

This May Day all of us are like Moses on Mount Nebo: gazing at the promised land. And the promised land for us is victory over the Axis. But the question is—and it is literally one of life and death: will we get there? For if we don't, all of us will descend into a valley of death more horrible than anything mankind has known.

May Day, which got its start in the United States during the struggle for the eight-hour day, is traditionally a holiday of international labor solidarity. It has been associated with downing tools, with demonstrations and parades in behalf of the demands of labor. But this year everything is different. Instead of parading, Joe Worker is grimly on the job, keeping 'em rolling and flying. He stands shoulder to shoulder with his employer and his government in the common fight against Public Enemy Number One, Adolph Hitler, and his gang in Europe and Asia. And today we make the greatest demands on ourselves and on all who share responsibility, that we not merely yearn for victory from afar, but grasp it—this year, within the next weeks and months.

Solidarity is a grand word. And what solidarity we need now! Not of labor alone, but of all classes and all nations that wage this war of liberation. We have made great progress toward that kind of unity, but there are still gaps both within the country and in our relations with our allies. And every such gap means an opening for the Nazi-Japanese mob in their effort to prevent that decisive action which would spell their doom.

A groundswell of sentiment is rising both in this country and in England for the opening of a Western Front this spring and summer. The call for a Western Front in the first agonizing months of the Nazi invasion of Russia was defensive, designed to save Moscow and Leningrad, to prevent Hitler from cracking the military power of Russia, which would have been a major disaster for all the United Nations. Today, however, the demand for an invasion of Europe springs from an offensive mood, from the feeling of millions of people that the Red Army has done such a splendid job that the Nazi military machine is not only bogged down, but seriously weakened, and that now is the time to strike a death blow to Nazi Germany, the heart of the Axis.

Lord Beaverbrook is the latest to speak up—and it is all the more impressive coming from so authoritative a source—and declare that the Western Front is immediately feasible and necessary. In his address before the Bureau of Advertising of the American Newspaper Publishers Association he said: "I believe in the Russian system which holds to the faith that the best form of defense is attack. And I believe that Britain should adopt it by setting up somewhere along the two thousand miles of coastline now held by the Germans a second front in western Europe. . . . This is a chance, an opportunity to bring the war to an end here and now." And Lord Beaverbrook testified further: "How admirably Britain is now equipped in weapons of war for directing such an attack on Germany, I well know." In addition, Donald Nelson, head of the War Production Board, told the Truman committee the other day that our war production was now neck and neck with the Axis production and would soon match the accumulated reserves of Germany and Japan.

With 2,000,000 trained men, plus thousands of American soldiers in Britain, there is no lack of forces to do the job. And as for transportation, as Colonel T. pointed out in our last issue, if Britain was able to find the shipping to take 300,000 men out of France at Dunkirk, with the larger part of the German army pursuing them, it should not be an impossible task to find the shipping for a Dunkirk in reverse under far more favorable conditions.

It seems to us that the factors which stand in the way of an invasion of Europe—where, incidentally, the conquered peoples would prove invaluable allies—are not military, but

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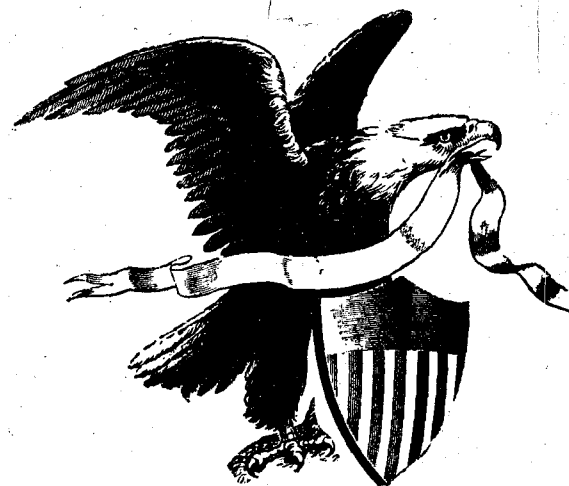
by the Editors

political and strategic. There is still no unified command and no unified strategy of all the nations that are fighting this global war. Ralph Ingersoll asks in *PM*: "Why isn't it an American-Russo-Anglo-Chinese War Council in Washington—instead of simply an 'Anglo-American-plus-Allies' council?" And there still is no complete alliance among the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, and China. There is also a question whether the proper authorities in the United States and England have fully recognized that while every effort must be made to develop offensive tactics in the Pacific and in Asia, it is in Europe that the major decision in this war will be reached, it is in Europe that the heaviest blows can be dealt to the Axis as a whole, it is in Europe that the offensive can be launched *now*, whereas it will take months before sufficient men and material can be accumulated in the Far East for a full-scale offensive against Japan.

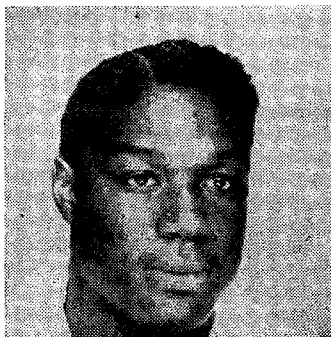
Now let us take a look at some of the political factors that hinder the unleashing of the offensive in Europe. There is the ingrained conservatism of certain individuals whose prejudices yield only slowly to facts. They sincerely want victory over the Axis, but they hope to get it by playing safe, by fighting defensively and waiting till 1943 and 1944, ignoring the fact that Hitler has no intention of waiting. Hanson W. Baldwin, for example—and he undoubtedly speaks for others too—writes in the *New York Times* of April 23 that an air offensive in western Europe and nothing but that is "the most important single offensive effort that the United Nations can make today or in the immediate future." Major George Fielding Eliot, on the other hand, who only a short time ago might have been disposed to agree with Baldwin, wrote in the *New York Herald Tribune* the same day: "There are now considerable numbers of thoroughly trained and equipped troops in the British Isles which, given sufficient shipping, could certainly conduct a strong offensive against any one of several points in western Europe."

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GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR. No picture-caption can begin to describe the commander of the already historic Battle of the Philippines. The story of MacArthur's heroic leadership is as familiar to Americans, and to our allies as the story of Jackson at New Orleans. And the tale is far from ended. For MacArthur, as commander of the United Nations forces in the southwest Pacific, continues the generalship he exhibited so brilliantly at Bataan.



DORIE MILLER. A messman in the Navy, Miller had never touched a machine gun until the attack on Pearl Harbor. Then he manned two of them, under enemy fire. His heroism brought a citation from the Navy Department. Dorie is the son of Negro sharecroppers from Texas. Until recently Negroes could hold no higher rank than messman in the US Navy. Now they can enlist in the ranks and as non-commissioned officers, but racial discrimination still forbids them the full opportunity they seek to beat the Axis.



LIEUT. HELEN HENNESSEY. One of the three commanders of the Bataan nursing corps. Working under nearly impossible handicaps, these women tended hundreds of wounded a day. One of their two hospitals was bombed twice, with more than 100 killed and wounded. There were no serums, no X-ray, and no adequately equipped operating rooms. The women soon discarded their white uniforms for khaki, air corps overalls, and heavy Army shoes.



HONOR MAY 1,

CAPT. JESUS VILLAMOR. Typical of the thousands of Filipino fighters who have performed extraordinary feats of heroism, Captain Villamor holds the Distinguished Service Cross. Three days after Pearl Harbor he led a flight of pursuit planes into action, in the face of heavy fire from the Japanese planes, and routed the enemy attackers. Just two days later he led six planes against fifty-four Japanese bombers and effectively damaged the latter's formation.



JIMMY CAPIELLO. He and his fellow workers at the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp. received the Navy's "E" pennant for having completed the Destroyer *Richard Doyle* five weeks ahead of schedule, with the close cooperation of the employers. Capiello is shown here addressing the workers, who elected him to represent them at the ceremony when Rear Adm. S. C. Freeman presented the award. They are members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers.



HAROLD F. DIXON. Here is the commander of the "three men on a raft" who survived thirty-four days adrift in the ocean. Dixon's companions were Anthony J. Pastula and Gene D. Aldrich.