

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

A free, responsible and aggressive Press is democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

KEEPING US GUESSING

Joe Stalin, who hangs his hat at the Kremlin, is keeping us guessing. In his rather insistent demands for a second front, no one seems to be sure whether he really means what he says, for having repulsed the Germans at Stalingrad, Stalin is nevertheless pleading for a second front through his Armies were nearing collapse.

Obviously, a diversion attack in western Europe is needed to help the Russians put the Koz to Hitler's forces, but what everybody wonders is just how badly the Reds are imperiled.

The speculation might be classified thus: (1) Things are really as tough as Stalin intimated when he ignored diplomatic channels and went directly to the people in his Associated Press statement.

(2) The Russian position is still very strong, but Stalin is getting the correct and correct of action on the western front and he figures that prodding from the people directed to United Nations leaders would turn the trick and relieve the pressure.

(3) Stalin wants the Germans to think he is near collapse so that Hitler will extend his forces in the Caucasus, allowing a counter-attack from the east to bottle up the Nazi forces.

(4) Earl Godwin suggested last week that Stalin sees victory in the Pacific as a means by which he could regain supreme at the peace table.

Take your choice. I confess I haven't the faintest idea of the correct solution, for Birmingham is a long way from the front lines. Who on Oct. 10, 1942, dreamed that the victory was about to collapse?

And who today knows how long Germany will hang on this time? The only safe course of action is to assume that a long, hard battle is ahead.

ARMOR FOR AIRPLANES
You've heard that American planes being better than many foreign competitors because their pilots are protected by armor. Well, a new resident of Bloomfield Hills is an expert in this field.

He is R. S. Komarovsky, who came to Detroit recently as chief metallurgical engineer for the aircraft division of Standard Steel Spring company. In 1939 he began experimenting with a process for face hardening or carburizing steel plates, and today, his plates are on several types of planes.

On plates 5/16 of an inch thick, tracer bullets or 30 caliber bullets make scarcely an impression. A 50 caliber bullet can pierce the plate at 100 yards but seldom do anything more than dent it. At 400 yards, the 50 caliber bullet has no effect.

The heaviest armor is placed in long-range bombers and will stop 50 caliber bullets at 100 yards and 37 mm. cannon bursts at 400, so it is no wonder that if the 110 bombers which raided Lille last week, only four were lost. Meanwhile, each of our big ships bristles with 50 caliber machine guns which, with lighter plane which come within range.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Welsh and their five young sons. They formerly lived in Cedar Rapids, Ia., but moved here when Mr. Welsh was made district manager of the Lederle Laboratories in Detroit. They decided to make their home here because it seemed like a nice place for the family. Bobby, 10, attends Holy Name School, Mickey, 5, is at St. Ann's, and the other three are Tommy, Jimmy and Perry, 2, 4 and 6 months. They are living at 612 Brookside drive.

THE PRESIDENT'S TALK
Mr. Roosevelt made a fine talk Monday evening. You all know what he said so there is no need of further comment. What for me is a challenge the President's attack on so-called "typewriter strategists" who expound their views on the press and on the radio." and he recalled the statement of Robert E. Lee that "all the best generals were apparently working on newspapers instead of in the field."

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WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BUILDING
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Read What One Hero Says

The people of the United States often mislead in the editorial pages of the war by the activities of writers and commentators who reported and interpreted the war.

When Japan was swabbing through the Far East we were given daily doses of isolated bits of fighting, where we gave the enemy a licking. The couple of dozens of places where the enemy was giving us, or our representatives, a fit, were overlooked in the excitement.

This seems to be established by the testimony of Lieutenant Robert E. Kelly, commander of one of the six seventy-two P-T boats in the Philippines. In "They Were Expended," W. L. White, author, recounts much of the narrative in the words of this officer and his lieutenants who knew that they were useful only in delaying the enemy, seeking to gain time for their nation and selling themselves as dearly as possible.

What does Lieutenant Kelly say? Here it is: "I had to be in a hot spot. I was a commentator again repeated his account of our victory, when all our fore knew that we had only expended ourselves in the hope that it might slow down a Japanese victory, and we had failed to do so."

The story of these men, who evacuated General MacArthur and his staff, after fighting a hopeless battle but destroying Japanese cruisers, destroyers, transports and even the battleships, is a story of heroism and sacrifice. It is the tale of brave men, meeting great odds but fighting all the time.

Lower Draft Ages Expected

The draft ages now between twenty and twenty-four, inclusive, will be extended to include an estimated 3,000,000 youths in the 18 and 19 year classification.

While there is no way to forestall when Congress will lower the draft age, such a step seems to be certain if the war continues into next year. It seems to be almost a certainty and, consequently, young men of eighteen and nineteen may accept the call to military service in the next few months.

It is UNIVERSALLY AGREED in this nation that, aside from winning the war, we must win the fight against inflation. The key to this latter problem is to become inflated with its Constitutional importance in the ways of democracy. Congress can do in this rubber drive, for example, by leaving to a rubber stamp.

NEWS FROM MEN IN SERVICE

Classifications Oct. 8
Stanley Willis Osgood, M. D., 1-C; Russell C. Oliver, 3-A; Clifford W. Smith, 1-C; Donald S. Pierce, P.; Donald S. Oliver, 3-A; Albert F. McDonald, P.; Robert H. McDonald, 3-B; Charles F. Lusk, 1-C; Donald J. O'Connell, 1-C; William J. O'Connell, 1-C; W. H. Cox, 1-C; Charles D. McCombs, 3-B; John S. Galloway, 2-B; W. H. Winkler, F. W. Gilliam, P.; Garish, P.

WHAT CODE MEANS
1-A, passed his physical exam. 1-B, passed his physical exam. 1-C, passed his physical exam. 1-D, passed his physical exam. 1-E, passed his physical exam. 1-F, passed his physical exam. 1-G, passed his physical exam. 1-H, passed his physical exam. 1-I, passed his physical exam. 1-J, passed his physical exam. 1-K, passed his physical exam. 1-L, passed his physical exam. 1-M, passed his physical exam. 1-N, passed his physical exam. 1-O, passed his physical exam. 1-P, passed his physical exam. 1-Q, passed his physical exam. 1-R, passed his physical exam. 1-S, passed his physical exam. 1-T, passed his physical exam. 1-U, passed his physical exam. 1-V, passed his physical exam. 1-W, passed his physical exam. 1-X, passed his physical exam. 1-Y, passed his physical exam. 1-Z, passed his physical exam.

Classifications, Oct. 12
Loren E. Hunt, 2-A; Harold Geigley, 2-B; George J. White, 2-C; Walter B. Esq. P.; Harrison L. Cook, 2-B; Harold F. Boone, 1-A; Frederick H. Pomeroy, 1-A; Fred W. Deussen, P.

ENLISTMENTS
The draft office here has received word of the following enlistments: Paul E. Kasten, 2nd Air Force, Air Force; Robert H. Galt, 1st Air Force, Air Force; reserve corps, taking an electronics course at the office of the Chief Signal Officer, Air Force; Walter Price, 327 Southfield, parachute unit, Air Force; Kelly Field, Tex.

Classifications Oct. 9
William J. Williams, 1-C; David J. Moore, 1-C; Joseph Mack, 1-C; Robert E. Glavin, 1-C; James Shaw, 1-C; Donald L. Werner, 1-C; Donald C. Longyear, 1-C; Leo L. Flynn, 1-C; Damian V. J.

ENLISTMENT, COMMISSIONS
Birmingham draft office has received the following enlistments and commissions: Charles E. Wilson, of Bloomfield Hills, the Air Force; Elmer

Men Die to Get the News

Since 1939, eight American war correspondents have been killed, three are missing and seventeen have been wounded or injured in line of duty.

Editor and Publisher, trade journal of the newspaper business, gives these figures and adds that eight correspondents have been captured in action and fifty-seven have been interned. Of those interned, seventeen still remain in the hands of the enemy.

The compilation includes reporters, photographers and broadcasters for newspapers, news agencies, magazine and radio companies.

We do not know how many American war correspondents have been involved in the present war but the figures of those killed that the business is not entirely safe. There was a time, once, we believe, that the war correspondent would stay behind the lines with the staff and get no news. This has changed and the correspondents today assume risks in connection with their jobs.

The average American who reads the stories that are sent home by these war correspondents seldom thinks of the dangers that they run to get the news. In a few instances, the facts related by the correspondents, on land and sea fronts, reveal the dangers that they face, but in most instances the story comes through without any detail to give an idea of the dangers faced in getting it.

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CHARMATZ LEAVING
The Eccentric regrets to announce that Charles H. Charnatz, who has ably been conducting this column since its inception, has been promoted by his company to a more responsible position at Toledo, necessitating his leaving the column. His family will continue to live in their home on Northside, and Mr. Charnatz will be home on weekends. We wish to publicly thank Mr. Charnatz for his work and contribution to the Eccentric.

IN NEW ORLEANS
Motor Machinists Mate (2nd class) Clarence Alford, now in New Orleans awaiting a berth aboard a transport vessel, formerly a prospector in the Texas oil fields, is now in New Orleans, where he is awaiting a berth aboard a transport vessel. He is now in New Orleans, where he is awaiting a berth aboard a transport vessel.

WILL BE SPECIALIST
Selected for training as a specialist in the U. S. Navy in the examination given over here. He is now in New Orleans, where he is awaiting a berth aboard a transport vessel.

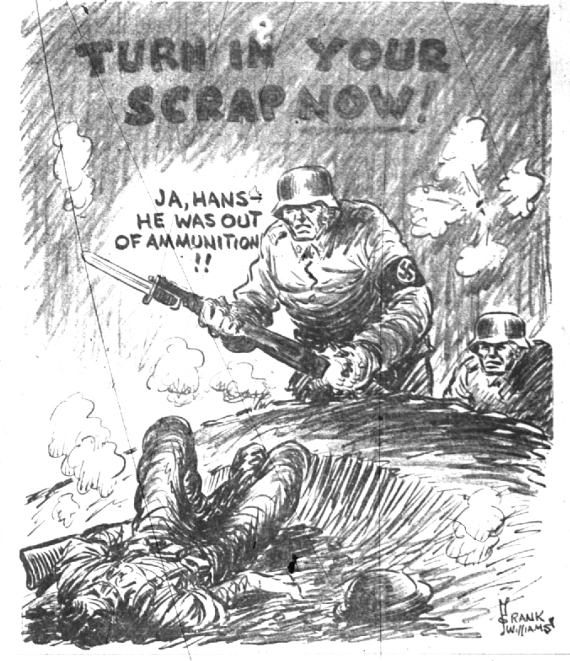
AT SIX FIFTEEN
Pat Harry B. Hart, who enlisted in the Army Air Forces Aug. 15 at Detroit, has arrived at Sioux Falls, S. D., where he has been assigned to a technical school. He is now in Sioux Falls, S. D., where he has been assigned to a technical school.

GETS HIS BAR
Robert Agramonte, of Birmingham, is now a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces. He was graduated from officers' candidate school at Fort Monmouth, N. J.

IN TEXAS
William J. Hart, Jr., formerly of Birmingham, is now stationed at Sheppard Field, Texas. He is a volunteer officer candidate.

NOW A BOMBARDIER
John A. Bird, of Lodi Pine road, Bloomfield Hills, was graduated Saturday from the Victrola, Calif. Army flying school as a bombardier and will be commissioned a second lieutenant. He was graduated from Cranbrook School in Birmingham, and is now in the service Jan. 21, 1942.

Our Fighting Men Need Your Scrap



THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

CHAS. B. CHARMATZ, P. S. A., Editor

HALLOWEEN PIX
Make your Halloween party and one of your friends arrange as a whole. She offers with the traditional of brown and white with the black and white magic tricks and mysteriously ways in the future. You will be a great story of her life and the life of her family.

INFLATION
Posters now on display at the Baldwin Public Library and at the Consumer Center in the Municipal building highlight the following points about inflation: Inflation is one of the most serious threats of the war to the consumer. It means rising prices, lower service for less, and, consequently, the fall in the purchasing power of the dollar. Carried to the extreme, it brings disaster and suffering to the whole population as in the uncontrolled period of inflation in Germany and other countries of Europe after the last war.

INFLATION RESULTS FROM A DECREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF GOODS AND AN INCREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF MONEY. Inflation is one of the most serious threats of the war to the consumer. It means rising prices, lower service for less, and, consequently, the fall in the purchasing power of the dollar. Carried to the extreme, it brings disaster and suffering to the whole population as in the uncontrolled period of inflation in Germany and other countries of Europe after the last war.

INFLATION INCREASES TAXES. The cost to the government of the last war was \$11,000,000,000. Price rises added \$11,000,000,000 more. Inflation has already started. Since the beginning of the war in 1939, the cost of living has increased almost 20 per cent. Comparison with the trend in the last war shows that a further great increase is ahead within the next few years unless stern preventive measures are taken.

THE PRESIDENT'S 7-point program to prevent inflation: 1. Ceilings on prices and profits. 2. Ceilings on wages. 3. Stabilize farm prices. 4. Buy U. S. Government securities. 5. Reduce private debt. 6. Consumer Cooperation is necessary.

WASTE FATS—Strain and keep them. Fat from your meat market which you have a few pounds. Banquet fests, glassed. **SCRAP METALS**—WASTED. **RUBBER**—Save your old tires. Post office or put at curb for city collection the last week of the month. Copper engravers' plates and old keys may be left at the library. **NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES**—You can donate these to Salvation Army, which will buy them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.

RETAILERS TON QUOTA
Retailers of Oakland County sold War Savings Stamps and Bonds in the amount of \$278,000 during September. It is announced by M. T. Scott, Retail Chairman for Oakland County. This was a record for the month of September of \$237,000. Retailers are playing a role of growing importance in the United States Treasury Department's program of financing the war. **NO HUNTING—NO TRADING—NO SALE**—The ECCENTRIC OFFER SPECIAL PRICES ON QUANTITY LOTS. (26-34)