War Review

Allies Gain in Baltic and in Pacific

By Howard P. Bailey.

The past week has been a week of important victories for the Allies and of some confusion on the home front because of various statements about the progress of the war.

Early in the week, Premier Stalin of Russia, replying to a February 23d message from President Roosevelt on the occasion of the Red Army's 26th birthday, declared that he is firmly convinced that the time is near when the combined efforts of the Allies in accordance with the agreements reached at Moscow and Teheran will lead to the defeat of the common enemy, Hitlerite Germany.

Later in the week Secretary of the Navy Knox, who previously had stated that 3,000,000 tons, or half the prewar merchant tonnage of Japan, had been sunk, told the Senate Military Affairs Committee that the hardest fighting in history lies ahead. Urging enactment of the Austin-Wadsworth labor draft bill, Mr. Knox declared that casualty lists "this long," illustrating by extending his arms to the side as far as possible, are now pouring in to every State and that the invasion of Western Europe is still to come.

The invasion plans of the Allies are giving no comfort to the enemy as was evidenced in a broadcast by Gen. Kurt Dietmar, who told the German home front last Wednesday that gigantic land, sea and air forces are poised and ready to strike. "We don't underestimate the belligerent characteristics of the Anglo-Americans," he said. "They are tough and confident. However, our front line soldiers have been through so many purgatories, the hell the Anglo-Americans have in store for them will be no extraordinary experience."

Vandegrift Urges Caution.

In the Pacific area Lt. Gen. Vandegrift, leader of the successful campaign on Guadalcanal, warned that caution must not be abandoned because of the recent lack of Japanese resistance and the pessimistic statements which are emanating from Tokio. He added that the Japanese power to resist has not been broken and that the Japs hope to create by playing possum a golden opportunity to destroy the American fleet by one master stroke.

A day later a high-ranking naval authority, who stipulated that he must not be quoted directly, declared that one-third of the fleet Japan possessed at the time of Pearl Harbor has been sunk. Particularly crippled is the Japanese carrier-borne air force which spearheads naval engagements in modern warfare. This same naval authority added that the strength of the American fleet has grown to the point that huge fleet trains capable of resupplying and refueling the fleet at sea can now accompany task forces, in fact, did accompany three of the five carrier forces which attacked Truk, and then refueled to go on to Saipan and Guam.

Considerable interest and speculation came at the end of the week over the revelation of plans to give Russia one-third of the Italian fleet and the fact that some of the Italian naval units now are in action.

Probable Use Discussed.

The speculation arose over the probable use to which Russia might put the war craft which are to be made available. It was pointed out that they hardly could be intended for use in the Baltic because the entrances to that sea are heavily fortified at Skagerrak and Kattegat. The Dardenelles stand as a barrier to their employment in the Black Sea unless Turkey should permit their passage, which would be held an unfriendly act by the Nazis, and Turkey's ardor for the Allies seems to have cooled a bit. In fact, Britain in some irritation over Turkish hesitancy to come into the war, has stopped shipment of all further munitions to the Turks.

The Russian peace offer to the Finns, which has British approval and is further strengthened by the warning issued sometime ago by Secretary of State Hull to Finland to withdraw from the war, has met with rather firm opposition from the Finns, who are angered at the destruction of their capital, Helsinki, by a heavy force of Russian bombers. The present hitch in the negotiations apparently revoles around the Russian demand for the disarming and interning of all Nazi troops now in Finland and if the Finns lack the strenth to accomplish this, permission for Russian troops to enter the country and take over that task themselves.

The likelihood that Finland will make a separate peace is causing additional unrest in Rumania and Bulgaria, the former becoming increasingly restless as the Red armies draw nearer the border of Bessarabia.

Land in Admiralties.

On the fighting fronts, a contingent of the American 5th Cavalry, riding destroyers rather than horses, made a landing for the purpose of reconnaissance on Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands northwest of New Britain last Tuesday. So completely were the Japs taken by surprise by this bypassing of Rabaul and Kavieng on New Ireland, that the cavalrymen quickly expanded their beachhead to complete capture of the important airfield on the island with little resistance.

Gen. MacArthur, left the bridge of the flagship of the task force which he commanded and went ashore to survey the situation. He ordered the first units to hold their positions which they did against several sharp counterattacks while reinforcements were rushed to the scene and ashore. Now the hold on the island is about completed, further isolating New Britain, New Ireland and New Guinea from the supply base at Truk, which itself is in none too secure a situation.

Ceaseless bombing of Rabaul has so reduced the defenses of that important base that last week a P-T boat entered the harbor, took a look around and withdrew without a single shot being fired. No ships were in the harbor. Secretary Knox stated at the end of the week that Rabaul is ripe for the taking, now, and in Allied hands would be an admirable advance base for the fleet.

Truk Losses Mount.

At the beginning of the week revised figures set Japan's shipping loss in the attack on Truk at 23 ships sunk, 6 probably sunk and 11 damaged. To this was added the loss to army flyers in the Bismarck Sea when seven ships were sunk and seven others damaged.

The Tokio radio claimed that the action against the Marianas which followed the blow at Truk cost the United States one aircraft carrier and three big warships out of a task force which included eight battleships and more than 10 carriers. There was no confirmation here.

One carrier was sunk during the week, however, but it was a Japanese carrier, victim of a British submarine which braved an escort of numerous motor-torpedo boats to plant several fish in the flat-top which heeled over and, as the submarine dove, seemed on the verge of going under.

Ponape was bombed again during the week and Paramushiro and Shumushu in the Kuriles also were bombed.

In Burma, a major victory was claimed for British and Indian troops on the Arakan front. Jap dead were placed at 1,000 and the wounded at 2,000 out of a force of 8,000 opposed to the British. Chinese troops captured the town of Makaw in Northern Burma.

Russians Near Pskov.

On the Baltic front in Europe, Russian troops have entered the outskirts of Pskov, the key to the Baltic, which lies near the lower end of Lake Peipus close to the Estonian border. Advancing along two railroads from the north and the east, Red columns are now only 5 miles from the city. The Nazis have been ordered by Hitler to hold out to the last man, hardly a pleasant prospect for the doomed garrison.

Taking advantage of the ice on Lake Peipus, Russian troops have stormed across and established beachheads on the Estonian shore. Other troops have bypassed Narva in Northern Estonia and there were indications as the week ended that the Reds intend to bypass Pskov also and drive on toward Riga and Reval, capitals of Latvia and Estonia on the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland.

The Russians also were maintaining heavy pressure against the Nazis below the Pinsk marshes in White Russia, in the Ukraine and on the Kerch Peninsula and the Crimea. Climactic events are believed in the making.

In Italy, American and British troops have beaten off the third main German counteroffensive against the Nettuna-Anzio beachhead, taking a heavy toll of the enemy, who threw a new secret weapon into the attack. The new weapon was a radio-controlled tank, loaded with 1,000 pounds of high explosive intended to be exploded within the Allied lines. However, Allied artillery picked off 14 of the tanks still within the German positions and the secret weapon proved a boomerang.

All ground lost by the Allies in the initial phases of the third great assault by the enemy had been regained by the end of the week and some improvement in position followed despite the fact that Nazi artillery was outranging the Allied big guns.

Allied aircraft kept up a constant harassment of German lines of communication, striking at roads, bridges and rail facilities. The marshaling yards in Rome were blasted again and there were reports that a few stray bombs landed within the Vatican grounds.

At the close of the week, Lt. Gen. Clark expressed his confidence that the Allies will hold their positions against the best the enemy can throw against them.

Huge Bombs Used.

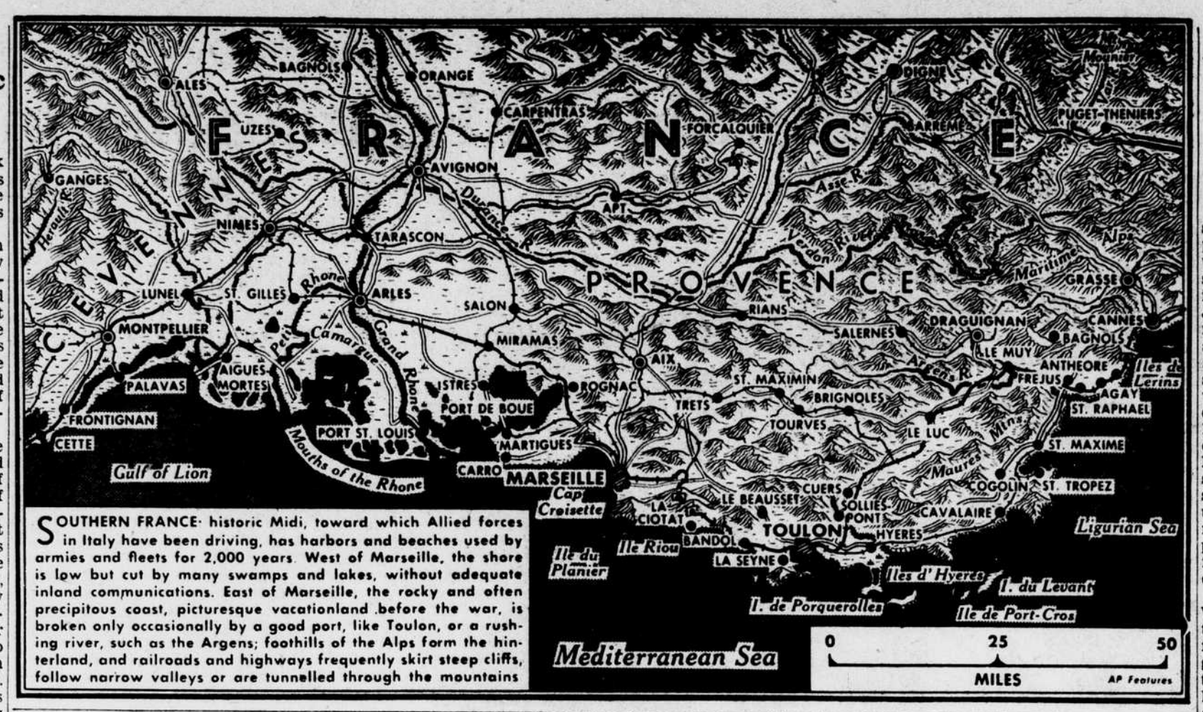
Something new was added in the air raids on Germany this week when it was revealed that the British big bombers are now employing a 12,000-pound block-buster to demolish German war industries. These new bombs, requiring unusual skill in manufacture and use, are being carefully dropped with great precision on special targets. When German camouflage has been penetrated, smaller planes drop their flares to mark the target and then the huge six-tonners are planted within the area outlined. The destruction is said to be terrific, making repair of the facilities out of the question.

The new block-busters appear to be the answer to the statement by a Swedish officer who has just completed a tour of Germany that the Nazis in the past have been able to restore bombed plants within a month or two and that the Ruhr industries are still flourishing.

A recapitulation of results of the week before revealed that Allied planes had destroyed 644 German fighter planes, but the Allies at the same time lost 387 heavy bombers and 37 fighters.

Monday, American bombers, dropping their eggs through heavy clouds, struck at the aircraft industry in Brunswick, Germany, and the following day British Mosquitos hit at Western Germany.

Throughout the week there was continued bombing but none on the scale of the huge raids of the past until Friday night when another full-scale assault occurred against unspecified targets. While the raids were underway, American Lightning fighters flew over Berlin, spoiling for a fight which did not materialize. The foray by the Lightnings marked a 1,100-mile round trip and the second time that American planes have been over Berlin.



SOUTHERN FRANCE· historic Midi, toward which Allied forces in Italy have been driving, has harbors and beaches used by armies and fleets for 2,000 years. West of Marseille, the shore is low but cut by many swamps and lakes, without adequate inland communications. East of Marseille, the rocky and often precipitous coast, picturesque vacationland before the war, is broken only occasionally by a good port, like Toulon, or a rushing river, such as the Argens; foothills of the Alps form the hinterland, and railroads and highways frequently skirt steep cliffs, follow narrow valleys or are tunnelled through the mountains

Experts Seek to Avoid Seed Of New War in Postwar Era

Key to Problem Seen in Churchill Speech That Unconditional Surrender Is No License for Barbaric Treatment

By Joseph H. Baird.

Those sections of Winston Churchill's recent speech to Parliament dealing with the postwar treatment of a conquered Germany have attracted wide attention in official Washington. As invasion plans move on toward their climax the problem grows daily less academic, and already a large corps of experts in the State Department are studying the policies followed by the Allies after the last war in an effort to chart a course that will avoid their mistakes.

The Prime Minister indicated clearly that he does not consider the Allies bound by anything in the Atlantic Charter to respect the present territorial boundaries of the Reich. This is significant in view of the recent Russian suggestion that Poland might be compensated for any territory lost to the Soviet Union in the east by receiving land in East Prussia—an idea that found backing in London when it was first advanced a month ago.

But Mr. Churchill went on to say that "unconditional surrender does not mean that the Germans will be enslaved or destroyed. Unconditional surrender means that the victors will have a free hand. It does not mean that they are entitled to behave in a barbarous manner, not that they wish to blot out Germany from among the nations of Europe."

War Seeds in Economies.

The Prime Minister's line of thought appears to fit in with that of a school of American economists who long have held that the rise of Hitlerism and the seeds of a new war were not contained in the disarmament sections of the Versailles treaty—which were not strictly enforced any way—nor even in its territorial provisions, but rather in its economic policies.

A study of Hitler's speeches during the years he was struggling for power shows that he had little to say about Germany's loss of Alsace-Lorraine to France, although he did rant often over the Polish corridor. But he constantly preached to the Germans the theme that Versailles had saddled them with a burden of debt which made it impossible for them to hope for a decent future. He stirred up in them a feeling of futility and revolt. And when, in 1932, Germany was caught with the rest of the world in the crash of an unsound economic structure, the Nazi vote mounted to 13,700,000, which enabled the former Austrian corporal to exert a power that made short work of the Von Papen and Schleicher regimes and, in the following spring, to bludgeon his way into power.

John Gunther, who was a personal witness to the tragic stupidities and inefficiencies that paved the way to the chancellorship for Hitler, summed up the situation tersely when he wrote:

"Hard times bred both the violence of Hitler and the apathy of his opponents. The Nazis fed on other people's hunger."

France Dominated Peace.

Hitler convinced the German people that the Allies were trying to do what Mr. Churchill says they definitely will not do this time—"blot out Germany from among the nations of Europe" by measures designed to stifle their economic life.

At the end of the last war France, dominating the peace conference, was determined that Germany should pay the entire cost of the war and repair the tremendous physical damage done to the occupied areas. And although the sanity of British and American leaders curbed the extreme demands of the French, the Germans were required to yield tremendous quantities of goods in payment in kind and monetary reparations finally were fixed in 1921 at 132,000,000,000 gold marks (approximately $33,000,000,000 at then-existing rates of exchange).

In addition, the Germans were required to surrender all their merchant ships of more than 1,600 tons, half their vessels of between 1,000 and 1,600 tons and a quarter of their tonnage in smaller craft.

Many economists argue today that the reparations fixed originally for Germany were not beyond its capacity to pay. They also are convinced that the tragic inflation which followed the French invasion of the Ruhr in 1923, after Germany's failure to make coal deliveries, was artificially engineered by German capitalists and officials in an effort (1) to wipe out large amounts of bonded indebtedness and (2) to convince the Allies that Germany was ruined economically and could pay nothing more.

Inflation Hit Little Fellow.

This may well have been true. However, the practical effect of the inflation (the mark reached the astronomical figure of 1,000,000,000 to the gold dollar) was to wipe out the insurance, securities and savings of the small investor. The wage earner, whose pay increases always lagged behind the dwindling purchasing power of money, suffered equally. And the net result was to convince the small people of Germany that they were the victims of economic extermination by the Allies.

When, in 1924, the financial collapse of Germany had become complete, the Dawes plan, based on Germany's "capacity to pay," cut the German reparations bill to 42,000,000,000 gold marks, payable over 35 years, while the introduction of the rentenmark restored German currency to its former parity. (Still later, in 1929, the Young plan further reduced the strain on the Reich.)

But, from a psychological viewpoint, the damage had been done. The little man in Germany had developed a persecution complex, and it is interesting to note that Hitler first flared into the headlines of the world press with his Munich beer hall pusch in 1923, the year of financial collapse.

Subsequent Allied financial policy, viewed in retrospect, appears equally as unsound—though for very different reasons—as that which followed immediately after the war. Convinced after the establishment of the Dawes plan that Germany was a sound financial risk, international bankers with excess lendable funds began to make extravagant loans to the German state, provinces and municipalities.

Loan Funds Diverted.

During the period from 1924 to 1928, American bankers alone (who advanced some 70 per cent of Germany's foreign credits) sent the Reich $1,500,000,000 in long and short term loans. Presumably these loans were for the reconstruction of German industry. Actually millions of dollars went into the building of sports palaces, swimming pools and other accoutrements of the Reich's campaign to build up a physically strong citizenry against the day when they would move to the battlefield again.

Meanwhile, German disarmament, the terms of which were strong enough on paper, became a joke. The Versailles treaty cut the German Army to 100,000 men, banned any air corps, and reduced the German Navy to six small battleships, six light cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats. Submarines were outlawed. More, a five-power inspection commission was established regularly to see that these restrictions were observed.

But after a few years the Control Commission eased its inspection. Machine tools for the manufacture of arms were made secretly. Under the skillful guidance of Finance Minister Hjalmar Schacht, Germany began the accumulation of basic war supplies from the Balkan countries, exchanging for them German manufactured goods. Thousands of future pilots were trained in so-called "glider clubs," while an expanding civil aviation industry laid the basis for conversion to military plane production. When, at length, Hitler came to power in the spring of 1933 and successfully defied France and England, he found the groundwork for rapid expansion of the Reichswehr fully prepared.

Lord Vansittart, former British Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, said recently that the "Germans are not to be trusted with guns." As to economic policy, points four and six of the Atlantic Charter promise to the peoples of the world, victor and vanquished, an opportunity to earn a decent living. And although Mr. Churchill said in his recent speech that the Germans are not entitled, as a matter of right, to the boons of the Atlantic Charter, the context of his remarks indicates that he was speaking of territorial settlements rather than economic settlements.

Many students of foreign affairs, viewing the tragic failure of the Versailles treaty to prevent another war, are convinced that the Allies will be wiser this time if they make sure that the enemy is effectively and permanently disarmed, but is given hope of freedom from want in a peaceful world.

Postwar Job Need Studied

(Continued From Page C-1.)

or depression in certain industries.

"All these," says no less an authority than Sir William Beveridge, "are forms of unemployment consistent with general prosperity and progress." Even now, despite all our efforts to increase the labor force, it is estimated that 1,000,000 are unemployed.

The Committee for Economic Development, taking into account the inevitability of a certain degree of unemployment in any dynamic society, deducts 2,000,000 from the potential 57,000,000 civilian workers in 1946 and arrives at the conclusion that a "satisfactory employment goal" will be reached with the employment of 55,000,000 workers in civilian pursuits. This is about 9,000,000 more than were employed in 1940.

The CED's figures, all derived from official sources, tally closely with those of the Brookings Institution, which finds that a state of "reasonably full employment" at the end of the changeover from war to peace will be realized at an employment level of 54,000,000, or roughly 17 per cent over 1940.

Increase in Job-Seekers.

The employment problem is never static. In the first place there is a steady growth in the labor force owing to population increase. It is estimated that about 2,300,000 persons reach working age annually and that about 1,400,000 of these enter the labor market. There is an offset of about 700,000 who quit the market because of age, death, physical disability, marriage, etc., leaving a net annual increase in the labor supply of about 700,000. This figure has been used in calculating the number of jobs that will need to be supplied in 1946.

In the second place, there is a steady upward trend in the output per worker. The Department of Commerce calculates that this increase in the 12-year period from 1929 to 1941 was roughly one-third, or at the rate of 2.5 per cent a year, compounded. The rate is certain to be increased by the tremendous technological progress during the war.

What is in store in the way of new labor-savings devices may be gathered from two examples recently given a congressional committee: By February, 1943, the production time on a medium bomber had been cut from 70,000 man-hours to 13,000, and on a 10,000-ton Liberty cargo ship from 1,100,000 man-hours to 680,000. There have been thousands of other instances of the same sort.

What does this mean in terms of employment? It means, the Department of Commerce says, that even if the future rate of increase in productivity is no higher than the 2.5 per cent annual rate of the period 1929-1941, the output per man-hour in 1946 will be 13.5 per cent greater than in 1941.

In another striking calculation, the department estimates, on the same basis of only the long-term normal increase in productivity, that 83 persons will turn out as much per hour in 1946 as 100 persons did in 1940. Obviously, if there is no increase in output and no further reduction of work hours, the other 17 persons will be thrown out of jobs—the victims of "technological unemployment."

Must Increase Output.

The figures on growth of the work force and increased output per worker add up to the conclusion by the department's experts that if in 1946 (the hypothetical first year of peace) we attain no higher level of national output than we did in 1940, and if the hours of work remain the same as in 1940, unemployment will reach the catastrophic total of 19,000,000.

From these figures it is abundantly clear why the national output of goods and services, if we are to cure unemployment or even to mitigate it to bearable proportions, must be substantially increased over the $97,000,000,000 level of 1940—the highest up to that time.

With the labor force available to private enterprise and the Government, we shall have in 1946—again assuming the end of the war and of the immediate reconversion period by that time—a potential productive capacity of $142,000,000,000 in terms of 1940 prices, or $165,000,000,000 in terms of 1942 prices. In physical volume this capacity is nearly half as much again as the actual production of 1940.

The production necessary to employ 55,000,000 or more workers can be reached—there can be no doubt about that. We produced in 1943, with 53,000,000 civilian workers, $175,000,000,000 worth of goods and services. But there was no problem of distribution in 1943—the Government bought over half the product. The question we face is whether we can build up and sustain a purchasing power among the people sufficient to buy the goods we can make—whether we can solve the problem of mass distribution as we have solved the problem of mass production.

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Debt

(Continued From Page C-1.)

who protest there's no need to buy the "brave new world" in a couple of years. They want the cost of the war spread over several years and point out that this year's middle-aged men also fought a war and then came home to help pay for it.

Cost of Wars Compared.

It's illuminating to compare figures on the two wars, particularly just at the end, when the expenses run high:

Year.	Government Receipts.	Government Expenditures.
1919	$5,152 millions	$18,514 millions
1945*	43,425 millions	99,769 millions

*Estimated.

Notice, in 1919, the Government was taking in less than 33 per cent of which it was spending. In 1945 it will take in almost 44 per cent.

Here's another sign post. Treasury experts say—based on study of inflationary periods in other countries—that government debt never becomes really dangerous until the interest equals 20 per cent of the national income.

We expect a top debt of $300 billions. We're paying under 2 per cent interest on it. That makes $6 billions, and $6 billions isn't 20 per cent of even the lowest income we've made in 14 years, that $39 billions in 1932.

There's one thing to remember. Soldiers abroad and war workers at home now know how much this country can turn out when the brakes are really off.

Between the Government and industrial managers, the country will have to work at somewhat the rate it is now, or else. Both conservatives and liberals agree on that.

If the high rate of production is kept, the high income will stay, and there will be plenty of margin to pay taxes high enough to gradually reduce the debt. But the taxes will be high for a long time.

(Distributed by Associated Press.)

The New Books

By Mary-Carter Roberts

The Long Balkan Night

By Leigh White. (Scribner's.)

In the spring of 1940 Leigh White sailed for Europe, ostensibly a reporter for the New York Post. Actually he was employed by the Overseas News Agency, an organization interested in the situation of the Jews in Central Europe. Since Germany was in control in most of that area and was censoring news of atrocities very severely, and also since the vice president of the ONA was publisher of the Post, it was decided that Mr. White should have Post credentials and pose as an ordinary reporter. He went to Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece. This book is the story of his journey. It follows the usual distracted pattern of the correspondent's memoirs, mixing reports on European conditions and intensely personal material about equally.

Of the various Balkan peoples Mr. White reports dishearteningly. Hatred was the law of life which he found there—hatred of any one group for all others and hatred of the Jews everywhere. Nationalistic history is behind it all, he observes, and urges a federation to follow the peace and put an end to nationalism in the whole region.

He opposes alike Louis Adamic's plan for Balkan sovietization, under Russian influence, and our State Department's apparent intention to return the exiled governments to power. He believes the Balkans should be left free to federate and set up a constitutional government according to their own desires. They must not, he says, be made a "sphere of influence" for either Russia or the western powers.

This, however, raises a question. If the Balkan peoples hate one another when separated into national groups, is it certain that they will become friends on being lumped together? Mr. White seems to think so, but his logic is, one fears, contrary to human nature.

As for the Jews, his solution is assimilation. He says that Zionism cannot bring the scattered people togther and that if it could Palestine belongs to the Arabs according to the only standard which counts—the ethnological one.

He writes with a hard-headed objectivity, but, one notes, this desirable quality is more often expended on warnings than solutions. He is, however, still on the low side of 30. One should not expect everything.

LEIGH WHITE,
"The Long Balkan Night."

Breathe Upon These

By Ludwig Lewissohn. (Bobbs-Merrill.)

Though presented as a novel, this book is really a sermon. It is a very eloquent sermon, and the reviewer doubts that any one can read it unmoved. But that is its form. The fictional devices which are made to surround it only emphasize its unfictional quality.

A Jewish scientist, a refugee and sufferer from Nazilism, is rescued from a French prison camp and brought to America by an American manufacturer of gun sights who realizes that the scientist's knowledge will lead to the improvement of our military equipment. At the manufacturer's home, the scientist tells of the suffering which Nazilism has brought to the Jewish people. To this dreadful story, he adds the grave accusation that the ruling class of Great Britain is passively, if not actively, abetting the antisemitic attitude. The evidence of this is that Great Britain has repeatedly refused to allow Jews who had escaped from Germany to enter the Jewish community in Palestine, thus virtually condemning such Jews to death. Mr. Lewissohn's earnestness and fervor in telling this story is profoundly moving.

One could wish, however, that he had given the tale a more harmonious setting. As it is, he puts his very convincing sermon down in a highly unconvincing situation. To hear the scientist's story, he assembles a group of educated and prosperous Americans, two of whom are in the Army—and the year is 1942. But, as Mr. Lewissohn presents them, these people, until they are confronted by the scientist, have never heard of Nazi methods, and are blandly unaware of the horrible conditions in occupied Europe. They listen google-eyed and cry out in astonishment. This, the reviewer contends, is hardly a realistic presentation.

That apart, however, the book is a very good thing.

The Devil and the Deep

By C. M. Dixon. (Scribner's.)

The reviewer will be guilty of a little special pleading for this strange-seeming novel. In the spring of 1942, when enemy subs were taking a heavy toll from United Nations shipping, she had a brief occasion to interview as a reporter a number of crews which had been rescued from torpedoings. She saw thus perhaps 150 seamen of different ranks, nationalities and degrees of intelligence. They had all been through experiences of monumental adventurousness. And she thought at the time, "There is stuff in any of these men's lives for the most heroic kind of writing, but if you wrote that stuff into heroic literature you would lose the men themselves." For they were not cast in the mold which the world recognizes as heroic. They were quiet, meek, withdrawn and entirely lacking in what is known as "color." They were almost timid in telling of the great scenes through which they had lived. Veterans among them were embarrassed by the questions of young reporters. Well, the present book is an attempt to get their stories into fiction without making fiction of the men themselves.

It is a series of scenes in a waterfront saloon. The time is the peak of the sub successes. The sailors talk about what they have seen and what has befallen their chums. They do not "mightily lie." They utter brief sentences and give monosyllabic replies. They speak of boilers exploding and tankers set afire and sharks following lifeboats and ships blown into instant extinction. They speak of men giving their lives to save their comrades. They speak in terms of life and death altogether. But they do so quietly. For chapter after chapter Miss Dixon carries on this sort of slow, mumbling talk and there is practically no development to her story, no value beyond the constant contrast of the heroic action with the humble actor. The reviewer, had she not seen such men herself, would have said the book was dreary. But she submits that it is a completely realistic presentation of a certain kind of life. It merely follows that it violates the rules of realistic writing. She will sum up by saying that it is not a good novel, but is a true one—a critical profundity which the paper shortage will not allow her to elaborate for the present.

Best Sellers

FICTION.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith.

Also the Hills, by Frances Parkinson Keyes.

The Apostle, by Sholem Asch.

So Little Time, by John P. Marquand.

The Robe, by Lloyd C. Douglas.

NONFICTION.

Good Night, Sweet Prince, by Gene Fowler.

Under Cover, by John Roy Carlson.

Here Is Your War, by Ernie Pyle.

Lend-Lease, by Edward R. Stettinius, jr.

Persons and Places, by George Santayana.

Public Library Book Pointers

By Helen Atkins,
Sociology Division, Public Library.

Here are some brief comments on books for lenten reading available at the Public Library, Eighth and K streets N.W., and its branches:

Catholic.

The spiritual approach to the postwar world is emphasized in Sigrid Undset's "Return to the Future" and also in Jacques Maritain's "The Twilight of Civilization," which urges democracy founded on a union of Christian religion and Christian humanism.

In "Ark and the Dove" Joseph M. Ives presents Lord Baltimore's ideal of religious toleration. John C. Kearns' "Life of Blessed Martin de Porres" portrays a saintly Negro lay brother in colonial Peru. "The Grace of Guadalupe," by Frances Parkinson Keyer, describes the first recorded miracle in America.

"Our Lady's Choir" is a book of contemporary verse by Catholic sisters, edited by William S. Braithwaite.

Protestant.

"The Four Freedoms and God," by Edwin M. Poteat, emphasizes the spiritual reform necessary to make the four freedoms live. The church's contribution to world order is discussed by Theodore P. Ferris in "This Created World," the presiding bishop's book for Lent, 1944.

A significant book on the life and teachings of Jesus is "Our Eternal Contemporary," by Walter M. Horton. "The Lord's Prayer," by Ernest F. Tittle, is an inspired interpretation.

A human, religious biography is Louis Tucker's "Clerical Errors."

Rufus M. Jones' "Spirit in Man" reveals a deep personal faith. In "Religious Living" Georgia Harkness makes religion a quest and an achievement.

Liberty Street

By I. V. Morris. (Harper.)

We have here another refugee novel, conforming in all essentials to the prevailing pattern of this kind of fiction. We are given a group of expatriates, all of the most noble qualities, waiting for visas to enter the United States. They engage in the usual fictional activities—a lovely heroine finds a handsome husband, an unfortunate who has suffered too long breaks down, the Nazis reach out for a hitherto incorruptible German and so on. It is all familiar to any one who has read as many as half a dozen of the similar works which have appeared in past years.

It is perhaps worth mentioning, however, that the villain in this piece is the local representative of the American State Department. He delays the visas because, we are given to understand, he dislikes refugees. Just why he is allowed to act on his individual whim is not made clear. The author seems to fall into some contradiction on the point—he is at great pains to delineate the personal bias and at the same time he represents the wicked minister as an extremely correct official. The State Department, he seems to say, would do better to do away with all correct officials and install welcoming committees in their places.

Mr. Morris has lived much of his life in Europe, and a reader will feel that he knows Europeans better than he does Americans. At the same time, his European background, at least in literature, seems also to have its uncertainties. It is odd, for instance, to find him tragically referring to Heine, "the non-Aryan, the expatriate," as composer of the song "Roslein auf der Heide." Schubert wrote the music and the words are by Goethe. A slip on so elementary a point seems somewhat hard to understand.

The Big Time

By Alfred Hayes. Illustrated by Beatrice Tobias. (Howell, Soskin.)

This is a book of poems written off the city streets. It carries the grit and grind of the city in it very truthfully and is as devoid of gentler ingredients as zero. The poems jolt roughly to their conclusions like streetcars with a flat wheel. There is some poetry in them, nonetheless. It is an interesting volume. The illustrations are appropriately hideous.

The Road to Teheran

By Foster Rhea Dulles. (Princeton University Press.)

The Secret of Soviet Strength

By Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury. (International Publishers.)

Not since the early 1930s, when American recognition of the Soviet Union resulted in a freshet of books on Russia, have the presses of the United States poured forth so many as in the last few months. Listed above are two of the latest.

This reviewer is frankly enthusiastic about Mr. Dulles' volume. He has compressed into a book of 261 pages the story of American-Russian relations since the day when Francis Dana of Massachusetts futilely sought recognition for the infant American Nation by the court of Catherine the Great, down to the conference between President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill at Teheran. Yet he has clothed his outline with sufficient incidents and personality studies to make it colorful and interesting.

Mr. Dulles, a former foreign correspondent who is now a professor at Ohio State University, writes with complete objectivity. His theme—if the book may be said to have one—is that while drastic differences in political theory have fixed a gulf between America and Russia, that gulf has always been bridged in time of stress by common interests. In the 19th century, he points out, Russia found it advantageous to support the United States as a counterbalance to the power of Great Britain.

In the 20th century the two nations have been forced into cooperation by the mutual menace of Germany and Japan.

Mr. Dulles' book is an excellent approach to a realistic understanding of Russian-American relations.

Of Dean Johnson's book, the candid reviewer can say only that it is an emotional and uncritical apology for Socialism. The dean accepts at face value Moscow's own estimate of what the Stalinist regime has done for the Russian people. He explains the heroic fight Russia has waged against the Nazi invaders solely on the basis of the moral and material strength provided by its present political system, and either glosses over or ignores the terrorism which accompanied the establishment of the regime.

The student of politics will find Dean Johnson's book interesting as a reflection of the current trend of social thought in a certain sector of the British intelligentsia. But the searcher for facts had better turn elsewhere. JOSEPH H. BAIRD.

A Preacher Looks at War

By Daniel A. Poling. (Macmillan.)

One of America's best-known churchmen here supports the Allied Nations' war. The church is no recruiting agency, but when holy things are attacked the forces of evil must be destroyed. Such is his thesis.

"Let the church have no blessing for war," Dr. Poling writes, "but shame upon us as churchmen if we have no blessing for our sons and no blessing for our governments, who in the presence of war defend with their very lives our holy things."

Here is no mere cleric thundering from the pulpit. As a chaplain in the last war Dr. Poling moved among death and suffering. His son, Clark Poling, a chaplain with the American forces in North Africa, was reported missing in action. America, he feels, did not try to win the peace. America, as a result, is now paying a bitter price. What is needed? A revived faith in the constitutional origins of our country, which were closely knit with religion.

In eloquent prose Dr. Poling maintains that human personality and freedom are holy. Robert E. Sherwood, in a preface, says of the author: "He is looking far beyond the present battle lines and the casualty lists. He is fighting for the ultimate objectives of all embattled humanity—the realization of a just and durable peace."

"A Preacher Looks at War" is a powerful document. It will strengthen the weak-kneed and rout the appeasers. Its author is willing to forgive our enemies, but only after they have been punished. Militant for justice, he remains a disciple of the Prince of Peace.

R. C. HARPER.

Duet With Nicky

By Alice Berezowsky (Lippincott.)

In a pleasant, although unprofessional manner, an American woman tells here of her life with her Russian-born composer-husband. From the story of their courtship in Carnegie Hall, to the proposal in Arlington National Cemetery, through the birth of their two children, the short book carries on with lively humor, though it is a little lacking in continuity of thought and action.

Nicky Berezowsky is a successful modern composer who works very hard to earn a living for his family and also provide time for his creative work. His friends and associates are America's and Europe's top-flight musicians.

Mrs. Berezowsky makes an effective plea for study and understanding of modern "classical" music. Probably the most provocative thought raised by "Duet With Nicky" is the question of the best way to encourage music nationally.

Alice Berezowsky's varied and interesting experiences and her sense of humor somewhat atone for her lack of literary style. The result is a gay and colorfully written book—an enlightening glimpse into the struggles and triumphs of those who produce our Nation's music.

MARY COCHRAN.

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