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

Roosevelt's War Message

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1945.

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Life is very frank and honest,  
And his truths are clear and plain,  
And he says each blessed morning  
When he wakes me up again,  
"Here am I, and here is Work,  
And here are You, and here's the Day;  
What shall we four do with us?  
It's up to you to say."

FOLEY.

### Ideas Desirable

Following a series of articles by a writer using the pen name, "William Tell," telling Chicago's need for better planning and demanding that closer cooperation between the City Plan Commission and other groups handling the city's great postwar public works fund, the Chicago Herald-Examiner has posted prizes aggregating \$25,000 for the best overall plans for reshaping the metropolitan area. The prizes are one for \$10,000, one for \$5,000, one for \$2,000, and eight for \$1,000. Out of the many plans submitted, it is believed many valuable suggestions will be forthcoming, and in their adoption Chicago be vastly improved.

The City of Wilmington is not in position to offer prizes for ideas, but it might be a tremendous help to the City Planning Board if it invited suggestions from the public. There would be many crackpot proposals, no doubt, but in the mass of replies the board inevitably would find some well deserving attention, and even acceptance.

Furthermore, such a program would give the people a feeling that they shared to a larger degree in the development of their city.

### The Tariff

As forecast, President Truman faces a tilt with Republicans in the House of Representatives on the tariff. Tariff has been a touchy subject on both sides of the House far longer than any man, however old, can remember and will retain its explosive qualities as long as nations engage in trade.

The present contest revolves around the administration's request for further rate reductions as a means of stimulating commerce after the war and helping other countries restore their economic stability.

The ten Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has started hearings, are quick to proclaim their opposition. Thus the battle is launched. It promises to be long drawn out and could develop into a knock down and drag out affair.

This can be avoided only if a new spirit of tolerance can be introduced into the House with opponents willing to yield an inch without fearing adherents will seize an ell, or vice versa; a situation which will challenge President Truman's leadership in a big way.

### Victory In Burma Near

General Stilwell suffered terrible defeat in Burma. Now it is the turn of Japanese there. It is confidently expected that, with the stage set for taking Rangoon, the enemy in this part of the Pacific theater of war will shortly be killed off or driven from the last foot of Burma soil.

Hanson W. Baldwin, of the New York Times staff, reports, "the closing of the British trap around the Japanese 15th army between Mandalay and Meiktila has resulted in the destruction of much of that army and the withdrawal into the jungles and hills of the Shan states of some of the remnants." He adds there are still some islands of resistance in central Burma, and some Japanese further north, near the Ledo and Burma roads, "but major organized resistance north of Meiktila—except in one enclave—has been broken."

This enclave is near oil wells south of Myington and west of Meiktila, which were destroyed by the British in their 1942 retreat, but were restored by the Japanese and have been yielding approximately 3,000 tons a month, sufficient to fuel the Japanese trucks. Casualties have reduced the number of Japanese forces to about 50,000 men. These are drawn up to defend Rangoon and Moumein and the central Irrawaddy plain.

Mr. Baldwin believes the mop-up of the Burma oil field and all areas north of Meiktila

### When this is accomplished the final phase of the Burma campaign, the drive for Rangoon and Moumein, will be launched.

When success has crowned this effort, Mr. Baldwin believes the signal will be given for even more ambitious operations "of greater strategic import" in the Far East. Among possible operations he visions:

A landing on or near the Kra Isthmus of the Malay Peninsula to cut the land approaches to Singapore; and subsequent development of these operations by land, sea and air to recapture Singapore, burst through the Malay barrier and open a new supply route to the Far East."

Because Allied successes in Germany and the fighting on Okawana have occupied so much space in the public press recently this Burma battle has been all but forgotten. It is heartening now to learn that it has been going well and is nearing victory.

### For The Voters To Decide

At its next regular session the County Board of Commissioners is expected to receive a resolution from the County Board of Education requesting that an election be ordered to show how the public views a proposal to establish a junior college here. This is in accordance with an enabling act approved by the recent legislature.

Inasmuch as the legislature places the responsibility of determining whether such a college shall be established directly upon the people, it seems the County Board of Commissioners has no alternative to calling the election.

Excerpts from the bill itself may help to clarify the situation. In Section 4, it says: "For the purpose of providing funds other than the amount to be derived from tuition, the County Board of Education may request the Board of County Commissioners of New Hanover County to order an election to be held in said county in accordance with the law governing general elections therein, as nearly as may be." In Section 5 it is said: "At said election there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the county the question of levying and collecting a special tax on all taxable property of said county for the maintenance and equipment of a 'junior college' therein," and "no tax shall be levied in excess of 5 cents on the \$100 worth of property."

This places the junior college proposal squarely upon the shoulders of the qualified voters. The Board of County Commissioners is tacitly under compulsion to call the election.

### Women's Raiment

If dear pudgy Queen Victoria, who decreed that women's skirts should trail the dust and scatter germs, had lived any time since the flapper period, when daughters of the land hiked their lower raiment to the knee, she would promptly and probably gratefully have died.

Since the flappers became mothers and some even grandmothers the fashion they set has gradually expanded (or should we say shrunk?) until current displays of apparel in fashion centers reveal more of the female form divine than in any past year, if not by direct vision then by shadow effects and indirect lighting.

Hot weather raiment, in addition to being colorful, is exceeding brief. And because it has been of slow approach nobody blushes, least of all the women.

Light clothing, even little clothing, is certainly more sensible and moral than the three and four petticoats of the Victorian era, as are short dresses.

If in times past the fleeting glimpse of a pretty ankle was worth walking miles for, like a peek at Katsisha's elbow, the male of the species seldom glances aside now at whatever exhibit of female charm falls within the range of his eye.

Reformers may carp as they will against the current trend in feminine clothes, but they will get no place fast. And considering that scantily clad women no longer are followed down the street by staring men, as when an ankle peeked out below a skirt, it may be as well that they don't.

### EDITORIAL COMMENT

#### ROLLING HOME

The Army has told American railroad managers that when the European war ends it expects to bring 300,000 men a month back for discharge or transshipment to the Pacific. Even before this tremendous movement begins, the casualties moving home are overflowing the hospital trains and are being moved, with their attendants, in regular line Pullmans. Obviously the civilian planning a trip would be wise to make it quickly and get home. It is going to take plenty of Pullman and coach space to move the armies to their homes or to the Pacific Coast. This summer may see the greatest rail movement in history.—Christian Science Monitor.

#### PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

By his acts and words, even in his first few days in office, President Truman has already shown, as those who knew him best predicted, that he hopes to consult Congress in all his major decisions, and that he will seek to cooperate closely with it. The success of our system of government depends to much on cooperation between the executive and legislative arms that this evidence of Mr. Truman's attitude is highly encouraging in connection with the crucial decisions to be made in the months and years immediately ahead.—New York Times.

#### MEAT BAWLS.

Increase in the point value of pork and pork products is apt to bring out many a meat bawl.—Roanoke (Va.) Times.

### QUOTATIONS

The war cannot last much longer in my opinion. We have sunk very low.—Goebbels.

We cannot build the world of tomorrow on hate, however much apparent ground there may be for hate. — Dr. J. E. Morgan, editor, The Journal, National Education Association.

At first Japanese ships traveled singly. Then they had to abandon that and provide convoys, then air cover for the convoys. They were forced to move closer and closer to the China coast, traveling from harbor to harbor. They tried hard to keep the road open, but they started too late. — Rear Adm. Frank D. Wagner, Seventh Fleet Air Force Commander.

We cannot have prosperity in the United States if the rest of the world is sunk in depression and poverty. — Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

TURNABOUT.  
Man evidently is not dog's best friend. The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals suggests that dog owners be licensed, instead of dogs. The turnabout is realistic. The human race regards its failure as commonplace. We speak of men being led on a leash, and it is a colloquial fact that many human beings nowadays are either going to the dogs or living in the doghouse. This picture of humanity requires some sort of license, mostly poetic. — St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### New Administration

By ARTHUR KROCK

WASHINGTON.—The general agreement of Washington today was that the new President's term has opened auspiciously. His first speech to Congress, and the manner in which he made it, were favorably received and comment, both private and public, from members of all parties and factions, was that the speech fit the occasion. Those representatives of other Governments who heard the President, or talked with him, came away reassured that there will not be the slightest deviation or change of pace with respect to President Roosevelt's war and foreign policies. And developments affecting Soviet Russia's relationship to the Polish question and to the San Francisco Conference were considered more hopeful than at any time since the Yalta communique was issued.

It is not unusual that a new Chief Executive, especially in the circumstances, should begin his duties in a cooperative and favorable atmosphere. And it is not surprising that Congress should have matched all previous shows of cordiality. Mr. Truman is a graduate of Congress, and in the Senate he is liked and respected. But, because the transition from Mr. Roosevelt was shocking and abrupt, because international questions on which the President has not concentrated are uppermost and critical, and because no close observer of the electoral decision of 1944 would be likely to contend that Mr. Truman's place on the ticket was responsible for its success, the atmosphere in which he has entered his high office is particularly noteworthy and encouraging.

In time, of course, this atmosphere will change, and some of those who commended him unreservedly today will be involved in that change. The party in power, of which the President is now the official and titular leader, is as deeply divided on thinking, men and methods as it was before he succeeded. And this division is sure to reappear on the surface when the state of the war makes foremost again the social-economic situation at home and the struggle for party control. Mr. Truman will have to take stands on doctrines, men and methods, and on few of these positions will there be harmony in his party.

Except for periodic shifts toward the center, Mr. Roosevelt in his twelve years followed the New Deal pattern on all three points, and there was little doubt in Congress that after war and peace problems had been solved—the late President would have embarked on a post-war, second-phase New Deal in company with tried and true New Dealers. The difference anticipated under Mr. Truman is this: He will certainly not turn "conservative" as that term is understood by organized labor and those on whom the late President most often relied. His leadership in the legislation to increase the pay of railway workers, after Administrator Vinson barred the rise as violative of the stabilization formula, is one good basis for this belief. But his thinking will be much more along conventional economic and social lines. And he will in time surround himself with assistants who have not been admirers of Mr. Roosevelt's inner circle.

But the advancing problems, however they are addressed, and changes in personnel will produce their crop of intraparty dissensions as well as bring cleavages with the Republicans, who were unanimously praising the new President today. It is significant that a trend in Congress and in the executive branch already can be noted to regard what success may come in the war, at San Francisco and in peace-making as outright requests to Mr. Truman from his predecessor. But the domestic front and its post-war perplexities are being spoken of as the President's own, on which he must make his own record and by that be judged.

Political rivalries and inheritances will also rise to mar the pleasant prospect and it is only necessary to recall the convention at which the President was chosen for second place to support that statement.

The combination by which Mr. Wallace was denied renomination was made up of Democratic politicians: the big city bosses of the Northeast and Midwest and the State bosses of the South. Against these, lacking Mr. Roosevelt's active intervention, the CIO-PAC and the New Deal Democrats failed in their powerful effort for Mr. Wallace. The combination split over Mr. Byrnes—the Southern leaders being for him and the big city leaders opposed—but the CIO-PAC, also opposed, was armed with veto power from the President on the Vice-Presidential nomination, and learning of this, Mr. Byrnes withdrew.

That cleared the way for a candidate who would be first or second choice of all three groups, and National Chairman Hannegan had him ready in Mr. Truman. So the big city bosses expect recognition for helping to get Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Wallace out of the way. The Southern leaders expect it because they clinched the majority and, particularly the Virginia delegation, held the ground against Mr. Wallace when the drive was strongest. And the CIO-PAC expects it because it did not veto Mr. Truman.

In many areas party control is an issue between the regular leaders and the CIO-PAC. Therefore, it is obvious that the President in time will have difficulties in his own ranks which can only be settled by hard choices.—New York Times.

### Interpreting The War

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR.,  
Associated Press War Analyst

Reports that the Russians are dropping "covert" German officers in German uniforms to spread confusion behind the Nazi lines are humanly gratifying even if it would be slightly off-color under what other powers so fondly call the rules of war.

Few things are so satisfying as to see the villain's weapons turned against him in the last act.

It must be quite harrowing for Hitler, the great organizer of fifth columns, whose troops invaded the Belgian bulge last December in American uniforms, to have to warn his troops against their own former leaders.

The Russians, not being parties to the convention which prohibits indoctrination of war prisoners, have taken a very realistic view regarding the uses to which they might put captured German officers.

Very early the Reds began persuading the Prussians about the error of their ways, and used them to broadcast defeatist propaganda to the German army. They finally convinced even General von Paulus, German commander captured at Stalingrad, and formed an organization under him. For a time it was feared the Russians intended to use this group as the nucleus for a new German government, but this was denied.

Remembering the German trooper's subservience to brass and braid, it is easy to imagine what could happen with large numbers of these men—call them traitors or converts as you wish—operating behind the German lines.

Would they devote themselves to giving orders designed to confuse the whole defense line? or would they rely largely on diplomacy, arranging the surrender of whole units? probably both. Enough of them, remaining true to what they have professed to absorb from the Russian teachers about the futility of Germany continuing the war, could do an extremely important military job for their captors.

There is no real confirmation of the story, but Hitler's warning is ample proof of German worry on the subject. If the Russians do feel they could trust the former officers in such fashion, it would establish them as the greatest educators in military history, as well as the authors of a historically grim but practical jest. A "coup de morale" for the books.

### LETTER BOX

MAJOR W. ALBERT BROWN, JR.

On March 24 Wilmington lost one of its finest young men. When Major W. A. Brown Jr., or Billy as he was known to us, was killed in action on the Western front, this country lost another of the cream of its manhood. If it was necessary for Billy to die, we know he went the way he would have wanted; fighting for and defending the things he held dear.

Major Brown was prominent in high school and college affairs, and he excelled in most everything he undertook. He was liked and respected by all with whom he came in contact. Honest, dependable, and straightforward, he was a credit to our armed forces, and we know he served his country well. His integrity and ability brought promotions to him; and, although only twenty-three years old, he was a major in the glider command at the time of his death.

To his parents I would say you have made your supreme sacrifice. Nothing that I can say or do will ease the sense of loss which you now have. May you console yourself with the knowledge that you gave one of the finest. We can do nothing here at home that could closely compare with the gift that you have made. Although Billy died young, you have been given the opportunity to see the results of the excellent example set before him in his early childhood.

To his wife, may I say, that we too knew Billy well. I cannot begin to realize the feeling of loneliness which is surrounding you, but I offer my deep-felt sympathies. To young Miss Brown, who her father never saw, I would say "although you will never know your father, I know that you will someday

### Proposals Invited for Uniforms

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Wilmington until 10:00 o'clock A. M., Wednesday, May 9 and then publicly opened and read at a meeting of the City Council for furnishing the following articles of clothing for the Police and Fire Departments.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

46 pairs of trousers  
9 Police officers caps  
37 Police Privates caps  
200 Police uniform shirts

FIRE DEPARTMENT

68 pairs of trousers  
200 Firemen shirts

The above quantities are approximate and the City reserves the right to increase or decrease the same.

Detailed specifications may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk and bids in order to be considered, must comply with said specifications, and samples of material to be used must be submitted with all proposals; and each bidder must state in his proposal the name of the firm who manufactures the uniform offered.

Any alterations necessary to insure proper fit are to be included in the prices submitted.

Sealed proposals should be submitted to J. R. Benson, City Clerk, Wilmington, N. C., and marked on the outside of the envelope, "Proposals For Furnishing Uniform For Police and Fire Departments."

The City of Wilmington reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Dated this 20th day of April, 1945.

CITY OF WILMINGTON, N. C.  
By J. R. BENSON, City Clerk

### Your War--With Ernie Pyle

By ERNIE PYLE

OKINAWA—(By Navy Radio)—The company commander, Capt. Julian Dusenbury, said I could have my choice of two places to spend the first night with his company.

One was with him in his command post. The command post was a big, round Japanese gun emplacement, made of sandbags. The Japs had never occupied it, but they had stuck a log out of it, pointing toward the sea and making it look like a gun to aerial reconnaissance.

Captain Dusenbury and a couple of his officers had spread ponchos on the ground inside the emplacement and had hung their telephones on a nearby tree and were ready for business. There was no roof on the emplacement. It was right on top of a hill and cold and very windy.

My other choice was with a couple of enlisted men who had room for me in a little Gypsy-like hide-out they'd made.

It was a tiny, level place about halfway down the hillside, away from the sea. They'd made a roof for it by tying ponchos to trees and

had dug up some Japanese straw mats out of a farmhouse to lay on the ground.

I chose the second of these two places, partly because it was warmer, and also because I wanted to be with the men anyhow.

My two "roommates" were Corp. Martin Clayton, Jr., of (3400 Princeton St.) Dallas, Tex., and Pfc. William Gross of (322 N. Oster St.) Lansing, Mich.

Clayton is nicknamed "Bird Dog" and nobody ever calls him anything else. He is tall, thin and dark, almost Latin-looking. He sports a puny little mustache he's been trying to grow for weeks and he makes fun of it.

Gross is simply called Gross. He is very quiet, but thoughtful of little things and they both sort of looked after me for several days. These two have become very close friends, and after the war they intend to go to UCLA together and finish their education.

The boys said we could all three sleep side by side in the same "bed." So I got out my contribution to the night's beauty rest. And it was a very much appreciated contribution, too, for I had carried a blanket as well as a poncho.

These marines had been sleeping every night on the ground with no cover, except their cold, rubberized ponchos, and they had almost frozen to death. Their packs were so heavy they hadn't been able to bring blankets ashore with them.

Our next door neighbors were about three feet away in a similar level spot on the hillside, and they had roofed it similarly with ponchos. These two men were Sergt. Neil Anderson of Coronado, Calif., and Sergt. George Valido of Tampa, Fla. (Incidentally there's another Neil Anderson in this same battalion.)

So we chummed up and the five of us cooked supper under a tree just in front of our "house." The boys made a fire out of sticks and we put canteen cups and K rations right on the fire.

Other little groups of marines had similar little fires going all

over the hillside. As we were eating, another marine came past and gave Bird Dog a big piece of fresh roasted pig they had just cooked, and Bird Dog gave me some. It sure was good after days of K rations.

Several of the boys found their K rations mouldy, and mine was too. It was the old-fashioned kind and we finally realized they were 1942 rations and had been stored, probably in Australia, all this time.

Suddenly downhill a few yards, we heard somebody yell and start cussing and then there was a lot of laughter. What was happening was that one marine had heated a K ration can and, because it was pressure packed, it exploded when he pried it open and there were hot egg yolks over him. Usually the boys open a can a little first, and release the pressure before heating, so the can won't explode.

After supper we burned our K ration boxes on the fire, brushing our teeth with water from our canteens, and then just sat on the ground around the fire, talking.

Other marines drifted along after a while there were more than a dozen sitting around. We smoked cigarettes constantly, and talked of a hundred things.

As in all groups the first talk is of surprise at no opposition to our landing. Then the talk drifts to what do I think about things over here and how does it compare with Europe? And when do I think our war will end? Of course, I don't know any of the answers but we're been making conversation out of it for months.

The boys tell jokes, they cuss a lot and constantly drag out stories of their past blitzes and sometimes they speak gravely about war and what will happen to them when they finally get home.

We talked like that for about an hour, and then it grew dark and a shouted order came along the hillside to put out the fires and, was passed on and on, and the boys drifted away to their own holes or hillside dugouts, and Bird Dog and Gross and I went to bed, for there's nothing else to do after dark in blackout country.

### The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

"Whistle While You Wait," by Fred Howard (Duell, Sloan & Pearce; \$2.50).

Fred and his wife Janet were separated from February, 1943, to June, 1944, while he was with the Air Forces in the Mediterranean theater. The letters he wrote, plus a few of hers, are the content of this unusually stimulating, high-spirited book.

It sounds unexciting. Many men are writing home about foreign lands and life in service, and no doubt their wives love every word. But the man who can write his wife letters so human, observant and witty that other people will dote on them is a rarity. I know only one of the kind: Fred Howard.

The letters give away no military secrets. They even poke fun at the hardships. Having to parachute from a damaged bomber, lying on his back in the middle of nowhere, discovering the rip cord, getting a big yank in the pants as the "cute blossoms make most entertaining reading. When Howard tells of his own experience, it sounds more like fun than the danger it really is.

He writes of travel in a transport of camps in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, of Algiers, Cairo, Alexandria, Capri, of bedbugs and fleas and dogs, of the practically universal availability of women. He reports that there is not as much religion in the foxholes as has been claimed, believes strikes haven't lost the war for us yet, thinks that in one way and another too much fuss was made over Rickenbacker's seagull.

His wife's letters tell about their son, Butch, aged four. You'll like them, too. You won't be mean enough to wish him back at the front in a hurry, but you hope there'll be more letters soon.

"Management At The Bargaining Table," by Lee H. Hill and Charles R. Hook, Jr. (McGraw-Hill; \$3).

Two leaders of industry discuss collective bargaining in a way, says the publisher, "to enable management to protect its authority and properly perform its managerial functions."

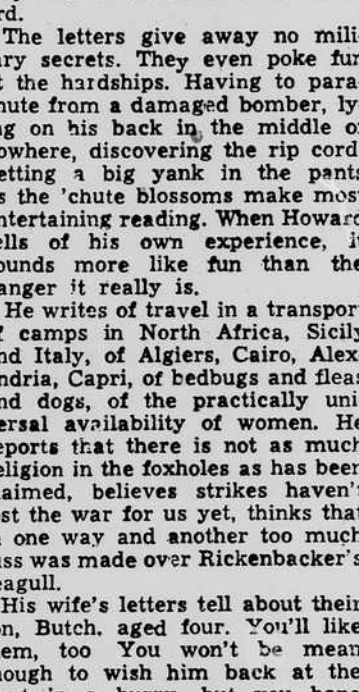
"The Airman's Almanac," edited by Francis Walton (Farrar & Rinehart; \$1).

This air-age annual ranges in subject matter, to quote the index, from "absolute zero" to "zero absolute." It's 500 pages of facts and figures.

be told of the way in which he died and the purpose for which he was fighting; and, you may know that when the job was over, the Supreme Being could say nothing but "Well done."

To the other members of his family, I wish to offer my deepest sympathies.

DANIEL PAGE  
Wilmington, N. C.  
April 19, 1945.



### ECONOMY GROCERY

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