

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
 TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE
 The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the city of College Station, is published three times weekly from September to June, issued Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings; also it is published weekly from June through August.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1879.

Subscription rate, \$3 a school year. Advertising rates upon request.

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Office, Room 122, Administration Building. Telephone 4-5444.

1940 Member 1941
 Associated Collegiate Press

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Cover the Typewriter

IT HARDLY SEEMS nine months since the first paper of the year came rolling off the presses. The first magazine came out that same week—gosh, what a rush! Why it seems like only yesterday. And now comes the time to put the cover on the typewriter and close the desk.

Editing the "Batt" has been a mixture of pleasure, hard work, late hours, good bull sessions, and heated discussions. Ninety four issues—that's many a page of copy. In one big file, they're quite a volume—bigger than the old "unabridged" on the desk.

And looking through the file, it seems as though we can see the face of every staff member engraved on the stories he pecked out. And all the heads have the managing editor's thumb prints.

The year has been a red-letter year in all the lives of the seniors who find themselves now ready to turn over the reins to a new crop of prospects. Its memory will linger vividly for many a year to come.

We'll probably peck out copy and headlines in our sleep for many a month. We'll remember the rush for deadlines, typing in an office resounding through hall with noise and littered with scraps of waste paper and cigarette butts. We'll remember the midnight stands slamming out the copy for the papers with the extra pages.

But we've gained a lot from our year. We've been behind the scenes on the year's events and we've found out what it takes to make the old school click. We've met friends that we otherwise would not have known, and we've learned a lot about judging a person's character from his appearance and his speech. Yes we've put in a great deal of effort on our publications, but we've reaped as much or more than we've put in.

Our successors have had their try at the paper for the past two or three weeks and they've shown they can handle the job. When we started the year the job looked almost more than we were capable of handling—it probably looks the same to them. But let it be said here and now that we believe they are capable of any task put before them. We hope we've "raised them right" and that they can pick up where we've left off and not have to spend too long building up to where we are now. That next year's paper will be a credit to the school, we aren't doubting a bit, but we want it to be a shining light for all to read and marvel.

As the school continues to grow both in size and in importance, so must The Battalion grow. It can only grow as the students themselves grow in knowledge and in experience.

Editing the "Batt" has been a privilege that we believe is the most enjoyable event of our lives. Thanks and —30—

After the War

NOW ANOTHER WAR worse than before. Then another depression worse than before—and what's the world coming to? Purely aside from any supposition that we may be drawn directly into the European conflict, the very magnitude of our defense program is so great that it leaves many floundering in confusion as to how we are going to pull through, whether we shall be able to resume anything like a normal economic life. This view assumes that our defense program is creating and will create so many severe dislocations in our industrial system that according to most economic theorists, later readjustments cannot be made except at tremendous delay and cost.

Let's take a few phases of this problem and try to determine where we are.

In the first place, there is no good reason to assume that the gigantic defense program will be suddenly halted even with an abrupt end of the war comparable to that of Nov. 11, 1918. A considerable portion of what we are now undertaking as defense will be long continued. Peacetime uses have been announced for new arms plants being constructed, and for bomber assembly plants. The same principle underlies other parts of defense, notably naval and ship construction.

This suggests the constantly enlarging role of the United States—not necessarily a voluntary role—in world affairs. It requires long-continued and constantly broadened efforts to match that role in our commercial life, to say nothing of the necessary naval and other defense roles.

But what of this peacetime crisis, the years after the war? Take an example here. The national resources planning board finds a present need of 2,500,000 new homes. Despite a growth in home-building the past two years, we have the shortage from the ten years previous. With a fair expansion,

to make up this shortage after peace comes should require ten years.

In a study of "Fundamental Economic Issues in National Defense," Dr. Harold Moulton, president of the Brookings institute, takes note of the fact that "after the World War the existing backlog of productive requirements in such lines as railroads, public utilities, and housing served to shorten the period of depression and propel us into a period of rehabilitation and expansion."

The expansion, however, proved unsound. In this emergency we have an even greater backlog, as well as the experience gained after the last war. This may be used, Dr. Moulton explains, not only in the safe working out of production problems, but of "monetary, banking, fiscal, labor, and consumption problems." The backlog then is here. There will be a decline in business activity immediately following the war. If the decline is not too severe, this normal backlog will pull the nation through with a more stable recovery period. The time between peace and the normal expansion will see a decline. Following the decline business itself, aided by the great demand accrued during the past years and by the carry-over from defense programs, will be able to expand. But what of the period in between?

Here the job is government's. There will be a demand for spending on public works and providing of relief jobs. The expense will be great, true, added to the vast debt we already have. But there is no alternative. A greater expense for a few years—then a more sound recovery and more lasting period of prosperity. We have no other choice. William Baker in the Michigan Daily.

As the World Turns..

BY "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF
 SHIPS AND PLANES IS THE ANSWER. The battle of Crete has demonstrated that an air force can be a serious setback to a sea force. The British had every possible advantage in defending the Island of Crete. They had an army, tanks, fortified positions, artillery and the command of the sea. They did not have enough planes. The Germans with their superior air force nullified all British and Greek opposition, and they are now masters of Crete. It is plain that the British and we along with them must produce ships and planes in larger quantities than the Nazis. The task is herculean but it can be done. Britain and the United States possess now more than thirty million tons of shipping. British ship losses and air-raid damage to British shipyards are forcing us to speed up our production of ships. We are now turning out tankers, freighters, and passenger vessels at the rate of one every fifty-two hours, totaling 2 1/2 millions of tons, and in 1943 our shipyards will be turning out 5 million tons of shipping. Every effort is being made to speed up our ship-building of all sorts to aid Britain.

The combat and training planes production increases too. Several weeks ago the traditional military and naval opinion on the effectiveness of air force as a factor in combat gave way to realities. A "Go ahead" order was given from the White House. Forty-six thousand combat and training planes have been ordered, and 3,600 heavy and medium size bombers are in the process of production. In fact, Mr. Knudsen plans an 80,000 planes production for the near future. We are producing 1,500 planes a month and by the end of this year, we shall be turning out 2,500.

Do your new clothes shrink? There is always a small group of people, possessing tools of manufacturing and means of distribution, who take advantage and make big profits in a national emergency. Miss Harriett Elliott of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, stated recently "The dress that fades, the shirt that shrinks, the sheets that split are no longer just individual mishap." Many manufacturers are selling to the public poorer quality goods for the same price or higher than few months ago. These goods of inferior quality require, of course, more frequent replacement. In the long run the consumer gets less for his money while the above mentioned group reaps big profits. Price control and the retention of high quality of consumers' goods is one of our most important current problems in the United States. Rise in prices usually affects adversely. Often the wages and salaries do not rise in proportion to the rise in price. The Federal, State and the local government should cooperate in guarding against profiteering such as we had during the last World War.

Something to Read

BY DR. T. F. MAYO
 MORE TRULY THAN IN THE last World War, the United States is undertaking to save Democracy. Yet it is difficult to find anyone who can tell you very plainly what is meant by Democracy. Perhaps some of your reading during the coming months may be clarified and made more real to you if you will weigh and consider at least one definition of the word. Very probably, it can be shot full of holes. But you are assured, at any rate, that this definition has been arrived at through a good deal of honest and careful effort.

Democracy is a dynamic equilibrium between the highest reconcilable degrees of (1) freedom of individual initiative and, (2) equality of opportunity.

It does seem to me that when we use the word "Democracy," we imply both of these elements: (1) freedom of individual initiative; and (2) equality of opportunity. Yet it either freedom or equality is pushed very far, it threatens to encroach on the other. If, for example, each member of a boys' gang is left absolutely free to assert himself in his own way, it will not be long before a few strong boys rule the rest with a rod of iron. And then what has become of equality of opportunity? If the same complete freedom of individual initiative is given to their elders in the world of business, the same death of equality of opportunity will ensue.

On the other hand, suppose that both in the boys' gang and in the business world the group insists on safeguarding equality of opportunity so strictly that it becomes dangerous to be at all outstanding. What becomes of individual initiative? It is either crushed when it does appear, or smothered at its source before it asserts itself.

BACKWASH

By George Fuernmann

"Backwash: An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence."—Webster

Today, as Backwash goes to press for the last time under its current by-line, 808 Texas Aggies either have received or will receive tomorrow night their degrees, representative of at least four years of college work — representative of being for at least four years a Texas Aggie.

And these men will receive their degrees under conditions which have known no parallel since the hectic days of World War I. Five hundred and thirty-seven of them are taking-up roles for which they had no anticipation four years ago as freshmen — they'll be second lieutenants in the U. S. Army.

In any case, graduating seniors have a responsibility without denial, but June, 1941, has presented them with a significant responsibility which no other A. & M. graduating class has known in the institution's 67-year history.

A. & M.'s No. 1 Tradition

Texas A. & M. is perhaps the nation's most tradition-steeped major educational institution. But of these traditions there's one which stands head and shoulders above the field. That's the tradition established in the last World War by the thousands of Aggie-exes who took part in that conflict.

Aggie-exes already in the service are recognizing well their responsibility to carry on a job begun by the men in '17 and '18. The high standards of performance set by those men is to this day a challenge to the Aggies taking part in the current battle.

It's a truism without denial that the Texas Aggies who took part in the first World War were possessed with a devotion to duty which knew no bounds.

The institution is depending on its graduates of the class of '41 to enure the performance of the college's 'old grads.'

The National Emergency

Long before President Roosevelt declared the existence of a national emergency the vast majority of the American public was all-the-way conscious of the fact.

But here at Texas A. & M. where military training has become a keynote, the fact was even more evident.

With the world on fire, personal and petty affairs must take a back seat. The definite national emergency which now exists makes no room for play. Playing time is at end — the seriousness of the situation immediately ahead of us requires that we give our whole being to the defense of our nation.

This is a time which calls for less consideration of dues and a great consideration of duty.

Encore the 1917-18 Performance

There's no time for sentimentalism. There's no question, either, as to what the Texas Aggies will do with their responsibility. They met it before — they'll do so this time.

Texas A. & M. furnished the nation's armed forces with more officers than any other American college or university in the last conflict. That fact has been so oft-repeated that it has lost its punch here at the college.

But when the war-to-be has ended — if it comes — the American public will again read the same statistics as concerns World War II. More important than that, the class of '41 will make for the United States Army what one man recently termed "Some pretty fair country officers."

We'll take that phrase — some pretty fair country officers — and the Aggies will build upon it a reputation which will even eclipse that of the past war.

The responsibility is here—it's our job to meet it all the way.

Before putting away garments for the summer hang them outside in the sun and air for a few hours. Brush each article thoroughly before returning it to the house in order to dislodge eggs or larvae of moths.

If the diet of everyone in the United States could be raised to what is accepted as a good diet, approximately 20 percent more milk, 35 percent more eggs, 70 percent more citrus fruit, and 100 percent more of some types of vegetables would be consumed than have been used in recent years.

More foreign students are enrolled at the University of California than in any other college or university in the United States.

The youngest of the 1941 graduating class at the University of Washington also will be the youngest ever graduate from that school.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
 Thursday 6:45 — "LAS VEGAS NIGHTS," with Tommy Dorsey, his orchestra, and Bert Wheeler.

Friday 6:45—"FREE AND EASY," starring Robert Cummings, Ruth Hussey, Judith Anderson and C. Aubrey Smith.

AT THE CAMPUS

Thursday — "DOWN ARGENTINE WAY," featuring Don Ameche, Betty Grable and Carmen Miranda. Also "BLONDIE PLAYS CUPID," with Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake.

Friday, Saturday — "GREAT AMERICAN BROADCAST," starring Alice Faye, John Payne and Jack Oakie.

Sunday, Monday — "THE GREAT PROFILE," with John Barrymore and Mary Beth Hughes. And "LONE WOLF KEEPS A DATE," with Warren Williams and Frances Robinson.

MUSICAL MEANDERINGS

By Murray Evans

The much-touted Glenn Miller is still the high priest among the current bands. In a recent poll conducted over 171 campuses Miller placed first with 191 votes. This is his second consecutive year to be acclaimed the top-flight orchestra in America.

Tommy Dorsey, the old perfectionist, came in for second prize with 139 votes. Dorsey owes his second-best popularity largely to the outstanding success of his recording, "I'll Never Smile Again," featuring Frank Sinatra and the Pied Pipers. His success in his first motion picture, "Las Vegas Nights," also boosted him up any amount of notches toward the top.

Next in line came Kay Kyser, Benny Goodman and Jimmy Dorsey. Jimmie's position may be slightly overweighted, however, because he has been playing numerous college engagements here of late. (This poll was taken, in case you forget its being mentioned in the preamble, from college campuses, 171 of them.)

Artie Shaw placed a miserable 11th, but this was because he forgot the ways of jitterbug jive. Since he has organized his new band, he has done some wonderful

work on records, and it is this which brought him back up into 11th place.

Ginnie Sims was voted the best female vocalist for 1941, and Frank Sinatra (Tommy Dorsey) was first among the males. (Author's note: This is to state that anybody has a tin ear who heard Sinatra in "Las Vegas Nights" and doesn't agree that he is the best of the lot by far. And if you've gathered I like his work, you are right.)

Following Sinatra were listed Ray Eberle, (Glenn Miller) Bob Eberly, (Jimmy Dorsey) Kenny Sargent, (Glenn Gray) and Harry Babbitt (Kay Kyser).

The most promising band for 1941 was said to be Vaughn Monroe, but Bobby Byrne (he of the fine trombones) and Bob Chester were in there crowding him close for this rating.

Engineering schools in American Colleges and universities will graduate this June fewer than one-third of the number of engineers required to play important roles in ever-expanding defense industries, according to an estimate by Dr. H. P. Hammond, dean of the school of engineering at Pennsylvania State college.

LAST CALL — They may become collector's items in the future as the supply is about gone and additional recordings are not planned.

Records:
 "The Spirit of Aggeland"
 "The Aggie War Hymn"
 "I'd Rather Be a Texas Aggie"

On Sale:
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We're Real Aggies Now!

At the end of our Freshman year in business at Aggeland we thank you for your patronage.

The first year of the beautiful new West Park Community Center has been successful . . . And we know that our effort to please will assure us of continued growth.

WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT FALL.

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