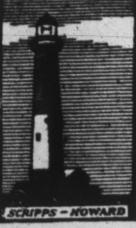


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RILEY 5551

*Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way*

## THE PRESIDENT'S YALTA REPORT

THE best thing about the President's Yalta report was the fact that he made it. There is a new recognition of the public's right in general, and congress' right specifically, to be advised in advance on foreign policy and to participate. As stated by the President: "Unless you are in the halls of the American congress—with the support of the American people—concur in the decisions reached at Yalta, and give them your active support, the meeting will not have produced lasting results."

He was particularly effective in stressing the unquestioned gains of the Crimea conference. They include:

Closer military unity, with daily communication between the Anglo-American and Soviet general staffs and co-ordination of strategy. This should speed victory and save countless lives.

Agreement on the post-war treatment of Germany. The conditions of demilitarization are stern, as they should be. They include two provisions of utmost significance. One is that the German people shall not be enslaved. The other is that German militarism, no less than Nazism, shall be destroyed permanently. Hitherto Russia had planned to use German slave labor, and Stalin had publicly insisted on maintaining a German army.

A THIRD GAIN was the call of a united nations meeting at San Francisco next month. Stalin's consent to this was obtained by a Roosevelt plan—still secret—to break the Dumbarton Oaks deadlock over Soviet demands for veto power of any future league security action against Russia.

Another gain was Stalin's agreement that the big powers jointly shall protect the right of liberated peoples, in the transitional period, to democratic processes and free elections. Mr. Roosevelt in his report made this pledge very sweeping—"problems of any area liberated from the Nazi conquest, or of any former axis satellite, are a joint responsibility of all three governments." We would like to believe, but don't, that he includes the Baltic nations and the vast areas taken by Russia from Poland and Romania.

A "compromise" was what the President called the partition of Poland. A fair argument can be made for the old Curzon line, though hardly for Russian acquisition of Lwow and the Galician oilfields. To give East Prussia to Poland, with safeguards for civil rights of Germans who are not transferred, is a lesser evil than perpetuation of the war-breeding Polish corridor between two German areas. But to give Poland in the west the German territory up to the Oder river including Upper Silesia, without consent of the population, would invite future war.

THE QUESTION is whether the Yalta political decisions contribute to post-war security and peace, as the military agreements obviously advance victory.

In our judgment, the result will depend not so much on the theoretic wisdom or abstract justice of the Curzon line and other territorial changes, as upon how and by whom the final decisions are made. We do not believe the Big Three alone have the power to make political settlements which are the joint responsibility of the affected European allies. Without collective decisions, collective security will be a fraud and delusion. Peace cannot be preserved by Big Three military might, unless the European allies have helped to fix the terms and therefore are sincerely obligated to keep the peace.

## THE LEWIS TAX ON COAL

WHEN J. Caesar Petrillo, the swaggering little czar of the nation's music, recently forced the makers of phonograph records to pay him a "royalty" on every record they make, he grandiosely announced that here was a brand new principle in the labor field and one that would be widely copied.

John L. Lewis, at least, appears to have taken him seriously. Mr. Lewis now proposes to levy a private tax on coal. His initial demand is for 10 cents a ton, or around \$62 millions a year, not for better wages for the men who mine the coal, but for the union treasury, to be spent on whatever good works, political or otherwise, Mr. Lewis sees fit to turn it to. Since Mr. Lewis need not pay any income tax, nor any other kind of tax, on this \$62 millions, it would obviously become perhaps the biggest annual net income in the United States. And since there is no other place for it to come from, it would of course be added to the price of coal, amounting to a new tax of around \$1 a year on the average American family which burns coal and an extra tax of some \$35 millions a year on all other users of coal, including churches, schools and hospitals, and the federal, state, county and city governments which also buy coal.

IF MR. LEWIS and Mr. Petrillo can levy private taxes on coal and on phonograph records, and even tax the government itself thereby, why then naturally any other union leader can slap an excise tax on whatever commodity his members produce or process or distribute, and collect it off the people who buy the commodity. And Mr. Petrillo, arrogantly thumbing his nose at the President of the United States and the congress while, certainly has demonstrated that it can be done.

Mr. Lewis' case for better wages for his miners is at least debatable. They now draw around \$50 for their basic 35 hours week, with standard provisions for time-and-one-half and double-time pay for overtime. But their work is hard and dangerous, and vitally essential. He could have won at least some public support for higher pay—but he will get very little for a \$62 million a year levy on the pocketbooks of American consumers that won't add a penny to the paycheck of a single coal miner.

Whatever the technical legal aspects of the situation may be, most Americans will believe this is just a shake-down, and that if it isn't illegal it ought to be. Outraged public opinion has risen before now to smash monopolies that held less potentialities for evil than this idea of Mr. Petrillo's.

## REFLECTIONS

## Front Line Story

By John W. Hillman

EVEN A COLUMNIST can't know everything, though we must say that some of them make a brave try.

Omniscience is irritating, so we may be pardoned if we smirk maliciously whenever we catch some Homer nodding.

All of which has nothing to do with the essay that we started out to write on Tom Healy, the British Ernie Pyle and his latest book, "Tourist Under Fire" (Henry Holt, \$3). Except that we were started the other day when Walter Winchell reported: "Tourist Under Fire" is a new book by Tom Healy, British scribe, long with the armies in the field. It is not a war book, but an 'interesting travel tome.'

We all make mistakes, though some of us admit more than others, so we'd be inclined to pass this by with a knowing grin—except that we know there is no more effective way to consign a book to oblivion than to call it "an interesting travel tome." And any one who looked at this book's jacket, which is tricked out in tourist-folder fashion, and only glanced at the title page which reads, "Tourist Under Fire, the Journal of a Wartime Traveler" might think that this was indeed a watered Baedeker.

**Right Nice Sort of a Guy**

SO IN JUSTICE to Tom Healy, a right nice sort of guy who, being a newspaperman, could probably use the royalties, we think that it's only fair to summarize the contents of his book.

It opens with Healy hovering close to death from injuries received when a German bomb destroyed his home in London and killed his wife. Healy already had seen his share of the war, but as soon as he was able to be around, he dragged his reluctant editor into sending him out to Singapore after Pearl Harbor. He got only as far as India by the time Singapore fell and was just preparing to leave for Java with a friend—who now is a captive of the Japanese—when he received orders from his office to go to Rangoon. He went through the ill-fated Burma campaign, battling censors and red-tape to get to the front lines—where he scored a scoop that earned him the commendation of Prime Minister Churchill. He stayed in Burma to the last, and then fell back to India to await the Japs there. When that invasion failed to materialize, he moved on to Egypt and was at the front when Montgomery broke through at El Alamein. From there, he followed the 8th army in its chase of the retreating Rommel, clear to Tunisia. Then he was ordered back to Europe to help cover D-day.

That's the kind of a book this is. "An interesting travel tome," indeed! Just what do you have to do to write to be a war book?

Tom Healy probably has seen as much of this war as any man alive—he doesn't touch on the fall of France, except incidentally, in this account, but he was there—and he is a keen observer and a sensitive writer. He has something of Pyle's knack of giving the feel of war and the spirit of the fighting man. And, like Pyle, he's not the sort of a correspondent who is content to sit comfortably back at headquarters and cover the war from the communiques.

### 'Simple Dignity and Decency'

HE MINCES no words. An Irishman, born in Australia, he doesn't hesitate to speak his mind on the muddling-through policy of the British in the early days of the Pacific war or the complacency of plump colonials who were more concerned with the poor quality of their Scotch than over the empire that was falling about their ears. But equally, his admiration for the humble Tommy doing his best to atomize the "classic stupidity" at the top and his respect for such competent leaders as Alexander and Montgomery is unbounded.

Of the famed desert rats of the 8th army, he says: "I had begun by admiring their stoicism at the end of the long retreat to Alamein, their patience through long, unbroken months of life on the boring desert without leave and the adaptability of new arrivals. I used to say that there was only one sunburn between a rookie and a veteran of the 8th." I was impressed with the way they changed their thinking from defensive to offensive as soon as they got the material for attack, and the leadership in which they had confidence. But most of all I admired their unfailing courage in the face of death, their simple dignity and decency, and the comradeship which united them when they lived uncertainly amid the shifting sand and dust of Alamein."

This is a strong and thoughtful story of the lost cause in Burma, of the darkest days in Egypt, and of the final turning of the tide. It is a tribute to British courage and American equipment and efficiency. It is a chapter of history that is worth reading, and remembering.

It is a war book, a stirring war book. Regardless of what Winchell says.

## WORLD AFFAIRS

## Americas Uniting

By William Philip Simms

(Continued From Page One)

defense most Latin Americans seemed to think we were taking too much upon ourselves. They suspected that we had some ax to grind, that what we were really aiming at was military, economic and political domination of the new world.

Today, without exception, the same countries are urging that inter-American security be left to the Americans themselves with the United States, of course, as No. 1 guarantee. At the same time we find the United States trying to hold down its regional commitments in order to tie these in with Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta.

Partly as a result of all this, and partly because Latin America is afraid the big five may try to run the world, it will present a pretty solid block at the coming United Nations conference next month at San Francisco. It is going to fight for a bigger voice in the proposed post-war set-up.

As this is written, all but two of the 19 Latin American countries now represented here have formulated demands for changes in the Dumbarton Oaks agreements.

In general they all want a bigger role in the security council and, second, the development of a regional understanding, as provided for in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, which will guarantee their boundaries without European intervention.

### Seek Western Balance

WITH REGARD to the first proposition, Latin American delegations here point out that of the five permanent seats on the security council, only one goes to the western hemisphere. Of the other four, three go to Europe. This, they observe, is hardly fair.

The Dumbarton Oaks chapter off regional arrangements states specifically that "no enforcement action should be taken without the authorization of the security council," and as matters now stand any one of the big five could veto regional or any other action requiring the use of force.

This would mean that a single European power could veto an action within all of the Americas. Yet if the Americans insisted on being their own judge and jury in such matters, Europe could do the same and we might be drawn into a third world war—for Europe is where world wars begin without having had a say in the preliminaries.

San Francisco promises to be lively.

## Okay, Doc! What's the Verdict?



## The Hoosier Forum

I wholly disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

### 'LET'S CELEBRATE ROOSEVELT DAY'

By Mrs. Walter Haggerty, R. R. 4, Box 494.

February has been a month of celebration of our dead heroes by closing banks and delivery of mail. The fact that Lincoln was born on Feb. 12 is of very little significance; it's just that he did a great service to his country. Are we going to celebrate all of the heroes coming out of this war by closing the banks and stopping delivery of mail? If you ask me, that's no way to celebrate anything. Why not make a week of celebrating and everybody take part? Why raise the white collar workers? If he wants to wear good clothes and celebrate, he doesn't deserve half what he gets. By all means, election day should be a holiday for all.

Why not celebrate our great men that are still living, and send flowers while they can send and smell them? Let's celebrate Roosevelt day, for he is surely deserving. Also I wish you would print the Roosevelt creed, which is so typical of our President.

I believe in honest sincerity and the square deal; in making up one's own mind—what to do—and doing it.

I believe in fearing God and taking one's own part.

I believe in hitting the line hard when you are right.

I believe in hard work and honest sport.

I believe in a sane mind in a sane body.

I believe we have room for but one sole loyalty, and that is loyalty to the American people.

### 'THEY DID A WONDERFUL JOB'

By Mrs. W. B. Heisel, Indianapolis.

I noticed the letters of F. H. B. and Mary Studebaker regarding the failure of some employers to furnish withholding receipts as required by our government. I am but a humble employee myself although I was given my withholding receipt in my pay stub.

It would be pleasant to have

to add 52 of these up; however, it could easily be done if no form W-2 was furnished me. So why all this rough estimate business?

Of course it is possible that some employers did not receive these pay statements, but I know that a lot who did not retain them. This does not release employers from

their obligation to furnish form W-2 of course, but it does imply carelessness and failure to cooperate on the part of those who failed to keep statements as requested.

### 'SOMEONE IS NOT ON THE JOB'

By Mrs. Bertha Bickert, 350 S. Illinois st.

Here is one thing I would like for someone to please tell me—how to get mail to a serviceman. My son was injured Dec. 24 and we have written to him every day and he says he has not got any mail from us for three months. We have tried V-mail and air mail and every way I can think of and still he says he does not get any mail from home. He has not got any mail from us since he was injured and how do you suppose that makes him feel?

He tries to be cheerful. But he says in every letter if he has said something in one to hurt our feelings. That nearly breaks my heart! And if there is any possible way that I can get him a letter I sure would appreciate it if someone would tell me how to do it. He is in a hospital in England and has been there long enough to have got some of our mail and it looks to me as though he should have got some of it as some of us have written to him every day. I use United States postage stamps the same as other people and put plenty of postage stamps on my letters and I can't understand why he doesn't get some of our mail.

They have big writeups in the newspapers for the folks at home to write to the boys in service to boost their morale, but when we do write the mail doesn't reach him. There might be some excuse for that.

Now what in the world could that mean except to tear off and keep? It would not be pleasant to have to add three families write every day or three times a week and I write every day and still none of our mail reaches him then it looks to me as though someone somewhere is not on the job. What do you think?

However, if the case had been otherwise I would not have felt too badly about it. For each week I receive a slip attached to my pay check in the upper left hand corner of which is printed "Employee's Pay Statement, Detach and Retain." Now what in the world could that mean except to tear off and keep?

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