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Prophecies and Such

As certain as the taxes which each New Year brings are the reviews of events of the past 365 days and the prophecies of things to come.

Before accepting the prognostications of military prophets of press and radio today we should glance backwards to see how their predictions of yesteryear weathered the storms of actuality.

Looking back at specific predictions made just one year ago, we find, as might be expected, that the prophets for 1942 alternated between bull's-eyes and misses. For example, John T. Whitaker, foreign correspondent for the Chicago Daily News, rang the bell with the prediction that "An attempt on the life of Darlan will be successful," but was caught way off base with his declaration that Hitler would invade Spain, Portugal and North Africa about March of '42. Then there was Raymond Clapper and a host of others foreseeing that "the East Coast will see a token bombing." Pierre van Paassen saw 1942 as "still Hitler's year." Raymond Gram Swing let hope dominate judgment when he ventured, "Victory may come by December, but may not come until 1943." No credit was won for the seers by those who like Major George Fielding Eliot asserted that "Japan will be swiftly and decisively beaten."

Prognosticating in peacetime is a risky business at best. In wartime it provides amusing reading, often unfounded comfort, but little else.

We could here go on at great length with the 1943 banner crop of prophecies. We could quote the current comments of Major Eliot who sees for this year: "The complete expulsion of the Axis from Africa. . . Concentrated attacks by the Allies on the islands of Sardinia, Sicily and Crete. Military collapse of Italy. . . The regaining by Russian armies of very large areas now under German occupation. . . Considerable advances in the Pacific, the United Nations capturing island bases. . ." Or the views of van Paassen who sees Hitler launching an all-out spring offensive—a peace drive offered through Spain or Italy. "Should this fail," he says, "Hitler will—in a last desperate gamble—let loose a gigantic assault on the British Isles. . . Nippon will sue for peace within six months after Hitler has thrown in the sponge."

We could look ahead with expert after expert, but the one definite thing that can be forecast about 1943 is that it will not follow the forecasts. Also we have an infallible method of proving with figures that 1943 will be the decisive year of the war.

We present our case:

| | Roosevelt | Churchill | Stalin | Mussolini | Hitler |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Born | 1882 | 1873 | 1879 | 1883 | 1889 |
| Took Power | 1933 | 1940 | 1924 | 1922 | 1933 |
| Years in Power | 10 | 3 | 19 | 21 | 10 |
| Age | 61 | 70 | 64 | 60 | 54 |
| Total | 3886 | 3886 | 3886 | 3886 | 3886 |

The formula for forecasting is simple. Divide the total, 3886, by two and the answer is 1943—a year that can be one of victory by knocking hell out of the Axis, or one of bitter disappointment—if we do less than our best.

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By LIEUT. ERIC H. ARENDT
Chaplain Corps, USN

Not many of you get to see the Church pennant flying above the National Ensign, but it does. It does so while you are attending church. It is the only flag or pennant that ever is permitted to fly above the National Ensign. Does this mean anything to you? It should.

The tradition in which we stand nationally is a proud and noble tradition. We think always, as we see the colors flying, of the freedoms that our National Ensign symbolizes. The red stands for courage. The white for truth. The blue stands for honor. These three colors represent the elements which will always keep free our religion, thought, right to assemble, speech and press. Our entire tradition can be thus symbolized.

But what about the Church pennant? That is the symbol, not only of the fact that the Nation recognizes God, but that it places God above the other things which we hold near and dear to us. Thus, while we muster all our strength as a nation, we cannot divorce ourselves from the real significant justification which it all implies—to make God's World more worthy to be His. This is not only a duty, but a pledge to the generations of the future, who will as always, have God's symbol flying above that of our Nation.

To understand how your Navy interprets the importance of religion, I

To a sweet thing . . .

AMERICANA

. . . by Cadet Allan Weintraub

When we signed up, it was for the "duration-plus," and no one knows this better than we. However, we can dream, can't we, and to that aspect of our present mode of living the following few lines are dedicated. When dreaming, your thoughts may be of some "sweet little thing" who is your girl or whom you wish were your girl and if either is the case, then dream on . . .

OF ME AND YOU

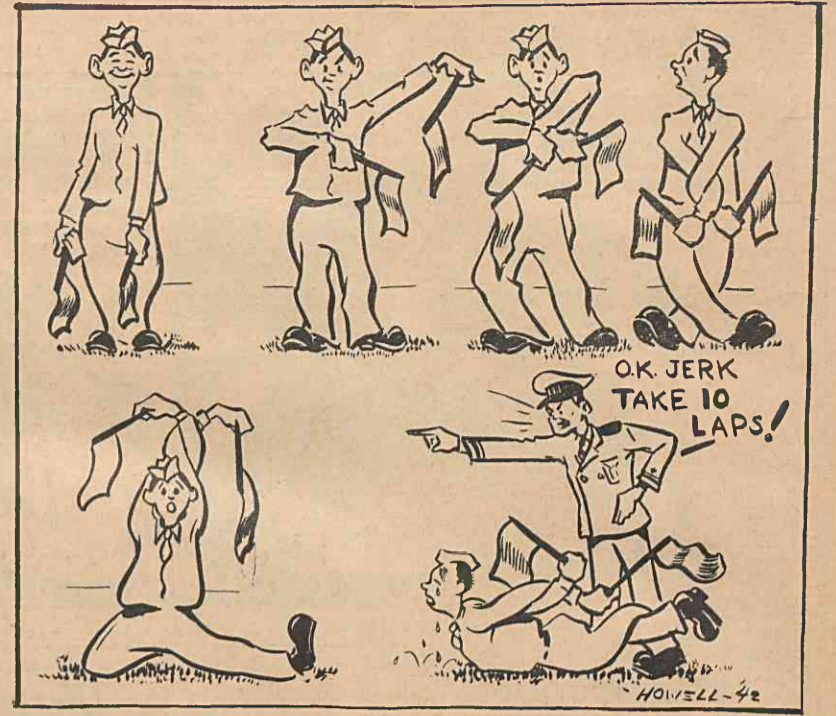
Of spring and flowers and carefree air
Of birds and songs and flowing hair
Of trees and grass, so green, so new,
Of love and life and me and you.

Of sand and stars and stars and sand
Of moonlit waters and your hand
Of breezes soft and voices low
Of kisses cool and hearts aglow.

Of autumn leaves of gold and brown
Of wintry blasts that send them down
Of walks and talks and knowing looks
Of rendezvous in forest nooks.

Of wind and snow and bitter cold
Of crackling fires and sweet things told
Of days of frost and nights of storm
Of strong embraces, ever warm.

Of all these things of me and you—
Damn it to hell, I wish they were true!



invite your attention to a reading of Article 141 of NAVY REGULATIONS. This will show you, officially, how religion has been, is now and will continue to be a very significant part of our lives.

We are all enlisted for the same purpose. It goes far beyond self. It is to retain and maintain the ideals which are symbolized by our National Ensign and the Church pennant flying above it.

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