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Attrition

Every Time Japan Seeks Battle She Bleeds Whiter

When the Japs came back for what Frank Knox calls round three of the battle for the Solomons, their strength had diminished. Bent upon counter-invasion, they had come back in some force, using new tactics, for what was actually the sixth major naval battle for the islands. They lost nine ships and uncounted thousands of soldiers, as against comparatively light American losses. They had not reached a state of naval impotence, but they were well on the way.

Since Aug. 8-9, when the enemy caught four Allied cruisers in a titling sea-fight and blasted them to bits, the tide has swiftly turned. After Savo Island came the battles of the Eastern Solomons, of Cape Esperance, of Santa Cruz, and Guadalcanal. In every battle, after the first, the Japs suffered terrible losses. So grave were their losses that they began speaking truth to Japs back home. The Rising Sun's naval power was on the decline.

Monday night, when the enemy went back to Guadalcanal, the armada was smaller, bolstered by what Tokyo described as a torpedo attack force. For their troubles they lost six warships, either cruisers or over-size destroyers, two transports and a cargo ship. And that sent their total losses for the campaign almost out of sight. The unofficial recapitulation, with some engagements still incompletely reported:

Americans	Japanese
30 Total sunk	31
1-plus Total damaged	44
(sunk & damaged)	
8 Cruisers	21
8 Battleships	7
1 Carriers	4
9 Destroyers	23
1 Transports	15
2 Others	5

*announced as "others."

That, even if Japan's bases are long days nearer, and if Admiral Halsey's handicaps of distance are as great as those of any navy commander who ever fought, shows Japan the road to defeat. Such a toll, added to the destruction at Macassar, the Coral Sea and Midway, would cripple any fleet. Nippon is still a power to be reckoned with, but on the sea she manages to emerge from every engagement more battered, bled a little whiter. She is learning about attrition from the U. S. Navy.

A New Low

Watauga's Election Fraud Owes a Lot to Absentee Ballot

Last week in Watauga County, the State Board of Elections found a veritable rat's nest of election fraud. Never in its experience as a public instrument, we dare say, had the Board been confronted with such violation of the election laws, or such behavior on the part of election officials. In a hot race, Watauga went the limit.

Every conceivable device for fraud was used in the scramble to elect close running candidates in office. The score-board, compiled from the board's first findings, was remarkable:

Only 4,501 souls dwelt in the precinct in question, by the last U. S. Census. Yet the registration book contained 3,911 names—an impossible number of voters. The total vote ran to 2,004. Then the devious dealers in chicanery really went to work. There were 312 rejected ballots, 90 names added to the lists which were not registered, 117 absentee ballots unregistered, and 400 unregistered individuals. The Government now allows state taxes on Federal returns. But this, from North Carolina's standpoint, is a debatable proposition, whereas the community-property provision is open and shut.

Beyond that, the Legislature might feel inclined to allow Federal income taxes as a deduction on state returns, as the Federal Government now allows state taxes on Federal returns. But this, from North Carolina's standpoint, is a debatable proposition, whereas the community-property provision is open and shut.

In the prairie country, another teacher of European history has resigned and will join the Armed Forces. The pace was too swift.

exclusively in hard-fought campaigns (and in Democratic primaries as well as regular elections). The message we hear from Watauga is that the absentee ballot be called on and for all, or brought under such rigid control that it can no longer blacken elections in North Carolina.

Home-Grown

Shrine Football Game Has Become a Major Charity

Saturday in Legion Memorial Stadium a worthy charity celebrates its sixth anniversary in the annual Carolina All-Star Shrine football game. Its proceeds, as ever, will go directly to the Crippled Children's Hospital in Greenville, S. C., to provide treatment and care for the youngsters supported by the Shrine's fondest project.

From its beginning the high school honor game has enjoyed great success. Though it has never packed the local stadium as an attraction, it has turned over a considerable sum of money to its young beneficiaries. Every year, while a few thousands watch the game, other thousands over the two states who have bought tickets for the cause alone remain at home. All these have made the Shrine game an institution.

During its years, in addition, it has seen scholastic football in North and South Carolina come of age. Because star members of widely scattered teams have made annual appearances here in their senior year, it has become a distinction for a schoolboy player to wear a Shrine uniform. Many of its graduates have stepped into the faster competition of college football.

Patterned after the Shrine's big national charity, the East-West collegiate all-star game, the little classic of the Carolinas has grown into prominence as a sporting event. And it has also played a sizable part in providing badly needed maintenance for one of the greatest of all charities. As such it deserves the full support of the community.

Tax Relief

Next Legislature Can Save Tar Heels a Pretty Penny

One item of business which the next North Carolina Legislature ought to take up and dispose of promptly is the enactment of a "community-property" law. About the domestic effect and purport of a community-property law we are, as Mussolini was in his speech this week, a little vague, but its usefulness in these times of out-of-sight Federal income taxes is plain.

The Legislature could well entitle any bill to install the community-property provision, "A bill to obtain for North Carolinians all the income tax dodges which Congress, in its obtuseness, has allowed to the inhabitants of several other states." Upon passage of the bill, any North Carolina husband-taxpayer could ascribe a certain arbitrary portion of his income to the little woman and so between the two of them manage to cut down surtaxes considerably.

In time of course, should other states follow North Carolina's suit, Congress probably would wake up to the conviction that the various states ought not to be allowed to establish deductions from Federal taxation, but abrogation of the privilege would have the effect of increasing Federal revenue from those states which now avail themselves of the community-property law and by as much reduce the tax burden on the others.

Beyond that, the Legislature might feel inclined to allow Federal income taxes as a deduction on state returns, as the Federal Government now allows state taxes on Federal returns. But this, from North Carolina's standpoint, is a debatable proposition, whereas the community-property provision is open and shut.

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A Canadian fisherman finds a watch in a haddock, but we don't pretend to understand it. We never really understood how the pearl got in the oyster.

For There He Women, Fair As She, Whose Verbs And Nouns Do More Agree.—BRET HARTE

A Blitz Surrender

What Would We Do With A Victory?

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

IN HIS last speech Mr. Churchill warned against entertaining the idea that this will not be a long and bloody struggle. This is also the consistent line taken by our own authorities. However, a survey of the situation as it must appear through the eyes of Hitler and Mussolini indicates an end of the war in the West by the autumn of 1943. And if it so appears to them, the war might easily end before then, for it is the habit of generals and politicians to anticipate events. Fighting for an already lost cause simply means an increase of ultimate disaster.

The public attitude regarding the length of the war appears to be: let everyone do his duty and fate will determine the outcome in due time. This is a good attitude. Such warnings are a wise hedge against insupportable elements which may always occur in the course of so titanic a conflict.

But in reality the duration of the war is not chiefly a matter of destiny, but depends upon planning. We can plan a military program, a production program, and a shipping program aiming at victory in 1943, or we can plan for victory in 44 or 45. If we are planning for the latter victory we can make it difficult or impossible to win the earlier one. So, for our political and military leadership, the length of the war is a matter of decision—taking account, always, of hazards. It is, for instance, a matter of decision whether we plan to strike the decisive blow before we have an army of seven million or more trained men. The larger the army, the greater the amount of equipment that we must withhold from the theaters of war and retain here for training purposes.

The Bright Continent

—By Herblock



Tower Of Babel

No Government, No Economy

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

GOVERNMENT, Government, Government! Manpower, manpower, manpower! Remember when the manpower shortage of the Montana copper mines was in the news a few weeks back, day after day? Well, the Government decided to take hold and cure it immediately, because copper is more valuable to the war effort than gold or silver.

The War Production Board issued a big order and it was printed in the newspapers. It directed the Selective Service Board to withdraw copper miners from the Army and put them back at work. Mr. McNutt's Manpower Commission selected the miners, and the Army hauled them back to Montana.

When they arrived, there were found to be 50 large Negroes who had never seen a copper mine before, at least not the type around Butte where they were to work. Shaft mining is pursued there, the shafts running down to 3,000 feet under the earth, where the great machines work more difficult than any other type of mining. Some say the Negroes were coal miners, but apparently most of them had worked in some type of surface or strip metal mining.

The Manpower Commission had merely run through their draft cards which classified them only as "metal miners" and assumed they could do the copper job. The commission might as well have sent bluejays. The local Butte Miners, Mill and Smelters Union, whose men think something of their own lives, refused to work with the unskilled ex-troopers, whereupon, some of the liberals in New York began shouting in their protest.

"Racial discrimination." The 50 Negro soldiers sat down to see what next. Meanwhile, the copper mine manpower problem remains.

Government, eh? The Agricultural Commission of Virginia told a Congressional committee that in this current meat shortage, which is pinching the people both in the pocketbook and appetite, the Federal Government has limited abattoir production. The Richmond abattoir, for instance, is limited to 70 per cent. Deliveries to wholesalers are restricted that much.

But that abattoir, just as most others around the country, is owned by a few fat rascals, and they can slaughter their own first. When the

Visitin' Round

A Touchy Crowd (Delightful Items, North Wilkesboro Newsweek) Mrs. G. W. Cothren fell out of her barn loft Monday of last week and sustained broken ribs and other injuries. She has been recovering nicely and can walk about.

There is a widely held belief on the part of our allies that an American army of from two to three million operating in Europe can deliver the decisive blow, and there are speculations as to why we want such prodigious reserves over here. It is perhaps true that we are well numbered by the Axis, but numbers are no longer the chief determining factor. The success of the British Eighth Army proved that. Strategic position and equipment, above all airpower, are what count now.

Besides this, the quality of the troops is a primary factor. Russian, British, and American troops cannot be compared with Rumanians and Italians. Hitler has lost the cream of his shock troops and the average age of the German soldier, who three years ago was the astonishment of the world, is now much higher than even a year ago. Frowning that we wish an early victory, we must not only make military preparations but political ones as well. It is obvious that we no longer consider the Axis as a solid alliance. It is clear that since the fall of France there has been fundamental disagreement about strategy between the Italians and Hitler. The Axis military strategy between the Hitler as the dominant factor, has left Italy terribly exposed in Africa. Mr. Churchill made the most of this fact in his speech. Italian Fascism has already lost its war aims.

When Mussolini entered the war he had very good reason to fear a Hitler-dominated Europe, but he hoped to balance it off by a great Empire in Africa. His speculations are in shambles, and now a German victory is anything but desirable to Italy, for in such a case, Italy would be reduced to a fifth rate power, and at worst a vassal state.

Thus the continued Italian resistance is only a matter of the Axis regime, which obviously could not survive the defeat of Mr. Churchill's reiterated "One Man And One Man alone, and his regime" is the effective propaganda in Italy. If one can put oneself in the mind of the Italian General staff, one can see that the wisest thing they could do would be to withdraw the Italian armies to Italy, protect the integrity of Italy herself, and surrender to the Allies. Not only would this action, but common sense will not favor the weakening of Italy, as a nation, in Europe.

But what about Germany? If political warfare can hasten the end of the war by hastening Italian surrender, can it not also hasten German surrender?

Our fundamental weakness there is that we have not, apparently, decided what to do with Germany in the event of our victory. So Goebbels and Hitler are able to stiffen the resistance of Germany by apocalyptic pictures of the ruin and dismemberment awaiting her. Stalin alone has stated that he does not intend to destroy the German nation, as a nation. He has also promised to destroy the Hitlerite army but not leave Germany completely disarmed, a situation which, he said, would be "unavoidable."

Now, the consequence for the Germans must logically be, either to continue the war to its apocalyptic catastrophe, or to turn for hope toward Russia—unless our own attitude toward the future of Germany becomes clarified.

If we really foresee the possibility of victory next year, it is high time to make up our minds on the German question, and not postpone political thinking on the ground that we are in for a very long war. Perhaps we are not. And a blitz surrender might find us in the most unprepared as the blitz war found us in the first place.

Like Crab Grass

Red Tape Grows

By Raymond Clapper

DETROIT

IN WASHINGTON one is always impressed with the size of the Government. But when you get out of Washington, you are always impressed with the size and strength of the country.

And if you can keep hitched up in a team the industrial power of this country, our agricultural productivity, and the Government itself, then you have what it takes.

But keeping the team properly hitched is the trouble. One horse pulls a little one way and the other horse a little the other, and it is one of the greatest skills of civilization to be able to get the team to pull together.

Here in Detroit I am always impressed, every time I come back, with the enormous pulling power of industry. The engineering skill, the experience in organizing the flow of materials so that they show up on the line at the right time and in the right quantities, the planning and designing that go into the work long before it comes out at the end of the plant—all these are modern marvels.

The very size of industry makes the task all the harder. For when you are making airplanes on the hand-tailored basis you can change each plane that comes out. But when you are trying to run them through a line in mass, and want to change some detail because of what has been learned in combat, then you have a long and tedious job to do. Delays cannot be escaped. Yet an English production man told me recently that the tendency was, both in England and here, for a plant, once running and undelayed by changes, to exceed its rated capacity.

When one sees this industrial machine working, it is natural to think that if it was left alone, if there was no government fussing around, it would be better.

Yet a second thought will suggest, I believe, that huge industry of this kind must have a government to operate under, an efficient government to be sure, but a government. For instance, if the Government was not controlling the flow of materials, war industry would break down all over the place. If the Government had not insisted last Winter that the automobile industry get out of automobile, tear up its assembly lines and go into war production all at once, we would not have the equipment which is now necessary to finish the war.

Furthermore, if the Government did not control and distribute the limited supplies of chrome and copper and aluminum, some war plants would have to shut down because only a few would be able to get the supplies in the scramble. Filling out forms may be a nuisance. Having to go to Government officials may take a good deal of time. But Government officials—like some of the bus drivers and people at the counters in the stores—are stupid, and don't know their business, and you and I could do it a lot better ourselves. We have that every day in our contacts with Government and private business. We have bureaucracy in private business as well as in public business. Both tend to go to seed fast and to become absorbed in doodling rather than in getting out the goods.

You hear complaint about WPB. Yet the men who run WPB were only a few months ago business men who were denouncing Washington bureaucracy. Now they are Washington bureaucracy—and WPB is about as bad as any of the New Deal agencies when it comes to bureaucracy.

One business man went down to Washington to work for WPB, and while waiting to get his clerical staff organized brought in his own private secretary at his own expense. That is, he tried to. But they wouldn't even allow the secretary inside his building—until somebody thought of the trick of having the secretary go to his house suddenly as a visitor. Once the object was to get the office of the boss, he took off his coat and worked all day.

You can pile up such instances indefinitely. But it proves nothing except that red tape grows like crab grass on my lawn, and you have to fight it either in private business or in Government. It doesn't prove that you might get rid of the function that WPB is trying to perform, because you can't prove that you can get rid of control of raw materials without wrecking war industry such as has been built up here.

Side Glances



"One of the first things I learned as a kid was never to go in back of a horse without first speaking to him, but I suppose that's too much for a machine-age boy to master!"