

On The Ready

The Great Allied Attacks May Be Struck At Any Time

The solemn messages from Algiers and London, directed to the people of France, may actually preface immediate invasion of the Continent. But in the past, such warnings have usually preceded offensive moves by some time. There is no obvious need for such declarations to the captive peoples, except at the moment of invasion. There is not a need for warning them; they have been expecting the armies of liberation since the black days of Dunkirk. There will be a welcome, and help for the invaders when the time comes.

If an invasion on a grand scale is soon to come (and logically it should, then it is likely to strike on several fronts. It matters little whether the thrusts are made through France and the Lowlands, through Norway, or the Balkans. On all sides, the Nazi defenses are being vulnerable as was proved in Sicily. Whether the invasion of Italy will be postponed, and destruction of that land left to Allied planes and naval guns, or whether the great assault will cross the Boot and into Albania, it matters not. The time has long since arrived when every choice lies with the Allied commanders.

Limited only by ship movements, weather and geography, the leaders of the Allied offensive may strike within a few days, or hold the enemy in the grip of air power for weeks, until he is softened, and the invading forces have gathered in greater strength. In either event, the war will be won forward swiftly, for the enemy cannot afford the great losses in men, weapons and industrial power now being heaped upon him from the skies. Not long can a great army remain intact, while suffering from the aerial bombardment which in a bitter fight for survival in the East.

Certainly there will be no further lull, no more of the Phony War of 1939-40. Henceforth, the offensives will roll as swiftly as the tools may be gathered together, as soon as the weapons and men are ready (and General Eisenhower reports the conquerors of Sicily ready now), and the lessons of recent combat have been absorbed, the push will go forward.

There will be no waiting, either, for great air assaults to pound at the enemy, for those are already in progress. The phase of finality is not approaching, but is already here. The pressure is on, and going on in every area of Hitler's lands. Soon, no spot will be safe from the bombers, and the walls, at any point, are likely to feel the greatest of Allied thrusts. Between now and Spring, Hitler's power will be met, tested and broken.

Jap Downhill

Massacre of Enemy Air Power In Pacific Is Great Victory

Every new installment of the vital statistics of battle from the South Pacific brings nearer the time of the Japanese collapse. It is yet thousands of weary, bloody miles to Tokyo, and the big campaigns are likely far in the future, after the demise of Hitler. But the Japanese, straining at the stretched-out links in their chains across the sea, are being cruelly beaten, on the outskirts of their sphere. They are paying a horrible price in the defense of the outposts, and they are being pushed ever backward, inevitably.

The sensational kill of more than 200 grounded Jap planes on Wewak was an indication that the heart-breaking odds of 1942 were changed, and that American planes were now sweeping the sky at will, driving the enemy cover away from the troops, making the way safe for new offensives. And the fate of the 62 planes rising to beat off that smash at Wewak—25 of them were shot down. It brings a new day to war in the Pacific, and is a sign that things on that front are becoming progressively better for Americans.

As such a rate of killings, the American superiority in New Guinea will soon become complete domination, and that goes for ships as well as planes. In the tangled jungle, Allied troops must push forward, eliminating the enemy unit by unit. But in the air, and on the sea, our forces are doing a wholesale business. The hundreds of small Jap ships which have been sunk have spelled defeat for the Japanese in the Pacific. Because the Jap is unable either to protect his positions by plane, or to supply them by boat, his time is short in New Guinea.

And when he is piled loose from that

area, the American bombers will be so much the closer to the inner business of his strength. They will strike over greater and greater distances, closing in upon the island empire. Perhaps, if progress is made as it has been in recent days, the plans will not have to await the fall of Hitler, to take their crack at the cities of Japan.

Boomerang

Parents, Wanting Curfew, Find Themselves On Spot

Well, parents, the Law, in all its majesty, has spoken. Things have not changed, the Law says: You are still charged with the responsibility of raising your children. It is still your gull, if you allow them to roam the streets of North Carolina at night in these times; little girls chasing after strangers in uniform, seeking trouble; young boys, footloose with wartime restlessness.

The Law dreads its decision. In the view of Attorney General Henry McMillan, curfew upon children under sixteen is illegal, and may not be enforced by municipal governments, even when the desire is expressed. This barring of youngsters from the streets after dark is not a part of the task of the Law. Such an act, says the Attorney General, would be an invasion of the rights of man.

It falls back upon the parents, where it belongs. There are too many complaints that busy parents in these times of high employment figures, have no time to care for their children. There is too often the plaint that children are taken with sudden evilment, and are beyond control. The truth is that the parents of North Carolina, like the parents all over the country, are and have been shirking a solemn duty.

The generation bears no curse, and the Law has no more difficulties than men have faced before. The scare of juvenile delinquency is born in the homes, and it is not new. There has been, for years, a loosening of the parental grip, a surrender of control, a forfeiture of responsibility. The family in America comes apart, each member seeking a different life. In such times, the young are denied the heritage of their fathers, and they stray at will. The delinquency is not, in fact, juvenile delinquency. It is, rather, parental delinquency. The Law spoke the truth: Parents, not curfew laws, must raise the children.

Fewer Stripes

Shortage of Prisoners Develops in Army's Wake

You may add, if you're keeping score, one more item to the list of wartime shortages in the State: Prisoners. There aren't enough of the fellows to go around. The situation is getting so bad that the military is beginning to worry. The upkeep program of State highways may soon be endangered, if the trend keeps up.

This week when Alamance, New Hanover and Forsyth Counties applied for prison labor to do vital farm work during harvest season, they were turned down flat. Chairman D. B. McCrory of the Highway Commission went an anxious, jocular letter to the Governor, explaining why he could not send help. He noted, for what it was entirely responsible, required all the prison labor available. The boys just aren't in jail any more.

The reason for the shortage is not hard to find, and the imagination is not required to see it. It is not likely that escapes are responsible, for the runaways are almost invariably captured. It is even less likely that North Carolina has suddenly lightened up, brushed its hair off, and become morally responsible, 100 per cent No. not that it doesn't happen overnight. But there's surely a reliable factor, somewhere.

All the young and restless of the 100 counties are pressed into service. The ditch-footed class from which criminals are made now serves a cause which requires all of its time and energy. In lieu of more rectitude, it follows a quest elsewhere, and the homespun at home are slowly emptying, homeless almost. If the war continues long, the State Highway Commission will be forced to try very different, crimelessness, doesn't pay.

It might be wise, hereafter, in addressing ourselves to other Badoglio along the road to victory to include positively in the initial offer.

Fast Or Slow

War Makes Progress

By Raymond Clapper

IT took twelve days longer in the dust and heat of Sicily than the Allied High Command had expected when the invasion began July 10. Yet the war is now advanced by another step. In some respects glider and paratroop attacks on the night of the invasion did not accomplish as much as had been hoped for. That slowed down the start in some minor respects.

Also terrain in eastern Sicily proved more difficult than had been anticipated. Small German detachments were able to block mountain roads. One well-placed mine could make a hole that not even a jeep could get through. When some of us traveled over these mountain roads we had to make difficult detours that to trucks and heavier equipment were simply impassable. So although our forces were far superior in numbers, they could not get through the broken passes without long delays. That contributed to the escape of more German troops from Sicily than we had expected to permit.

Nevertheless we are turning our guns on Italy now. The delay was slight. On the whole the casualties were far less than had been estimated so that our troops are still able to go ahead. Although the war as a whole may not be over for quite some time parts of it may end suddenly. No one wants to sponsor unjustified optimism. As James F. Byrnes, director of the Office of War Mobilization warns us, they will return knowing very accurately what their districts are thinking. I hope Congress comes back in ready to consider seriously on numerous occasions the numerous proposals that will set the course of American foreign policy.

But on the political side we must be prepared for a sudden collapse of the Axis. We cannot afford to be caught so ludicrously unprepared as we were when Mussolini resigned. His retirement was so unexpected that high Allied officials refused to believe the first

reports, thinking, possibly, our own psychological warfare broadcast was "echoing back out of Italy. Our uncontrolled rambling was humiliating." Everywhere I have been in the last four months abroad, I have been asked what America is going to do when the war ends. They wonder whether our foreign policy will be overturned in the next Presidential election. It worries everyone in Europe, although General de Gaulle asked me in Algiers if it were true as it appears that Willie was adopting Roosevelt's foreign policy while Roosevelt was swinging over to Willie's domestic policies.

Some Americans I know argued with Swedish foreign office officials saying the Allies needed to know what Sweden intended to do about certain matters such as the shutting off of German troop trains through the country. The Swedes replied that Sweden could be more certain of its future policies if Americans could say what their own future policy would be. In Britain one of the chief topics of conversation is essentially as to what foreign policy will develop in America out of the Presidential campaign.

I return from four months abroad strongly convinced of several things about the future. Above all, I don't believe we can wait until after the Presidential election to settle a number of points about our relations with the rest of the world. There is danger the war will not wait that long for us.

Congress has been in recess. Most of its members are home talking with their constituents. They will return knowing very accurately what their districts are thinking. I hope Congress comes back in ready to consider seriously on numerous occasions the numerous proposals that will set the course of American foreign policy.

We want foreign policy to have a stronger footing than it can have if it rests only upon Presidential whim. This time it must have Congressional sanction.

It Seems There Were Two Buns

By Dorman Smith



Missing Guest

Cold-Shoulder Joe

By Dorothy Thompson

THE conference between the President and the British Prime Minister has been called "crucial." Its importance is revealed by the procedure, which is that of secret diplomacy, rarely used at home.

Since Casablanca it has been repeatedly hinted that the next important conference would include a representative of the Russians. Mr. Churchill had asked in Canada, he had asked whether Stalin or any Russian was arriving here. The reports stated that the President registered great interest in the matter.

Reports from London and Washington, obviously officially inspired, were busy explaining why Stalin was unable to attend. It was suggested that, as Commander-in-Chief during an active offensive, he might not feel free to leave Russia, and one could only regret that these crucial conferences always take place during a Russian offensive. Casablanca occurred during the battle of Stalingrad.

It is not conducting secret diplomacy, but quite open diplomacy. We know what the Russians want: a front that will divert from forty to sixty divisions; an agreement about strategic frontiers to follow victory; and an understanding European post-war policy, including Germany.

If we had an answer to these three questions, there would be some in a three-day conference. If we don't know the answer, there is no sense. For no one wants a conference that might break up an elemental coalition. Another danger—namely that one party, Mr. Roosevelt, would replace.

Quote, Unquote

We [British] shall have to look to our step between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics if we are to enjoy our endurance among the powers. —George Bernard Shaw.

well or Mr. Churchill might be nearer the Russian viewpoint than the other. Obviously, it is necessary for the Anglo-American political leaders to reach complete agreement on this matter. That is clearly the reason why the idea devoted of dividing the conference into two parts—first between the President and Prime Minister, and afterward in Moscow, between Mr. Sumner Welles, Anthony Eden, and Stalin.

But why is there the necessity of another "crucial" conference between Britain and America? Secret diplomacy now flows into a fog, but even here there are rays of light. Mr. Churchill has always been more realistic about the Russian power and position, and the logical consequences following from that power and position, than we have. Mr. Churchill, I think, deserves better than we, that politics is the art of possibilities.

I fear our policy has been too largely based on the theory that merely because we are rich and powerful, we will have the final word in everything. But that is not true of the world in the twentieth century. We could not even buy the policy we wanted in France. We certainly cannot buy it in Russia. Because in this war, in this epoch and the one to come, ultimate decisions will not be made by diplomats as all they will be made by the masses of the people in every single country, and great politics today consists wholly in the power to discern whether the minds and wills, hopes and yearnings, of the broad masses of the people everywhere are leading.

The masses of the people in Europe have suffered and are suffering unbearably; they have sacrificed practically everything that they have, and there are signs as yet that they will recover a percentage of losses by loans and relief, but to say the firm foundations for a real new life.

Mr. Churchill is apparently bothered about some of the things he has said in his speech following the fall of Mussolini. Specifically, he raised questions about the "Amgot," the American plan of setting up Anglo-American military occupational administrations in enemy countries, and in so-called "liberated" countries. Mr. Roosevelt has said that he doubted whether such occupational authorities would be much more welcome to the masses of the people than the old occupational authorities which they would replace.



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Guilty Spain? Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

THE Spanish and Nazi radio heard forth a message last week-end, which, if true, sounds very suspicious for supposedly neutral Spain. On the basis of the Axis-Spanish announcement, it would appear that Germany had established a secret bomber base in the Spanish Balearic Islands or somewhere in Spain.

What the German radio claimed was that a squadron of Nazi torpedo planes (on Friday, Aug. 13) sank 70,000 tons of Allied shipping including two destroyers and four large merchant ships, just east of Gibraltar, as a big convoy was entering the Mediterranean.

The interesting thing about the Nazi communique was that the raid was reported made by torpedo planes. It happens that torpedo planes have a very limited radius between 300 and 400 miles. Because of the tremendous weight of the torpedoes, they cannot carry spare much time hovering around in the air looking for their target. In fact some of the torpedo planes which went out to sink the Blannark were purely sacrifice planes never expected to come back.

Compared to this 300-400 mile radius, it is a full 800 miles from Gibraltar to the nearest base in France. Big mystery, therefore, is where the Nazi torpedo planes came from. Was it the nearby Balearic Isles, or a hidden point on the coast of Spain? This is the first time in a long time that Axis torpedo planes have been able to penetrate anywhere near Gibraltar. The Spanish radio gave further corroborating details, told how the Allied convoy was composed of 70 ships bound for Africa and how German pilots had been picked up by Spanish ships, while a German plane made an emergency landing at Agulles.

Who gets Mexico's bananas? While President Roosevelt is in Quebec, he might say a word to Prime Minister Mackenzie King about the question, for Canada is now getting most of the bananas that would normally come to the United States from Mexico and Guatemala. This is because U. S. price ceilings have made it impossible for U. S. fruit merchants, done out of a good product, appealed to the Office of Defense Transportation which appealed to the Inter-American Commerce Commission, which issued an order that U. S. cars to carry freight from one foreign country to another.

This was aimed at banana cars sent from Mexico across the U. S. to Canada. It stopped the shipment, but not for long. Promptly the Canadian Embassy in Washington protested to the State Department, asking relief from the ban, and Mr. Hull protested to ODT. Solution probably will be an agreement to limit banana shipments to Canada as it is the case of the big shipments, and making more bananas available to the U. S. A.

Whiskers? Whiskers. Justice Byrnes finally remarked, "He's been taking himself seriously lately. It all comes from getting his picture in the newspapers."

Well-Behaved Soldiers. Capt. George Vouras has given friends at the White House one of the finest trophies which could be paid to an American Army. Writing from North Africa, he says:

"I walked home with a colonel at a late hour in a city in North Africa. The colonel and I were the only ones left in the city. We escorted woman. We were particularly impressed because when the famous Eighth Army was in the same city last year no woman was seen in public alone after sunset. 'What were you doing here?' were on Connecticut Avenue in Washington. I am sure this exemplary behavior will constitute a great national asset with these people in the future."

Russia First

By Samuel Crafton

IF THERE is any one question on which a democratic decision has been reached in this country, it is on the need for getting along with Russia. Nobody is really neutral getting along with Russia, or at least, nobody stands up in meeting and says so, in those words. The open quarrel is over method. Particular attention is being paid to a good deal of "over. "Some do it with a bitter look, some with a flattering word."

The Roosevelt school of thought on the question is in favor of a neutral partnership with Russia, of supplying her with munitions, but it also favors letting nature take its course on the question of political relations, feeling our way slowly, recognizing no instant obligation with the United States in for her forget about the second front, to give up the Balkan states, and to declare war on Japan tomorrow morning. Everything will then be fine. For this school feels that to have and simple way to wipe out communism between Russia and the United States is for Russia not to have politics.

It is known where it is going, while the Roosevelt school sometimes proceeds so slowly it seems to have lost its rider and to be being nowhere at all. There is yet another school of thought on the Russian issue, and this one might be called the "old saw" school, a phrase which was born when Admiral Blandford, our ambassador to Moscow, scolded the Russians for being "insufficiently grateful for lend-lease." The "old saw" school, which is the school of the "old saw," is in favor of a partnership with Russia, but it also favors letting nature take its course on the question of political relations, feeling our way slowly, recognizing no instant obligation with the United States in for her forget about the second front, to give up the Balkan states, and to declare war on Japan tomorrow morning. Everything will then be fine. For this school feels that to have and simple way to wipe out communism between Russia and the United States is for Russia not to have politics.

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