

Knock Out Nazis First

By Raymond Clapper

CALCO, MONT. BOTH here and in India the people are being aroused by the visit of General George C. Marshall, the American Chief of Staff, in London. The reason is that every military man in India and elsewhere knows that the war can be won only by attacking Germany and Japan at the source, not through back-door campaigns.

All the activity in India and China is viewed by almost everyone as a holding operation at most, not as a potentially decisive campaign. I have repeatedly suggested that the essential business of transporting supplies. These are growing more acute daily. Even while I was in China the threat to the fragile lifeline into that outpost of resistance increased, requiring some readjustments which make the line more tortuous even than before.

GERMANY FIRST, THEN JAPAN It is vital that this line be held. But beyond that, every eye is looking to the west, toward France, and an attack on Japan from the Pacific is the best hope of victory. The prevailing view is that Russia should be assisted in knocking out Germany, after which all the strength of the United Nations could be thrown against Japan, which is now under direct blows as rapidly as she has advanced during the last few months.

I have been out to the end of the line at Chungking and seen the difficulties at first hand. When such questions arise as whether to take a crate of propellers or a bale of banknotes into China, the impossibility of moving in large quantities of heavy supplies becomes obvious. There is hanging over every pound of airplane carrying capacity, even over the Burma Road a third to a half on the tonnage is used to carry fuel so that the remainder of the cargo can be moved.

NEW ROAD TO CHINA WILL TAKE TIME There is much talk of opening a new road, but this will take some time and the road will be much more roundabout. The best bet in China is to get fighter planes in to help the Chinese troops hold the Japanese in Burma. You must consider that it takes a ton of material a month to sustain a soldier. The haul from America to ports in the Middle East or India is 12,000 miles. Against 3,000 across the North Atlantic. One ship crossing the North Atlantic therefore carries three to four times as much cargo in a year's time as if it were running to the Indian Ocean. The shortage of shipping makes that economy factor of the greatest importance.

Usually military men regard their own area as the most important and insist on everything for it. Therefore it is a great relief that the present unanimous judgment out here and further east is that the main effort must eventually be against Germany and against the Japanese mainland from the Pacific side.

I have seen enough of the difficulties to get some insight into what it is to hold the supply line into Russia. Beyond that, it seems to be a matter of keeping up the trickle of supplies into India and China, holding back Japan and preventing her and Germany from joining hands through the Middle East.

RUSSIA HAS GIVEN US PRECIOUS TIME The job is one both of military action and of propaganda—to win the confidence and support of the native populations. Everyone prays that Russia will continue pounding Germany, for in spite of feverish activity and big talk the basic fact is recognized by all—that we are waiting around time. Thanks to the Russian resistance. That is the plain fact which stands out above everything I have heard and seen of the war east of Suez.

Visitin' Around

Down Payment (Faint Rock Items, Marlin News-Record) Mrs. John Lamb and daughter, Hazel, spent a few hours in Marshall this week. No good thing will it be (The Lord) withhold from them that walk uprightly. Ps. 84:11.

What, No Firecrackers? (Silver Hill Item, Lexington Dispatch) Easter has come and gone and everything was very quiet through this season.

The Leopard Changes His Face

By Terblock



The Tragedy Of Petain

By Dorothy Thompson

SOME gallantry in us all shrinks from hitting a man when he is down. Marshal Petain, hero of Verdun, has profited from that gallantry. Friends of France—and who is not a friend of France—have wanted to believe the best, intelligence portrays for us clearly the hopeless circumstances of a man who leads a truncated and disarmed nation two-thirds occupied by an intractable enemy, holding its men as hostages.



the enemy. This dirty-faced little man, who seems himself some relic of previous Central-Asian invaders, looks the part he plays. The man who has belonged to every party, who supported the Communists and the Rightists; shrewd as the earthbound are shrewd; a parvenu and climber of ruthless personal ambition; a scelerate from birth who measures his virtue by the price; a double-crosser—who made the Franco-Russian pact in Moscow and returned to Paris to sabotage its ratification; the one who guessed the way the weight falls and makes his principles accordingly—that is Laval, and Petain would not deny it.

ETAIN COULD HAVE FALLEN WITH THE BANNER This could have been the function of Petain. Not to fight a delaying action by diplomacy—a second and more ignominious death. For it is more ignominious to capitulate to Laval than to Hitler; but, to hold a banner aloft which he fell with it. Then the fall also would have been, in its way, a victory of the spirit, if not of the flesh.

Socrates was an authentic hero—hemlock or no hemlock. Galileo, refusing to revoke the truth of his mind that the earth moved round the sun, was a hero though he died for it. Jeanne d'Arc refusing to deny her voices, burned, but raised armies for her tomb, and is raising one today.

TO LIVE, IT IS NECESSARY TO DIE Try to rewrite these histories. Socrates collaborates with the Greek authorities; Galileo declares to the Inquisition that there is much to be said on both sides and he is willing to negotiate on the subject; Jeanne d'Arc proposes to raise another army for the help of the invaders in order to let bygones be bygones.

The essence of great tragedy is nobility. The tragic struggle inevitably arises out of weakness within oneself, which set in motion the inexorable law of retribution. The climax of tragedy is when the self is redeemed—not saved. In the death is the victory and the awe.

Petaim chose to be saved instead of redeemed. Therefore, he is not a tragic figure at all. He is just another hero. He ceased even to be a great soldier. For the essence of the martial spirit is that it can be overwhelmed but not broken.

Who would know their names today? Or who call them traitors? Petain arrested Laval and kicked him out of his Cabinet as a traitor. He was never released by the Petain Government. The Nazis sent over guards to free him by force majeure. Laval went immediately to Paris and entered the camp of the enemy.

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Side Glances

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Syria Is The Prize

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON THE Germans have opened their drive on the Near East in Vichy. The point in lifting their puppet Charolais, Laval, into the driver's seat at this time is disconcerting in the policies he set forth at once. Laval wants restoration of French colonies to some extent in the Near East.

It was clear he was not talking about India-China, which is in the hands of the Japanese, or Equatorial Africa, which is held by the Free-French. Plainly he wanted Syria, where the British are standing guard against Hitler hopes for conquest of the Near East oil fields.

HITLER WANTS LAVAL TO FIGHT FOR HIM If Laval can get Syria for Hitler, the Nazis will have won a bigger military objective than any achieved on the battle front in Russia.

It is a plot of typical Nazi design, involving treacherous use of the French Fleet. Although the honor of France has been pledged that these ships would not be turned upon the British or upon us, the honor of France is to some extent at stake.

France no doubt has more naval strength in the Mediterranean than the British. If Laval can get Syria for Hitler, the Nazis will have won a bigger military objective than any achieved on the battle front in Russia.

Thus Nazi Germany, blocked so far from reaching oil by the Russian Army, and stopped by the persistent neutrality of Turkey, has schemed a flank attack through Vichy to reach the same objective.

DARLAIN ALONE COULD EMERGENCY SCHEME Admiral Darlan, the new commander-in-chief of land, sea and air, is the only one who might stand against this Nazi chicanery. He is extremely angry with the British, but seems to like the United States well enough. He has no reason to be thankful to the Nazis for shoving Laval in over him.

And what he privately thinks of the British is only equalled by his opinion of the British. Petain shares these views, but Laval is too old now to lead the anti-British Laval. He practically bowed himself out by accepting the new arrangement.

He too has no reason to love the Germans. He once said he had but one ambition which was to be released from his prison. But in all negotiations he has been guided by a desire to see the release of the French prisoners. But in all negotiations he has been guided by a desire to see the release of the French prisoners.

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**THE CHARLOTTE NEWS**  
And Evening Chronicle  
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by  
The News Publishing Company, Inc.  
W. C. Dowd Jr., President  
J. E. Dowd, Vice-President  
and General Manager  
W. C. Dowd, 1955-1957  
The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1858. The Evening Edition (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.  
The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.  
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 67 cents; By mail: One month, 87 cents; three months, \$2.60; six months, \$5.20; one year, \$10.40.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1942

Obvious Plot

Laval Asks French To Fight Britain, Not America

One rather significant attitude was illustrated through Pierre Laval's speech yesterday. While his words bristled with hatred for Britain, he scarcely mentioned the United States. He accused the British of leading France into the war, then abandoning her to the enemy, and finally taking shipping, food, oil, and other supplies to the French people that were being told to fight against their former comrades in arms. To be exhorted to fight America, whose great power is better understood perhaps by the rational French than by any other European people, would be too much. Too many Frenchmen believe that America saved France in 1917. The two countries are traditional friends.

So Laval purposes, for the time being at least, to make war against our allies while following the policy of neutrality toward us. No doubt he wants us to continue shipping food, oil, and other supplies to North Africa. No doubt, also, he hopes to cause misunderstanding and embarrassment between this country and Britain.

His plot is so obvious and so malignant that if this country, through a State Department, still has a lot to learn, let him get away with it, he shall deserve the consequences.

Treason

Limited to Time of War, It Merits War-Time Punishment

It is a little known fact that treason according to the Constitution, only of "levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." The clear inference is that the charge of treason may be pressed only in time of war. At any rate, that is the interpretation under which the country has operated these many years.

And a nation which so restrains itself in peace time, suffering all manner of attacks to be made upon it, is all the more justified in meting out extreme punishment in war time to traitors who give aid and comfort to its enemies.

Candidates for such punishment have begun to appear. There is, for one, the German-born Max Stephan, proprietor of a Detroit restaurant and a naturalized American. For assisting in the flight of a German fugitive from a Canadian camp, Stephan has been arrested by the FBI and charged with concealing and harboring an alien. A better definition of his crime would seem to be treason.

A very other candidate may have been nominated—the evidence is obscure but strong among both the management and the workers of the Brewster Aeronautical Corporation, which the Navy has taken over. Enemy aliens are said to have been dominant in the affairs of the company to such an extent that its production was only 40 per cent of capacity. And if deliberately slowing down the production of warplanes isn't treason, pray tell us what is.

Choice

Willkie Offers GOP What May Be Its Last Chance

In essence, Wendell Willkie's challenge offered to the Republican Party a choice between life and death. There was no middle ground. The GOP may cleanse itself of isolationism and obstructionism and follow Willkie back to reality. Or its leaders may remain in the flats of partisanship, hindering, sniping, and mourning for the dear dead days of Calvin Coolidge and normalcy of the Harding variety.

Why bother about the future of the Republican Party? That's a proper question, and there's a proper answer to it. The minority party, by virtue of its seats in Congress, can either contribute to the war effort or impede that effort measurably. With elections coming up this Fall, the GOP must decide whether it is more interested in winning votes or in winning the war. It is a momentous decision alone, and in a public election that last Sunday found Willkie pleading for an end of isolationism (after almost four months of war).

and former GOP Chairman John Hamilton urging Republicans to do more to convince the public that they really want our side to win the war.

Moreover, we should be reluctant to see the Republican Party obliterated for the simple reason that it would leave the country, for a time at least, without a two-party Government. Even in war voters should have a choice—though it be a lop-sided one. But did the Republican Party will, if it refuses to keep abreast of the times. After nine years, you'd think that more of the party bosses would have learned which way they would have to travel in order to return to power. Victory, as Wendell Willkie was quick to realize, lay in accepting the time-tested reforms of the New Deal—including its revolutionary foreign policy—and offering the voters something more progressive than a return to the past.

Yet there seems to be a die-hard faction in the party that is incapable of looking forward. It was this group that attempted to purge Wendell Willkie from the party after the last Presidential election because he had repudiated isolationism.

Apparently Willkie won the first round of his victory last night by converting the GOP National Committee from isolationism to internationalism. What remains to be done is conversion of the party's rank and file.

Homicide City

In Charlotte, Killing a Negro Is No Major Crime

Last year, when the number of homicides in Charlotte dropped from the 1940 high of 46 to a mere 25, the Police Department did not refuse to take credit for the improvement. By the same token, we suppose, Chief Joyner and his men can hardly escape some part of the responsibility for the sudden upsurge of killings this year.

With 1942 now four months old, eleven slayings have been charged against Charlotte—four of them within the last fortnight. After having been out-shot, out-cut, and out-budged by Atlanta in the murder sweepstakes last year (on the basis of killings per 1,000 inhabitants), the Queen City seems to be on the way to another championship. At the present rate she might not equal her 1940 record, but she should hit around 35 or so.

It is a matter of fact that the Police Department "solved" every one of last year's homicides and every one of the eleven killings so far this year—that is, the police arrested the culprit. This record sets the ground out from under any argument that potential killers do not fear arrest. Apprehension seems almost certain.

It is what comes after arrest that must fall to have any deterring effect on potential murderers. The vast majority of them are Negroes. It is almost axiomatic in this city, as in many other Southern cities, that as long as a Negro confines his killings to members of his own race, the court that tries him need not send him to the gas chamber or even to prison for more than a few months. It is not at all uncommon for Negroes convicted of killing other Negroes to receive a sentence of a year or two in jail. (One of the Negroes who got himself arrested not long ago during one of his "days off" from the County Jail was serving a year for murder.)

And if courts and juries are lenient in sentencing Negro killers, the obvious truth is that, in the eyes of the local public, the killing of a Negro is a crime not to be compared with the killing of a white person. As long as this condition obtains, courts and juries may be expected to continue their policy of indifference toward Negroes who kill Negroes.

And as long as the latter crime ranks as only slightly more serious than a minor offense, it should be plentiful.

A police character in Virginia is taken for the sixtieth time to the same station. After asking for his mail, he was assigned a cell.

Plainly, the OGD must be let in on a few of the facts of life. It proposes to "co-ordinate" wrestlers who have teamed in the same sketch for years.

Come To Think Of It, Madam, You're Right

The New Yorker

An earnest matron who volunteered to correct examination papers for one of the ladies' civilian-defense outfit gave every single student a flat zero on the answer to the question "What is a tourmaline?" It turned out, upon investigation, that her own answer was "A tourmaline is a gemstone." A tourmaline is a gemstone. She had derived this notion from the official Red Cross instruction manual but had crossed to read the entire sentence, which was "A tourmaline is a gemstone which is a tourmaline is a dangerous weapon when used improperly or in the hands of an unskilled person."

Watch Your Step, Please

Duke Power Magazine

We've heard of irrepressible conflicts but the media goes to the one who annoys the most passengers in the hospital elevator. When the maternity floor is reached, the mother is to be greeted by a nurse who is a danger to the safety of the unborn child.

Dad's a good service, and he ought to know. But why he was only kidding when he wrote about General MacArthur being crazy about carrots and cauliflower!

Utter faith and devotion need to yield stick. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith with the deeds of the law—Romans 3:28.