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 By Paul Dickson By D. Scott Poole
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DOUGALD COXE, Editor-Manager

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Pulpwood Saves Starving Troops

Every now and then there comes out of the combat zones a story of pulpwood's role in the war that means more to us than a carload of statistics on the uses of pulpwood for military purposes.

Such a story was buried in a recent dispatch on the heroic stand of a small band of Allied troops on Hangman's Hill, just above embattled Cassino.

For nine days and nights this brave band, separated from the main Allied force, fought off Nazis while their comrades tried vainly to supply them with food, water, and supplies. But strong winds blew supply parachutes into enemy territory.

The valiant soldiers were near starvation when one day a plane dropped two paper-mache gasoline tanks loaded with rations directly on their camp. Inside were enough K-ration units to give two to every three men. As a result the men survived and a few days later were evacuated.

Not only were the gasoline tanks made of pulpwood, but the K-rations were sealed in pulpwood-made packets.

Pulpwood has gone to war, but its function often is to save lives rather than to destroy them.

OPINIONS and SENTIMENTS From Other Editors

Synthetic Glamor

From The Peoples Advocate

It is less than five years since Wendell Willkie sprang full-blown from the head of the most ably contrived publicity campaign that has ever dazzled America and became, overnight, the nominee of the Republican party for president. Until Time-Life-Fortune brought forth this wonder boy, not one man in ten thousand had ever heard of him. He was brought into being by the modern magic of printer's ink, and forthwith bowled over such plans as the Republican party in 1940 could mobilize.

And now, as quickly as he came, Wendell Willkie has returned to the limbo from which he emerged, to the vast mystification of the pundits who write of such matters, and who agitate themselves over the radio. They plumb and delve and blast and excavate, seeking significance where there isn't any. There isn't any very profound mystery about it. There is little of political significance involved.

The simple and apparent fact is that Wendell Willkie was just no ordinary American. He didn't measure up to what ordinary Americans want in their public figures. He had none of what, two decades ago, they call "it" and what these current times call "umph." It is simply that people just didn't like him. He neither looked nor sounded like anybody they wanted to look at or listen to.

There can be no voter's quarrel with Willkie's views. He had an assortment to suit every taste. Did the voter want to be rid of Roosevelt after these 12 confusing years, Willkie was for that. Did they want to get on with the war and have it done with, Willkie was for that. Did they want to leave the world so it wouldn't get into such a mess again, but still keep America from too deep involvement, Willkie was for that. There couldn't be any quarrel with his platform. It was shaped to suit everybody.

If there was nothing wrong with the issues, the trouble must have been with Willkie himself. And therein probably lies the solution of the mystery the political commentators have made of his elimination of himself. Willkie has never had any personal magnetism, and when he stood up before a microphone, it was

as if he had a sort of political halitosis. His voice was wrong, and apparently he was too stubborn to listen to the counselings of his mentors until it was too late.

Most radio listeners will recall what was the end of Willkie six or eight months ago. He was addressing the nation on an all-networks hook-up. Somehow the word "reservoir" got into his script. He pronounced it like the word had never been called before—roughly "rezerywarh." He kept on and on with the word, seemingly fascinated by it. . . . President Roosevelt, at a press conference afterward, quipped about it mildly and Willkie publicly resented it.

And so the end of Willkie. The synthetic political glamor boy who suddenly swept across the political firmament five years ago, as suddenly disappears. The moral to the Willkie story is simple; it takes more than printer's ink.

Stimson's Candor

From The Peoples Advocate

Thoughtful men and women will commend the Secretary of War for honest candor in his recent declaration that the Germans have simply taken the measure of Allied armies before Cassino and on the Anzio beachhead below Rome. Allied armies have been stalled there for four months, and Cassino still blocks the road to Rome, despite the fact that Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, flushed with enthusiasm, announced three weeks ago that Cassino no longer existed.

Thirty thousand young Americans, and as many men of other nations, have died or have been maimed on the road to Rome in these four months of fighting that have gained nothing. Or nothing beyond the killing and maiming of probably lesser number of Teutonic youths. The Germans are defending, and the cost of war is always less to the defender. Materially, the cost of this stalemate before Cassino has been in excess of one of these billions of dollars that seem relatively unimportant to most Americans.

Now that Secretary Stimson has dipped a toe in the unpleasant waters of realism, and candidly admitted that we've taken a licking on that front, it might be well if he plunged himself into the muddled waters of the Italian campaign. He might do something about it. It is not in the nature of the American spirit to just admit defeat and let it go at that. He might take a page of the Book of Lincoln, at least experimentally, and send somebody to the Italian theatre who might have other, and perhaps better, ideas of what is need to get past Cassino and Anzio.

It is not unreasonable to assume that fault of defeat lies at the feet of Lt. Gen. Mark Wayne Clark. This general's name rolled reasonably out of the loud-speakers of millions of radios and his picture, though not very decoratively, embellished millions of front pages and magazine covers at the beginning of the campaign, and he was by way of becoming another MacArthur—or even another Hannibal, who once started toward Rome along this same highway. Clark, they said, would be in Rome by Christmas. Last Christmas, that was.

Whether the removal of General Clark would improve matters in Italy is not for a country editor to say, of course. It may take some trying before there is found a man who has the solution to the riddle of German's defense. Lincoln relieved general after general until he discovered Grant. There must be somewhere a man among ten million in the Army of the United States who can unscramble the mess that has been made in Italy. At any rate, why keep Clark in command after the Secretary of War has, with unaccustomed bluntness, admitted that he has won a signal defeat?

Retirement Vs. Resignation

Between resignation and retirement there is probably a matter of retirement pension for Dr. Leon R. Meadows, whose application for retirement was approved last week by the Board of Trustees of the East Carolina Teachers College. And, presumably, an end has been written to a chapter of educational history that reflects no material credit upon anybody connected with it. Dr. Meadows retires instead of resigns, and technically he is within his rights, since the Trustees, by two to one vote, have sustained him in the inquiry into his management of College money.

Here is an ending, but not a satisfactory ending to the chapter. There is still unanswered, in the public mind, the question of whether there was misuse of a fairly large sum of public money. There has been no clear analysis of the contentions of either side of the controversy. Auditor's reports are fairly confusing, even in their simplest forms, and the reports adduced at the sessions of the Trustees have been far from simple.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
 By PAUL MALLON



Released by Western Newspaper Union.

BICKERING OVER SOLDIER VOTES

WASHINGTON—Mr. Roosevelt's quaint quest for soldier-vote advice among the state governors (mostly Republican outside the South) may have sounded off-hand like a big-hearted attempt to be more than fair about this thing. But it did not so appear to the governors.

Frankly, in the true political atmosphere of the congressional cloak-rooms, the move also was recognized as an effort to put the Republican governors on the soldier-vote spot, to make them shoulder responsibility for whatever vote the soldiers get, making Mr. Roosevelt appear to be the champion of the soldier against state and congressional resistance.

It did not work out that way. The governors apparently sensed what was afoot and gave him replies which left the only spots of the problem before his eyes, not under their feet.

In effect, a majority told him they were going ahead with plans for state-voting of soldiers if the army and navy would co-operate in distributing the ballots, implying that both he and the congressional bill were of considerable importance to them.

The depths of his resulting difficulty is evident in the action of his congressional leaders. They held back the bill five days after its final enactment. This extended to 15 days his opportunity of musing over the governors' replies and making up his mind whether to sign or veto.

HOW WILL THEY VOTE?
 Now the solitary truth of all this backing and pulling is that no one actually knows much about how many soldiers are going to vote, or for whom.

From Mr. Roosevelt's actions to date, you would judge he expects them to vote for him, and that more will vote for him if he collects the ballots than if the governors do. There is some evidence to sustain this belief, but nothing conclusive.

I recently saw a letter from an officer in the South Seas who said 75 per cent of the officers were against Roosevelt, 85 per cent of the privates for him. It may sound something like that, although the army seems extremely critical of labor and left-wingers, who are the backbone of the fourth term movement so far.

I do not know, and I cannot find any political authority here who even pretends to.

Personally, I suspect more depends on the army and navy generals than on what kind of a law applies. If they actively go out and furnish ballots of any kind to soldiers and collect these, large numbers will vote; otherwise, no law will get in that vote in bulk.

Perhaps the most important feature of the bill was an unobserved provision. It would restrict any service officer or executive official from issuing campaign speeches to soldiers, and forbid broadcasts sponsored or paid for by the government concerning political argument or material.

In fact, all news reports of political speeches and activity would have to be divided even between all presidential candidates entered in six states or more. The penalty for violations would be \$1,000 fine and a year in jail. This would certainly hamper materially the freedom of fourth term campaigners in charge of soldier news distribution.

'INDIVIDUAL SPENDING' VS. GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Some economic authorities and readers have asked how it would be possible to work out in detail the theory of "individual spending" as a replacement for government spending in a postwar program.

There are a thousand and one ways. All the government would have to do would be to adopt this policy and then pursue it in all possible democratic ways.

The development of methods to encourage private spending in slack business times, and discourage it in times of plenty, could rest primarily on taxation.

Special allowances could be granted for constructive expenditures such as home building, home improvement and business plant expansion when the national income has dropped below a certain figure.

Special extra taxes could go into effect, tending to retard boomlike businesses, when national income rises above a certain figure.

In fact, the whole structure of income taxation could be geared to promoting a balanced economic flow.

The great spenders of the country are the great business firms. Their natural tendency is to expand with good business beyond their long range necessities and then wait at unused plants when business falls off. A wise government would get them into planning directly, in addition to tax lures.

Government loan policies also could be adjusted to this purpose. If Jesse Jones and his RFC shut down on loans in good peacetime and entered upon them as slackening becomes noticeable, it would have a powerful effect.

POOLE'S MEDLEY

By D. SCOTT POOLE

Some farmers used to sow their oat crops in August. We did. And we never failed to make good crops. We broke our corn land in the fall and winter when we could, after sowing wheat, and rye. In those times we depended on fresh lands instead of fertilizers. We rested some of our lands each year, then made very good crops two or three years.

We invariably planted peas between the corn hills on the same row. We gathered corn in October, picked peas for seed and to feed milk cows and a flock of sheep during the winter. We fed out fattening hogs on cooked peas, for a change. My Grammar taught me: Peas—distinct kernels; Pease—taken in bulk. As twenty peas, and a bushel of pease.

Abbreviations should be followed by periods, to complete their meaning. Cwt. means hundred weight. Lb. means pound. Let a period follow all abbreviations. Figures are set off in three-figure groups, units, tens, hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, etc. As this 100,000,000. The sixth place is millionth.

The Federal Government is responsible in a way for the disregarding of punctuation, for they string out figures without any punctuation whatever. No wonder people make mistakes for educated persons often are very careless about being correct in what they write. THE First Rule in Arithmetic, Notation and Numeration is essential to know. Then come the fundamental Rules. Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division.

Proper names should begin with capital letters, and so should pronouns from proper names. I am not teaching, I am breaking the monotony of this mental effusion.

The Germans are still slaughtering Jews and Poles, and the world stands aghast at such outrages. May the Good Lord protect us from these cruel monsters in human form. Religion and refinement makes men the kindest and most

useful of creatures, but Nature makes brutes only. Never in the history of humanity were so many men to be known to have bowed down before our Heavenly Father as worshipped Him last Sunday around the whole round world.

Hon. Josephus Daniels, editor of The News and Observer, Raleigh, and "The Ramkette Roaster" are out in advocacy of "The League of Nations." Would the people of the United States agree for all the other nations of the world to stand guard over them? Is that the Golden Rule doctrine?

The United States is supposedly a Christian Nation, and it comes nearer measuring up to that standard than any other nation, I suppose, in the world. I am for a complete subjugation of those recalcitrant nations, which have no regard for the rights of other nations, but we should prove to be superior to them, and act and live on a higher plane.

As a rule, Mr. Daniels is orthodox in doctrine, but President Wilson adopted that idea as a sure-cure for war and his Secretary of Navy was incited by his chief, and accepted the thought as being fundamentally sound. All the nations of the world accepted the idea, and all, including Germany, Japan, Italy and Russia joined the League of Nations, except the United States of America.

When the World War II had actually begun, the League of Nations still functioned. Germany, Japan, Italy, and Russia had been members of that court, and withdrew. If the League of Nations was ineffective, impotent, because the United States refused to join, that is equivalent to saying the United States is mistress of the world, and this may lead to undreamed of troubles. The world may revolt, and may array itself against its mistress.

There is large acreage of good lands in Hoke County which will lie idle in 1944 and this should not be allowed. This world is near a general world-wide famine because of the global war, and people in war-torn countries cannot produce enough for themselves, and there are others who will not produce (Continued on page eight)

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NOTICE!

The filing time for legislative, county and township offices expires at 6 o'clock P. M., Saturday, April 15, 1944, therefore all notices of candidacy must be in the possession of the County Board of Elections by the expiration time, otherwise they cannot be accepted.

Hoke County Board of Elections
 Crawford Thomas, Chairman