

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

U. S. Subs Active In Rescuing Fliers

Naval headquarters reveal that our submarines, operating around Japan, rescued 227 fliers in less than three months ending August 15.

The underwater craft picked up airmen from the carriers and those from land bases. Undoubtedly, they saved the lives of many of the rescued.

The effort that the armed forces made to rescue American fliers had much to do with the maintenance of high morale among airmen. Every man who went on a plane knew that, if he met with disaster, there would be no limit to what would be done in the effort to rescue him.

Truman Says Nation Must Continue Draft

President Truman has recommended that the draft continue to meet future needs of the Army and Navy and that men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five be taken for service to be limited to two years.

It is the opinion of most military experts that the nation cannot depend upon any volunteer system to provide necessary replacements for men now in the service. Failure to continue the draft will extend the service of the men now overseas and make it impossible to give veteran fighters an early discharge.

We do not think that any reasonable citizen can complain of the decision announced by the President. Parents and loved ones of the young men to be drafted can be thankful that their men are not being sent to the front lines and that, barring accidents, will return unharmed.

Without attempting to assert that every young man should be compelled to serve in the military and naval forces of the nation, we believe in the selective service principle and that, whatever the needs of the armed services may be, young men should be selected according to established rules for service.

British Officials Talk About End Of Lend-Lease

The British government expresses surprise at the termination of Lend-Lease but nowhere in the speeches of Prime Minister Clement R. Atlee and former Prime Minister Winston Churchill do we find any phrases to justify the "protest" that many newspapers reported.

Mr. Atlee described the difficulties facing the British governments which he said, could "only demobilize and reconvert gradually," admitted that he had not anticipated Lend-

Lease "would continue for any length of time after the defeat of Japan" and "hoped" that the United States would agree that "shipping and food and any other supplies still required by our forces overseas and by the American forces overseas can continue to be furnished for a limited period under Lend-Lease and reciprocal aid agreement."

The British leader thought it "reasonable to regard such supplies and services arising out of the war as belonging to the common war effort." He made the point that British overseas expenditures, on the eve of the defeat of Japan, were at the rate of 2,000 million pounds a year and that the government had to meet these expenses with 350 million pounds of exports and temporary war receipts of around 450 million pounds. This left an initial deficit called "immense," as "we start the task of reestablishing our own economy" and of "contracting our overseas commitments."

Storm Over OPA Means Battle For Larger Profits

Storm clouds are reported from Washington where, despite the Government's speedy action to give business the green light, there is dissatisfaction with the Government's price policies for new consumer goods.

The OPA, it seems, has made plain its intention of attempting to keep retail prices from running hog-wild. Apparently, the Government's policy is to restrain price increases until supply more nearly equals demand and to prevent eager buyers from initiating inflation by bidding for scarce articles.

The Associated Press reports retailers and wholesalers converging on Washington to give battle with the OPA on this issue. While there may be an occasional instance where the policy declared will effect a hardship, the general situation is that retailers and wholesalers are after greater profits, which is their business, and the OPA is after stabilizing the nation's economy, which is its business.

Under the circumstances, the people of the nation, and especially the consumers, should give their support to the OPA. We are sure that most of the population does this, realizing that the bulk of complaint, directed against government controls, arises from those who seek greater profits and are hurt by restraints that limit their gains. The same

may be said about much of the grumbling that is being heard about bureaucracy.

Washington Wondering If Truman Has Shifted
Recent developments in Washington indicate that President Harry S. Truman is veering rapidly toward the New Deal position.

The new President, who got off to a fine start, with most people rather hopeful that he would enjoy an era of good feeling, is now beginning to grapple with domestic issues, touching the pocketbooks of the people and corporations and this always starts a major row.

Mr. Truman seemingly accepts the thesis that the government must provide everybody with jobs, if private enterprise fails to do so. Having accepted the obligation, he will be led into many paths if the nation has a serious depression.

Admiral Says U. S. Fleet Can Be Safely Reduced

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, Commander of the Fifth Fleet, thinks that the "Japanese put up a hell of a fight, considering what they started with," and adds that it would have been impossible to take Okinawa had not the Japanese fleet been knocked out.

The Admiral doubts the wisdom of permanently occupying Okinawa, although admitting that the island was worth all it cost in blood and ships, because of the danger that American occupation would be a sore point with the Japanese in future years, the island being so close to the heart of Japan.

The high-ranking naval officer, who played an important part in the war in the Pacific, points out that part of our Navy can be scrapped because "there are now no navies left except the American and the British and there is no prospect of war between us." He thinks that we should keep a navy sufficiently large to protect us, "with the Americans controlling the Pacific and the British the Atlantic."

Allied Nations Are Still In War Stage

Discussing the concern of the British over what they consider the sudden termination of Lend-Lease, Washington makes it plain that this country repeatedly warned other nations that Lend-Lease was a policy to be continued only during the war.

Certainly, the average American supported Lend-Lease as a war policy. Very few Americans would endorse such a program during peace. However, the question that now arises relates largely as to whether the war has ended.

It may be argued, and we are inclined to think, that until demobilization is fairly complete, the nations of the world are in the war stage.

With millions of American men overseas, many of them clamoring to get home, the nation faces the great task of demobilization, which is as much a part of the war effort as the prior job of mobilization. This is the premise, as we understand it, upon which the British and other Allies, made their request for a continuation of American assistance.

Atomic Bomb Increases Influence Of The U. S.

The experts report a shifting balance of influence in Europe with the western democracies making gains at the expense of the Soviet Union.

This is interesting because apparently it reflects only the realization that the United States and Great Britain, through possession of the atomic bomb, have actual military predominance.

There was a time, not many months ago, when many people in the United States were somewhat apprehensive over the military power of the Russians. While it was difficult for a layman to see where the possibility of armed conflict arose the fear of Russia, with its seemingly strange economic system, was widespread.

The explosion of the two atomic bombs in Japan, with the enormous destruction that followed, has convinced most observers that the western democracies can, if necessary, stand up to Dictator Stalin and tell him to jump into a lake. While this may not be necessary the idea that it is possible, without grave national peril, comforts the segment that suffered from Red-phobia.

We have never subscribed to the opinion that a conflict was inevitable between the United States, or Great Britain, and Russia. There were matters to be arranged, of course, and widely varying viewpoints to be adjusted. These matters could be handled with good will on both sides without hostilities and there was every evidence that the alliance for war, which united the three great powers, was also a potent factor for peaceful relations.

Nevertheless, the stark truth is that nations, and their leaders, when they consider policies and claims, keep a close eye on the armed strength possessed by those concerned. It can hardly be disputed that the atomic bomb is a weapon without comparison in the world today and it is notable that the Soviet government is not in on the secret.

SOCIETY MEETS

The Womens Society of Christian Service will meet Thursday, Sept. 6, at New Hope Church, at 3:30 o'clock. All members are urged to come, and visitors are cordially invited.

Interference Seen In Fertilizer Bill

More government interference with farmers and farm community business men is threatened by the companion Hill-Bankhead and Flannagan bills now before Congressional committees, according to an "emergency bulletin" just issued by the National Fertilizer Association, Washington, D. C.

The bills propose government construction of plants to supply fertilizer to 75 farmers in each of 2,000 agricultural counties, to the disadvantage of their neighbors and at the taxpayer's expense, the bulletin maintains.

It also points out that 50,000 fertilizer agents and dealers, most of whom are small business men, will be unable to meet this government competition with private enterprise. Moreover, the existence of 1,100 fertilizer manufacturing plants employing 20,000 people is jeopardized by these bills, the bulletin asserts.

Association spokesmen state that fertilizer production capacity has always exceeded demand and that more government-built plants and their subsidized government operation would accordingly be a waste of public money. They point out that un-der private enterprise fertilizer is priced lower than almost any other commodity the farmer buys, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture figures.

CIRCLE NO. 4 MET

Circle No. 4 of the W. M. S. of the Hertford Baptist Church met Monday night with Mrs. Matt Mathews, Mrs. Mark Gregory presided. The meeting opened with a hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers." Prayer by Mrs. Lena Gregory. The roll was called with 10 members and three visitors present. A hymn was then sung, "Lead On, O King Eternal." The Scripture lesson was given by Mrs. Tom Mardre and prayer by Miss Mamie Stallings.

The meeting was closed with a hymn, after which the hostess served refreshments.

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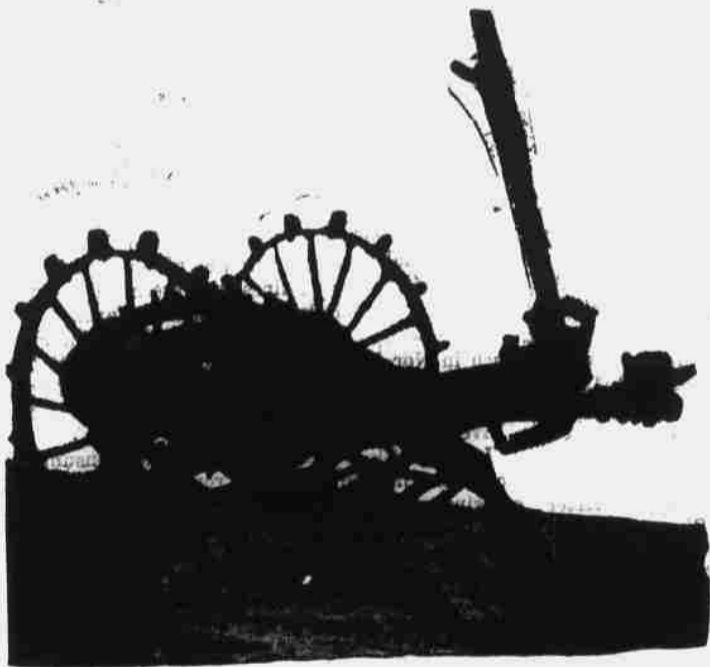
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¶ We wish to announce to our friends and readers that the circulation of The Perquimans Weekly is not frozen and, therefore, we are accepting new subscriptions to this newspaper.

¶ A couple of years back there were some prospects that the circulation of all newspapers, large and small, would be frozen as a means of conserving newsprint. However, no action was taken against smaller newspapers, although some larger papers were obliged to freeze their circulation.

¶ Because of the general situation, a misunderstanding has arisen regarding the circulation of The Weekly, and it is for this reason that we desire to let the public know that we are taking new subscriptions and renewals of present subscriptions.

¶ If you have been borrowing your neighbor's Weekly because you "heard" you could not subscribe . . . bring or send in your subscription today. It will be accepted and you will get your own paper each week.

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The Perquimans Weekly