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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1942

Time Lapse

Repetition of Dieppe Raid Means Relief in the East

It is now seventeen days since Dieppe, and nine days since Hitler's Europe has been followed only by air activity on the Western front, the big raid seems destined to enter history as a mere experiment. It is disappointing that the Allied Command has been unable to unsway in defense. Regardless of that, there is a vital job to be done in such operations.

We do not know the price paid at Dieppe, except that it was heavy. As an exchange of information between enemies, it may have been an even swap; it certainly found no weak spot in defense. It was in the air that the Germans suffered, and there they showed such a weakness as to invite further forays.

Perhaps a third of the Luftwaffe's effective strength in France was wiped out. During such an operation, the defender is bound to play a more usual game of hit-and-run in the air. They had to come out and fight; otherwise, real invasion might have set in. In fighting it out, they lost far more planes than they could afford.

Such blows quickly and directly affect the Russian and Egyptian fronts. If the planes based in France were cut down to an ineffectual minimum, Hitler's only move would have to be a switch from the Eastern front to the West. Egypt, such relief would mean Allied progress. The Red Army has already proved what they could accomplish when not pounded from above with superior power; the British-American forces in Egypt are beginning to show their teeth in the air.

Therefore do we mourn the failure to press new and frequent attacks on the continent, where, if he is not vulnerable on the ground, Hitler is woefully weak upstairs. Forcing him to fight there is enough of a second front to support the gamble of high stakes. It has already been a long time since Dieppe, and while there is reluctance about such operations, the Allies in Britain make no secret of the fact that their striking power is at a peak. Why, then, we wonder, is not this striking power being used? There is the power and there is the enemy.

What War?

Delaware's Guillotine Runs On a Strange Principle

In little Delaware, where the corporations go for spawning, the Democrats filed a minority opinion this week. A state convention, in a close vote, named a Wilmington lawyer, Emnals Berl, to the Senate to succeed James H. Hughes. That was a Congressional change, we noted, and interest rose. We followed along.

We knew, as anyone would know, that the issues of the campaign must have been the Hughes record in the Senate. Important, naturally, would be his record on pre-war and early-war voting. Important, too, would be his share in the government of the State. In short, he must have stood or fallen on his record.

He fell. State Democratic Chairman Joe Marvel, Jr., said we saw nothing significant in the name, at first gave after Hughes had been toppled, the reasons for Delaware's changing of horses.

Senator Hughes, he said, had led the party dissatisfied with the amount of Federal patronage received during the one-year Hughes term.

On The Contrary

Business With Some Firms Is Now Better Than Ever

"How's business?" was once a simple question, bringing only simple answers. In these times, however, it has become a probe into the national economy, productive of long yawns about the troubles of wartime operations. Nevertheless, it is a social tool. With it, the other day, we made a mistake. Casually, we asked it of a baby-food salesman. The answer, we thought, should have been a short, troubled one. It was not that.

"Business," he said, is terrific. It is up 175 per cent over last year, which was, in turn, up about 100 per cent over 1940.

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He's selling more baby food than one would think possible. One opening order is a chain grocery, for example, was for 60,000 pounds. He was keeping his company busy (big groceries are averaging about 400 dozen cans weekly in retail sales).

Innocently, we wondered why all this was stirring, when other marts were drying up. Babies, he said, it's the babies. The "force of ten" has never. Not long ago the monthly average in Charlotte was 185, and it's still going up, he thinks. And the babies will eat his food; theirs is one of the most voracious demands known in the supply-demand equation. And he's got to make a one-normal business a runaway industry.

The salesman didn't know where it would stop. Next year, he thought, business might double again.

This is only a warning, not even a solemn one. If you don't want to lose your illusions about the hardships of war, don't ask questions.

Outlook

The Home Front Has Got To Get In The Fight

We remember, on those days when scrap collections were underway and all the little householders were supposed to have placed their offering on the curb so that trucks might pick up and haul it away, that the Government made of the window of the Ivory Tower, high up here in the Trylon, and observing that only about one house in every twenty was represented. Good, we said, for that one in twenty, and for the other nineteen, goodness knows what's going to happen in a country where those people can't even take the trouble to contribute their junk.

Yesterday WPB told assembled newspaper publishers in Washington that there was only two weeks' supply of scrap in the yards of the steel mills. Two furnaces at Chicago were expected to go down over the week-end. San Francisco was in bad shape. Pittsburgh and Youngstown were in "horrible shape."

We thought of those nineteen out of twenty householders and their unresponsiveness, and we went again to the window of the Ivory Tower, high up here in the Trylon, and looked out, and we were ashamed for them and for America.

Gentle Hint

Political Bosses Have No Place on Hospital Boards

Some of the directors of the State Hospital at Morganton may feel, since the awful disclosure about that asylum, that it is proper thing for them to do would be to offer their resignations, thereby expressing regret and some chagrin at their official remissness in the past. We are confident that the Governor would be agast at any such development, and would endeavor to prevail upon the members of the board not only to serve until such time as the Legislature sets up a new type of board for all mental institutions in North Carolina but, in the meantime, to apply themselves wholeheartedly to the rehabilitation of the place and its miseries.

That, certainly, would be the better service, and insofar as The News has earned any proprietary interest in the hospital at Morganton, that would be its suggestion.

There is one director, however, whose name came up repeatedly, and in an adverse sense, both in Mr. Jimison's articles and in some of the testimony before the Governor's committee. That was Mr. Harry Riddle, secretary of the board, resident of Morganton and somewhat of a political boss in Burke County. Dr. Watkins, superintendent of the hospital, appeared to be much influenced by Mr. Riddle, and it came out, though not necessarily with any derogation to Mr. Riddle, that a note from him was as good as a job in the hospital.

After what the State of North Carolina has learned about this institution, it surely would never place a local politician on any hospital board of directors. If the local politician now on the Morganton board were to offer his resignation, it might be a welcome development.

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City Hall Today

The Health Muddle

By Dick Young

A POOR job of selling has been done by the State Board of Health and the State Merit System Council and as a result the merit system for health and social welfare organizations is apparently being received with lifted eyebrows. In Charlotte, the door has been closed and the plan, as far as the City Health Department is concerned, has been rejected for this year.

All this is bad. Because there is merit in the proposal and because Charlotte's health program needs the \$20,000 that would have come from the State Board of Health if the City Council had agreed to enter into the merit system contract.

In the premise, it would be well for North Carolina and Charlotte to get all the Federal aid funds possible. The more money our health program can get from Washington the more comprehensive that program will be. And the more we get from the Federal Government the lighter the burden here. I think Dr. Reynolds, the State Health Officer, was correct when he said at Wednesday's conference that the State Health and County Commissioners, that North Carolina's present grant of \$2,000,000 is but a drop in the bucket to what will later flow from Washington for social and health programs. We would, in truth, as Dr. Reynolds said, be penny wise and pound foolish not to put ourselves in the position to receive our share of these funds.

It would be shortsighted indeed if Charlotte did not avail itself of the opportunity for assistance in its health work from the U. S. Public Health Service. That agency is responsible, due to its pioneer health work here in the Camp Green days of World War I, for Charlotte's present Health Department. We have made progress from that beginning but the next 25 years will no doubt bring even greater advancements. We ought to be in such a position that we can take advantage of the coming assistance.

And the present requirement for attaining that advanced position is agreement to enter the merit system plan. It might be well to explain that the merit system proposal came from Washington as one of the strings attached to its grant and aid to the State. If North Carolina didn't accept the merit system plan it could not get Federal money. And if Charlotte, down the line, doesn't accept it, then Charlotte will get no Federal funds.

For as things now stand Charlotte is out of it and I am informed most of the other large cities (with the exception of Asheville) are also out. And this brings me back to the original statement that a poor job of selling has been done

by the Raleigh officials. In the first place they started out to sell something that was not even finished. Even now the all-important question of job classification under the system is not complete. The City Council hesitated about accepting something it knew so little about.

As much as the examination for workers has been criticized by the workers, it cannot be denied that rating of worker's qualifications is a good thing. If a worker, regardless of who he is, is not qualified to do the job he is paid to do, then he ought not to be retained. Uniformity in pay, when qualifications have been determined to be equal, is fair and equitable, but there has been so much confusion about the Merit System Council's pay scale that objections have been raised.

The delicate question of paying Negro workers the same as white workers enters at this point (but at Wednesday's conference no one, in either the local group or in the Raleigh delegation, dared to bring it up). This is a ticklish subject but is one that must be faced realistically in this discussion. The Merit System says Negro workers must be paid the same salary as others in similar positions. Yet another State agency, the State School Commission, doesn't give Negro teachers the same pay as white teachers.

There's one important phase of the State aid that may yet produce still more debate. And that is the Smith Reynolds Fund, established to combat the scourge of syphilis. Charlotte is interested in that because last year it received \$12,500 from that Fund for its V.D. clinic. This money does not come from any Federal source; it was provided in the bequest of a private citizen.

Yet under a ruling of the State Attorney-General, according to Dr. R. E. Fox, the State Board of Health, which administers the fund, cannot distribute the money locally unless the local department is a part of the Merit System. This puts the Reynolds' money in the same classification as Federal funds. There's ground for content on that point, I'm sure.

The Raleigh officials disclaim any intention of detaching to local governments by enforcement of merit-system regulations. They explain that the local appointing authority can employ a worker from a list first three on the Merit System register. This is another bone of contention, for in Charlotte the City Charter says a municipal worker must have been a resident of the city two years before appointment. That rule would certainly weaken local autonomy and when you start talking Merit System, what you can and cannot do, you run into a hornet's nest.

Test of Strength

By Herblock



WASHINGTON (AP)—The Japanese military mind was as futile as the existing barriers of armament and censorship were erected around Tokyo.

The incoming Tojo formerly was War Minister, and thus has been in charge of the operations of the Army. He not only still holds that post, but combines it with the Navy Ministry, and the Home Ministry, as well as the Premiership. Thus he becomes another lin on the same shelf with Hitler and Mussolini.

Trying to find reason in the Japanese military mind was as futile as the existing barriers of armament and censorship were erected around Tokyo. But the one thing clear and tangible here, in the creation of new lin of Tojo, is that his predecessor Tojo is known to have given his personal word to the Reds that Russia would not be attacked.

Also clear is the fact that the Japanese generally swing to Calhoun to cover change of political front which Hitler generally accomplishes by merely changing his mind, making friends of former enemies, and vice versa, as expediency requires.

The Japs go to the extent of changing the minister who has given his word. That is why the column of Japs at Nanjing attack an American as a result of their Chinese withdrawal, now goes double.

It is not likely that Rommel's new attack in Libya was devised merely as diversion whomever and waving of arms to keep us from shifting troops into Iran, and thus bolstering the weakening Caucasian line of the Russians. Nor is it probable that this crafty Nazi general knew we were also in attack and threw his in first, to push us had been openly moving up tanks, troops and planes to the front. Our radio commentary broadcast this several days before the fighting started. But we were reinforcing because we expected Rommel to strike, and we expected it because his position was uncomforable.

Our short Alamogordo line was ideal. Alexandria was only 100 miles away, with adequate transportation facilities by both rail and road, enabling us to ree troops, and shift them about with the greatest ease.

Rommel, however, could not rest any troops without sending them back 200 miles. All his water had to come up to the front that distance. His transportation facilities were inadequate. He was spinning in an unfavorable position and had to act.

Our elastic line had an explosive front porch of mine fields eight miles deep. Fragmentary early accounts of the fighting in this was written of a German victory in penetrating our lines by eight miles, which really only meant that they got through the mine fields and up to the line of fighting.

The weakness of the Russians in the vital Caucasus became apparent in the early fighting for that excellent natural line of defense.

About all the Russians seem to have in the Caucasus are remnants of the army which escaped from Rostov, retreating points along the Black Sea, and their specially trained mountain forces, trying to hold the passes further east (and not doing very well at last accounts).

The Japs and fields will be strenuously defended no doubt, but probably not on the long east-west line of the top of the Caucasus, as previously expected. The Russians just did not have enough troops.

Side Glances



"You'd think a man in his position would have better sense than to play the horses—especially the kind of horses he plays!"

Our Problem, Too India And Egypt

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON (AP)—The news that India is an artificial island, lack of news from India is caused by the tight censorship. Washington's silence arises from a self-imposed censorship.

The war in the East is being placed in serious jeopardy by conditions in India. War production there is seriously crippled by strikes. Steel works, tin-plate mills, cotton mills and other establishments have been affected. Railroad traffic has interrupted on one main line, forcing an attempt to move vital strategic materials out of India by airplane. One important industrial center was cut off from all communication by railroad, telephone and telegraph for four days.

Some of this has been overdone. On the other hand, the non-cooperation movement has not been started. Most of the disorders thus far have been sporadic outbreaks. Gandhi's systematic plan of paralyzing the Government evidently is still to come. As expected at any time. In other words, the real test between the Gandhi forces and the Government evidently is still to come.

Washington is watching this situation with much anxiety. It is the subject of discussion in high quarters. Aside from all other questions, the matter of keeping up the war effort in India, where American troops are now stationed, carries great strategic importance. Thus far Washington's efforts to persuade the British Government to undertake new negotiations with the Congress Party have been unfruitful.

Censorship has prevented the American public from seeing how the trouble in India is interfering with war production. The general discussion has been to follow the Government's lead and to hope the British would soon attempt to improve the situation. It is a question how long this will last. There is a strong undercurrent of opinion here that the British have neglected vital strategic areas in which American troops are now being prepared to fight.

Relations with the Egyptian Government have not been good and there is no assurance that, when the crisis comes with Rommel's full force, our side will have any more help from the native population than it had in Malaya and Burma. American forces will be fighting the invader under the handspan of a hostile population which is in a policy of simple resistance in India.

The British press is critical of its own Government's India policy. Press comment in England indicated widespread belief there that the British Government should make further overtures toward reaching an agreement with the Indian nationalists. The London Times said recently that a constructive policy toward India was as much a Government responsibility as the present responsibility of the British to the Indian demand for more active participation in the conduct of affairs is reasonable. The Manchester Guardian says there can be no satisfaction in a policy of simple resistance in India.

One hesitates to write about this kind of matter which is so intimately the affair of a friendly nation. Yet I think it is worthwhile reporting that a number of our officers, both inside and outside of the Government, are deeply disturbed at London's delay in acting to reopen negotiations.

The trouble with a situation of this kind is that it ticks along and nothing is done until it is too late. The British have a bitter native population turns on its defenders and helps drive them out. We cannot fight both the Japs and the Indians in India. But that's what we will be doing unless conditions are improved before the Japs strike.

Platform of The People For And Agin Us

Editors The News: You had an editorial in your paper that was unbecomingly and I expect you to publish anything that I take up the matter further with you.

It was an editorial against Mr. Johnson, but I had no reason nor lawful right in regards to what you said. The Charlotte News is forever wrong in S. C. Politics. When you discard Sen. Reynolds you might bill in W. H. WARE. Rock Hill, S. C.

Thanks From Luther League Editors, The News: The St. Mark's Luther League joins with you in thanking you and your staff for your helpful co-operation during our recent North Carolina Luther League Convention. We have heard many complimentary remarks concerning the publicity you gave us and it is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much! -ELIZABETH SIMPSON, Publicity Director.

And the Office Of Price Administration Editors, The News: I intended last Monday while in Charlotte to call upon you to express in person our deep appreciation for the splendid service

Visitin' Round

Fair & Barber New Fair & Barber St. Stanly News & Press

Fair & Barber Lumber Company has put your help and gone out of business. Mr. Fair has gone into the chicken business or may be it is the madam.