

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Nazis Were Confident Now that the war in Europe is over, the number of "revelations" that come to hand is amazing and while most of them are interesting, the reader will have to exercise some discretion before accepting all of them as the gospel truth.

Recently, Colonel General Gustav Jodl, of the Nazi High Command, is credited with the statement that Hitler did not make the decision to invade Russia, but that it was shared by the High Command, that the Allied invasion of North Africa was a complete surprise and that orders for the German invasion of Britain, issued July 2, 1940, were cancelled October 6th, 1940.

The German General says that the Nazi High Command correctly guessed the general area and approximate strength of the Anglo-American invasion, but because they believed a stronger assault would be made further north, hesitated to shift German forces to Normandy.

Jodl says that the German High Command thought the invasion could be repulsed, but after the first ten days, realized that they would need greater strength. Accordingly, two Panzer divisions were shifted from the Eastern front.

When the Allies broke through the Normandy defenses and raced into Brittany, the Germans were amazed at their failure to smash our corridor at Avranches. Subsequently, the Germans could not form their lines again, but if the Germans had retreated to the Seine, they would have secured sufficient time to man the Siegfried Line properly. The Nazi officer says that the Germans realized the war was lost when they failed to win the Battle of the Belgium Bulge in December.

Eisenhower Wants "Nothing" General Dwight D. Eisenhower, enjoying a short rest in this country, finds himself mentioned by various publicists as a suitable man to become Secretary of State, or to assume other positions in connection with the civilian administration of the nation.

The General does not temporize with such suggestions. Apparently, he has no intention of sitting quiet or permitting something like a boom to develop and then weigh his chances. His reply to reporters who asked him pointblank about such suggestions is straightforward and to the point.

"In the strongest language you can command," he said, "you can state that I have no political ambitions at all. Make it even stronger than that if you can. . . I'm a soldier and I'm positive no one thinks of me as a politician."

When reminded that President Truman had suggested that the General could have anything he wanted and, being asked what he desired, the General replied: "Nothing."

MCKINAC ISLAND AGAIN was the scene of a meeting of Governors of many of the United States of America. They discussed many, many topics—including, we presume, why fish don't bite better in Michigan waters.

THE PACIFIC OCEAN is nearly 70,000,000 square miles BIG

WHEN you consider the vastness of the Pacific, and realize how far our armed forces are extending their lines of communication, you begin to understand why victory in Europe hasn't relieved the telephone shortage here at home. It's still taking just about everything the telephone factories can make to supply our fighting men—and that probably will be the case until the "rising sun" sinks in the west. Even if we had the telephone instruments we need, we couldn't fill half the 115,000 orders on our growing "waiting list." There's a critical shortage of wire, cable and central office equipment, too.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY The \$130,000,000 post-war program means jobs for our 3,000 returning veterans and many others as well

Injustice To Gen. Patton On June 10th, General George S. Patton, speaking to a group of Sunday school children, at Los Angeles, said he "hoped" a way would be found to end war, but added, "in my opinion, there will be another war because there have always been wars."

Continuing his remarks to the children of the Episcopal Church of San Gabriel, he pointed out that we have never found a way to stop war, "although I hope we do," and then told the children that "you are the soldiers, sailors and nurses of the next war, if we don't stop wars."

Thereafter, according to the United Press, the General told his listening group that he had found comfort in religion during battle and urged them to cultivate their religious life, "if that day of war does come, you will find strong support in religion."

We have given a summary of the new account that came from Los Angeles on June 10th, telling of the talk that General Patton made to a group of Sunday school children. The remarks of the General strike us as being eminently sound, sensible, and deserving of general commendation.

Accordingly, we were somewhat surprised to see an Associated Press dispatch, dated June 22nd, from Paris, giving the copy of an imaginary letter addressed to the General and somewhat blowing him up for his remarks. The writer of the sobby, sentimental epistle asked a favor of the General, that he "just stay a soldier."

In view of the facts as to what the General actually said and what the writer of the letter apparently assumed that he said, it might have been better for the writer of the blurb to follow his own advice, and "just stay a soldier."

WHILE WE ADMIT THAT THERE'S been plenty of bungling in high places in the OPA (as wit-ness current food shortages), it must be agreed by all who know that local OPA ration boards are doing a pretty swell job. We believe that this especially is true in Birmingham; both the paid and the volunteer workers here have done a most difficult job with satisfaction to all reasonable and patriotic people who contacted it.

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions of matter for articles and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited subject to an obvious reservation upon the character, standing or appearance of the contributor, which may be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

"AN appearance of the Detroit WPA concert band is scheduled Monday evening at 8:15 at Pierce Field, when this organization, under the direction of Marjorie Macdonald, presents a program of martial music and concert selections."

"On July 1, the book collection of the Baldwin Public Library reached the 20,000 mark for the first time. This raises the standing of the library to that of Class 5 in the American Library Association."

"Birmingham Boy Scouts have been invited to attend a baseball game at Briggs Stadium on Wednesday, July 24, it was announced Wednesday, Scouts wishing to



Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO July 11, 1895 "The Kaiser talked so much peace at Kiel that all Europe is dreading the opening of a big war."

"Miss Maggie Halsted, of Port Huron, was seen by some of her Birmingham friends in Detroit, Monday, June 8."

"The friends of Troy fame, spirit the glorious Fourth with his brother Alex in the northern country and had a jolly good time of course."

"John B. Barron received his registered pharmacist's diploma last Tuesday morning and the smile that the genial John wears is a foot thick and measures 12 1/2 in. John is a studious young man and deserves his reward."

"The friends of Albert Todd and wife gave them a Fourth of July surprise last week and fireworks in the evening was not the least interesting item on the evening's program. A good time was had by all."

20 YEARS AGO "When the Birmingham fire department was summoned last Monday afternoon by an alarm from 'Mudman,' the M. B. Draper estate on Adams road there was more at stake than 'just the lantern house.' It was the destruction of one of Birmingham's oldest landmarks, the first home of one of her earliest settlers."

"As compared to Independence Day of a year ago, or any recent Fourth of July in Birmingham might be closed with Fourth celebrations of several years ago, according to the police force, who are most closely associated with the public life in the village."

5 YEARS AGO "An appearance of the Detroit WPA concert band is scheduled Monday evening at 8:15 at Pierce Field, when this organization, under the direction of Marjorie Macdonald, presents a program of martial music and concert selections."

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT A FRIENDLY BANK Stick with Our Boys to the Finish! BUY AN EXTRA \$100 BOND during the Seventh War Loan

June 18, 1945 Bills approved in amount of \$25,238.07, including a two week payroll of \$9,414.35.

Request for re-zoning to extend Business E. on Woodward Avenue referred to Planning Commission.

Request that City of Birmingham take over Greenwood cemetery Association referred to city manager for investigation.

Bills approved in amount of \$23,965.00 including payments to School District totalling \$15,048.04.

Following a public hearing, Park Subdivision, adjacent to School District property closed and vacated.

Building code amended with respect to building law requirements. Allen Edward reappointed Deputy Treasurer.

Taxicab driver's license issued to Charles Amos Yow, July 2nd, 1945.

Bills approved totalling \$11,114.07, including two week payroll in amount of \$3,052.79.

Alley north of Fourteen Mile Road, between Stanley and Washington, and Washington and Bates, closed and vacated.

Private lane from Dewey to Park Subdivision in rear of Greenwood Avenue closed and vacated.

Request to relax regulations respecting billiard rooms denied.

Mrs. Quinn's resignation from Recreation Board accepted with regret.

Recommendation of Planning Commission with respect to rezoning area between Forest, Adams, Lincoln and Hunter accepted for consideration.

Hearing on amendment to zoning ordinance set for July 30rd, July 9, 1945.

Bills approved totalling \$13,166.11.

Mayor, clerk and manager instructed to take necessary steps to accept Greenwood Cemetery for city maintenance.

William H. Jackson appointed to Recreation Board to fill unexpired term caused by Mrs. Quinn's resignation.

Irene K. Hanley City Clerk.

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