

One-Ocean Problem

By Raymond Clapper

CAIRO, EGYPT
If it seems to many of you in America that the Middle East is a remote and inaccessible theater of war for us, you should bear in mind that it has the great advantage of getting around the mobility of fighting a two-ocean war with a one-ocean navy.

While the distance is far, it can be hauled on the back of a mule. In fact, the Mediterranean is a one-ocean navy. Once across the Atlantic, the chief problem is solved, for the Italian Ocean is a long way from both Japan and Germany. Thus the two-ocean problem is thrown into their laps and out of ours.

The considerable naval losses suffered by the United Nations in the southwest Pacific make operations in the Pacific even more difficult than immediately after Pearl Harbor. To attempt the Pacific job entirely without aircraft, and without supporting seapower, seems impractical. Many one-ocean navies do, at best, major offensive operations in the Pacific must await further naval building.

ECONOMY OF EFFORT IS MADE POSSIBLE.
The Middle East area brings out Army ground and air forces into the picture, because it provides a place for them to operate, and the chief problem of the Navy is confined to the Atlantic. The situation seems to make possible an economy of effort, which is highly desirable for the time being.

True, the line from America to Cairo is long and circuitous. But aircraft cut down the time greatly. Cairo is only a week from America by plane. The possibility of carrying large air forces only been scratched as yet. Numerous problems are involved in getting fuel laid down.

Some points must be supplied by camel or donkey carts. The size of the job is suggested by the fact that at least 5,000 gallons of gasoline are needed to refill a large plane. If it has landed with 30 normal reserves, it will have to take on one camel can carry is about 30 gallons. Add to that slow pace the difficulties of the rainy season. Still, the job is being done and it can go on being done. With the basic problem now solved, it remains only to establish the operations. As long as the Middle East is being done, it is possible. If it should be left then the only source left would be America, adding again to the shipping problem.

Intelligent support for our Government's effort requires that the public understand the geographical and other questions involved. A Congressional campaign is coming up in America.

ACCURATE INFORMATION WILL HELP ADMINISTRATION.
Unless public opinion can stand on the solid rock of accurate information, the campaign will produce distorted and misleading statements that might lead to embarrassment of the Administration during the most difficult war effort America has ever undertaken.

A little hint out of the United States, it seems to me that we have not yet appreciated the size of the task and the danger of losing unless we throw in everything for hard, concentrated blows.

Once the real nature of the job is clearly understood, I believe the American public will be ready to meet the Administration's job as easy as possible rather than embarrass it through ignorance.

We are up against a strong, efficient enemy who knows most of the answers. Aside from production figures, specific movements and locations, we can assume that the enemy knows a good deal about us. Therefore extensive secrecy has an effect only of hampering our public and Congress in their effort to give intelligent backing to the Government.

I have heard many criticisms of the English. But the sensible view seems to be that we have plenty of it on ourselves. The British have carried the load for two and a half years, struggling against heavy odds.

Both of us have everything at stake and only by a full and joint effort can we win.

When you get over here and see how hard it is to carry on a war over long distances, it increases your respect for anything constructive being done by anybody.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc.

W. C. Dowd, Jr., President and General Manager
J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor
W. C. Dowd, 1945-1927

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle established 1903 was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that require correction may be made on one.

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Subscription Rates
By carrier: 20 cents a week. THE MONTH \$5.75. By mail: One month, 67 cents; three months, \$2.00; six months, \$5.25; one year, \$10.40.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1942

Hep, Hep

Charlotte Ought To Take
FDR's Hint About Parades

With President Roosevelt's observation that he'd like to see a few more bands and a few more bands playing, we find ourselves in unqualified agreement. In fact we said as much in an editorial a couple of months ago.

In Charlotte, the logical organization to sponsor a military parade would seem to be the American Legion. But the Legion, we are sure, will take its cue from the Civilian Defense Work. Beside that, all hands heretofore are pointing for the big Civilian Defense parade in May.

All the same, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy has let it be known that he will look favorably on a military parade. We take that to mean that, whenever feasible, units of the armed forces will be made available for such purposes, and there are a lot of them around Charlotte.

Here is an opportunity for some patriotic or civic organization in Charlotte to step forward. We take that to mean to be popular with everybody—including the President of the United States—who loves a parade.

Intuition Fails

Hiller Decides To Give
Generals a Second Chance

In Russia, the Spring thaw is still several weeks away, but Adolf Hitler's icy attitude toward the generals who failed to win a decisive victory for him during the Winter seems to have melted considerably. Instead of repeating the "Switzerland are reliable," the Führer has called back the whole lot of them, including the big three—Von Rundstedt, Von Bock, and Von Brauchitsch.

It was, of course, inevitable that Hitler should be forced to fall back on these indispensable military leaders. As a matter of intuition cannot hold the details of two or three major campaigns in his mind. And Hitler's intuition certainly has achieved no brilliant success in Russia since he stood his generals in the corner. In fact, the campaign in Russia has come down to a draw.

Being soldiers before generals, the generals have answered Hitler's call. But the question still unanswered is whether they can ever go back to their commands with the same confidence and will to win that they displayed during the Summer. Can they do so bearing that the same man who forced them to give up their positions, and then sacked them for not succeeding, is still their master? Will they ever be free of the nagging fear that what happened once may happen again?

Hitler's generals are in harness again, but unless they have the guts enough to swallow a huge lump of Prussian pride, their spirit will have been crushed and their self-confidence shaken.

Ever Upward

Auto Workers Disclose
Perpetual Motion Idea

Even among our erstwhile economic royalists, we doubt if more than a handful would defend an employer who profited unreasonably by denying his employees wage increases. Certainly the nation would not tolerate a nationwide conspiracy of employers to keep things as worked for them. Therefore, as long as the labor unions base their demands for higher wages on a more equitable distribution of profits—particularly of profits from Government contracts—they deserve, and usually get, a sympathetic audience.

In negotiating for a new contract with General Motors, the United Auto Workers, whose officials are usually test pilots for the more advanced social theories in the CIO, put forward a different argument. They demanded a flat increase of a dollar a day, plus further increases dependent upon increases in the cost of living index, every 90 days. To be exact, the UAW wants to tie the wages of its members to the cost of living, in order to protect their buying power.

If what the UAW is asking for is the own protection should be applied universally in industry. It would operate something like this: The cost of living index goes up, pulling wages with it. But wages are an important factor in the cost of living itself. So the cost of living shoots up again, and so do wages. And so does the cost of living. Perpetual motion. It would be like climbing up a ladder and pulling the ladder up for the next ascent.

If they were better advised, the UAW

would go to the Government rather than General Motors for protection. General Motors is at the mercy of the same economic factors that threaten to wipe out the worker's insurance, savings, and even his Social Security. But the Congress could—and might. If the President asked for it—pass a law empowering the Government to freeze everything—wages, rents, profits, and commodity prices at equitable levels. But do they want wages frozen? Ask them yourself and see.

Easy Mark

Justice in Mecklenburg Not
Only Blind But Forgetful

If Solicitor John Carpenter were the sort of candidate who offered for reelection by "standing on his record," a case tried in Mecklenburg this week might have been most untimely. Mr. Carpenter does not, fortunately for unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, have to stand for reelection on his record. He simply files, makes no perceptible campaign and again becomes our Solicitor, usually without opposition. He is up for reelection this year without opposition so far.

The Mecklenburg case is interesting in its own right and further for the commentary it offers on the sloppy manner in which Mr. Carpenter runs his courts. A man named Harry B. Carson of Charlotte was caught in Davie County with 225 cases of whiskey valued at more than \$3,000. Inasmuch as the law had the goods on him, he pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to twelve months on the roads.

In Mr. Carpenter's court, however, the man Carson got off lightly. In fact, the record shows that he got off scot free to go about his business. He was charged in May 1941 with violating the North Carolina Motor Vehicle Act—specifically, with registering liquor cars in fictitious names so as to prevent their sale by the courts if the cars were seized. Mastermind of the scheme was generally thought to be the Big Shot of Charlotte's bootleggers.

At any rate, Carson pleaded not guilty, which is to say that, without pleading guilty, he did not contest the State's charge. When it came time for the Judge to sentence him, the Solicitor asked a "prayer for judgment" to be pronounced to the July term of court—that is, to let the sentencing wait awhile.

The Solicitor's reason for putting off the matter does not appear; at any rate, it would better have been handled at the time. For when the July term came, Mr. Carpenter did not pray that judgment be deferred, nor did he take up the case at that or any succeeding term of court. And so the man whose judgment had been deferred (if not entirely forgotten) went about his undertakings, whatever they may have been, and in due course was caught again violating the law.

Speaking of distances, it's a small world when the dastardly enemy is coming our way, though somewhat larger when we go after him.

Indignant Kansans protest the Government proposal to concentrate enemy camps on the prairie. It might, however, except a few Washington parasites, for ornamental purposes.

"The fall of Java, once so far away, is plainly heard in our midst," says an editorialist. Not only does the world grow smaller, but the acoustics are improving.

One thing the great national figure of a bygone age would say, if he were here today: "Boys, there are some statues of me in the parks you can roll up for guns."

Despite some medical opinion to the effect that it doesn't matter, a Kansas physiologist advises people to lie on the right side. Conunpque writers always do.

Between the old-fashioned quaint stage and the new out-and-out barbarism, the Jap had an intermediate period, in which he dropped an apology with the bomb.

Secrecy Of Officers

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON
AUSTRIA, whose forces General MacArthur has been invading to command, has no standing army. Therein lies the explanation for such a unique invitation. The U.S. would not have to send a regular command to the Pacific Coast, but Australia had to choose either an American or British officer, because it is a professional peace-time army and hence has not developed a large professional officer class.

In the world since under arms, you will not find Australia. Its personnel force in January 1939 numbered only 4,000 including technicians, etc. This is natural. While it is about as large as the United States, it does not have the same number of inhabitants as New York City, around 7,000,000.

Australia has had some compulsory military training in the past and early in the war, organized its defense forces, so it now has a large number of experienced top generals. All the Aussie fighting with the British in Libya and Malaya were volunteers.

INVITATION SO LOGICAL BONDWENT UP \$40
The invitation to MacArthur was logical because of the conditions of the fame he required in the Philippines. The single best officer of war was Australia will need to resist invasion. A truly substantial number of Aussie military training is being offered there, whose officers are old friends. Furthermore he is our best soldier in the Pacific (MacArthur). The wisdom of the Australian statement is attested by the fact Australian bonds went up \$40 the day the appointment was announced.

The Jap propaganda threats of Australian invasion suggested that the name—strangely enough—of Providence, where did they live of him.

Only reaction here was a fear the Japs would not attempt to carry out their threat. Australia is not Malaya or Java. Five of its seven millions live in the southeast corner nearly two thousand miles from the nearest Jap tip. In between is nice, forested jungle where the Japs will receive a hearty welcome far from their home base. The roads and railroads to the factories running back from the front.

JAPS MAY LAND, BUT UNLIKELY
The great barrier reef runs down the northeast coast to prevent establishment of Jap bases at all points. It is not possible otherwise would be most feasible to launch an invasion force. The west coast is not protected but is farther from the factories.

Consequently, despite current Jap propaganda, it is unlikely the Japs are likely to land along the northern coast, as a defense force is being organized along the coast. A base against conquered Jap territory and sea lanes in the north. A real invasion of Australia is unlikely.

The height to which the tree of Congress has risen is attested by the fact that it is now a tree of Dealers, a share of the weather, farmer-labor man, arose on the ground. The Senate and House spoke these following words:

"A storm of indignation is rapidly rising in this country, which is not only being fanned by the will of the force it will sweep away every obstacle to its way, and now it stands in its way." "The great majority of organized labor is not following the lead of the minority in its equally true of management."

"Our Government must be strengthened immediately by reorganization of its personnel."

The speaker was one of the last ones whom which sentiment might be expected. Senator John Lee of Oklahoma, whose name seems to mean it this time.

What gets Mr. Lee, presumably, is situations like this in a proposal to plant in New Jersey where the most vital of our industries are encountered slow-down due to a jurisdictional labor dispute.

LOSING FACTORY PRODUCTION
With hundreds, if not thousands of fighting planes lying around the country awaiting production, that they are being held in a deep factional row which has obstructed production. Before the war, efforts to organize it. An NLRB election was held.

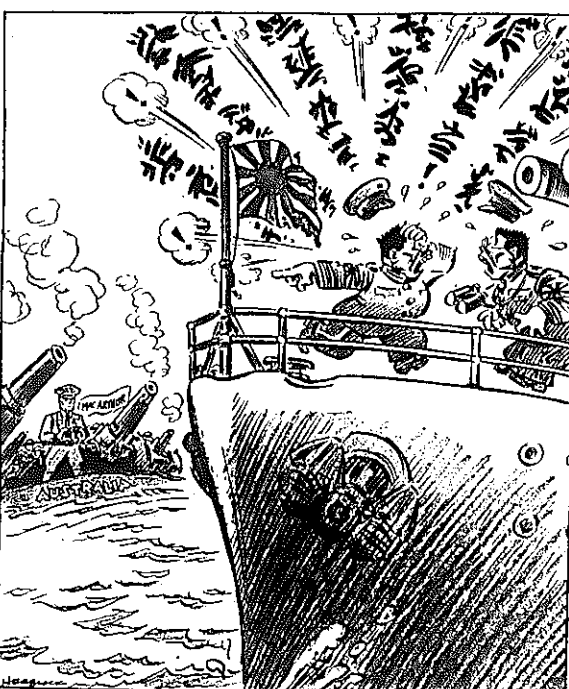
The Independent union won, 1198 to 526. Since the election, 526 came over and acquiesced in the majority decision, but it just enough remained adamant. The trouble going. The Independent union was nevertheless certified as the bargaining agent Dept. by NLRB.

But on Jan. 12, a month after the election, the Independent union declared. APT men claimed the independent union was constituted by the NLRB. A new election is being sought despite the NLRB's jurisdictional basis of national labor leaders. The Independent union naturally thinks it won. The minority is responsible for the slow-downs.

Whoever is right, our Army and Navy have a big job to do. It is down until they get prepared.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT
We can neither understand nor appreciate: Verily I say unto you, except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.—John 3:5

Meaning: It's That Man Again!



Letters to the Editors: Wants Action Against Labor

Editors, The News:
Give us more and louder voices like Mr. Sheffield's article in a recent issue of your paper.
I am sure we are all having to dig very deep these days to find enough patience to keep our minds and bodies on an even keel and I am referring to our labor allocation. One might think that no one had any power in this country but the labor leaders.
When we are going to wake up and cry out so loud our leaders will have to use the power we have so amply given them or give way to someone who has the will and determination to handle these sickers with an iron hand. Can't they see this is no time to play politics, that this is no time for old glove methods?

Never has a President had so much power of such a wonderful opportunity to ring down brasses through the pores of history for gallant leadership. All we are asking is that he use that power and use it now. Let them hold "dictatorship." What we need and want is a Moses to lead us, out of the Wilderness.

If they will not work, let them fight. Should be the command of our President and Congressmen. Our morale is badly depleted for lack of split action in Washington.

The following is a clipping from the Saturday Evening Post, describing how President Wilson handles the labor problem in the war.
"I am sure we profit by his leadership in my prayer."

—MRS. IRVING RUSSELL, Albemarle. (Enclosure)
To the machinists who struck an arms plant at Bridgeport, Con-

necticut, because they disliked an award that had been made by the War Labor Board's arbitrator, President Wilson on September 13, 1918, wrote as follows:
"To strike against the award is to dishonor. The Smith & Wesson Co. of Springfield, Mass., engaged in Government work, has refused to accept the mediation of the National War Labor Board, and has flouted its rules of decision approved by Presidential proclamation. With my consent, the War Department has taken over the plant and business of the company in secure continuity in production and to prevent industrial disturbance. . . . Having expected a drastic remedy with respect to the employees, it is my duty to use means equally well adapted to the end with lawless and faithless employees. Therefore, I desire that you return to work and abide by the award. If you refuse, each of you will be barred from employment in any war industry in the community in which the strike occurs for a period of one year. During that time, the United States Employment Service will decline to obtain employment for you in any war industry wherever in the United States, as well as under the War and Navy Departments, the Shipping Board, the Railroad Administration, and all other Government agencies, and the draft boards will be instructed to reject any claim of exemption based on your alleged usefulness on war production."

"Gincerely yours,
"WOODROW WILSON."

The machinists thereupon voted to go back to work, but the company then refused to hire them back. At that, the President wrote a letter to the arms company, saying "in view of the fact that the workmen have so promptly

complied with my directions, I must insist upon the reinstatement of all these men."
The machinists were reinstated; and that was all of that.

Barnch Wants Price Control Synchronized
Editors, The News:
Thank you very much for your editorial of March 11, "Man the Pump!"
In the discussion of price control before committees of Congress I always brought out that an overall ceiling was only a part of price control and that it should affect everything—agriculture, rent and wages. In addition, I brought forward the fact that we should take the profits out of war. This together with priority, the finding of substitutes, the strict application, for they are all a part of the whole.

The whole effort must be synchronized. I pointed that out time and time again. We are now coming around to the fruits of experience and I hope it will not be too late. Besides the huge sums of money we have wasted, we have lost something else. The confidence of our people has been shaken. This may cost us precious lives. I refer not alone to price control but industrial mobilization and the synchronization of our total effort.
Thank you so much for your editorial support.
—BERNARD M. BARNUCH, 557 Herndon Ave. New York, N. Y.

A Prayer for Regeneration
Editors, The News:
"GOD bless America," we smugly sing.
And expect "hell, per se, the blessing of our God" to be a fact.
"GOD regenerate us," let's rather pray.
And "God of Our Fathers" be the lay,
—L. A. TATUM, Lantburg.

Brief, and To the Point
Editors, The News:
We appreciate your help in our production of "The War."
—MARION WOOLARD, Chairman, Publicity Committee— "Women and Food," Charlotte.

On Second Thought, Maybe It's the Climate
The Rural New Yorker
California's consume eighteen pounds of avocados per person compared with one pound for the fourth of a pound per capita for the rest of the country. It is this time the avocados are being raised in the States. The avocados growers alert to the possibilities of their product and which many "foresters" wonder if this is not the next new horticultural crop for development.

Advice That Came 33 Hours Too Soon
From "The Valor of Ignorance," by Homer Dine, publisher in 1907:
"Defense of the Philippines belongs not alone to an Army or Navy, but to the people of the United States. This defense cannot be left to an intelligent combination of them all. This defense cannot be left to the few who are the result of subsequent upon expedients that are not inherent in the national policy of the United States. The military preparations of prior years

Side Glances



"Remember me? I'm the man below you, but I'm a defense warden now—so unless you pipe down on a noisy party I'll call a little 'air raid drill!'"

Visit'g Around

All Right, Little Visit-Ad, Do Your Stuff
(Adv. Bureau News—Press)
WARRIOR: THE DUJY—One of two good second hand auto tires—size 5.00 x 18. R. L. Hibley, Albemarle, N. C.
Whoever Bought the Ducks? (Wahlan Creek Item)
Machinists News-Review
The Rev. M. H. Adams, a good looking Saturday night to the home of the Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Robinson.