain worked for him as an unofficial advisor and speechwriter. Because Kaufman harbored deep concerns about the viability of Tacoma's commission form of government, he decided not to seek election.

On November 1, 1939, Cain announced his candidacy for mayor. His 11-point platform called for more industrial jobs; better marketing of the city; a new civic auditorium and additional parks; better cooperation among Tacoma, Seattle, and Olympia; a more effective planning commission; and greater governmental transparency.

By the end of January there were five candidates in the special primary election race, but the top three were Cain—said to be supported by local business leaders—liberal state senator Dr. G. B. Kerstetter, and former two-term mayor Melvin G. Tennent. Kerstetter won the primary with 12,937 votes, followed by Tennent with 9,342 and Cain came in third with less than 1,000 votes. A devastated Cain threw his support to Kerstetter.

Four days before the general election the two finalists squared off at a candidate's forum sponsored by the Young Men's Business Club. Tennent launched a vicious attacked on Kerstetter's legislative record. Kerstetter defended it, thanked the audience, and suddenly dropped dead of a heart attack. Cain's supporters went to court the next day to ask that his name replace Kerstetter's on the ballot. Two days later their request was approved by a local superior court judge. Most of the liberal Kerstetter's supporters decided to back Cain. On election day, to everyone's surprise, he beat Tennent by 1,800 votes. "This is the dirtiest deal ever pulled in the City of Tacoma," declared a bitter Mel Tennent, who appealed the judge's ruling all the way to the state supreme court and lost.

Harry Cain was sworn in as Tacoma's 23rd mayor on June 3, 1940. The energetic young politician had little experience but lots of ideas and an infectious belief in Tacoma's future. "Hurry" Cain, as he was nicknamed, was somehow a little larger than life—a born promoter who understood the importance of a public leader's personality and image. Cain may have been elected mayor, but under Tacoma's commission form

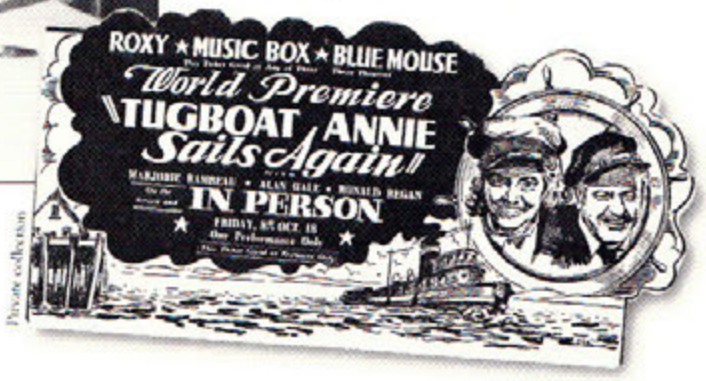
TOP: During Tacoma's 1940 mayoral race, Harry Cain handed out this business card-size campaign card, which outlined his 11-point platform.

BOTTOM: Campaign cartoon from the 1940 race that suggests Cain was not quiet about promoting his message.

Tacoma Public Library #410

LEFT: Mayor Harry Cain surrounded by Tugboat Annie *stars (l. to r.) Alan Hale, Donald Crisp, Marjorie Rambeau, and Ronald Reagan (behind Cain) during a 1940 premier reception at Tacoma's Winthrop Hotel. Columnist Hedda Hopper stands on Cain's left.*

BELOW: Special ticket to the October 18, 1940, opening night premier of Tugboat Annie Sails Again. *The fictional character of Tugboat Annie was based on legendary Tacoma entrepreneur Thea Foss.*



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of government his formal responsibilities were limited to running the Sanitation Department. He was one of five officially equal city executives, each with his own power base and his own responsibilities. For the brash young newcomer to accomplish anything, he needed their support. If he was going to have a power base, it would have to come directly from the people.

The new mayor was everywhere—welcoming the former Miss Tacoma and Miss Washington back from the Miss America Pageant, breaking ground for the new Student Union Building at the College of Puget Sound, launching ships at local shipyards, broadcasting a local golf tournament on the radio, or working closely with Seattle's mayor, Arthur Langlie, to develop an airport halfway between the two cities.

Cain's speaking schedule commonly included three or four formal speeches a week. In great demand as a witty and entertaining master of ceremonies, there was no group he considered too remote or unimportant to turn down. On November 18, 1940, he began a weekly 15-minute radio program on station KMO that continued until he left office. He wrote and typed all 128 of the scripts himself.

Cain's years as mayor were unusually eventful. Only a month after he took office both the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and the new army airbase at McChord Field were dedicated in a giant community celebration scheduled around the Independence Day holiday. In October, Cain staged a series of events to celebrate the three-theater premier of *Tugboat Annie Sails Again*, which was held in Tacoma as a result of Cain's personal request to studio head Jack Warner. Some of Hollywood's best-known movie stars were on hand for the opening, including Marjorie Rambeau, Ronald Reagan, Donald Crisp, and Alan Hale. Even Hollywood columnist Hedda Hopper was in town for the event.

On November 7, 1940, the Narrows Bridge fell into Puget Sound. Financed by more than $6 million in New Deal Public Works Administration grant funds and an anticipated $1.6 million in tolls, the structure had been built on the cheap. Known for its tendency to sway in even moderate winds, "Galloping Gertie" collapsed in a relatively mild winter windstorm.

An Army Reserve officer, Cain became an active supporter of the area's rapidly growing defense establishment. He socialized freely with the senior officers at Fort Lewis, where he met men like Kenyon Joyce, Mark Clark, and Dwight Eisenhower, whom he would later serve with during World War II. By the time Cain became mayor, several Tacoma shipyards were producing navy ships as quickly as possible. The shipyards alone employed 30,000 workers, and many other local companies with defense contracts employed additional workers. In October, President Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act, paving the way for 45,000 new draftees to be stationed at Fort Lewis by the end of the year. In 1940, Tacoma's population was barely 109,000, an increase of less than 3,000 over the previous decade. Now it appeared to grew that much in a single month.

Such rapid growth put significant strains on the Tacoma's public infrastructure and administrative management capability. Cain promoted many then-unusual city initiatives, such as seeking broad-based citizen participation in the city government's decision-making process, long-range community planning, and community and economic development. His normal response to an issue was to create a citizen advisory committee or hire a consultant to study the problem and then try to get the

city commission to act on it. His fellow commissioners were less than impressed with this approach to government and with what they perceived as his encroachment on their turf. At a time when Tacoma faced city workers demanding a pension plan, an inadequate municipally-owned power generating capacity, and a critical shortage of housing for both defense workers and the military, its commission form of government only worked to stymie coordination and cooperation between departments.

As mayor, Cain managed to push through a new pension plan. He created the city's first public housing authority and sought federal funding for new housing projects. He supported efforts to build new hydroelectric dams on the Nisqually River and to attract federal funding for numerous public works projects. A strong proponent of long-range community planning, Cain realized that Tacoma's recent growth was a forerunner of the growth that would follow the end of the war and that the time to plan for it was now. He appointed the Long-Range Planning Council and provided the group with a wish list of projects—many of which he had first proposed during his mayoral campaign—and then invited 500 individuals and groups to participate in the process. Ultimately, the effort dissolved into multiple sets of recommendations by well-meaning groups and succumbed to other wartime funding needs and the uncooperative city commission, but the region's elected officials thought so highly of Cain's efforts that they elected him chair of the Puget Sound Regional Planning Commission.

Now, with much of the world at war, Tacoma was at the forefront of America's struggle to build up its defenses, but the influx of soldiers and defense workers created new problems as well. Like many wide-open port towns, Tacoma was a hotbed of gambling and prostitution, particularly after the expansion of the nearby military bases. Traditionally, the police and the general public had taken an understanding view of these activities, but rates of venereal disease increased dramatically and military authorities threatened to place Tacoma "off limits."

Unable to obtain cooperation from the commissioner of public safety or the chief of police, Cain took matters into his own hands. He arranged for the base commander at Fort Lewis to send him an ultimatum threatening to place Tacoma off-limits if something wasn't done immediately to address the issue. Cain then summoned the local madams to his office, ultimatum in hand, and offered them a deal—if they closed down the brothels and the venereal disease rate did not drop significantly within six months, they could reopen. The rate did drop and the brothels remained closed, at least for the time being.

Gambling and unlicensed drinking establishments presented serious problems as well. After a series of personal late-night investigations and an appeal to newly-elected Governor Arthur Langlie to use the Washington State Patrol and agents of the state's Liquor Control Board, Cain orchestrated raids on dozens of local gambling dens and speakeasies. The process brought Cain a great deal of national publicity and the appreciation of local military leaders, but his efforts to oust two successive public safety commissioners and to clean up the police force ended in defeat and inaction at the hands of his fellow city commissioners.

Tacoma Public Library, #8824

***ABOVE:** From his desk in the mayor's office, Cain delivered a popular weekly 15-minute radio address, personally writing each script.*

***FACING PAGE:** Astonishingly, Cain's bid for his first four-year term as mayor of Tacoma was decided in the February 24, 1942, primary.*

Japan attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7, 1941. Later that evening, in a special radio broadcast to Tacoma citizens, Cain appealed to his listeners to "stay calm," and "not to surrender reason to racial intolerance." He announced the creation of a Tacoma Municipal Defense Council, which would meet in his office at eight o'clock the next morning. Almost immediately, local Japanese nationals and Japanese-Americans began to experience discrimination. Japanese merchants bought newspaper ads defending their loyalty. Cain had signs printed that said, "This business is operated by American-born Japanese and is under the protection of the mayor."

On December 13, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt arrived at Cain's city hall office on a previously scheduled West Coast tour promoting civil defense. During her partial day in Tacoma she and Cain did something remarkable. He arranged for her to meet with four Japanese-American students who were attending the College of Puget Sound. He also encouraged the *Tacoma News Tribune* to run an editorial recommending "No Blackout of Tolerance." By February, however, President Roosevelt had approved Executive Order 9066, paving the way for the evacuation and interment of almost 120,000 Japanese living on the West Coast. Cain, along with

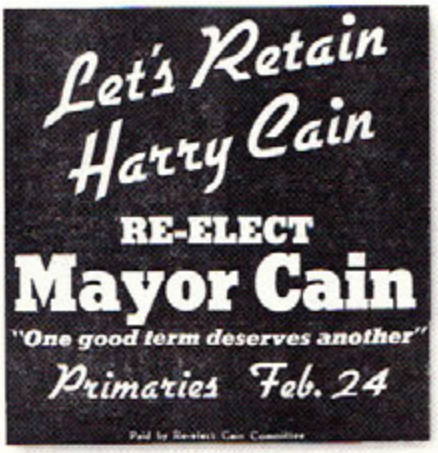
Cain won the February 24 mayoral primary in a landslide.... It was the largest plurality ever recorded in a Tacoma municipal election, making a general election contest unnecessary.

U.S. Attorney General Nicolas Biddle and Senator Sheridan Downey of California, was one of the few elected officials in the nation to protest the internment of Japanese-American citizens for the remainder of the war.

In 1942 Cain ran for mayor, seeking his first four-year term. In a reversal of their policy against early endorsements, the January 28 *Tacoma News Tribune* stated, "Harry Cain has made a good mayor for Tacoma...[the city] is indeed fortunate that it has a mayor of this caliber at the helm in these trying times." He won the February 24 primary in a landslide, receiving 19,838 votes to his closest opponent's 5,339 votes. It was the largest plurality ever recorded in a Tacoma municipal election, making a general election contest unnecessary.

Cain's second term was much different from his first, although the issues of vice and public housing remained to be resolved. Now there was a war on. Cain had set up a nationally-recognized Home Defense Council that mobilized citizens for Tacoma's defense in 1940. He created a new Municipal Defense Council that mobilized air-raid wardens, auto mechanics (including his wife), and security guards at the port and other sensitive installations. The emphasis was now on opening new USOs and YMCAs; on collecting scrap metal and rubber; and on selling war bonds.

Though Cain enjoyed being mayor of Tacoma, he knew that after the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II the real action was elsewhere. In May 1943, after efforts to remove public safety commissioner Einar Langseth had failed, Cain arranged a leave of absence from his duties—Mayor Cain of Tacoma became Major Cain of the United States Army. Cain was the first sitting mayor in America recruited to attend the army's new School of Military Government at the University of Virginia. The four-month course was patterned on an earlier British model. Students were immersed in a broad range of military and civil affairs subjects, including foreign languages, taught by some of the greatest experts in the country. Cain, anticipating the future direction of the war, studied Japanese.



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Upon graduation Cain received orders to report to the 15th Army Group headquarters in Algiers, commanded by British General Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander. After a short orientation there, he was sent to Sicily. Within weeks he contracted malaria (a common occurrence for U.S. troops in that country) and was confined to a field hospital in Palermo.

The invasion of mainland Italy began on September 3 when British General Bernard Montgomery began moving his Eighth Army across the narrow Strait of Messina to the Italian mainland. This was followed on September 8 with an amphibious assault by the U.S. Fifth Army, led by Lieutenant General Mark Clark at Salerno, southwest of Naples. Massive German counterattacks that endangered the beachhead required Clark to call on his strategic reserve, the 82nd Airborne Division stationed in Sicily, which deployed on only a few hours' notice. Because there was inadequate airlift capacity to transport the entire division to the invasion beaches, the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, with Harry Cain plucked from his field hospital in Palermo, arrived by ship and landed behind the British sector on September 15.

As the Allies moved forward through the mountains between Salerno and Naples, Cain moved with them, often under fire. Upon his arrival in Italy, Cain had been transferred to the Allied Military Government for Occupied Territories (AMGOT). With a small staff, he served as a field administrator in charge of the Northwest District of Salerno—a mountainous region inland from the beachhead—consisting of 29 towns and cities, much of it still being contested by the Germans. His duties included finding food to feed the displaced civilian population and trying to restore basic services in communities that had largely been destroyed.

In mid November, Cain was called from his administrative duties in the field and reassigned to the skeleton headquarters of the newly-created Allied Control Commission (ACC) for Italy in the southeastern port city of Brindisi, along with the barest nucleus of the Italian government awaiting the expected fall of Rome. Cain's responsibilities included public relations, staffing, and civil administration of the new organization. His boss was none other than his old friend and acquaintance Major General Kenyon A. Joyce, who had commanded the IX Corps at Fort Lewis between 1940 and 1942.

In a letter written home soon after he joined the ACC, Cain described something of his new assignment, starting with, "Whoever said my staff job was likely to be a quiet one has my permission to change his mind. I have had enough unexpected items in the last three weeks to last a lifetime." His letters home indicate that his ACC tour included a near mid-sea airplane crash, the bombing of the hotel in Bari where he was attending a conference with senior Allied commanders, and a "convoy crash" that required a short stay in a British field hospital.

Tacoma Public Library, #1964

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt meets with Japanese students from the College (now the University) of Puget Sound in the Tacoma Mayor's Office only six days after Pearl Harbor. Harry Cain arranged the meeting.

In January 1944, Cain was transferred from ACC to the headquarters of Mark Clark's Fifth Army at Caserta, where he was assigned to be the public affairs and public relations advisor to the Rome area commander, "responsible for every word which goes out of (this) headquarters." His duties allowed him to view two of the major battles of the Italian campaign—the assault on the German Gustav Line (a series of fortifications that protected the route to Rome) and Monte Cassino and the near-disastrous Allied landing at Anzio.

At the end of February he was called to England to join other military government and civil affairs officers who were preparing for the invasion of Normandy. Cain attempted to secure an assignment with a field command, but his efforts were intercepted by Brigadier General Frank McSherry, the former military commander of Naples and Cain's immediate commanding officer at AMGOT. McSherry served as chief of staff to British Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Edward Grasett, the chief civil affairs officer on General Dwight Eisenhower's staff at SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force). Cain would be responsible for the psychological warfare and public relations division, reporting directly to Grasett.

Cain was contacted at this point by Governor Arthur Langlie and other supporters, urging him to run for Washington's vacant U.S. Senate seat as a Republican. The idea appealed to Cain's ego, but it could hardly have come at a worse time. He later remembered, "I had long hoped that were I to be successful in politics, I might someday aspire to, and be elected to, the United States Senate. At a time when I was giving the subject no thought at all, it was suggested to me by a variety of friends that I run in absentia on the Republican ticket in 1944.... I had never heard of a suggestion which had so little to recommend it."

He worried that most of the people back home thought of him as a Democrat, but even in the late 1930s Cain had begun a political transformation. Being mayor of Tacoma did not require a political affiliation and, indeed, in his case it was probably better not to have one. But he had enjoyed the support of prominent local Republicans and become increasingly close to Arthur Langlie. Cain cabled his supporters that he would be a candidate, but only on his terms: 1) he would answer no political questions while he remained in the army; 2) if nominated, he would not leave the army to campaign; and 3) if elected, he would not serve until the war was over. A curious campaign ensued in which four-term Democratic Congressman Warren G. Magnuson, just out of the navy and campaigning vigorously, contested Republican—and by now Lieutenant Colonel—Harry P. Cain, stationed 7,000 miles away and vowing not to campaign at all.

Cain soon became something of a curiosity on Eisenhower's staff, with fellow officers and some of the most famous newspaper and radio reporters in the country following his progress with good-natured interest. He was careful not to make political comments or mix his current day job with the far-off Senate race.

Meanwhile, the Allies had invaded Normandy in June. Cain was clearly frustrated at being in England, "still seeking answers to seemingly insoluble problems," when the action was in Normandy. He was tired of the war and, perhaps, uneasy about what lay ahead. "Days here haven't any pattern any more. The Doodle Bugs (the self-propelled V-1 rocket-propelled bombs the Germans began deploying against London on June 13) have turned day into night and the other way round."

Back in August, anticipating large-scale airborne operations into Germany, the First Allied Airborne Army had been created, consisting of massive air transport wings and two tactical corps commands, the British First Airborne Corps and the American XVIII Corps (Airborne), the latter consisting of the 82nd, 101st, and 17th Airborne Divisions under the overall command of Major General Matthew B. Ridgway.

In September, the 82nd and 101st Divisions—then the only U.S. airborne troops available—participated in Operation Market Garden, General Bernard Montgomery's audacious plan for a multi-division airborne assault on key bridges spanning three branches of the lower Rhine River, which, if taken and held, would allow British armored forces to outflank the well-defended Siegfried Line and establish a bridgehead across the Rhine into northern Germany. The British-led operation, made famous in the 1977 film *A Bridge Too Far*, was met by fierce German resistance and heavy Allied casualties. The corps was rebuilding its strength at its bases in France when Harry Cain was told to report to Ridgway.

One issue Ridgway wanted to resolve immediately with Cain was his political status. Cain assured Ridgway that until

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he was either elected to the Senate or until the war was won, his place was with the XVIII Airborne Corps. Nothing more was said about the matter. As it turned out, Cain beat 11 other Republicans candidates in the primary but lost the general election to Magnuson by more than 86,000 votes.

Cain's lack of parachute or glider training—a must for service on Ridgway's staff—was another potential problem. Cain later remembered that Ridgway asked him, "What do you know about gliders and parachute-jumping?" "'Not a thing,' I responded. Two hours later I was up in a glider with a young second lieutenant. When we came down, he referred me to a captain who had made more than 50 parachute jumps and who assured me that he would show me how to do it."

When Cain reported to Ridgway, the XVIII Airborne Corps was in reserve near Rheims, still rebuilding after their operations in Holland. The Ardennes sector of the front, with its heavy forests, broken ground, narrow valleys, steep hills, and numerous streams, served as the dividing line between the U.S. First and Third armies and was considered an unlikely place for an attack. In the early morning of December 16, 1944, the area was stormed by the German Fifth and Sixth Panzer armies across a 60-mile front. The American defenses quickly crumbled under the weight of the German attack.

Ridgway's divisions were ordered to help plug the gap. Unfortunately, Ridgway and much of his staff were in England reviewing the newly-arrived 17th Airborne Division. Within the hour, Ridgway and his staff, including Lieutenant Colonel Harry Cain, were airborne in 55 troop transports bound for the front.

Two days later, Cain wrote in a letter to his wife, "I moved in today on a Belgian family of seven, and their living room is my office, dining room, and bed. Some of my men are packed about four deep on the kitchen floor and others are deeper than that in the hay loft. The family, all seven, are listening to the 9 o'clock news. They wonder if the rumor that Jerry will overrun us tonight is based on fact."

The next several days were some of the most eventful in Harry Cain's life. At one point he and his staff were pinned down for more than a day with only the contents of a nearby disabled train full of champagne available. At other times he found himself trying to find food and shelter for thousands of freezing, displaced civilians trapped between the two armies. In a note home on December 20, as the Germans were starting to withdraw, he wrote, "This business is anything but gay, but I couldn't wish to be anywhere else. Living

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COURAGE, SINCERITY, LEADERSHIP

Harry P. CAIN

(REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR U. S. SENATE)

Welfare of the people here at home as well as destiny of the world will be decided in the Senate of the United States in the next few years. Lieut. Col. Harry P. Cain is equipped to make a great contribution to momentous decisions. He has character, vision, brains, ability, courage, sympathy and humility, and above all, he is trained to leadership.

RIGHT: "Drafted by Party to Run for Senate," ran the caption on this news photo of 38-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Harry P. Cain, taken in London on November 4, 1944.

FAR RIGHT: Since Cain was unable to campaign in person during his 1944 Senate race against Congressman Warren Magnuson, his campaign staff placed hundreds of one-column ads in every daily and weekly newspaper in the state.

During Cain's time in the mayor's office he challenged civic leaders to address a long-neglected public infrastructure and undertake long-term community planning.

is simple. I don't shave very often, or eat very much, or sleep on a bed, but, I am well and vitally interested in living." His efforts in the Battle of the Bulge earned Cain a battlefield promotion to full Colonel—for "outlasting everyone else," as he later put it.

In the final months of the war he was involved in the planning for Operation Varsity, the last major airborne effort of the war, crossing the Rhine with Ridgway and his staff to strike out through "no man's land" to the Allied drop zone on the east side of the Rhine. He participated in the operation to eliminate the Ruhr Pocket, which resulted in the surrender of 300,000 German troops. According to one of his medal citations, Cain, at great personal risk, assumed control of a German city in the face of, "40,000 drunken and disorderly displaced persons who were looting, murdering, and raping indiscriminately throughout the city of 500,000 persons." He also carried out a complete reorganization of the XVIII Airborne Corps' G5 (civil and military cooperation) staffs, developing recommendations, presenting them personally to officials at SHAEF, and achieving the requested increases. He then found and trained the additional civil affairs personnel required for the four divisions assigned to the corps.

He ended the war in the town of Hagenow, near the Elbe River in northern Germany. There, upon discovering the bodies of more than 200 victims at a nearby concentration camp, he gathered all the available German prisoners and townspeople and paraded them past the bodies, making what General Ridgway called in his memoirs, "one of the most effective [speeches] I have ever heard." Cain was also credited with rescuing 10,000 American prisoners of war who were trapped in a nearby Russian-controlled camp.

Cain's war ended with a bang, literally. On May 7, 1945, just two days before the official end of the war, he was wounded in the arm by shrapnel in a fire fight with German troops. At the end of hostilities Cain was reassigned back to SHAEF where he became a field inspector responsible for reviewing military government procedures used by the Allied occupation forces. This included a special assignment as chief inspector for the Western District of Bavaria where General George Patton got into trouble over his use of former Nazi officials. Cain reported directly to General Lucius D. Clay, military governor of Germany and to General Eisenhower personally.

In the course of the war, Cain received five Battle Stars, three Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, and both the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre medals. In December a now highly-decorated Colonel Harry P. Cain returned to Tacoma to complete his term as mayor. He faced an almost immediate decision. The upcoming municipal elections were scheduled for the following June. If he decided to run again, he would have to compete in the primary election set for March. Val Fawcett, who had done a good job as acting mayor, wanted the job. Cain really didn't. He had decided to seek the Republican nomination for the Senate in 1946.

He could not resist the temptation, however, to engage in one last Tacoma battle. Fawcett's opponent for mayor, Paul Olson, had been the longtime secretary to Tacoma Congressman John M. Coffee. In 1941 a Fort Lewis contractor had written a check, made out to Olson but meant for Coffee. Olson claimed it was an unreported campaign contribution. Cain claimed it was a bribe. In a piece of great political theater, the two faced off in front of 1,300 citizens at Tacoma's Jason Lee Junior High School to debate the issue. Olson lost the debate and the election.

Harry Cain was in many ways Tacoma's first modern mayor. His years as mayor helped redefine the city. During his time in office he challenged civic leaders to address a long-neglected public infrastructure and undertake long-term community planning. Cain used his strong communication skills to shape public opinion; supported community involvement and public diversity; and confronted the "business as usual" approach of the outdated commission form of government, tackling long-standing issues of crime and public corruption. He helped prepare the city for World War II, and when it came he attempted to protect the rights of its Japanese-American citizens.

Harry Cain's war service helped him redefine himself. He had early recognized the evil of Hitler's Germany and fought against it firsthand. Had he gone on to West Point after Hill Military Academy, he might well have been an outstanding—even famous—career army officer. As it was, he provided exceptional service to military leaders like Kenyon Joyce, Mark Clark, Dwight Eisenhower, and Matthew Ridgway. In the process he came to believe that there were new and even greater enemies—both foreign and domestic—that constituted an even greater threat to the nation than those recently vanquished and that they needed to be confronted. In so doing, he eventually came to realize that the methods his nation used to confront its enemies were even more dangerous than the threat itself.

Cain went on to serve a controversial term in the U.S. Senate and become a dissident member of President Eisenhower's Subversive Activities Control Board. He relocated to Florida in 1957, where he served as a highly respected community leader and Miami-Dade County commissioner, and was known and respected as a civil libertarian. But those are stories for another time. ❦

C. Mark Smith is a planning and economic development consultant and author of articles for various professional trade publications and historical journals. He is currently writing a biography of Harry P. Cain.