

Psychological Fortification

By JOSH LEE

CONDENSED BY EDITH WALKER FROM
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Strengthening of Spiritual Fortresses Is Needed for Struggle Against Hitlerism

TWENTY-THREE years ago this month, the class of 1918 graduated from this university. Most of the men of that class walked out of the auditorium and exchanged their academic robes for military uniforms. They went into the service of their country because of a firm belief in the ideal of liberty. They fought and won a war to make the world safe for democracy.

The victory of the boys of 1918 was a great victory and a great success. Don't let anyone tell you differently. We made the world safe for democracy, all right, but we did not keep it safe. The failure came afterwards when we threw away that victory by abandoning the ideals for which we had fought.

No victory for right is secure for all time unless we make it secure by constant vigilance and sacrifice. There is no such thing as a permanent victory. It is not possible for one generation, by pouring out its blood and sweat and tears, to purchase liberty for all time to come, but each succeeding generation must, by its own vigilance and sacrifice, make secure for its time, the citadels of liberty.

After the victory of 1918, we turned away from the noble leadership of men like Woodrow Wilson, who offered us an opportunity to build a "Brave New World," and an opportunity of assuming our share of responsibility in keeping the victory which we had won. We decided to live unto ourselves alone.

We turned from a policy of vision and future greatness to the shortsighted policy of isolation, which is based on the erroneous theory that the United States is not a part of the world. It is based on the mistaken theory that regardless of the economic and political upheavals in other countries, we can go on our way without being affected. It is based on the foolish theory that our nation will not be threatened by the military power of our neighbors. Isolation, as an international policy, is as out-of-date as the Chinese Wall, and just as ineffectual in protecting a nation from modern war.

Thus the policy of isolation helped to



Senator Josh Lee and Dr. Swatton D. Brooks, former president of the University, visit at the Alumni-Senior Luncheon on Commencement Day

lose the great victory which was won for the ideal of democracy.

Furthermore, cynicism contributed to the loss of that victory. For, after the Armistice of 1918, a great wave of cynicism swept over the world, eating out the faith of men in their ideals. Sarcastic writers and cynical teachers set about debunking," as they said, our ideals and pulling our heroes down to the level of common-places.

The result of this world-wide wave of cynicism was to cut the ground from under our faith and destroy our idealism. The cynics had robbed us of "that which in no wise enriched" them, but left us "poor indeed."

Then came the economic breakdown with its millions of hungry people to make a mockery of our words, "freedom, liberty and democracy." This paved the way for Communism, which like a pestilence, always strikes when the victim's resistance is low.

When people no longer believe in anything or anybody, they are already defeated because they have nothing to fight for. And this is exactly the condition which Hitler has undertaken to create in every country before he has invaded it with his military blitzkrieg. Long before military hostilities broke out in Europe, Hitler had told the world how he planned to undermine a nation psychologically before he undertook to overthrow it militarily.

His plan was so bold, so frank, so fantastic, that very few people believed him. His threats of world domination were dismissed as the dizzy ravings of a madman.

Then he began to carry out his fantastic plan for total conquest. One nation after another fell before his assault as the diabolical scheme began to unfold. The people of the world have grudgingly awakened to the fact that Hitler, has, up to date, carried out his plan to the letter. This awakening has been slow. It has been painfully slow.

Fourteen nations have, one after another, fallen under the power of this evil man. Yet there are still those in this country, who, ostrich-like, hide their heads in the sand and say over and over to themselves, "I don't believe it."

From the very first, it has been well understood in the Nazi regime that propaganda is as much a part of Hitler's plan of world domination as military attack. May I say that Hitler has already launched his psychological attack on the western world.

There are some sincere but mistaken Americans who are unintentionally lending themselves to this Nazi attack. They have become dupes of Hitler's revolutionary propaganda methods.

America has already charted her course. We have launched our program of national defense. The American people have passed on that program and put their stamp of approval on it. Therefore, the day of debate and dissension should be over. We should have one hundred per cent unity in this country today.

Your government has already thrown into high gear industrial and military defense, but it remains for you, the people, to fortify yourselves against the psychological assault which Hitler is now making

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character has been a tremendous influence for good. His home life, which is as gentle and beautiful as the flowers of spring, is admired by each and all.

Dr. Bizzell soon leaves the arduous duties of administration for his beloved field of teaching. He remains on the faculty as president emeritus and head of the Department of Sociology. Thus, our boys and girls will continue to receive wisdom and inspiration from a life so rich in experience.

Oklahoma is proud of Dr. Bizzell for what he is. Oklahoma is grateful to Dr. Bizzell for what he has done. He has richly earned from the state of his adoption the righteous verdict of "well done, good and faithful servant."

No short article could do more than select a few of the highlights from the Bizzell administration, and present a very small portion of the many, many public tributes that have been paid to the man's ability and character and qualities of personality that have endeared him to the people of Oklahoma.

To discuss President Bizzell's troubles with politicians would require a book in itself. The difficulty probably can be summed up in the simple statement that he just doesn't talk their language. Basically, President Bizzell and many of the politicians who have taken issue with him believe in the same general objectives for the University. But they have different methods of approach, different operating methods—and different ways of expressing their beliefs. So they never got together. In some ways it is unfortunate, but there has also been a very valuable result: the people of Oklahoma are thoroughly and completely convinced that President Bissell has kept the University free of political meddling, and if it was necessary to pay a price for this independence, who can say that it wasn't worth while to pay whatever price was necessary to uphold the good name of the University?

President Bizzell has brought the University a great program of physical improvements, a flowering of scholastic maturity, an expansion of service to the general public of Oklahoma, a steady growth as a center of literature and art, and a growing vision of the importance of higher education to the welfare of a state.

The University of Oklahoma is fortunate in that Dr. Bizzell, in retiring from the duties of president, is willing to continue serving as president emeritus and as head of the department of sociology. In this state and in this nation, social science has lagged far behind the natural sciences. By taking the leadership in this phase of the University's program, Dr. Bizzell is going into a field with unlimited opportunities for achievement. He is not retiring. He is tackling a new responsibility with all the enthusiasm and loyalty to the cause of education that have made him a success in everything he ever tried.

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Lt. James H. Richards, '40ba, '40bs, formerly stationed at Fort Douglas, Utah, has been transferred to the proving grounds at Aberdeen, Maryland, for a two-months ordnance school.

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on this country. Vacillating people who have no faith in anything are the easiest to conquer. But those people who are united by their faith in an ideal are the toughest to vanquish.

If a great wave of patriotism should sweep over this country today, it would be worth more to the cause of national defense than ten divisions of trained soldiers. No matter if we build the most powerful tanks, planes and battleships in the world, they will not defend us unless we have the spirit of liberty.

France spent billions of francs on her military defenses. She had, numerically, the largest army in the world. But France was without a soul. She had lost faith in humanity. She no longer believed in the ideal of democracy nor the divinity of God. France, was therefore, demoralized and defenseless.

Thus, France was ripe for Hitler's propaganda. The people were cynical and skeptical. Do you recall how in the hectic days preceding the fall of France, the people, in their confusion, doubt and suspicion, changed their government officials and their military commanders one after another on the eve of the fall of France? This lack of confidence on the part of the French people was worth many armored divisions to Hitler's cause.

France had fallen a victim to the deadly Nazi propaganda.

The story is told of the eagle which lay dying on a rock, and the eagle was saddened even more when he noticed that the feather which guided the arrow to his heart had come from his own wing.

Surely, today, as the last pulsing hope of freedom has been crushed out of poor France by the ruthless heel of the dictator, she must be saddened even more to know that she contributed to her own downfall by surrendering those spiritual fortresses of faith.

Following the recent and final capitulation of France, in which General Petain agreed to full collaboration with Germany, Vice-Premier Darlan made the announcement that General Petain had to choose between life and death, and that Petain had chosen life. But it would have been more accurate to have said that Petain had to choose between resistance or slavery, and Petain chose slavery.

What a contrast between Petain's foul pledge, and the statement of that great British leader, who recently said, "The English people would rather die on their feet than live on their knees."

What a contrast between the choice of France, and the statement of that great American, Patrick Henry, when he said, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

Today you graduate from this university, but your efforts will all have been in vain unless the forces of democracy are able to stop the totalitarian powers in

their march around the globe. Therefore, I call upon you for a full measure of confidence in your leaders. Hitler is trying desperately at the present time to shake the faith of the American people in their public officials, and thereby undermine their confidence in the integrity of their own government.

Therefore, if you would do your part in strengthening the defense of America, you can weave the strong fabric of national unity by maintaining loyal faith in the leadership of President Roosevelt. The most defeating blow which you can deal Hitler in America is to give President Roosevelt the same loyal support which the English people are today giving to Prime Minister Churchill.

Then, again we must not only manifest loyalty to the *champions* of democracy; we must renew our devotion to the *ideal of liberty* itself.

We have enjoyed freedom until we have come to take it for granted. We treat our freedom just like we do our health. We never think about it until we are about to lose it.

The glowing words of democracy have lost some of their meaning because they are so familiar, but what a dynamic meaning those words must have to the poor souls who are today languishing in the concentration camps of Europe.

What a meaning they must have to those unfortunate human beings who are tracked down and murdered by Gestapo bloodhounds.

The right of habeas corpus, trial by jury, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—these are some of the dynamic words of democracy which we have rubbed shiny in our pockets.

Yet there is enough explosive power in these words to blow Hitler to Kingdom Come if free men everywhere will but touch off the dynamite which they contain.

Then again, not only should the torches of liberty be relighted, but Christian people everywhere should be rallying their forces to oppose this anti-Christ barbarian. If Hitler is able to spread the Nazi curse over the world, there will be no room for Christianity—no room for the worship of any God but Hitler—no room for any religion but the State.

When people have unshakeable faith in their God, it gives them strength. They have something to anchor to. They are not easily demoralized by propaganda. Therefore, Christian people should come together under the banner of the Cross and unite around their faith in God. Such unity will frustrate Hitler and strengthen America.

This war is different from any other

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stantially to overcome this situation. The results this spring were very satisfactory, particularly in the Senior Law Class, where 19 new life members were obtained from a group of 27 senior lawyers present.

During the past year the Advisory Council system has been expanded approximately 15 per cent; most of the councils are in excellent condition and functioning satisfactorily. Some 100 changes have been made in the chairmanships and members of these councils. We are represented in each of the 77 counties of the state and in many of the leading cities of the nation. Among the outstanding out-of-state councils are Houston, Texas, Washington, D. C., Chicago, Illinois, St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri, and Los Angeles, California. It was my pleasure to be present for alumni meetings in Houston, Tyler, and Dallas, Texas, and Okmulgee and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during the year.

Sooner Magazine during the last year has continued to emphasize its functions as a news publication, putting chief emphasis on personal news about alumni, but also giving thorough coverage of Sooner sports and campus news, and presenting numerous pictures, articles and special features of interest to alumni. There were news items about more than 600 alumni in the May issue alone, which was about an average issue. An Engineer Alumni Directory was prepared and published as the August, 1940, issue of *Sooner Magazine*. As a result of contacts with alumni made during preparation of the directory, more than a hundred new memberships were received from engineer alumni. This spring the *Sooner Magazine* office has started work on a Business Administration Alumni Directory. Within three weeks after the first letter was sent out announcing plans for this directory, thirty new annual memberships and three new life memberships were received from business alumni.

Sooner Magazine advertising revenue for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1940, reached a total of \$4,131, an all-time new high record. Revenue from advertising during the present fiscal year is running somewhat less, up to the June issue, but this prospective loss has been largely offset by some economies effected in printing costs. At the last meeting of the American Alumni Council, *Sooner Magazine* received honorable mention for its coverage of sports news, and honorable mention for the letters department. It was the third consecutive year in which *Sooner Magazine* was mentioned at least twice in the magazine contests conducted by this national alumni organization.

In the field of public relations a very important step has been inaugurated—the daily alumni broadcast from 12 noon to 12:15 p. m. over station WNAD. With the assistance of Commissioner Paul A. Walker, of the Federal Communications Commission and an alumnus of this University, a more favorable and valuable wave length was secured for station WNAD and many prominent alumni have been guest speakers over this station. The information supplied by these speakers, as well as their prominence and personality, is proving an outstanding feature. This is a constructive step in the direction suggested by Mr. Epton—that every city and town in the state be made University conscious, and a closer relationship with the University be developed.

Another event of importance was the Legislative Forum conducted by the Extension Division of the University with the assistance of your Alumni Association. This forum was declared to have been very instructive and resulted in a better feeling toward the University and its problems in Legislative and public circles.

In conclusion, may I express my sincere appreciation to the members of this Executive Board and to the many individual members of the Association for their wise counsel and timely advice, for their splendid co-operation and willing sacrifice whenever called upon for service to the Association, and to Mr. Ted Beaird and Mr. Roscoe Cate my utmost thanks for their ceaseless and never tiring work in behalf of the University of Oklahoma and its alumni.

17 New Life Members

The addition of 17 names to the life member list last month brought the total to 544, Executive Secretary Ted Beaird announced.

Of the new members, 10 are members of the Class of '41 and the others represent the Classes of '18, '21, '31, '35, '37 and '40.

Texas is well represented in the list, with four new life members. They are: John A. Gillin, '31physics, '33ma, geophysicist with the National Geophysical Company, Dallas; Joe T. Dickerson, '21 law, manager of the legal department of the Shell Oil Company, Houston, Texas; William A. Schaefer, '41eng, who is employed by the Humble Oil Company, Houston, and Mrs. Mabel Geraldine Rollins Schaefer, '41ba.

Other '41 graduates in the new list of life members include: Wendell C. Phillips, '41bus, Oklahoma City; David K. Spradling, '41law, '41bus, and Mrs. Maurine Clifton Spradling, '37; Edwin S. Arnold, '41eng, of Chicago, now an ensign in the Ordnance Division of the Navy; DeWitt Kelley, '41journ, Eldorado; Phyllis McCoy, '41 letters, Ponca City; S. Morton Rutherford III, '41letters, Tulsa, Robert C. Harper, '41ba, Ponca City; and Martha Downing, '41ba, teacher at Stroud.

Another new life member who received a degree in 1941 is J. Bruce Wiley, member of the University engineering faculty, who received a master's degree in engineering this spring but whose membership will be credited to the class of '35, the year in which he received his bachelor's degree in engineering. Mrs. Wiley is the former Nona Boyett, '37.

A new life member at Muskogee is W. S. Warner, '18ba. The other new life member in the list of 17 is Edmond A. Edmondson, Jr., '40ba, whose home was in Muskogee but who is now employed in the communications division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington, D. C.

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war because the psychological attack has played such a deadly part in the fall of every nation which Hitler has conquered. Therefore, I feel that it is highly important that America strengthen her defenses on this front.

Each generation has drawn upon a bank account which was built up by its ancestors in the blood bank of liberty. This bank account was established by the Minute Men of Concord and Lexington, by Washington's ragged troops at Valley Forge and Yorktown. It was added to by Jackson's troops at New Orleans, and by the Rough Riders who followed Teddy Roosevelt up San Juan hill.

The boys in blue with Admiral Dewey at Manila Bay made a deposit to the blood

bank of liberty, and the doughboys who met the Hun at St. Mihiel, Cantigny, and Belleau Wood made a deposit which paid liberty's premiums in advance for twenty years.

But today once again, that liberty is being threatened; therefore, I call upon you as Americans for renewed devotion to the ideals of democracy. I call upon Americans for unity in support of our government, in order that we may in our turn, preserve the free American way of life and hand it on to others as it was given to us.

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Oklahoma Books

AN Oklahoma author, Angie Debo, '18ba, '33ph.d, adds another laurel to her literary successes with a well written, factual account of the history of the Five Civilized tribes before and after statehood.

Entitled *And Still the Waters Run*, the book has been published by the Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey (\$4.00). Dr. Joseph A. Brandt, '21ba, president-elect of the University, is director of the Princeton Press.

A daughter of frontier country and pioneer people, Miss Debo has witnessed during the years the continuous, and eventually successful, efforts of the United States government to dissolve the tribal government of the Indians.

From the beginning Miss Debo takes the side of the Indian, but she presents documentary material and events as they actually occurred so that the reader may draw his own conclusions about what transpired in the annals of early Oklahoma history.

The author begins her panorama of Indian life where many historians leave off, at the time of the "Trail of Tears" period when the people made the famous march from their homes in the southeast to reservations in Oklahoma. She threads her story to the present time when the few remaining fullblood Indians live back in the hills, and the greater number, who have intermarried with the whites, have succumbed to the overpowering influence of the latter's civilization at the expense of their own.

Miss Debo grew up in Oklahoma, received a bachelor's degree at the University, and later, a doctor's degree. One of her best known books, *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*, won the John H. Dunning Prize, awarded biennially by the American Historical Association for the best book submitted in any field of United States history.

Oklahomans undoubtedly will have a keen personal interest in Miss Debo's new book.