VOICE OF THE PRESS

AIRMEN'S DINGHIES

Rubber dinghies carried by air crews of the R.A.F. in a pack measuring 15 inches by 8 inches are one of the contributions to Britain's war effort made by United Kingdom manufacturers of corsets, silk stockings, mackintoshes and so on. Like the carbon dioxide gas used for inflating the dinghies, which normally goes overseas in millions of bottles of Britain's famous table waters, most of the goods normally produced by these companies are known to shoppers in most parts of the world.

These rubber dinghies have already saved many lives, for in cold weather airmen wearing the "Mae West" jacket who came down in the sea could not expect to survive half-an-hour's immersion. Now, however, even a 400 lb. man can sit in his dinghy, stop leaks from a pin-prick to a cannon shell hole, propel it with a pair of rubber hand-paddles (made by people who usually turn out ladies' underwear), light signal flares (supplied by firework manufacturers) and sustain himself with emergency rations supplied by the makers of dainty boxes of chocolate.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

TO BED BEFORE MIDNIGHT

From the Canadian Osteopathic Committee on War Effort comes a suggestion which at first glance may be laughed off by many but which in reality is worth thinking about; it is that we should all be in bed by midnight.

Many statements have been made by responsible authorities that our health standard is not what it should be, and the nervous and labor strain of these days is working a heavy and increasing toll. The osteopaths point out that more rest is the cheapest and yet most effective answer to this inroad upon our vitality, and few who study such matters will disagree.

—Ottawa Journal.

DRESSED TURKEYS

Turkeys, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board rules, are dressed only when they are bare. It is just another of those mildly confusing anomalies, such as the fact that bread rises when it sets, and, in the price of sleeping car accomodation, the lower berths are always higher than the uppers.

—Windsor Daily Star.

NAZI EMERGENCY

If Mr. Churchill suddenly were to take personal command of all the British land forces we should know a grave emergency had arisen. That is what Hitler has done in Germany, and it must be an event of deep significance.

—Ottawa Journal.

ISN'T IT A SHAME?

Berlin correspondent complains that the Russians are attacking the German invaders at night and that Nazi soldiers are "under continuous strain and can find no sleep at all." Now, that's what we'd call downright mean.

—Windsor Star.

TIMELY TID-BIT

"Hitler is reported to be searching in the state libraries of Paris, in occupied France, for a copy of Napoleon's reputed secret memorandum, entitled 'How I got out of Russia.'"

—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

NEUTRAL

As the British writer, Vic Oliver, well says: "As far as the present international conflict is concerned, I am completely neutral. I don't care who kills Hitler."

—Windsor Star.

RULE OF BUGS

A chemist, alarmed by priorities, says that without insecticides bugs will rule the world. What makes him think bugs don't rule a large slice of the world right now?

—Strathroy Beacon-Herald.

INKLING OF TRUTH

"Some women who say they suffer in silence may mean that when in silence they suffer."

—Belleville Intelligencer.

FITTING

Germans pronounce the letter "J" as we pronounce the letter "Y." Thus Japs become "Yaps." Well . . .

—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

The best way to improve a vegetable dinner is to add a nice, juicy steak.

—Vancouver Sun.

Scrap For Warships

Enough scrap metal has been collected in Britain in two years to furnish material for two cruisers, 16 or 12 destroyers, 10,000 anti-tank guns, 15,000,000 shells and 10,000 tanks.

JAP "TIN FISH" CAUGHT BY UNCLE SAM

A mass of torn, twisted and dented steel is all that remains of this two-man Japanese submarine that was shelled, rammed by a destroyer and blasted with a depth-bomb during Hawaiian blitz. The forward half of the craft has been ripped to pieces. The wreck was raised by U. S. Navy from bottom of Pearl Harbor for first-hand examination.

Army of Russia Still Marches On

In September, after a lively few months, the German High Command said:

"Russia as a military power is finished."

Last July 2 Dr. Otto Dietrich, the Nazi press chief, sounded off prematurely on the same topic, and wound up with:

"I have never misled you."

What he said that day included:

"The power of resistance of the Soviet armies has been broken."

"Unbelievable chaos has closed over the Soviet armies."

"The encircling, dismembering and annihilation of the huge Red forces guarding the road to Minsk and Moscow has been completed."

Some other little gems from the Dietrich press conference:

"The last Russian army groups are being wiped out."

"There is no doubt that the whole Russian front is smashed."

Air Raid Sirens For Ontario Cities

Ontario's larger cities will have air raid sirens very soon.

Production of an English-type siren is under way at Burlec, Limited, Scarboro. Firist order from Ottawa is for 60.

The sirens can be heard four and a half miles away under good conditions. It is a twin-note type, automatically controlled by a "whaler relay" which transmits the warning signal or the "all clear" as desired, by operating a designated switch. The siren to be made is of the type approved by the home office, A.R.P. department, in England.

U. S. Airlines In Emergency Test

Oranges from California, pecans from Oklahoma, oysters from Baltimore, baked beans from Boston and scrapple from Philadelphia — a veritable feast. Only it wasn't. All these delicacies were flown to New York recently not so much for eating purposes as for a test to show how the 362 transport planes of the United States' 19 commercial airlines could carry 2,896,000 pounds of food to New Yorkers in a war emergency.

It's A Long Time Between Stitches

Mrs. Caleb Fox Jr., Production Department Chairman of the Red Cross in Philadelphia, reports that a middle-aged volunteer showed up with a half-completed knitted sock and asked more matching yarn to complete it.

Noticing it was an off-shade, Mrs. Fox inquired when it was started.

Came the reply:

"During the first World War."

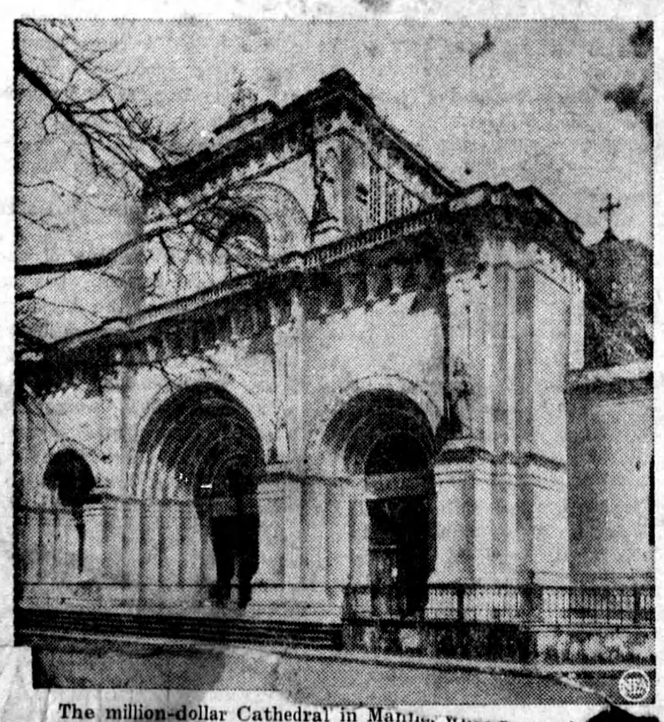
Americans To Stay In Canadian Forces

Canadian officials say that United States volunteers in Canada's fighting forces are expected to remain where they are rather than return to the United States for service.

Nearly 10,000 men from "south of the border" are serving in the Canadian Army, and 10 per cent. of the air crews trained and in training for the Royal Canadian Air Force are from the States.

The female frog deposits from 600 to 1,200 eggs annually.

BEAUTIFUL CATHEDRAL



The million-dollar Cathedral in Manila, which Japs rain[illegible] on the undefended Philippine capital.

Theatre of War In Vast Pacific

Many Thousands of Islands In Pacific Brought Into The War, Relates The Sault St. Marie Star.

This is an amazing war which is now in progress in the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Churchill, when he announced the opening of the British offensive in Libya a few weeks ago, spoke of the operations there being like those of a sea battle, with strategy and tactics being extended over a wide area. But even Mr. Churchill did not at that time vision operations of the scope of those now being carried in the vast expanse of water that lies between Asia and the Americas

From Yokohama to ancouver is 4,280 miles and from the same Japanese port to San Francisco is 4,526 miles From Yokohama to Honolulu is 3,440 miles.

Russia's 1,500 mile battle line has seemed a tremendous distance. But it is dwarfed by a war which takes distances such as those in the Pacific.

And think of the many thousands of isands which ae scattered over that great area. There are some 7,083 islands in the Philippines, which stretches for a distance of one thousand miles. In Japan, without taking into account the territory it holds in China, there are some 2,322 islands, stretching over 1,600 miles, and having a population of 100,000000 people. In the Netherlands Indies there are about 2,000 islands, spread over a territory 3,000 miles in length from Singapore to Borneo Then in addition there are the scores and hundreds of islands which owe allegiance to Britain, France, the United States, Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand which are dotted over the map.

Airplanes and modern war vessels have brought a strange war to a strange territory.

Nazis Hide Truth From Own People

The Germans are trying to hide from their own people their huge losses in Russia by regulating obituary notices, asserts London Calling.

Since the start of the Russian campaign there have been four orders regulating obituaries, it is said.

The first prohibited firms and party organizations from publishing them; the second ordered the reduction in size by half; the third limited the number to twenty-five daily, and the fourth instructed editors to censor the text.

Bees and War

Honey mixed with foods and drinks were included in the daily diet of the ancient Romans. So highly did they prize this food that the Roman Empire armies even carried their own bee-hives with them whenever they invaded a foreign land.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Allied Heads Meet In Washington To Plan Defeat of Axis Powers

"The Prime Minister of Great Britain," said the Presidential Secretary, Mr. Stephen Early on the evening of December 22, "is now with the President. He arrived by air and was met by the President at an air station near Washington. He was accompanied by Lord Beaverbrook and a technical staff." "There is, of course," continued Mr. Early, "one primary objective in the conversations to be held between the President and the British Prime Minister and the respective staffs of the two countries. That purpose is the defeat of Hitlerism throughout the world.

"It should be remembered that many other nations are engaged to-day in this common task. Therefore, the present conferences in Washington should be regarded as preliminary to further conferences which will offically include Russia, China, the Netherlands and Dominions. It is expected that there will also be involved an over-all unity in the conduct of the war. Other nations will be asked to participate in the over-all objective."

Issues Involved

The problem of co-ordinating the vast issues involved could be summarized under the following headings:

1. Britain, America, China, Russia and the Netherlands stand unshatterably united against any separate peace with any part of the Axis and they are making the fullest conceivable pledge to each other that only a peace approved by all will be accepted by any.

2. A supreme Allied War Council will be immediately organized to direct the composite strategy against the composite forces of the Axis. The highest and most critical decisions of policy will be settled by common agreement in the interests of the most effective war plan and all the theatres of the fighting will be co-ordinated in the interests of this common strategy. This is to give effect to Mr. Roosevelt's repeated declarations that the world-scale aggression of the Axis can only be defeated by the world-scale strategy of the Allies.

3. There will be an unreserved pooling of the implements of war and they will be dispatched to the fronts where they are most needed in accordance with the necessities of the broadest strategy.

4. Russia's entry into the war against Japan will be decided by joint agreement as to when and how it will be most effective.

5. There will be agreement on the essential peace objectives outlined by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill in the Atlantic Charter.

6. The alliance will not automatically terminate with the conclusion of the war. It is designed to constitute the beginning of a peace alliance against further aggression—the beginning of a world policy force to prevent future war.

7. The mechanism of close consultation is planned to form the basis of economic and social collaboration in the period of post-war reconstruction.

Conference In Moscow

It is significant that the initiative of this Allied Council did not spring from any single one of its members. It arose almost simultaneously from all of them, including strong leadership from Generalissimo Kiang Kai-shek in Chungking. The councils from which the present argument is emerging have been in progress for some time in Washington, in London and in Moscow.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Premier Minister Joseph Stalin in Moscow have reached an agreement in full on conduct of the war and especially on "the necessity for the utter defeat of Hitlerite Germany". There was also an exchange of views on questions relating to the post-war organization of peace and security.

In the last war, lack of concerted effort cost the Allies dearly. In this war, with the anti-Axis coalition sprawling over most of the lands and seas of the world, prompt action is now being taken to weld the Allied forces into an efficient fighting unit. The struggle, Mr. Churchill said, if managed well, would take only half as long as if managed badly.

Grave Problems

In speaking of the onslaught of Japan which presented grave problems, Mr. Churchill said:

"If people ask me, as they have a right to ask me in England, why is it you have not got ample equipment of modern aircraft and modern weapons of all kinds in Malaya and in the East Indies, I can only point to the victory General Auchinleck has gained in the Libyan campaign. Had we divided those gradually-growing resources between Libya and Malaya, we would have been found wanting in both spheres.

If the United States has been found at a disadvantage at certain points in the Pacific, we know that it is to some extent due to the fact that you have been giving us of your equipment for the defence of the British Isles, and above all for your help in the Battle of the Atlantic, on which all depends, and which is, in consequence, successfully and constantly maintained.

Of course it would have been much better if we had had enough resources of all kinds to be at full strength at all threatened points, but considering how slowly and reluctantly we brought ourselves to large scale preparation and how long those preparations took, we had no right to expect to be in such a fortunate position.

Post-war Problem

The choice of how to dispose of our hitherto limited resources had to be made by Britain in a time of war and by the United States in times of peace, and I believe history will pronounce that upon the whole, and it is upon the whole that these matters must be judged, that the chocie made was the right one."

Although Mr. Churchill stated in Washington that conversation would not include post-war problems, that the present emergency came first, we must consider his words spoken to Congress. "If we had kept together after the last war, if we had taken common measures for our safety, the renewal of the curse need never have fallen on us."

After winning the last war together with partnership between Great Britain was dissolved and each went their respective ways, even becoming rivals. The question of war debts, the selfishness of British and American commercial policy, the disarmament compact, the lack of accord of the Far Eastern Policy all worked together to break up the union of the English-speaking peoples. This is the mistake which Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt are now trying to repair.

Normandie Seized By United States

Armed coast guardsmen, acting on naval orders, have seized the $60,000,000 French liner Normandie, one of the largest, proudest and finest ships afloat.

Led by Capt. John Baylis, guardsmen swooped down on the 83,423-ton liner at the Hudson River pier, where she has been laid up since the beginning of the war.

The Normandie could be used either as a transport or as an aircraft carrier. She was designed and built fo speedy conversion. Capt. Baylis said he had removed about 200 seamen from her.

In Washington, the department of justice said the French seamen would be released and placed on parole.

Built in 1935, the Normandie is the third largest ship in the world, exceeded only by the British Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mary.

Her length of 1,029 feet makes her four times the height of the Statue of Liberty—a gift from France to the United States.

REG'LAR FELLERS—Mouseproof

By GENE BYRNES