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MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1942

They So Lived

Duty Won the Watchword of
These Two Great Generals

In ordinary times it is probably the Christian virtue and strong character of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson which are chosen for comment on their joint birthday. But in times like these their more martial qualities suggest themselves. Their two military careers contain recommendations of the greatest urgency to a United States at war.

Stonewall Jackson and his "foot cavalry" were probably exponents of movement and surprise in war, the tactics which served the Nazi generals so well during the first two successful years in overrunning Europe. And Major Robert himself was a conceiver of surprise, a daring strategist who knew the effectiveness of what is now called the "pincher" attack, although in his day it consisted simply of dividing his forces in two, because of the inactivity of men, at great risks and moving it from two directions against the enemy.

Lee and Jackson both gave their everlasting fame to the accident that they lived in a time of war. Old Jack as an army professor of mathematics at VMI and Lee as a colonel of U. S. Engineers (who laid siege to John Brown's men in the arsenal at Harper's Ferry).

Men of personality, but not of prominence when Sumter fell. But in these they had the stuff of which great warriors are made and a conception of duty (that "sublimest" word) which fortified them.

And that, rather than the circumstance of fame, is the lesson of all history for us in this year 1942—that we shall so live that when our country calls we shall be ready to serve her—both with all we have, but with all that she needs.

Better Late...

What's In It for John L.

If AFL and CIO Make Peace?

Wonder whom John L. Lewis would nominate as the "united and competent leadership" under which he would be willing to see the AFL and the CIO united?

That's not an unfair question, because

John L. himself, back in 1939, who wilfully demolished peace negotiations between committees of the two labor organizations. This was the same John L. who, before and since, has ignored or summarily declined numerous invitations from the President of the United States to try to close the wound that was bleeding organized labor.

Now, with patriotic zeal that comes from within, all will be well. John L. Lewis is making it up. He must have his men in somebody.

Adams, Pearson & Allen of the Washington Merry-Go-Round predict that despite seemingly "insurmountable" obstacles, a labor peace will be made. They also foresee the resignations of William Green, AFL president, and of Phillip Murray, CIO president.

Then whom does John L. have in mind as the supreme general of the combined groups? Surely it would be impossible for him to overlook that capable, unselfish, and kindly patriot, John L. Lewis. Or else, boys, or else.

Bad Taxes

But Payroll Deduction Is
Worse Than Sales Levy

It may be that Congress will make absolute the payroll tax vs. sales tax argument by deciding to try both. Admitting that possibility, there is still time to ponder which is best, or more accurately, which is worse. Both are "bad" taxes because they make no concession to the principle of taxation according to one's ability to pay. But if they are "bad" in this respect, they are equally bad in another.

The payroll tax has three current forms: 1) a straight levy assessed against every wage earner's pay check; 2) a "withholding" tax ostensibly collected to assist the taxpayer in meeting his yearly income levy (the payroll tax would be credited against the sum due with 10%); 3) a straight payroll tax disguised as a "social security payment".

There should be no outcry against the withholding tax, provided proper credit was given on income tax and reduced made if the amount assessed on payroll exceeds what the government was due.

The other two forms of payroll tax are of the same stripe and are

equally bad. Apparently these

two forms of payroll tax take no cogni-

tion of the fact that millions of persons with incomes would be exempted from paying it. They would escape simply because they are not on payrolls. Farmers, merchants, salesmen, commission men—all of them would be spared. The others would have to pay it all.

Whatever other inequalities it may impose the general sales tax is paid by those who buy. The more you buy, the more tax you pay. And it touches everybody. The lower-bracket wage earner need not pay sales tax on rent, electricity, fuel, and food. And since it is Government policy to discourage purchase of nonessentials, the tax would not reflect toll against those who went in for luxury spending.

If it comes to a choice between the sales tax and the payroll tax, well take the former. But, as we said in the beginning, we're liable to get both.

Mr. U Saw

His Defection Shows Which Way the Wind Blows in Asia

By seeing through the ubiquitous Burmese Premier U Saw, the British cleaned out a fourth Axis Trojan horse. First there was Iran, then Iraq, then Syria. Now it appears that U Saw, in attempting to get what he called "self government" for Burma, had transferred his negotiations from London to Tokyo. In return for promises which the Japs no doubt were delighted to make, he would have betrayed his people into the hands of the enemy. It was lucky for the British and for all of their allies that U Saw didn't get away with it.

But the awakening of one would-be master of the world of solving the pressing problem of keeping our Asiatic allies in full partnership against the Axis. There are disturbing signs that Japan's "Asia for Asiatics" slogan has made more than a few converts.

From China come reports of dissatisfaction with the allied Western effect in the East. The son of the founder of the Chinese Republic suggests that if Britain and America propose to take no immediate offensive action against the Japs, then China will not feel obliged to do otherwise. China will be content to wait in the winter.

Violence of the disease varies. In mild epidemics, the death rate has run below 25 per cent; in serious plagues, as high as 80 per cent. The disease, however, is not so easily checked; the long course requires fourteen days to infect the victim, after the tenth day all are on the victim become carriers. The next day, after a second day of fever, they are fully used by the German Army and in tables, furniture, chaises.

The Russians are better prepared to fight the disease, because their environment is more favorable and their infection also provides some immunity.

What has happened on the Russian front can be measured more accurately than in the West by the field phrases of the communists. Hitler's advance into Russia averaged 400 miles, and the Russian counteroffensive has pushed him back an average of 40 miles (exactly that in the south, none at all in the north of Russia).

Only one-tenth of Nazi-occupied territory, therefore, has yet been regained.

RED DRIVE IS FOR LIMITED OBJECTIVES

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One is the relief of Leningrad. This will supply valuable supplies and bring the German back beyond the German back beyond the front line of Moscow closer. In their pursuit planes could heavily bombard the rear of the German lines. It would allow the Reds to clear the front from the rear line to the White Sea and open a second route for our supplies. The Poles are to be used in the rear of the German lines.

The second objective is to clear the Black Sea in insure the Red fleet to move up through the Crimean steppes to cut behind the German advance post between Mariupol and Sevastopol in the Sea of Azov.

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In certain respects the Red Army resembles the peach crop of Georgia which is not at its best until it has been killed off a few times.

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It is hoped and trusted the better business bureaus are looking into this new one, a save-Rumania-for-Cards movement, headed by Carol.

Air Losses Pinch Japs

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON
All the most important warning

to the nations are beginning to feel the pinch of plane losses.

The Japs had to withdraw air force from the Philippines virtually ceasing attacks on MacArthur. Arthur is the only one left in the current raid on Singapore. This is not convincing, but it indicates that while we may have underestimated the Jap air strength in the beginning, we are tending to overestimate it now.

The Russians have air supremacy over the Nazis on their front. It is true, but only because they withdraw their planes from the Far East. Japan knows this and has been able to cut the wings of her home defense force to the twinge for the Malayan campaign.

NAZIS STILL HAVE MORE
TIME TO PLANE

And the Nazis had their supremacy over the Reds because they had to shift to Libya, Sicily, Sardinia and the South Ukrainian front. They have lost 100,000 men in 20 to 30 per cent of their total air force, and Goering's old command is now scattered all around Europe. Yet the Nazis have more than 400 planes left and could replace their losses with three months production, if they have the materials.

This is where our swelling plane production will begin to bear weight.

A spectacular Nazi air attack on Malta has been expected the past several days. It is looked upon as no more than a dress rehearsal for an invasion of England. That was the similar conquest of Crete. An entirely different formula would be used for England.

The Nazis want Malta for three reasons than rehashing. The British strength in Malta is far from Italy, in Libya, with a strong plane force which accompanies and warns the British fleet, reducing the front under British control. Malta is the last British territory concentration of anti-aircraft guns, has survived 1,200 bombings.

If it fails, the British will be able to get some ships around it, back and forth through the Mediterranean, but only with great danger.

TYPHUS EPIDEMIC
IN BERLIN UNLIKELY

Reports that the devastating typhus has reached Berlin are doubtful here. There may be a few cases, but the British believe the medical and sanitary conditions in the Nazi capital make an epidemic unlikely. Throughout Central Europe it has reached an endemic stage. The Nazis are pushed back so fast that their sanitary facilities break down behind them. They may never fully recover in the winter.

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