



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1942

Wellspring

Soldiers of Democracy Carry Invisible Weapons to Victory

When a Democratic people engage in a war after a long peace, it incurs much more risk of defeat than any other nation, but it ought not to be easily discouraged by its reversals, for the chances of success for such an army are increased by the duration of the war.

Washington as unpatriotic and unco-operative. The switching of chiefs, and the continued mishandling of the rationing program are not new, but they come in new times.

Good News From North Africa Improves Our Position Little

As the tempo of battle in Africa increases and it appears that the United Nations are making gains in Libya and Tunisia, it is well to remember that our handicaps are still great, that the enemy is entrenched, and that a long, bloody fight lies ahead.

By the same token, the growing Allied might in the air over Tunisia is a favorable sign, but only that. Hitler's apparent strategy is to fight the most bitter delaying action possible in his thin crescent of resistance, and the strongholds of Bizerte and Tunis are prepared and stocked for a year's siege.

At the same time, it should be remembered that this is a second front that is not a second front; that, though we are now on the offensive side of the war, there is always the possibility of a German thrust which would wipe out the Allied advantage.

If the news from the African front seems of a sameness to Americans back home, and they look upon the whole gigantic operation as a lull in the progress of the war, we need a closer look. Action on the two fronts flames fiercely and without cessation, and is exacting a great toll in lives and equipment.

With the investment of our mighty war machine in the area, and that in danger, there will be no reason for blitheness over the African scene until the campaign has been completed.

Sucker Trap

The Loans May Be Small But the Interest Isn't

Out of the report of a commission authorized by the last Legislature and in the convening Legislature, a referendum that North Carolina has long needed. It took no investigation to establish that borrowers from loan sharks were paying 200% to 400% on their small borrowings.

Were borrowers generally to get help to this method of turning a good dollar into a couple of dollars in the pocket, either the small-loan business would evaporate or interest rates in North Carolina would soon climb down to a reasonable level.

Hitler's Generals

Russia Demoralized The High Command

By Dorothy Thompson

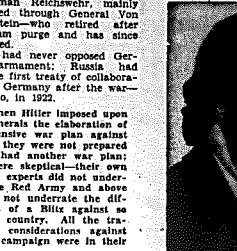
WASHINGTON THE idea of a war against Russia was unpopular with the bulk of the German Officers' Corps. The reasons were manifold.

Bismarck, the historical political leader for whom Army traditionalists have most respect, had laid it down as an axiom that Germany should never go to war with Russia. German memories are unanimous in attributing defeat in the last war to the prolonged resistance of the Russians and the scattering of German reserves over the whole Eastern area.

After the last war every leading general warily against a new conflict with Russia. To General von Seeckt, the creator of the post-war German Reichswehr, Bismarck's axiom was a law. It was also a law to Major Haushofer, the famous geo-politician, who took the view that Japan and Russia and Germany were natural geo-political allies.

Throughout the twenties, there was the most intimate collaboration between the Red Army and the German Reichswehr, mainly represented through General von Hammerstein—who retired after the Roehm purge and has since disappeared.

But Hitler's policy had made war with Russia practically unavoidable—just as his policy had previously made the occupation of Prague unavoidable. And he promised them a political victory in Russia. He understood that his own idea of life in Russia was governed by a Jewish camorra and was ripe for collapse.



of the German armies was slowed up even by the retreating Russian armies and the scorched earth policy confronted the Germans with something quite new.

Late in the Fall of 1941, the High Command, under the leadership of Von Brauchitsch wanted to revise the War Plan, and now, purely over a matter of military strategy, the old antagonism between Army and Party was revived.

It is now clear that Von Brauchitsch counselled against a Winter offensive, counselling withdrawal to shorter lines. Hitler insisted on continuing the offensive

for political reasons. He had apparently made a deal with Japan that she was to enter the war by an attack on the United States when the fall of Moscow was imminent.

Thus the German offensive before Moscow continued until Dec. 7, the day of Pearl Harbor—and on that very day the Russian Winter counter-offensive began. The Germans suffered their first major defeat in this war simultaneously with the Japanese attack on Hawaii.

From that date on there have been continual changes in the German High Command. First, Hitler dismissed those generals who had been against his war plan, and replaced them by other members of the traditional officers' corps who were more subservient. Brauchitsch went out in December 1941, and never got another command. Fedor von Bock, who had commanded the armies before Moscow was ousted again some time later in the Battle of Stalingrad.

The German Army has become a party instrument. Hitler has succeeded where France and Britain failed: he has destroyed the Russian Army.

outstanding personalities of the traditional Officers' corps has been destroyed. It was impossible to find out who was the Chief of Staff of the German Army—a most remarkable state of affairs for Germany, of all countries.

In October this column speculated that he had been succeeded by Zetterlin, and now this fact is established. General Zetterlin is in charge of the War Plan. And who is Zetterlin?

A minor officer in the First World War, de-commissioned in 1919, he was re-commissioned mainly as the result of microscopic Nazi pressure. He was one of the Nazi agents in the cell system built up in the Reichswehr. His advance was slow, whether from lack of ability or the opposition of the traditionalists. Early this year he was still only a colonel. This summer and Fall he was chief of staff of the tank army of the Wehrmacht, advanced fast but was then stalled for three months in the Caucasus. It failed to achieve the objective, the discredit must also go to Zetterlin. But Zetterlin kept his communications to the rear open to Himmler. Zetterlin is a Gestapo appointee.

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For the Benefit of Those Who Came in Late—

—By Herblock



Jews' Last Stand

Moment Of Climax

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK THE murder of certainly more than a million, and probably two million, European Jews by Adolf Hitler is (in part) a bid to anti-Semitism in the West, as his invasion of Russia was a bid to Russophobia.

These murders represent an effort by Hitler to enable the Jews to live on his terms, to arouse to his support the shrews and fish-wives of anti-Semitism, the frustrated and the confused of the nations. That does not mean that there be any doubt that he is killing the Jews.

The moment is truly climactic. Once it was enough for Hitler to set up an anti-Communism pact to mobilize large sections of Western anti-Communist feeling. When that wore out, he had to go on to invade Russia itself, and there is evidence that he has been shocked by the refusal of the Western world to support him.

And once it was enough for him to appropriate the property of some Jews, to set up economic barriers against some others, to mobilize anti-Semitism; he gestured, and a thousand small societies against the Jew were born in the nations. That does not mean that there be any doubt that he is killing the Jews.

roots. In spite of all manifestations of feeling against Jews, and in spite of all heavy burdens laid upon Jews, never have the people of Europe turned in this degree to this direction. The terrifying quality in what is now going on is precisely this "one man" quality, this single man's decision that is the base of it, this quality of tactic and maneuver.

Hitler has broken the thread of the human story; in what is probably only the first in a series of adventures in Europe turned in this degree to this direction. The terrifying quality in what is now going on is precisely this "one man" quality, this single man's decision that is the base of it, this quality of tactic and maneuver.

The only way to resist this tactic is to resist it. The only way to block the Russian maneuver was to help Russia. The only way to block the Jewish maneuver is to help the Jews, by any means, from the instant destruction of Berlin, to the establishment of new guarantees for the punishment of the murderer for the future of this people. If we hesitate, if we break ranks on this issue, we invite breaking the thread that ties the unknown past to the known future, in unbinding the earth so that Hitler can live in a world of ruins.

Visitin' Round

Well, That Game Alus Chills Lots of Folks (North Wilkesboro Hustler) Mr. Welch, a guard at the prison camp here, and Cherry Street in Wilkesboro, returned Saturday night from Raleigh where he went carrying a prisoner (Raymond Coin convict from Asheville in for long terms) to the prison hospital for an operation for appendicitis. Welch said Coin stood the trip tolerably excepting to some degree chilled by having to wait on an immense jam and plain of cars which clogged the highway below Greensboro by foot ball crowd returning from Chapel Hill.

Necessity

A New Peace

By Samuel Grafton

IT IS becoming fairly certain that the peace this time will not be simply a document drawn up in a conference signed with a flourish and then embalm in some palace of the nations.

We tried that kind of static peace the last time and it failed. The mistake world just won't be pointed into a right mold. It wouldn't stay anything we can work out this time. Herbert Hoover sees that, out of his experience at the Paris peace conference, just as our present Government sees it.

Mr. Hoover, in his thoughtful and constructive Chicago speech this week, says that if we are not to see the tragedy of Versailles repeated, we must have a new approach to the whole method and process of peacemaking. Republican politicians who are setting out now to demagogue about the peace would find some far better terms than in what Mr. Hoover says.

More likely the peace this time will be a flowing, everchanging condition, requiring constant discussion and adjustment among statesmen of various nations. Peace will be a process, a method, rather than a frozen mold. Even in the happiest of large families, nothing stays still, there are always some matters, some adjustments, some making labors of the mother are never done. No more will the next peace ever be completed so that you can put it away and forget about it. The next peace will continue an active process in which the long-distance telephone and the airplane, which will bring principals together on a few days' notice, will replace the formal green-baize conference table that symbolizes the futile, static, peace methods of the past.

Mr. Hoover agrees with the thought in this Administration that the principal United Nations must agree in general on some of the main post-war questions before the war ends. They must do that in order to be able to move quickly and surely to deal with the explosive chaos that will exist everywhere.

Mr. Hoover mentions the shortage of food in Europe, which he says amounts to a famine among nearly 200,000,000 people. It is that way nearly everywhere. There are food riots in some places that you never hear of. Nearly every country is having acute inflation—and we will get it here if we don't watch out. The pressure is intense. That's what's behind the screaming against Leon Henderson. There is pressure to shove up prices because the shortage of goods will permit it.

Some of this trouble can be dealt with now. For instance the Government of Iran is hiring Dr. A. C. Millsbaugh to return as financial adviser, as he was in the middle '20s when the country was known as Persia. Iran has several million people. Food is extremely difficult to get. All goods are short, and Allied troops and construction crews working on this highway into Russia are spending large sums and straining the currency. There are probably large sums that can be drawn out now. That is one kind of work that can go on.

Another is the discussion of boundary questions. The Polish Premier, General Sikorski, is here and hopes for some preliminary understandings with the chief United Nations. Sikorski has suggested that we go back to the geographical boundaries fixed by the treaty of Versailles, use them as starting points during the armistice or period of conditional peace, and then appear again, ready to practice some objections are raised which may not be insurmountable. For instance if you restored Poland to the Treaty of Versailles lines, the Polish Corridor would be restored. But the Germans have driven all the Poles out. The arrangement always was considered a breeder of future trouble—as it certainly proved to be in setting off the present war—so you wonder whether that ought to be set up again now.

But that is exactly the kind of question that needs to be worked on now. The more of those that can be adjusted before the end of the war, even on a temporary basis, the easier the job for war time the chaos of peace will be.

Side Glances



Bingo!

Henderson Quits, a Fumble Bobs Up, People Confused

Changes in the life of regulation and restriction increases daily, and the time of the great: it has apparently begun. The resignation of OPA's Leon Henderson and last night's A-card rationing scare are straws in the wind, and a little more. Both the resignation and the ration fumble seem to us typical of the willy-nilly methods employed in bringing war living to the American people.

It had been bruited about for some time that the brass Henderson was on his way out. Congress, nettled by months of criticism, had decided in the sight of his high-handed methods of control. He was labeled a despot, a New Dealer gone mad. Because his organization went into every American county, he had enemies all over the nation. But to us, all through his tempestuous public career, he seemed one of those thick-headed men of great courage willing to tackle a fearful problem.

We believe his resignation was brought about by more than ill health, that he was forced to step aside by Washington pressure. In our opinion, he is not to be malignanced, because he performed a worthwhile service for his country, and went his own way despite everything. Ex-Senator Prentiss Brown of Michigan, his probable successor, has no previous experience to fit him as OPA chief, so far as the record shows. But he, like Henderson, is a man of courage. The change may bring desperately needed harmony.

Last night, playing with the announcement that A cards for gasoline were to be withdrawn at midnight, Washington and its branch offices were at a dizzy best. The same old pattern of premature announcements was followed—just the proper handling to insure a rush on gasoline stocks today and just enough to put the public into a stir. Soon, no doubt, the people who rush to buy gasoline after the confusion