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And Evening Chronicle

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The Enemy

First Clash in Tunisia Finally Pits Americans Against Nazis

Today, at last, we are for it. After eleven months of war, United States soldiers have met the Nazi legions in the first of the long series of bloody battles that stretches ahead to war's end. In Tunisia, where the stakes are comparatively small, the world shall see for the first time whether the German superman, dedicated in warfare since early manhood, stooped to Wehrmacht and Fuehrer, is a match for the civilian soldier of the new world, voluntarily defending his way of freedom.

The war that never stopped, but only paused for repairs after 1918, might be said to have actually begun, for us, last week. In Tunisia, the World War's second generations clashed rather tentatively in the opening of the second phase of the Teutonic robot war, the son of New World democracy. Again, the German man and the better world will triumph.

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Joe Smiles

And Americans Say, "Good. He Likes Us"

No one would have believed, two or three years ago, that it could ever come to pass, but it has. The people of the United States, perhaps even including such rabid Red-baiters as the Hon. Bob's Rice Reynolds, began to get the good opinion of the venture they had commenced in Africa. They wanted to hear him say, "Horoshoo!" and they wanted to know if by British and American moves in the Mediterranean some relief had been felt on the Russian front.

To the AP's (and Joe Stalin's) correspondent Henry Cassidy went a second extraordinary letter, sequel to that of a couple of months ago which had bluntly intimated that the Allies were letting Russia hold the bag. This one was plain friendly. Russia's head man considered that the operations in Africa had turned the military and political position in Europe radically in favor of the Allies, opening the way for the early collapse of Germany and Italy. He praised British and American leaders as "first-rate organizers," and expressed confidence in the American pressure on the Eastern front would soon be relieved.

No one, we believe, need look for any deep political significance in the feeling of the people of the United States for Russia and their evident appreciation of Stalin's pats on the back. A Communist in America, however, might see in general mistrust and disgust, and a Communist in Russia is hardly more respectable. But the people of the United States recognize valor when they see it, and they are honest enough to attribute it to themselves and openly to share it with others. The fact that something and one thing alone has saved the skins of the United States and Great Britain, and that is the incredibly heroic resistance of the Russian hordes to the incredible persistence of the Nazi hordes.

From such sympathetic portraits of individuals, Russian and American, and from a strong sense of "honor to whom honor is due," America will come out of this war with a new conception of Russian personality and a great respect for what makes them. But it does not follow that this will extend to Russia's political system or set up tolerance for the political proselytizing which has been carried on in this country under Moscow's auspices. Earl Browder, we bet you, will

never be President, and Harry Bridges will never be Senator from California. But Joe Stalin in Russia is nonetheless a great man.

Third Trip

The Marines Play an Encore On the Shores of Tripoli

Today, for the third time, United States troops are marching in Tripoli, land of the Barbary Pirates. In the heat-baked land, known as Italian Libya since 1912, the Marines fought their third fighting song; many will remember for the first time since school days the wherefore of that line. The land of almonds, jujubes, pomegranates, castor oil, senna and olives has brought back to life the early history of the U. S. Navy.

In 1803, weary of paying useless ransom for safe passage through the Mediterranean ("Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute"), the infant U. S. sent a squadron to blockade and bombard Tripoli. Crowned with temporary success, we sailed back in 1815 with Stephen Decatur in command. This time, the greedy Ottoman Pasha, in fear of complete destruction, surrendered once and for all. In 1829, Mediterranean piracy was done. After all powers had tried appeasement, American guns had brought peace.

The land, blessed with a lone harbor at the capital, Tripoli, is a land of drought from May to September, one of rains from November to March. There, where the fleeing remnants of Germany's Africa Corps must make its last stand, history has its own fate in store. Tripoli has known many a conqueror: Carthage, Numidia, Rome, The Vandals, Greece, Arabia, Turkey, Italy.

This time, with no question of giving up land or sovereignty, Tripoli will bear in silence the presence of Axis and Allied armies. Her own fate is not at stake. For the first time in all the comings and goings of the warlike masters, the battle for Tripoli is a brief, blazing part of the battle for a world—and the Marine song, having reached and passed the point of an old, half-forgotten little war, the fighting will move on around the globe.

The Late Hero

Greatest German Tradition Dies With Defeat of Rommel

Almost obscured by the spectacle of American attack in Africa, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel has thus far escaped the great fame in the English and American press. The rough and ready tank expert, a new type of German leader, had been mounted on a towering pedestal by friend and foe alike. With his reputation glittering from applications of Dr. Goebbels' varnish, he won great fame in the English and American press, and on the pages of American picture magazines.

There were American columnists, among them Dorothy Thompson, who made the brass hats yelp by saying that Rommel would have been only a sergeant in the English or American armies. The man's reputation ballooned so alarmingly that it undermined the faith of the United Nations in their own leaders. He made the war systems of the Democracies seem stumpy.

He was bluff, brilliant, in his heyday there was no tendency on the part of Britain to blame her own lack of sufficient armament in Egypt for Rommel's success. He was victorious because he was the modern combination of Wellington, Napoleon and Nathan Bedford Forrest. Today, alas, his reputation is a nothing. He left it among the charred ashes of the Afrika Korps tanks; he forfeited it with the abandonment of Italian divisions.

Over, man, man's destiny was altogether dependent upon circumstance. Faced by a superiority in manpower, air power and armored power, he seemed a lesser strategist than General Montgomery. Arms still make the man; without gas in his tanks, planes in the sky and protection against heavier artillery, the Marshal faded from the hall of fame. More than any other German, Rommel learned that great war plants, blasted from the air, cannot be repaired in a matter of months, and that the flow of materiel means everything in the field of battle. Now that he has been abandoned with the first major German defeat, his cleverness is reduced to a propensity for speed in reverse.

The End Is Not Yet Hitler Has A Punch Left

By Paul Mallon

ONLY guardedly did Churchill suggest a final blow to level Germany might come soon. It would come, he said, "should the enemy become demoralized at any moment," he said this demoralization was certainly not apparent yet, and his whole speech built up the impression that Hitler, with 500,000 excellently trained and armed troops in France and 150,000 in Norway, is a dangerous enemy defensively in the west of Europe.

Potents of weakening Nazi morale, however, are evident behind the news that 287,000 British troops are being sent to the front. His message to the French people, and to the world, was that he had not started the war and was only trying to do the right thing to everybody.

A few days earlier he said he was not going to run away like the Kaiser did, thereby acknowledging that he had noticed the existence of the door opening behind him. These utterances, coupled with his military inability to muster sufficient strength to take Stalingrad or the Caucasus, or later to reinforce Rommel, show plainly the handwriting on the wall.

A great unknown quantity is Russia. Last Winter, the Reds were able to cut the Nazis as deep as to destroy Hitler's strength for the Summer campaign, but this Winter, Stalin's striking power is nowhere near as strong.

He has some successes left. His Army is especially good at small but ferocious guerrilla striking at 20 below zero, but its old recuperative striking power in offensive action may not have survived its Summer tests. The end of the war is therefore not likely to come on Russian soil this Winter.

Thus, while Hitler's own morale is loosening, and even he knows the question now is whether he will try to "escape," he still remains a danger to the world.

Secondly, the "Wid Europa" that might have done some damage to our African land parties have lately been operating around Capetown at the other end of Africa under the impression that we would continue to send supplies that way.

Termination of the war in Europe, would release overwhelming Anglo-American naval power to go blasting its way right into Yokohama, if it chose. But it would also release a Russian army of considerable strength in case Stalin wanted to join the reduction of the Nether Axis remnant.

It is apparent from our encirclement of Nazi Europe that our strategy is to take Hitler first, and then turn all the combined United Nations force upon the Japs. There are several ways we can get at Tokyo, the best one being through the lightly guarded back door in Siberia and Manchuria.

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Time to Start Planning the Next Big Move

By Heriberto



She Doesn't Like It Our Game With Vichy

By Dorothy Thompson

WAR and politics are inextricable. Therefore, at the outset of a war involving France, it may be well to review our political relationships with France.

Three factors have been involved in those relationships: The Vichy Government; General de Gaulle; and the people of France. Now a fourth is introduced: General Giraud, in North Africa, leader of a new force of resistance in being.

The Vichy Government, the Fighting French, and now General Giraud have all been conceived as a means of reaching the people of France, and their military organizations, the North African Army, the French Fleet, and the forces assembled since Summer 1941 by General de Gaulle. These latter, though small, have participated in the Syrian campaign, the Egyptian campaign, and have given us bases for operation in New Caledonia, Tahiti, and Equatorial Africa.

Mr. Hull thought it wise to keep contact with Vichy for the purpose of winning away from Germany as much as possible. It cannot be said that this was one in preparation for the North African campaign because this policy was pursued during all the months between the collapse of France and our withdrawal from the Mediterranean.

Mr. Hull says we achieved: first, intelligence information—how about the other four? Did our policy toward Vichy help us to maintain close relations with the French people, or did it confuse the minds of the French people? This is at least arguable.

Did it keep alive the idea of a free France, or did it discourage the only Free French movement which was operating? This is certainly arguable. Did it foster resistance to increased German demands? This is not arguable. It did not. The Vichy Government has consistently yielded ground to German demands. And did it pave the way for sending a force into the western Mediterranean?

The fact is that Pétain offered only a formal verbal protest against the German occupation of France, and he was not invited to attend a conference with Hitler, and has twice called on North Africa to continue resistance. The fact is that the

French forces in Algiers and Morocco resisted as long as possible. The fact is that even the prisoner, Darlan, has not gone over to our side, nor offered us any collaboration as Pétain gave Hitler. The fact is that the Frenchmen in Tunisia did not try to keep out Axis parachutists.

If now, the State Department admits that we were just playing a game with Vichy, it puts our diplomacy in a class with that of Kurusu. And, frankly, I don't like it, nor do I think it good diplomacy in the long run. For complete honesty and simplicity seem to be the best diplomacy, in a war involving fundamental issues that can only be won in the end by the clear understanding and collaboration of the masses of the French people.

If we go into the past, it is because we must now make a new start in our relations with France. As a mediatory factor between us and the French people, the Pétain-Laval Government is eliminated. All of continental France is occupied by the Germans with the exception of the anomaly of Toulon, where Darlan is appointed commander in chief. The game originally played by Pétain with the Germans, but under conditions, less favorable for us.

But who is to be the new mediatory factor? There is a choice among three: de Gaulle, Giraud, Darlan. Apparently we tried Darlan and Giraud. We dropped de Gaulle. His drop is obvious, from the fact that he was not invited to the State Department. Not a single official statement emanating from the State Department has mentioned de Gaulle, who has fought on our side without equivocation from the beginning.

In this we are again at odds with the British. Churchill, in his Wednesday speech, paid a tribute to de Gaulle, with appropriate words for General Giraud, whose acquisition by our side is without doubt extremely welcome and laudable. Now, it is obvious that the chaos following collapse plus our diplomatic policy have created enormous disunities among the French.



"Mamie says as soon as she gets her hips reduced so she can wear slacks decently, she's going to quit here and get a job on a war plant assembly line."

Plenty Of Commands

Still No Unity

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON THE issue of unity of command has been brought up again, this time in sharper terms by Representative Maas of Indiana, the top Republican on the House Naval Affairs Committee. Some naval and military officers are concerned at what they feel is a lack of understanding as to the operating setup now in effect. They feel that it gives actual unity of command.

Representative Maas says there is no unity of command here and that there can't be any in the Pacific until we have it in Washington. The Army and Navy are run separately, he says, with separate staffs and separate plans and with divided commands. If that continues, he says, we will continue to lose the war.

The picture is drawn somewhat differently in high military and naval circles. They say that unity of command exists through the Joint Chiefs of Staff. That is a group which consists of: Admiral William D. Leahy, representing the President; Admiral Ernest J. King, commander of the United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations; General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff; and Lieutenant General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Force.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff derives its authority from the Commander-in-Chief. It functions as a body. Probably the correct way to put it is that in planning, we have unified command. In operations, the Army and Navy function separately, each through its own chain of command, but co-operating in operations as directed from the top here.

As I understand it, General MacArthur and Admiral Arrington conferred before the Solomon campaign was undertaken. Arrangements for co-operation were worked out between them, but it is felt that neither is responsible to the other, but each to his own service command.

General MacArthur is in command of the Southwest Pacific area, which embraces Australia and the Solomon Islands area which overlooks the Philippines. The South Pacific, the adjoining area, is under Navy command, Admiral Halsey being in charge now. It includes the supply line to Australia, and the Solomon Islands area which overlooks the Philippines. The area boundaries are determined by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, largely for administrative and supply purposes, and are frequently shifted, as was done in the case of Guadalcanal, the Navy's South Pacific area.

On paper it is not unified command in the sense that Representative Maas means. There is unified command at the top in the sense that the strategy decisions are made by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is a unified body representing both services. It happens also that General Marshall and Admiral King are congenial and function well together as a team. The fact that General Marshall and Admiral King are congenial and function well together as a team. The fact that Marshall are there together, you have in practice unified command at the top.

That probably is not true further down in the service, where rivalry crops out at some points. If General MacArthur had personally any other idea of what should be done in the Pacific, it has not been indicated that he has failed to the slightest extent in co-operating with the Navy when help was requested.

It is readily there have been some differences as to how planes or other equipment might be used, but if there were any they undoubtedly were resolved by Washington. Evidently no questions have come up that would not be in the normal course of operations under unified command. Individual officers always will have suggestions as to what ought to be done, but it is possible to have orders issued at the top as a result of the combined activities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which would seem to give working unity.

Another body, the Combined Chiefs of Staff, in the same way brings about Anglo-American collaboration, as indicated in the North African joint campaign. Representatives of the Army and other United States forces are consulted on questions pertaining to them.

That is about the picture as you get it from the military side. Less satisfactory has been the dovetailing of strategy with production plans in the Navy. The new condition, that is, the move to strengthen what has been a rather serious weakness there.

Not 40 Hours

Here Or There

Representative Barden of N. C.

In the House.

Mr. Speaker, the conferees are now considering the bill which will take the high school and other boys eighteen years of age into the service. These boys will go into the service on a 24-hour basis. Many of them will be under 18. In the normal course of operations under 18 hours a day. You, I, and all of us will have to answer to the American people as to why it is that a shortage of manpower is reported to exist at the present time as a result of the fact that the industry of this country, "40 hours is your limit, and beyond that you must not work."

If manpower is reported to the extent that we are to consider drafting sixteen-year-olds into the service, and employing our colleges—yes, even taking the eighteen-year-olds away from their home environment—then the 40-hour-per-week law is inadequate. This would be a disaster, and it is no time for 40-hour soldiers or 40-hour-per-week workers. This is my protest against what I regard as an unjustifiable wrong about to be committed.

Visitin' Around

Who Said That, Mix Hartley or the Craig?

(L. 3 item)

Leslie M. Topik

Mrs. Lizio Hartley was a pleasant caller of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Craig Sunday.

But Can She Cook?

(Haley Camp item)

Leslie M. Topik

It is known to all what an enterprising schedule has been made for Saturday evening with her golden deer for the day unaccompanied by the milked cows to make money to

TODAY'S BIRK THOUGHT

The shortest way to not always practical. For stand in way: And it came to pass when Pharaoh had let the people go, and he said unto them, Behold, I have let you go from the land of the Philistines, altho' that was near; for Saturday evening with her golden deer for the day unaccompanied by the milked cows to make money to

—Ezodus 13:17.