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EDITORIAL

UNITED STATES IN REAL WAR

It is not pleasant to write the sad news that
comes from the Far East where the best efforts of
the forces opposed to Japan have not been more
than enough to temporarily slow down the truly
amazing progress of the Jap offensive.

We know that every citizen wants to read good
news from this theatre of the war. We would like
to present a rose-colored picture but we can't do it
and stay within calling distance of the truth. It may
not be popular to point out misfortunes but every
American must realize the gravity of the war in
which the nation is now engaged.

The heroic defense of the Philippines, the ex-
ploits of Flying Fortresses, the naval smash at Jap-
anese islands and the arrival of some ships in the
Far East, together with the Macassar Straits en-
gagement, represents the cream of the good news in
nearly three months of bitter fighting, during which
the enemy has moved a long way on the road it is
traveling.

To correctly appraise the situation is not to fear
defeat. The fall of Hong Kong, followed by the Jap
destruction of air bases and the seizure of naval
bases on many islands, and the crowning disaster of
the surrender of Singapore, tell the story of amateur
soldiers battling against professionals with superior
equipment.

Now that Japan seems ready to launch her as-
sault through the Dutch East Indies and to the
shores of Australia, it is interesting to point out that
the line of attack may follow the route to India,
through Burma. Already General Chiang Kai-shek,
heroic leader of his nation in four and a half years
of war, has visited India to confer with officials there
in regards to what may be ahead.

So far, we have called attention to the situation
in the Far East, where Japan has practically had her
own way in a war launched by Tokyo against the
United States and other nations. In Europe, there is
general apprehension over the expected Spring of-
fensive, for which Germany is feverishly preparing.
Where will the blow fall? Nobody knows, but there
are three or four vital areas, widely distant, that
must be prepared, as far as possible, to meet the at-
tack.

Some military observers look for a German drive
in the Middle East, to seize the Caucasus and, more
important, link up with the Japanese drive that may
be extended into the lands that border the Indian
Ocean. If Germany and Japan effect a junction in
the Middle East, the job ahead of the people of the
United States will be bigger than ever.

We must face the inevitable consequences with-
out fear and renew our determination to blast Nazis,
Fascists and Japs from the face of the earth in order
that the world, including us, may enjoy peace. This
we must do, and the first step in the task is to under-
stand the true size of the job that is ahead.

Let it be plainly remembered by every American
that this nation did not attack Japan. We were
treacherously assaulted at Honolulu while Japanese
envoys talked hypocritically of peace in Washington.
Immediately, Germany and Italy declared war upon
us, indicating beyond doubt the close communion
that exists between these powers and their joint
intention of conquering the United States.

Americans must adjust themselves to the
thought, hitherto unknown, that this nation can be
defeated unless its people strain every nerve and fibre
of their beings in the production of guns, planes,
tanks and ships. We must realize, for once in our
lives, that our enemies are not overawed by the size
of the United States, our potential industrial power
and natural resources. In the fact, this is what our
enemies are fighting for.

This is not a war in which soldiers, sailors, ma-
rines and airmen can do the job alone. It is a struggle
without precedent in the history of mankind. Two
bitterly antagonistic moral philosophies are in mortal
combat and one, or the other, will survive. The
"have's" are facing a gang of bandits whose organi-
zation is not matched in the history of freebooting
expeditions and whose bloody search of loot is un-
surpassed in the annals of piracy.

Here's a fable, unfortunately true: Once there
was a Congressman who said, if it were left to him,
every American battleship would rust on the bottom
of the ocean.

Despite the uproar in the House of Representa-
tives about fan-dancers, most of us would rather see
a fan-dancer than a Congressman.

Every citizen of Centre county should give the
nation financial support. We are lucky to be able to
invest in our government.

YOUR PART IN THE WAR

The serious situation confronting the United
States, as a result of the attack on the Philippines,
the German U-boat piracy in the Atlantic and the
latest catastrophe, the surrender of Singapore to the
Japs, creates new responsibilities for the citizens of
Centre county.

The first obligation of a good citizen is to be in-
telligent in regards to the war in general and the
second is to loyally cooperate in all measures that
may be necessary on the home-front. Our country is
now facing the greatest crisis in its history, and the
more soundly we realize that fact the less grief will
be experienced later.

Those who cannot serve in the trenches, in the
air or on ships can render valuable service, without
which the war cannot be won. We can maintain mor-
ale, increase production and make available adequate
supplies in the fighting forces.

In addition, we can buy Defense Bonds and
Stamps to the limit of our ability. This simple act
of faith in the American Government is an act in
support of every armed service man. It insures that
our fighters will have the guns, tanks, planes and
ships that will give them an even break when they
meet the enemy in combat.

Every loyal American should resolutely accept
the privations that may be ahead. To do without
automobile tires and cut down on sugar consumption
is little, compared with exposing one's self to hostile
bullets under the disadvantages that every soldier
of the democracies must temporarily accept.

Let's get behind this country in the only way
that we can. There's no use to talk about patriotism
unless it is translated into actual deeds. What the
nation needs today is doers, not talkers.

WE CAN AFFORD SHIPS AND PLANES

We are very glad to note that the United States
in preparing for all-out warfare, is providing more
than \$600,000,000 for the air arm of the United
States Navy, but we are also glad that something like
\$8,000,000,000 is being used in the construction of
warships.

There is no use for this country to gamble on
the ultimate decision as to the importance of war-
ships and airplanes. We have the money, the labor
and the materials to possess both in sufficient num-
bers to take care of the United States.

It is interesting, in this connection, to learn that
Admiral Luttwig, the German radio naval spokes-
man, recently stressed the great value of seapower,
telling the German people that "the domination of
the sea will remain in the hands of the greatest naval
powers" and warning his German listeners that the
initial Japanese successes against American and
British navies should not lead to under-estimation
of naval power as against air power.

The German Admiral ought to know something
about the problem. When France collapsed in the
early summer of 1940, Germany possessed an over-
whelming air force. It was used for an offensive
against the British Isles until late in the Autumn.
Despite the aerial superiority, the German offensive
got nowhere in so far as the destruction of the Brit-
ish Navy was concerned.

LAGGING SUPPLIES TO RUSSIA

Some concern is reported in Washington over
the failure of the United States to deliver to Russia,
in the last three months, more than half of the war
equipment contemplated under the wording of the
Moscow Protocol.

Knowing the extent of German preparations for
a new Spring offensive against Moscow, officials are
anxious to make good on the implied promise of the
United States. It is realized that unless supplies are
shipped in great quantities soon, they will not reach
the Russians before the Germans attack.

The problem is complicated by our own entry
into the war which created pressing demands for ma-
terial and shipping. Moreover, it requires between six
and eight weeks for material from the United States
to reach the battlefronts of Russia.

American officials understand the vital impor-
tance of assisting the Russian Army in the forth-
coming attack. To keep the Red Army fighting is one
of the prime objectives of leaders in this country and
Great Britain and it is pointed out that the British
have attempted to keep their deliveries to Russia
on schedule, despite pressing needs in the Middle
and Far East.

EXPLAINS CAPITAL SHIP PRICES

The sinking of the British battleship Prince of
Wales and the battle cruiser Repulse off the Malay-
an coast by Japanese torpedo-carrying planes was re-
cently explained by Prime Minister Churchill in the
House of Commons.

Churchill said that the capital ships were sent
to the Far East in the hope of deterring Japan from
going to war, or, failing that, deterring her from send-
ing convoys into the Gulf of Siam. He explained that
it was impossible to send an aircraft carrier with the
capital ships because "with the exception of an air-
craft carrier in home waters," all others were under
repair.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the Admir-
al, knowing that Japanese transports, "with weak
fighting escort," were moving toward Malaya, decided
that "drastic and urgent naval action was required."
He continued, "Admiral Phillips was fully aware of
the risk he was taking. Only after he left the harbor
was he informed that fighter protection could not
be provided."

Subsequently, the British Board of Admiralty
expressed the opinion that the risks taken by the Ad-
miral "were fair and reasonable." Moreover, Captain
W. P. Tennant, who commanded the Repulse, has
just been promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral.

The battle of the Atlantic, which was proceeding
very favorably, has taken a turn for the worse since
German submarines began to operate off the Cana-
dian and United States coasts. The U-boats have de-
stroyed shipping, mostly tankers, at the rate of one
every two days, since January 14. It is believed that
the Germans have concentrated a heavy submarine
force in the Western Atlantic. Experts believe that
the U-boats, crossing the ocean, at economical speeds,
are able to remain off our coast for ten or twelve
days. The German campaign is not surprising. Natu-
rally, the Nazis seek to compel the United States
to weaken its patrol forces in the North Atlantic
and attacks along the coast of North America are the
logical method to accomplish the result. The answer
to the enemy foray requires greater numbers of pa-
trol ships and airplanes. Until the defense is avail-
able, losses will continue.

On Feb. 23, 1939, before the war in Europe be-
gan, the House of Representatives voted 205 to 158
to strike out of the Naval Votess bill the appropria-
tion of \$5,000,000 for improving Guam harbor. This
was the initial step in transforming the island into
a fortified base. In 1940 when Admiral Morrell again
asked for the money the House committee turned
him down. In view of these votes, the Navy did not
ask for more money for the fortification of Guam,
but is as absurd for Congressmen to claim now that
the Navy never asked for any appropriation to "for-
tify" Guam. Since Dec. 7th the opinion of many
Americans has changed as to the importance of
fortifying Guam. This includes members of the House,
many of whom would give much if they had not
voted against the item.

Four Senators have introduced legislation to re-
peal the revision to give Congressmen the pensions
they voted for themselves. In the meantime, from
various sections of the country comes the suggestion
for a "Bundles for Congress" campaign, which would
include such articles as false teeth, wooden legs and
moth balls. If the pension grab was intended to
"keep 'em laughing," it has failed to produce any
loud haw-haws. It would seem that at a time like
this, when our perils call for great national sacrifice
and self-denial, members of Congress should set the
example.

Now that the teachers are to issue sugar ration-
ing books, we suppose it will be all right to call them
sugar-babies.

THE OFFICE CAT
"A Little Nonsense Now and Then,
Is Relished by the Wisest Men"

Don't Worry
Lean men and clean men,
Wild men and mild men,
Wee men and he-men,
Bum men and dumb men,
Tallo men and sailor men,
Finch hitters, steam fitters,
Golf players, man slayers,
Jobbers and robbers
Get married.

Tall girls and small girls,
Big girls and trig girls,
Neat girls and sweet girls,
Cash girls and rash girls,
Bad girls and sad girls,
Circus riders, home abiders,
Opera singers, hash slingers,
Crooks and cooks,
Marry them.

No More Monkey Business
Pink borrowed ten dollars from Blivitz and promised to pay it back
on the following Wednesday. On the following Wednesday he did pay
it back. A few days later Fink borrowed ten dollars more from Blivitz,
promising to return it on Saturday, and on Saturday it was returned.
Next Monday, Fink came once more to Blivitz, again to borrow ten,
promising to pay it back on the following Wednesday. This time Blivitz balked.
"No, no, Fink, you've fooled me twice already."

Wanted It Now
Into the restaurant came a regular customer. He ignored the menu,
but looked up at the waitress and asked:
"Would have you got that will give me heartburn immediately instead
of at three o'clock in the morning?"

Well Identified
He rolled into town in his usual convivial mood. He soon ran out
of funds and went to a bank to have a check cashed. The local bank wired
his home bank. "Jim Blotto here. Drunk. Wants money."
Came an immediate reply wire: "Identification complete. Cash check."

So They Do
The judge was recounting the history of the American flag to a group
of aliens seeking citizenship papers, and asked one applicant:
"Tell me, now, what files in front of the Court House?"
The alien blinked a minute and replied: "Peejins."

Revised Version
Tom—"Comin' to the party tonight, Maizie? We're gonna play post-
office."
Maizie—"No, Tom, why that's a child's game."
Tom—"Not the way we play it, Maizie."

Just Wanted to Know
The doctor called to see the patient.
"How is he, Mrs. Cragg?"
"His dead," she moaned.
"Did you give him the prescription I ordered?"
"Yes, dr, I did."
"Did it make him sweat?"
"Id did, doctor."
"Fine, that's all I wanted to know. Good night, Mrs. Cragg."

She Actually Did
They say Dumb Dora got married and bought some anti-freeze for
the apartment house radiators.

How About You?
Some men take cold showers all winter long; others just have grape-
fruit for breakfast.

Let's Hope
We wonder if we'll ever see those good old days again when more
money is spent for face powder than gun powder?

Press the Squawker
Old Gent (being knocked down by a baby carriage, to nursemaid)—
"You ought to have a horn on that carriage."
Maid—"Oh, I don't need one, sir. I usually just pinch the baby."

An Open Letter
"Dear Teacher: Don't you whip my Willie. We never hit him at
home except in self defense."

Try Again
Employer (to stenographer)—"I had a dream about you last night."
Stenographer—"You did?"
Employer—"No, you wouldn't let me."

Arithmetic
What two can live as cheaply as one on
Inst' half enough to have any fun on.

Labor Saving Device
The foreman of a government construction job found that due to
wear and tear he had run short of shovels so he wired Washington re-
questing a shipment of new ones.
A week later he received a reply which read: "Have no more shovels.
Tell the men to lean on each other."

Short Story
It was fate. They met head on, and they knew at once they were
made for each other.
The light in her eyes told him the truth instantly. So the two wreck-
ed cars were towed away.

It Isn't Possible
Mother (entering room unexpectedly)—"Why, I never."
Daughter—"Oh, mother, you must have."

The Sewing Circle
"That will be enough out of you," said the doctor as he stitched the
patient together.

Overheard in the Brook
Big Fish—"The worm on that line is mine, I tell you."
Little Fish—"Nonsense, it's mine. Go get one on your own hook."

That's all, folks. The trouble with young people today is that they
go off on honeymoons without bothering to get married. —SCAT.

FRUIT TREES NEED SUPPLY OF NITROGEN
Apple trees require nitrogen in
largest quantities during the first
month in spring following the break
of leaf buds, according to pomolo-
gists at the Pennsylvania State Col-
lege.

This demand for nitrogen must be
met either from reserves in the soil
or from the fertilizer bag if a large
crop of fruit is expected. Fruit grow-
ers, who have been asked by the
government to increase their pro-
duction for war-time orders, will
find it difficult, according to the
Penn State specialists, to secure the
necessary supply of commercial nit-
rate.

R. D. Anthony, professor of pom-
ology, points out that fruit growers
who long ago adopted good manage-
ment practices, put their orchards
under sod in recent years. These
growers are now in a fortunate po-
sition to meet the present emergen-
cy. They can disk or harrow this sod
enough to check its growth but not
destroy it in the spring, and this
procedure may supply the needs of
the trees for early spring growth.

A supply of organic matter in the
soil is like money in the bank. An-
thony says. Most orchards require
a ring application of soda or tree
pounds of nitrate of soda per tree
late in May or early in June to as-
sure the amount of terminal growth
necessary for a full crop of fruit
next year.

LOUISA'S LETTER
Dear Louisa:
The boy I have been going with
for three months has decided to go to
the army next month. He hasn't a
commission and we are wondering
whether we should get married now
as he may be away a long time. We
had not planned to get married un-
til next fall. What would you advise
us to do?
ANNIE L.-N. H.

Answer:
I think you will be wise to wait
until he comes back. After all, you
had not planned to be married for
seven or eight months and lots of
things can happen in that time.
There is even a small chance that
the war will be won by that time,
although the chance is a small one,
indeed.
However, I can't see where you
have much to gain by getting mar-
ried now and you do run the risk
of a great many complications if
you do. Getting married doesn't
change a person's character and you
can be just as faithful and loyal to
a man when you are single as if you
were married. It is also a good idea
to know a person a little longer than
three months before you sign up
with him for life.
LOUISA.

Dear Louisa:
I have treated my wife and child-
ren shamefully in the past and they
have reached the point where they
care very little for me. Just recent-
ly, I have realized how badly I have
behaved and I am very remorseful.
How can I win back their love and
faith. I admit I do not deserve either.
REPENTANT.—Ala.

Answer:
You have taken a long step when
you realize and admit your faults.
You did not tell me in what ways
you had mistreated the family but
from their attitude it must have
been pretty bad.
It is hard to win back love and
trust after we have betrayed them
so often but if you persevere you
may have some measure of success.
Just keep on trying, even in the
face of suspicion and distrust, and
you might, at long last, win your
loved ones back again. Good luck.
LOUISA.

Dear Louisa:
My child's teacher gives him so
much home work to do that if he
does it all he has no time for play.
The rest of the parents are com-
plaining about this too. Don't you
think we should take this up with
the school board?
PARENT.—Okla.

Answer:
I think it will be better for a few
of you parents to talk with the
teacher about it. She may be glad to
cooperate with you and eliminate
some of the home work if you ap-
proach her in the right way. If she
is unwilling to do so, I would advise
you to see the principal. No child
should spend his entire afternoon
doing home work and he certainly
should not sit up until all hours of
the night with written assignments.
LOUISA.

AS I SEE IT
BY Horace Sentsz

We walk too much them posters
day. A lotta harm is did each day,
because we're too dumb to see.
Free speech ain't gossip liberty, it's
best we learn this lesson quick n'
spike eavesdroppers sly n' slick.
Whose ears is pricked up to a point,
from draw room to corner joint,
Up to know were had free speech,
with every one as free as each,
We have been right free at dishin dirt,
with no regards for who it hurt.
But now them Nazis n' them Japs, in
the lookout for all yaps, with big
mouths running loose all day, n'
knowin only half they say. The half
they dont know might be true, at
least them spies'll foller thru, to
trace the widest rumor down, n' if
it's true they'll go to town. They'll
put their spy gadgets in gear, to
send on every thing they hear. Re-
sults; another grand sneak punch,
that started with a loose mouthed
hunch. "My boy left for the Phil-
ippines" says Missus Peas to Missus
Beans. While hangin out the family
wash, the back yard gossip goes
switch-switch. "He sales from San
Daigo Friday." Now that's a bit of
gossip tidy, thinks Missus Corn in
the next lot, with big ears perked
fer news that's hot. Before that day
comes o a close, Missus Peas has
been picked up by enemies. Let's you
n' me each do our part, to squash
sich gossip at the start. Let's pass
along this little tip. "Be wise, n'
button up your lip."

Major naval air stations and bases
usually cover at least 2,000 acres of
land which must border on water
suitable for seaplanes.

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I'LL TAKE MY CHANGE IN DEFENSE SAVINGS STAMPS, PLEASE
Dear Louisa:
The boy I have been going with
for three months has decided to go to
the army next month. He hasn't a
commission and we are wondering
whether we should get married now
as he may be away a long time. We
had not planned to get married un-
til next fall. What would you advise
us to do?
ANNIE L.-N. H.

Query & Answer Column

C. M.—What does the term "potato masher" signify in the present
war?
Ans.—A Russian hand grenade.

P. R.—What causes a creaking stairway, and how can it be remedied?
Ans.—Usually it is caused by the subsequent drying and shrinking of
the wood, which results in a general looseness of the parts. It can be
remedied by driving finishing nails into the sides of the steps at an angle
so that they penetrate into the stringers at the sides. Also nail along the
front edges of the steps into the vertical risers beneath them. Countersink
the nail heads a trifle and fill the holes with wax of the same color as the
wood finish.

F. L.—Was there someone named Pigeon who made a trip around the
world alone in a small boat?
Ans.—Harry Pidgeon completed a four-year trip around the world
alone in a 34-foot yawl in 1925.

P. F. L.—At what distance from the start does a runner gain his full
speed?
Ans.—The average sprinter gains full speed somewhere between ten
and fifteen yards from the starting line.

M. H.—Did an alien who served with the American Army in the first
World War automatically become an American citizen?
Ans.—An alien who served in the American Army during the first
World War did not automatically acquire citizenship.

J. H.—How can I soften old rubber that has become hardened?
Ans.—There is no satisfactory way to soften rubber that has hardened
with age.

J. P.—I would like to know the average humidity of the Sahara Desert.
Ans.—In the Sahara Desert during summer the soil-temperature may
occasionally reach 175 degrees, the relative humidity may be as low as 3
per cent even in the oases; in the cooler season the relative humidity may
increase to 48 per cent.

G. L.—I should like to know the name of the tree which has three
differently shaped leaves.
Ans.—The sassafras tree. The leaves will range in shape on one tree
from an oval to a three-lobed outline, the "mitten shape" with one lobe
at the side of the leaf being characteristic.

L. B.—Why is a pressing iron sometimes called a sadiron?
Ans.—One of the early meanings of the adjective sad is heavy. Sadiron
simply means heavy iron.

G. B.—Can sulphuric acid from old storage batteries be purified for
re-use?
Ans.—It is possible, but not practicable. It would cost far more than
to buy fresh acid.

M. B.—What is the pay of flying cadets in the Army Air Force?
Ans.—They receive \$75 a month, plus \$1 a day as ration allowance
while they are undergoing training.

P. W.—What industries in the United States are the largest users of
steel?
Ans.—In 1940, the construction industry ranked first and the rail-
ways, second.

R. T.—How far is the planet Pluto from the earth?
Ans.—The distance varies according to the positions of the two plan-
ets in their journeys around the sun. The nearest Pluto ever gets to the
earth is about 2,660,000,000 miles, and its farthest distance is 4,570,000,000
miles. Pluto can be seen only through the largest telescopes and even 24-
inch glasses cannot resolve it into a disk.

S. W.—What is the origin of the term "baker's dozen" for the number
13?
Ans.—It originated in England, and is supposed to derive from the
custom of bakers who gave 13 loaves to hucksters for each dozen, the
thirteenth loaf representing the middleman's only commission.

B. B.—Did the Army ever use camels in the United States?
Ans.—Yes. Seventy-five of them were imported in 1856-57 to be used
in southwestern United States and they were in use until the Civil War.

YOUR HEALTH

Fewer women die during childbirth
than ever before in the history of
this country.
Throughout the United States, in
1939, 4 mothers died for every 1,000
births.

This rate is 32 per cent lower than
for the year 1934.
The lives of 11,000 mothers were
saved during the period 1935 to
1939, that would have been lost, had
the maternal death rate of 1934 con-
tinued through these years.

In Pennsylvania, the reduction in
maternal deaths has been even more
startling.
In 1939, this rate dropped to 3.8
per 1,000 births.

In 1940, it was 3.2 and will prove
to be lower for 1941.
A total of 1,364 childbearing wom-
en were saved from death between
the years 1934 to 1941, considering
the death rate for 1934.

During the year 1939, there were
161,049 live births in Pennsylvania.
Midwives participated at the birth
of only 817 of these infants.

More than half of the births in
Pennsylvania occurred in hospitals.
In 1935, abortion was the leading
cause of maternal deaths.

Since 1937, abortions have become
the second leading cause of such
deaths.

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