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Camp News

As this is not an official publication of Army Headquarters of the New Zealand Military Forces, all matters intended for publication should be addressed to The Editor and reach this office not later than 2 p.m. Mondays. Correspondence is invited on topical items of interest. Only business communications should be addressed to the Manager. Extra copies of “Camp News” may be obtained on application to the Manager, “Camp News,” 3rd Floor, Whitaker’s Buildings, 11 Manners Street, Wellington.

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OBJECT LESSON

If peace is indivisible—then so is war.

If ever a demonstration were needed of the infectious nature of mankind’s greatest affliction, the events since September 3, 1939, have provided a terrifying object lesson. Of all the great Powers only the United States is outside and shooting and they’ve got their fingers on the trigger.

The position of Japan is the most ironical of all.

For five years this nation has been carrying on a huge-scale war against the Chinese. For the last two years they have been vividly seeking a new victim in order that they may direct attention from their growing exhaustion in China.

Now a new situation has suddenly arisen.

The Reich invaded Russia, and Japan, who has been doing a sitting-on-the-fence act, is suddenly confronted with the fact that Hitler’s repeated requests to Tokio to join in the war gain menacing strength when viewed in the light that Hitler may defeat the Soviet.

On the other hand, if Russian bogs Germany down and the British Empire, plus America, win the war, then Japan is still in a precarious position.

War, which seemed to some so desirable in times of peace, becomes a less attractive proposition when the guns go off all round. For confirmation, apply to the Duce, lying half-stunned in Rome.

Somebody in the Kremlin has been ramming an entering wedge into Hitler’s gizzard.

ENTERING WEDGE

We expect you have noticed the stories that the Soviet propaganda people are broadcasting to German families telling how their sons and fathers and lovers are being slaughtered in Russia. They address these talks directly to the people concerned. They tell sympathetically how their loved ones died. What they said and how they suffered.

It is a horrifying yet an intensely moving performance. No one—least of all the relatives who hear these broadcasts—can fail to be affected by the folly and madness with which Hitler drives his millions to their doom.

The Russian, so long despised as a crude and clumsy fellow is not such a mental blunderer after all. As roughnecks, they seem pretty smooth to us.

V FOR VICTORY

The V for Victory campaign shows the first real touch of genius since Northcliffe and his helpers pulverised the Hun on the Propaganda Front a quarter of a century ago. Whoever thought of this idea—or realised its possibilities—has struck a terrific blow against Hitlerism. This is the weapon with which to scare the guilty Hun. Bombers, tanks, fighters, torpedoes and machine-guns are the cutting instruments of war. But propaganda skilfully handled can rip and tear the enemy’s mind. It can break his will. It can frighten and horrify him. It can bring him to his knees.

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