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Invasion Prelude . . .

Air assault on Europe is being taken as the final signal for the opening of the Second Front. Soon the amphibious forces may push off. For weeks the so-called "invasion coast" has been pounded in every spare moment. And recently the pattern of bombing has included railroads, bridges and airfields which must be knocked out to cripple the Nazis counterattacks when invasion begins. Many of these rail and air centres were in France and the Low Countries.

The intensity of the air invasion can be measured by the tons of bombs dropped — double what the Germans landed on Britain in the worst four months of the air blitz. Also by the R.A.F.'s blows at rail yards in France and Belguim—the heaviest "strikes" of the war. The scope of the attack can be measured by American bomber sorties all the way from Toulouse in southern France to Marienburg in East Prussia and to Posen in Poland, to say nothing of Italian-based raids on Austria, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria.

The light or entirely lacking fighter-defenses against some of the long-range raids indicate either that the Luftwaffe is so stretched that it cannot defend everywhere or that the Nazis are husbanding their fighters and concentrating them near the invasion coasts. When D-day comes even the heavy bombers will be striking closer to the front, leaving production targets to hit at communications and supplies.

When the invasion comes there will also be clear patterns of concentration to blast open landing places or block the rail lines, roads and airfields the Germans must use to counter specific Allied landings. When General Eisenhower told a group of pilots that soon he would be driving them so hard they would not get proper food or sleep for weeks he was thinking of intensity in air attack. The Germans will have not merely their dreaded two-front war, but a multi-front war—with the Russians pushing from the east, the Allies from Italy and several beach-heads, while navies of the air launch attacks from every side.

ACTIVITIES OF Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.
(By DOROTHY GARBUTT)

This week there are two dance dates to which I would like the Junior Hostesses to pay special attention. And, by the way, I do want to thank all the girls very much indeed for turning out so well to last week's ack-ack unit dance. The boys were delighted and I was extremely proud of all my loyal girls. On Thursday the Eleventh Avenue boys are holding a big regimental dance in the Navy Drill Hall. They have had such a successful dance year that they want to show their appreciation to all who supported them each week and hold a really big spring wind up. Individual invitations are going out to all the ladies who have helped at the dances in times past, and if though no fault of their own, Carl Clay and his committee have missed your name, then, if you have been a steady attendant at their dances, do phone and let them know. They don't want to miss anyone.

And on Saturday night, May 6th, the officers and enlisted men of one of the smaller American Units are holding a dance at the Elliott Barracks Mess Hall. This is their first unit dance and once again girls, do rally round. I don't often ask you to make a Saturday dance date but this was the only date these boys could fit in with their schedules. The invitation reads:

"Officers and enlisted men of this organilation extend a cordial invitation to all members of the YMCA to attend a Company Dance, Saturday evening, May 6th, at the Elliott Barracks Mess Hall. Dancing will be from nine until twelve o'clock. No alcoholic beverages will be served. Transportation will be provided. Signed, By the First Lieutenant, T.C., Commanding."

Personally, I'm making both dances a date.

Chester never knows when to let well enough alone. After losing his funny little wedge cap and going around wearing the tartan topper, doesn't he go and have another wedge cap made.

Jack Joy left on Saturday night on a trip to Vancouver.

Fine Dance By Eastern Star

Very enjoyable indeed was the dance held by Belist Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Friday night in the banquet room of the Masonic Temple, about 180 persons being in attendance at the affair.

George Eckerman was master of ceremonies and G. J. Dawes presided at the door.

Convener for the affair was Miss Dorothy Stiles, assisted by Mrs. J. A. Flew, Mrs. J. L. McIntosh, Mrs. W. A. McLean, Mrs. W. W. C. O'Neill and Mrs. J. R. Morrison.

There were attractive decorations of mauve and yellow, the decorating having been in charge of Miss Muriel Vance, Mrs. Alex Mitchell and Miss Dorothy Stiles.

Winnipeg Girl Is Bride Here

The marriage took place quietly Saturday afternoon in the Parsonage of First United Church, Rev. James A. Donnell officiating, of Ruth Anna Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gordon of Winnipeg, to John Moritz of this city. Witnesses of the ceremony wer Alex Kleeman and William James Wieggit. The couple will make their home in the city.

MRS. THEODORE FORTIN now finds easy. She was always tired, her back ached and she was never regular. "Fruit liver tablets, made her feel fine. Look after liver. Try "Fruit-a-tives" Canada's large liver tablets.

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SIGN UP FOR VICTORY

Prime Minister Churchill stated the other day, "Victory may not be so far away, and will certainly not be denied us in the end, but the task is heavy, the toil is long, the trial will be severe."

You can hasten victory—you can lighten the task and the toil—by signing for more bonds this time than ever before.

Put Victory First
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Let's not kid ourselves

Are you *still* a wishful thinker?

SURE, we're winning—but we haven't won yet. Victory will not fall into our hand like a ripe plum. Are we letting recent successes go to our heads—forgetting that the greatest battle has yet to be won?

Here are recent statements by our leaders which show that they are not doing any wishful thinking:

RT. HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL—"This . . . is a time for preparation, effort and resolve. I have never taken the view that the end of the war in Europe is at hand . . . and I have certainly given no guarantee or even held out any expectation that the year 1944 will see the end of the European war, nor have I given any guarantee the other way."

RT. HON. W. L. MACKENZIE KING—"I wish to repeat that we are in times that are very grave indeed . . . and we are heading rapidly into a situation which will be the most desperate this world has known."

HON. J. L. RALSTON—"There is not much evidence that German military power has decreased . . . Germany has shown herself able to stand prodigious losses.

"I hope I can make this country realize just what we have ahead of us. It is true that good news has been coming, but remember that if that good news is to continue it can only be by continuous contribution of the matchless price which the men and women of the forces and the homes they come from pay, and only if we are willing to make our contribution in self-discipline and self-denial worthy of theirs."

In these statements there is certainly no place for wishful thinking. They are a call to a greater effort to win that victory which *must* be won.

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"Put Victory First"

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NATIONAL WAR FINANCE COMMITTEE