VOICE OF THE PRESS

SPIRIT OF CHINA

—Chungking has a Rotary Club, the members of which are partly natives and partly British and Americans. At the bottom of the usual weekly notice recently there appeared the following verse:

"And when we meet again, let's speak
Of anything you like—of pigs that squeak,
Of our vacation—books or toys,
Of our imagined troubles or real joys,
Of vice-versa—but—my friend,
Don't ask me when the war will end,
Don't whine about the price-increase,
Don't tell me that your servant's squeeze,
Don't tell me of the housing dearth,
Don't tell me there's no peace on earth,
Don't say that transportation's bad,
Don't wail that coffee can't be had,
Don't sing that old worn-out refrain,
Please—don't—when next we meet again!"

The spirit of Chungking is representative of the will of the Chinese people to break the spirit of Japan.

—St Thomas Times-Journal.

—v—

NICKEL IN THE WAR

Some striking facts are presented in a statement made by the International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited. World nickel production and consumption this year have set all-time records, and more than 90 percent of it is being used in war orders. The United States this year has used more than two-thirds of the world's total nickel output—double the peacetime figures. Prices were unchanged this year at figures which have prevailed for 15 years. And in an effort to meet a constantly growing demand International Nickel is spending $35,000,000 to increase its production by 50,000,000 pounds annually.

Canadian nickel is playing a vital role in the war, and it is a source of satisfaction to all Canadians that their base metals industry has seized so magnificently its chance for public service.

—Ottawa Journal.

—v—

A FREE COUNTRY?

We read with vast surprise that guards have been placed inside the Japanese embassy at Washington in order to prevent Mr. Nomura slitting his belly open in the ceremonial Japanese style.

Surely if Mr. Nomura wants to commit suicide he should be allowed to do so. What is happening to American liberty?

—Winnipeg Free Press.

—v—

LIFE CHEAP TO JAPS

Oriental life is about the cheapest thing on the market. If 5,000 Japs are sunk it means nothing except that 5,000 Japs are removed as a potential fighting force. Breaking down Jap morale cannot be an objective at all. That may seem calous, but it is the key to their philosophy.

—St. Catharines Standard.

—v—

GOOD OLD DAYS

The metals controller announces a ban on a whole lot of doo-dads and things, including brass clothes hooks; which brings us back to the good old days when we hung our coat and hat on a 3-inch nail stuck in the wall.

—Ottawa Citizen.

—v—

ALIBI

Goebbels must be hard put to it for a satisfactory story explaining the large-scale German retreat in Russia. Couldn't he just say the army is coming home for Christmas?

—Christian Science Monitor.

—v—

A coiled rattlesnake, we are told, is able to strike two-thirds of its length. Now let's see—how long is Japan, and how far away from our British Columbia coast?

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

—v—

PLACE FOR GOSSIPS

Wonder where gossips would stand if there wasn't any middle of the sidewalk.

—Kitchener Record.

THE BOOK SHELF

BOTANY BAY
by Charles Nordhoff and Norman Hall

A penal colony of Australia in the eighteenth century is the setting for another thrilling tale of adventure by Nordhoff and Hall, authors of "The Bounty" and "The Hurricane."

Hugh Taliant is convicted in England of highway robbery and is sent aboard a convict ship to serve a life sentence, at Botany Bay. On the same boat is Nellie Garth sentenced for protecting two highwaymen.

Talent, Nellie and a few fellow prisoners determine to escape from the pitiful, sordid life of the settlement. After heart-breaking delays and fruitless attempts they set sail in a small boat, are picked up by a freighter and eventually landed in England.

A pardon for Hugh and the prospect of his life partnership with Nellie bring the story to a very happy ending.

Botany Bay . . . by Charles Nordhoff and Norman Hall . . . McClelland and Stewart . . . Price $3.00.

SCORING FOUR-BAGGER FOR DEFENSE

Babe Ruth, the veteran King of Swat, is doing all he can to help keep Uncle Sam right in there pitchin' against the country's enemies. The photo shows the Babe in New York looking over $100,000 worth of United States Defense Savings Bonds he has just purchased.

Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

No. 70

Beaver occur all over Ontario. They were absent for many years from the southern portion of the Province but have staged a marvellous comeback under the protective laws and are now found in many places close to our farming communities. They should be welcomed by the muskrat trappers for they raise and hold the water levels on many small creeks and lakes that provide good habitat for the smaller fur bearer.

In the North country the beaver are becoming more important each year. For a long time the Indians and the white trappers were encouraged to get all the fur they could with the result that they periodically found themselves without any animals to catch. When this happened they starved or they had to be supported by the Government, a rather costly procedure for the people.

A few years ago the government decided to put certain areas under management in an effort to prove that the Indians could be made self-supporting. One such area was set aside around the Whale River on the east coast of James Bay. About 60 beaver were the total population of many thousands of square miles of the region. The Indians, who were very poor, were told that they could have complete rights to the region but they must leave the beaver until they increased and in the meantime the Government would hire them as guardians. An educational campaign was started among these forest people with the result that they now know that the beaver is theirs by right but that it must be protected and fostered until the increase is large enough to yield an annual take.

The last information I received showed that the beaver in the area had increased to 50,000 pairs and that the Indians were fully aware of their potential value. In a year or so they will start to catch part of the increase but you can be sure that it will only be part. They would not go back to the old ways even if they could.

SCOUTING . . .

One of the current widespread war service activities of Scouts is the collecting of medicine bottles for military hospitals in practically every province. Bottles of certain sizes are sought, as called for. A recent request was for colored bottles, and gallon glass jars for the Central Medical Stores. Already many thousands of dollars have been saved to the Government by this Boy Scout activity.

* * *

100,000 tons of wastepaper was collected by British Boy Scouts during 1941.

* * *

For courage and coolness shown in the rescue of a young mother and her baby and an elderly woman during an air raid, two Northumberland Boy Scouts, brothers, have been awarded the Scout Gilt Cross for Gallantry. The brothers, Joe and John Chambers, 15 and 17 years respectively, were on street fire watch during a blitz. A bomb partially wrecked a house, and a young woman ran out, temporarily unnerved. The boys hastened to her, and got her safely to a shelter. They then learned, from her disjointed remarks, that her baby was still in the house. John leaped over a fence, entered the house, found the baby, and returned, shielding it with his body from shell fragments and flying glass. He brought word also that there was an elderly woman in the house, and that she refused to leave. Together the brothers returned, and between them picked up the old lady and brought her to safety.

* * *

As a variation from Scout war hero stories from Britain comes a unique account of the circumstances under which a London Boy Scout was chosen to take the role of Oliver Twist in a radio presentation for that famous story of Charles Dickens. Mr. Hugh Stewart of the B. B. C., who had for some time been seeking a boy with the desired voice, suddenly heard it on a crowded bus. The bus stopped, and before he could reach the lad, who was in the uniform of a Boy Scout, the boy disappeared. Stewart had noted the color of the Scout's neckerchief, however, and through this was able to locate his Scout Troop, then the boy himself. The boy, Scout Phillip Jones, agreed, and his voice will be heard in the role of the famous little Dickens character who had the courage to ask for more porridge.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Ebb and Flow of World War Across Oceans and Continents

The scope of the war is approaching a maximum of vastness, extending from the western shores of America, across the Pacific, across Asia, Europe and Africa, and across the Atlantic to the eastern shores of America.

Everywhere in the Pacific Japan is on the offensive. Hong Kong is being mercilessly pounded, the Philippines increasingly harried, Singapore threatened by an overland drive from Malaya and Pearl Harbor preparing for further conflict.

Singapore

The naval base on Singapore Island has been called the world's largest. Fifteen years of labor and $80,000,000 went into its construction. It can hold the entire British fleet, drydock the biggest battleship. Its eighteen-inch coastal guns have a twenty-five-mile range. Dominating the sea lanes between the Indian Ocean and the waters of Oceania, guarding the oil and rubber of the Indies and the tin of Malaya, Singapore is widely regarded as impregnable to attack from water, most vulnerable to attack by land. It was by land last week that the Japanese were striking toward this key to the Allied Far Eastern defense.

The only land approach to Singapore runs down the Malay Peninsula. From its beginning at the top of the Gulf of Siam to its end above Singapore, the peninsula of Thailand, in the first days of the Pacific conflict, opened the way for an unopposed Japanese drive more than half way down the narrow approach to the British Malayan frontier, some 350 miles north of Singapore. The sinking of the Royal Navy's capital ships, Prince of Wales and Repulse, gave the Japanese control of Malayan waters. With these advantages, plus numerical superiority, the soldiers of the Rising Sun battled their way forward last week against the stiff opposition of British Empire troops.

Jungles and Mountains

The terrain, in many ways, was one of the most difficult yet encountered anywhere in the world by the war's fighting men. Malaya's damp, hot jungles climb up the sides of granite mountain ranges. Rubber plantations, a few paved roads built by the British, the open pits of great tin mines, break the clotted mass of undergrowth. Along the peninsular coast lies a belt of fairly flat, open ground. The almost impenetrable bush is the home of tigers, leopards, elephants, rhinoceros, vampire bats, brilliantly plumed birds and deadly reptiles. Its climate has always been unhealthy for the white man.

The Japanese had apparently prepared carefully for the fighting in the lush wilderness. Clad in lightweight unifroms, supported by one-man tanks and other special equipment, adopting the infiltration and ambush tactics of the American Indian, the Nipponese soldiers forced back their foe. At one point they were 250 miles from Singapore. They compelled the evacuation of Penang on the West Malayan coast; that exotic resort town and secondary naval base could serve as a springboard for a jump to the Indies or for raids on Burma-and-India-bound shipping. Meanwhile, a Japanese landing on British Borneo appeared to be an attempt to gain a base on Singapore's flank.

Philippines

In the first phase of the war Nipponese blows were chiefly aimed at Manila. Last week a land offensive was attempted. Tokyo asserted that troops were landed on beach-heads north of the capital and later far to the south on the island of Mindanao. A hold on this island would provide Japan with valuable bases for raids on Manila.

Hong Kong Siege

A century-old outpost of empire, the island of Hong Kong (thirty-two square miles) is perched on the South China coast, overlooks the long supply route between Japan's main islands and the Malay Peninsula. More than a year ago Hong Kong's link with the Chinese hinterland was severed by Japanese troops; still it served as a clearing house where Free China ordered the American goods that eventually traveled the Burma Road. The city long stood as a symbol of British prestige in the Orient. Its role in an Anglo-Japanese war was seen as a potential menace to Nipponese sea lines; its prolonged defense would mean a diversion of Japanese strength from other more vital sectors.

Last week—its second of siege—the Empire garrison on Hong Kong was hard pressed. A Japanese land-and-air assault captured Kowloon the city's mainland section. A landing was effected on Hong Kong island itself and quickly the invaders rolled back the thin lines of the defenders. In London it was said that British Empire strategists had long ago "written off" as inevitable the loss of the outpost.

Nazis Retreat

The war that came to Europe in September, 1939, is entering its third Winter. Its first was one of great uncertainty—the period of the "phony war," when millions lay in idleness along the Western Front while Germany, flushed with victory in Poland, quietly prepared her next Blitzkrieg. The second Winter followed England's darkest hour, when her cities shook to their foundations under merciless Nazi bombings, when only the advance of General Wavell in Libya and the heroic resistance of Greece against the lumbering Italian armies brought a ray of hope.

Today, at the threshold of the war's third Winter, the picture of the battlefields in Europe favors the Allies. In sub-zero cold last week the German armies on the Russian front were falling back, pushed by a widening series of forceful Soviet offensives. In Libya the all but beaten German Africa Corps was struggling to prevent withdrawal from turning into full-fledged rout as empire troops swept onward through the desert.

Jap Sub Operates From Mother Ship

Midget Two-Man Submarines Used In Attack on Pearl Harbor

Allied naval forces in the Pacific may find pitted against them "schools" of tiny, two-man submarines—probably no bigger than a whale.

Secretary of Navy Frank Knox revealed that they were used in the "sneak" attack on Pearl Harbor.

Knox said one was destroyed by depth charges and another was captured.

Naval experts estimate these tiny subs are about 50 feet long, seven feet wide, and have a displacement of about 50 tons.

There is no indication as to how many were used in Pearl Harbor, but they apparently did no damage. At least one, however, did succeed in penetrating the harbor defences and coming within "a few yards" of an American ship before it was destroyed.

Submarines the size of the Japanese two-man craft are too small to operate over distances greater than a few hundred miles. Naval experts assume that those engaged in the attack against Pearl Harbor were operating from a mother ship stationed out at sea. This ship, probably a reconditioned freighter, would be large enough to carry several of these "baby subs," naval experts said.

It was assumed that the mother ship carries them within cruising range of their objective and then lowers them into the sea. That would present no technical problem, since the U. S. crane ship Kearsarge has cranes than can lift 200 ton weights.

Naval observers believe that the baby subs are miniatures of regular submarines.

Once in the water they would proceed to their target with battery-driven electric motors driving them at an estimated eight or nine knots below the surface. Standard Diesel-type engines would give them 12 or 13 knots on the surface.

The chief asset of such tiny craft is their ability to operate in shallow waters and to get through harbor defences. Once within striking distance of their prey they would loose smaller, probably 10 foot torpedoes. They would not have to carry the standard 20 foot torpedoes because they attack at shorter range.

Naval experts estimate that two-man submarines would be able to stay at sea five days before returning to their mother ship or base. Living quarters would be extremely cramped, and supplies and fuel limited.

New Air Force Chief In Hawaii

Brig.-Gen. C. L. Tinker is the new commander of U. S. air forces in Hawaii.

Prepared

Mr. Churchill who spends his week-ends in the country when he's not too busy to get away from Downing Street disclosed that he carries a tommy-gun in the back of his automobile—just in case of parachutists.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher

"Office politics . . . . he's campaigning for a raise!"

REG'LAR FELLERS—Slightly Used By GENE BYRNES