

The Desert Fox

By Paul Mallon

IN LIBYA this time, it was not "too little and too late." It was just "too bad."

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The Nazi Napoleon

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Tommies Haven't Changed

Here again, as at Singapore, it was evident also that some Britishers still indulge themselves in the luxury and in the practice of time out for Scotch and sodas, siestas or cricket.

The troops fought hard and thought they had Rommel trapped when they cut him back from Bir Achem. Having done this they trooped his thin supply lines running back in the lanes through the mine fields.

Gunmoke of Victory

If you want a good technical excuse, you may find it in the German 88 millimeter anti-tank and anti-aircraft gun. Most of the tanks in the fight were destroyed.

But Rommel used his superior gun on self-propelled and towed mounts to devastating effect. That dual purpose gun has an extremely high muzzle velocity and is highly accurate.

Despite Rommel's victory, he has lost a lot of tanks and is every reason to hope he cannot go on into Egypt to break the grasp of the United Nations...

The Target Is Europe

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

UNDER the impact of such a loss as Libya we are all likely to be thrown off balance. I find myself trying to the judgment of those American military men who believe this war will be fought in Europe, and not on any of the fringe battlefields.

We went up to unstaffed heights of optimism over the Midway victory and now we are dropping into unjustified depths of spirit over the beating in Libya. Miscalculation of public sentiment here and in England goes to the heart of an intricate and then in the other.

The loss of Libya is proving a deep shock, even more so in England than here. Churchill appears to be facing a political crisis. I think my last Winter at the end of Singapore.

As some of our military men see it, the danger is that we will spread our forces so widely that we will be weak everywhere and strong nowhere. Already we are spreading our forces in commitments to the Near East, Japanese activities in the Aleutians and along the Pacific Northwest coast have increased the pressure for more divisions of our forces.

India and the Southwest Pacific are unimportant. But adequate forces cannot be placed on all fronts and it is necessary to decide where the most useful campaign can be made, without upsetting the balance in other theaters.

Our High Command has regarded Europe as the decisive area. That was acknowledged publicly after the recent Molotov visit in the statement that the United States and Great Britain were in agreement to serve thinking in terms of an offensive in Europe at the earliest possible moment, beginning with an enlarged air campaign.

In their consideration over the quick loss of Tobruk, some in London are suggesting that second front plans should be delayed in order to strengthen forces in the Near East.

Substantial military opinion here is not likely to favor that, or any other diversion that will prevent the prompt carrying out of a heavy combined British and American offensive.

The result of this group runs about as follows: The outcome of the war depends on smashing Germany. Only when Germany is defeated can the United Nations forces be free to finish the rest of the war.

Visifin' Around

Still Talking About Farming, We Trust (Route 7 Item, Lenox News-Topic)

We are having some fine farming weather and stuff is looking fine.



Dignity For Old Greats

Only 14 Customers Afternoon In An ABC Store

By C. R. Austin

ONE Salty afternoon during a bitter sunset when the sun had set behind the hills of Bertie County, I strolled down the main street of the village and stopped at the entrance in front of a store, where chairs had been placed for the comfort of customers and loiterers.

A little later we were joined by two young men who had just come from the draft board headquarters where they had been turned down for service in Uncle Sam's armed forces. Still later we were joined by two countrymen from out Merry Hill way, and the quiet hour was held under the wide eaves.

Current issues were discussed and world problems were considered and solved. Some of the men present were disposed to congratulate the two young men on the fact that they had been rejected by the draft board, but the two did not think it a matter for congratulation.

"How did Merry Hill get its name?" I asked one of the men. (Merry Hill is a thickly-populated rural community out near the Atlantic Seaboard, off the main highway.) It has an up-to-date school building, store and five country houses.

"This, we feel, ought to square us with history, which, as things stand now, is going to wait until the country is full of men and women in this country, once past their immediate activities of ever confronted with the choice of either starving to death in a few minutes or getting into the entering a vaudeville act of one kind or another, such as the Grand Administration."

So far we haven't made up our mind what anyone won't be responsible for providing with a few dollars of government subsidy, except that we're pretty sure it wouldn't be the Puller Price Committee. We feel, however, that this detail wouldn't be hard to work out.

When Merry Hill was mentioned, the liquor question naturally came into our conversation, because the section is inseparably linked with the whiskey traffic. One of the men vouchsafed the information that he had spent fifteen years of his life making biokid liquor, that it had been arrested five times, had been sold three times, and had served two terms on the roads for his illicit activities.

Yet Moses could not see Him. God speaks to us every day if we attend our ears. And the Lord speaks unto Moses face to face.—Exodus 33:11.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS And Evening Chronicle Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc. W. C. Dowd, President and General Manager. J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor. W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927

Shallow Waters

Once the opposition demanded only shakups in his Government. Now, the wolves want Churchill himself. It is our belief that, of those Britons who cheered Chamberlain upon his return from Munich with the paper that proclaimed "peace in our time," not a man has the right to rail at Churchill today.

Should Churchill be removed in favor of a leader from the rebels of the Conservative Party, or the Tories, England would still, perhaps, face the danger of a leadership determined to jerk the war out of its wayward track by Parliamentary action.

What Britain needs, apparently, is a wartime system with which few nations have ever been blessed. A government determined to produce the materials of war, and a military aided with its own destiny.

Unvindicated Bob Reynolds' Black Sheet Comes A Total Cropper

Anybody who sniffs for a devious, subtle, explanation of Bob Reynolds' petition to dissolve the American Vindicators will, we think, be wasting his time. It is true in a measure, as Bob informed the court, that the war had made it impractical and undesirable for the Vindicators to carry out twin objectives of keeping America out of war and running aliens out of America.

The low-down, we believe, may be had by reproducing a couple of clippings from our fat Reynolds dossier. The first is from No. 1, Vol. 1 of The American Vindicator itself, date of April 1939.

Well now, friends of America, help an idea for you. If anyone wants to help and if anyone wants to contribute in the good old-fashioned American way, this way— 3,000 copies \$ 20.00 10,000 copies 100.00 25,000 copies 250.00

The founder, editor and proprietor of The Vindicator, you see, was openly soliciting contributions. Well, call 'em subscriptions if you want to, but he called 'em "contributions to America." Evidently, as the following clipping tends to show, they didn't come rolling in as he had hoped.

This is from the Washington Merry-Go-Round of a day in August, 1939: "Eminent Senator Bob Reynolds' Far-Left Vindicator seems to have blown a few. He has been making a goodly number of the factories of the Senate folding room, paying for this service at the rate of \$25 per thousand copies. The publisher, who writes on a piece basis, was glad to get the extra job.

With a new and comparatively dead roll had, either sense will be higher or the thing will have to improve in proportion. The Jap is not easily discouraged, even by statistics that show Chinamen are born faster than he can do anything about it.

Such is the chance already in living standards that an account of the rescue of a mix from a western hotel fire places her in a flannellette nightgown.

War Culture

Russia Takes Time Out For Letters, Music

One might, or might not, be able to swallow the Russian claims of ten million Nazis slain, wounded and captured in a year of warfare. Such a figure begs the question of whatever source it comes from, but, even so, there is cheerful news from the Soviet this week.

According to a New York Times report, the German hordes haven't even been able to keep the Reds busy. For, in the invasion, the Russian culture has flourished as it never did under a Five-Year Plan. Creative artists in uniform, the story goes, have been grinding out some of the finest literature in Russian history.

In war, Ilya Ehrenburg and Alexey Tolstoy have risen as giants of the Russian literature.

Under Fire

Ancient British Weakness Blamed Upon Churchill

Under Winston Churchill, after the fall of Tobruk, a Government began to totter. Far from home, he faces the most serious threat of his career in America. Knowing little of the true feelings of British people and possessed of only a skimming of the facts, we ponder his fate with mixed emotion. Since Neville Chamberlain folded his umbrella and the blitz came, Churchill has not been in England, but almost England itself. It cannot be denied that he was one of the first realists of the war. He was quick to recognize the true nature of the Germans—and later, of the Russians. In the blackest days, his leadership was supreme.