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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.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1945.

TOP OF THE MORNING  
No parent should be ignorant of Deuteronomy 6:6 and 7.  
JARED F. GERIG,  
In Article "Parent Delinquency," "The Christian Digest."

**Be Patient**

It makes pleasant reading, this announcement that after nine months following Germany's surrender some thirteen billion dollars worth of "hard" goods will be released for civilian consumption and that within a year production of automobiles for general sale may be started. But it would appear wise to accept the news with reservations.

It all depends on Japan. That is to say, if Allied forces in Europe can be speedily and smoothly transported to the Far East and if all continues to go well in the battle there, American industry may cut down materially in the production of war tools and turn its attention to the civilian population, with a lightening of priority restrictions. On the other hand, if the transfer of men and material is slow, if the Japanese show powerful resistance, if the fighting, particularly on the Asiatic mainland, is an all-out combat, as it surely will be, and the need for material is at the maximum, the American people will be in for deep disappointment if they have taken the forecast literally.

Better, far, to wait and see how the conflict goes in the later phases of the Pacific war, than to make plans for the use of "hard" goods or the buying of new automobiles at a definite time. With the best of intentions, the prophets may be overly optimistic. This is said, not with the intention of assuming the role of an apostle of gloom, but only to point out that many things might happen to delay the change from war to peace-time production on the scale indicated.

**Okinawa Invaded**

The invasion of Okinawa came on Easter, but the campaign against the Ryukyus, of which Okinawa is the principal Japanese defense base, began when our carrier planes launched their attack on Japanese warships and aircraft in the Inland sea on March 18. The next step was taken when an American naval task force opened bombardments in the Ryukyus on March 23. During these operations a thousand enemy warplanes were destroyed and many ships were either sunk or so seriously damaged that they are out of commission.

It was this preliminary assault, as well as the fact the Japanese, having mistaken the landing place, were taken by surprise, that accounts for the small losses to the invading army, the large size of the initial bridgehead, and the quick penetration inland, together with capture of two of Okinawa's three commanding airfields.

The strategy employed is a fair index to the manner in which further advances upon Japan and the Japanese in Asia will be conducted. It is the same strategy that has characterized the Allied assault upon Germany. First air power, to disrupt communication and supply and disorganize production; then ground forces to finish the job. It will be as successful in the Orient as it is proving in Germany.

As for the battle on Okinawa, it is not to be assumed that the slight resistance met by our amphibious forces will long continue. The Japanese are reported to have some 80,000 troops on the island. They will be in action quickly and fight desperately.

**Birth Rate Not All**

Sociologists and philosophers boldly declare that the most powerful nation in years to come will be the one with the greatest birth rate.

If they base their theory on the past record they may not be as accurate as they think. The birth rate of China has been phenomenal for centuries. The same is true of Japan.

Something besides babies on every doorstep is needed, we ween, to create national power. China's birth rate has failed to place that nation in a commanding position largely, we must believe, because the Chinese have been a backward people, living to themselves, devoted to ancestor worship, and incapable of keeping pace with forward-looking peoples. The Japanese will be swamped in an Allied victory, not because they have been backward, but overbearing, unable or unwilling to set aside their inherent barbarity and keep step with progress, adhering rather to a belief that as the chosen of the gods they were preeminently fitted to dominate Asia.

Under Hitler, Germany set out to raise an overcrop of children trained to war, but why go into that?

What we are driving at is that along with a large birth rate must go education, fair practices, national integrity, vision and tolerance, if the position of the sociologists and philosophers is to be justified.

More than nine million babies have been born in the United States in three years. Now, if we can achieve these other requirements we might become the world's most powerful nation. And if we attain that position we will know how to use our power rightly. 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished.

**100,000 Huns In Trap**

While the Russian armies were driving the Germans back toward Berlin, a feat in which the Reds displayed exceptional skill, it was frequently announced that they had great numbers of enemy troops pocketed and facing annihilation, but with almost identical regularity later word indicated that the Germans, being masters of dexterous retreat, had escaped and established new defense lines—nearer home, to be sure, but fighting still.

Now we read that the American First and Ninth armies have effected the encirclement of the Ruhr basin with approximately 100,000 Germans trapped therein. The immediate reaction is to figure that they will get out somehow and join the defense of Berlin in a later battle. There is some justification for it, if the German army's record in the East is to be the sole basis for that conclusion.

But there is another view and it appears logical. It embraces the fact that German forces in the field have for some time shown strong predisposition to surrender en masse and get a square meal, and that the High Command is proving powerless to halt them. Furthermore, Allied forces in the West are determined to get this European war over in a hurry and are fighting not only with fury but good sense as well.

A reasonable guess is that few of the hundred thousand Germans in the Ruhr trap will get out.

**Calling All Closets**

April is the month set aside for gathering and shipping clothing to the needy of the war-torn world. The Wilmington campaign is in charge of Wilbur R. Doshier, who has appointed essential committees, but it ought to be understood at the start that no matter how efficient the committees may be or how hard Mr. Doshier and they work the campaign will be a dismal failure without full cooperation by the people.

There probably is not a clothes closet in Wilmington that cannot yield at least one garment for the thirty million persons abroad who are virtually naked. There must be many closets that can give up whole wardrobes.

The clothing need not be of best material or in the best condition. All that is needed is that it be wearable or patchable.

All Wilmington churches and schools are designated as depositories. If your children attend school or you go to church, as you ought, the question of delivery is easily solved. Take your gift along when you start for church. Send it by the youngsters when they leave for school.

And if you are childless or don't attend church, go out of your way personally and turn your old duds in.

Above all be sure that you contribute.

**An "Azalea Trail"**

The beauty of azaleas in Greenfield park and around many Wilmington homes point the way for this city to attain new heights of achievement by creating what Mobile, Alabama, did some years ago.

Mobile, with no finer azaleas than Wilmington, established an "Azalea Trail" which stretches from near the center of the pre-war city into the suburbs, and having done a notable thing, advertised it far and near, with result that thousands of visitors went to the city during the blooming season just to see it.

splendor to Greenfield park? Then the "trail" would be complete.

Think of starting at Third and Dock streets, for example, driving south to the Park, circling its five-mile azalea-bordered drive (for azaleas eventually will surround the lake) and complete the expedition, after heading north on Fifth, at Red Cross This would be all of double the length of Mobile's "trail", and in a few years, with proper exploitation, draw many thousands of visitors, in addition to giving the home folks a feast for beauty-appreciative eyes.

Azaleas grow slowly. We could not expect to rival Mobile for some years. But this fact should not be permitted to discourage the project. Rather it ought to stimulate the city leaders to a quick start.

Let's have an "Azalea Trail" without loss of time.

**Brains And Experience**

By ARTHUR KROCK

WASHINGTON. — Through this and other newspapers served by the North American Newspaper Alliance former President Hoover has now, in four brief articles, given the public and the Governments of the United Nations the product of his mentality and experience with respect to the objectives of the San Francisco conference on world security. The practical common sense and foresight of what Mr. Hoover modestly titled "Some Additions to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals" make his omission from the American delegation to San Francisco the more remarkable.

It is difficult to think of any other country where its only living former Chief Executive would be excluded from such a group. But, in view of two other facts, the difficulty is increased. These facts are that Mr. Hoover is a veteran of the Paris-Versailles conference in 1919 where a previous attempt was made to set up a world security system; and that his book, "The Problems of World Peace," published in 1942 (in collaboration with Hugh Gibson), was the source of the fundamental ideas that were reduced to writing at Dumbarton Oaks. Also, Mr. Hoover is not only a veteran of Paris-Versailles, he was in the top rank of President Wilson's advisers on the League covenant. And, furthermore, he has had more first-hand experience with the economic and social problems that follow conquest and liberation than any other living man.

Only for personal reasons could a citizen of this distinction and equipment be obliged to make his contribution in such a grave matter through books and the public press instead of in official committee and conference. Had these reasons been rejected by the President as unworthy of the times and the need of the world, Mr. Hoover, as his writings on the subject reveal, would have helped directly to insure the success of San Francisco and of the post-war security system to be drafted by the United Nations there.

The four articles are simple and clearly written, and the suggestions they contain cut through many complications. Most important are these:

1. There is little in the Dumbarton Oaks draft that reflects the standards of future conduct to which all nations must adhere if war is to be minor and infrequent. "We are in danger of setting up a purely mechanistic body without spiritual inspiration of soul," wrote Mr. Hoover, and he urged the inclusion of these standards in the Charter. They are, he said, implicit in the Declaration of Independence, the Fourteen Points, the Declarations of Moscow and Yalta and the shattered codes of international law.

2. Since it may be years before the final peace settlements are determined, including boundaries, and since one reason for the failure of the League of Nations was insistence by the victors that the Versailles peace terms were permanent, the Charter should provide for periodic revision of these settlements—say, every ten years—negotiated by a Committee on Political Rights which should be added to the proposed economic and social committee of the projected world organization.

3. There should be more accent on regional peace-keeping machinery as the foundation of a world peace-keeping system to "deal in the first instance with all controversies that might lead to war." In these small and intermediate nations would have a greater voice than they can have for years under the Dumbarton Oaks Charter. And the anxiety of Americans, among others, that they may find themselves "involved in secondary problems all over the earth" will thus be relieved.

The regional method should also be employed with the social, economic and political rights committees and with the new world court.

4. Total disarmament of the enemy nations, their internal order to be kept by a constabulary, should underlie the Charter, so that occupying forces of 100,000 soldiers each in Germany and Japan would suffice to keep these nations demilitarized—though these forces would have to remain "for a generation." But, as a corollary, an agreement should be reached at once on maxima of army, navy and air power for the United Nations themselves, taking into account the burden of peace-keeping on the Big Three for the first few years.

5. Not to our delegate on the Security Council authority for a vote by that delegate that cil, but to the President, should be given the would engage the United States in war. And his power should be limited by requiring the President to abide by the decision of the majority of a joint Congressional committee on foreign matters whether he should submit the issue to the whole Congress.

This is not a matter for San Francisco, but it is proposed for inclusion in our treaty of adhesion to the Charter of the world security league that is intended to be written there.

6. As many parts of the San Francisco structure as possible should be set up tentatively so that time may be given to perfect them in the light of change and experience.

These six points were the major ones made by Mr. Hoover in his newspaper articles. The Government over which he once presided did not ask for them. But, if the unacknowledged use of his 1942 book is a guide, and the former President's wisdom is received according to its need and value, the suggestions will affect the conclusions. — New York Times.

**SCHOOL CENSUS**

The periodical five-year census-taking of children within the school age will soon occupy the time of the school teachers. It has been suggested that as the poorly paid teachers are already burdened with their work, outsiders should be given the job. If not, the teachers should be paid extra for the work.—Elberton (Ga.) Star.

**MILADY'S SPRING COAT!**



**WITH THE AEF:  
Nine Medals Of Honor**

By SID FEDER  
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)  
Kenneth L. Dixon

ON THE ITALIAN FRONT—The 34th Division has had more cracks at the Germans than any other outfit, it is only natural that its Doughboys should have piled up more individual honors—including nine Congressional Medals of Honor.

Their story stretches from Fondouk in Africa to the mountains before Bologna and behind them is the history of the 34th's 500 days of combat and the entire Mediterranean campaign. The first went to Pvt. Bob Booker of Calloway, Neb., at Fondouk, just a few weeks after half the 168th Regiment was killed or captured at Faid Pass. His mother accepted it for him. The 34th went after important Fondouk Gap between the Tunisian mountains in March. Ferocious fire pinned down the attackers for hours. Then the 133rd Regiment lunged forward and cleared the hill barrier. Pvt. Booker charged, dug out the enemy from a number of vital positions—and gave his life for the victory.

The 34th came of age at legendary Hill 609 where battalions under Lt. Col. Bill Swoboda of near Jackson, Minn., and Lt. Col. Garnet Hall of White Bear Lake, Minn., punched up the rocky goat trail in a six-day struggle. In September it was Salerno and the swift Volturro. Monte Pantano cost the 34th 400 men—and the enemy 1,200. The 168th's First Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. William Langdon. Los Angeles, won the prized War Department citation there. The 168th's Second Battalion won the same citation for taking Cervaro from the 15th Panzer Grenadiers in a house to house brawl.

The way to Cassino was open and in January, 1944, the 34th established a bridgehead. By February 3, the 133rd stabbed at Cassino itself but the mountain doorway was solid fire. Pitching grenades, Pic Leo Powers, Adler, Mont., knocked out four pillboxes, killed five Germans and wounded 12. He received his medal from President Roosevelt.

On February 12 Lt. Paul Rordan of Kansas City shot it out single-handed with the Germans in a jailhouse stronghold. Rordan was killed but the jailhouse fell and half of Cassino was won. That was Medal of Honor number three.

Then it was Anzio and the breakout in May. Five Medals of Honor came on the road to Rome. One went to Sgt. George Hall, Stoneham, Mass. An artillery fragment sheared off his leg. Lt. Ernest Dervishian of Richmond, Va., went on a one-man roundup, May 23, captured 35 Germans and wiped out three machinegun nests. Lt. Bery I. Newman, Baraboo, Wis., turned loose with his tommygun and cleaned out three machinegun posts and captured 11 Nazis. When a company of riflemen was stopped, Capt. Bill Galt, Great Falls, Mont., climbed aboard a tank destroyer, leveled its machinegun and killed 40 Germans before he fell.

Lanuvio blocked the advance for four bloody days and nights. At one place two Doughboys lay wounded and Pvt. Furman Smith, Central, S. C., took on nearly a company of Germans. He killed ten, wounded more before they got him.

At Sovereto the magnificent 100th Battalion of Japanese-Americans commanded by Lt. Col. Gordon Daily Prayer

FOR A DISCERNING MIND Like the prophet's servant of old, Eternal Father, we would have our eyes opened to the invisible armies of God. Enable us to see the forces Thou hast in reserve in this universal struggle between light and darkness. Make clear to us wherein we fight on the side of Thy truth. Enlarge our minds that we may perceive the real issues of the war; so that our zeal may be quickened and our toils and sacrifices made more effective. May the great goals of life, which are precious in Thy sight, be dear unto us also. Forbid that we should toy with our treasures of liberty and brotherhood and democracy and personality. By Thine unmerited grace exalt us to the stature of men and women who walk in Christ's Way, seeking only Thy will and Thy Kingdom. Amen.—W.T.E.

don Singles of Denver, Colo., won the division's third War Department citation. At Cecina, facing crack SS troops, some units of the 133rd lost more men than at Cassino. In mid-July the 133rd's First Battalion seize Monte Magliore on the road to Leghorn and on July 19th the 135th poured into the sorely needed seaport.

Past Pisa and up through the Gothic Line the battle went. On September 14, Lt. Tom Vigle, Detroit, went out alone on one of those stone-terraced hills and drove the Germans out of three bulwarked houses. His widow received his Congressional Medal.

Heart, artery and kidney diseases kill more people than any other known ailments, but because of their action they are considered to be the most merciful. Cancer, while not killings as many, is the most dreaded of all diseases.

**WASHINGTON CALLING**  
by  
**MARQUIS CHILDS**

WASHINGTON—By plane the battlefield is only 4 hours away, yet Yanks in Europe have a sense of living on another planet. Most Americans feel cut off from the normal world they left behind. It is hard to give any idea of the sense of isolation you feel on the other side of the Atlantic.

News facilities are necessarily limited. One of the objectives on which Stephen Early worked hardest, during his mission to improve public relations in the European theater, was to open additional channels of news to the millions of men away from home.

Stars and Stripes, the Army newspaper, tried to fill the vacuum. But there is a vacuum nevertheless. And sometimes news that might not seem sensational when related to the normal flow of events makes a terrific impact on being dropped into that vacuum.

On the front page of the Stars and Stripes, when I was in the Italian theater, was an account of the fist fight on the floor of the House of Representatives between Representative Rankin of Mississippi and Representative Hook of Michigan, the former a Southern bourbon, the latter out of the CIO wing of the democratic party. It had a shocking, shameful sound, that brief account of brawling in the House.

A day or two later I saw a GI sitting in a foxhole on a mountain-side reading that same paper, while now and then the Germans lobbed in mortar shells. I wondered what he was thinking about the democracy he was fighting to save.

That, of course, is what too few of us over here realize—that we are being judged by the news that does get through to the generation of Americans fighting all over the world. When they read about black markets and profiteering, they feel let down, betrayed.

Incidentally, the account I heard of the behavior of the party of congressmen who toured the war fronts at the end of last year was not encouraging. They behaved, or some of them did, as though their trip through the war zone were an outing of the amalgamated association of chowder and marching clubs. At least a half dozen times I was told two members of the party went to sleep during a briefing by General Bradley in military developments.

Quite a few spoke of letters they had received from former employers. Often these were only form letters, but to the men who received them they were a pledge that they had not been forgotten and that a place awaited them when they returned. The importance of this last cannot be overstressed. It is especially important to men in their thirties. The war has uprooted them, often from positions achieved after a long struggle. These older men must do subordinate or even menial tasks. They are thoroughly aware that the competition for place and prestige back home has not been suspended by the war. In fact, if anything, the competitive struggle seems to have been sharpened in their absence. In the long intervals of dullness and waiting, they begin to wonder whether there will ever again be a place for them. We can give the answer, and at the cost of only a three-cent stamp. They want to believe in a secure, stable America, and it is up to us to see that that is the kind of America they return to. (Copyright 1945 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

**Interpreting The War**

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
Associated Press War Analyst  
Allied armies in the west are within close sight of the prime objective mapped for them when they launched their spring "victory offensive" across the Rhine.

That becomes evident now that an entire Nazi army group has been caught in the Ruhr sack and another in Holland is on the verge of similar entrapment.

The prime objective of the Allied armies was to break-up and destroy enemy armies in the field, not merely to drive them back upon successive defense lines. Paris estimates 110,000 German troops all first line men are bottled up in the Ruhr sack by the junction of American First and Ninth Army elements which closed all eastward escape routes. Some 21 under-strength Nazi divisions, including the best troops available in the west, are sealed off for annihilation with dim prospect of breaking out. How many more divisional units are in immediate danger of being trapped in Holland is not indicated but it seems obvious that the duration of organized German resistance anywhere in the west hinges upon what happens within these two areas.

They contain between them all that is left in the west of seasoned troops and armored divisions. Whatever the reason that prompted German concentration of strongest fighting forces in the Ruhr area and in northern and north-eastern Holland, it is tending to expedite an Allied victory. It could be only a matter of weeks or even days before General Eisenhower's men are striking at rear echelons of German armies facing the Russians in the east.

There is no indication to date that the Germans in the Ruhr trap are ready for a mass surrender. As this was written their first effort to break out eastward had been made with little to indicate success. It came at a point on First Army lines south of captured Paderborn, which gave it little more than local significance. While the Germans were beating against the west wall of the First Army junction corridor intended to link arms with the Ninth, the east wall was being pushed toward the upper breaches of the Weser river.

The Weser line is the only river front short of the Elbe between the Allies and Berlin. First Army armor crashing on east of Paderborn already may have breached it, leaving the trapped Germans in the Ruhr sack to be dealt with by slower moving comrades. It remains to be seen whether those Nazi troops fight to the death or surrender. In either case they can not long delay the Allied march to a junction with Russian armies somewhere in central Germany.

