

★ THE Commentators

COMMENT ★

(Publication of the following opinions of prominent commentators of the press and radio implies no indorsement. They are presented as interesting views by well-known spokesmen on topics of concern to our readers.)

Walter Lippmann casts a critical eye on the domestic problems of the nation and finds that:

The underlying cause of the trouble in this country on the home front is that we are applying one standard of morals, of values, of duty, and of rights to the men and women of the armed forces and a different standard to the civilians . . .

That is why we have the relentless pressure of group and special interests about money . . . while from the Army and Navy we expect and get service and sacrifice which are beyond price.

In all these contentions at home there is by normal civilian peacetime standards a great deal to be said on both sides. No fair-minded man can deny it, but . . .

We are too patient with our own disputes and we are pursuing a will-o'-the-wisp when we imagine that any war-time government can provide every civilian workman, employer, farmer, consumer with his just, exact and duly proportionate money rewards. It cannot be done . . .

No one has ever worked out a just system of economic payments for the Marines in the first assault wave at Tarawa. No one has been foolish enough to try. Yet on the home front we go through the elaborate forms of debate about wage rates, prices, profits and taxes as if it were possible to arrive at any solution which is absolutely and perfectly just.

Let no one think that the war can be so divorced from domestic issues that we can ask men to face death in battle and on the home front can have politics-as-usual, special-interests-as-usual, or any of our ordinary materialistic, acquisitive, ambitious habits-as-usual.

The destruction wrought in the Italian campaign is described by Ernie Pyle as follows:

The little towns of Italy that have been in the path of this war from Salerno northward are nothing more than great rubble heaps. There is hardly enough left of most of them to form a framework for rebuilding.

When the Germans occupied the towns we rained artillery on them for days and weeks at a time. Then after we captured a town the Germans would shell it heavily. They got it from both sides.

Along the road for 20 or 30 miles behind the fighting front you pass through one demolished town after another. Most of the inhabitants take to the hills after the first shelling. At least they did up here. Some go to live in caves, some go to relatives in the country. A few in every town refuse to leave no matter what happens, and many of them have been killed by the shelling and bombing from both sides.

The proposal to set up an international court to try Axis leaders is explained briefly by Harlowe R. Hoyt:

There is talk now of punishing the guilty and it is against this that voices are raised. It is urged that this threat will only incite the Axis to a more determined battle and will prolong the war; that since they realize their cause is hopeless, they prefer to die with their boots on rather than at a rope's end.

The plan for punishment now is framed about a court of 35 international jurists in London empowered to try war criminals, including heads of states. . . War crimes are defined as "any grave outrage violating the general principles of criminal law as recognized by civilized nations and committed in wartime or connected with the preparation, waging or prosecution of war or perpetrated with a view of preventing the restoration of peace."

Crimes may be committed by direct action, by aiding or by ordering them. The proposed international court will try war criminals and preside when domestic courts of a United Nations are without jurisdiction:

Richard L. Strout brings up a new phase for discussion on post-war plans when he reports of an interview with a traveler who recently returned from Russia after conversing with Stalin himself:

The thing that impressed me in his report was the absolute confidence of the Russians that after the war they can make their system of production work. They have seen ignorant peasants and farmers, in a land of untold wealth and resources, turned into skilled industrial workers and disciplined soldiers and build up such a reservoir of power that it could meet and hurl back the German armies that had overrun all the rest of Europe . . .

It will be a very strange world after the war if Russians have full employment, while on the other hand in the United States bad administration permits another depression to occur . . .

Most economists believe that bold measures in capitalistic countries can lick postwar unemployment and depressions . . .

Yet democracy can not meet the challenge without boldness. No one dares to think what would happen if we asked the men of our present army to start selling supplies on street corners because we couldn't supply them with post-war jobs. There is more danger in post-war timidity than in post-war audacity.

Paul Mallon, joins his fellow commentators out on that limb with the following prediction on the end of the war:

The end of the war in Europe is surely to be expected this coming year. Fuller use of our great power is practically promised officially, not on far scattered atolls but in concentrated power. Places where the blows are to be launched have almost officially been suggested.

Disappointments cannot continue to delay the inevitable. Yet, if we continue only to plod along remote sandy island by island in the Pacific, and mountain by mountain in Italy, with no more than 200,000 men in action on land, anyone can see this war could last interminably (the long hard years originally forecast).

My best guess is Germany will crack, and quickly; that the war in Europe will certainly end in the first six months of 1944, probably the first quarter, and that Japan will last less than a year longer.

A first-hand picture of the landing at Tarawa, accomplished after bloody fighting, is presented in the following excerpts from the report of Marine Corps correspondent Master Tech. Sgt. Jim G. Lucas:

As we pulled toward the beach, we were met with enemy shellfire. A boat on our starboard side received a direct hit. Five men were killed. We pulled alongside and dragged in the survivors . . .

At 1 p. m. we started in again, moving toward the pier which appeared undamaged. We were stopped by machine gun fire . . .

At 3 p. m. we tried again. Shells tore the water on all sides. Two more boats went down, and more Marines died. We backed out again, unable to pick up the survivors. Many of them swam to us, and were later moved back to their transports. Many of the wounded drowned.

The sun was punishing. There was no shade. We broke out our rations and nibbled at them . . .

We were uncertain where to go. The Jap lines were only fifty yards past the end of the pier, and there was no command post.

The last 75 yards of the pier was white coral grit. There was a brilliant moon . . . We swore at it viciously. We were perfect targets . . . Crouched, we sprinted down the pier, silhouetted against the coral. Snipers opened up, and six men fell, screaming in agony. We lay like logs.

"We can't stay here," someone said up the line, "they'll shell hell out of us and we'll all be gone."

"Advance slowly. Five feet between each man. They won't get us all that way."

We started. Three more Marines fell, and we hit the ground. Inch by inch we moved up. Each ten yards cost us the lives of more Marines. Each time I expected to get mine. Finally we were within 15 yards of the beach. Ahead were shadows.

"Throw away everything, including your camera," I told Matjasic. "We'll come back and get it if we can. We're making a run for it."

A sergeant beside me cracked: "Take your rifle. You'll probably never get to use it, but you might."

I grinned. Ray and I ran for the shadows. It was an anti-climax. Not a shot was fired at us.

The Wolf

by Sansone



First Marine Becomes Four-Star General

Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb became the first four-star general in Marine Corps history upon his retirement as commandant of the Marines, Sunday, and will be assigned to an important position by President Roosevelt. Gen. Holcomb also became the sixth four-star general in the American armed forces as a whole, the other five being Pershing and Craig (both retired), MacArthur, Eisenhower and Arnold.

Gullible Jeeps Try Dubbin as Hair Tonic

Some jeeps will believe anything they hear. Two "veteran" squad leaders at Camp Roberts, Cal., announced at a bull session that the vine-smelling dubbin was not only good for snobs but was an excellent hair tonic and dandruff remover. A little later, to their amazement, they discovered one of their victims in the latrine busily massaging his hair with the stuff. What was worse, he had convinced two of his buddies of the values of dubbin and all three had their heads looking like seal skins.

Keeping Men in Trim With Psychology

The first sergeant of Company C, at Camp Blanding, Fla., Battalion, Infantry Replacement Training Center, doubles as a psychologist. When the line for sick call rivaled the chow line, the top kick ordered men going "on call" to turn in their equipment to the supply sergeant, "just in case they were sent to the hospital." Result: 11 "sick" one day; three the next.

Merchant Marine One Day, A GI Recruit the Next!

The Marine has landed and the Army has him well in hand. Merchant Marine Pvt. Richard J. Toeperer, of Philadelphia, was discharged from the service for overstaying his leave. He returned two days late, and the next day was discharged. The day after that he was inducted into the Army, and, the same day, was sent to New Cumberland Reception Center. He reported to New Cumberland still wearing his Merchant Marine uniform.

New Air Fighter Tactics Taught Pilots in Britain

England (CNS)—A post graduate school for airmen where carefully selected British and American fighter pilots are taught perfect tactical cooperation has been established here. Its purpose is to prepare fliers for the air battles which will precede and accompany the opening of the second front in Europe.

First Sgt.: "I think you are the finest looking man I ever saw."

Buck Sgt.: "I'm sorry I can't return the compliment."

First Sgt.: "You could if you told as big a lie as I did."

Yankee Slugger Charlie Keller has been deferred by his Maryland draft board but his deferment isn't going to do the Yankees any good. The board classified Keller 3A and froze him to his winter war plant job.

Orientation Series Launched With Lectures, Movies Here

(Continued from page 1) news summaries and weekly news maps, pertinent material found in Yank, Infantry Journal and similar periodicals; monthly orientation materials issued by the War Department; weekly quiz sheets containing multiple choice questions regarding the past week's news and new developments within the Army—as compiled by Lt. Olicker and his staff—all will have their place in the weeks to come for soldiers at Camp Reynolds.

"The Army is past the stage where it is concerned with physical equipment. We know that we have the best material in the world. We also intend to have the best informed soldiers in the world."

Lt. Olicker, a graduate of City College of New York, with a degree in social sciences, history and government, further explained that Britain and Russia had instituted a similar program in their armies and that it had proven quite successful.

The well-known series of informational films under the general title of "Why We Fight" which include the chapters Prelude to War, The Nazis Strike, Divide and Conquer, The Battle of Britain, the Battle of Russia, The Battle of China, and Know Your Allies will be a part of future sessions.

Divided into five separate parts for convenience in outlining study programs, Lt. Olicker refers to the component parts as the Five Knows: Know Why We Fight—

Know Why We Fight. It is not enough for the individual soldier to be told that he is part of an army which is fighting an enemy army. That soldier must know why HE has an enemy, why HE must fight that enemy, and why each man in the enemy's army is an individual enemy to HIM.

Know the Enemy. It is the purpose of this phase of orientation to learn much from our enemy so that we can outfight him, crush his armies, smash his factories and bases, destroy his systems, end his ambitions!

Know Our Allies. We are part of the most powerful, most democratic alliance in history—thirty-three countries pledged to fight in a great alliance against the Axis and aggression on all the continents and in all the seas, determined to win this war with the overwhelming might of our combined strength, determined to establish a new age of freedom for all men on this earth. Pooling our strength, our manpower, our resources and our strategy we strive to bring about the quickest and most thorough defeat of the enemy.

Know the News and Its Significance. Each soldier has a personal stake in this war. The successes, reverses, and problems of the Allied armies are closely connected to his individual mission. He must be given every opportunity to know the news to keep him informed and to defeat Axis propaganda. Interest in world events and intelligent discussion of them will produce a thinking soldier, a better soldier.

Know and Have Pride in Your Organization or Outfit. The Army wanted you because it needed you. There's the soldier, squad, platoon, company, battalion, regiment, division, corps, army and arm or service—that's the Army. The individual soldier is the basis for all those units. Be proud of your outfit or unit.

These multiple objectives will be unrecited in future orientation sessions. Meanwhile, the Camp Rey-

GAS WARFARE CLASSES OPEN

Capt. Thomas W. Wood Heads CWS Classes For Units Here.

One officer and three non-coms from each battalion plus one officer and one NCO from each detachment of Camp Reynolds are studying defense against chemical warfare in the third periodic course offered by Chemical Warfare Service in Bldg. 1951. Capt. Thomas W. Wood, Post Chemical Officer, has announced.

Men who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of proficiency indicating qualification as a unit gas officer or non-commissioned officer at graduation exercises January 19.

All phases of chemical warfare are included in the course, such as characteristics and properties of chemical agents, first aid for casualties, protection of the individual and unit, use of the gases, decontamination, gas mask care and drill, and specialized field exercises.

Offense and Defense Tactics Instructors emphasize defense against gas, how to recognize it and the precautions to be taken against it. Although trained CWS troops release a gas attack, offensive measures are taught to enable unit gas officers and NCO's to anticipate an enemy attack.

Members of the Chemical Warfare staff who will assist Capt. Wood in th instruction are: Lt. Dale M. Ford, Lt. Jack F. Millstead, Lt. Burrell L. Bauer, Lt. Jonas Blickstein, Lt. Isaac Hicks, Jr., Sgt. Angelo S. Tesariero, Cpl. Albert Hollabaugh, school secretary, and Pvt. Benedict Overberger, class room assistant.

Novelty Tunes, Dance Revue Composed For Soldiers Show

(Continued from page 1) Castle trio, and Miss Mary Avron, a soprano of Sharon.

Individual acts include the two piano team of Sgt. Artese and Cpl. Herbert Mazer, Special Services, and the 4-F Quartet, composed of Pvt. Domie Mann, T-5 Benjamin Bakkegard and Cpl. John Tauber, of Band No. 1, and T-4 Michael Pistolesi, Headquarters Company.

Cpl. Thomas Kinkead, Special Services Detachment, and Edward Schnitman, 8th Battalion, are among the comedians whose acts are interspersed among musical numbers. Cpl. Kinkead will impersonate Groucho Marx in "Dr. Fradler's Dilemma."

Cpl. John Lockwood's choral group will form the nucleus of the singing chorus. Post Band No. 1 will be featured in several spots and will accompany all musical numbers.

Cooperating in the production, Pvt. James Moonan, 2nd Battalion, is stage manager, Cpl. William Kessler, electrician and Pvt. Ellis Simpson is in charge of scenery. Cpl. Peterson is directing the review.

"Meet The Need" —Red Cross Aim

(Continued from page 1) stituted here by soldiers of Chinese extraction enabled them to make allotments through the Office of Dependency Benefits to dependents in unoccupied China.

Many soldiers passing through Camp Reynolds having relatives in foreign lands, occupied or unoccupied, have come to the Red Cross to seek information about these relatives. Because of the scope of their organization, the Red Cross has been able to make contact in many cases.

Equipment Furnished In July of this year, the Camp and Hospital Council was organized with 18 Chapters in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio to furnish furniture and equipment for the hospital and dayrooms and to donate athletic equipment not furnished by the government.

The staff of the Red Cross at Camp Reynolds, headed by Mr. Kenneth Thorn, Field Director of Clearfield, Pa., comprises the following Assistant Field Directors: S. Clair Borland, Indiana, Pa.; Ellsworth Kimmel, Erie, Pa.; Lloyd Kingsley, Titusville, Pa.; Aldwyn Jones, Scranton, Pa.; Louis Goldberg, Sharon, Pa.; Thomas Christy, Woodfield, Ohio and Herbert E. Varnum, Titusville, Pa.

nolds Victory News will serve to supplement the Army orientation program with pertinent news of vital interest.