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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, APRIL 30, 1945

TOP OF THE MORNING

Now in this crucial hour,
 As we close for the kill,
 Let us grow drunk with power,
 Keep us Thy servants still.
 Furge from our hearts we ask,
 All fear, suspicion, hate;
 And to the perilous task
 Our souls reconsecrate.
 —"American Prayer" by Auslander.

The Thaliens

The Thalian Association announces production on Thursday and Friday nights of its third and final play of the season—"Kind Lady." Rehearsals have had many vicissitudes, including surgical operations for two members of the cast. But all difficulties are now overcome and entertainment of the best quality ever achieved by the Thaliens is assured auditors.

But it is not this alone that deserves emphasis. What especially impresses us is that the Thalian Society has overcome greater difficulties and survives as a cultural influence in the life of Wilmington.

Neither financial tribulations, which sent its leaders to the bank just before the war, nor the war itself with its unsettling effects, have succeeded in dampening the ardor or reducing the efforts of the organization. And by its business policy, it is reported to have emerged from the trials of the last four years without being swamped by debt when so many similar Little Theater organizations have had to fold up.

There is something vital about the Thalian Society, a strength that carries it through all troubles. May its future be as bright as it well deserves.

Convincing Evidence

The party of congressmen who are inspecting the Nazi concentration camps for political prisoners includes some members who have been among the champions of "nationalism" and isolationism. Their inclusion in this group is gratifying, as is their acceptance of the invitation.

Some people in this country have always questioned the wisdom of our war against Germany, even after the German declaration of war against us. They have been willing to give Hitler credit for good works and sound philosophy. They have listened respectfully to some of the men who are about to witness the handiwork of the Hitler regime which they viewed so charitably.

There is little doubt but that the nationalist congressmen will be able to bring back to these people a vivid report which should make clear not only what we are fighting for, but what we are fighting against.

Gasoline in War

Thirty-five million gallons of gasoline are going to our armed forces daily from American refineries. The only way to get the picture of what this means is to compare it with the average consumption of the ordinary passenger automobile. At fifteen miles a gallon, the average consumption of cars in fair condition (which few are these days) an automobile could travel 525,000 miles.

When American forces reached the Rhine, 1,300,000 gallons were required to power the 35,000 vehicles on a ten-mile front. If the gasoline needed to power our air forces is added to this and the other vehicles on all fronts included, the wonder is that any domestic gasoline is available for civilian use, despite the tremendous sources of supply in the United States.

The situation is infinitely more acute than in the early days of our war effort when Harold Ickes was bungling distribution and playing favorites among sections of the country.

The present war consumption is so great that the capture of oil fields in the southwest Pacific, particularly those on Borneo, which have fueled Japan's war machines, is of inestimable value. When the fighting ends in Germany and Japan, alone is left to defeat, oil in the Pacific will be a great boon.

False Armistice Again

Not since the false armistice in 1918 has there been such an overflow of effervescent spirits as on Saturday night when word swept the country that Germany had surrendered, when the people generally celebrated a victory that had not been officially declared.

Wilmington "went wild," with downtown streets thronged with smiling, shouting pedestrians and motorists honking horns, and people finding their way into churches, some of which held thanksgiving services.

Yet there was a difference between Saturday night and November 4, 1918, and the difference is significant. Twenty-five years ago the word was definitely given that Allied and German leaders were meeting to arrange an armistice. Saturday night, every word that came from an authentic source added that the news was based on rumor or unverified report. Some radio commentators in their zeal, or misled by irresponsible sources, did say that unconditional surrender had been offered, but every announcement from a responsible source emphasized the news was unconfirmed in dependable and accredited quarters.

Notwithstanding this, the people shouted and sang, and some fired shotguns and revolvers in the air; many newspapers, seeing a chance for a quick harvest of nickles, put out extra editions, from San Francisco to New York, the Gulf cities to New England; and the carnival spirit prevailed unabated until President Truman announced from the White House that all the rumors of Germany's surrender were unfounded.

Never, we think, has there been a better illustration of a people's willingness to believe that what it wants more than anything else has come to pass. All America wants peace in Europe. All America, therefore, fell for a rumor that peace had come.

Pray God America, and the world, may not have to wait much longer. Peace is in the making in Berlin, in north and south Germany, where resistance still continues, and along the highways used by Allied forces which are lined with German soldiers, surrendered but unfighting—spectators of a parade toward victory. The end of war in Europe must come quickly.

Interesting Relics

American soldiers in Germany have come upon some interesting old relics of a bygone time, living in comfortable seclusion until disturbed by the advancing invaders.

One of them was Princess Hermine, widow of Kaiser Wilhelm. "He was a poor old man with the wrong sort of children," she said of him. "He loved Germany."

Another was the ancient, massive, iron-visaged Marshal von Mackensen, idol of two generations of Prussian Junkers and perfect symbol of German militarism. "Can't you do something to stop the Russians from killing my chickens?" was his complaint to his American captors.

There were others, too, including a few fatuous, Nazi-loving Hohennollerns. But these two are enough to provide another compelling reason for unconditional surrender and the pursuit and punishment of war criminals.

Heaven forbid that Adolf Hitler should escape to grow old in half-forgotten, half-forgiven exile and one day be called a "poor old man who loved Germany," or that Himmler or any other top Nazi should live to complain, at 96, that the citizens of a country scourged by his own country's mass murderers were actually killing his chickens.

Romeo Bows Out

Councilman Robert R. Romeo who, by virtue of the vote cast for him in the recent primary was to have been in a run-off election with Garland S. Currin, also a member of the council, in the election of May 8, has withdrawn.

The result is there will be no run-off and Mr. Currin's name will appear on the May 8 ballot as an approved candidate. And because there is no opposition ticket, he will be on the council for the next two years in company with James E. L. Wade, who led the primary voting, Mayor Ronald Lane, Councilman Robert S. LeGwin and W. E. Yopp.

Although the run-off between Romeo and Currin would not have involved a separate election, their names appearing on the May 8 ballot below the candidates receiving more than the required number of votes, Mr. Romeo says in his statement of withdrawal that to stay in the race would have proved embarrassing to mutual friends and that he considers it wise from all view points to step out. His friends will regret his decision, but agree that to have remained would have embarrassed both his and Mr. Currin's friends.

Sick Europe

Incomplete information from Europe, amplified by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company experts indicates that among that continent's worst postwar problems will be the rehabilitation of public health.

Tuberculosis is rampant in Germany it is up at least a third, in Paris and Brussels about a half, in the Netherlands even more, and in Rome tuberculosis deaths last year were over twice those of 1940. The disease is epidemic in Greece.

Typhus, cerebro-spinal meningitis and scarlet fever are high in Germany; perhaps 70 per cent of the Greeks have malaria; diphtheria in Germany is up about 50 per cent and throughout western Europe it is at peak levels.

More Rumors

Rumors are coming so fast and many are so contradictory it would be best to believe nothing concerning the conflict across the Atlantic, and particularly enemy leaders unless definite confirmation comes from accredited Allied sources. Sometime ago the public was told that General Eisenhower would announce victory in Germany. It would be wise to wait for his blessed assurance.

In the meantime we hear that Hitler is dead and that he cannot live twenty-four hours; that Goering was skipped by air with a few millions; that Mussolini and a group of his followers has been executed by Italian partisans, one reporter claiming to have seen his corpse in its shroud.

So it goes. Press wires are filled with such reports. Hopefully they will prove true, except in the case of Goering. Wait until they have been stamped by an authentic source before accepting them at face value.

Important Meeting

By ARTHUR KROCK
 WASHINGTON—When the President called on former Secretary of State Hull this week, at the Naval Hospital where Mr. Hull is still under treatment, there were many interesting things with which to fill the hour they were together.

The President had spent several days in discussions with Mr. Molotoff, the Foreign Commissar of the U.S.S.R., over the Polish and international trusteeship questions and other problems affecting the UNCIO at San Francisco. He had talked long on these same issues, and Moscow's attitude toward them, with Mr. Hull's successor, Mr. Stettinius, and with Britain's Foreign Minister, Mr. Eden. And the President had a speech to prepare for the opening of the UNCIO on which he might well seek counsel from the "Father of the United Nations."

It is not unlikely the President told Mr. Hull in detail what he said to Mr. Molotoff and what Mr. Molotoff said to him, and, if some reports of those conversations are true, the former Secretary must have felt the pride of a pioneer. For when he went to Moscow in 1943 to attain the famous "Declaration," he used something of that reported technique himself, and he came back believing the results were useful.

While preparing for his journey, Mr. Hull collected numerous documents describing the present and prospective strength of the United States, physically and economically. Those documents made it plain to any reader whose people stood in need of post-war assistance in any quarter that the United States was in a position to extend it as no other nation could. Natural resources, manpower, technical skills, food potentials, fabricated materials, machinery and other assets were listed, not forgetting our very large store of gold.

Before problems on which there were Russo-American differences came up on the agenda—occasionally as much as three days before—Mr. Hull would casually pass around one of these documents. Undoubtedly, the Russians, whose country has been terribly devastated by war and who have lost millions of men, read the information very carefully and did not miss its post-war bearing. Whether or not these reminders of what one good friend could do for another, if that friendship was reciprocal and understanding, helped the conference to its successful conclusion cannot be known. But Mr. Hull came back thinking they had certainly done no harm to his objective.

Now the reports are that the President also mentioned physical as well as spiritual facts to Mr. Molotoff, to demonstrate his statement that continued close Russo-American relations would insure Russia's security as well as pay excellent and essential post-war dividends. Such relations, the President is represented as pointing out, were never achieved or maintained between two nations when one acted unilaterally, and often by force, instead of after consultation and agreement, particularly when the other had numerous elements of strength that made it unnecessary for these acts to be performed out of a sense of insecurity.

If the Big Three stand together, keep their pledges and are just to other nations and the deserving groups in those nations, Mr. Truman is reputed to have observed, no one of them need fear aggression, a new rise of "fascism," or interfere imperially with the affairs of neighbors on the basis of such fears. From these arguments, if accepted, the conclusion was easy that Russia, for example, could ease its Polish international political policy and place less stress on disputed details in the Dumbarton Oaks draft with great immediate and prospective benefit to Russia and without risk of any evil consequences.

American military power could also have been mentioned as part of this assurance, and there is some reason to think it was. Until our troops formed a junction with the Red Army, each people knew the strength of the other only by report. Mr. Molotoff was in that situation, although his reports have been more intimate and more voluminous than have come to any Russian except Marshal Stalin. Therefore, if the President dwelt on the unparalleled power of our air forces and their police value against whatever aggression may be attempted in the immediate future, and if he gave some account of our war machine and the labor and resources pool behind it, that would have provided a strong argument and even a warning.

At Moscow the Soviets did not attempt to match Mr. Hull's documents with their own balance-sheets, and perhaps Mr. Molotoff, since the President was conceding Russian power, did not do that in Washington. It would have supported the President's point. But if he got a "broader interpretation" of the Yalta agreement on Poland, it was not because he came empty-handed for whatever adjustment of views were proposed by the President who, as a Missourian, called this "horse-trading" but did not use the term in its sordid sense.

For example, Russian armies are now astride most of the areas in Europe which will produce the surplus food and minerals that Continentals when conditions approach normal. Excess grains, meat, potatoes, oil, natural gas, iron ore, coal and gold will come in chief bulk from territories of the Soviet or those now dominated by its armies and political influence. Doubtless none of the conferees failed to realize that.

Manila is dead, and Tokyo must die—not in reprisal but as a defense measure necessary to insure Pacific peace. — Brig. Gen Carlos P. Romula.

I was getting smaller and smaller and the lice were getting stronger and stronger. I Pvt. Earl L. Todd of Evansville, Ind., on liberation from German prison hospital.

"MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB"



Berlin Became World Metropolis Within Last Seventy-Five Years

The rise and ruin of Berlin as Germany's capital and a world metropolis have taken place within three quarters of a century, points out the National Geographic Society. Although the city dates from medieval times, and was the capital in turn of Brandenburg and Prussia, it was not until 1871 that it joined front ranks of international cities as the government seat of the newly-formed German Empire.

Between 1870 and 1939, Berlin's population rose from less than 900,000 to nearly four and a half million, making it the largest city on the European continent. It had also become Germany's Number One industrial and commercial center, the hub of transport lines by air, highway, rail, river, and canal.

Berlin's early as well as modern development was the result of a mixture of historical factors and natural factors. Its location on convenient traffic routes across the North German Plain. The city grew out of two fishing villages mentioned as early as the 13th century on an island and near-by bank of the Spree river, a hundred straight-line miles from the Baltic Sea. Lying between the great Elbe and Oder rivers, west and east, and between the southern German highlands and sea outlets on the north, Berlin became an easily-bridged, natural crossroads on paths of trade and conquest.

In pioneering days, it was an outpost of the militant religious orders of the Teutonic Knights in their campaigns to subjugate and convert the Slavs in this part of Europe. Later, as the capital of Brandenburg, Berlin was the nucleus of the expanding power of the Hohennollern family, destined to create and rule the militaristic state of Prussia before its fall in 1918, and eventually to dominate all Germany.

From the time of its origin, Berlin made spectacular leaps in growth and development, interrupted by occasional periods of setback. In the century following 1688, the city's inhabitants increased from 20,000 to nearly 150,000; in the decade between 1870 and 1880, from some 826,000 to 1,122,000. Before the first World War, Greater Berlin was approaching a population of four million, a figure that dropped soon after the war to two million. Reports of the early 1920's indicated that perhaps 200,000 of the people then living in Berlin were Russian refugees from the Bolshevik Revolution. Visitors also mentioned that the Berliners seemed poorly dressed and ill-nourished, although actual war destruction had not reached the city.

Modern Berlin had an area of 341 square miles sprawled over flat, open plain, unsheltered from summer heat or bitter winter winds. The city site is 34 miles long from west to east. Before the aerial punishment of the present war, it was the nation's second inland port, linked with the rest of the country by a complex network of waterways. A dozen or more railways ran through Berlin. It also had electrical metropolitan lines.

In addition to the transport facilities which have played an important role in giving Berlin the uncomfortable lead among Europe's bomb targets, this city operated nearly 200 of the leading factories of Germany, employing one-tenth of the nation's industrial workers. Its manufacturing activities were many and varied, including huge plants turning out such war-vital products as electrical equipment, airplane engines, cables, armaments, machine tools, chemicals. Situated in the suburbs ringing Berlin proper, some of these factories were surrounded by workers' homes and other buildings that constituted towns within the city.

The swift rise of Berlin as an ambitious commercial center, together with the extensive building

programs carried on periodically from the time of Frederick the Great, gave a predominating modern flavor to the German capital, in which few landmarks were left of its medieval past. Its wide paved streets, intricate system of transport, massive government buildings, and modernistic stores, office buildings, department stores and apartment houses lent an air of power and solidity to the city now reported to be a bombed-out shambles.

Daily Prayer

FOR SURRENDERED SONS

Like Thee, O heavenly Father, we have offered up our sons for the world's redemption; and we seek closer fellowship with Thee in this service, that Thy spirit and Thy strength may be ours. Enlarge our sympathies so that we may comprehend all the wide world of need, even to the generations unborn, that are to be served and saved by this war for liberty and justice and brotherhood. Daily we lift our prayers to Thee that we may be sanctified and built up by the sacredness of the Cause in which we are enlisted. Let this war do its purifying and ennobling work upon our characters; so that we all may learn to live daily for high ends outside of ourselves. As we cry to Thee for victory, may we never lose sight of the holy purpose of our Cause, nor of Thee, our Inspirer, Leader and Strengthener. Amen.—W.T.E.

Butterfat Of Milk In N. C. Rated High

RALEIGH, April 29.—(P)—The average cow in North Carolina last year produced about 459 gallons of milk and 178 pounds of butterfat, according to the statistics division of the State Agriculture Department.

The total production of the 390,000 cows in the State was 1,549,000,000 pounds of milk. While milk production per cow was higher than for any other State south of Maryland, it was below the national average of 4,578 pounds. However, the butterfat content of milk produced in North Carolina was high—4.5 per cent to 3.97 per cent for the national average.

British Civil Defense Corps To Be Disbanded

LONDON, March 29.—(P)—Britain's civil defense services, which have performed so valiantly throughout the war, will be disbanded soon, the Ministry of Home Security announced tonight.

Plans call for almost immediate disbandment of the Royal Observer Corps, who are wardens of the coastal areas, and of the air defense units, although full-time civil defense workers will stay on the job for a short time longer.

TAPES CANCELS MEETING

RALEIGH, April 29.—(P)—The annual meeting of the North Carolina chapter of the International Association of Public Employment Services, scheduled for May, has been cancelled due to the ODT order restricting travel to conventions, R. C. Godwin, president of the chapter, said today.

BRITISH SOCIAL PLAN SUGGESTED

Seeks Solicitation Of Bank, Coal Mines And Utilities

BRISTOL, England, April 29.—(P)—Home Secretary Herbert Morrison urged Britons today to throw overboard "the amiable, useless, part-time, old-schoolie, aristocratic or M. P. directors" of the nation's industries in the next general elections.

A laborite in Prime Minister Churchill's coalition government, Morrison outlined to a labor party gathering the organization's tentative platform for the first national elections in Britain in 1945.

The program calls for socialization of the Bank of England, coal mines, utilities and inland transportation. Morrison maintained it would leave "full play for individual initiative, originality and creative skill."

"We have done it in war; let us show that we can do it in peace," he said.

"Men will look back in the future and marvel at the strength and resources of a country which could carry for so long the burden of this privileged, uncreative group of guinea pigs. Today these gentlemen have become more than a joke. We are reaching the point where we must rid ourselves of every unnecessary burden. Britain has got to strip for action."

Sir Stafford Cripps, independent member of commons and minister of aircraft production, told the meeting that the labor party's prime objective was "to displace the old conception, which still lingers on, that property, money and material possessions are more important than human life and happiness."

"If the government is responsible for full employment," he said, "it must also be given powers not only to plan our industrial output, but also to see that that plan is carried out. It is not practical to rely upon parties that do not believe in planning to carry out a policy which must depend upon the capacity of the government to plan the economic life of the country."

STRANGE THINGS ON WEST FRONT

(Continued from Page One)

The German lieutenant ordered him to do so. The lieutenant shot him with a luger he had been given for his own protection in the event of a fight.

The patrol moved on about 10 miles, picking up willing Germans and killing a few here and there. Then they captured a German automobile.

The German lieutenant jumped into the automobile and declared that he would drive to a nearby German command post and try to convince the Germans to surrender. He, Alex Weiss, 23, of 871 New Lots Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., volunteered to accompany him. The two drove merrily off. "I did not know whether I would ever see them again," Lt. Babbitt said. "Weiss had plenty of nerve."

But in a little while they were back. They had driven into a German division command post without any trouble. They called upon the division commander and the German lieutenant, pointing to his decorations, launched into a sales talk on how wonderful it was to be behind American lines in an American prison camp. The commander did not need much convincing. He agreed to surrender the 500 men of his division as a group, although it was the only reserve division the German army had in this area between the Russians and the Elbe.

The German commander had conditions. He would give up, but the Americans would have to occupy the territory he held, to keep the Russians out. If not, he would fight the Russians to the last man. But the Ninth Army is not advancing beyond the Elbe these days, so the surrender had to be refused. And because Babbitt said there was little percentage in trying to fight the patrol through the German division he trotted the German force back across the Elbe, getting up a few more prisoners as he moved.

161 Polish Jews Ordered Buried By Yank Officers

WITH THE U. S. 90th DIVISION IN GERMANY, April 29.—(P)—74 bodies of 161 Polish Jews were murdered by SS troopers yesterday and buried by the Germans in the town of Neumberg. The burial was carried out at the direction of American officers.

All of the victims, who had fled from the March from Flossenber and Buchenwald concentration camps, had been shot through the head or clubbed to death by SS guards.

New England Family Is Burned To Death

PLYMOUTH, Mass., April 29.—(P)—Trapped by flames that swept their two-story wooden dwelling, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gascoyne, both about 50, and their 11-year-old daughter, Albina, burned to death today.

A son-in-law and daughter, Sgt. and Mrs. Kenneth Davis leaped to safety from a second story window.