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With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

—Roosevelt's War Message.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1944

### Our Chief Aim

To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete Victory.

TOP O' THE MORNING

King George VI called upon his subjects to offer up "earnest and continuous and widespread prayer throughout the present crisis of the liberation of Europe."

"Prayer," he said, "would fortify the determination of our soldiers, sailors, and airmen who go forth to set captives free. . . . I desire solemnly to call my people to prayer and dedication."

—From "NOW."

### The Battle Of Normandy

In comparison with Russian gains on the eastern front, the battle now being waged in Normandy would seem to be little more than a skirmish. But on its own account, and in view of its potentialities, it is in every sense a major engagement.

The Germans so view it, and estimate its importance so greatly that they have thrown into the fight soldiers from far sectors and materials from wherever they could be transported at heavy sacrifice to the source areas. The stubbornness with which the enemy is contesting every foot of ground on the French front, and the heavy reinforcements brought into the action clearly indicate the opinion the Germans have of the battle's significance and the implications of a defeat.

On the other hand, General Eisenhower's visit to the Normandy beachhead for conferences with Generals Montgomery and Bradley show with equal clarity that the Allies are fast approaching the time for an all-out assault of great magnitude with the purpose of driving Rommel and his armies like chaff before the wind, as happened in north Africa, until no Fritz is left on French soil.

That this has not been done before probably is due to the time required to restore the port facilities of Cherbourg which the Germans damaged as greatly as they could before the collapse of its defenses. Once Cherbourg is refitted for the receipt of great numbers of troops and large quantities of supplies, munitions and armored equipment—far greater than have thus far been landed under difficulty—we may expect to learn that Montgomery and Bradley are driving forward at a greatly accelerated pace, with Paris only an intermediary goal on the way to Berlin. Of course, the speed of this action will be dependent upon the weather, which recently has been adverse. Troops cannot do their best in deep mud, nor can warplanes accomplish great things without fair visibility, two conditions which have delayed Allied progress of late.

With fair weather, with an increasing flow of men and material, and with right on their side, the American and British forces in Normandy will soon be moving with the momentum that carried them to victory in Africa and Sicily. When that day comes, the Battle of Normandy will have emerged from the skirmish category. In conjunction with what the Russians are doing in the east and the Anglo-American forces in Italy, this offensive will play its part in forcing the Germans into the unconditional surrender demanded by the United Nations.

### Salute To Chaplains

A chaplain's admonition to "praise the Lord and pass the ammunition" attracted such wide attention that a song was made of it. But it was more than a good catch phrase. It told of the stamina and quality of the men who are looking out for the spiritual needs of our service men. It directed public attention to the strange combination of attributes they possess. They are strong for prayer and strong in battle. Two strengths without which men at arms cannot win.

It is to them that soldiers and sailors pour out their woes, open their hearts, lay bare their souls, and find the comfort and courage that is to be found only in the counsel of the devout. It is they, who go forth to battle

with the men and, if they survive, console the families of the boys who die.

D. Stewart Patterson, executive secretary of the Methodist Commission on chaplains, told a class of candidates at Chicago the other day that chaplaincy casualties are third highest in the armed services.

"No longer do they wait for the men to come to them," he said. "They move from gun to gun, stringing wires with signal battalions, riding with glider troops and jumping with paratroopers."

When it is all over, when they come home with the men who have triumphed over the enemy, this nation will owe a debt to the chaplains that must not be written off the books of gratitude and actual reward.

—V—

### Wallace-Truman Contest

The controversy over the Wallace-Truman contest for the democratic vice presidential nomination, with Truman's bandwagon success after an initial defeat in the convention evoked a wide variety of editorial comment. It is interesting to note the differences if not the "infinite variety," in the views voiced. Here are some of them:

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH—The Roosevelt-haters in the Democratic Party, the poll-tax elements in the South, and other reactionary forces will take great pleasure in Wallace's defeat. But their pleasure is mitigated by the fact that Harry Truman is far from being a reactionary. Meanwhile, we believe Henry Wallace, along with Wendell Willkie, ostracized as they are in party circles, can be of great benefit to the Nation in pursuing the ideas for which they were politically crucified. Both men will always have great and eager audiences. Perhaps they will have important official roles. . . . in the winning of the war and the making of the peace.

RICHMOND, VA., TIMES-DISPATCH—While Senator Truman is a forthright supporter of the fourth term, and of the major policies of the President, he gives no evidence of wanting to take the country into more experimentation before the essential, permanent, and genuinely constructive gains already made are consolidated. His victory is a victory for the shaking down of the federal machine.

NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN—Truman is an outstanding Democrat. It must go hard against the grain of the Democrats of Tennessee that the State should have been made to appear in a blue pout at the failure of the name of Gov. Prentice Cooper to cause a ripple. Mr. Wallace has made a good Vice-President and has served his country notably. . . .

NEW YORK POST—We would have preferred Henry Wallace as the standard-bearer of liberalism in the Democratic Party. . . . It is true—and perhaps a mild indictment—that both of our major parties are dominated by political machines. But it is our glory that while we decry the machines of Chicago, we are confronted by the machine guns of Berlin.

NEW YORK SUN—It was a case of amateurs against professionals and, as usual, the amateurs took a trimming. . . . Actually, it (the Vice-Presidential contest) was between Sidney Hillman. . . . on one side and the more or less old-line leaders of the Democratic Party on the other.

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM—Despite all the hocus pocus the President used to make the public believe that he was above partisan politics. . . . the Boss Politician picked the best available running mate for his campaign purpose. . . . He (Truman) is excellent for the Roosevelt purpose, which is to pacify as many of the warring Democratic factions as possible—some can't be.

BUFFALO, (N. Y.) COURIER-EXPRESS—There are Democrats who might bolt Mr. Roosevelt for Mr. Dewey—and they are bitterly anti-Wallace Democrats. So Mr. Wallace is dropped (with a cool goody-by kiss from Mr. Roosevelt) and Senator Truman, a Missouri Democrat in good standing, gets second place on the national ticket. Politics is politics, you know—and, brother, it's no parlor game.

ALBANY, (N. Y.) KNICKERBOCKER NEWS—The Democratic convention that nominated Senator Truman. . . . could have. . . . done worse. . . . When the results of the convention are assayed. . . . it will be seen the only things to be totaled up are the losses—that in the C.I.O. from ditching Wallace. . . . and that in the South. . . . Mr. Roosevelt proceeded on the theory that he could dictate with impunity. Dictate he did, reducing the convention to a mere rubber-stamp function.

—V—

### Florence

When this was being written Allied forces were but eight miles from Florence. Will the enemy spare the city, when the time comes for him to move out? Florence is an "open city," but the Germans are not squeamish. They glory in destruction. The mere fact that a city is declared "open," that is exempt from destruction, will not make them hold their hands if they feel like venting their wrath in defeat upon the city. For the sake of civilization and Florence's tremendous contribution to art, science, literature, it can only be hoped that they do not sack it.

With its 325,000 prewar population, Florence was seventh city of Italy in size, but second only to Rome in artistic and intellectual distinction. Nestled among pleasant, villa-covered hills, it is an impressive assemblage of churches, palaces, museums, galleries, gardens, bridges, fountains and piazzas. Its situation at the intersection of vital routes,

Rome to Milan and trans-Alpine Europe, and Pisa to Bologna and Venice, made Florence the commercial center of Italy in the Middle Ages. Wool, silk, wood and agriculture were the bases of industries that created one of the richest communities in Europe. Florence's coin, the florin, was Europe's standard, and the free City-State was ruled by its wealthiest merchants.

Hand in hand with commercial prosperity of the 12th to 15th centuries went political strife. On these Europe's Renaissance of the arts and sciences progressed. This was the atmosphere in Florence that produced not only the wealthy Medici "bosses," but the genius of many artists, poets and philosophers.

Michaelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Giotto, Botticelli, Fra Filippo Lippi, Luca della Robbia, and Cellini are but a few of the masters of canvas, marble and metal who found inspiration for immortal works of art in Florence of the Middle Ages. Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarca, Machiavelli, Brunelleschi, Savonarola, and Amerigo Vespucci, had the stamp of genius among many Florentines in other fields.

Hardly less of a task than listing Rome's historic attractions would it be to mention the landmarks the Allies will soon see if Florence is spared. Almost every building in the old part of the city has some claim to recognition as a Renaissance shrine.

### Fair Enough

(Editor's Note.—The Star and the News accept no responsibility for the personal views of Mr. Pegler, and often disagree with them as much as many of his readers. His articles serve the good purpose of making people think.)

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

NEW YORK.—Time was, a few years ago, when I could have told you the club for which every regular ball player in the major leagues was toiling at a given time, approximately how well he hit and from which side of the plant and where he picked up his glove. I was weak on the tennis people because the hypocrisy of their mock-amateurism made me sore so I got even, in my outing, juvenile way, by ignoring them. The college athletes, all but a few exceptional, box-office giants, went by so fast and in such confusing hundreds that before a man could memorize and peg them, they were out and gone, to be met, some of them, a year or two later as unpretentious young salesmen, doctors, lawyers and the like. But I did know most of the fighters, including sudden young fellows in Sandusky or Seattle, who seemed to be east-bound and likely to be met one night in the garden or the stadium, and the quality of the people they had licked, and I could argue, capably and with many a fancy twist of that knowledge which Gene Tunney for a row; and let you pick comes only of hearty interest, that Dempsey, at his best, could, or couldn't, have knocked your side of the proposition. That figure of speech about persons being knocked for a row, incidentally, was one of the sturdy banalities of the era of wonderful nonsense, a meaningless but, somehow, witty cliché which gave generous mileage and retired, for age, in favor of "terrific," "but definitely," and "too, too divine."

The golden decade passed, and popular interest, although not forsaking sport entirely, turned to new fields of celebrity—the movies and radio, and, later to the heroes and commanders of the great war. My own interest became fixed on politics and, particularly, on that misty, murky underworld of conspiracy known as the "liberal" movement, which included the communists and, of course, the malevolent but oily schemers of the union front who had discovered in the house of American "labor," the safest refuge of the lazy and incompetent failure. It was not a popular interest, as I learned, for most of our people were indifferent and too preoccupied with similar and more obvious and pleasant concerns, but, in the menacing presence of the American adaptation of the European program for usurpation and war, as revealed in the Democratic convention in Chicago, the time and effort seem to have been well spent.

However, relatively few other Americans, probably not more than one in a thousand, who know their Bob Hoopes and Gracie Allen, their Grables and Sinatras and their Eddie Cantors, and know who got the Medal of Honor and for what, know anything about the lineup of hundreds of tireless individuals and hundreds of organizations whose operations this year may change the form of government of the United States. The Americans have been reassured that this change would not bring communism but merely achieve "liberal objectives" and emancipate that vague and faceless being called contemptuously, the "common man," and they have begged the difficult and controversial duty to themselves of knowing the names and associations, and the resourceful methods of strangers who mean more to them, their children and their country than all the records of Ruth and Cobb, Hornsby and Frisch and the scores of old fighters and other athletes and all the actors and band leaders, whose achievements and flirtations, marriages and earnings they know as surely as they know their own telephone numbers.

Who among the Americans has ever heard of Saul Mills, for example, and of the greater New York Industrial Council? What is his political record and how does the council stand on communism? Is it a communist organization and, if so, what candidates it put forward and what are their politics? What is the American Committee for Protection of the Foreign-Born? What is the Greater New York Emergency Conference on Inalienable Rights, the International Labor Defense, the Joint Committee for Trade Union Rights; who is Franz Boaz, and where did he come from and what are his politics; and who is Lewis Merrill and what was his name before he was Merrill; and what is the United Federal Workers of America, and who is Eleanor Nelson, its secretary-treasurer?

Americans who know the records of their golfers and the regional jurisdictions of the Amateur Athletic Union, and what year it was that Bobby Jones won all the titles there were, know nothing about the persons and groupings, the past performances, the changes of line, the political attitudes, now disguised, now defiant, of the organization whose chief, Sidney Hillman, with a power to levy millions of dollars from their own wages has declared its intention to elect the president of the American republic this year. But they all know that Babe Ruth holds the world's record of 60 home runs.



### Nazi Collapse May Come Sooner Than Is Expected

WASHINGTON.—The smashing victories of the Russian army are causing military authorities in Washington to revise their ideas as to the probable end of the war in Europe. Some experts think the German army may collapse as early as September.

It is no secret among Allied military men that Germany is in very bad shape, and that she is virtually defeated so far as any hope of waging a successful military campaign is concerned. However, the German army is expected to fight until the will to resist is knocked out of it and some conservative authorities therefore are wary about predicting the end. But an increase in "peace feelers" may be expected from now on.

General Ho Ying-Chin, chief of the Chinese general staff, and minister of war in the Chiang Kai-shek cabinet, believes the current Japanese offensive in central China is part of the enemy's long-range strategy to assure an escape corridor for its forces in the southwest Pacific.

According to the general, the Japanese are attempting to cut an escape corridor from north China, which they occupy to Canton, along the Canton-Peking railroad, which they can use in the event their sea communications are cut. He points out that this strategy is the result of spectacular American successes at sea and in the air. Once American forces reach the Philippines, Japanese garrisons in the Indies will be in an almost hopeless position.

The Flying Bomb has made it highly essential, in the opinion of many informed persons, that really effective machinery be set up and maintained to prevent another world war.

Although the robots that are being dropped over England are discounted as of no real military value, the plain truth is that this new weapon is something which the future will have to reckon with. It may not even dent British morale, coming at a time when Germany is already virtually beaten. But the future can scarcely take a chance, informed observers believe, on such an all-weather air force being unloosed suddenly on helpless civilians.

The flying bomb, these observers say, should be of particular interest to the United States, because it has not merely narrowed

### COAD APPOINTED

RALEIGH, July 27.—(AP)—Governor Broughton today appointed James E. Coad, of the commerce and industry division of the Board of Conservation and Development, to be the state's representative in patriotic program to be held soon in all textile communities.

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was the first privately endowed college for women in America.

### The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY  
"JETHRO HAMMER," by Michael Vennig (Coward-McCann; \$2.50)

The only group with less humor than book publishers that I have found in a fairly long newspaper career would be painters (picture, not house). Painters seem wholly without humor and entirely without conversation, in my experience.

In "Publishers Weekly" for July 8 appeared this paragraph: "Coward-McCann will publish 'Jethro Hammer' by Michael Vennig on July 24 at \$2.50. The book was announced some time ago under the title 'A Long Time Dead'."

The book is being resold to the trade. The publisher is cancelling all orders on hand for "A Long Time Dead."

Without even a giggle, the publisher has changed the title of a \$2 book, and reissued it at \$2.50. The reason, as a couple of letters from him have explained, is that when people about the publishing took they decided it was too good or a mere whodunit. And then the curious idea that a "novel" can-

### THORTON SOUNDS WAR BOND APPEAL

The story of submarine battles in the Pacific, as related by a wounded second class petty officer from Wilmington and an appeal by a banker to hold New Hanover's record of doing better in reaching war bond campaign quotas than any other county in North Carolina featured yesterday's luncheon meeting of the Lions club.

The talk on submarines was made by William Troutman, who has served in the Navy for four years and seen active war service from the time the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor until the first of this month, when he began a brief leave before reporting for duty again at New London, Conn.

The appeal for New Hanover county citizens to make up a \$137,000 shortage in the "E" bond quota for the county in the Fifth War Bond campaign before the deadline closes on sales tomorrow was made by J. G. Thornton, president of the Wilmington Savings and Trust Co. and co-chairman of the latest bond campaign in the county.

Announcement of the appointment of the Rev. James Lawson, immediate past president of the local club, as zone chairman for Eastern North Carolina clubs also featured the meeting. Clubs included in the zone are Wilmington, Richlands and Kinston. The appointment was made by District Governor Jesse Jones of Kinston. Guests at the meeting in addition to the two speakers were E. A. Laney, president of the Morris Plan bank and co-chairman with Thornton in the fifth bond drive, and Richard S. Rogers, vice president of the Wilmington Savings and Trust Co., both of whom in addition to Thornton were guests of W. B. Campbell, and Ed Marlowe of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., who was the guest of C. L. Harris. Troutman was the guest of James R. Benson.

Sidelights of the meeting included the passing around of a special edition of the Wilmington Morning Star of July 16, 1922, on the occasion of the founding of the local Lions club, and a report by L. C. Robertson, chairman of a committee appointed in an effort to obtain better service in delivery of War and Navy department messages to relatives of wounded, killed and missing members of the armed forces.

Troutman told club members of being on watch at Pearl Harbor the night before the Japs struck and of being awakened by his relief when the bombs began to fall on American installations.

He described how he manned a machine gun and fired at Jap planes during the first attack on the harbor and how he was in a motor launch during the second and third attacks picking up survivors of the U. S. S. Oklahoma and other ships sunk and damaged by Jap bombs.

Speaking immediately after Troutman, Thornton, who revealed that New Hanover had done better than any other county in the state in attaining its bond quotas, said that the fifth bond drive in the county had gone over the top by 135 per cent, with \$788,900 in bonds of all types sold against a quota of \$5,707,000.

He pointed out, however, that for the first time New Hanover is about to fall short of its E bond quota, with \$2,034,000 in this series bond sold to date in the fifth bond drive against a quota of \$2,292,000.

Thornton appealed to club members to help in making up the quota by the deadline tomorrow afternoon by buying as much as possible personally of the \$137,000 lacked and getting friends to do their share.

He said that New Hanover, although one of the smallest coun-

## Interpreting The War

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
Associated Press War Analyst  
Nazi admission that a Russian spearhead had punched across the Vistula southeast of Warsaw headed the war news from Europe, although sustained second day progress of a closely knit American air-tank advance in Normandy holds promise of significant events to come in the weeks ahead.

As the air escorted tank columns mushroomed out to east and west from the deep penetration of the Vistula southeast of Warsaw, there seemed no question that the desperate Nazi effort to contain the Allied invasion had failed. Front line dispatches told of American infantry swarming through the air and tank cut gaps to consolidate the ground, disrupt German rear echelon services and outflank his last lines in both directions.

THREATEN COUNTERS  
West of the St. Lo dent American troops had taken Lessay and passed the Peeters Nazi roadblock to threaten Coutances from the north while tank columns rolling down the St. Lo-Coutances highway pressed upon it, even closer range from the east. There was little doubt that German had to retreat from the Coutances-Lessay coastal triangle of the Cherbourg peninsula was in process to escape a closing Allied trap.

While it is as yet doubtful the Allied immediate purpose goes further than to widen and deepen the Normandy bridgehead to accommodate larger forces in preparation for more decisive action, the means for immediate exploitation of enemy confusion appears to be at hand. The situation in German ranks as well as in Germany itself invites bold action.

Russian crossing of the Vistula on the 30 mile span where they had reached the river southeast of Warsaw had not been confirmed by Moscow but seemed highly probable. Red forces had seized east bank towns, Deblin and Pulawy, guarding the important rail and road crossings west of Lublin. Nazi evacuation of Brest Litovsk was clearly impending since the breach in the Vistula line meant Warsaw was due for flanking, not frontal attack, and the Brest Litovsk garrison was in growing danger of being cut off and annihilated.

Once beyond the river in the summer pines sunning on the Vistula, the Polish army is in a position to take the old Polish capital from the rear, its vulnerable side, or cut its communications lines.

—V—

### Daily Prayer

FOR SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
Daily and hourly a plan in  
Thee, O Infinite Father in Heaven,  
for our sons and daughters,  
and husbands and brothers, who  
are in the armies of our country.  
We have sent them forth  
as patriots, obeying our country's  
call to do service for humanity  
and Thee. Keep fresh in their  
souls the conviction that they are  
engaged in a holy war, born of  
the ideals taught in Thy word.  
Nurture their spiritual convictions  
and may each preserve his own  
most sacred personality. Make  
warm their hearts with the consciousness  
of our constant affection.  
Amidst new and mighty temptations,  
save them from sin.  
And speed the day of victory.  
O God in whose hand is the outcome  
of battles and the fate of nations,  
that they may soon return,  
to be enfolded in our grateful  
love. We commend our prayers,  
in body and in spirit, to  
Thy guardian care. Amen.—W.T.E.

—V—

Within the period October 1941 to January 1943 planes of the Air Transport Command flew more than 4,000,000 air miles in Africa, carried 21,300 passengers.

tes in the state, had the second largest E bond quota of any of the other 99 counties, being topped only by Mecklenburg with a population double this county's.

In this connection, he said that New Hanover had done so well in previous campaigns, that the quota for the county had been increased each time.

He disclosed that \$40,000,000 in all types of war bonds had been purchased in New Hanover during the bond campaigns, a sum more than double the total resources of Wilmington banks four years ago.

25 Years Ago  
Today  
(FROM THE FILES OF THE STAR-NEWS)

July 28, 1919  
Lieut. Latham Harris, United States Navy, is home on leave for a week's visit with his parents, Major and Mrs. W. N. Harris.

NEW YORK.—The transport Hannon arrived with a record passenger list of French war brides, 9 brides were on board, 67 of them French and two English.

The Pacific Fleet, which passed successfully through the Panama canal yesterday on the voyage from Hampton Roads to the coast of the United States, sailed tonight from Panama for San Diego.