VOICE OF THE PRESS

WISHFUL THINKING

Mussolini is a vain, fat, bald-headed man of 59, who also loves to go around thumping on his bare chest in emulation of youthful virility. He, too, may well be flirting with the undertaker, but that does not prove that Italy is about to break into 30,000 pieces. The more we refrain from indulgence in wishful thinking about how soon the Axis countries are going to fall apart, and the quicker we get busy tearing them apart, the better it will be for us.

—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

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EMOTIONLESS

To many of us in the western world strong emotion of any kind is wholly unfamiliar; we do not hate, we do not love, we are not strongly patriotic and our laughter is from the teeth outward. Our emotional range is pitiably limited; we are as cold and apathetic as fish. We shall never win a war unless we are deeply stirred.

—Peterborough Examiner.

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FEW CLOTHES CHANGES

The Wartime Prices and Trade Board order restricting, henceforth, the manufacture of men's suits to single-breasted, cuffless models will save cloth but will not greatly upset even the Beau Brummels. After all, about the only thing the trouser cuffs were good for was to collect stray match ends and lawn mowings.

—Brantford Expositor.

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ENOUGH FOR BOMBER

Tillsonburg schoolboy, fishing in the Otter River, found 16 gallons of gasoline some chiseler had buried in the sand. Sixteen gallons? Not a great deal—but it might be sufficient to get a hard-pressed bomber back to Britain after a raid on the Reich.

—R. M. Harrison in Windsor Star.

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PATRIOTISM

And then there is the stenographer in the front office who can't decide whether it is more patriotic to erase and save paper, or to use a clean sheet and save the eraser!

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

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UNANIMOUS WISH

What we would like to see is one large appropriation to handle the German subs. Something in the nature of a sinking fund.

—Victoria Times.

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NO SCARCITY THERE!

National Research Council says dandelions can't be used to make rubber; not enough of them. Has the Council even seen our lawn?

—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

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Bomb The Truth Into Nazi Homes

"Cast your minds back, you people, to the worst days of Coventry or Plymouth or Birmingham. Rejoice to hear that damage just as great has been done to Essen, with bigger bombs and bombs not so big as they will be. For never forget that these bombs are dropped on an enemy that sat round a table at one time or other and said, 'Let's have a war.' They also said: 'All our German history shows that war never hurts us; it hurts the other fellow.' Germans pillage and ravage, with rape and rapine, generation after generation in their neighbors' homes and gardens and emerge unscathed in their own homes. But never again. The bombing pilots and the workers in the bomb factories are teaching the German people that war hurts their own fireside. To knock some of the picture postcard stuff as well as the war factories off the face of Germany will do more for future European peace than dictating terms from the outside in any other Versailles." — London Daily Express.

Men Are Wanted 45 To 98 Years

On April 1, The Detroit News published a "Wanted—Male Help" advertisement which read:

Wanted: A-1 toolmakers, experienced jig and fixture inspectors. Age limits, 45 to 98 years.

But it was no April Fool joke.

"That 98 years," said Albert F. Koepcke, personnel director for the United States Naval Ordnance plant of the Hudson Motor Car Company, "is no misprint. It means what it says. If an A-1 toolmaker or jig and fixture inspector is still able to work or to instruct younger men, we want him for war work even if he is 100. We don't want men staying away because they may think they are too old."

If a policy of employing older men for all-important war work is sound, certainly blanket discriminations against workers over 40, or even over 60 or 70, in peacetime occupations seem to be unjust, if not unwise. — Christian Science Monitor.

Black Days in the Bay of Bengal

Massing of allied and Jap battle fleets presages one of history's biggest naval encounters in the Bay of Bengal. Map shows prospective battle arena and target towns along the eastern coast of India.

A Weekly Column About This and That in The Canadian Army

Not very much has been said yet about the Pacific Rangers, whose existence on the British Columbia coast was mentioned recently after a ministerial inspection of the coast defences was carried out.

One reason is that not very much is yet known outside of B.C.

But this much is certain. The organization of guerrilla bands, composed of hunters, trappers, loggers and other dead shots whose familiarity with the country coupled with their prowess at woodcraft and hunting makes them formidable adversaries is a forward move.

Many of these bands have been in existence for some time now. They were formed by the men themselves and each man is armed with his own rifle—a friend he has had for years and a weapon he knows he can rely on.

They are not military formations and consist mainly of old-timers, many of them old soldiers who know a few tricks they learned in the last war. They know every nook and cranny of the ground they are prepared to defend.

In Montreal for the past two years, a somewhat similar branch of the Individual Citizen's Army has been in existence. This is known as the Mobile Force of the Civilian Protection Committee. Its functions differ from those of the Rangers to the extent that emphasis in training has been against the possibility of sabotage.

This outfit, in adition to supplying its own rifles and ammunition, also supplies cars and gasoline. Its training is based on modification of Canadian Army Reconnaissance unit training, training hand books of the German Panzer divisions, Tom Wintringham's useful little booklet on new methods of war and a liberal sprinkling of imagination.

The men—mostly rotund middle aged citizens who have lost much of their rotundity since they started training—uniform themselves in khaki overalls and wear black berets and armlets. They have become expert in rapid mobilization, street fighting, industrial plant defence and open order skirmishing around the outskirts of Montreal.

Air Raid Precautions work, under various names in different parts of the Dominion, is another branch of the Individual Citizen's Army that provides scope for willing war workers. And many a private soldier serves in that army without belonging to any unit of any kind.

The man or woman who is unable to join the Canadian Army or to serve regularly in any of the may war organisations still has an opportunity to be of value. Between the ages of 21 and 60 they are eligible to offer their blood to Blood Donor Clinics of the Canadian Red Cross Society. These clinics operate in a number of cities right across the country. They are staffed by volunteers.

As a matter of fact the man or woman who cleans out the attic, removes inflammables from the cellar, and generally takes every precaution against fire, is a good private soldier in the Individual Citizen's Army.

If and when the day comes that incendiary bombs shower down on Canadian municipalities the householder who can handle his own fires is doing a good job by leaving the firefighters clear to handle worse blazes elsewhere.

Not much like soldiers? Well, I'm not sure. If you were to work out the actual percentage of his time a soldier spends in fighting you would find that other ordinary prosaic duties take up more of his time than they do of yours.

Eating takes a fair amount of that time, for the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps sees to it that every soldier—no matter where he is—gets his food.

And that's where we members of the Individual Citizen's Army come in again. The soldier has to be fitter than we have to be. So we can "fall in" by being a little more careful how we "fall to" at the breakfast, lunch and dinner table.

The soldier needs to be clothed and equipped. The Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps looks after that. Right! That's where we come in again. We can make a suit last longer to provide wool for a uniform; we can change from silk to lisle hose to make more bags for cordite; we can eat less sugar to provide more quick energy for the boys overseas.

The Individual Citizen's Army? That's us!

LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher

"Just an air-raid precaution, Mr. Smithers!"

In The Garden

By GORDON L. SMITH

Don't Rush Planting

Many more flowers and vegetables are lost through planting too soon than too late, and in war time especially we cannot afford such waste. There are, it is true, a few things that are not hurt by sowing early, plants that naturally reproduce themselves in Canada.

In this category will be onions, garden peas, parsnips, lettuce, radish, etc., among the vegetables, and in the flowers — cosmos, batchelor's buttons, sweet peas, alyssum. All of these and some more will stand moderate frost and throughout most of Canada can be sown just as soon as the soil can be worked. But there are a great many more flowers and vegetables that will not survive frost. These must not be sown outside until the weather really turns warm. Actually they will not make any growth until the soil is warm, usually in mid-May or later. There is nothing to be gained by rushing them in too soon.

Cultivation

One can hardly over-emphasize the importance of early cultivation, once of course the soil is fit to work. A little digging in the garden then is worth a whole burst of feverish energy later on. At this time when the soil is moist it is a simple matter to get out twitch and other weeds, to stir the ground deeply. By doing so we help push growth of vegetables and flowers and conserve moisture and plant food. If this essential job is left for a few weeks then weeds have developed tougher roots and are hard to remove and much valuable moisture is lost. In the dryer sections of Canada, frequent cultivation is depended upon to conserve the scant rainfall and it will keep vegetables growing steadily which they must do if they are to be tender.

Robot Device Used As Blackout Warden

Perfection of a "robot blackout warden" which douses store window lights and illuminated billboard signs automatically just as soon as street lights are turned off in a blackout was reported by a Cambridge industry which has installed the devices in various east and west coast cities.

The apparatus is based on the well-known principle of light control by the electric eye, and the arrangement is such that a small box containing the mechanism is pointed directly at a street light.

When the street lights are doused, the breaking of the light beam activates a photo-switch in the "robot warden", causing signs or store windows with which it is connected to be darkened immediately.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Allies Launch Aerial Offensives United Nations Support Russia

Raids by American bombers on enemy-held bases in the Philippines and on four great cities in Japan would appear to be a sign of a gathering Allied aerial offensive in the Far East.

Last week a formation of Flying Fortresses, protected by fighters, flew 2,000 miles from Australia and blasted a Japanese sea base in the Philippines and other important strategical objectives.

Japan Attacked

A little more than four months after Japan's treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor the forces of the United States carried the war to the heart of Japan in an air assault on her major cities. The extent of the damage has not yet been disclosed by the United Nations but public alarm in Japan appeared to be widespread. The Japanese dread a visitation of high explosives and incendiary bombs over their match-box cities of flimsy, wood-and-paper homes.

Effect On Morale

The four cities attacked were: Tokyo, capital of Japan, the world's third largest city and a great industrial centre; Yokohama, the seaport of Tokyo, a great naval base and home of Japan's largest motor car factory now producing war vehicles; Kobe, naval and shipbuilding centre; Nagaya, third largest city in Japan, which is the chief centre for the manufacture of military aircraft.

Whatever the effect on Japan's war industries and population centres there is no doubt that the attack has stimulated Allied morale and conversely will have considerably dampened the spirits of the Japanese people.

3,300 planes a month are flowing off American assembly lines and their weight is being felt on the battlefront. It is reasonable to hope that they will in increasing strength and power of destruction carry defeat to the Japanese homeland.

British Naval Losses

Recent British naval losses in the Far East have caused great concern and much criticism of Allied naval strategy These losses may be due, in part, to the dilution of navy personnel. It has been necessary to take into the service many men who were not perfectly trained.

In contrast, the Japanese navy for several years has been carrying full crews, with new trainees taking the places of the regulars when on furlough. It is granted that there are no better trained seamen anywhere. Japanese merchant seamen have also been extraordinarily well trained. The enemy is apparently able to concentrate enough power at the right time and in the right place. Great Britain has been sorely lacking in dive-bombers and efficient torpedo-carrying aircraft, but it must be remembered, in criticising British naval strategy, that the Allied navies have not at any time yet met the Japanese navy on anything like equal terms.

Strength of Russia

The prime aim of the United Nations is to help Russia at all costs and the prime aim of Hitler is to knock out Russia this summer. Some factors in this struggle are favorable to Russia and some to Germany.

Russian representatives state that their production is almost as great as it was before the German attack. This is important because the Russian losses in the early part of the war were extremely heavy. Russia's strength is further bolstered by the increasing volume of war material reaching her from Great Britain and the United States.

The Russian armies have been tried and have proved themselves; they are now seasoned veteran troops. While losses in manpower on both sides have been tremendous it is considered that Russia has a larger reserve of fresh troops than Hitler has, and there can be no doubt that Stalin's soldiers weathered the winter campaign much better than did the poorly clad soldiers of Hitler.

Strength of Germany

The Russians have failed to break the Leningrad blockade and even with the help of General Winter they have not been able to reduce the German strategic strongholds. The Germans still retain vital positions from which they can threaten Moscow and the main lateral railway supplying the Russian front.

Success in the expected German offensive in Russia will depend largely on air superiority. The feeling is that it cannot be stepped up to its 1940 peak of efficiency. The cream of German airmen has been used up and though Germany may be able to replace lost planes, she cannot replace first-rank personnel. The loss of German officers, in the air and on land, has been a significant feature of the campaign.

The Red Army had to face at the start of the war in Russia a huge, well-trained air armada ten thousand strong, which was later increased to fifteen thousand. At the end of March, 1942, it is estimated the Luftwaffe's losses totalled 38,000 airmen. Consequently it is now manned chiefly by 19 to 21 year old youths, many of whom have only had from three to six months training.

R.A.F. Strength

The growing might of the Royal Air Force is shown in the powerful and continuous sweeps over occupied France. British bombers have flown one thousand miles inside enemy territory, in daylight, to attack factories.

So continuous have been the Royal Air Force assaults on the continent lately that they keep one and a half million German soldiers, airmen, ground staff observers, firemen and other civilian defense workers tied down. Thus none of them, says the London Times, can be withdrawn for service on the Russian front where the Nazis are sending every available man. The best German pilots are being kept in the West to meet the British, and anti-aircraft ships also have to remain off the German coasts instead of being sent elsewhere.

Thus the power of the Royal Air Force in diverting the Luftwaffe is a measure of Britain's aid to Russia.

Good Nazi Scheme For Repair Work

Under the non-committal title of "War Trade Business Front", a remarkable army repair organization has been established in Germany. Its purpose is to get all worn army clothing and equipment "made new" by workers in occupied countries, thus saving German workers for home tasks.

Thousands of uniforms from the Russian front have already been distributed among Belgian factories, 20,000 pairs of worn boots have been sent to the famous Bata factories at Zlin, Czechoslovakia, leather equipment to Holland and the Balkans.

Widow's Treasure

One of the acts of the Germans in Paris has been the opening of the safety deposit boxes in the various banks. In one bank was a safe belonging to an old lady in black. The officer in charge said, "May I beg of you, Madame, to be good enough to . ."

"Certainly, sir," replied the lady, and when the safe was opened the officer was amazed to see nothing whatever but a shining sword. He turned to the lady, who simply said:

"That is my late husband's sword. I am the widow of Marshal Foch." The officer turned pale, saluted and withdrew.

REG'LAR FELLERS—Not Mercenary By GENE BYRNES