"AN HISTORIC MOMENT"

This handshake between General Henri Giraud (left), High Commissioner for French North Africa, and General Charles De Gaulle, leader of the Fighting French, symbolized a closer understanding and a promise of co-operation between the two French factions. They are pictured in the garden of a villa in Casablanca, French Morocco. Seated between them, his face obscured by their gesture of friendship, is President Roosevelt, who commented: "This is an historic moment."

Ways Of Saving Men Of The Sea

Experiences of scores of men who reached safety after their merchant vessels were torpedoed will aid other merchant seamen in savnig their own lives.

Studies by the United States Coast Guard, experiences and emergency measures taken by men drifting in lifeboats have been published in a life-saving primer "designed to help save seamen's lives if their ships are sunk."

"Simple things that the landlubber dismisses as trifles not worth bothering about," the coast guard says, "can mean the difference between life and death to men in a lifeboat."

A bit of metal—part of a tin can—fastened to the oar of one life boat glittered brightly in the sun and attracted attention of a rescue vessel. Now, the coast guard says, every life boat will have a metal mirror to reflect the sun's rays.

There'll be plastic whistles in every seaman's equipment, too. Police whistles now are carried—but they're metal, and in extreme cold can't be used without tearing the lips.

Ladders from engine rooms fixed firmly in place, rescued men have reported, frequently snapped or were torn loose by the concussion when torpedoes struck a ship. The result — ships will have supplementary chain or wide ladders hanging loosely.

The food problems in life boats also have been studied. To supplement dry rations the coast guard recommends canned fruit juices be placed in all boats.

Illness caused by drinking salt water also is outlined in the book. It tells how to catch rain water in canvas spread in the life boat —but, here's the trick, the first catch of water must be discarded, for the canvas invariably is coated with salt spray which pollutes the first catch.

Women Over Forty Are Best Workers

Britain's huskiest women are not all with the fighting forces or in the civil defence services. In one comparatively small Thamesside area, which cannot be otherwise identified, 800 women—half the crew—work at one of the biggest raliroad freight depots.

When women were first hired in March, 1941, it was estimated that five women would do the work of three men. After a few months the proportion was reduced to four to three, and today it is about level. The only job they cannot do is locomotive driving.

Eighty per cent of the women are married and a large proportion have children. Those who do not have relatives at home put the children in day nurseries.

A recent report of the British Supply Council states that 40 per cent of Britain's production workers are women. Shipyards employ three times as many women workers as they did a year ago, and 15 per cent. or 105,000 of the railroad employees are women. Women over forty make the best workers and are "more thorough more reliable and more willing to learn," the report concludes."

Publisher Didn't Know Everything

This is the story of an American publisher who discovered when he flew back from England that one of his co-passengers was David Bowes-Lyon, brother of Queen Elizabeth, writes Leonard Lyons in The New York Post. The publisher engaged him in conversation and began to criticize the British for their failure to solve the India problem. The Britisher reminded the publisher that 30,000,000 Indians were born within the last few years and that the problem is a constantly changing one, involving countless difficulties. But the publisher continued to criticize the British for failing a solution. Bowes-Lyon listened and then interrupted: "By the way, if I weren't the Queen's brother, do you think I should make a speech about Negroes and America." The noted publisher stared at him and answered: "Don't you dare."

VOICE OF THE PRESS

ABOUT HORSEMEAT

Although some housewives are hostile to the idea of cooking horsemeat none of them have actually kicked over the traces yet. On the whole we expect that plans in that respect will go off without a hitch. But look out for galloping indigestion!

—Peterborough Examiner

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PLAN A GARDEN

The Food Controller says there will be rationing of most foods in Canada before the end of this year. Why not think about it now and prepare for a bang-up backyard garden to produce fresh greens for the table, real health food for the Summer season?

—St. Catharines Standard

—o—

HE DISAGREED

In a letter before Pearl Harbor a German citizen reported to his American cousin as follows: "Dear Uncle Karl: We are all fine. The war has harmed none of us yet. Hitler says he is giving us a new prosperity. Cousin Hendrick, who disagreed, was buried yesterday."

—Financial Post

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WHERE ARE THEY?

Hitler is demanding 250,000 Hollanders to fight his battles for him. What has become of the "master race," when it needs so many foreigners to do its fighting, if its defeat is to be staved off?

—The Argonaut

—o—

THEY WILL REPAY

Remember, the birds you feed now, while snow covers the ground, will repay kindness by guarding gardens from insect pests next summer.

—Christian Science Monitor

—o—

FRONT COMING TO HIM

They now say that Hitler is afraid to return to the Russian front. But why bother, if der front is coming to der fuehrer?

—Winnipeg Tribune

—o—

REVERSING CHARGE

"Butter shortage caused by storm," announces a Toronto paper. Oh, no; "Storm Caused by Butter Shortage."

—Ottawa Citizen

Air-Sea Rescue

When United Nations planes, raiding from Britain, are shot up over continental Europe, the flyers know that their chance of escape is good if they can reach the sea before bailing out or crashing. In waters around England the Air-Sea Rescue service, with its speedy ambulance boats and specially equipped planes, has saved more than 1,300 air crews since 1940.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"What did I tell you about reading at the breakfast table!!!"

Boy Scout Week February 21 - 27

Open Scout Meetings To Be Held During Week

The Chief Scout for Canada, His Excellency the Governor-General, has proclaimed the week of February 21-27 as annual Boy Scout Week throughout Canada. During this week Canada's Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs will be displaying their movement to the public.

The week will be featured by special national broadcasts, father and son gatherings, open Scout and Cub meetings, displays, rallies and other gatherings designed to give the public a picture of what the world's largest boys' movement seeks to do for the boys of Canada.

His Excellency the Governor-General, the Earl of Athlone, is the Chief Scout for Canada. His Excellency is peculiarly suited to the highest Scout office in the Dominion. As a young lieutenant in South Africa at the turn of the century his commanding officer was the then Col. Robert Baden-Powell, later founder of the Scout movement. The Chief Scout tells the story that Baden-Powell often discussed with him his ideas about Scouts, many years before the organization was launched. The Governor-General was also Chief Scout of South Africa when he filled the vice-regal office in that Dominion. Since coming to Canada he has continued his keen interest in Scouting, attending meetings of the Dominion Executive Committee, and frequently appearing at Scout rallies. He is an enthusiast for the Scout uniform and has appealed to Boy Scouts across Canada to wear the full standard uniform on all suitable occasions, and to wear it creditably.

Army Rejects Man Waacs Take Wife

Mrs. Frederic Amour, twenty-three years old, kissed her husband good bye when he left to take his Army examination.

"Be a good soldier, dear," she said. "I'll carry on." She wept a bit, then said to herself:

"I'm going to help him. The sooner we all get into this, the sooner it will be over and we can be together again."

An hour later, she enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Corps. Then she returned home, expecting an empty house, a solitary dinner. Instead, there was Freddie wearing an apron, stirring an omelet.

"Surprise, dear. I haven't been accepted," he said.

"Surprise, dear," she replied, "I have!"

Russian Tricks Annoy Germans

The German press is attempting to explain defeats on the Soviet front by declaring that the Russians tricked them, a Swedish correspondent reported recently.

Russia's concealment of her real military power and skill in camouflage resulted in surprises for the Germans even during the second year of the campaign, the press complained.

The Russians were said to have changed the names of many places, built new towns whose existence was kept secret and laid new railways which were not shown on any maps available to the Germans.

THE WAR · WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Threat To Australia Removed New Disasters Facing Hitler

The long and hard-fought battle for the Island of Guadalcanal in the Solomons apparently has ended. Japanese Imperial Headquarters reports that its troops had been withdrawn from the Island.

The conquest of this island which safeguards Australia and our lines of communication gives American forces undisputed possession of a base which becomes a threat to Japan's major bases in the Pacific. It was an exclusively American show and the first land victory to smash the Japanese myth of invincibility and demonstrated that with proper training the American soldier is far superior to the Japanese. Moreover, by being forced to admit "withdrawal" the Japanese military have lost face before the emperor and the people of Japan.

Kursk Recaptured

The fall of Kursk, according to The New York Times, is one of the great Russan victories of the war. Recapture of this key city opens a broad new corridor for the entire Russian offensive. It is the first breach in the German Winter Wall that stretches from the Baltic to the Black Sea and the fall of the city necessarily imperils the whole structure of German defense in South Russia. Beyond Kursk the Ukrainian plain stretches to the Dneiper.

The loss of Kursk may have consequences for the Germans as disastrous as the annihilation of their besieging army at Stalingrad. Both cities were symbols—Stalingrad of heroic Russian resistance and Kursk of German power to strike. Kursk was the bridgehead from which the Summer offensive was launched last year. Stalingrad was the tidal mark at which it faltered and failed. Within five months of Hitler's invasion the Nazis had seized Kursk and its network of strategic railways. For fifteen months they have been fortifying the city, linking it up with other "hedgehog" centers, developing it as a base for attack and a fortress to resist any assault. Yet the Russians swept over it in a single day.

This indicates one of two things, perhaps both. Either the morale of the German Army, after four months of defeat, has deteriorated seriously or the German High Command has decided that its immediately available reserves and supply system are unequal to the task of holding the 1941 victory line in the Ukraine. It may be the Germans were already withdrawing from Kursk when the Russians struck, and were neither in strength nor mood to fight. Now that the Winter Wall has finally cracked, Germany must count heavily on the possibility of Russian exhaustion and the likelihood of a sea of Spring mud to bog down the Soviet drive. But that drive is still rolling ahead with undiminished power, while German efforts to "disengage" their armies seem to weaken. General Mud is still far from the battle line. And in the north, where fresh Russian armies are gathering, his arrival will be delayed even longer.

London experts predict that Hitler, facing the dire necessity of shortening his lines and concentrating his forces to avert a new defeat, will use last year's Winter line as a stopping point only, and that he will retire, eventually, to the Dnieper where he may be able to hold while manouvering elsewhere. Such a retreat under constant pressure would add greatly to his enormous losses. It is considered doubtful that he can stand up under great new depletions of strength because Russia, without counting Lease-Lend aid, already out-produces him in many categories, despite her own great territorial and industrial losses.

Preparations In Tunisia

It is estimated that the Americans are at least two months farther advanced in North Africa than they would have been if the Darlan deal had not been consummated and the French had not capitulated. Yet, because of mud and other factors, including the fact that green United States troops are introduced to combat by easy stages, their progress has been slower than was anticipated. It had been expected that Tunisia would be cleaned out by now but General Eisenhower is proceeding with great caution and safeguarding his supply lines, although in so doing he has risked reinforcement of Nazi forces in Tunisia.

Rommel probably got into Tunisia with about 50,000 men and found there 125,000 other Axis troops—175,000 in all. They are well-equipped and have successfully mounted their .88 guns on some tanks, thus out-ranging, for the moment, certain American tanks. It is unlikely that the Axis can supply larger forces than these already in Tunisia; the Allies in time will outnumber and outgun them. While there is every confidence that the Axis will be driven out of Tunisia, the job is a tough one and cannot be accomplished in a few weeks.

Somehow or other the impression has got around that Bizerte and Tunis and other important towns along the coast of Tunisia are just so many apples which can be picked whenever we can get a tall enough boy to do the job—and that it won't take a very tall boy at that, writes W. H. Stoneman, Chicago Daily News.

This just isn't true and people will avoid disappointment later on if they understand it.

The fact is that our line from Cap Serrat on the northern coast right down to Sheitla, northwest of Sfax, is fairly good from a defensive viewpoint, but no more. The Germans and Italians opposite us have even better defensive positions all along the line, and our efforts to kick them out have been costly and in the end futil . Before we can go for Bizerte and Tunis or even for Kairouan in the south, we have to puncture a number of fine natural positions which are heavily fortified and strongly manned by excellent fighting men.

That job or series of jobs will have to be undertaken by good infantry and the price will probably be high.

The statement that our equipment is better than the enemy's is subject to serious reservations as far as the Tunisian front is concerned.

Our troops have fought wonderfully, even though we have not yet won a clean-cut battle against the Germans.

Moslem Sagacity

The wise men of neutral Iraq,
When told that the Allies would
craq,
Reflected a while,
Then replied, with a smile,
"Kindly go sit on a taq!"

PHONE UNDER FIRE

Foxhole is the desert phone booth for these British signalmen, on the job despite nearby shell blast. They are sending messages through on the African front where nearly all axis forces have been cleared out.

Bluey and Curley of the Anzacs — "Powerful stuff" — By Gurney (Australia)