

The Cherokee Scout

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Nesfield Olmsted, Publisher
Roy A. Cook, Business Manager
RUBY McCOMBS WINCHESTER
Society Editor—Phone 49-1

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Visit The Public Library, Your War Information Center

The busy efficient staff of the North Carolina Regional Library is keeping the war news in the hands of our readers. An added responsibility has been placed upon them by the war. They have met this situation in a creditable manner.

It is the objective of Mrs. Doris Ruth Smith, library supervisor and Miss Jacqueline Holmway and their co-workers to make the Murphy public library the "war information center" of our community. We suggest that our citizens visit the reading rooms and see for themselves the good job that has been done in gathering such data as is needed by not only the average man and woman whose interest has been sharpened by war developments, but by families of service men and by members of the Red Cross and similar organizations who are seeking information in their work. Far flung islands, such as Madagascar and New Guinea, meaningless names to most of us a year ago, have become alive, especially if our sons or fathers are stationed there in the Army, Navy or Aviation Corps. We can imbibe the atmosphere of these strange places at the library.

A Lawmaker Talks Out of Turn And Makes Hitler Happy

Congressman Andrew J. May, of Kentucky, chairman of the House Military Affairs committee, made a statement the other day that de-

lighted the heart of Der Fuehrer. As one magazine pointed out, "It would have been difficult to name a price in reprimands for the statement contained in that day's report straight out of the American Congress."

The assertion was made by the Blue Grass Congressman that the war would soon be over, probably in 1942, because in 1941. The basis of his prediction was a "military secret." He also said that it would not be necessary to draft married men or men under 20. A few days later Secretary of War Stimson countered by declaring the drafting of married men is imminent and that boys of 18 might be called eventually.

The obvious seniority rule has elevated two non-military experts, Congressman May and Senator Bob Reynolds to the heads of their respective Military Affairs committees. The indication that amateurs are playing leading parts in running the war. It is one of the prices we must pay in our democracy. The seniority tradition is an anachronism. It should be jettisoned along with the rest of the old ways and ways.

Press comment was generally sympathetic. Life magazine said: "This season's round of U. S. electioneering, rung out on the theory that the American people will vote next November for those candidates who make the war look easiest. Wherever it goes this sound carries the same message: that the American people aren't going to go all-out, that they aren't going to give up their Sunday driving, that they married men and youth aren't going to fight—until their Congressmen are reelected."

Less Bragging And More Punch Needed In Prosecuting War

The current issue of Life magazine paints a grim picture of the United Nations in this war. Several articles and a battery of illustrations drive home truths that our patriotic fervor and pride make unpalatable. It is not the first time that Americans have been up against a hard job. We have always managed to win. Twenty odd years ago we took on a then triumphant Germany and within a few months after Gen. Pershing landed his army in France, he had the enemy reeling and groggy. The Armistice soon followed.

Today we have the same unbounded faith and confidence in the final outcome, but the hurdles are set higher and infinitely more power

and courage are required to negotiate them. Our foes started the race for world power soon after the last war. We did not awaken from our complacency until Hitler attacked Poland. Even then we did not see the picture in its true perspective. The masters faced the prospect of becoming slaves, but they laughed off the threat and did nothing about it. The so-called enlightened nations could not see that time was pointing its finger at them and that they were facing the plights of Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome unless they met the challenge. The course of world history runs true to form regardless of inventions and human progress. It will always be so. The notion that the United States and Great Britain learn this lesson, the better it will be. They have been playing with their destiny and the hour is perilously near from which they can be no retreat. They must realize this truth or perish.

Because we were not war-minded, we ignored the facts. We did not see the hypocritical friendship of Japan. We retained the idea of a separate Germany and refused to see that the Teutonic giant was coming for a more desperate adventure than that of 1914-18. That part of the world standing for the better things of life suffered from anti-intoxication. France has already paid the penalty and her ultimate fate lies with England and America. A score of other nations have their future in our keeping.

One of the secrets of German and Japanese success in the war has been their willingness to take desperate chances, and they have usually gotten away with it. Our people are no less brave, no less intrepid, but we have practiced caution rather than daring. We have practiced a "defense" psychology instead of thinking in terms of offense. It was only recently that the change was made by the Government from "defense bonds and stamps" to "war bonds and stamps."

Doubtless the United States, and Great Britain are working toward constructive ends, but meanwhile valuable time is slipping away. The Axis is pressing its advantage home in such a manner that Russia and China may be forced out of the conflict before we are ready to act.

We are told that America will have an army of 5,000,000 men by the end of this year. However, says Life, it is modest compared with enemy forces. Out of our new army we can create 80 or 90 combat divisions. "But the Germans have 300 combat divisions, the Japanese at least a hundred, the Italians about 65, and other Axis powers about 60. Thus there are more than 500 divisions in the field against us. The British have about 50 divisions, including all Dominion troops and colonials. The Chinese have a vast manpower but are not effectively equipped. The Russian army is almost as big as Hitler's, but even this is not enough to stop the Germans, let alone roll them back. The best we can hope for by the end of 1942 is the fifth largest army in the world including the Chinese. If the Russians crack we shall be effectively outnumbered two or three to one."

Continuing Life comments: Tens of thousands of our boys must lose their lives merely because our artillery is not diversified enough, the shields of our antitank guns not big enough, our strategy not mature enough. We will throw life and fortune away merely to catch up, merely to get in the war on an equal footing. That is the price we must pay for over-indulgence in peace.

No man is competent to say when the war will end—by a miracle in 1943, or by slogging until 1953. But this we know: If we fight as if it were going to end in 1943, we cannot possibly. We must fight farther ahead than we can see, with more than we think we've got. If we really mean to win this war, nothing can ever be "enough."

Shall Legion Admit Present War Vets?

A question being debated hotly in American Legion circles is whether or not to open their organization to veterans of the Second World War. Arguments pro and con are presented in the current number of The National Legionnaire.

While it is a bit early to consider the affiliations of our men fighting Hitler, yet, as the above publication pointed out, "No question affecting the internal organization of the Legion itself has, since the Legion came into being, aroused so much discussion and such divergence of views."

It is argued by those in favor of receiving present fighters as members that World War II is but continuation of World War I. Hence

the same organization as veterans of World War I. Such an argument would assure the perpetuation of the Americanism and Community Service programs of the Legion. Thousands of men now in the service will desire to belong to the same organization as do their fathers and mothers. By joining the Legion the younger service men would not have to set up their own rehabilitation services. Admission of these men to the Legion ranks would save off great numbers of new embryo veteran organizations. The millions of dollars of tangible property represented in the Legion would be very attractive to the new veterans and would view such advantages as a windfall. It is felt that some new veterans' organization might be designed for subversive rather than constructive work. This possibility would be forestalled by admitting the younger men to Legion membership. These are the main arguments in favor of the proposition.

Now as to reasons why such a step might not be advisable. The average age of the Legion members is 49, while that of men now in the ranks will run about 28 or 29 years. It is claimed that these groups might have conflicting objectives. The new men might not want to be absorbed by an older organization, but might prefer to run their own group. As new veterans will outnumber Legion members, a sharp split might occur in the new veteran groups after the war. It will mean the crowding out and lessening of emphasis on World War I with disastrous results. Some Legionnaires will resent turning over a share in their hard-earned assets to the younger men to spend. It is pointed out that this is an all-out war and that if the struggle lasts ten years practically everyone will become involved in it. It is felt that all efforts in securing jobs

would be directed toward the new members at the expense of older men.

While we feel that some of these objections might not actually develop, they are mentioned in the many letters received by The National Legionnaire. It is only natural that a certain rivalry might show itself between the two age groups. However, the younger men will fall heir to the responsibilities of the present Legion membership. We believe that they will be above any petty jealousies when the time comes to decide matters. In the meantime we have a war to win. To this end both the American Legion and service men will go the limit to uphold their country's traditions.

Sheep Raising Will Be Revived In N. C.

Now that the war is driving home to us the value of wool, it is reassuring to note that the State Department of Agriculture has set aside a revolving fund of \$7,500 to be used for purchase and resale of sheep. Purchases will be made for North Carolina farmers at cost plus minimum handling charges. It is to be hoped that the barriers hitherto existing against sheep raising in this state will be broken down and that a profitable agricultural sideline may be developed.

The exigencies of war may effect a change that could not be made during peace. It has been said repeatedly that the hound dog stood in the way of sheep raising. Even though the virtues of the hound are extolled on every side, their combined efforts in defeating Hitler, Hirohito & Company will be negligible. On the other hand several thousand sheep—even black sheep—can go a long way in that direction.

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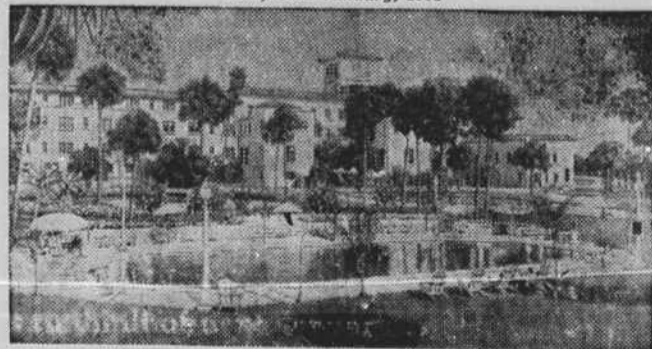


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