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And Evening Chronicle

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Unbelief

Air Raid Precautions Lag Because People Unafraid

In every succeeding official warning that the United States is not free from the danger of bombing the tone is perceptibly lower and weaker, and the interest and concern. The people of the country, as victory on the fronts looms closer, have given up on the idea of two years ago that Jap and Nazi bombers would drone over our cities on suicide missions and present their bombs as Axis tokens.

No, the people no longer believe there will be bombs falling upon them in this war; next war, perhaps, but not this war. And so there is a continual turning over of officials in the Civil Defense system, and almost as great a turnover among the workers themselves. Many wardens and watchers have been in and out of the service. Across the country lie rotting and there is a let-down of defenses. There is still, in the coastal areas, a kind of alertness, but it is not the alertness of the danger months.

In the inland areas, there has never been the fear of bombs, and in many cities efficient preparations have never been made. There is simply no enthusiasm for preparing for the bombers. America doesn't believe in that story, no matter how many times it is told. It is not ours to guess whether the people are right or wrong, but the facts are very clear: most American cities aren't ready for air raids, and expect never to see one.

We cannot know how tempting American targets are to Axis leaders, or what the worth of one or two token bombings would seem to be to the enemy. We do know that, if the bombers came to a great many U. S. cities, they would find a great state of civilian unpreparedness. Most of the time the country at large, they would find air raid shelters to be numbered only in the dozens. They would find that though the military was on the alert, the people generally were asleep.

The Allies wisely pay no heed to Goebbels' wistful suggestion that the real menace is the Jap. Oldest of the boxing dodges is starting over an adversary's shoulder to make him turn his head.

Fear Not

Suspensions That Italians Will Outlast Us Unfounded

Already there are Americans who cry that the United States is about to commit crimes in the settlement of the Italian peace. There are groans that the negotiations will be made, following the victorious armies, with some quickly-concocted excuses, and that our policy of the early days in North Africa will be waived again to the sensitive nostrils of a sniffing world. The thought is that the United States will betray itself and find its victory in Italy a hollow one. There is one set of possible terms. Unconditional Surrender. That sort of surrender can be interpreted in only one way, and there need be no fear that, any kind of Darlanism can arise in Italy to confuse Allied negotiators. So far as we're concerned, the victors can treat with Mussolini himself, or the weak-spined King Victor Emmanuel, and still make a satisfactory peace.

In short, we don't think it makes any difference at all what kind of spokesmen come out for ruined Italy. The talks can consist only of occupation, of food for hungry populations, and of plans for future government. In all of those instances, our policy is unalterably fixed (and that includes Britain as well). We shall conquer, sooner or later, and after that little matter, so far as the winning of the war is concerned, we would not shoulder to see it done in.

The Italian is told by a Fascist head to remember dignity and honor, if the invaders come. An absent-minded crack like "howay! the tourists are back" could spoil everything.

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person, beating our commanders on the back like a long-lost friend. When that great day of Italian defeat comes, there can be no more betrayal from Italy. Dead jackals won't bite.

Sobriety

Army Spurns Prohibition Because It Doesn't Pay

The U. S. Office of War Information has put into pamphlet form its coast-to-coast study of the liquor problem in the Army. You may remember that this survey proved: There is not excessive drinking among troops; and drinking does not constitute a serious problem; the sale of 3.2 beer in the post exchanges in training camps is a positive factor in Army sobriety; no other American Army in history has been so orderly.

One of the things often charged is that Air Corps men drink heavily. The survey showed that most of them "handle their liquor ably." The greater part of their drinking is done when they first arrive in aviation centers and is traced to homesickness, self-doubt, or nervousness about taking to the air. It costs \$25,000 to train a pilot and most of the candidates fear they will be washed out. They cannot take "chances on benders."

The survey makes no pretense that there are not problem spots in the Army set-up. It gives assurance, however, that conditions on the whole are gratifying. To a considerable extent, the conduct of the troops reflects the quality of the community in which the men find themselves stationed. There is no indication, the survey says, that the sale of 3.2 beer lowers the number of total abstainers. On the other hand, it provides soldiers with mild relaxation without impairing their efficiency. The Army does not accept the prohibition principle.

Years ago we began wondering if Adolf and Benito weren't another case of that Hollywood calls the ideal couple before it happens. We can still be right.

Postponement?

Nazis See Offensive For Summer of Next Year

There is a current theory that Germany is not expecting an Allied offensive against the European front this summer, and that the German High Command has turned to the re-fitting, retraining and regrouping of its armies, in readiness for the expected attacks of Summer, 1944. The theory adds that the Germans, using some seven divisions of their own and three supporting Italian divisions, will battle furiously against our attempt to take Sicily. There the idea is, allegedly, to make us pay such a heavy price for the island that further offensive action this Summer will be impossible. The Germans do not believe, continues the theory, that they can prevent our seizing Sicily, but they do believe that we can make it hot for us, and so unprofitable that our invasion schedule will be thrown off. That line of reasoning gives Germany more time, both in the East and the West, and may explain the Nazi advances on portions of the Russian front, where there are signs of consolidation, of straightening the lines in preparation for a long stay.

What the theory does not take into consideration is that the blows may not fall, first, on the coasts of France and the Lowlands, or even upon Italy, but may be pressed hardest from the outset upon the Balkans and Greece. It may well be that the long-trained Allied armies in the Middle East will be the first front of the smash against Europe, and that they will be thrown into action rather soon. The advantages of driving up through the Balkans, where the defenses are weaker, and like "howay! the tourists are back" could spoil everything.

If the offensive, as popularly pictured, does not take place this Summer, then offensives of other sorts may be it is still reasonable to believe, the Nazis' view notwithstanding, that the crisis is at hand.

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War Of Nerves

On The Fire: Jap And German

By J. A. Daly
News Military Editor

IMAGINE, if you can, that you are neutral (with respect to this war) and that you are in Egypt. (God knows where a neutral could have come from to get there) and you are thinking OBJECTIVELY and analytically of what may be the true states of Jap and Hun psychologies.

You wouldn't know, of course, how they feel about the war prospects affecting them. Nevertheless, you realize that the same stimuli upon human minds, irrespective of race, education and tradition, cause practically the same mental reactions, also usually the same physical reactions.

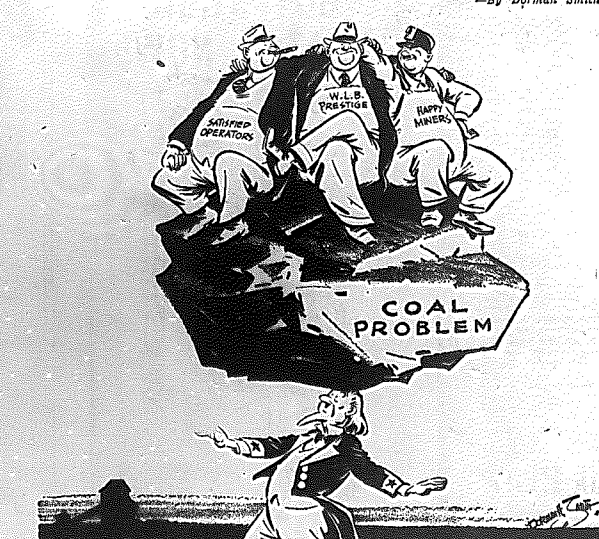
So, in view of the world military situation you may properly conclude that the Japs presently are in a more disturbing predicament, subject to more apprehension and doubt, than the Huns and other Axis members. Why? The Japs know what you know, and more, of the Axis plight. Yet, the Japs have not yet become tightly pressed by the United Nations. They know what is coming, but neither the day nor hour, though enough has transpired to impress them with the inevitability and the ruthlessness of future events ensuring them of horror and sorrow. This haunting thought—this trembling behind barriers that are being burned and blasted away—conceivably is a more severe trial for the Japs' mental stability than the acute knowledge possessed by the Germans that NOW the WORST that Goering said WOULD NOT HAPPEN TO THEM actually is being experienced by Hun soldier and civilian alike.

If Hamlet ever worried about whether to be or not to be, he had entirely inconsequential reasons for his dilemma, compared with brutal facts of impending doom that confront the Axis separately and severally.

And, discounting heavily reports of Axis jitters over prospects of United Nations' invasion of Europe as something the Axis HAS NO CONTROL OVER, let's bring up front several of the more influential, pertinent potentials:

A Good Trick—If He Does It

—By Dorman Smith



To The Left

Britain Moves Slowly

By Raymond Clapper

LONDON
GREAT Britain's future course is bound to be influenced to no small degree by decisions to be made at the British Labor Party's conference this week.

The Labor Party will vote to continue the political truce which has prevailed during the past few months. The party's most important official controlling enormous funds and party patronage. In America a couple of years ago people expected that Labor Minister Ernest Bevin would be the big labor man of the future in Britain. Morrison is now assuming that prospective status. He is a Socialist who built a strong political machine in London some years ago and rode into party leadership and into the Government through that.

I saw Morrison when I was here two years ago, when he was reorganizing home air-raid protection and setting up the fire-watching system. His handling of affairs on the home front has strengthened his position. Now his influence in the Government is likely to expand if the Labor Party elevates him to treasurer. Morrison is inclined to give a stronger flavor of socialization to the party program than some others who are primarily trade-unionists. Yet he is not a doctrinaire intellectual but a hardheaded, working-class Socialist.

Morrison insists on placing war and postwar questions ahead of internal questions. He says home affairs have been wrecked twice in the last generation by international explosions. He says Britain's

Quote, Unquote

YOU know, boys, this country would be better off if we did more thinking and less talking.

—Rubber Administrator William M. Jeffers to Louisiana Industrialists.

I think we have the best fighting spirit in the world. The Allies are it is no less than a question of weeks or of days—it is a question of hours.

home life is at the mercy of great unchained forces in the international sphere which will continue to wreck domestic plans so long as they remain uncontrolled. Only after the Labor Party has faced this, and determined to throw all its weight on the side of unity and government in the war sphere, can the party devote itself usefully to questions of home policy, in his judgment.

Morrison is not obsessed by a narrow conception of social security, which some reduce to a formula of bigger and better doles. He conceives of social security as meaning full employment—secure and productive jobs. He believes Britain must get away from private monopoly restrictions on production and trade, and achieve more socialization in industry—though not complete socialization, as he believes many industries would be better left under the spur of free competition.

The Labor Party's executive committee is reporting to the conference a program calling for disarming the Axis, and for maintenance of peace by the four big powers until they can establish a "world political authority" which would be the armed guardian of international peace, also an agency for consultation and decision on great issues arising among nations.

The report calls for numerous other international agencies closely associated with the central authority, including an International Labor Office, concerned with standards of living, and others concerned with the supply and price of primary commodities, and the investment of surplus capital in host countries. It also proposes that there be long-term propositions but for the immediate postwar course the Labor Party executive committee would lean heavily on close teamwork among the four chief Allied powers. It adds this warning:

"The British Government for its part must turn a deaf ear to vested interests whose policy would conflict with the needs of international co-operation."

America must join in whatever organized post-war sanctions are necessary to prevent by mutual force the recurrence of criminal military aggression in the world.

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan.

They (the Japs) are far more like uncivilized savages than like sane and cultured people.

The Allies are it is no less than a question of weeks or of days—it is a question of hours.

Only Confusion

By Samuel Grafton

THE Nazis have announced, at various times, that all of Europe's one community. They have also said, in contradiction of themselves, that even if all of Europe goes hungry, Germany will eat.

The trouble is that Dr. Goebbels needs one propaganda line for use in Europe generally, and another for use within the Reich. The two do not always come out even. Thus the Nazis have to tell the occupied countries that the Fatherland is imperishable. But they have to tell their own people that if they do not make all manner of new sacrifices, they will lose the war. The line for Europe is that the Nazis cannot lose. The line at home is that they can.

These elements of confusion in Nazi propaganda are growing. When a nation's armies no longer know where to march first, its ideas lose their sense of direction, too. Thus to the Nazis as it is ridiculous to think the Allies can attack Europe. But they have to intern all former Dutch soldiers, for fear they will join the Allies when the invasion comes.

When the Dutch protest against this, the Nazis are forced to use strong measures, while still trying to continue their line that all of Europe is one community. So the story is that Hollanders and Germans make up one community, but one community must go to jail; that Germans must shoot Dutchmen, because of an identity of interest; and that all of this must be done because of the danger of attack, but that no attack is possible.

The formlessness of Nazi propaganda reveals that Dr. Goebbels is no longer carrying out a set plan; that he has no plan. Once the Germans used to write about the glories of aerial warfare, now they write about the glories of ancient architecture, and the immorality of destroying it from the air.

They used to promise terrible vengeance; now they take refuge in moral pleading. The same propaganda also used to write blood-red letters about bombers, now the letters are white. Undoubtedly, it is only three years from the destruction of Rotterdam to recruit essays in the German press about the importance of preserving national monuments, which, they say, belong to all of civilization.

But an even more amazing transformation has taken place in official Allied statements. While official German utterance is now rich in excuses and apologies, these have totally disappeared from official Allied utterances. James V. Forrestal, United States Secretary of the Navy, has just said that the U-boat menace may be liquidated in four to six months. A year ago, whenever one American asked for a second front, a second front would be sure to say the U-boat prevented it.

James F. Byrnes, director of war mobilization, says we are producing enough goods to attack on many fronts. A year ago we were told we had too many fronts to be able to attack. Now the American is, in any way whatever, setting up any excuses whatever, for not acting. And there is rich, meaningful silence in Moscow, where, one year ago, there were unending demands for a second front in the west.

The Big Push

BETS are being made in Washington that Germany will be brought to surrender before the end of the year by a big Allied push on the Continent, about to begin. Other bets are being made that no new Allied land offensive will be undertaken until after more months of trying to bring Germany to its knees by heavy air attacks. In the meantime, reports are current that the Nazi war machine is about to launch its third great drive on the Russian front, and that Roosevelt and Churchill had this in mind when they solemnly warned that any German use of gas would be more than met in kind.

According to our compilation, the next major onslaught by or against Germany will be the thirteenth big push of the war in the west. Every American hopes it will prove unlucky for the Nazis.

Just what is a big push and what is a little push is, of course, a matter of personal opinion. The latest drive in North Africa, a big push, inasmuch as the other campaigns against Rommel, and the drives by Rommel, turned out to be inconclusive. The German capture of the Russian city of Stalingrad, a minor onslaught, inasmuch as it was merely a prelude to the main German drive against France. In fact, there is some evidence to show that the Nazis have been taking advantage of the British strength to defend Norway, in order that the Nazi task in France would be easier.

In amount of area overrun, size of populations subjugated, and value of resources acquired, perhaps the biggest push of all so far has been the Japanese drive which began at Pearl Harbor, but the listing below covers only the war in Europe and Africa. The dozen big pushes up to the present, then, are as follows:

- 1—Sept. 1, 1939, Germans invade Poland. (So do Russians, on Sept. 19.) Warsaw surrenders on Sept. 27.
- 2—May 10, 1940, Germans invade The Netherlands and Belgium on the road to France. The Netherlands surrender on May 15, Belgium on May 28, and on June 25 hostilities with France formally end.
- 3—Aug. 2, 1940, the German attempt to subjugate Great Britain by air attacks (the Battle of Britain) intensifies, reaching its climax in incessant bombing on London on Oct. 3.
- 4—April 6, 1941, Germans drive into Yugoslavia, which surrenders on April 17 and occupy all of Greece by May 2. The British evacuation of Crete is completed by June 4.
- 5—June 22, 1941, the Germans invade Russia.
- 6—Nov. 20, 1941, the Russians begin their counter-offensive, regaining a substantial amount of ground lost.
- 7—March 28, 1942, heavy British bombardment of Germany by air begins at Lubek, intensifies at Cologne on May 30—the prelude to the present major Anglo-American air raids on Germany, German-occupied Europe, and Italy.
- 8—June 28, 1942, the Germans launch their drive in north Tunisia.
- 9—Oct. 22, 1942, the British Eighth Army begins its drive against Rommel which ends in the capture of the Afrika Korps.
- 10—Nov. 7, 1942, American expeditionary forces in North Africa begin offensive, regaining a substantial amount of ground lost.
- 11—The Russians, holding Stalingrad, begin their counter-offensive, regaining a substantial amount of ground lost.
- 12—April 1943, the Germans intensify their submarine warfare (Battle of the Atlantic), which they boast, will bring victory—Midway.