VOICE OF THE PRESS

ONLY THE BEGINNING

Before this war is over it is more than probable that our living standards will be so drastically changed that not a single person in Canada but will realize what sacrifice really means. We are only just at the beginning. We have to go a long way yet before we shall catch up with our fellow-citizens in Britain—if, indeed, we ever do. The one fact we have to keep ever before us, day by day, is that, no matter what sacrifice we are called upon to make, we must be ready to make it, and willing to face it. That way alone victory lies.

—Petrolia Advertiser-Topic

—o—

WINNING ONE RACE

The Italians are reported in the van of the enemy retreat in Africa. When the British cut off a section of Marshal Rommel's army, it is understood most of those in the trap were Germans. The Italians had gone on ahead, getting out in front in the race to the rear.

The Italians have to show some prowess on the battlefield, so they are running faster than the Boche.

—Windsor Star

—o—

WITH A CAPITAL "M"

In Retailers' Bulletin the W. P. T. B. spells it "Schicklegruber"; in a recent Victory Loan advertisement the Department of Finance had it "Schickelgruber"; Hitler's old man used to spell it "Schicklgruber" — but actually the Fuehrer's name is mud.

—Fort Erie Times-Review

—o—

A YOUNG OLD ONE

It may be hard to get a boy as a helper here but what must it be in Cardiff, Wales, when this placard was placed outside a shop: "Boy wanted, not over 70"?

—St. Thomas Times-Journal

—o—

THE OLD DAYS

We can remember the time when "shortage" only meant that the cashier had skipped out with some funds.

—Brandon Sun

—o—

CHEER UP!

Don't let the price of butter upset you. It can be made from grass. All you need is a cow and a churn.

—Chatham News

—o—

SUGAR BORROWING

Remember when you could slip in next-door and borrow a cup of sugar?

—Stratford Beacon-Herald

—o—

TWO EXTREMES

You can't think on a low level and live on a high plane.

—Kitchener Record

Liquid resin is being produced in Sweden and will be used in many ways.

WISHFUL WAAC

There's something about a soldier, even a [illegible]eminine one, Mrs. Burm[illegible]dor evidently fig[illegible]y she got herself [illegible]niform and went [illegible]ting a WAAC. [illegible]e in custody at [illegible]BI officials are [illegible]estigation.

PIGGY-BACK 'POSSUM

The lazy fellow astride his pal's back has had most of Auckland, N. Z., in stitches because he even dines on his favorite perch so that his fellow opossums cannot snitch his dinner.

THE UNCONQUERABLES

"THE DAY IS COMING—"

Janek, for so we shall call him, was a child of the mountains. But as a youth he had developed a mechanical turn, and when 1939 rolled round, the little shepherd boy was no longer recognizable in the city chauffeur, who was then further transformed into an aviation mechanic. When, after weeks of desperate fighting, the Polish forces had to surrender, Janek became a prisoner of the Germans, from whom he escaped to Soviet territory, and then to Warsaw.

There personal tragedy awaited him. His home had been bombed to rubble and his family killed. Although not recognized as an escaped prisoner-of-war, his freedom was shortlived. The Reich had need of laborers. Janek was strong and excellent for farm work, the Germans judged—though Janek did not tell them so—and soon he found himself hired out as forced labor on a German farm.

* * *

To the German authorities, the Pole was a serf and they quite overlooked the possibility of his being clever. He laughed as he told the Warsaw lady to whom he had come with a letter from her husband in the Reich, about his "service" to his "employers"; how he, a peasant child, familiar from infancy with farm animals and farm tools, had played the clumsy fool. How he could never remember to feed the cows at the proper time and ruined the milk supply; how he wrecked the wagon and ruined farm tools. In short, how he spoiled everything he touched.

* * *

Thus because of his apparent inability to do anything right and the damage he did, he was pronounced worthless and returned to Poland. Back on his native soil, he suddenly was no longer the rustic, heavy-handed bungler. The light which he had so carefully shielded during his labors in Germany, came back in his eyes.

So it was that Janek joined the underground army which is making ready for the "day that is coming"—working stolidly, waiting impatiently—hoping for the orders that will say that the moment is at hand.

"For," he firmly asserted, "the day is coming when 'they' will lack the iron they hurled at us and without it they are worth nothing. Then one of us will handle a dozen of them."

—Christian Science Monitor.

Never Again

The "Never Again" Association of Great Britain defines its program as follows:

"Never again must the German people be allowed to organize for war;

"Never again must we win a war and lose the peace;

"Never again must we sign any Treaty with any German Government until the German people have proved that they can honor their pledges and behave as good neighbors;

"Never again must the British be caught napping;

"Never again must the security of this country and the lives of our children be jeopardised because of a mistaken tenderness to brutes;

"Never again must we listen to the lies of Germany's friends in our midst;

"Never again must we rely on anything but our own strong arm and that of our proved friends."

LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher

"Mom caught him burying one of her biscuits."

THE WAR · WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Rising Power Of United Nations Marks The Turning Of The Tide

In January of 1942 the days were dark for the United Nations in the East, nor was there much cheer in the West, says a writer in the New York Times. The wave of conquest unleashed at Pearl Harbor was flowing toward its high-water mark. The Red Army and the terrible Winter of the steppes were beating against the Wehrmacht, but Marshal Rommel in Libya and U-boats in American coastal waters were striking powerful blows. Everywhere the Allies fought desperately for time—time to mobilize latent power, to co-ordinate separate efforts, to catch up in preparation with their enemies.

The outline of the Allied plan took shape. In the military field the task was to hold basic fronts—a strong line in Russia, a bastion in Britain, a new Pacific defense anchor in Australia. In the production field a wartime goal was set by President Roosevelt for the world's mightiest industrial machine. In the diplomatic field, the informal alliance of the anti-aggressor nations became the formal pact of the United Nations, pledged to common victory.

February

It was Japan's month again. The dominating event was the fall of Singapore, the mighty anchor of the Allied defense line stretching across the Eastern seas to Pearl Harbor.

March

The Rising Sun touched the zenith of it conquest in Java, Burma and the Australian islands. In a little more than three months the aggressors in the East had won 1,000,000 square miles of territory inhabited by more than 100,000,000 people. They held the world's most important sources of rubber, tin, quinine and hemp, as well as rich oil fields, inexhaustible supplies of foodstuffs, valuable iron, wolfram, manganese and copper deposits. They were bolstered now for a long struggle.

The Allied world could only hope that the battles in Oceania and Asia were wearing down the Japanese, that the campaign in Russia was sapping German power. It cried for a shift from defensive to offensive strategy. The cry was premature. America's factories and training camps—the weight that might turn the battle—were still mobilizing for total war.

April

The greatest developments were on America's production front. In the words of Donald Nelson, America's production chief, "the decks had been cleared." The auto industry was the symbol. It had completed the ripping out of great peacetime conveyor belts, had installed machines to make guns, tanks and planes. Now full-scale production was in sight.

On the battlefields the Allies held grimly to delaying actions. The delaying in the Philippines drew to a close; Bataan fell to the Japanese, the severest defeat ever suffered by the United States overseas. Only in the air were portents bright. The bombing of Tokyo and the heavy raids on Germany's Baltic shore were evidence of mounting Allied air power.

May

Both sides were girding for a new phase of the global conflict. The aggressors struck the first blow. A Japanese thrust, aimed either at Australia or the Pacific supply line between America and the Antipodes, was beaten back sharply in the Coral Sea. But the German thrust took shape as Hitler's most grandiose, a colossal pincers' drive, one arm through Southern Russia, the other through Egypt, to the foodstuffs and oil of the Caucasus and the Middle East. "In the East," the Fuehrer had said, "the decision will fall."

He had to hurry. The shipyards of America were now launching two vessels a day to ferry munitions and men to the world's battle-fronts. The big bombers were shuttling over to England, where commanders spoke confidently of 1,000-plane raids on the Reich. The subjugated millions in the Axis realm were stepping up the tempo of the silent battle of the underground.

June

This is the month of drama, though the drama did not burst upon the world until a day in November. In the White House at Washington President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill discussed "the war, the conduct of the war and the winning of the war." They talked against a grim background.

The Wehrmacht was battering the last redoubts of Sevastopol and surging toward the Don. The Africa Corps took Tobruk and swept deeply into Egypt. Despite hard counterblows—the Red Army's fierce resistance, the R. A. F.'s massive raids on the Rhineland, the American Navy's great victory off Midway—the United Nations were still losing.

Such was the cheerless canvas of the global conflict as the two leaders reached a momentous decision. They decided on a grand offensive to be launched in 1942. It was designed to win North Africa as a prelude to attack on the Axis domain in Europe. In utmost secrecy orders went out for the start of immense preparations.

July

Not since German cannon were heard in Moscow's suburbs had Russia's peril been so grave. The panzers rumbled again at Blitz pace. Thirty thousand square miles of fertile steppe were put behind them within the month, and they were rolling hard through the Donside's feather grass, its rye and wheat, its old Cossack villages, toward the Volga and the Caucasus. If Hitler could command the lower banks of Russia's "Mother River," if he could seize the Caucasus, a terrible, perhaps mortal, blow would be inflicted on the Soviet. Major oil resources would be lost, the southern route of supply from the outer world via Iran and the Caspian would be severed.

The burden of battle lay still on the broad back of the Red Army, and though the cry went up for a second front to ease the load it was yet in vain. The British were hard pressed to stop Rommel some seventy miles from the Nile Delta. The United States needed more time to mobilize. But, behind the visible scene, weapons from the American mass-production lines were moving overseas and with them were going masses of troops.

August

Most Americans had never heard of Guadalcanal. They learned quickly. After the marines arrived, it got its strategic place in the Southwestern Pacific. An airfield hacked out of its coconut groves of the Japanese could command approaches to Australia and the supply line between the United States and the smallest continent. When the Americans seized it, they blunted the farthest prong of Japan's advances in Oceania and changed the tide of battle in one corner of the East.

The Solomons action was important, spectacular and heartening, but the first front was still Russia. And in Russia the focus was Stalingrad. The Wehrmacht pushed toward the key city on the Volga and toward the epic battle that may stand as the Verdun of World War II. Russia, more than ever, wanted a second front. It fell upon Prime Minister Churchill to tell Joseph Stalin that an invasion of Europe could not be promised for 1942. Instead, the British and Americans would seek to divert German strength by an attack on North Africa.

September

To stenographing followers in Berlin's Sportspalast the Fuehrer declared, "We must hold everything and wait to see who tires sooner." His words were a significant admission. His grand drive for the East had fallen short.

In the Pacific the initiative also seemed to be slipping from Japanese hands.

October

Powerful Allied action—in the Solomons, across Egypt—held the stage.

On the battlegrounds the most cheering news came from the Solomons, where a formid[illegible] nese fleet was repulsed [illegible] American Navy. Reports w[illegible] orable, too, from Alamein, wh[illegible] the British were battering Rommel's fortifications.

November

The whole complexion of the war changed.

As the Americans splashed ashore in North Africa, the momentous decision taken in the White House in June, the great secret preparations of Summer and Fall, were revealed. A major diversion had been created to relieve Russia, a ring of steel was being forged around Germany. The crucial turn in World War II seemed at hand.

Hitler's reaction was strong and essentially defensive. He dispatched troops to Tunisia, key to the Central Mediterranean. He occupied all France and snatched for the fleet at Toulon, only to see it go down, self-scuttled. He and the Duce had to put aside the dream of a march to the Nile.

December

Everywhere the United Nations were on the move or dealing effective blows—in North Africa, in Russia, in the air over Germany, in Oceania and in Burma. They were activating overseas France for a powerful role. They were undermining Italian resistance with bombs and propaganda. Germany and Japan were far from beaten; it seemed certain that they were girding to wrest back the initiative. But they were much nearer to being beaten than at the year's start.

SCOUTING . . .

One of Canada's busiest men, Jackson Dodds, has retired as General Manager of the Bank of Montreal. Although holding one of the most important administrative banking positions in the country, Mr. Dodds has always found time for an active interest in the Boy Scouts Association, being chairman of the finance committee of the Canadian General Council. Mr. Dodds will continue to take an active interest in the Boy Scouts.

* * *

Former Scout leaders, now on active service, continue to give service to Scouting. The Nova Scotia Provincial Council reports that Don Lopes of the R.C.A.F., former Scoutmaster of St. Catharines, gives six nights a week to assisting troops in the Maritimes, while Pat Evans, a former Quebec leader, has made 13 visits to Maritime Troops. The two airmen also conducted a leaders' training course at Sydney, N. S.

* * *

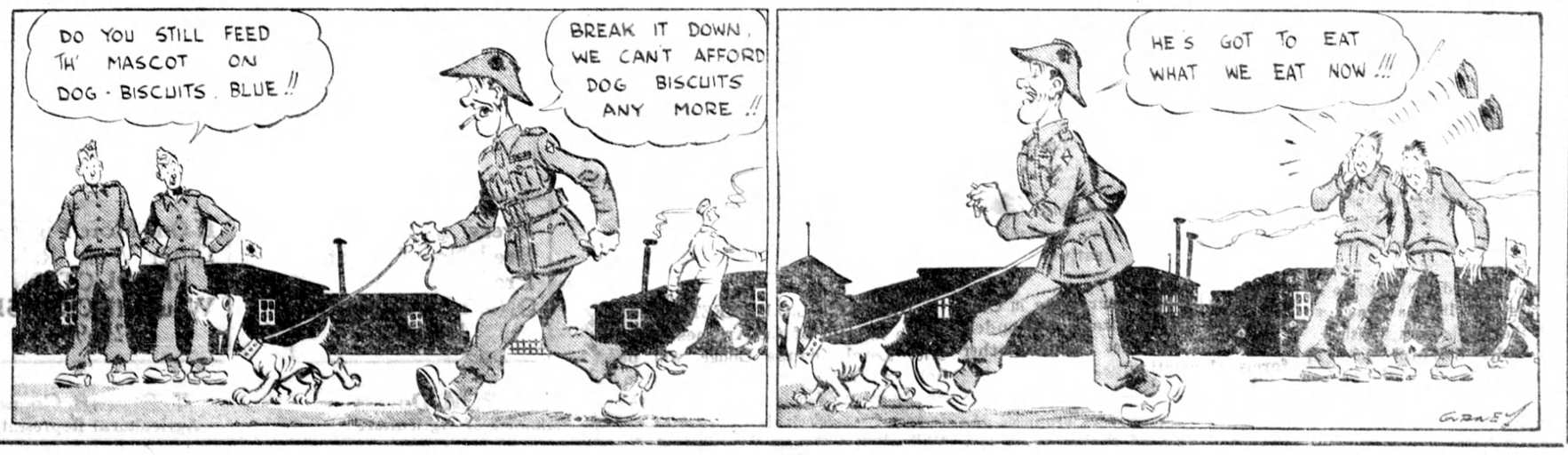
Boy Scouts of Great Britain played no small part in producing the greatest harvest in British history this past summer. Boy Scout Troops all over the nation operated "Dig for Victory" gardens, and raised thousands of tons of vegetables for home consumption. Canadian Scouts supplied them with 1,000 pounds of garden seeds.

* * *

Boy Scouts of the Punjab, India, are mourning the tragic death of one of the world's greatest Scouts, Wing Commander H. W. Hogg, C.I.E., O.B.E., Commissioner for the State of Punjab. Commissioner Hogg built up the organization in that state from a few thousand boys to more than 100,000. He was killed by disgruntled Ghandi followers, together with his son, while journeying to his Air Force post. Commissioner Hogg did as much as any man in India to break down the barriers of caste, and scores of his Boy Scout Troops had a membership composed of boys of all castes.

* * *

Dr. George H. Christie, President of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, told a recent rally of Boy Scout leaders in Toronto that the war has robbed Canada of many of its brightest young men, and thus it becomes essential that the Boy Scouts be adequately trained to shoulder the heavy burdens that lie ahead.

Facing a salt shortage, South Africa is making it from brine pumped from shallow pits.

Bluey and Curley of the Anzacs "Tough on the Dog" By Gurney (Australia)