

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE

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War Interpretations

By Robert L. Freeland

British Blunder

Paris is a beautiful city. It is one of the few cities of Europe which have not as yet had their beautiful buildings blasted by bombs, their rows of workers quarters layed low, streets pocked and parks torn up to build air raid shelters.

It was raided once by the Luftwaffe in June, 1940, when France was crumbling under the mighty blows of the German Army, in which more than 1,000 casualties were counted. There are very few air raid shelters and few anti-aircraft guns in the city, as it was declared an open city to save it from destruction. Although it observes a blackout, it is virtually unprotected.

Its second air raid came during the night of March 3-4 of this year, this time at the hands of the Royal Air Force. The British have committed many blunders, but this was probably one of their greatest. More than 600 were killed this time and many more wounded. The target of the British bombers was the Renault and other great motor factories which have been turning out tanks, trucks and engines for the German Army. True, it was a good objective, and the results were probably good and will reduce the output from these factories, but it came at the worst possible time.

France has been trying to pursue a neutral course since she was knocked out of the war, but she has been forced to collaborate with the Germans in several respects. The French navy, however, has remained in French hands and has been neutralized, although Darlan, Navy Minister, is a friend of Germany. The Allies need every fighting ship they can muster to fight in the Far East, in the Mediterranean and to keep the supply lines open to transport vital supplies to Russia and the other far-flung fighting fronts. The Allies are hard pressed in Africa, and German control of the French territories there might turn the tide of battle in favor of the Germans and give them bases of great strategic value such as Dakar from which to attack convoy lanes.

The French people no doubt hate their German conquerors but when they see that their own former allies are going to bomb them and there are heavy casualties, they might be willing to allow Darlan and the other pro-Nazi cabinet ministers to force Petain to turn over the French navy to the Germans and give them control of the French possessions in Africa. For the French fleet to join with the Italian, Japanese and German navies would indeed be a hard blow to the Allies and loss of Africa and its bases even a harder one.

In the long run, it is extremely probable that this action by the British will do much more harm than it has done good, for compared with the knocking out of a few French factories, the possibilities of French Alliance with the German Reich is indeed overwhelmingly disastrous to the Allied cause.

The World Turns On

By A. F. Chalk

The average American will feel the war for the first time this month. Up to now Americans have curtailed to some extent the use of their cars, have paid higher prices for many products, and have bought some bonds. This month many persons will pay income taxes who never paid them before, and those who have paid taxes in the past will pay more than they ever paid before.

Next year the tax bill will be about \$8,000,000,000 more than it is this year. In all probability income tax rates will be doubled, and they may be collected in the form of deductions from salaries. There will certainly be taxes on many articles which are not now taxed, and higher taxes on other articles. Meanwhile the sale of bonds will go on and prices will continue to rise.

On the other hand there will probably be fewer things to buy. Not only will tires become more scarce, but there is a probability that gasoline will be rationed. Repair parts for automobiles will also be difficult to obtain. Typewriters are to be rationed, and practically all other intricate mechanical articles will probably follow the same road.

The British attack on factories in Paris opens a new phase of the war. Until now Britain and America have made every effort to woo the French. This attack seems to indicate that Washington and London now believe that the French are aiding the Axis to such an extent that it can be no longer overlooked. Incidentally, the raid seems to indicate that the parachute attacks on the French coast which destroyed a radio locating device may have been made for the purpose of paving the way for the bombing of the French plants. Vichy admits that damage was great, and that the loss of life was heavy.

The French minister in Washington, when asked about the raid, said: "What good are words now?" His question raises another one: What value have words from Vichy ever had? The court conducting the war guilt trials of the former French leaders is considering desirability of holding secret sessions. Some of the men on trial are talking more than they were supposed to talk, and to make matters worse they are talking in a different tone of voice to that expected. Deladier has gone so far as to place a good deal of the blame for the collapse of France upon the shoulders of Marshal Petain. The trial was not supposed to prove anything of that nature.

PRIVATE BUCK . . . By Clyde Lewis



"Buck's wising up . . . it used to be easy to tell whether he was bluffing or not by his expression!"

BACKWASH

By Jack Hood

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

Lt. Joe Routt and wife played paper, walls, or anything. host to the stork a few days ago. Aggie-ex Joe was a two-year All-American at A. & M. . . reported "communique" from MacArthur: If the west coast will hold out 30 days longer, we'll send them reinforcements. Send us another P-40. The one we have is a little beat up . . . honors go to Al Brown, B-FA; Pete Cantu, 2 CHQ; and Cal Hengst, D-FA, for the bang-up job on the Field Ball decorations. The boys were in a hole because last year's decorations couldn't be found. Cantu did the designing . . . orders are slated requiring soldiers to salute superiors everywhere—even city streets . . . probably cadets also . . . Will Henry Bennett and his Prairie View Collegians will entertain the Lunefordians with a dance at the Negro "Cotton Club" in Bryan after they get through at Sbis.

Amateur Mystic

Frog Grover Backster, C Cavalry, hypnotist deluxe, put on quite a show for the Pre-Med Society, Friday night. Obtaining complete control over his assistant, he accomplished such feats as commanding his sleeping assistant to sing the Hut Sut song with illustrative jitters. Giving his assistant an empty glass, the Frog told him to drink the liquor in it, and get good and paloted. Shortly, the sleeping subject began staggering, loop-legged as a duck, and gave out with a merry rendition of "Little Miss Muffet." The assistant was commanded to be Hitler, and he plunged into Hitleresque oratory, with appropriate gestures and yells.

In a clairvoyance demonstration, the assistant looked through solid walls and told what was on the other side. In this undeveloped field of hypnotism, The Frog was able to make his helper read thru

All this, and more, was topped off with the post-hypnosis demonstration. The assistant was brought out of his trance with the instructions that he would be able to hear the Frog, but not see him. Amazingly, it worked; the boy could see a hat when the Frog put it on, and could hear the voice coming from beneath the hat, but, to him, it looked like a hat suspended in mid-air. He jumped when an invisible hand jerked the tie out of his shirt.

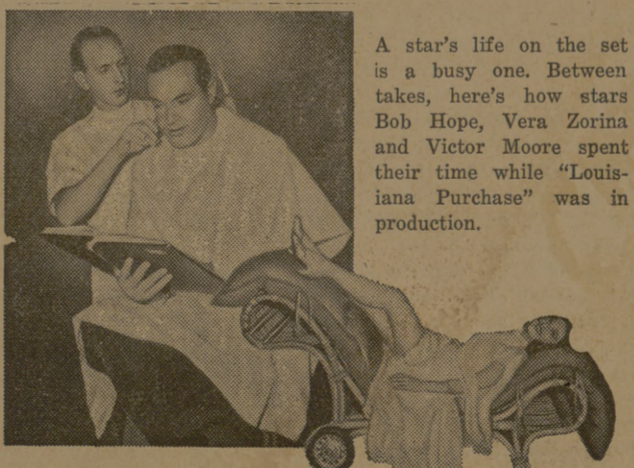
God Bless Somebody

From the daily mail bag comes another testimonial for the Aggie way of doing things: Quoting Mrs. Ophelia B. Ursell, of Corpus Christi, "I am writing this to praise the honesty of the student body of A. & M. as a whole, and of one boy in particular, who is unknown to me. On Sunday morning, Feb. 21, . . . I left my pocketbook on my chair (in a cafe) . . . I was really sick as the purse contained quite a sum of money and valuables . . . my son went to the announcer's booth to report the loss. There lay the purse, apparently unopened (some Aggie turned it in) . . . I fully know how many of the boys need money and think it only right to let it be known . . . he is a really honest boy, and I do thank him."

That's a real plug for our reputation. The lady doesn't know how right she is about the boys needing money (who doesn't), but there is an old saying around here: The Aggie way is the right way.

Dr. Maurice H. Seevers, professor of pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed professor and chairman of the department of pharmacology at the University of Michigan.

Louisiana Sidelights



A star's life on the set is a busy one. Between takes, here's how stars Bob Hope, Vera Zorina and Victor Moore spent their time while "Louisiana Purchase" was in production.

Above, Bob Hope runs through his lines, while a barber runs through his hair. Zorina takes advantage of the lull to rest from her strenuous dance routines. Meanwhile, Victor Moore, whom the cuties found cute, receives a visit from a pair of pretties.



LOUISIANA PURCHASE

COVERING campus distractions

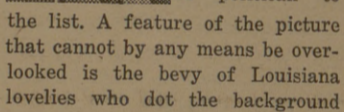
WITH TOM VANNOY

You probably didn't get to see the Broadway hit, "LOUISIANA PURCHASE," but the motion picture version is to be at the Campus tomorrow and Monday. With Bob Hope supplying the humor, Vera Zorina the dancing scenes and Victor Moore the wit, it is an excellent picture that needs no special recommendations.

The original stage hit ran fourteen months on Broadway with Miss Zorina dancing in each performance. Five years ago she was a dance star with the Ballet Russe and had to learn to speak English in order to obtain a dramatic part on the London stage.

Hope is made the scapegoat of amateurish swindlers who own the Louisiana Purchasing Company. To cover up their crooked deals, they give him controlling interest in the firm. When Senator Loganberry, Victor Moore, comes down from Washington to investigate the affair, things get off to a grand start. Hope tries to dissuade the senator from continuing the investigation, but Moore will not be stopped. Finally the scene shifts to the state capitol in Baton Rouge where the actual hearings are held. There Hope stages a filibuster that is really enjoyable.

Bob, in his screen career, who has played the parts of actor, soldier, sailor, carnival man, and truth-telling stock salesman, now adds the role of politician to the list. A feature of the picture that cannot by any means be overlooked is the bevy of Louisiana lovelies who dot the background.



Giesecke Honored As He Is Presented Paul Anderson Medal

Prof. F. E. Giesecke, member of the A. S. M. E., and professor emeritus at A. & M. recently received the F. Paul Anderson Gold Medal awarded by the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers for distinguished scientific achievement. Presentation was made by Thornton Lewis of Newton, Pa., donor of the medal at the 48th annual meeting of the society in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, January 28, 1942.

W. J. Douglas, Jr. INSURANCE AGENCY
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so decorously. And the Mardi Gras scenes are as natural as technical or can reproduce them.

The Old West is the scene of the adventures of the crusading "PARSON OF PANAMINT" at Guion Hall today. Charlie Ruggles is the miner who discovered gold that led to the founding of the boom town. And Phil Terry is the fist-slugging parson.

It is an action-filled story that is different enough from the general run to be good.

The story is very interesting and presents a new idea in the western style of motion picture drama.

After being brought to the town to straighten out the lawless element that is prevalent in all gold rushes, the preacher harbors them rather than talk about them. He becomes extremely unpopular with the snobs that brought him to the town, and they try to get rid of him.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT GUION HALL

Saturday—"PARSON OF PANAMINT," featuring Charles Ruggles and Ellen Drew.

Monday—"THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER," with Bette Davis, Anne Sheridan, and Monty Woolley.

AT THE CAMPUS

Saturday—"SPAWN OF THE NORTH," starring George Raft, Henry Fonda, and Dorothy Lamour.

Saturday prevue, Sunday, Monday—"LOUISIANA PURCHASE," with Bob Hope, Vera Zorina, and Victor Moore.

Campus

Dial 4-1181

Box Office Opens 2 P. M.
LAST DAY
"SPAWN OF THE NORTH"
Starring
George Raft -- Henry Fonda
Dorothy Lamour
Also News -- Sport
"HOW GOES CHILE"
Nazis at work in Chile

PREVIEW TONIGHT AFTER DANCE

SUNDAY - MONDAY
"Louisiana Purchase"
with
BOB HOPE - VERA ZORINA
VICTOR MOORE
News -- Musical
Popeye Cartoon

So Near, Yet So Far

This week a number of five year men who previously had been given deferments were sent notices to report for active duty within the next few days or weeks. Most of these men finished their military science courses last June and were scheduled to finish their academic work next May.

Had these calls to duty been delayed for slightly over two weeks or until April 1st most of these men would have been granted degrees in their respective courses. Now, they will leave A. & M. with just hours and grade points but no sheepskin. In some instances these new Lieutenants have more hours than are required but lack as few as two hours of required work.

True enough, the college has liberal when it decided to give credit for the semester to those men who are called to duty if the men stay until April 1st, but in the case of graduating seniors the date line should be moved back to March 1st. To be so near a degree and yet so far is rather discouraging, to say the least, to those students who have spent over four and one half years in college.

Of course, these men can always come back to college, but after several years in the front lines it isn't easy to return to school in a world upset by post war conditions. That time of less than one month should be allowed the seniors and degrees given to them.

Quotable Quotes

"The message I would emphasize to you this year is that America will always need men and women with college training. Government and industry alike need skilled technicians today. Later we shall need men and women of broad understanding and special aptitudes to serve as leaders of the generation which must manage the post-war world. We must, therefore, redouble our efforts during these critical times to make our schools render ever more efficient service in support of our cherished democratic institutions." President Roosevelt.

MOVIE
GUION HALL
SATURDAY
2:00 P.M., 7:30 and 9:00

Charlie Ruggles -- Ellen Drew
Phillip Terry

in
"Parson of Panamint"
Comedy
Also
Mickey Mouse

Coming Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
"THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER"