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SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1942

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.
—Roosevelt's War Message

Star-News Program

- To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.
- Public Port Terminals.
- Perfected Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities.
- Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.
- Extension of City Limits.
- 35-Foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington.
- Paved River Road to Southport, via Orton Plantation.
- Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax.
- Shipyards and Drydocks.
- Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital.
- Adequate hospital facilities for white, Junior High School.
- Tobacco Warehouses for Export Buyers.
- Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TOP OF THE MORNING

So live today that when the morrow comes
Thou shalt not cloud the sun with vain regret;
But let thy hand and heart commit those deeds
That love for man, and faith in God beget.
—"So Live Today," by Osgood Elliott

Just A Starter

The naval engagement roughly located in or near the Solomon Islands apparently was but the opening phase of a great battle which is expected to outrank the Battle of Jutland. Japan is reported to have assembled a large fleet, or distributed it among island hideouts, in the southwest Pacific, apparently for a sea thrust by which it hopes to put Australia and the increasing Allied strength there out of action. And it seems that the United States and Britain have massed naval strength in the same waters for a showdown.

The first brush, therefore, may prove to have been the naval equivalent of an outpost skirmish, with the main engagement still to come. It may be days before it ends. And when it is over we may know whether the Japanese are to hold undisputed control of the seas and their commerce lanes in the vast southwest Pacific or whether the war in the Orient will take a turn in our favor.

If the enemy is successful, Australia will lie in line with Burma and the Philippines for enemy conquest. There can be no doubt any longer that the Japanese are mustering powerful forces for its subjugation, because it has become a definite and potent threat to their ambitions. As long as it is held by MacArthur and his rapidly growing forces, any Japanese success elsewhere can be of little permanent worth. Tokyo knows this and knows that if Australia is not taken the United Nations will inevitably launch from its bases a counter-offensive which will put an end to the spread of Japan's "new order" and end in complete defeat of her armies, fleets, air force and power.

Thus far, the battle has been going our way. Japanese losses have been heavy. With the Java naval battle and its consequences fresh in mind, it is not probable that our naval commanders will allow themselves or any ships under their command to be trapped again. It is not too optimistic to believe that the job in the Solomon Islands will set the stage for the decisive battle.

It's Bonds Or Taxes

There are two primary reasons for keeping the cost of living at a low level. One is to block inflation after the war. The other is to make the large bulk of private earnings available for the nation's war costs.

Both are good reasons. We must dodge inflation or go through a more trying period than it created following the former World War. And certainly the incomes of the people must be dedicated in whatever percentage is needed to paying for the war through which they will perpetuate their freedom.

This leads to one obvious conclusion. If wages and salaries continue at present levels and the cost of living is held at a low level, it will be necessary to apply stiffer taxes both to meet war costs and to prevent wasteful spending—a sure step toward inflation. Taxes will have to go up, in one form or another if we, as a nation and a people, are to travel the stormy seas ahead on an even keel.

The chief question, therefore, is how the taxes are to be applied and what alternative can be offered. The war savings bonds which are being offered, without pressure, offer one means of accomplishing the purpose. The people are being urged to set aside a definite portion of their earnings at regular periods for the purchase of these bonds. Locally, it is understood, the pledge campaign is making headway. With the cooperation of companies and firms, employees are signing up for payroll deductions in larger numbers than during previous similar crusades. When the campaign ends there will be many firms in Wilmington with 100 per cent records. Presumably equally good results will be obtained through the country.

Whether the revenue thus created will be sufficient to meet the government's needs is not apparent, if the amount of the contributions is left to the subscribers' own inclination or judgment. It is because of this uncertainty that a broad appeal has been issued for all workers of every type to turn at least 10 per cent of their earnings into war bonds. There is no present effort to compel acceptance of this proposal. But it would be well for everybody to consider that if the response is not unanimous it may be made compulsory, or, if not that, tax levels will be raised to produce the same results.

If the decision is for straight taxation the taxpayers will lose the advantage of receiving their money back in a decade with good interest. That deserves more than passing consideration.

Travel Rationing

Travel on highways has been materially reduced as a result of the federal ban on new and retreaded tires. It will be further curtailed when gasoline rationing is put into effect. Use of motor cars anywhere is to be cut, apparently and perhaps necessarily, to a point bordering on abandonment.

But that is only half the story, if the government also rations train travel, a hint of which is issued from Washington. Who will be permitted to ride the cushions, and why, is not revealed, but we may take it for granted that when this supervision of private peripatations starts a person will have to give a very good reason before he can buy a ticket. Obviously we are to become a people of staid-home, whether we like it or not.

That may not be so bad, after all. It will reduce individual spending, and inasmuch as the government is using rolling stock practically at peak capacity it will not cut the lines' revenues materially. Private junketeering will stop but the railroads will still have all the business they can do.

And there is no danger that the reduction in private spending for railway travel will give anyone a chance to hoard the money thus saved. If the purchase of war bonds does not absorb it, it will be caught in the tax net.

If the American people are still reluctant to accept the obligations imposed by this war, the expanding rationing program ought to convince them that nothing less than all-out sharing of sacrifices will be tolerated.

The war must be won, at whatever cost in comfort and convenience to the people. The sooner we understand this, and make the best of it, the easier will be the victory.

Siren Makes Good

Spotters stationed in far quarters of the city reported hearing the test blasts of the air raid warning siren installed at fire headquarters, but all did not hear it with equal distinctness. The fact that it was heard at the city limits, however, is a point in its favor, as indicating that when the other three sirens are set up at the three other fire stations, each in widely separated sections of the city, there will be no difficulty in giving an alarm that can be heard by everybody.

We may take it for granted that with their installation Wilmington will have taken another advantageous step in its defense system. In conjunction with the progress in reorganizing the air raid warden corps, at last being trained for its highly responsible and specialized task, this city will have better than average protection in case of actual air raid or shelling, so far as its warning service is concerned.

With the evacuation set-up for children completed, the filter center and control room staffed, the Red Cross motor corps trained and ready, first aid graduates in large numbers prepared to serve at a moment's notice and a business area fire warning corps being organized, the care of the people victimized

by any possible attack seems to have been thoroughly provided for.

If the general population will realize that it can help by remaining calm and obeying common-sense rules for public conduct by avoiding panic or hysteria, the provisions made for safety by the Defense Council will be about as effectual as human effort and planning can make them.

Silver

The strange situation of being unable to supply the demand for silver after the metal has been like a step-child for many years has arisen because foreign production is too small and our own output is by law absorbed by the government.

The New York Times has this to say about it:

At last it appears that the demand for silver has outstripped the supplies immediately available. This situation is caused, not by any lack of production, but because the United States Treasury must buy all domestically mined silver at 71.11 cents an ounce. With demand running about 40 per cent in excess of foreign production accessible to this market, it now seems likely that some change must be made in existing silver legislation or else some industries are going to go without silver unless they bid above the 71.11-cent level. However, under the price-freezing order, which goes into effect on Monday, silver is fixed at the March level, or 35 3/8 cents an ounce to the trade. This applies to foreign-mined silver, the only metal which has been available to domestic industry for several years. The question immediately arises whether foreign producers are going to be willing to sell their metal at the March price, particularly in view of the fact that the Treasury is paying more than twice that amount for the domestic output.

Washington Daybook

BY JACK STINNETT

WASHINGTON, May 8.—"Yoo-hoo, Skinnay—school's out!" used to be the June cry of American youth, but it won't be this year. Commissioner John W. Studebaker's Office of Education has issued this pronouncement: "This summer comes not as a time for vacation but as an opportunity for (the schools') pointing up their services toward certain basic objectives highlighted by the needs of the armed forces and of war production."

As President Roosevelt once pointed out, the educators just have to say it the hard way. All that means is that any school that doesn't keep open this summer and contribute its plant and personnel in some way to the war effort is skipping its opportunity to be of important use to the community and the nation.

Just so those opportunities won't be overlooked, the Office of Education's wartime commission has outlined them and they are worth repeating. For example, schools, which heretofore have gathered nothing but dust and broken windows through the summer heat, can touch off a little T.N.T. under the enemy this year (so the commission says) by offering their buildings and staffs for—

- (1) Courses in mathematics, English, social studies and science.
- (2) Aviation education—from model building on up.
- (3) Training of women and girls for all trade and clerical occupations.
- (4) Courses in nursing, nutrition, first aid.
- (5) Intensive physical fitness courses for lads and lassies who will be up for military training or war work within the next three years.
- (6) Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) courses for air raid wardens, auxiliary fire and police wardens and other OCD jobs as may be needed in those areas.
- (7) Continuation and expansion of such vocational and agricultural courses as now are offered under the federal aid program.

The Office of Education already is battling off outlines for all courses suggested in the first six recommendations. But it is pointed out that each local school administration must decide its own needs and adapt its summer school program so its own community requirements.

Time was when summer school was something to be attended by the laggards who couldn't keep up with the rest of the class or some smart Johnny or Mary who wanted to reach high school or college at the prodigy age.

The latter may sneak in this summer—if their particular talents apply to the war effort—but there will be no dumb clucks in this year's summer school. The office of education recommends that counselors be appointed to select only those who will benefit most and those who will benefit the country's all-out military program must by this special summer school training.

(Tomorrow: Extra-curricular activities) 2

Editorial Comment

COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

Durham Herald

It is distinctly a minority opinion, we are confident, and no doubt the few who somehow or other developed that false impression now know better.

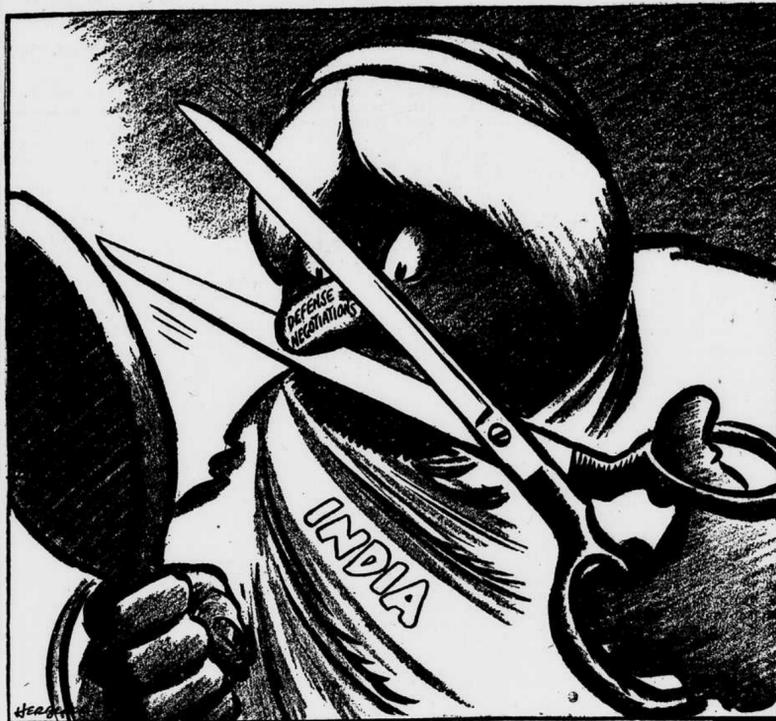
But it seems that a few who visited the schools to register for sugar ration books and weren't accommodated on the dot labored under the impression teachers doing the registering were being paid and were to blame for delays that occasioned some mild inconvenience.

That, of course, lacks foundation. On the contrary, teachers, principals and other school personnel, assumed the not pleasant or easy assignment gladly without thought or promise of compensation, worked hard at it, registered not the slightest complaint and all things considered turned in a wonderful job of cooperative community service.

At times at some schools registrants did have to stand in line. For most it was a mere inconvenience and for a few mild hardship. Longer registration hours in the beginning might have eliminated some of the congestion and lightened the load of teachers. But it seems to us a bit out of bounds for people who had to stand in line, say, an hour to get all wrought up over the delay and take it out on the teachers. Or, for that matter, on any one connected with the rationing set-up.

This is the first time in this country have undertaken to ration a universally used food. Our people, naturally, aren't enthusiastic about it and besides are inclined to complain whether the excuse is big or small, legitimate or flimsy. Chances are the sugar experience is but the beginning. We shall learn as we go along, both those in charge of registration and consumers now so ready to complain.

TO SPITE HIS FACE



The Editor's Letter Box

The editor does not necessarily endorse any article appearing in this department. They represent the views of the individual readers. Correspondents and writers that all communications must contain the correct name and address for our records, though the latter may be signed as the writer sees fit. The Star-News reserves the right to alter any text that for any reason is objectionable. Letters on controversial subjects will not be published.

To the Star:
Last month I had the privilege of going back to the North Carolina State Baptist hospital at Winston-Salem. How my heart thrills as I think of that great building dedicated to the service of our God in healing the bodies and souls of men and women, regardless of who they are and from whence they come. If they need help they will get it to the extent that our people give it.

Only recently the new part of the hospital has been completed. Today it stands, the result of the prayers, the sacrifice, the devotion to Christ, of the leaders of the hospital, and a few of our many North Carolina Baptist people. A bit of the courage and heroism in building this addition comes out in this little story that I picked up. On the night of the banquet given in Winston-Salem for starting the campaign for the money to enlarge the hospital, the superintendent of the hospital, was called to the "microphone." Standing before the microphone Dr. Hagaman took a coin from his pocket, and holding it up he said that recently to the hospital had come a grandfather for needed medical attention. The hospital was so crowded it was impossible to admit him. The grandfather had to go home, where he died a long time after returning. One day a man and boy entered his office. The father said the boy wanted to tell Dr. Hagaman something. The boy walked to Dr. Hagaman, placed a coin (if I recall correctly, it was a dime) in his hand. The boy said he wanted to help build the hospital, so that other boys would not lose their grandfather. Telling that story, Dr. Hagaman's voice shook with emotion, for he recalled others—many others—who needed help, and lack of room and equipment, made it impossible.

Several days later Dr. Hagaman opened a letter from a prominent doctor, in which the doctor said he wanted to help that boy enlarge the hospital. There was a large check enclosed.

Mother's Day is hospital day, and as we Baptists go to our Sunday schools and churches we are not going to let them down. We are going to express to the world our love and devotion for souls of men and women.

Woodrow W. Robbins
Ash, N. C.
May 8, 1942

Factographs

The man in uniform of the United States Army walks through a year of training with the wool of 26 sheep on his back, according to a booklet, "The Soldier and His Uniform," recently issued by the women's interest section of the War Department, Bureau of Public Relations.

The greatest number of pearls were, before the war, brought up from the floor of the Indian ocean and East Indies, and found their way to market through a central clearing house in London.

New Zealand was discovered in 1642 by Abel Janszoon Tasman, a Dutch navigator, and its coasts were explored by Capt. James Cook—1769-70.

Grandpappy Jenkins says a real old timer is a fellow who can remember 'way back when the tariff question was the big topic of the day.

Raymond Clapper Says: Madagascar Reflects Offensive Spirit

By RAYMOND CLAPPER

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The new offensive spirit that is taking hold of the United Nations is expressed in the timely forehanded occupation of Madagascar.

This is once the United Nations got there first. It is the kind of thing that the British attempted in 1940 when they made their unsuccessful assault on Dakar. Failing in that because the attack was not made with sufficient force, the British lapsed into a defensive psychology. It was understandable, especially in view of the peril which England barely escaped after Dunkirk. Nevertheless, for nearly two years there has been little initiative on our side, and the lack of it has been costly.

Now United Nations strength is growing rapidly. There are signs that new naval strength is coming into the picture on our side. President Roosevelt recently mentioned that American naval forces were operating in the Mediterranean and now Berlin says two American battleships have passed through Suez into the Indian ocean.

The British were outclassed recently by the Japanese naval forces in the Bay of Bengal but they have since mustered enough force to occupy Madagascar. The United States announces its intention of giving any assistance needed to hold Madagascar.

Thus by joint naval action Great Britain and the United States are moving to prevent the Japanese from accomplishing their fatal purpose of closing the Indian ocean. New naval strength now coming and due to come in the next few weeks gives our side a greater freedom of action. We are taking the first opportunity to exercise it in the critical area on the other side of Africa.

No development could be of greater encouragement to Russia. For Madagascar lies directly on the supply line to Russia. Your geography is correct, Madagascar is way down on the lower eastern coast of Africa. You might think it was of little concern except to South Africa. But this is a worldwide war and supplies to Russia go around the Cape of Good Hope and up through the Indian ocean. Japan is trying to edge over and take Ceylon, off the lower tip of

India. That would enable her to point out across the Indian ocean from the eastern side. She already has acquired some stepping stones toward Madagascar, and if she could have gone on across and occupied this Vichy French island, Japan would have been able to close the gate.

From Tokyo to Madagascar is as far as from New York to Madagascar. Few places in the world are without importance to both sides in this war.

We are in the midst of a battle for these strategic places. Japan has most of them in the southwest Pacific. She is trying to get those in the Indian ocean. We may expect that Laval's new power will mean German use of Dakar, a key point on the west coast of Africa.

Long ago President Roosevelt foresighted enough to occupy Greenland and to join the British in Iceland. As American and British naval strength increases from the furious building of the last year, we may expect the United Nations to become more aggressive in this Battle of the Bases. It may be that the first sign of a decisive turn in the course of the war will come through the Battle of the Bases.

Certainly, before the United Nations can hope to be effective in land campaigns, they must regain superiority on the seas and hold and regain bases vital to the protection of our supply routes, particularly those that feed Russia and those that will be necessary in supplying a continental offensive in Europe.

Immediate reverses in Burma are heart-breaking for the Chinese. Loss of eastern India would add to the difficulty of China continuing her resistance. Yet those are incidents in the larger scheme of the war.

Victory for the United Nations will come only after we have made safe the sea routes over which we can send the stream of supplies and men for the land offensives. That is why this recovery of initiative, as illustrated by the occupation of Madagascar, is a hopeful sign.

New Jersey held a beauty contest for girls who wear glasses and, we understand, it was quite

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Interpreting The War

True Significance Of Pacific Battle Must Await Facts

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Wide World War Analyst

The true significance of the American-Japanese sea battle that has raged since Monday off Australia cannot be calculated until the circumstances that brought it on are revealed.

There is no question, however, that it represents the onset of the Battle of Australia and that Japan has suffered heavy, if not crippling, naval losses in its first phases. Pearl Harbor has been partially avenged by comrades of American naval personnel who died there that Sunday of Japanese infamy last December.

Utterly conflicting American and Japanese accounts make it impossible at this writing to evaluate the scope of the action accurately. There is the same conflict as to which side was the interceptor and which the intercepted or as to just where the action has been taking place.

Tokyo dubs it the "Battle of the Coral Sea." From Tokyo, a line comes the only intimation that battleships have been engaged. The Tokyo claim that Britain's Warspite had been destroyed was promptly scotched in London by an admiralty announcement that neither the Warspite nor any other British battleship was sunk or damaged.

Tokyo has thus far done more than either Washington or American headquarters in Australia to point up the fight as a major sea battle. There is obvious propaganda as well as fishing for information in the naming of the Warspite, an American battleship of the California class and the American plane-carriers Saratoga and Yorktown as casualties. An effort to cover up heavy Japanese losses as well as to elicit information in the form of denials may well be suspected.

There is no doubt, however, that nearly a score of Japanese craft engaged on some offensive mission, including light and heavy cruisers, lesser war craft, transports and supply ships, have been sunk or damaged beyond early repair. That virtually confirms the assumption that an American task force of relatively light strength intercepted a well guarded Japanese invasion convoy near the Solomon and covered heavily the first clash. The running fight followed, although there is still little to suggest a major fleet action.

That may be in progress or impending. It would depend upon the disposition of the main elements of the Japanese and American fleets. That Japan is ready to risk her battle fleet far down in the southwest corner of the Pacific, leaving the approaches to Japan itself and her China sea lifelines screened only by her north and central Pacific island outposts is hardly believable.

Whether the intercepted Japanese convoy was headed toward Australia or New Guinea or merely endeavoring to expand southward a chain of island bases designed to cut American-Australian communications remains unknown. That last objective seems the logical Japanese course and an American-Japanese clash for control of those islands that fringe the Coral sea to the east has been inevitable.

The continuing sea action tends to confirm the impression that the Japanese have shifted their main war effort from the Indian ocean front to the Pacific. It goes far to warrant previous predictions that with the conquest of Burma complete, Japan must pause there and turn to protection of her vulnerable Pacific flank against an ever growing American threat.

Regardless of its final outcome, that unfinished fight is definite further notice to Tokyo of an expanding American war machine. Taken even at face value despite their untrustworthiness, the Tokyo claims of ships sunk chalk up against the American reports of enemy ships downed as a further progressive naval attrition for Japan. And British sea power is beginning to close in on her also from the west in the Indian ocean.

Yesteryears

10 YEARS AGO TODAY

A disastrous fire at Dunn destroyed an entire city business block.

Fathers and sons of the Clearwater section fought each other in a sandlot baseball game today, which ended in a 10-10 tie.

25 YEARS AGO TODAY

Herbert Hoover, of the food council of the Committee of National Defense, asked the government to prohibit for the duration of the war the use of grains of any kind in the manufacture of whiskies or beer.

50 YEARS AGO TODAY

Cows and goats are attacking the plaza on Third street, to the annoyance of persons who spend their money to beautify it.

BETTER TO MARRY HIS STENOGRAPHER

Ever since the boys read the story from an Ohio arms plant about the boss's secretary getting \$39,356 last year they are not so sure about marrying the boss's daughter.—Salem News

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