# VOICE OF THE PRESS

### COST TREMENDOUS

If you have ever stood and looked at the two big bridges built in recent years at San Francisco, and then gone on further south and east to look at Boudler Dam, you must have been struck by the tremendous cost of these structures built for the use of man. The cost was tremendous, too. It totalled $276,000,000.

But that is $24,000,000 less than the $300,000,000 cost of the 98-day Pacific Coast maritime strike in 1936 which resulted in practically putting San Francisco out of business as a shipping port.

So when you are wondering how we are going to pay for some of the big projects on this continent, just remember that if peple will go to work the cost can soon be made up.

—Lethbridge Herald.

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### WORLD'S WORST CHEATERS

In Canadian sentiment, there is no hatred of the Japanese as a nation. There is opprobrium even now, and for a long time past. They are just little gangsters alongside their Hun friends and bullies. As a nation they are also the greatest cheaters this Earth has ever been encumbered with. The story must be recalled at this writing, how they ordered warships from a Scottish shipyard of world renown. How they got a first delivery and then cancelled the order, because they thought they had the blueprints of design. They had blueprints, and when they built their own ships on what they got, those ships turned turtle. It was certainly retribution for the cheaters, the amateur imitators, which the Japs are known to be.

—St. Catharines Standard.

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### MILADY'S LOCKS MUST GO!

Six thousand hairdressers can't be wrong. And 6,000 of them in convention assembled recently in New York passed a decree which means that milady will have to see the beauty parlor she patronizes strewn with long clippings from her cherished tresses.

She may have taken months to let her hair grow to the right length. She may have spent many simoleons to have an expert give her just the right long hair-do covering her ears. But now the inexorable 6,000 have given this form of hair dressing its death warrant.

They have heaped scorn upon this style. It is "Hollywood shrubbery." It is "like wet spaniel ears." It gives a woman a "drippy look." No woman could brave those epithets.

The locks will have to go.

—Timmins Daily Press.

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### CHEERS FOR CUCUJI!

It's a nuisance for many of us. Every month we get one of those pesky bills for electric current. Almost makes a fellow want to move down to the balmy shores of Mexico facing the big gulf. For we are reliably informed that electric light bills are totally unknown down there. All the lucky folks have to do is go out in their garden and capture a handful of cucuji.

Never heard of them?

Well, they are a sort of greenish-black beetle that produces a phosphorescent light. Put half a dozen of them in a little bamboo cage and they will give as much light as a 15-watt electric bulb.

Ho, hum, let's turn out the cucuji beetles and go to sleep.

—Kitchener Record.

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### NAPLES' FIFTH COLUMN

The great Italian seaport and commercial city of Naples is in danger. The menace is a fifth column more damaging than any Italy's ally, Hitler, ever planted.

Night after night it guides British bombers to the city. With brazen openness it flaunts a light the questing British airmen cannot fail to see.

Mussolini knows all about it. His firemen are helpless. They cannot put the light out. His secret police are beaten by it. No handcuffs and shackles were ever made that can curb it.

Naples' fifth column happens to be Mt. Vesuvius.

—Guelph Mercury.

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### A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION

No fewer than 23,000 farmerettes and young men put in a total of ten million hours of work in Ontario this year harvesting the crops of farms and orchards. They have made a valuable contribution to the country's war effort and are deserving of the tributes paid to them.

—Hamilton Spectator.

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### A GOOD SIGN

Britain is not claiming to have won the Battle of the Atlantic, but it may be significant that United States marine insurance rates on British and Allied shipments have been reduced.

—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

## MINERS LEARN STRIKE IS OVER

Smiles greet the news as these miners learn from their newspaper that the United Mine Workers accepted President Roosevelt's plan for arbitration of the closed shop dispute and would go back to work pending settlement. This scene, repeated all over the east's coalfields, is at U. S. Coal & Coke Co. mine at Gary, W. Va.

### OR THEIR SHIRTS

Trouser cuffs may be done away with in Italy as a "waste of good material." Italians will be lucky if they don't lose their pants.

—Kitchener Record.

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### RUMOR EXPLANATION

Japanese typewriters have 3,000 keys, which explains some of the conflicting rumors coming out of the Land of the Rising Sun these days.

Stratford Beacon-Herald.

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### AND SO ON

This winter folk will plan to save money next Summer — the same money they planned last summer to save this winter.

—Guelph Mercury.

## Tempo of Business Bewildering Speed

Canadian production in 1941 may exceed the level reached in 1929 by as much as 40 percent., according to estimates of the Royal Bank of Canada released in the bank's November letter.

Although 1940 production also surpassed the 1929 figure, it has increased so rapidly this year that it is expected to advance far beyond even the 1940 total, the bank said. The letter commented that all business activity is expanding with "bewildering speed," and the official index of the physical volume of business during the first eight months of 1941 averaged 12.6 percent. higher than in the corresponding period of 1940.

Canada's manufacturing capacity is now largely occupied with the production of war materials —with one-half of all manufacturing workers directly engaged

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

## Britain Strikes In South Africa: Roosevelt Moves In South America

Great Britain has launched her greatest offensive of the war and her tanks are rolling across the deserts of Italian Lybia. A second front—long and impatiently awaited—has been opened against the Axis. This is not a hurried attempt to assist Russia by establishing a second front but rather a carefully weighed plan. It was designed (1) to relieve the German military pressure on Russia by diverting Axis man power and material; (2) to erase the Axis menace to the cotton and wheat resources of the Nile, to the Suez-Red Sea waterway on which empire communications in the Middle East depend; (3) to provide bases, if it over-ran Libya, for an intensified attack—perhaps an ultimate land invasion — against Italy, the weak tenant in the Axis house; (4) to demonstrate a strength that might give pause to the men of Vichy, who were moving toward closer collaboration with Adolf Hitler, a collaboration that threatened profoundly the arenas of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

The shock of battle flared suddenly and yet it has been known that the British and Axis powers were girding for a decisive trial in Libya after a military stalemate that has existed for six months. The Libyan battlefield was described as a vast triangle enclosing more than 2,000 square miles, with its base a 60-mile line south from Bardia, on the Mediteranean coast, to Maddalena and its apex at besieged Tobruk, 80 miles west of Bardia.

A year ago Egypt and the Suez had been in peril, says the New York Times. Premier Mussolini's legions motored along the coastal highway built for a thousand miles from Tripoli to the Egyptian border. Perhaps a quarter of a million men marched toward the land of the Pharaohs. Outnumbered British forces retired, stalled the Italian drive in the desert.

The Italians, despite their numerical array and their confidence —they brought marble monuments along to celebrate anticipated triumphs—showed signs of weakness. In December, the Army of the Nile led by General Sir Archibald Wavell, probed the Fascist line in a tentative surprise assault. Resistance crumbled, and the British commander, in a sweep ranking as one of the war's most brilliant, raced across Cyrenaica, Libya's eastern province, to Bengazi, some 400 miles from the point of attack. All Libya might have fallen, save for two factors; (1) the Army of the Nile was depleted in order to reinforce the Greek Balkan front for an impending German thrust; (2) the Italians were stiffened by German armored forces hurriedly sent through Italy and across the Mediterranean to Libya.

The Germans under General Erwin Rommel, Panzer expert and veteran desert warrior, took full advantage of the skeletonized British. The Army of the Nile was rolled back from Bengazi to Egypt in shorter time than it had advanced. Only at Tobruk, the battered port 80 miles from Libya's eastern frontier, did a garrison of empire toops hold on. Like the earlier Italian drive, the German push came to a halt in Western Egypt at the end of a precariously long line of communications.

#### Months of Stalemate

From late Spring until last week Axis and empire armies faced each other in a stalemate. Those months embraced the season of almost unbearable heat and aridity, of fierce windstorms, in the sand and limestone wastes of Libya. Military operations on a large scale were risky. Both sides used the period to build up reserves for a future test.

The Axis had the advantage of shorter supply lines from their arsenal in Europe, the disadvantage of being exposed to British naval and aerial power in the Mediterranean. The Royal Navy and the R.A.F. pounded at the overseas line from Naples to Tripoli, chief unloading port in Libya. Hundreds of thousands of tons of Axis shipping sank beneath the inland sea; with the vessels went men, equipment, foodstuffs, planes, tanks, oil. Nevertheless, enough Axis shipping got through to make it appear that in the race to achieve preponderance the Germans might win.

The British depended in part on supplies from the United States arsenal—particularly tanks and planes—and from India. Their sea lines were tremendously long, but from the Red Sea ports, where the freighters unloaded, the land lines were comparatively short, well organized and protected. It was believed that last week the British had several hundred thousand men available—drawn from all corners of the empire—and an air force exceeding that defending the home isles in 1940's Battle of Britain.

#### Pressure on Vichy

Vichy is being pressed into closer collaboration with Germany. General Wegand, commander of the French Africa forces, has been retired "at the express demand of Hitler." Although disliking the British, Wegand has always hated the Nazis. With him out of the way, Vichy may be preparing to bow to the following German demands:

(1) Use of the French fleet, still the strongest in the Mediterranean after Britain's, to convoy Axis supplies to North Africa; (2) use of bases and transit facilities in French Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco for Axis troops and material; (3) a pledge by Vichy to protect its African Atlantic bases from a possible "attack" by Britain or the United States.

From now on, unless evidence is forthcoming to the contrary, France must be looked upon as a potential, if not yet an open and active, partner of Germany. Her fleet and her great naval and air bases in Africa may at any moment be placed at the disposal of the Nazis. But until Bizerte, Casablanca and Dakar are taken over by the Axis there will remain ground for hope that this second surrendered of France may not prove such a catastrophe for the democratic cause as her first one. That is why the British offensive in Libya is of such great importance, not only to Britain but to the United States.

#### British Morale

A quotation from "Mein Kampf," printed on placards in big black letters, appears everywhere in the Middle East and India, from the bomb-shaken dugouts of Tobruk, through the crowded hotel lobbies of Cairo to Baghdad barracks and the bazaars of Teheran. The Fuehrer's comment on British morale reads:

"The spirit of the British nation enables it to carry through to victory any struggle it once enters upon no matter how long the struggle may last or however great the sacrifice that may be necessary or whatever the means which have to be employed; and all this though the actual equipment at hand may be utterly inadequate when compared with that of any other nation."

#### President Roosevelt Acts

President Roosevelt has beaten Hitler to the draw again, says the Windsor Daily Star. This time the American troops are to occupy Dutch Guiana. The action is as great a blow to Hitler in the South Atlantic as the American occupation of Iceland was in the North Atlantic.

There are British, Dutch and French Guiana all side by side on the edge of Brazil and facing Dakar in Africa. The Nazis had an eye on French Guiana with a view to gaining a foothold there. But with the Americans co-operating with the Dutch to protect Dutch Guiana from aggression, Hitler's plan is forestalled.

There are bauxite mines in Dutch Guiana. The mineral is needed to assure a supply of aluminum for war production in the United States. Airplanes eat up tons of aluminum and the metal is required for other war purposes.

It is not only the bauxite that needs the guardianship of the United States. It is the teritory itself. If the Nazis had made a thrust across the South Atlantic from Dakar, which is the French base on the bulge on the Atlantic coast of Africa, it would have meant a German threat not only to Dutch Guiana, but also to British and French Guiana, as well as Brazil And it would have brought the Nazis within striking distance of the Panama Canal.

## Aid To Greece Left Libya Weak

Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, commander-in-chief in India, has shouldered responsibility for the British setback last spring in Libya by acknowledging that the Germans counter-attacked at least a month earlier than he had expected.

Gen. Wavell, who was commander-in-chief in the Middle East at the time of the Libyan campaign and has since exchanged positions with Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, reviewed the African operations in a council of state here.

He said that after an appeal from the Greek government, which was under attack by both Germany and Italy, practically all the trained and equipped troops in the Middle East were ordered to Greece.

"Our conquests in Cyrenaica were left to be held by a garrison of partly-trained and partly-equipped troops," he said. "I made a miscalculation there.

"I did not expect the enemy to counter-attack before the end of April at the earliest — by which time I had hoped to have back at least part of a seasoned Indian division from Italian West Africa and to have completed the equipment of troops left in Cyrenaica which consisted of a British armored brigade, an Australian division and an Indian motor brigade.

"All these were short of equipment, transport and training. Unfortunately, the enemy attacked at least a month before I had expected it to be possible."

## GOOD OMEN FOR THE ARMY

Great things are in store for men in the Canadian Army in only a few weeks. The women in this picture are only two of many recruits in the C.W.A.C. They are taking the Canadian Women's Army Corps cooking course at the Central Technical School, Toronto. At the conclusion of their course their jobs will be to feed the fighting men. Recruit Rhea Truckel, RIGHT, is giving Recruit May Kullick a taste of her product. Both women are from Hamilton.

## LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher

"I'm resigning, Chief. . . . This suspense waiting for alarms is getting me down!"

## REG'LAR FELLERS—A Big Loss By GENE BYRNES