

The Sunday Star-News

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SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1943
With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.

Our Chief Aim

To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

Round and Around

It is one thing to know that we have the right to expect as much food per capita for Wilmington as anywhere in the United States, but something else to get it.

C. Hillman Moody, Federal Food Distribution Administration's North Carolina supervisor, puts the responsibility on the shoulders of manufacturers and distributors.

Without questioning Mr. Moody's abstract conclusions, it is still possible to point out that Wilmington has been going short on food for a long time, that the manufacturers and the distributors are well aware of it and if the federal food administration has not discovered it, it is due to blindness, deafness and obtuseness.

According to the published report of what transpired at this momentous conference, we are reminded of the old refrain: "Round and round the vinegar cruet the monkey chased the weasel."

Jeffers Vs. Patterson

When William M. Jeffers absented himself from his job as president of the Union Pacific railroad system and went to Washington to bring order out of the chaos that existed in the nation's rubber program, his sacrifice was greeted with acclaim, and his expert services were welcomed with extraordinary glee.

It appears that these persons had the right view. Mr. Jeffers has experienced all the difficulties the bureaucrats could create for him. He has been criticized at every turn and almost on every hand.

The Jeffers wrath is easily understood. It is equally easy to understand why he should demand a showdown which must lead to his or Mr. Patterson's resignation. He is said to

have called the Patterson statement "the most violent and unprovoked attack which a public servant has ever had to sustain." He calls for an investigation to get at the "real facts." There can be but one outcome to this. The inquiry must be held, and it must be thorough. Somebody's head must fall in the basket.

It only proves what we have contended before that bureaucracy is our greatest national curse, and that our war effort cannot reach its highest level of achievement as long as the bureaucrats remain in the saddle.

Allied Air Power

There have been many evidences of the effectiveness of the Allied air attack on Germany and Nazi-held countries, none of which is more convincing of the value of aerial warfare than that it is costing Hitler a hundred and fifty locomotives a month — far in excess of his replacement capacity.

Hitler is not only finding it harder and harder to keep war implement production up to the level required by his forces. He is also less and less able to transport such tools as can still be turned out to battle areas.

It is not only in Europe that Allied air power is proving its mettle. When a fleet of Allied fighter planes can destroy a convoy of twenty mammoth, six - engine Messerschmitts loaded with troops and gasoline in the Gulf of Tunis in not more than ten minutes, it is obvious that Hitler's air forces are being subjected to as heavy drain as his war industries and communications.

The Allies' air umbrella over the Strait of Sicily and all that section of the Mediterranean over which Hitler has sought to get supplies and men to Rommel and Von Arnim has all but cut off the enemy's communications between Europe and Africa, a fact which brings the victory in Tunisia nearer.

Altogether, the Allied air power is a chief factor in the war drama now nearing its final curtain for Hitler. This is the more heartening because when the war started Hitler had what seemed to be overpowering air forces and his foes had to start from scratch.

Showdown With Finland

It is not that we love Finland, but victory more, that Washington has cracked down on the Helsinki government, virtually withdrawing its diplomatic staff and all but severing relations.

The underlying purpose is to encourage the Finns to make a separate peace with Russia and drop out of the war. By the means employed to this end it is hoped to offset the pressure Hitler has brought to bear to force them into another and bloodier offensive against Leningrad and to give up more supplies for the Axis forces everywhere.

Hitler's threats, it is understood have included complete occupation of Finland. If this should come, Finland would be reduced to a state of vassalage resembling that existing in Italy and Norway. Perhaps by refusing to go on as an Axis ally, the country might receive some help from Russia to resist a gestapo invasion. Certainly there would be substantial help from the United States and Britain.

That the Finnish attitude has changed since the Helsinki government threw in its lot with Hitler is evidenced by Mannerheim's declaration that Finland will spill no more blood and sacrifices no more soldiers in another campaign against the Russians.

How the present move by Washington will turn out is not clear, but in view of the fact that Finnish leaders are disgusted with their bargain with Hitler, and also because they are quite capable of reading the signs of the times correctly, it is reasonable to think that they will shape their course more nearly in accordance with the wishes of the United Nations and leave Hitler to his fate.

Might Stay In Town

Many Wilmington residents have rented their beach cottages to workers in war industries and officers of the Army. The arrangement has been helpful in partially solving the area's housing problem.

Now, with summer approaching, some of the owners are notifying their beach tenants to vacate, that the owners and their families may occupy the property through the warm months. They are well within their rights in so doing, but it may be questioned if they are doing their patriotic duty in the war emergency.

The families they evict will be unable to find other quarters. Houses, apartments, even rooms are lacking, Wilmington and its suburbs are overcrowded. It does not answer to say that these people should have stayed home in the first place. Army officers must go where they are sent and without full working staffs industries working on war contracts could not fulfill their obligations. They are here because they are needed.

copy their beach cottages this summer and insist that tenants move out, would it not be a kindly, patriotic move merely to exchange residence with them, allowing the tenants to occupy the town homes while the owners live at the beach? If this is too altruistic, why not stay in town, and leave the beach tenants where they are?

Fuehrer And Duce Agree

The Berlin radio, reporting on a recent Hitler-Mussolini conference, said that "complete agreement was reached on all measures to be taken in any respect." One newspaper's story was captioned "Hitler and Duce 'Agree' Again."

Obviously that heading was tailored to fit a space. Otherwise the story could have been told in less words and more accurately by saying simply "Duce Agrees Again."

Inside Washington

By CHARLES P. STEWART

The foreign minister of Spain, Francisco Gomez de Jordana, included an exceedingly peculiar remark in his recent offer of Madrid's "good offices" toward the restoration of peace among the world's warring powers.

Count de Jordana, to be sure, mentioned no particular country by name, but he did take the trouble to emphasize the Spanish judgment that "Communism is a threat" against which "western Europe should unite."

Now, imagine, after such a remark, what chance the man who made it would stand in an attempt to mediate between the Axis and the United Nations, with Communistic Russia as one of the latter!

Presumably the count spoke for Caudillo Francisco, Spain's dictator. That El Caudillo thinks he could make his country a major power and solidify his own regime by getting in as pacifier of the pending conflict is clear.

Undoubtedly Franco WOULD add greatly to his prominence if he succeeded at it, but it is hard to understand how he hopes to make a good start by antagonizing the Soviets at the very outset.

Of course, there is the possibility that Franco assigned to his foreign minister the task of initiating negotiations and that the count botched the job, but if he is in his right mind, it is difficult to comprehend the thoroughness of it.

Had the Spanish offer been made without inclusion of the job at Communism it would have been perfectly understandable. The impression has been growing for some time that Adolf Hitler foresees his finish unless he can manage to end the war by some sort of a compromise. While there is no likelihood that Caudillo Franco could arrange one for him, it is conceivable that he would think of Franco as a suitable stooge to make the attempt.

Yet it seems impossible that Adolf himself is crazy enough to believe the chances of an appeal to the rest of the United Nations would be improved by so gratuitous a thrust toward Russia.

Caudillo Franco unquestionably has been worried increasingly by the prolongation of the war. Spain is now nearly in the midst of it. It is liable to be side-swiped any minute. Its dictator, too, is obviously fearful of a Communist rampage when the Allies finally win, assuming a clean-cut victory, with the Russians among the triumphant fighters.

For one thing, he has a large Communist element at home — extreme radicals but not of his type or Fuehrer Hitler's or Duce Mussolini's. Rather they classify as democrats, though of a tremendously exaggerated pattern.

He had a desperate struggle vanquishing them when he gained control a few years ago, and surely is convinced that they will tear loose again at the first opportunity, such as would be afforded by a Nazi-Fascist overthrow, accompanied by the complete disorganization of his totalitarian Spanish Falangists.

That Franco expressed more or less of this idea to Foreign Minister de Jordana, in outlining to the latter his plan for a negotiated peace, with Madrid doing the negotiating, is possible. And perhaps the count put it considerably too literally in submitting his overtures to the belligerents.

Incidentally, El Caudillo is well known to be decidedly anxious over Latin America's almost unanimous sympathy with the anti-Axis democracies.

Spain is very dependent, indeed, sentimentally and commercially, upon the good will of the inhabitants of the New World's southlands, and Argentina is the only one of the 24 of them that is not at least pro-democratic, not to mention the several which have declared outright war against the Axis. And even Argentina is not Axisly over-dependable, in view of the direction the war is taking.

AFTER YOU, MY DEAR ADOLF!



Interpreting The War

Hamilton Is Ideal Spot For Refugee Conference

By GLENN BABB
The war moved swiftly last week toward the grand climax and conclusion of its African chapter while the two great contending alliances sped their preparations for the next, the European phase.

Secrecy naturally hid most of these preparations but there were increasing indications that for the great armies and air fleets being trained and equipped in Britain, the United States and North Africa the zero day was rapidly approaching.

Not until 1897 did Hamilton achieve official stature as a city. Stirred by Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the colonial parliament decided that the capital had come of age as a first class municipality.

Hamilton's civic planners had an eye to the future, laid out the town in a gridiron pattern, assured easy flow of traffic with 50-foot streets. Travelers of a later day saw pleasant vistas in looking up and down palm-fringed, shrub-lined streets, feasted eyes on the inviting wares of Canada, England, and Europe displayed in windows of fashionable shops, strolled with plenty of elbow room when taking in the sights.

Grown to a city of 3,000 people, Hamilton impresses visitors with its cathedral, its parliament buildings, its block of administrative offices, its governor's residence atop Mt. Langton, its home centers — Fairyland, Spanish Point, Bailey's Bay and Paynter's Vale — its parks museums and aquarium.

A daughter's desire to honor her father blessed Hamilton with the money to build a new city hall. Hamilton's official face was red when the Governor named the highway to a costly reclamation project "March Folly Road."

Bermuda island, site of Hamilton, is one of 360 pin-point islands clustered in the Atlantic east of South Carolina and north of Puerto Rico. Named for their discoverer the Spaniard Juan de Bermudez who looked them over in 1515, they were no man's land until 1609 when a shipwrecked party of Virginia-bound colonists found refuge on their shores. Bermuda was made the official name when the Crown took over the Government in 1684.

A base in the Great south gives the United States a mid-Atlantic outpost 640 miles east of the nearest point on the American coast, Cape Hatteras. Bermuda is 673 miles from Norfolk, 697 from New York, and 668 from Boston. Nearest land east of Bermuda is the Azores island group, 2,065 miles across the Atlantic. The vast coral reef encircling the whole Bermuda group is a cushion between the storms of the two-mile deep Atlantic and the sheltered waters of the Great South.

Some of the Alice Islands, a microscopic archipelago on the western flank of our supply lines to the southwest Pacific and only 400 to 500 miles from the Japanese - held Gilbert group. This move heightened expectations of imminent spectacular events in the Pacific and gave assurance that American forces would continue their steady pressure on the enemy behind the necessary veil of secrecy.

Another bit of evidence of the same kind was General MacArthur's disclosure that Allied ground forces were operating, probably in patrol actions, only six air line miles from Salamaua, the big Japanese base on the eastern New Guinea coast. Japanese garrisons in that region are under continuous pressure and with their lines of supply and reinforcement made hazardous by the allied air force their situation is not a happy one.

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Civilian Defense Timetable

BASIC TRAINING COURSES
New Hanover High school room 109 at 8 p. m.
Fire Defense A
Monday, May 3rd and every two weeks thereafter.
General Course
Tuesday, May 4th and every two weeks thereafter.
Gas Defense B
Wednesday, May 5th and every two weeks thereafter.

As Others Say It

GRACE MEMORIAL BRIDGE
In naming the Cooper river bridge for the late Mayor John P. Grace, the state legislature gave recognition to the man principally responsible for construction of the great link between Charleston and the territory to the east. Not only did the bridge open up a section long suffering for lack of communications, but it is an important part of a north and south system of highways that facilitate the movement of tourists and other traffic in peace, and military vehicles in war.

Time, the great healer, has served to close many of the wounds suffered in the political battles of the past. The News and Courier opposed Mr. Grace in politics, but it does not begrudge a deserved tribute to his memory in attaching his name to the bridge which his faith and vision largely caused to be constructed.

For twelve years Charleston politics have been fairly peaceful, and the old lines of Grace and anti-Grace have practically disappeared. It is meet and proper that the good men do be remembered after them, while their memories are forgotten with the passing of years.—Charleston News and Courier.

GOB HUMOR

A shipwrecked sailor spent nearly three years on a desert island, and one morning was awakened to see a destroyer in the bay and a boat pulling off for the shore. As the boat grounded on the beach, an officer threw the sailor a bundle of newspapers. "The captain's compliments," said the officer. "Please read through these and then let me know whether you still want to be rescued."—New London, Conn., Sub-Base Gazette.

STAY AT HOME

The Transportation Director calls for the elimination of all "strictly non-essential travel" for the duration. He estimates that 25 per cent of the people who crowd the cars are traveling for "no necessary purpose, formerly aimless travel for the sake of going somewhere."

Why not stay at home and get acquainted with your family and neighbors?—Raleigh News and Observer.

CATTAILS FOR KAPOK

Near Milwaukee a plant built by a battery company is beating cattail heads into fluff ("typha") for use in dozens of articles which once took kapok—life preservers, pillows, quilts, sleeping bags, insulation material.

The new industry means a tidy winter cash income for Wisconsin farmers who collect \$2 per 1,000 spikes.

Tests show that twenty ounces of cattail fluff will support eight pounds of deadweight in water for more than a week.—Wall Street Journal.

SOME RECEIVERSHIP

Discussing Europe after the war, a leading light of the local legal fraternity was heard to remark today. "Boy! what a receivership!"—H. V. Wade in the Detroit News.

LOOKING BACKWARD

Youngest brigadier general in American Army now is 35 years old. What would Joe Stuart, Stonewall Jackson, Robert Ransom and other Confederate generals who commanded divisions and corps in their late 20's and 30's think of this?—Winston-Salem Journal.

You're Telling Me

The term "banker's hours" naturally will disappear if that proposed world bank becomes a fact. Because of its global ramifications it will have to be open 24 hours a day.

Granddaddy Jenkins reminds us that what the last robin of spring loses in the way of publicity it more than makes up in comfort.
Too bad more race horses aren't like the Italian Army. It always runs true to form.
A Canadian seer predicts that Fuehrer's Hitler and Duce Mussolini's goose — will be cooked by November. Swell — that should make our Thanksgiving turkey taste all the better.
Victory Garden Dictionary — "TOMATO BUG: A six-legged, winged saboteur."