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SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1942

History's Cherub

The Phenomenal Mr. Churchill

By Dorothy Thompson

HOPE for a renaissance of Britain arises from contemplation of the figure of Mr. Churchill. The eldest of his Allied statesmen, he appears to be the youngest. His face, the chief characteristic of youth, is elasticity. The face of the young grandee is still remarkably like his own.

No statesman has inherited such a difficult situation. Called to the leadership of the nation in its most desperate moment, after years in which the greatest domestic and imperial problems had been postponed, while England lived in a kind of frozen suspension between a great past and a distant future, Mr. Churchill had to deal not only with an almost lost war but with an Empire threatened by disintegration, and an internal social situation demanding radical reform.

His tasks were, first, to create a strong home front; second, to strengthen the fleet landing the Empire; third, to find allies.

He could not undertake these things step-by-step. He had to do them all at once. And he had not to lose the war. When Mr. Churchill took the leadership, it was not a question of winning the war; it was a question of not losing it.

Mr. Churchill has had to be the director of a three-ring circus. None of the three performances has been perfect. But all three rings have been kept going. His leadership created the most homogeneous and courageous British world has seen in many decades. The Empire still stands; and the alliance is one of the most profound political as well as military since the world.

But none of this could have been done, if Mr. Churchill himself had not shown enormous intellectual elasticity. The extent to which this "Old Tory" of nearly 70 years has cast off his own past, and turned his face squarely toward the future, is one of the miracles of these times. No one with a scrap of artistic sensibility can fail to be moved and impressed.

It is a supreme feat for every statesman not to leave his country in a dangerous position, for his position may be endangered in his absence. Mr. Churchill has discharged this duty of the statesman with a skill and a grace that is unique in this globe since the critical decision of the moment has been taken and there has been no one to take over the reins. Mr. Churchill has not only taken over the reins, but he has taken over the reins of the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Indian Ocean, and he has taken over the reins of the world at this moment.

Mr. Churchill is by blood, breeding and tradition, a Tory



and an Imperialist. But he has a brain—an active intelligence, history, for Mr. Churchill, is never finished; the final word is never written. "The old order changeth, yielding place to new." And Mr. Churchill changes with the changes registered by his intelligence.

It sent five Stafford Cripps to Moscow—and apparently the mission failed. But it did not—the second mission failed. It sent five Stafford Cripps to India—and the mission failed. But it is too early to write that statement as the last word.

The alliance with the United States, Russia, and China, cannot fail to have immense repercussions on both the domestic and imperial life of Britain. Mr. Churchill knows it and does not flatter with honor. The knell of feudalism rings in England, and the son of the Duke of Marlborough hardly listens.

He travels, but without an umbrella, and returns, presenting not too much. Chamberlain went to Berchtesgarden and the last man in the street felt the humiliated. Churchill goes to Russia, and we read the remarkable statement by Mr. Churchill himself, that the discussion was "comradely."

It is a more, rather than by the aspects of Communism, which haunts a few of his class, for by the aspects of an Americanism inheriting the Anglo-Saxon world, which haunts still others. He is too rooted in British tradition and history to believe that British Socialism will ever be the Russian Socialism. And he happens to love America—which is a great help.

If the British Empire is bound to undergo a profound reformation—as it certainly is—Mr. Churchill knows it has served a purpose in time, and that the world concept it has created inspires the newly forming world, even among those who have rebelled against the Empire. And so a courageous imagination is confident that Britain has a mission still, and a noble one that in the past. That is his conviction, his unswerving faith.

The historical sense permeates everything he does. He is aware of the epochal historical moment. He meets it with what is least expected from a British Tory—humility. He is not personally humble; he humbles himself. He is actually an enormous pride moves him—the proud intention that British shall play a noble role. And in his pride there is no trace of vanity.

This is the man who met Stalin in the Kremlin. What a meeting of two world! Yet, it is reported that it was a happy meeting. And I believe it. For it was a meeting between two desperately serious and remarkably courageous men.

Mr. Churchill has always been criticized by the left. But when the history of his country is written, I am sure that Mr. Churchill will be recognized as the greatest statesman of the age, having contributed more to its evolution and even revolution than all the progressive doctrinaires.

That Umbrella

Blueprint of the Way To Help Russia—and More

That "umbrella" of attacks which was raised to cover the attack on Dieppe turns out to have been a principal weapon of destruction on its own account, and a more promising future means of relieving pressure on Russia than has yet been discovered.

Britain's report of 276 German planes "destroyed, probably destroyed, or damaged" takes a good deal for granted, but the number of German planes which were certainly destroyed remains near the hundred mark. The "probables" would run up the figure, by how much only the Germans know for sure. But the daylight raids of 500 planes over the continent on Thursday have proved good. It hurts and handicaps its wounds, and that at the moment it was unwilling or unable to accept a further challenge.

But if another raid on the Dieppe scale had been launched immediately, a raid which looked as though it meant invasion, Nazi planes would have been compelled to take the air, no matter how frightful the odds against them. If that had happened, German airpower in the west would have been cut out to pieces that it would have had to be completely reinforced from strength elsewhere and from external reserves.

This, then, is the method by which the British may bring about what they have long wanted—battle with the Luftwaffe on terms and in strength decidedly favorable to the RAF and its companion air forces. This is the method by which immediate and immense aid may be rendered to the most effective kind of second front, raids by ground troops in force, to compel Germany to use her airpower defensively so that it may be worn away and disposed of, opening the way to conquest from all sides and on all fronts.

Forehanded Man

His Example Is Commended To Our Own City Fathers

Nobody has ever accused New York City's Mayor La Guardia of being niggardly with public funds. In the ease with which he borrows and spends, Roosevelt, for all his Republican label, is a born New Yorker. But nobody has ever accused him, either, of jacking interest, of failing to plan today for tomorrow.

Both characteristics are revealed in a request that the Mayor has made of his Board of Estimates. He wants the city to borrow \$10,331,555 for the planning of a post-war construction program. It is not a question of the program, note, but for the planning of it. The program would come to something over \$25,000,000. Roosevelt's design for the future evidently envisions a second billion-dollar spending program.

But nobody can dispute the wisdom of preparing now for what needs to be done after the war. There is going to be, in all likelihood, a vast Federal works undertaking, a new PWA, and there is going to be a lot of easy Federal money which may be had on the basis of first come, first served. New York City will be found at the head of the line with thousands in hand.

And Charlotte? Well, this, Charlotte under its present municipal administration has already been caught napping. It lifted not a hand to get war industries here, and it would have been left flat had not private individuals taken it upon themselves to act. There is the same lack of any disposition even to consider the advisability of a post-war public works program, much less to plan for it. Were on the way to getting left again.

Tactical Error

Government Exposes Itself To McCormick's Fire

The Administration had better duck. The clearing of Col. McConville and his Chicago Tribune of having violated any law by publishing the synthetic Midway story might have constituted a lesser injury, but not Bertie's. He will take his share, but as a sign that the Administration meant to get him but that

something slipped, or that he scared 'em off.

As a matter of fact, it never has been made clear just what law the Government considered to have been violated. Surely it was of no aid to the Japs for accurate newspapers to make a guess, accurate or not, about the strength and disposition of Jap forces in the battle of Midway after the battle had been fought. The Government seemed to attach significance to the published statement that the Navy knew in advance that the Japs were coming and in what force, which would imply a leak of highly confidential information in the Navy Department. Perhaps the Government wanted to force The Tribune and its associated papers either to name their informant or to confess that they had no valid grounds for the statement. But the grand jury reported only that the inquiry "disclosed" no violation of law.

The whole episode has turned out to be meaningless, without any special point. About all it has done has been to give Col. McCormick an excuse to go after the Administration and Secretary Knox with great violence, more than usual, and to become more overbearing than ever, if that be possible.

Anxious Cheers

Valor Begins To Show, but On War's Periphery

The latest war news, American style, is picking up sharply. The invasions of the Philippines began to be added another thrilling chapter yesterday when the Marines killed 620 of Jap forces which landed from speed boats, capturing the remainder, at a cost of 28 killed and 72 wounded Americans. The presence of the Rangers in the Diego Strait gave America an even keener interest in the proceedings in that quarter.

The feat of the Flying Fortress also was something to quicken the pulse. Eleven of them, without lighter escort, were attacked over the North Sea by two scores of the German's vaunted new Focke-Wulf fighters. They shot down or damaged six of these interceptors in a twenty-minute fracas, and although the pilot of one Fortress was killed, its co-pilot wounded and the ship itself badly damaged, the great bomber came through.

The pilot of Matina on Makin in the Gilbert Islands was a brilliant, and added zest was lent to it by the disclosure that Jimmy Roosevelt was second in command of the Marine party. Good, the country will say, for Jimmy, and good for the Marines!

The news is coming on these days in the form which Americans have learned to expect when their valiant soldiers and sailors, and of course the Marines, go into battle. They have given a good account of themselves in every campaign and engagement in which they have fought. At the same time, it is well for the civilian reader, without minimizing this good news at all, to take it in perspective of the whole war.

The whole war goes more encouragingly in some phases, but in the only phase where the masses of our Allied forces are locked in mortal combat with the mass of the enemy's forces, which is to say in Russia, they are today driving back steadily and unrelentingly. And on the only other front where our Allied forces in considerable numbers confront the enemy, in Egypt, the tide of battle has gone grievously against them and their situation is still perilous.

The danger is that Americans, being blithely confident, as they should be, of ultimate victory, will take these signs of military progress as the sure evidence of victory. That they are not. They are good omens, but as for counting to grips with the enemy, America has not yet begun to fight.

Visitin' Round

Miss — is Operated On For An Operation. Let's News (1942) Miss — was operated on for appendicitis at Caldwell. Her friends hope she will soon be all right. Occer, It Says! No Guarantee It'll Fill It (North Carolina Item, Let's News) Mr. Jim McCall left Monday for Kingsport, Tenn., where he will receive a Government job. We miss Mr. McCall very much in our community.

Though the facts alone are funnier than anything we can think to say, we never say a word on women's hats.

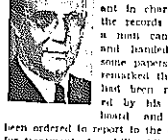
Big Stuff

The Unfit Survive Our Pacific Offensive

By Dick Young

A great sociological question was posed in the City Health Department's general disease clinic the other day. I had just dropped in to check with the chief of the clinic, who was in charge of the records when a man came in and handed her some papers. She looked at them and had been rejected by his draft board and had been ordered to report to the clinic for treatment of syphilis. After the man had gone, he pointed to a large stack of saloon-colored cards on her desk and said, "All these are rejected from draft boards. What is the population going to be like, if they take the cream of our young manhood and leave only the dregs? How many wonder what the world is going to be like?"

It is a fearful question. The flower of young manhood, of course, provides the best of physical equipment for the fighting man. If he drags back, these fine young men will fill up the casualty lists. Many of those who miss death will be physically and mentally affected. When the nation's younger and most viable men are wiped out, or maimed for life, the re-population of the country will spring from inferior stock. And like the young lady in the clinic, I'm wondering what the world is going to be like.



While the invasion force of protective cruisers, destroyers and submarines shouldered toward the west, the reports from General MacArthur's Australian headquarters were loudly and almost angrily denouncing the fact that he had no cargo ships available with which to start an offensive. He was pictured as tearing out his hair because Washington would give him no power.

The invasion force already had arrived at appointed landing places, and was actually disembarking the materiel, as well as other American and Australian forces, before the Japs knew what was in store. There was no major air or sea encounter until the night battle of Aug. 8-9. The very bitter and heavy engagement in which our losses were con-

Big Stuff

Our Pacific Offensive

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

The first great offensive American action, the invasion of the Solomon, has not been fully reported to the public for a very good, but unattractive reason.

It was not a battle, but the beginning of the immediately assisted campaign.

It was, too, like Midway or the Coral Sea, a battle which terminated when the action was over, and the last step will be Tokyo, where and how it will be continued.

My own personal guess, however, is that the next big step will be Rabaul, the center of all Jap bases in the Southwestern Pacific area—and the last step will be Tokyo.

Also, from the cautious commanders and other well-kept reports of the last fourteen days, a broad general picture of what happened may now be presented without divulging any military information. While the invasion force of protective cruisers, destroyers and submarines shouldered toward the west, the reports from General MacArthur's Australian headquarters were loudly and almost angrily denouncing the fact that he had no cargo ships available with which to start an offensive. He was pictured as tearing out his hair because Washington would give him no power.

The invasion force already had arrived at appointed landing places, and was actually disembarking the materiel, as well as other American and Australian forces, before the Japs knew what was in store. There was no major air or sea encounter until the night battle of Aug. 8-9. The very bitter and heavy engagement in which our losses were con-

siderable. When the details are divulged, this night battle will be shown as one of the most dramatic naval engagements in all history. Jap cruisers and submarines, having learned of the landings which were started twelve hours or more earlier, dashed for the disembarkation points, in an effort to wreck our transports, which were then still landing troops. They never reached their destination.

Our naval forces intercepted them off some distance from the transports, and there followed such a series of fighting maneuvers in darkness, heavy rains, without any assistance from airplanes, flashing on their own lights, the slightest sight of dark objects, and then letting go of their main armaments, that it could be said: "We have admitted only 'close range fighting,' which brings a vivid series of dozens of cruisers, destroyers and submarines on both sides, groping around in darkness, without any assistance from airplanes, flashing on their own lights, the slightest sight of dark objects, and then letting go of their main armaments, that it could be said: "We have admitted only 'close range fighting,' which brings a vivid series of dozens of cruisers, destroyers and submarines on both sides, groping around in darkness, without any assistance from airplanes, flashing on their own lights, the slightest sight of dark objects, and then letting go of their main armaments, that it could 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