

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1944
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

More Fathers

We appreciate the fact that most draft boards have been reluctant to break up families and send fathers into the armed forces, but now the fathers are being taken in large numbers.

The President's special committee to review medical standards makes a few suggestions that will add some 200,000 physical rejects, but beyond that finds no untapped source of manpower in the 4-F class.

This breaking up of families is not a pleasant thought, yet the man with a home has even more to fight for than the young man who has not yet taken up such responsibilities. The necessity for the drafting of fathers is part of the price that will be demanded before victory is won.

The support of dependents will no doubt be a more complicated problem for the government as the war continues, and will offer another post war problem before normal employment is reached.

Just Too Bad

Maybe we are wrong, but it strikes us that Representative Eller's appeal regarding larger salaries for our Congressmen at this time is out of order. We grant that \$10,000 will not go as far in keeping up with the Jones in Washington as it did before the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor. But there are plenty of us in America who are suffering from the same deficiency of funds as we are trying to make old time salaries meet new time prices and extra obligations.

We like to think of our representatives as having statesmen like qualities, regardless of the tricks of politics that sent them in some cases to Washington. We don't think it sporting right at this time of them to ask for more money. It will not hurt our Congressmen and their families to make a few sacrifices along with the voters who are sending them to the capitol, or the boys overseas who are fighting for American liberties.

Looking Ahead

The South, according to Lyle F. Watts, chief of forest service, U. S. D. A., will be called on to supply about half of the nation's future timber requirements, now estimated at 21 billion cubic feet. The statement was made to the Southern Forestry Conference of forest owners, operators, industrialists and State and Federal officials at a meeting held in Atlanta a few weeks ago.

Watts said the nation was entering upon a new era of wood, with many new uses opening up in the field of chemistry and new engineering techniques enabling wood to hold its own in competition with other building materials.

He predicts that following the war reconstruction requirements abroad hold promise of greatly increased export markets. If this comes to pass he pointed out that it will be necessary to double the annual growth of forests in the Southern states. He also advocated public regulation of cutting and other practices if the post war production goals are to be met.

These predictions sound feasible, as even here locally it is generally estimated that following the war there will be a building boom, and we hear of many planning to either build or remodel homes.

To allay hunger a jungle tribe chews on pieces of crude rubber. We call 'em steaks.

Another View Point

It seems from reports coming from overseas that the protest of a group of American clergymen against the bombing of German cities did not set so well with the men on the firing lines.

The following excerpt from the "Stars and Stripes", the paper of the men in service written by an American chaplain, shows how those at the front feel about such things as they read of the protests "with humiliation and embarrassment."

"If wishful thinkers could have an enemy bomb come streaking down into their nicely feathered nests some night their pacifist ideals would turn into realities—like that in London and in other cities where they have experienced German poundings."

4-H Contributors

On all sides we are hearing about juvenile delinquency, yet another large army of young people who are working toward victory do not come in for such widespread publicity. We have reference to the country's 4-H Club boys and girls who now number around 2,000,000 strong.

They did a fine piece of work last year. With so many of their elders being drafted for the service and entering defense plants they will be called upon to step up on their former food producing goals.

It will be a big task to go ahead of their 1943 record when they had to their credit: 30,000,000 bushels of vegetables; raised 11,000,000 chickens; around 7,000,000 head of livestock; canned 25,000,000 jars of food, worked 13,000,000 hours outside their own 4-H projects to relieve the farm labor situation; bought and sold \$30,000,000 worth of War Bonds.

We take off our hats to this army on the home front, who have no time in which to get in trouble and whose efforts are so worthwhile.

Dictionary Dynamite

There are 10 words which, in this campaign year, should be labeled "Dynamite—Handle With Care," says Dr. Wilfred Funk, the dictionary maker. They are "ghost words" of fuzzy meaning, he contends, and they have caused "more personal bitterness, broken friendships, mayhem, murder, family brawls and barroom fights than any others in the political lexicon."

The words? Liberty. Equality. New Deal. Communism. Isolationist. Fascism. Capital. Labor. Justice. Democracy.

Dr. Funk is, of course, eminently correct. They are not only trouble-starters, but they are probably the most frequently employed. We had a fine sample of their explosive qualities in the 1940 presidential campaign. We have had even more pointed examples since the war began. And this year, when the campaign really gets hot, supporters of both candidates are going to ride these words to the limit of their flag-waving or vituperative powers.

The eminent lexicographer offers some sensible suggestions. "Ask each member of the group to write down his or her definition of 'democracy,'" he suggests. "You'll be amused at the widely divergent results."

Unfortunately, Dr. Funk's advice will be little heeded, for each of these words has become an emotional compound of personal passions and prejudices. They have reasonably precise and limiting definitions in Dr. Funk's or Mr. Webster's dictionary. But they have come to mean something different to everyone who uses them. Few private arguers have the logical mind or logical training, and few public speakers have the grace, to define terms before using them.

In recent weeks Vice President Wallace has spoken of "American Fascists" in our business world, while Alf Landon has called the New Deal "Fascist". Obviously, both accusations could not be correct, short of the impossible hypothesis that Wall Street and the White House are like-minded.

Wallace, it is true, was asked to define a "Fascist" at a subsequent press conference, but his answer did not remotely resemble the dictionary definition, and it's doubtful that Mussolini would have known the old place.

One could go on down the line. Take "the democracies", which can and do include such divergent governmental systems as those of Russia, China, and all the South American countries in a lump sum, as the occasion and the speaker's purpose warrant.

But what's the use? Deeply as we believe in the power of the printed word, sincerely as we admire Dr. Funk's observations, we are appalled at the prospect of trying, in a campaign year, to wean Americans away from the practice of using the words as brickbats and smokescreens.—The Riedsville Review.

DRAGON'S TEETH



HERE and THERE

By
 HILDA WAY GWYN

If you like your heroes modest, then you will instantly approve of Sgt. Bill Sawyer, recently of the Eighth AAF Bomber Command Station, England, now on a furlough in the states. Sgt. Bill is so modest that had not the news releases from the government publicized certain details about his record since he first started his missions over Germany, we seriously doubt if we would ever have found out about the Distinguished Flying Cross and other medals. That is, if we were depending on Sgt. Sawyer to tell us. Just a few years back Bill was a kid around town and now while still young in years, he has seen more than the years entitle him to, but such is the reality of war.

To start at the beginning, Sgt. Sawyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Sawyer, of Waynesville, volunteered in the air corps back in October, 1941, and was inducted at Fort McPherson, and from there was sent to Sheppard Field, Tex., and then to the following fields where he trained, Salt Lake City, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, Wendover, Utah, Sioux City, Iowa, and then overseas to England where he has spent the past 9 and one-half months, during which time he has made 25 missions over Germany, serving as left waist gunner, of a flying fortress. He and the ten men of his crew have seen service with three ships, "Home Sick Angel," "Walluka Maud," and "My Buddy." His plane has been the leader since the Regensburg bombing of the squadron, and was in "tail end Charlie's position," which is also known as "The Purple Heart Corner." It so happens, according to news releases (not learned from Sgt. Sawyer) that his missions have happened to be among the toughest in combat over Germany.

"All our missions were made in daylight. Each mission we encountered a great deal of flak, which you know is like shrapnel, and is deadly to the engine of a plane. It can be shot seven miles high and when it is flung in front of a plane directly covering the target, it is pretty bad, but there is nothing for the pilot to do but fly into it," he said when asked about flak.

"No, of course we are excited, but everything happens so quickly you don't have time to think, then after your training, it sorter comes natural. You have been taught to fly and fight, and when you see the enemy coming after you, you want to go after him," he commented. "Yes, we really wiped out Regensburg, but it took us 11 hours in the air with hard fighting against the enemy's defenses." The Germans can tell the minute we start across the English channel and they are always waiting with a reception committee of fighter planes and flak. His longest mission was that over Gynnia and took 11 and a half hours. . . and when asked what the reaction of the crew was when they returned to their station in England, his answer was, "We were hungry, just starved. . . in fact we are always hungry when we get in from a mission," he said, which is easy to understand. Try to put yourself in their places. . . we here at home would think it a terrible hardship if we had to work nearly half the clock without food or a rest period. . . and consider the vast difference in circumstances. . . Imagine under fire every minute. . . We asked if he had ever known a man to crack up before a mission was completed, and the answer was, "No, it is after it is all over that they sometimes crack up."

We liked the way he spoke of his buddies and his pilot, who was from Pittsburg, Pa. The ten men have been together for more than

a year, and only one is missing. . . and he was not killed in the air, but was fatally injured by a truck on the ground. "Yes, I had always wanted to see Paris, and I had two trips, but to tell you the truth I was too scared to take in the sights, and then I was too busy doing something else anyway," he added with a smile.

"One of the stiffest missions was that over Hanover. We met plenty of planes and we traveled through plenty of flak. It did not last but two hours and 8 minutes, but it was rough," he said. "I shot around 1,000 shots that day, but I don't think I did much hitting, just helped to scare 'em off, I guess," he added with a smile.

When asked about how the mail came through, he replied, "Pretty good, but I missed getting a lot of copies of The Mountaineer. . . And I never met a soul from Haywood county while in England. I enjoyed visiting the historical places and the people were wonderful to us. . . We were a bit surprised to learn how much the English people are trying to lead normal lives despite the fact that they are all out for war effort. . . We have a lot in common with the English, but they are slow compared to Americans," said Sgt. Sawyer.

"I am glad to get home and I arrived in Waynesville four days after I reached the states. Things seem a lot changed in Waynesville, for all the boys I grew up with are gone, and things seem mighty quiet around here. . . which is not surprising. No, Sgt., we can't offer you anything around here that can compare with the excitement to which your life has been geared for the past year. . . while we hate to disappoint you, we are glad that things do seem quiet here, as compared to England."

Sgt. Sawyer has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, sent to him by his commanding officer, after his 15th mission. . . he also has three oak leaves for that many fighter planes brought down. . . while every mission held constant danger, the famous shuttle flight to Africa ended in what might have been fatal to every member of his crew. . . The men had a week in Africa. . . and they started back, with weather conditions not so favorable, and their gas gave out. . . Without warning when they were flying around 1000 feet over a wheat field in England, they crashed, but not a man was injured. "But we drew a crowd in a few minutes, they came from everywhere," he said.

"After seeing other countries,

THE OLD HOME TOWN



Inside WASHINGTON

England Becomes Main Target | Germans Dropping Ties
 Of Nazis' Weakened Luftwaffe | Disrupt Radar Air Defense

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—Look out for a gradual shift in the European air war with the German Luftwaffe marshalling its dwindling pressed air force for all-out small scale nuisance raids on the invasion ports in Britain.

Thus far, German air attacks have been limited to approximately 100 planes, and most of their bombs have smashed residential areas. But military observers are apprehensive about the amount of damage that can be done to vital military installations.

They point out that the Allies will not be deterred in their plan for an all-out invasion of western Europe, but that Nazi nuisance raids might create a certain amount of confusion and delay.

Nuisance As the weather improves, the Luftwaffe is being bolder in its night sweeps over the British Isles.

Air Raiders In recent raids, British night fighters and anti-aircraft gunners haven't been too successful in "bagging" enemy planes.

Now Bolder One reported reason is that Nazi pilots are dropping strips of foil as they fly over the English channel to disrupt radar detecting equipment. Competent military officials point out that German air attacks on the Allied invasion base are extremely rare compared with the huge 1,000-plane R. A. F. and United States Force raids on the continent, but they add that Hitler has reached the point of desperation where he must husband his air on three fronts to be used where they will do the most harm. This happens to be in the close-packed British Isles.

● B. E. BRADEN, House of Representatives barber for the past years, says that faces on Capitol Hill have changed greatly since he was a "35-year-old kid" cutting Speaker Joe Cannon's hair. The year-old barber asserted that he had always been strictly non-partisan and had given every member whether Democrat or Republican the "best trim" he knew how.

"But faces keep changing," he said. "I miss the old heads." Asked which member in his 40 years' experience had the best barber chair profile, Braden pondered.

"What about Representative Clare Luce?" the reporter suggested. "I don't believe I know him," the old-timer smiled.

● WILL CLAYTON, Texas-born Surplus Property administrator, sees no need for legislation to enable him to carry out his job as one of the toughest post-war assignments.

Clayton asserted that the post primarily is a policy-making with actual operating functions to be performed through executive agencies. Moreover, it is understood the Texas agrees with Bernard Baruch that no additional agencies are needed.

Baruch has opposed the Senate proposal for an Office of Demobilization. Clayton admits he has a headache on his hands and to prove a job that will make him or break him.

"I almost had my ticket bought for Houston," he said wryly.

● SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC is hidden Japan's main battle line, bolstered by new battleships, aircraft carriers and cruisers.

Elsewhere, mighty American fleets prowling millions of square miles of water hoping for contact that may prove to be the greatest battle the world has ever seen, or may ever see again.

The question in the minds of the navy's high command is where and where—will the clash occur.

Naval officers will tell you that the Japs have been playing a game. They are refusing to risk their main fleet in battle unless they are sure of victory. They may also be waiting for the United States to extend her lines until they are so long the fleet will be kept busy protecting them.

Spreading the American fleet over a wider and wider area reduces its size. Japan hopes it will be reduced to a size the Nips can master. However, British, French and Italian ships are expected to join the Pacific fleet soon.

Before that time arrives there is a possibility that the Japs will launch an all-out attack on some of the weaker points in the American-Pacific front to gain a face saving victory.

I feel that America is the best place in the world and what we have here is well worth fighting for," concluded Sgt. Sawyer. We have thought of that remark many times since, for it is the keynote of the war for us. . . it is for those things worthwhile, that our men are paying the supreme price. . . and it is boys like young Bill Sawyer coming from towns all over America, who are proving to have been heroes in disguise, lacking only the opportunity to show their courage and bravery. . . Their records should make us feel mighty humble back home. . . and willing to go the limit to end this war. . .

An army sergeant, in command of a detail of soldiers the other morning got the surprise of his life. He was barking orders to the men and counting step for his group when a little old woman walked up to him, in front of the post office, and said: "You stop that yelling at those boys that way."

Tony, the office janitor, had been working faithfully at his job for several years, when he surprised his employer one day, by asking for a vacation.

Boss—We can't get along very well without you. . . you don't need a vacation. You'll only blow away your money and come back broke.

Tony (persisting)—I like to have a vacation. I get married and I kinda like to be there.

Voice OF THE People

Do you think the Lend-Lease Act, which expires in June, should be extended another year?

Mrs. Edith P. Alley—Yes, for under the present arrangement it would make things very complicated not to continue.

L. L. (Jg) Roger Walker—Certainly do."

R. N. Barber, Jr.—I would definitely yes, but with some restrictions, for I feel that among the countries receiving attention under this act have been our country has been denied of the things that have been sent to countries not actually contributing to the war effort, but it has been a good will gesture from us.

Christy Reggie—"I think it should be extended for a year."

Mrs. Rudolph Hollas—"I think it is necessary to be continued for the Allies to carry on."

Col. J. Harden Howell—"I think it should be extended for another year."

H. R. Clapp—"I certainly think it should be extended for another year."

Claude Rogers—"Yes, I think it should, for it is certainly helping Russia and she is doing the part of the fighting."

Dr. N. M. Medford—"I would depend upon what the situation would now and the time between now and the time the war is over, as to whether it should be extended."

V. C. Nobeck—"Yes, I do, for the war continues with our supplies and we can give the supplies we will be necessary."

The waitress wondered why the elderly man was eating with his wife merely stared out the window. Waitress (to the lady)—You hungry? Lady—Sure am, daughter, just a waitin' for paw to get through with the teeth.