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MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1943

The Answer

U. S. Airmen Make Fighting "Lulls" Pay Heavy Toll

Except for the snow-covered fronts in Russia, the battlefronts of the world might seem to be caught in a lull of the great light of war; nowhere else is there to be seen the stirring drama of attack in force. But over Tunisia's barren hills and New Guinea's steaming jungles men are fighting and dying, our cause is being won. Half a world apart, new American airmen in new American planes are answering a high challenge and a low fear.

President Roosevelt, reviewing the war and looking into the future, foresaw the fierce action in the skies: "The Nazis and Fascists have asked for it, and they are going to get it. We and the British and the Russians will hit them from the air heavily and relentlessly. . . . Now our aim is to force the Japanese to fight. . . . This year we intend to advance."

But there have been fears as well. London's Daily Mail deplored the slow-down in North Africa: "If Spring finds us still bogged down in Tunisia, the enemy will have won valuable time and a considerable victory." And Representative Melvin Maas wrung his hands over fighting in the Pacific: "We have been fighting desperately to hold a beach-head and, once that is a good-sized beach, the effort." These were cries for a sudden world-wide offensive, stopping at nothing.

In the past few days medium bombers have torn at Bizerte and Tunis and pounded the fleeing Rommel from the rear; swift lightnings have blasted the more lightly armed German fighters in unequal combat. In the Southwest Pacific, as the Japs came in with a new convoy, Flying Fortresses and Liberators battered ships relentlessly, sent thousands of soldiers to their deaths, and met less and less opposition as they fought.

In neither theater are the United Nations winning great victories, but in each the enemy is paying a terrible toll for his privilege of maintaining contact. And the price paid in Tunisia and New Guinea will seriously reduce the strength of the home-lands in the months to come.

Twin Shortage

Manpower Leaks Are at Home, And Are of and By the Worker

The nation's concern over its manpower shortage has come upon new days; the emphasis now is not on finding more manpower, but on conserving and directing it. There was a time, not long ago, when a New Deal dream burst out with the wild proclamation that we were seriously short of men—we needed about ten times our present population to fight this war. That suggestion, based on what it was thought, and the world moved on.

Now the National Safety Council, gloomily studying the record which shows that six times as many Americans were killed in home accidents as were lost in battle in home accidents as were lost in battle in home accidents as were lost in battle in home accidents.

On another front, there is no fight and waste and lost time continues to exist. At an alarming rate absenteeism has grown in the nation's war plants. Time reported that 25 per cent of Boeing workers were absent the day after Christmas. On the same day, one plant in Detroit was minus 70 per cent of its employees; 11,800 were missing at Douglas Aircraft.

That criminal waste of American resources is not due to neglect, or to lack of Government control. Workers in vital plants are simply not sticking to their jobs because the war still comes second with them; a poor second, on the day after payday, Time says, almost every war plant suffers from a lack of manpower. During the hunting season, after holidays of all kinds, men and women forget their work.

This is a responsibility that Labor leaders have been unable to assume. Thus far, the Government has made no attempt to control the hunting season, except through pushes of publicity, patriotic pleas and the like. The remedy for the manpower shortage now would not seem to be so much a stepped-up

draft or a universal service act, but control of war workers to kill absenteeism of war workers, and a full-scale national campaign to reduce fatalities and waste through accidents. The twin dangers at home are great, and growing.

The Pinch

New Gas Ration Edict Answers A Year-Old Warning By Ickes

The latest impact of gas rationing upon the life of Americans is obviously no joke, it cuts too deeply. It was bestowed upon us by no fairy princess; such restriction goes with war as does death. It also came as a temporary expedient, a stopgap necessity born of inefficiency or wilful neglect in Washington. This suspension of all non-essential driving is an emergency measure; it will pass, but it will also return.

We trust that it will return in another form, for the policing of streets and highways in enforcement of the new order, though it compels obedience through fear, seems neither the best nor the American way toward control. The public is assured that the need is great, for the East suffers in cold, and is thus constrained to obey. But we are morally certain that the new system invites violation, that thousands will indulge in all the driving they can get away with, unheeding of the suffering East or the fighting men over the world.

For ourselves, we welcome the coming of a down-to-earth view of gas rationing. If there is any need for conservation, there is a need for halting all non-essential driving. But we suggest that control of the emergency had not been allowed to blow up overnight, might have been planned with greater wisdom. Why, the question is, was there such a lapse between Harold Ickes' recognition of the danger of an Eastern shortage almost a year ago, and final action to relieve that shortage?

Whatever the answer to that question, it seems to follow that the responsibility for inept methods of control falls upon Washington, and that the forces of Nature amount to no more than a minor factor. We welcome stringent restriction as an indication that the American public is finally being taken into war, but we deplore the continued stalling, botching and inefficiency.

Last Straw

Despairing Farmers, Labor-Shy Handed Whopping New Quotas

You don't have to dream up a picture of the state farm on Farm Mobilization Day; the Department of Agriculture's War Board and AAA have already passed out the quotas. The hard-working producer will take time off to listen with a solemn face, a man-servicely determined to do his part for the war program. But when he hears the new appeal the farmer will have to break out in laughter, or tears.

Government agents have already asked South Carolina farmers (and the message goes for the South as a whole) to buckle down for '43 and increase production of crops by as much as 50 per cent. At that, the conscientious man of agriculture will either throw up his hands and move to town, or let it pass with a grin and go about tending his acres as best he can.

Last year saw records broken in farm production (over \$4,000,000,000 in North Carolina), and also in loss of farm labor. The draft, war plant jobs and traveling employment agents picked thousands of workers off the nation's productive land. The problem of the farmer since Summer has been to get help, any kind of help, for he has been in planting season, he must have more, or he will fall far below the level of 1942.

And it's going to seem to the hard-pressed men of the soil that their Government, so thoughtful of them in the past, has now forgotten that war has fallen heavily upon the countryside. It's all very well, this call for more and more farm production, but it would make a sight more sense to the farmer if someone could tell him how he was going to raise 50 per cent more peanuts and slaughter 50 per cent more cattle with his sons in the Army and his hired man off in a defense plant. It won't make sense to him.

Muddle In North Africa

No Plan, No Agreement, Only Battle

By Dorothy Thompson

FOR days rumors have been circulating as to who killed Admiral Darlan. The name on numerous lips is that of a young officer who belonged to the royalist French "craque" and can be presumed to have been pro-Fascist. All the small details about the person named check with the meager official statements about the assassin. He was in the early twenties and had an Italian mother.

If, however, the assassin came from these circles one wonders why the facts have been suppressed. The first questions, of course, are: Are our authorities exercising the censorship? Or is it the French authorities? And, if so, who are these authorities?

Apparently the initiative in the suppression came from French authorities and our authorities, by courtesy, collaborated. The head of the "civil authority" in North Africa is General Giraud. But the General is a newcomer in North Africa, he is not politically experienced and he depends upon the Resident General Nogues and General Chated, governor of the colonies.

Now, if the assassin was a Fascist sympathizer one can readily see why Nogues and Chated would wish the fact suppressed. For they were also Vichy men a short time ago, and their administration is still in the hands of the Vichy men.

Do It Now Push The War

By Samuel Grafton

I DO not believe in an international air force to police the world after the war. It is the world demand, specifically at the moment, that the Fascists of North Africa be put into jail and the Democrats let out. For any of our Government war-aims thinkers to skip lightly over this situation and to keep chattering into an indefinite future and toward an indefinite international air force is another example of the old game called broadening out the issue until you lose sight of it.

Better that one Fascist in French North Africa be rendered harmless now, than that a hundred be cowed by an international air force ten years hence.

Too much of our war-aims thinking depends on this mysterious mental process, which might also be called skip-the-present. A tacky little band of Fascists and pro-Vichyists surrounds General Giraud this minute. Men of similar mind do the day-to-day governing in almost every village and town throughout the area. They have dismayed our American military officers and shocked our foreign correspondents. They represent an instant, pressing, horrid threat to our war, and to our world unity.

There is no official plan, so far as I know, to do anything about these ornamental dregs of French society. In the absence of such a plan, it is a shocking instance of skipping the nasty, controversial present, and going for a joy-ride in the cool, blue, non-controversial future, to talk about an international air force, later on, to save the world from precisely those types about whom we are doing next to nothing right now.

Every decent American correspondent (and particularly CBS's Charles Collingwood) has been recording his horror at the Fascist mentality of some of the leading elements around Giraud. Well, so long as North Africa is in the hands of a Fascist or para-Fascist administration, it is only by good luck that we will probably have to supervise the school systems of Germany and Japan, to make sure more Fascist mentalities were bred.

I say, again, it is a clear case of skip-the-present to worry about the possible Fascist mentality of German and Japanese toddlers as yet unborn, and to leave the present possessors of that mentality to go on functioning in positions of power in North Africa.

How tough we are about those unknown, unborn Fascist babes of the future! And how easy we are on the well-known, middle-aged, reputable specimens now actually in our hands in the present!

I advise Vice-President Wallace intensely. It is because of a deep feeling for him that I am compelled to call on him to consider whether this pattern of escape into the easy, non-controversial present, does not beg the whole question of war aims, and come close to making it improbable that that future will ever arise.

If we render Fascism harmless as we come to it, we won't need an international air force to control it after the war. If we do not, it will probably be in a position to keep us from ever setting up such a force. I say, pit French Fascism under lock and key right now; that is a war aim, but I defy anybody to call it dreamy, or to make a funny joke about it.

We must watch the escape to the future as carefully as we watch the more-familiar escape to the past. The future calls, with siren song, because she is fair and gentle and non-controversial; men who do not agree on anything can agree on an international air force, because when they do so, they are still not agreeing on anything.

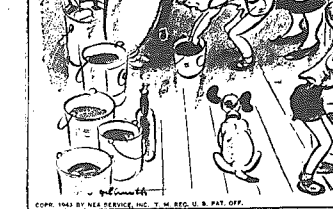
It is in the harsh, the ugly, the unappetizing now that the decision is really being made. There must be a clash of views, and there must be a struggle and one view must triumph over the other, or else we shall be deciding nothing but our inability to decide.

Visitin' Around

The Twelvegood Sixweekers (RED Item, Lexington Dispatch)

Mr. J. O. Sixweeker, and one of her 27 varieties of beautiful daughters, were in the city shopping Wednesday afternoon. These Sixweeker folk are fine neighbors; always glad to see them well and happy.

Side Glances



"Would you mind watching the children until my husband gets home? I just received an emergency hospital nursing call, and you know how it is—the war comes first!"

foot on French soil, was arrested, court-martialed, and sentenced to death by Nogues, and escaped only because the order to cease firing was executed before he was.

If, however, the assassin was a Vichy man, the natural consequence of such a scandal would be a great shake-up in North Africa, and the removal of Vichy people from posts of authority. The question is: Are not most of the officers Vichy men? Unless I am wrongly informed the answer is no. Not more than ten per cent of them are. Nine tenths of them would follow any good French leadership. Actually, they and their men are fighting in Tunisia, in much larger numbers than there are American and British, and with great bravery despite the lack of modern equipment.

It also seems that the explanation of why Darlan was chosen in the first place as civil administrator is not adequate. We are told it was to save lives. But the cease fire order was apparently made two days before we made the agreement with Darlan. So Darlan was installed, as we believe that things would go more smoothly with him, and his sudden removal was a great embarrassment. It was a proof that Fascists are not won over just by winning over one of their leaders—if a Fascist committed the crime.

But if the assassin was an anti-Fascist it is proof that we cannot quench the hostility to Fascism by enlisting Fascists in our ranks. It is quite understandable that General Giraud could not open all the concentration camps for the transfer of more equipment. It was a Fascist or para-Fascist administration.

Apparently, General Giraud has no political base to stand

on at all except the one of "French unity," which does not exist, and which, indeed, no steps have been taken to create. Up to now, he has refused to see de Gaulle.

This may explain the mysterious twelve arrests, about which we know no more than that the assassin of Darlan. Some of the men arrested were clearly anti-Fascist, because according to Giraud, they helped our troops to land. But others, he said, were pro-German. So there could not have been one plot, involving twelve men of like mind, but two plots or the suspicion of two. And it would seem—General Giraud cannot make up his mind on who to rely. He is in a political vacuum—somebody or something and sometimes opponents move into political vacuums.

Obviously it cannot go on like this. Militarily we are having a rough time on the Tunisian front. The Axis, according to reports, is deepening its penetration behind our lines, to stir up the native population to revolt. Our line was active in North Africa years before the war, even fomenting anti-Semitism amongst the Arabs.

In such a situation we have to decide, either to take over the government ourselves as an occupying force, or to establish in power Frenchmen who politically belong with us and are unquestionably reliable. What we cannot tolerate, in the long run, is so unclear a situation.

Finally, all sorts of rumors are bound to breed in the vacuum created by the outright censorship of obviously important political facts. There certainly ought to be an Anglo-American agreement reached regarding political strategy in North Africa. But apparently there as yet has been no agreement, even to come to agreement. And General de Gaulle's visit to America has again been postponed.

"It's No Joy-Ride Out Here Either, Bud"

By Herblock



Those Axis Boys

How To Keep 'Em Down

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON IT IS a definite war aim that the Axis shall be disarmed and kept disarmed. We may argue about setting up a TVA on the Danube. The opposition may try to challenge President Roosevelt's objective. But there shall be jobs and reasonable security for men and women after the war, but every time anybody says there must be no repetition of this war, he is saying that the Axis must be disarmed and kept disarmed.

President Roosevelt made that an emphatic point in his annual message. When he said we had heard that peace could not be maintained by good intentions alone, he was talking the practical common sense that the Axis must be kept disarmed and that it must be kept from building up another war machine to make a third try for world conquest.

To keep the Axis disarmed will require concerted action by the victor nations. Certainly in view of the record only the United Nations, controlling, could hope to keep Germany, Japan and Italy from re-arming as Germany did after the last war. No one can take the position that the Axis must be kept disarmed and at the same time oppose American participation in the responsibility for seeing that the Axis does not rearm. Isolation will mean telling Germany to come and take it.

Mr. Roosevelt did not go into detail in his message but he has made it plain that the Axis must be kept disarmed and that it must be kept from building up another war machine to make a third try for world conquest. The Axis countries would be forbidden to make aircraft or tanks, for instance. United Nations inspectors would be assigned to check up on industrial plants to be sure that parts were not being made surreptitiously. Any violation of prohibitions against arms production in Axis countries would bring quick punishment.

It must be a cardinal principle in any such enforcement that the punishment be quick and sure. The more likely it is to be done, the more likely it is to be done. Japan in Manchukuo, Mussolini in Ethiopia, and Hitler in the Rhineland and in Austria and Czechoslovakia gambled on hesitation and

division among the other countries. Because of that hesitation among their enemies they got away with their aggressive moves.

So the thinking now is along the line of having an international air authority, as Vice-President Wallace recently suggested. International authorities could be set up much like the New York Port Authority. The Axis countries would not be permitted to build or own or operate aircraft of any kind. The line between civil and military craft is too narrow. The United Nations would furnish commercial air transportation service for those countries because that is economically desirable. But the air fields, the operations, the whole control would be kept out of Axis hands.

In the event an Axis country was caught violating prohibitions against disarming, the United Nations authority would impose an immediate blockade of air traffic and communication, sealing all frontiers. Notice would be given of bombing intentions against offending areas. For instance allow one week, after which bombing would begin.

Such methods will be necessary if the enemy is not to rearm and make another try as Germany did before. We must invoke them for our self-defense. As Mr. Roosevelt said, war grew in air, death and destruction in our hands, the inevitability of engulfing all nations in inverse ratio to the shrinking size of the world as a result of air power.

Japan's blow at Pearl Harbor is nothing to the blow that she would be able to lay down on the Pacific Coast with the airplanes and carriers of the future. Weapons now coming into existence are such that we dare not allow them to be in the hands of dangerous neighbors. Holding them in our hands will enable the responsible nations to police a peace more firmly and with less effort than would have been considered possible a few years ago.

When we say that the Axis must not be permitted to rearm we are talking the practical self-defense that the airplane has made possible and necessary.

Quote, Unquote

There is a deplorable tendency among us Americans to cling obediently to youth. It is a more likely to die than to live. It is a more likely to die than to live. It is a more likely to die than to live. It is a more likely to die than to live.

uniforms and civilian clothes and attempted to penetrate blocks occupied by our troops and fire at the soldiers. It was a more likely to die than to live. It is a more likely to die than to live. It is a more likely to die than to live.