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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 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.
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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

Courage is the candle I must keep alight Through the deepening darkness Of the night.

I must watch it closely Lest it flicker out, Blown by some assailing Wind of doubt.

—ALINE MICHAELIS

On The Alert

No group in the world keeps closer watch on the fighting on the Kerch peninsula and around Kharkov than the British 10th. army in Iraq and Iran, and the reason is not hard to find.

If Hitler should break through to Caucasian oil it would become the duty of this army to go into action, to act as a backstop of Russian defense, as one commentator expresses it.

We cannot say, but there probably are American troops with this British 10th. army, eager for contact with the enemy. There have been American engineers in the Middle East for a long time establishing communication lines into Russia, making behind-the-lines preparations for battle and disposing equipment and munitions at points where it will be most readily accessible if and when the combat starts. It is not unlikely that in addition to these there are also American combat troops in the area.

The people of the United States, therefore, have increasing interest in the fighting now under way in the Crimea and the Ukraine. And, inasmuch as Hitler's lie dispensers have claimed that Kerch had fallen only to acknowledge the Nazis still beyond its gates, there is some reason for them to take comfort in such news as comes through. Confused and contradictory as reports from Berlin and Moscow are, the battle still appears to favor the Russians.

But it is quite apparent that the British, knowing that if Hitler gains the oil of the Caucasus the war must go on interminably, are fully determined to interpose an impenetrable barrier to his advance if he should succeed in forcing a passage across the Sea of Azov or the Black sea. We can but hope that if they are called into actual combat, they will have sufficient men and enough planes to reverse the record of Malay, Singapore, Java and Burma.

Study The Candidates

The primary election is less than two weeks off. As only citizens whose names appear on the primary register will be eligible to vote, this article is addressed, not to them but to the others whose voice will determine which candidates will be named in the general election for the public offices to be listed on the ballots at that time.

It is to be regretted that all persons of the proper age have not taken the trouble to register, but nothing can be done about that now. The fault is theirs alone, and there the matter rests.

For all others it is appropriate to say that until May 30, when the primary will be conducted, it is important to weigh the attributes of all candidates for every office at stake and, dismissing purely personal or political considerations, decide to cast their ballots for the men whom they are convinced are best fitted to discharge the duties that will rest upon them if elected.

Efficiency was never at so high a premium as at present. The nation faces such a crisis as it has never before known. To weather it, there must be capable men in office, not only in the federal service, but in every branch of government. It is as vital to have the best available officials in Wilmington as in Washington. Anything less is as liable to result in failure in New Hanover county, in this great emergency, as in the National Capital.

They can be obtained only by the decisions the voters reach after careful, painstaking consideration. Snap judgment is not commensurate with the issue. Nor is the heeding of glib-tongued advisers who have their own gain in view when they recommend support for a particular candidate. The choice should be reached by each individual voter for himself.

There is time for close examination of the whole field of candidates. Failure to make that examination will be to exercise the franchise without respect for its responsibilities.

A Notable Anniversary

Tomorrow is the 61st anniversary of that mild spring evening when a little group of men and women gathered in Clara Barton's house on I street, Washington, and organized what now is the American Red Cross.

Somehow it seems presumptuous to introduce the Red Cross to the American public. Its achievements in the field of applied mercy, its contributions to the alleviation of suffering, in war and in peace, would seem to have publicized this magnificent organization "far above our poor power to add or detract."

And yet, sometimes we take for granted the benefactor who always stands ready with a helping hand. We forget that behind unstinted generosity lies the self-sacrifice of thousands whose glory it is to serve humanity.

In time of peace we think of the Red Cross, most of us, on two occasions. One is when we make a little donation for the annual roll call. The other is when some major disaster—earthquake, flood, famine, explosion—brings into swift play the efficient machinery which has been built up over the 61 years since Clara Barton started the movement in this country.

But today we are reminded of the Red Cross dramatically by what it is doing for our soldiers, sailors and marines.

The Red Cross is sending food and clothing to Americans imprisoned in Italy and Germany, is checking prison camp conditions, is arranging for mail to reach our boys captured by the Japanese.

Already some 600,000 sweaters, socks, mufflers, helmets, sea boots, scarfs and other knitted articles have been shipped to our fighting men. More than 7,000,000 garments have been sent for the relief of war victims. More than 30,000,000 surgical dressings have been made and sent to Europe, and more than 40,000,000 to our own Army and Navy hospitals.

The Red Cross is operating 18 blood donation centers, seeking to collect 1,238,000 pints of blood for transfusions for the wounded.

It is estimated that of all the men who have passed through our army camps, one out of eight has received assistance from the Red Cross.

These are figures, accurate but neither cold nor hard. They are figures of mercy, made possible because millions have donated money and thousands have given of themselves, in work.

This is not an appeal for money. The Red Cross has no financial drive on now.

This is just a reminder of a very few of the things that the Red Cross, on its 61st birthday, is doing for the relief of distress.

Himmler In Holland

No clearer or more tragic understanding of the unrest and gathering revolt among Europe's Nazi-dominated people could be offered than in the announcement that Heinrich Himmler, Hitler's chief executioner, has been sent to Holland and that before starting he conferred at length with Reinhard Heydrich, commonly called "der henker," or hangman, who is now engaged in the slaughter of Frenchmen following his transfer from Czechoslovakia.

Obviously the execution of 96 Hollanders, the rearrest of all former Dutch officers and cadets and the seizure of 460 prominent citizens in a week have failed to quell the spirit of revolt in Holland or quiet the jittery nerves of Nazi leaders, in deadly fear of a continental invasion by United Nations forces.

The Dutch people are urged by their government-in-exile to restrain their impulse to revenge the deaths of thousands during the Nazi invasion and since. "Draw the line where

prudence ceases and recklessness begins," is the advice of their government's spokesman. It is wise counsel, certainly, but considering the manner in which the Dutch have treated their unwelcome "guests" and their unshakable determination to win free or die in the attempt, it is doubtful that it will be heeded.

The mission of Himmler can be nothing else but to suppress this revolt in all its ramifications, if that can be done by firing squads. He will fail, of course. As long as Dutchmen survive they will fight—not openly now because they are disorganized and unarmed. But the Nazis could quell rebellion in Holland only with the slaying of the last member of this indomitable people.

It is no mere coincidence that Himmler goes to Holland simultaneously with the arrival of additional American soldiers in Ireland. The fear of a continental invasion has gripped the hearts and minds of Hitler and his fellow gangsters. As Holland might be chosen for a landing place for expeditionary forces it is essential to the Nazi cause that they get no help from Hollanders, and to prevent this Himmler is sent to conduct a blood bath, and to imprison all he does not kill.

Fighting Back

It is difficult to follow the course of battle in Burma because available maps fail to show the location of many towns named in dispatches and the terrain is not clearly indicated. But it is apparent that the Chinese, previously forced to retire before the enemy because they lacked numbers and air support, have at last been reinforced in sufficient strength to turn on the enemy and whittle at the Japanese army's flanks and thrust at the rear with telling effect.

Burma might be reclaimed yet. Or the fighting there might assume a similar pattern to the battle in Russia, where the Nazis swept away all opposition in the early stages only to be halted by impenetrable Russian defenses. And, again like the Russian invasion, the present fighting might signal a stubborn counter-offensive on a scale much larger than the separate engagements now being successfully conducted by Chinese forces under General Stilwell, their American commandant.

These are possibilities only the future can reveal. But it is a hopeful sign that the Chinese are striking back at a dozen points, with a nibble here and a slash there, which are costing the enemy great numbers of men killed and great quantities of war tools destroyed. Even if General Stilwell is unable to assemble sufficient forces fully equipped for the major thrust which might hurl the enemy out of Burma, he and his Chinese troops will have contributed greatly to United Nations success in the Orient if he is able to keep a large force of Japanese (roughly estimated at 100,000) engaged for a long time as was done in the Philippines. The time thus gained will be of inestimable worth to MacArthur, who is gathering a mighty army in Australia for the final victory.

Washington Daybook

By JACK STINNETT

WASHINGTON, May 19 — "National Defense" was a byword long before Pearl Harbor but only now a bill emerges from Congress (it has passed the Senate and probably will pass the House any day) designed to give relief to some 3,000,000 small manufacturers and business firms in this country whose businesses have been turned topsy-turvy by priorities, war contracts, shipping, price controls, and the flow of labor into war industries.

Some political observers around here are saying that this procrastination will probably have more effect on this year's elections than any other factor and that the congressmen who have been worrying about other things are much to their amazement—not coming back to Washington, despite the fact that their records on other defense matters are clean as a whistle.

The excuses for the delay have been many. The one that holds the most water is that Congress and the government would have been foolish NOT to gear big business to the war effort first.

According to Rep. Wright Patman, of Texas, one of the authors of the small business bill, experts informed the joint congressional committee that of the 184,000 small manufacturing plants in the country, some 45,000 could be converted to the war effort and that these non-war producing plants represent almost 50 per cent of our entire productive potentialities. If that is true, then the productive efforts of this country haven't really been tapped, in spite of all the glowing accounts of progress that have come from the War Production Board and other official sources.

The proposed bill (it may be different in its final form) provides broadly for two things: (1) A small business division in WPB that will expedite contracts and subcontracts to small manufacturers and otherwise cut red tape in seeing that their productive potentialities are used, and (2) the establishment of a Smaller War Plants Corporation, with \$100,000,000 to start, which would have authority to make loans for conversion and financing on war contracts.

The proposed SWPC would also have the authority to take contracts from the Army, Navy and Maritime Commission and farm them out to the small manufacturers.

It also will not confine its activities wholly to arms production firms, but to thousands of other who produce and distribute clothing, food and many other things for that vast civilian force that is backing up the Army in the field and in training.

It sounds simple. It should give relief to hundreds of distressed communities. It has been a long time coming.

QUOTATIONS

Despite the extraordinary success of the Axis with the air, it was only a few months ago that air training was first introduced at West Point.—Major Benjamin Namm, chairman of Retail Advisory Committee to Treasury Department.

"DADDY'S GONE A-HUNTING!"



Interpreting The War

Hitler Gets Invasion Jitters As U. S. Troop Units Land In England

BY KIRKE L. EMPSON
Wide World War Analyst
Whatever the actual purposes for which a powerful American-British Canadian striking force is being mustered in the British isles, there is sound reason to believe it is giving Hitler's generals a taste of the invasion jitters England has endured since France fell. As that is a far cry indeed from the war scene as it looked just a year ago.

Last May 19, the air above Crete, Britain's last meagre island foothold in Europe, was blossoming with thousands of Nazi parachutes. The first air-borne invasion in history was on; another British disaster in the making. Invasion apprehensions in England reached a new high, visions of mightier air-ferried armies pelting the tight little isle with German parachutists were conjured up to increase the gloom of the developing Crete disaster. That was a black day in England.

Its first anniversary saw the announcement of safe arrival in northern Ireland of strong reinforcements for the American expeditionary force already there. Invasion became again the main theme of parliamentary debates in London; but in reverse. It was not fear of attack; but ardent hope of an impending Anglo-American thrust into the continent that key-noted discussion.

Prime Minister Churchill's spokesmen were non-committal. Second-front possibilities, the hot questioners, were "in our minds" and also "in the minds of the German general staff." Yet it was added that practical execution of any such project to aid Russia's valiant stand against the common foe must be "conditioned by transport problems."

That is true. It is equally true, however, that the first and largest step in mastering those transport problems has been taken successfully in safe passage to the British isles, through submarine-infested seas, of not only American but Canadian forces and their equipment for offensive action.

When the day of invasion will dawn is another matter. The timing of a second-front operation would be conditioned by more than transport problems alone. It would depend as much upon what happens in the weeks ahead in Russia and upon the effectiveness of the British air offensive, soon to be supplemented by American Army bombers and fighters.

It has seemed quite clear to this observer that the timing of any Anglo-American counter invasion designed to squeeze Germany between two fronts must depend upon the extent to which German armies in Russia are engaged beyond withdrawal. Kerch and Kharkov are the best but the preliminaries of the battle to come in the east.

Neither the scope of the German summer offensive nor the dent the Russians have put in it at Kharkov are yet clearly enough defined to warrant immediate second-front expectations, unless in strictly limited form. Yet northern Italy offers an increasingly interesting objective as summer draws on. The safe-guard Atlantic—Arctic communications lines with Russia. And it is there, in rocky and remote upper Norway, that Nazi fears of an early Allied invasion attempt seem most apparent.

Is That So!

Boston newspapers are using horses to deliver the news. An excellent idea, which would have been applauded by that famous old Bostonian, Paul Revere.

Zadok Dumbkopf says that when he first heard of the Bong of Wong, he thought folks were referring to a new big league home-coming king.

Most of us would be pleased if there was a way to ration the words of those endless telephone conversationalists.

A new ink glows in the dark. This should be an effective method of preventing one stumbling over the wastebasket at night.

Fashion writers refer to the static silhouette. This is as unappreciable to us as that other kind of static—the radio variety.

The boss says we have a static silhouette here in the office—shadow of that new office boy.

Another reason the Japs have failed to pull off their "offensive" against Australia must be the fact that it's autumn down there.

The League Against Abuse of Tobacco has been dissolved in France. It had no work to do. French women are not permitted to have cigarettes, and men are limited to one package every 15 days.

Crocodiles are said not to have the long life span usually believed to be theirs. Government experts say a 40-year-old crocodile can be said to have lived four times longer than the average member of the clan.

The Hundred Years War, we are told, actually lasted 116 years. The engine remembering a war as being shorter than it really was.

As Others Say It

TRAVEL RESTRICTED

This summer will be one for North Carolinians to discover the glories of North Carolina. Gasoline and rubber rationing, together with proposed travel rationing, perhaps will keep our people at home—and at the same time prevent residents of other states from seeing the "Variety Vacationland." It appears that the resort proprietors will take a financial licking this season.—Kinston Daily Free Press.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

England, the United States and France with comparative ease could have stopped Japan when she invaded Manchuria in 1931 and Hitler when he rearmaged the Rhineland and Mussolini when he attacked Ethiopia. And had they done so, the present global war almost certainly would have been averted.—Charlotte Observer.

MEANS BUSINESS

Girls, if the boy friend calls you "sugar", he's getting serious.—Pittsburgh Press.

DISTURBING

Another hardship of war for those already fearing the loss of cans and can-openers is the threat of discontinuing ready-sliced bread.—Christian Science Monitor.

THANKFUL

Doubtless the tireless motorist is grateful that he will not be on the road behind that bus-trailer-to-end-all-bus-trailers which carries 141 passengers.—Christian Science Monitor.

WAIT AND SEE

We'll ask you as it was asked of us: If a child is born at midnight now daylight saving time, from which day will his or her birthday be reckoned? We wouldn't know. Would you?—Opwego Independent.

A LUCKY GUY

"And Columbus," says Erma, "thought he had a problem, getting only three ships across the ocean."—Kansas City Star.

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"THE SEASON," by David Walden; \$2.50.

David Walden begins his "The Season" on the lower East Side of New York. The novel has nothing to do with the lower East Side except that some of its people come from there; the reason it begins so is that Jake's hotel employment agency occupies an old East Side store building—and "The Season" is a novel about a hotel.

About one of those not-so-good Catskill resorts, to be specific, Sam Barsky runs it, and when Mr. Walden's story opens, Sam just has returned from Bratislava with a wife named Paula, and just has been warned by the bank that if he does not paint the buildings at Pinecrest, it will foreclose his mortgage that fall. With all this on his mind it is not remarkable that he cannot think of raises for the help.

Most of the help has worked for him before, and does not expect much—Snake and Jerry, bus-boy and waiter; Rose, the chambermaid who endures anything from Sam because he allows her to keep with her son; Enrico, the cook who gets drunk; Chester, the handyman who lost his far western

farm and needed any kind of work—the lot of them. And Stephen, who was an actor in the Federal Theater, and Philip, who was a refugee and hated readily.

The book is a peculiar tangle. It takes the reader step by step through the business of running a poor hotel through a difficult summer. Sometimes its details are a little wearisome, but there is no lack of action. The help is interested in liquor, women (or men) and gambling. Sam is continuously involved in balancing the books, and playing off one guest against another, or one duty against another. Paula is his refugee wife, and she is interested in herself and the power she can seize, plus on or two of the boys on the place. The number of cross-currents is incredible, and sometimes a little confusing.

But no matter. Slowly you find yourself a part of Sam's titanic struggle. You wrap yourself in the absurd life of the social director, you are sorry for Philip who hates so much, you worry because it is dry and the lake is gummy and stagnant, even feel for little Fritz, her son with her; Enrico, the cook who gets drunk; Chester, the handyman who lost his far western

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Raymond Clapper Says:

Chance Is Seen For Early End Of War, Maybe 1943

By RAYMOND CLAPPER

WASHINGTON, May 19.—The switch in war production policy now being made here indicates we see a chance of an early end to the war—perhaps late next year.

Public remarks by both Secretary of War Stimson and Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, seem to imply the existence of that hope and effort.

Secretary Stimson says the army hopes to be ready with the bulk of its troops for action next fall. Donald Nelson says the main effort now will be to get weapons actually off the line for immediate use. He didn't go into detail but he said that is a fundamental change of production policy.

Hitherto we have put much effort into building new war factories, the breath-taking bomber plants, the tank arsenals, dozens of ammunition plants, rows of shipyards. We have proceeded on the plan that there was no limit to the amount of production capacity we must have. That meant consumption of enormous amounts of materials in building plants for future production. It would mean weapons in 1943 or 1944 or 1945.

Now the policy is to stop further expansion on the whole and put everything into turning out weapons now, this summer. One tank this summer is worth a dozen in 1944 under the new point of view. The underlying purpose is to build up for smashing blows this year and next, to end the loss of life and world-wide suffering as soon as possible.

Plants actually under construction, if at all advanced, undoubtedly will be finished so as not to waste the effort and materials already expended on them. Contracts signed but on which work has not begun probably will be cancelled.

Few new contracts will be let for plant construction. Some exceptions will be necessary but the policy will be to discourage them.

The fact is we do not have enough materials in some lines to permit full production and additional facilities. Neither would there be enough of such materials to feed the new plants at full capacity after they were in operation.

Steel is badly needed to turn out ships and tanks in yards and factories already in operation. To divert steel for construction of additional plants would cut into production possibilities of existing facilities. Furthermore, by denying permission to build new plants, the pressure is increased to convert existing factories.

Donald Nelson says from now on America's industrial plant will make nothing but war goods in an absolute maximum of production. There is no sense in using steel to increase production capacity for 1943 if the steel is needed for production of weapons this year.

While prospective shortages in some raw materials would make this policy necessary in any event in some cases, the War Production Board intends to apply the policy straight across the board. So the inference is that there is more behind it than the pinch in certain materials.

Informed sources here believe they have rather convincing evidence that Germany is approaching the outside limit of her capacity to fight on. Manpower is becoming a more serious problem. So many reports are coming out concerning morale that officials are beginning to place some cautious credence in them. The gray faces and irritable temper of the people in Germany are so noticeable now as to be commonly reported by travellers coming out.

Everyone recognizes that whether it is to be a short war or one of indefinite length depends largely on how Russia comes through the summer. The Russians themselves sound a pessimistic note in their conversations around here and it is the Americans who are on the optimistic side about Russia.

Whether the Russians are taking the grim view as a matter of psychology to spur American help, or whether the Americans are doing too much wishful thinking, are questions one can only guess about. Anyway the American government appears definitely set to pull for a victory next year at the expense of continuing to enlarge facilities for more distant needs.

Factographs

Waldo E. Sexton of Vero Beach, Fla., has recently acquired the largest single board of mahogany in existence. It is a plank four inches thick, five feet wide and 35 feet long, and weighing nearly two tons. It appeared first at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904, has since lain in the basement of the American Museum of Natural History, and in various warehouses of furniture makers. Mr. Sexton has built a room to house this huge table.