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MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1942

The WP & A It's a Case of Au Revoir And Not Good-By. In one way the Works Progress Administration, which the President has vowed, in the second year of a manpower shortage, moved to abolish, was built typically American lines. It demanded in exchange for its dole: a work hard, this country was ended and grew great, and in the process work came to rank as a virtue itself. WPA, in that it refused to...

The Year After Pearl Harbor

We're Lucky That The Enemy Blundered

By Fletcher Pratt Overseas News Agency Military Expert

THIS is the 52nd week of our war, and a good place to take a look at where we stand. Viewing the progress on a large scale it can be said we have, on the whole, made good our defense. Nothing more; the offense has hardly begun. It is not that we have had a good year, but that we had fewer allies, more enemies, and comparatively few resources.

It would seem now, looking back from the height of a year, that the Japanese made their second monumental mistake in assuming, after the sinking of two heavy cruisers and the aircraft carrier Hermes in the Bay of Bengal, that they had all the time in the world to make the attack on India, or perhaps that the veiled Indian political situation would enable them to wait in there without the trouble of having to make any attack.

It is quite probable that if Hitler had elected to throw the full strength of the Luftwaffe into the Mediterranean and if even one-inch of the armada he used in Russia and lost there had been put behind Rommel, the Swastika would now be flying in Alexandria and the German banners would be on the Red Sea. But he chose rather the appealing prospect of getting the Russians out of the war, and as a result he is gaining both of the vital objectives of his campaign. Now it will take a great deal longer than anything he has yet achieved to win Suez.

20,000 men. With his manpower all but destroyed and his heavy armor gone, the German desert fox should have been an easy mark. In his new hole, he has doubtless reinforced himself greatly. Even in the face of a superior enemy, he may yet give a good account of himself. Somehow, the Germans are believed to have reformed four divisions, and to be waiting with 80,000 men and over 200 new tanks. Though the Eastern side of the Allied African front, has control of the air and is ready for battle in greater numbers, that phase of our war may become as costly as has the surprising battle for control in Tunisia.

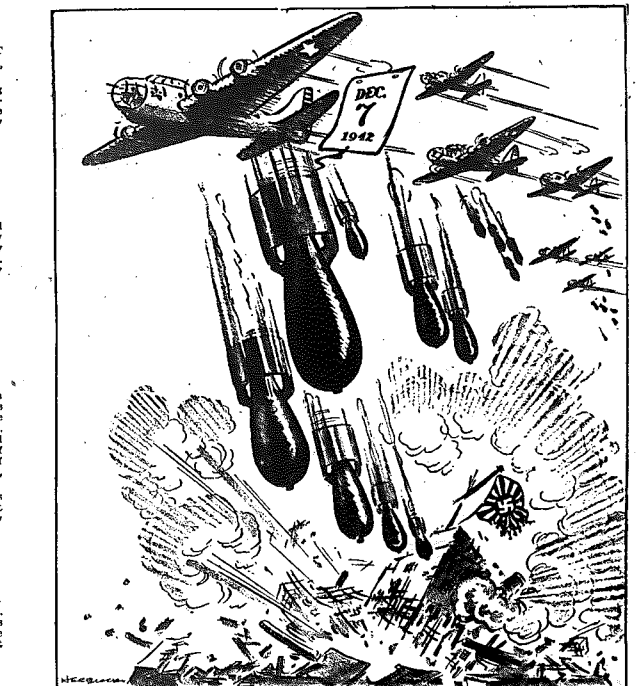
Breathing Easier We Are Rolling

By Raymond Clapper

TWO days in this important war production center convince me that, around here at least, war production is a success. You see some of the evidence with your own eyes—the tanks being finished off at the Detroit tank arsenal operated by Chrysler, the Rolls-Royce engines going into Packard's bombers for Flying Fortresses at Fisher's plant, and the heavy bombers being made at Willow Run.

Many Happy Returns of the Day

By Herblock



At Long Last

Control Over Men and Food Came Late, But In Time

The nation reached a crossroad on its way to total war over the week-end, made a left turn in the face of heavy traffic, straightened its course and went into high gear. Men and food, without which nothing could be done, went under emergency control. The last and most precious of our resources, at a belated Presidential order, went into the hopper at last. War came home to us all.

Now I find the same exuberant confidence, feeling that their material was laid to delayed action, and that from here on it is largely a matter of obtaining sufficient manpower, sufficient materials and necessary machines. They are more mellow about labor, and speak of labor problems as growing pains. They say frankly that labor conditions in Detroit have improved gradually during the last year. They see no advantage in stirring up labor questions, and for that reason would rather see the 40-hour-week law stand.

Footnote To Disaster

Murder Will Out

A few days after Pearl Harbor The News received a column in Detroit Pearson and Robert Allen... written or published on Dec. 13, 1941. We read it with amazement and condemnation, for it was a statement of stupendous losses under the cowardly Japanese attack on Dec. 7. After reading it, we filed it away in our memory book. We decided against publication because of the military information it contained.

Pearl Harbor was one of the most important in its history, but could not see the light of the day. It went into the details of attack, told how the planes came gliding in over the mountains, and how the news was received in Washington.

The appointment of handsome Paul McNutt and homey Claude Wickard as guardians of national wealth may prove to be something less than perfect, but any breakdown of the new programs might be laid to delayed action. If the tangled manpower problem proves too much for McNutt, and if Wickard should discover that he is saying grace over a half-empty table, it must be remembered that their charges were runaway when they took over.

Chrysler is facing a union-shops controversy, but when that was mentioned the others settled back, because they have gone through it and have readjusted. They feel toward Chrysler the way a fellow leaving his dentist feels toward the patient waiting to go to work.

A short while later, we received this wire from "Pearl" which special Pearl Harbor story we sent you for release Dec. 12."

"No one was more heavily crushed than the President himself. The Navy was his great personal pride. Many people have referred to him as his own Secretary of the Navy. When he received Secretary Knox and Simpson on Sunday noon, all he could do was ask the repeated question: 'Why? Why did it happen? Why? Gentlemen, explain how and why this could have happened?'"

Henceforth, theoretically at least Uncle Sam will have figures on fighters and workers at his fingertips, and Selective Service will become an efficient force. The services will not just grow, but will be built according to exact need. And industry, having come upon harder times, will make the same gains.

The principal task at Willow Run now is to obtain and train help. Thousands of men and women who never have worked around machines must be trained, and machines appear to be on hand in adequate supply. Sections are built up along the assembly lines, but although there is much mechanization, a vast amount of hand work is inescapable when 700,000 rivets must be put into each B-24.

That wasn't necessary, because we'd already shopped the story ourselves, but through the passing months the dead story remained unexplained. And it was only yesterday that the true extent of American losses were made public—a year to the day after the disaster. The story, though old and cold, brought a shudder to Americans. Eight battleships knocked out of commission, the harbor wrecked, planes destroyed by the score, the Hawaiian Islands left open to conquest, almost defenseless.

"The answer to that tragic question probably goes back many months and covers a multitude of subjects. It has its root in the fact that the Navy for a long time had been just as much of a closed shop as Annapolis itself. Not only John L. Lewis ever sought to impose on the captive coast industry, a certain rigidity of mind refused to recognize new methods of warfare, a conviction that admiral... the Kings, can do no wrong."

And the larger, which has come to be long to half the world, goes under the same regime. Rationing for all is not far off, and the ever-increasing burden of carrying food for whole peoples as our armies advance will take greater problems before the Wickard office. The next battle is likely to develop as Lichman, caterer to the world, meets Wickard, steward of the nation. But the President, though avoiding over-all control by one man, has set the course at last.

Problems encountered in setting up new industries, shortages, and manpower difficulties exist for many plants, yet the production being achieved in the Detroit area is thoroughly reassuring. A look at it rather completely knocks the worry out of you.

We do not argue the point that the losses might have reasonably been given to the public months ago. However, coming as it did several days later, but we would point out that a reasonable facsimile of the true damage was given by Pearson and Allen before a week had expired, and that it read like a horrible nightmare at that time.

But it may be of importance as a background to the tragic story of Pearl Harbor that Pearson and Allen at least knew the truth, though it could not be told. For twelve months, the chips fell where they would.

Stalled

British Eighth Army Recruits Before Second Try at Rommel

For several weeks, since the triumphant rush westward from El Alamein, the British Eighth Army has not been heard from. Before El Agheila, with the Bitter Desert behind him, General Bernard Montgomery is resting; either he is busy strengthening his 600-mile supply lines to escape the fate of all previous North African drives, or he is licking his wounds before engaging Marshal Rommel. When American forces bored into Africa they brought hope; that the two aggress might be quickly joined and the tide hurled from the continent without major struggle. Time and distance, however, slowed the twin drives. Still far apart, the Allied forces face two big pockets of resistance in which must be the Army and the Americans now seriously engaged near Bizerte and Tunisia.

Side Glances



"An executive of OPM remarked to us today: 'The trouble with most of our workers is that they think the American Fleet is out chasing the Japanese and is about to score a tremendous victory in the Pacific. If they really knew the truth, and that 80 per cent of our ships remained unscathed out, I know that American labor would respond magnificently.'"

Today's Bible Verse

If you permit evil to dwell in your heart it will poison and drive out the good. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? or can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.—James 2:11-12.

Those who have neglected to put away something for taxes next year should be warned that 1943 calendars are now in production. There will be a next year.