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With confidence in our armed forces—the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

Roosevelt's War Message. MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1945

THOUGHT FOR TODAY
No life is victorious that has not been laborious. —"EARNEST WORKER."

At Half-Way Mark

While it is fine to know that the Red Cross War fund campaign is at, or past, the half-way mark, it must not be forgotten that the time for the campaign is also half over.

By the system of seeking generous gifts through an "initial gifts" group there is always a goodly amount of money in hand before such drives get fairly started.

In this particular case it is imperative not only to reach, but to far surpass, the goal if the local chapter is to have enough money for its extraordinary service.

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Record Of Service

Commenting on the historical development and financial growth of the fire insurance industry, the "Index," published by the New York Trust Company, shows how state regulation has protected the public interest.

Nearly a century ago, Congress left the regulation of insurance to the states, and the resulting record of lowered rates, broader coverage and financial strength, is an outstanding accomplishment of cooperation between state regulation and private management.

We Shan't Starve

President Roosevelt found it necessary to preface the news of a 12 per cent cut in civilian meat supply with a warning that the country will have to tighten its belt before victory is won.

It is well that the President made this statement. For in doing so he took cognizance of an attitude which, though held by only a small minority of the public, has been expressed with enough frequency and noise to require some official notice.

This attitude insists upon the assumption that, since we shall eventually win our two major wars, living ought to get easier as we get closer to victory.

This attitude likewise places the blame for every shortage upon Washington bungling and bureaucracy. There have been bungling and mistakes. They have gone too long uncorrected and should be remedied.

A living language, we suppose, must change and develop to remain healthy. But we've noticed a couple of recent threatening trends in the American branch of the English language.

Suffixitis

The wartime vogue for -ee suffixes, like discheree and returnee, has already been noted and deplored. Now comes a radio announcer talking about the "standers-by" at some function, followed the next day by a newspaper story about the "lookers-on" expected at the San Francisco conference.

We can't figure why the ancient and prevalent custom of prefixing prepositions to nouns (a heritage of English's Latin and Saxon ancestors) is now being reversed, with such tortured results.

Whales, according to an item, seem to be disappearing. Maybe they are just in hiding until the naval battles are over.

Instead of producing lionlike weather the month of March, in many sections of the country, is proving just 31 little lambs, all in a row.

then could we hope for a prosperous America in a postwar world full of wrecked cities and farms, and populated by sick exhausted people.

This is not to say that we must or should weaken ourselves or cease trying to make our food production and distribution more efficient. It is not to say that we should not remedy the blundering at Washington, which has contributed so largely to the nation's scarcity.

Fort Caswell

The State Port Pilot, Southport's energetic weekly newspaper, announces in its most recent edition that it has learned the federal government will not again sell the Fort Caswell property.

"If the amphibious forces do not need the place it still presents a wonderful possibility as a hospital or great rest camp. It has its own hot salt mineral water baths with waters that contain very potent medical properties.

To which we add that Fort Caswell is geographically within Wilmington's recreation area and any project undertaken by the federal government inevitably would accrue to Wilmington's, no less than Southport's benefit.

Meanwhile, to return to our reflections: The repeated efforts of some financial groups to detour around the International Monetary Fund would seem to ignore the part which stabilization funds have already played in international currency affairs.

Some of the funds exist today. Unless they are co-ordinated by some such over-all agency as the Fund proposed at Bretton Woods, they may tend once more to operate as they did in the financially chaotic inter-war period.

Each fund in those days was devoted to defense of its own national currency. They were all part of a world complex which was further complicated by imposition of mutually antagonistic foreign exchange controls.

This financial world had its trade counterpart in import and export quotas, in the blocked balances so ruthlessly exploited by the Nazis, and in about every other imaginable hurdle which men could raise against the goods—and the good will—of their neighbors.

Though not all vestiges of this trade war can be removed automatically by adoption of the Monetary Fund, the need for one-sided defense mechanisms can be greatly reduced under its operation.

Progress toward freer trade may mean for some members that they must risk temporary strain. They must know where they can get currency to tide them over tight spots before they can commit themselves to freer competition in trade.

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The Urge To Serve

One good result has come out of the various political proposals for state medicine in the United States. All over the country plans are being launched to provide the public with prepaid medical care.

While this plan covers the most serious of family medical problems, it does not cover ordinary sickness. A plan to do that and give the worker or other insured a chance to have the diagnostic and therapeutic service at the lowest possible cost, will be a logical development.

American medicine is rendering not only a patriotic service, but a public service from which all citizens are benefiting, as it works out plans which spike the agitation for municipal, state or Federal interference in the field of medicine which, in the United States, has reached its highest development under the spur of individual incentive and opportunity.

Peace Aims

While the pro- and op-ponents of the Bretton Woods plans for an International Monetary Fund were being quizzed by the House Banking and Currency Committee one day this week, I found myself also at the center of a quiz on Bretton Woods.

The American Bankers Association report on the Monetary Fund has evidently found a mark among some thoughtful persons. The main point of objection seems to me to be the A. B. A. experts, convinced that the Monetary Fund is in effect a lending agency, demanding that it be guided by sound lending principles.

For a while I couldn't get what he was driving at, but finally he made it clear. It seemed the night bakers had baked a huge cake for me and it was to be served at dinner that evening.

So after the meal I went around and introduced myself to this cad. He was Lieut. Edward VanVranken, of Stockton, Calif.

I said "I'm plenty sore. I thought I was the only one around here who rated a cake."

And he said "Well, I'm jealous. You had photographers taking pictures of your cake. But could I get a photographer? No."

So I said "Well, that's better. So you made the 8000th landing? Was it a good one?"

And he grinned and said, "Well, I got aboard." And then he said "As a matter of fact, it was a pretty good landing. And if you're ever in California after the war, come to Stockton and we'll have something better than cake."

Lieut. VanVranken is no neophyte at landing on carriers. He was flying from one when we invaded Morocco in 1942, and he was there.

He had made around 120 carrier landings before he came on this ship, and now his total is up around 200. A guy who makes that many landings on a carrier and is still making them, didn't learn it in correspondence school.

Eight thousand landings is small stuff for the big carriers. For some of them are three older, and so they have three times as many planes to land every day.

I think the record in our oldest carriers is something up around 80,000. But we like 8,000 on our ship. And anyhow we haven't got enough flour for 80 cakes.

I was feeling pretty stuck-up about my cake, and then next evening when we went down to supper, here was a big cake on the adjoining table. Did I see red!

I made a few discreet inquiries to see who had the gall to have a cake in front of him so soon after my triumph. And I learned it was for the pilot who, the day before, had made the 8000th landing on our carrier. It seems that's a tradition, for every thousandth landing.

So after the meal I went around and introduced myself to this cad. He was Lieut. Edward VanVranken, of Stockton, Calif.

I asked him how he happened to bake a cake for me, and he said well he had got through his regular baking a little early the night before, and hadn't anything else to do, and just thought it was a good idea.

'RICKSHA BOY'



Your War-- With Ernie Pyle

IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC—The second I was aboard our carrier, the chief steward came up to my cabin and happily announced that he had a cake for me, but it was so big he didn't know how to handle it.

For a while I couldn't get what he was driving at, but finally he made it clear. It seemed the night bakers had baked a huge cake for me and it was to be served at dinner that evening.

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Interpreting The War

By ELTON C. FAY
Associated Press War Analyst
There is growing possibility that the Nazis will fight out the last round of the war on the disintegrating Rhine line rather than fall back to a redoubt in the uplands.

If so, the decision will not be entirely of choice. The German command, its Rhine defenses shattered by a mounting number of bridgeheads, is confronted with the most difficult of all military maneuvers—disengaging.

Some of Hitler's most cherished troops, including the First Parachute Army, are engaged at the far northern end of the line. They can't louse: Allied forces are at their throats; they don't dare turn to run. And if they did, the once fine German road net is blasted by armadas of American and British aircraft.

German commentators speak vaguely of establishing new fronts. Setting up a new front across the flat land of northern Germany, with transportation cut to pieces and the whole area under aerial attack, would be all but impossible.

How rapidly the Nazis' Rhine line is going to pieces is exemplified not only in the reports of new Allied crossings but in the swift linking up of airborne units with ground forces of the Allies on the lower Rhine bridgehead. One of the valuable contributions made by airborne troops is to drive the enemy from positions where he can observe and correct his own artillery fire on the crossing area.

There has been a sudden acceleration in the rate of prisoners taken. Presumably, part of this accounted for by the swift lunges of the Allied forces with resulting encirclement of small groups. But in part, the decline in the German will to fight probably is reflected in the increasing prisoner toll.

This is not to say that the morale slump has extended universally, even among civilians. One report spoke of German civilians and police firing at Allied troops, using bazookas and rifles.

Military men say that the Nazi elite troops, heart of the party's power, can be counted on to fight until they fall. They are the tough young men of the SS, thoroughly indoctrinated and battle-wise, killers. This age group of these men is about 18-27 years.

These are the men the Nazi party hopes (a now fading hope) to take into the fastness of Bavaria and Austria. It is true that at the southern end of the front the prospect are better, even good. But they are only a part, presumably a small part, of the total elite troop strength.

For some reason—perhaps the German hatred of the English because England has been exploding German's continental conquest dreams for a couple of centuries—the Nazis usually deploy many of their best troops in front of British positions. That is where they are deployed now, far to the north, with American brigades pushing out to trap them to the south.

Daily Prayer

FOR DAYS OF BAD NEWS
Great victories and grave losses have come to the United Nations in 'Thine overruling providence, O Lord God of Battles. And daily there arrive in stricken homes the dread tidings of dear ones dead or wounded or in captivity. War's news is always bad to somebody. The cry for comfort is continuous. Hearts are forever breaking, as hopes are dashed and fears are filled. These dark privations are beyond our understanding. We can only pray to Thee for enduring faith, as we bow under Thy ways, which are past finding out. May our sorrows minister to our souls' depths, and to our assurance of the perfect bliss of Heaven. While we wait for the loved ones, and of full knowledge of Thy Father's purposes, may our faith manifest itself in re-kindled loyalty and industry. This we ask in the name of Thy Son, who went home to Thee by way of a cross. Amen.—W.E.B.

Machine Tool Trading Arrangement Effected For Army, Navy and WPB

WASHINGTON, March 26.—(AP)—A "trading pit" for machine tools in which Government agencies may trade production equipment without waiting on the building of new tools was announced by Reconstruction Finance Corporation today.

The pool operates five days a week at RFC headquarters, with the Army, Navy and War Production Board reporting tools no longer needed and available for transfer to other types of production. The same agencies bid for tools needed by them.

Sales are made not on a price basis, RFC said, but upon the showing of urgent need made by the various bidders. Any request made by the Army or Navy for new equipment costing over \$3,000 is checked against the "pit" list to determine if a used tool can be employed instead.

Treasury Will Assist American Creditors In Clearing Foreign Debts

WASHINGTON, March 25.—(AP)—The Treasury opened the way today for American creditors to collect debts out of certain frozen funds in this country.

Funds involved are those belonging to firms and individuals in France, Belgium, Greece, Finland, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

All of those European areas have been virtually cleared of the enemy and are no longer classed as enemy territory. Postal communication has been restored with each country.

The Treasury said it now is preparing "in appropriate cases," to grant licenses for payments to creditors from the blocked accounts.

Treasury officials said the action was particularly designed for American creditors.

WMC Plans To Recruit Canol Oil Workers For Jobs In Other Sections

WASHINGTON, March 25.—(AP)—The War Manpower Commission today took steps to recruit workers at the Canol refinery project in Canada for jobs at high octane plants elsewhere.

The agency announced that in connection with closure of the Canadian project soon by the War Department, the Petroleum Administration for War has agreed to undertake a special recruitment program.

ICE COVERED WATER

Had you been living during the Great Ice Age, you could have walked 20 miles east from Atlantic N. J., before reaching the shores of the Atlantic, since a great amount of the world's water supply was locked up in solid ice.

In modern warfare, tungsten is used in armor-piercing projectiles and erosion-resisting gun liners.