

Coral Sea Battle Gives Us A Chance To Cheer

Pearl Harbor will not be finally avenged until the Japanese fleet is destroyed and the Japanese warlords are compelled to cry out: Hold, we have had enough!

But the naval engagement fought last week in the South Pacific, resulting in the destruction or disabling of nearly a score of Japanese war ships, is the most hopeful portent yet provided the American people.

And it proves—if proof were needed—that the little brown men are not supermen, that they, not our forces, can anticipate the worst when the two meet on anything like equal terms?

This battle of the Coral Sea may not be told in all its dramatic details until many weeks have passed.

Our government, in this as in the case of the air attack on Tokio, is not going to give out information which would be of assistance to the enemy, nor ease his mind as to worries about what the future may hold for him.

But one thing is clear. In this big naval battle, the long tradition of American heroism and American courage on the high seas again has been vindicated gloriously.

The spirit of John Paul Jones, Farragut and Dewey still lives.

Another happy omen is the clear indication the time is drawing to a close when the American public, in humiliation of spirit, will have to absorb all the bad news.

True, this may be only preliminary to an even stronger effort by the Japanese to penetrate the defenses of Australia.

That fact is not overlooked in the dispatches which tell of our victory in the first round of the history making naval air engagement.

However, the American supply line to that continent still is open; and we may take it for granted a concentration of strength rapidly is being achieved which should enable the Allied forces to take care of any future Japanese onslaught just as successfully.

The American people have been given their first real chance in this war to cheer.

But it will not be the last time. Our enemies are going to find that out to their utter discomfiture—that we are completely confident.

Nail Polish Plant Is At Work On Bombers

From concealing plastic nail polish to fashioning parts for bombers is a far cry but that is exactly what a Stamford, Conn., plant has accomplished. Its girl employees who formerly presided at the vanity where the potion for lady's adornment was brewed, now man the machines fabricating various small parts essential to the construction of aircraft.

The plant is one of the first allied with the cosmetics industry to alter its production to wartime goods. While its machines were being converted to the new product the girls went to trade school to learn how to manipulate them. Plant and staff were ready at about the same time and the switchover was accomplished with a minimum of delay and trouble.

This example illustrates the change through which American industry is passing in the rush to shift its production from luxury and near luxury goods to war essentials. American women can get along with a reduced output of nail polish but the American people cannot survive without air power.

Every American Should Back Up The Fighters

Official and unofficial estimates vary widely on the question of how many men are needed behind the lines to keep one soldier in the field. They run all the way from three to eighteen.

During the World War the American Expeditionary Force had a top strength of some 2,000,000 men, 36 per cent of whom were listed in the service of supply. Today war is more complicated and it will be that a greater proportion of those in the ranks must confine themselves to the business of keeping one man at the front.

But irrespective of whether there must be three or eighteen in uniform for each fighter at grips with the enemy, look at it from another angle.

Total war means total mobilization. Each one of 120,000,000 odd souls in America should consider himself indispensable to the battlefield effort, a part of a huge ununiformed army engaged in the service of supply. That sort of universal enlistment will do much to hasten the day of victory.

Despite priorities in many other lines, there is still no shortage in the midnight oil.

Unity For Victory Is Pledged By Speakers

Unity For Victory was the slogan sounded on a recent significant radio broadcast from Los Angeles.

And the names of those who participated in the program was something of a revelation. The group included:

Edward Vandeleur, executive secretary, AFL State Federation of Labor; Philip M. Connelly, president, CIO State Industrial Union Council; Captain A. B. Court, executive vice president, Los Angeles Shipbuilding Company; R. V. Garrod, president, Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America; Commander Tracy Hicks, American Legion, and State Senators Robert W. Kenny and John Phillips.

In the list are men who in the past scarcely would speak to each other, or, if they did, it was not in a spirit of friendship or amity. But today they have clasped hands in the interests of the greater cause of their country—certain victory.

The pledges made by the spokesmen for labor revealed full appreciation of the part the workers must play in the victory campaign.

Said Vandeleur for the AFL: All labor stands together in this crisis, not fighting industry, but fully collaborating with it.

Said Connelly of the CIO: We pledge ourselves to no strikes, no stoppages, no interruptions during mobilization. We will raise no hot cargo or secondary boycott issue.

And said Captain Court for non-union: Industry is prepared to forget all differences and work cooperatively with labor to the end that victory may be won.

Such statements have the ring of utter sincerity.

And they are a challenge to all Americans to close up the ranks, stand shoulder to shoulder and work as they never have worked before to insure the triumph of right and justice in the world.

And if they can do this for their country in war time, why not in peace time as well?

Why not collaboration and cooperation always?

Do they not always serve best in making the principles of Democracy workable?

Spies And Snoopers Are Almost In Same Class

The publication at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, has added a department to give military information to those it characterizes as "spies and nosy people."

The first story under this heading revealed there is a cannon which measures twelve feet in diameter and fires a 3000111 m. m. shell.

A charge fired from it at the fort will reach the Nazi lines in Russia and with equal facility the weapon can be turned around and pick off a couple of Japanese in the outskirts of Tokio.

By this time the reader will realize he is being ribbed. But this is not merely a good joke; it teaches some lessons which should be taken to heart.

Civilians have no business asking leading questions of military men and if they are asked they should be answered as facetiously as the Fort Snelling editor has written. Spies and nosy people are almost in the same classification and so far as military secrets are concerned they must be treated accordingly.

Car Travel Gains But Highway Deaths Drop

The National Safety Council finds the curtailment of the supply of new automobiles and the sale of tires has not decreased motor vehicle travel but has resulted in making highways and streets safer by reducing deaths.

During February there was a 3 per cent increase in travel compared to the same month in 1941 and March also is expected to show a similar trend when the reports are tabulated.

But the traffic fatalities were off 8 per cent in February and March produced an 11 per cent decrease. Hence for two months in succession highway fatalities have slackened after maintaining an unbroken upward climb for the previous year and a half.

A travel increase, even under today's limitations, may be the normal result of growth but the reduced death rate indicates the public is exercising greater care and caution.

Perhaps the drivers are not getting to their destinations as fast as they did in the carefree days when they stepped on the throttle with abandon but more of them are getting there. And that is important.

An educator says war frees young people to assume the responsibilities of adults. Does it also include their vice?

'Advance And Give The Countersign'



THE NATIONAL WHIRLIGIG NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

From Washington

GEARS—The tremendous decrease in automobile registrations, due equally to gasoline and rubber shortages, is creating havoc in various states. Public revenues, largely derived from motorists who have been handing out their pocket change willingly for the privilege of operating their vehicles, are drying in new lows.

More than half of all the available cars have been taken over by war agencies and hence not a dime from them goes into the bank accounts of the individual commonwealths. This situation cannot fall to force a change in fiscal systems because the main burden of the wheels has been paying for expensive roads through their purchases of petroleum products.

The metamorphosis has vast political implications, too, in some localities highway departments are potent party machines. Michigan and South Carolina are good illustrations. In others, oil companies have gained the upper hand.

SMOKING—The newest scheme of the Office of Defense Transportation is to halloo workers into moving close to their jobs. The fanfare and trumpeting are undertaken with the full knowledge and approval of the labor unions.

Any one honoring a train today knows what to expect. Every seat is filled and often numerous customers prefer to stand rather than wait for another train because a few hours later. Tens of thousands of soldiers always are on furlough and their presence is putting new furrows in the brows of harassed managers of the common carriers.

By the end of September, ODP statisticians figure, even war plants may be unable to obtain all the fuel they need to keep their chimneys smoking twenty-four hours a day. That approaching famine is why officials are urging citizens to buy coal now. By first, the black nuggets may be far down on the priority list.

LETHAL—Even last Fall Japanese citizens were required to turn out electric bulbs at exactly 10 P. M. Now the Nipponese probably live in candlelight or darkness for an extra hour or two. The realization may be a shock, but it is in the cards our own illumination will be rationed, too.

The current WPR plan is to douse private artificial light only in areas congested by munitions or aircraft industries—at first. The reason is that by the end of 1942 these plants will be operating at such breakneck speed not enough power will be available to permit indiscriminate use by civilians.

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From New York

SNUB—According to New York workmen, a leader with open hostility between the administration and unions may result from the appointment of the "unknown" Wendell Lusk as head of the War Production Board's labor production division. Only the fear of giving comfort to John L. Lewis prevented rebellion from bursting out in the CIO because of Philip Murray's appointment.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers reagent the cavalier manner in which both Murray and Green helped in the snuffing out of the WPR's old agency and the creation of the fresh setup in Paul V. McNutt's Manpower Mobilization Commission. They are preparing a sizable rebuke. The aircraft makers in the UAW are ruffled because they believe due consideration has not been shown their fast growing group. To them the new man is a rank outsider.

The CIO was determined to force the selection of Walter Reuther for the important task of drafting tollers for the defense industries but the AFL did not want the author of the much debated automobile plant conversion plan. It insisted upon Robert J. Watt, its own international agent. Despite the power represented by the major organizations, the president picked Lusk, a man who was formerly a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and prior to his new job was head of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission.

SINK—In public the RAF commanders are grinning because of the success of their blitzkrieg against German industries and communications, but behind the scenes they show wrinkled foreheads from their newest worry. Planes are rolling from factories and United States ships so fast the United Kingdom is running out of aircraft.

The British Isles have no illimitable areas such as Canada in this country. Even their small territory is broken by mountains, rivers, bays and thickly settled sections. The search for space is complicated by the demands of the food ministry. The battle of the Atlantic is cutting off so many normal supplies the government has launched an intensive farm program and meadows have been commandeered for this purpose.

Flies argue the surrender of sixty square miles for an airdrome is more useful than their retention for crops.

Airports are needed not only to sustain the gigantic offensives now roaring into the heart of the reich but also to accommodate students. As modern weapons of aerial warfare become more intricate much longer courses in pilot and bombardier training are necessary and the call for school grounds is proportionately greater.

changing the public's interest in reading, say the delegates of the American Booksellers Association convention in New York. One third fewer volumes were printed in April, 1942 than a year ago. Competitions on culture and social sciences are waning in general appeal but all forms of technical publications are booming. The Red Cross first aid lessons are a best seller now rivaling the distribution of Bibles, the traditional top ranking purchase. Business is greatest in areas with war industries.

The most popular treatises are those dealing with mechanics, tooling, radio, aviation and maritime explanations. Engineering handbooks for study or reference on machine shop practice attract customers because the new generation of workers needs less dexterity than old craftsmen, but more knowledge of the fundamentals of operation.

Twenty-one thousand two hundred copies of one document on factory work were bought in 1939. During the first three months of this year 21,800 of the same text were sold. Spanish language technical instructions on factory and even defense subjects are doing well. A former United States sailor decided to prepare a manual for mariners. He solicited several hundred letters from seamen setting forth exactly what they might want. Then he wrote his guide and to date he has circulated more than 40,000 books.

Public Thinks

We May Be Walking, But Hardly Can Be Happy

Editor of The Bee—Sir: Gerald Williams seems to think all our troubles will be over after our shoes are gone and getting back to the good earth will make us happy.

Stopping traffic will not stop deaths. Those who do not die from pneumonia from walking in rain or wind may die in Summer from sunstroke or heart failure.

People will go mad from the monotony of staying at home and their morale will not be worth much.

If there is leather we will wear out enough shoe leather in one month to buy a tire, if there were tires. If there is no leather, oh brother! Not counting the cost of rubbering felloes for sore and aching muscles, our feet will be so blistered we cannot walk another step.

I do not mean to be a crepe hanger. I just want to remind you we may be walking but we will not be happy.

DEANE ROGERS, Fresno.

Use Propaganda

Editor of The Bee—Sir: What are we doing to expose the Hitlerite that this is a war for the existence of the German nation? While we must hammer out the German heads forever the idea that they are a "master race," we must hammer into them the proposition that if they renounce Hitler and his clique, and lay down their arms, the United Nations will guarantee them a just peace, without revenge.

We might begin with the older half of the German population, who remember the republic. They are the backbone of the munitions industry. A little slowdown or sabotage on their part would cripple the Nazi war effort.

The stakes are tremendous. If we could bring even a fraction of these people around to our way of thinking, we might greatly shorten the war and save untold American blood.

Germany must be bombed not only with explosives but with the truth. Propaganda is still the greatest secret weapon. Why neglect it? ROBERT S. FIELD, Vineland, N. J.

Finish Will Count

Editor of The Bee—Sir: Hitler never was so popular with the German people as when he started war. But one of the most vital ingredients of German hate for Hitlerism will be when this war is over and the curse of Nazism will be regarded by the surviving Germans as an attack on their life and civilization.

When in history ever has an intellectual people been so misled as the Germans, yet today they are willing to sign the last drop of blood for Hitlerism, even though no doubt some have been forced into war against their will.

Hitler has gone far and the war has become a new sincerity since all nations are now involved. How shall we come out of the war, I wonder? It seems to me this will be the test which shall decide an individual's or a nation's right to survival.

MADERA, HATTIE LLOYD.

Prove Their Worth

Editor of The Bee—Sir: Your editorial, Armenian Rug Merchant Shares Some Americans, is excellent and timely. I thank you.

White, president emeritus of Cornell University, said once concerning the Armenians: "The Armenians are a people of large and noble capacities. For ages they have maintained their civilization under oppression that would have crushed almost any other people. The Armenian is one of the finest races in the world. If I were asked to name the most desirable races to be added by immigration to the American population, I would name among the very first the Armenian race."

The Armenians in the United States of America are proving in all walks of life that Dr. White was right.

ARSHAG MAHDESJAN, Fresno.

Too Many Complain Over America's Wartime Effort

Editor of The Bee—Sir: I am not a Japanese nor any other foreign national. I am also a student and I find I can learn as much through observation as from my books, so far as characteristics are concerned. Of course students cannot be blamed for what they hear at home but one can learn a lot from other students by listening.

It is none of my business, but I often wonder, while they are taking the Japanese, why not take all those along too who haven't a good word for our president. They howl because "he got us into war" and they howl because "we weren't ready for war" and they kick at everything that the president does or doesn't do.

Some hate the English and slam the RAF. What if Hitler had started on us first without our being prepared and we had fought alone for a year, we would be weak too; and those who are howling about the IAF would no doubt, be looking out from behind a tree somewhere. Those who do the most howling about the other would be the first to run.

Hitler has not all the corners on hate. There is plenty here in our midst and is constantly given expression by those who call themselves Americans. I would love to help lead them on a boat and send them back to Hitler.

I do not know what the Japanese think, but they do keep their mouths shut.

A TRUE BLUE AMERICAN, Fresno.

Must Rout Aggressors

Editor of The Bee—Sir: Let us go over the top, 100 per cent for civilian and national defense, with more pep and less talk. Let us always remember Pearl Harbor.

The course of the war is not so encouraging so far.

We must all dig in, united, to overthrow the aggressor forces loose in the world. Also let us keep in our mind the fact that clear conscience and spiritual guidance will carry mankind through this dark hour.

Let us stand behind that true fighter and zealous soldier, General MacArthur, for we must struggle and fight if we wish to live.

May our Heavenly Father protect our loved ones from the enemy. Let us also keep our beautiful Stars and Stripes, the symbol of valor and honor inviolate, and to be victorious over the aggressor. All of us pray that peace will be restored and hereafter preserved and safeguarded for and to all humanity.

C. G., Fresno.

Do Not Forget Nurses

Editor of The Bee—Sir: It seems since December 7th there has been so much publicity and credit given to nurses aides and society women in uniform we wonder if the people have forgotten the registered nurse. We appreciate what these women are doing but let us also give the registered nurse credit. The pin and cap are part of the uniform of a nurse who has spent four to six years studying and training in the hospital and college.

It is the registered nurse who courageously gives her life for her country with the rest of the armed forces in all parts of the world. Let us not forget Florence Nightingale and her struggle in making the nursing profession what it is today.

C. O. and E. B., Fresno.

It Is The Climate

Editor of The Bee—Sir: I think "Dutch" Warmerdam will make his top vault in Fresno this Spring. There is something in the warmth of the San Joaquin Valley air which gives an athlete the little extra he needs.

The San Joaquin weather leaves nothing to be desired.

A name for the war—Hit Japan War. Italy started it, Hitler really got it going and Japan got the worst beating.

E. C. SNELL, Fresno.

Questions And Answers

Pledge Of Allegiance

What is the proper way to salute and to pledge allegiance to the Flag?—MRS. J. R. H., Fresno.

During the ceremony of holding or lowering the flag, or when the flag is passing in a parade or a review, all persons present should face the flag, stand at attention and salute. Those in uniform should render the right hand salute. When not in uniform, men should remove the headress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Women should salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag in the moving column is rendered at the moment the flag passes.

Some of the best method of pledging allegiance to the flag is to rise and face the flag, laying the right hand over the heart, and repeating the words slowly and distinctly. When the two words, "The Flag" are reached, the right hand, palm upward, is extended toward the flag, and is held thus until the conclusion of the pledge.

Inaugural Text

When President Roosevelt took the oath of office as president of the United States was the Bible opened at a particular passage? If so, what passage and who selected it?—G. W. R., Fresno.

Twice when he was inaugurated as governor of New York and at all three inaugurations as president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt placed his hand on an open Bible, on the first verse of the thirteenth chapter of the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, which reads as follows:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

This text was selected by president personally in each instance.

Gabriel Heatter

Please give a brief sketch of Gabriel Heatter. Who were his parents?—E. M., Fresno.

Gabriel Heatter, newspaperman and radio commentator, was born in New York City in 1880. His father, Henry Heatter, was a clothing manufacturer. His mother, who was born Ana Fischman in Austria, was active in Jewish welfare work in Brooklyn and was one of the founders of the Brooklyn Women's Hospital and the Brownsville Maternity Aid Society.

His first job was as copy boy on a Brooklyn newspaper while still in school. After studying law at the New York University Law school he returned to journalism. Later he wrote numerous articles and ghost writing material, and in 1932 became a radio news commentator. He is married and has two children.

National Defense

Did President Roosevelt more than five years ago in an address to the DAR say that we should build a strong national defense in this country?—E. R. L., Fresno.

In a letter to the Daughters of the American Revolution on April 21, 1936, President Roosevelt said: "... The administration, as you know, stands for adequate national defense. It stands also for the policy of the good neighbor."

"It has been the aim of this administration to make our national defense efficient and to keep it adequate. Today our defense forces are on a stronger peace time basis than before. It is our purpose to keep them that way.

"Defense must be adequate, not sectionally adequate, but nationally adequate."

Remember?

(From The Arkansas Gazette) Another Hitler schedule was that plan to drop ten tons of bombs on England for every ton dropped on the reich and Nazi infested neighbors.

Don't Take My Word For It

BY FRANK COLBY

NAMES IN THE NEWS HUBERTUS "YAH MOKE" lieutenant governor of the Dutch East Indies, now in Australia. Note that Mook rhymes with enke, poke, yoke. Say

HOOP-BAIR-tuss vahn MOKE ERWIN ROMMEL, Nazi marshal in command of German forces in North Africa. Note that the "w" of Erwin is pronounced "v." Say:

RAH-mi TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA, lieutenant general in command of Japanese forces in the Philippines. Both names are accented slightly on the first syllable. Say:

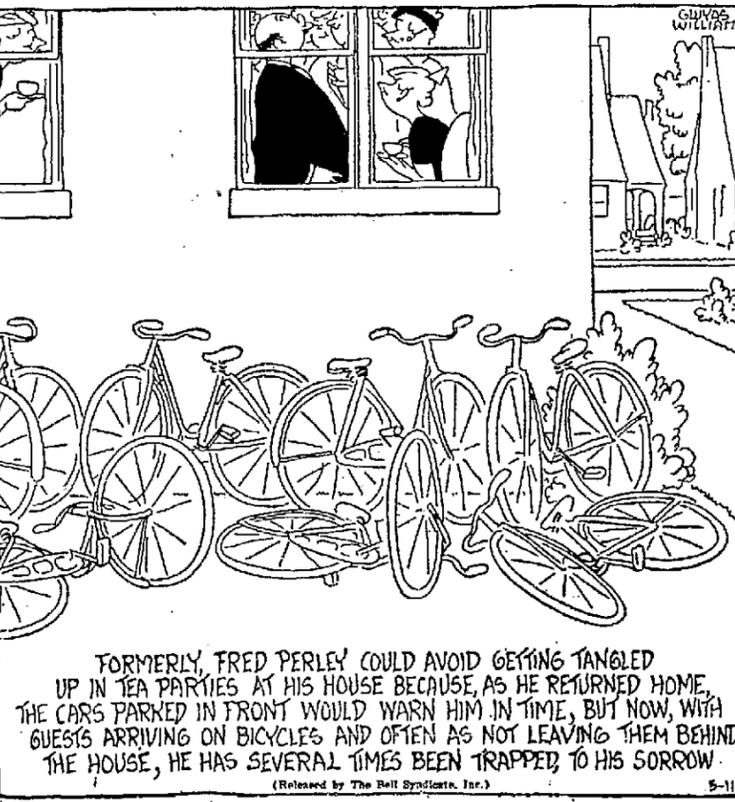
TOE-mee-yoo-kee YAH mah-shee-tah HIDEKI TOJO, premier and war minister of Japan. The "i" of Tojo has the "zh" sound as heard in azure. Say:

HEE-day-kee TOE-zhoe MASAHARU HOMMA, Japanese lieutenant general, reported have committed kari kiri (HAI-reh-KEE ree) in Manila. Say:

MAH-sah-hah-roo HOE-mah Let's learn a new word. In the English and Canadian navies, a CORVETTE is a small but very fast torpedo boat capable of great maneuver ability and heavy fire power. Corvettes are widely used in convoys as scouts and sub chasers. The word is French. Accent the second syllable, thus:

knaw-VET Send today for my new pamphlet, "Rules for Pronouncing French." Do not delay; they are going fast. Send a stamped (3 cent), self addressed envelope to Frank Colby, in care of The Fresno Bee. Ask for free FRENCH RULES Pamphlet.

Suburban Heights



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