

PARATROOPS WILL COME FIRST



Troops from the air land behind Axis lines, cut foe's communications. Paratroops come first, seize fields so airborne troops, jeeps, tanks in planes and gliders may land.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Mr. Churchill Declares Allied War Effort Is In Its Offensive Phase

Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the House of Commons last week, in a review of his conferences in Washington and North Africa, that invasion on a large scale is imminent, that the U-boats are now being destroyed faster than they are being built, and that the aim of the Allies is "complete destruction of our foes by bombing from the air, in addition to all other means."

The Prime Minister asserted that the "mellow light of victory" already had begun to play on the Allies and blasted any hopes that either Italy or Germany might have of negotiating a peace.

"Those guilty of trumpeting the glories of war at the beginning may well be extolling the virtues of peace at the end, and it would not be right that those who fixed on their own terms the moment for beginning wars should also fix on their own terms the moment for ending them," he said.

Operations Impending

He cryptically referred to operations "now impending" in the European theatre as being co-ordinated with those from North Africa, thus pointing up the possibility that the Axis will face attacks on its European citadel from the north and west as well as from the south.

The plans completed during last week's conferences in North Africa between himself, U.S. Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall, British Chief of Staff Gen. Sir Alan Brooke and other top Allied commanders call for the application upon the enemy of "force in its most intense and violent form," Churchill said.

He could give no guarantee "any more than I have in the past as to what will happen" in the impending operations, but he described Allied prospects as "brighter and solid."

Highlights of Speech

Highlights of his 6,000-word speech included:

1. Britain, the British Dominions, the United States and Russia are determined that "nothing will turn us from our endeavor and intention to accomplish the complete destruction of our foes by bombing from the air in addition to all other means."

2. The air war will grow in weight and severity. "The enemy who thought that air would be their weapon of victory are now finding in it the first cause of their ruin."

3. Complete agreement has been reached by the United States and Britain on the "forward steps" to be taken.

4. May was the best month in the Battle of the Atlantic since the United States entered the war with U-boat destruction exceeding U-boat construction and Allied shipping losses dropping to less than one for every three tons built.

5. The first week of June, so far as U-boats are concerned, has been the best ever.

6. When Germany loses hope of victory through her submarines, the Reich may suddenly collapse, but "do not let us build on such deductions."

Axis Lost 298,000 Men

7. The Axis lost 248,000 troops captured and 50,000 killed in Tunisia and more than half of them were Germans.

8. The U.S. 2nd Corps alone captured 37,000 prisoners; 33,000 of them Germans.

9. The British 8th Army suffered 11,500 casualties from the time it crossed the Tripolitanian frontier into Tunisia until the final conquest, while the British 1st Army suffered 23,500 casualties. The killed, wounded and missing of both armies during the campaign totalled about 35,000 men.

10. The sentiment of German prisoners captured in Tunisia was like that of prisoners after the First Great War and after the battle of Jena, on Oct. 14, 1806, when Napoleon defeated the Prussians.

"The suddenness of the collapse of these great numbers of brave and skillful fighting men with every form of excellent equip-

ment," he said, "must be regarded as significant and in a sense characteristic of German psychology generally after Jena and after the last war."

"But no undue expectations should be placed on it," the Prime Minister continued. "We prepared to win this war by hard fighting and if necessary by hard fighting alone."

11. Only 638 persons escaped of the Axis forces which surrendered in Tunisia.

Huns' Greatest Disasters

12. Stalingrad and Tunisia were the greatest military disasters that every befell Germany. "There is no doubt from the statements of the captured generals that Hitler expected the Tunisian army would hold out, at least until August."

13. The "greatest battles" appear to be impending on the Russian front, where the Germans have massed 199 Nazi and 23 satellite divisions.

14. "Taking some of the weight off Russia and giving more speedy and effective aid to China . . . are never absent for one moment from our thoughts and aims." He expressed regrets that no recent conference had yet been arranged with Marshal Stalin.

15. "The might of America is deployed far over the Pacific and is laying an ever stronger grip on the outlying defences of Japan and offering every moment to the Japanese fleet the supreme challenge of sea power."

16. That no pressure was exerted to bring the French together, but they had been watched "vigorously" in the light of British-American interests and the well-being of the armies in North Africa.

Climax of Discussion

Mr. Churchill's speech marks the climax of a discussion of invasion plans that has dominated the British press for weeks. It was supported by the numerous military conferences in both Washington and North Africa, by the massing of troops and transports in both Great Britain and the Mediterranean area, by the intensified air bombardment of Germany and especially of the Italian islands and ports, and most particularly by the arrival of the fighting season which makes some kind of action inevitable. The British commando raid on the tiny island of Lampedusa about 70 miles off the Tunisian coast, reported by the Axis, which may have been a first attempt to test the Italian island defenses, is merely part of a general pattern that has been woven by the Allies for some time.

The Word "Nazi"

Much that we admire in the English is symbolized in the way Winston Churchill pronounces the word "Nazi." In contrast to the careful, cultured, and somewhat respectful "Notzy" of the radio announcers, his "Naazzy" is a simple snarl of derision, implying that it's impossible for a plain man to get the hang of any such foreign word and in this instance, certainly not worth the trouble.—The New Yorker.

SCOUTING . . .

"The police are well aware of the results of Boy Scout training. We just don't find Scouts amongst our juvenile offenders."—Chief of Police Horace E. MeLeese, Saint John, N. B.

Fourteen institutions in London, Ontario, including hospitals and orphanages, benefited through the annual Easter Egg hunt staged by the Wolf Cubs of the city. The boys collected 1,031 dozen eggs, an increase of 427 dozen over the hunt in 1942. This Easter Egg hunt has been a civic "good turn" of the London Wolf Cubs for ten years.

The highest award in Scouting in the British Empire has been given to Chief Justice J. B. M. Baxter of New Brunswick by the Chief Scout for Canada, the Earl of Athlone. Chief Justice Baxter has been associated with the Scout Movement for a great many years, is president of the New Brunswick Association, and a member of the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts.

W. J. Langston, President of Canada Iron Foundries at Three Rivers, Quebec, utilized a unique method of commemorating the lives of employees of the company who had given their lives in the war. Believing that the finest memorial to them would be to produce better citizens, Mr. Langston forwarded a check for \$150 to the Boy Scouts of the town to purchase necessary equipment for their training program.

Suffering two broken arms in an air raid in Great Britain, Canadian fire-fighter Robert Downie of Hamilton arrived back in Canada recently. Downie was active as a Cubmaster in Hamilton prior to enlistment, and while in England associated himself with Scout Troops there. Before returning to Canada he visited each of the four "Blitz" Scouts who toured Canada last summer.

Balloon Barrage 'Beds' Made Daily

Women's Auxiliary Air Force Gradually Taking Over Job

Britain's barrage balloons are moored to their "beds" for the duration, and so are their crews, who must be on watch 24 hours a day, relates Britain Magazine. Every morning the "beds" must be made. This means oiling the cables and generally checking up. The winch must be cleaned and started up, and the "purity test" must be made with a meter which registers the amount of oxygen mixed with the gas. Too much oxygen can cause a dangerous explosion. The fabric must be carefully examined for punctures, and any holes must be mended. Picket duty is very important, for a balloon might suddenly leave its moorings and go up.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force are gradually taking over this job, except on island sites where the balloons are water-borne. A full crew consists of 16 WAAF's, but there must never be fewer than nine on duty.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

FOR THEIR OWN SLAVERY

The Nazis are a queer and arrogant lot. They have sent Denmark a bill for \$35,000,000 crowns, equal to \$25 for every man, woman and child in the country, for constructing anti-invasion fortifications along the Jutland coastline. In other words, the Danes are expected to pay stiffly for the privilege of remaining German slaves.

—Hamilton Spectator.

'E BE O.B.E.

Of course, the award of the O.B.E. to Colonel Arthur S. Pearson, former commander of the Essex Scottish, had to bring two Yorkshiremen together at the barracks to revive the old story.

Private A: "Has't 'eard about Colonel?"

Corporal B: "Nah."

Private A: "'e be O.B.E., 'e be."

Corporal B: "Oh, be 'e?"

—Windsor Star.

A GOOD TIP

Japan announces that it has punished British and American service men in the Philippines for posing as civilians. Maybe we should punish the Japs for posing as human beings.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

SANTA CLAUS IN WAR

In the far north of the Russian front, reindeer are hauling bombs, gasoline and other supplies to the airdromes. So there is a Santa Claus.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

"STOUT FIGHTERS"

An army general refers to women in uniform as "stout fighters." There's only a slim chance that they'll take it as a compliment.—Ottawa Citizen.

WAR ON HOME FRONT

War is also imminent between the woman who plans a good garden and the one who owns the big dog down the street.

—Guelph Mercury.

DESCENDING SPIRAL

The more we think of the Nazis and the Japs, the less we think of them!—Kitchener Record.

EDUCATIONAL

Cultivate a Victory garden and learn all about the bugs!

—Edmonton Journal.

British Envelope Re-used 64 Times

Other Items of Interest in Letter From Britain

The City of Birmingham, third largest in England, plans a \$400,000,000 post-war housing development. And the London Regional Reconstruction Committee has a scheme calling for a whole series of "Greenbelts" on its outskirts.

So reports Lee McCardell in his London letter to The Baltimore Sun. Other items of interest he sends include:

British Army pay sheets now travel to the Middle East by air-graph.

An envelope which has been re-used 64 times in accordance with a campaign to save paper, is now on public exhibition.

Up to last June nearly 20,000,000 civilians in Great Britain had changed places of residence since the war began.

Ophthalmic surgeons say the nation's eyesight is deteriorating, due to the bad lighting of enforced blackout, which will make Britain a land of headaches and spectacles.

West End restaurants and hotels are to be restricted to two pounds of fish for every hundred main meals served.

Checked, striped and pastel shades of woodpulp fabric will be a novelty of London's spring fashions.

There is an impending shortage of wedding rings.

Gasoline curtailment has shrunk the 3,000,000 private car licenses of pre-war Britain to 250,000.

OTTAWA REPORTS

That Canadians Appreciate the Necessity of Restrictions On Their Present Way of Life

Completely unaccustomed to Government regulating or rationing in connection with their every day habits and requirements, Canadians have been quick to realize that existing restrictions are designed not only to help speed Victory but to protect their present and post-war economic welfare.

Instead of spiralling wages being outsped by spiralling living costs, and a country driving to a devastating era of inflation, Canada wages war in a controlled economy in which we can be reasonably assured that no one is building up a tainted fortune. A workman can still buy a suit of clothing, as well—or almost as well—as a millionaire.

The present scheme of things is arranged through a myriad of orders which are revised from time to time in the light of changing circumstances and admittedly they are hard to remember in any detail. But information is always to be obtained instantly from the proper authority. Here are a few of the more important items affecting particularly dwellers in the rural parts of Canada.

By applying to their local ration boards, rural dwellers can secure extra supplies of rationed commodities when they serve 12 meals or more to temporary help. Applications should state specific nature of the work, number of workers, number of days employed, and total number of meals served.

Responsibility for canning sugar distribution in local areas has been left entirely in the hands of local ration boards. The sugar administration has been able to make available for preserving 100,000,000 pounds—the same amount which was purchased last year under the voucher system.

A recent new order on farm machinery provides an over-all increase in quotas of farm machinery of between 10 and 15 per cent, as well as increasing the quota for repair parts for sale in Canada from 150 per cent to 165 per cent of 1940 sales of such parts. A considerable list of farm equipment has now been exempted from all ration restrictions.

The exemptions are aimed at facilitating increased production of food crops and include such items as milk cooler units, small incubators, wheel barrows, electric fence controllers, permitting greater use of the single-wire electric fence in handling livestock; hay forks, slings and attachments, hand-operated seeders, cultivators and weeders, and chick

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher



"That's your wrist watch, Mr. Webb. . . The ball's still there!"

REG'LAR FELLERS—A Handy Man

By GENE BYRNES



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