

SIX The Sunday Star-News

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TOP O' MORNING (Psalm 115:3 "Our God is in the heavens") They cannot cause Him panic, Nor cut off his supplies...

And Then To Die Death of Billy Southworth, Jr., in the wreck of a Superfortress that crashed and exploded at New York is similar to that of many who survived war only to die in mishap at home.

Servicemen And Strikes The views of American soldiers and sailors on industrial strikes are pretty well-known. They've been expressed often but seldom as well as in the following story and poem which appeared recently in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

FOR THOSE WHO STRIKE It seems so childish and so cruel, too, To call a strike, while life's blood drains away From veins of some young boy, whose lips turn blue.

Proper Place France has put 48,000 German prisoners to work at repairing the war damage they wrecked. That's justice, but that's just a few compared with the thousands upon thousands of French war prisoners and French civilians doing forced labor in Germany.

Washington Calling U. S. NINTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, IN HOLLAND—One's first close-up glimpse of this war is bound to be a surprise and shock. First of all, you are not prepared for the enormous complexity of even a small section of the front.

Sidney Lanier

This month is the 103rd anniversary of the birth of Sidney Lanier, one of the most original and talented of American poets, a true southerner in the most patriotic sense of the word and a highly accomplished musician.

Because Lanier has never received the recognition deserved for his works from the public as a whole. He was not a sensationalist. He was not promoted. Rather, the early reception of his poetry suffered because it came in an environment, impoverished by a great war, too busy trying to reconstruct itself to extend the name of any worthy man of letters.

His career too, was a comparatively short one, handicapped by health broken by his service from 1861 to 1865 in the war. In his memorial to Lanier, William Hayes Ward summed it up with:

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TALE OF TWO CITIES



WITH THE AEF: France's Purge Slows Down

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER (Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon) PARIS—The "epuration," that ominous French word meaning purge which only a month ago screamed from every Parisian newspaper, virtually has become obsolete. Yet no one expects it will remain thus.

When I left Paris Feb. 1 for a visit to sections of Germany now occupied by the Allies, "epuration" seemed to have reached a climax. Such a dramatic figure as 76-year-old fighting Editor Charles Maurras, or such an erudite man of letters as 35-year-old Robert Brasillach had supplied plenty of readable material to the French press.

Crowded though the French one-sheet dailies are for space, their editors nevertheless reserved plenty of room for items to bear out the one word headline, "epuration."

On my return to the French capital I looked in vain for the familiar headline. The fact is that the government apparently grew tired of prosecuting over 70,000 cases and decided that all those dealing with central administrative officials must be finished by Feb. 15, all affecting local administrations by March 15, and all charging treason, collusion with the enemy and others involving the possibility of the death penalty by May 1.

That decision satisfied exactly nobody, it seems, unless it was the government itself. But even the cabinet seems to have had a change of heart when it passed the decree for speeding up and thereafter dropping all purging.

The government, as well as everybody else, cannot answer the fundamental question: What will be the attitude of the millions of Frenchmen, who are either prisoners of war in Germany or else have been dragged to the Reich as conscripted laborers?

Interpreting The War

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON Associated Press War Analyst The answer to Nazi ability to maintain any organized defense around within the roofless cauldron that lies between the Rhine and the Oder may be evident soon.

Germany was face to face with another supreme test. There was no question but that the final phase of a coordinated Russian-Allied winter drive to crush the Wehrmacht was on, although the full scope and direction of simultaneous massive ground attacks from east and west had yet to develop.

Undercover of a sustained Allied air bombardment that blackened German skies day and night, bombers were ripping at every vital Nazi communication key in preparation for the culminating breakthrough ground attacks. Premier Stalin again defined the joint objective as annihilation of the German army. For the first time, too, he disclosed officially that the Russian-Allied offensives were now intimately coordinated, fitted to a mutual strategic and tactical pattern.

Whether that was the direct result in a military way of the momentous Churchill-Roosevelt-Stalin conference at Yalta or had been previously worked out is not yet clear. It seems certain, however, that further aggressive moves to tighten the screw on the tottering last segment of Hitler's once sweeping Axis hold on continental Europe were in the making.

Further evidence of the impending German collapse came during the week from Turkey. In desperate haste to join in the United Nations victory march, Turkey formally entered the war. Her action came too belatedly to influence greatly the military situation except that it exposed die-hard Nazi garrisons on the islands of the Aegean to immediate close range attack. The complete clearance of that sea for Allied use with Allied naval and air assets seems apt to be the first war mission of Turkish forces.

There were further indications during the week also that a Nazi withdrawal from Italy might be impending. It will involve terrible risks for Nazi divisions pulling back out of the Etruscan line across the head of the Italian peninsula if and when it comes. They must make their way somehow across the wide open sweep of the Po valley to reach Alpine passes, already under sustained Allied air attack that lead into Germany or Austria. There were indications of softening of the German defense of long stubbornly German held heights on the Italian front which suggested the retreat in the south had begun.

There are recent official Allied or Russian estimates of remaining German divisions strength either on the east or west fronts by which to measure immediate probabilities. But east as well as west the Wehrmacht faces crushing odds as the most decisive moment of the war draws near, while overhead it stands naked to ceaseless Allied air attack. There can be no doubt as to the end, only as the just when and how it will come.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Allied airforce spokesmen warned today that the German Luftwaffe probably will make a desperate comeback attempt—possibly the last one. The Luftwaffe has failed to challenge during the last three days terrific pounding of the Reich.

At present, the enemy apparently has given defense gestures against the western air blows and has his plans into tactical attacks on the eastern front. The best opinion here is that the Luftwaffe, as it has done periodically, is again nursing itself into condition to stage another comeback.

However, it appears that the German commanders realize that the Luftwaffe, in the long run, cannot halt Allied air attacks to the west and that attempts to do so will be at an almost prohibitive cost. Moreover, fuel supplies are at the lowest ebb of the war and the unique scattering of the Allied air forces on Thursday and Friday posed new defense problems against which the German commanders may not have been able to react.

LETTER BOX

LIEUT. JAMES B. LYNCH TO THE EDITOR: The name of Lieut. James B. Lynch, of Wilmington, has been added to the list of those who have died for their country, a list which holds the names of so many of our young men. In mentioning one name there is no intent to place this above other son of the immortal list.

What we say about the one young soldier comes from knowing him from infancy, let it be said for every home from whence a loved one has gone never to return. That home will ever bear the scar that love has suffered, a scar made deep because the life that went was young.

Have they died in vain? The universe will not make sense if they have died in vain. Whether they have died in vain or not depends upon those for whom they died. If self is placed ahead of all that can be fine in this world, then they have died in vain. If like they, we lift up an ideal above self—an ideal that was given us some two thousand years ago—then they will not have died in vain.

PLEA FOR UNITY To The Editor: The writer, as one of the oldest living alumni of the University, deplores the disunity among its friends which has come into the open during recent discussion in reference to titles. The purpose of this comment is to allay any feeling that has been generated in the discussion and to plead for unity of thought and purpose by all friends of the University everywhere. There must be no division.

Every friend of the University should rejoice over the narrow escape from the serious blunder it would have been to provide for three presidents of a unit, a consolidated University. This would have done violence not only to the law of unity, but would have disregarded the meaning of words, which no university can afford to do. The dictionary defines a president as one chosen "to preside" and defines preside as "to exercise the chief direction and oversight, to act as head."

There was general agreement that there was no intent or desire to disturb the consolidated set-up. This being so, was a heated discussion of titles a profitable occupation for the friend of the University? Old William Shakespeare knew what he was saying when he posed the question, "What's in a name?" What difference does it make what the assistant to a president is called so long as his responsibilities are clearly defined?

MINERS PREPARING NEW PAY DEMANDS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(AP)—The possibility of a coal mine shutdown, aggravating an already dire steel shortage, heightened official tension today as John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers made their opening moves toward new coal wage demands.

A plea for an early pay settlement—Lewis' present contract with bituminous operators expires on April 1—was voiced by War Production Board Chairman J. A. Krug.

LUFTWAFFE MAY TRY COMEBACK

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A year ago, low-level scattering raids like those against enemy railroads this week would have cost the Allies 300 bombers daily and he discharges them efficiently and faithfully. There would seem to be certain valuable lessons to be learned from the experience of the University.