

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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W. C. Dowd, Jr., President
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1943

War Lessons

People Must Now Learn To Accept Victory And Defeat

In light of the swiftly changing tide of battle in North Africa, the people of the United States must find themselves a formula for reaction to future action involving large numbers of American troops.

Now it is known that the Desert Fox came out of his hole swiftly with small armored groups, breaking through and rolling up our apparently extended positions, and advancing at his pleasure through the network of our lines of supply and communication.

So, it may be expected that there will be Rommel forays in the future, and successful ones. If he is unable to break through in some sensational fashion, he will be able to hold up our advance in the final African push.

Whatever happens in Tunisia (and it might be a bad idea for OWI to spell this lesson out to the people) there is no chance of an Axis victory or a stalemate. Thrusts like those made by Rommel can only delay the end—and not for long.

See where they plan to put vitamins back into South Carolina citrus and lemons. These newfangled fellows just don't know how many rough-and-ready generations have been reared on such generations—and never gave a thought to a vitamin.

Tomorrow

Charlotte Has Good Chance To Make Post-War Comeback

Dr. Phillip M. Hauser of the Census Bureau, having substituted sugar ration figures for tea leaves, and set himself up as an extemporizer, rather than a fortune-teller, is not so sure of the future of American cities up to the present.

In the Carolinas, where many cities have been affected greatly by the tides of war and its industry, there is promise of better days to come. Charleston and Columbia, for example, are rated as A-2 areas of most rapid wartime growth and superior chances of retention of population.

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are to be found frequently toward the end of the list. Charlotte, apparently destined to continue as the key distribution center of a huge area, may play an even larger part in the life of the Carolinas in the years to come.

The Treasury Department passes out peace to the "small investors" who are buying almost a million Series 'E' War Bonds every day.

As to the disciplinary action of two officers, we believe the Chief is not to be questioned. Further evidence, if any is forthcoming, may be heard at a Civil Service Board hearing.

One of the most alarming proposals, and one with a good chance of passing, is that of Senator McKellar to require some 33,000 Government employees to be voted on by the Senate.

That blessed tribe, the writers of letters-to-editors, has at its favorite topics these days at least in war-plan columns: the reduction to naught of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, who is alleged to have sneered the fair name of American Labor as it has never before been sneered.

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Listen Carefully

Stalin Gives The Orders Of The Day

By Dorothy Thompson

STALIN'S Order of the Day is of great importance, both for what it reveals politically and militarily. The Allies are reminded only once, and that in no too friendly manner.

"It was not created for conquest of foreign countries, but to defend the frontiers of Soviet land. The Red Army has always respected the rights and independence of all peoples." This is repeated over and over in various phraseology, and does not parallel the Casablanca demand for "unconditional surrender."

Only the last two concepts are not clear. We do not know exactly the limits of Karelin, the eastern-most part of Finland, or White Russia, which in 1920 was divided between Poland and Russia.

This, then, is no pan-Slavic concept. It is a Russian, and a security concept. Stalin gives notice that the Baltic states, Karelin, and Bessarabia, are never again to be jumping off points for a crusade against the Soviet Union.

The guarantee for Czechoslovakia is a denial that the Russians want to expand into Central Europe. It is Stalin's answer to the Goebbels campaign rousing fears of the Bolshevization of Europe.

Actually what Stalin claims is exactly what Hitler intended him at the time of the Russo-German pact. It is a consistent Russian plan. It is what the Russians tried to recover of their historic territory after the German defeat in the last war—and were prevented from getting by Western intervention.

This statement of political aims occurs in an account of the military situation. Stalin, as always, is cautious. He makes, however, three claims: First, that the Russians will drive the Germans out of Russia alone, and regardless of any action taken by the Allies.

Now, what is the meaning of this Order of the Day to us? Stalin defines what Russian victory means. He says, "The Red Army is an army of avengers." But the avenger outlined is on Russian soil—killing German invaders, chopping up their armies, putting them behind the 1941 frontiers—and nothing more.

Russia does not want to make an isolationist policy. That can be categorically stated. Russia wants a friendly Europe in a friendly world, with a system of collective security. But as this column has often said, "Great nations (especially victorious ones) always have alternatives." The frontiers demanded by Russia have never been accepted by the United States—and indeed cannot be under our constitutional system, unless the President makes a secret treaty, which he positively will not do.

There are signs both in Europe and America of such an hostility to Russia, that it gives Russian leadership some concern for suspicion. As things look at present it is by no means certain that the defeat of Germany will assure a non-Fascist Europe, or even prepared to adopt a good neighbor policy towards Russia.

What is whispered about negotiations with Finland and Italy is heard as through a loud-speaker in the Kremlin, and probably distorted. If by Russia does not step beyond her frontiers to fight the Germans, there is a difference between Russia that is still in the war, and Russia that might get out of it, if her aims are accomplished alone.

Our own critics in North Africa makes it the more important that the Western powers should act somewhat else. If we have all our eggs in one basket, the result may be dismaying. Britain appears to see the situation clearly. The great coalition in London of the Red Army's victories is driving the German propaganda machine quite crazy.

Next Move?

Hitler's West

By Samuel Crompton

HITLER may be engaged in the gigantic operation of shifting his war to the West again. Is that possible? He struck at our forces in Tunisia, and at once the whisper went up that our troubles there might postpone the second front for weeks or months.

To enlarge this process, perhaps by a German invasion of Spain and France, the Africa from Spain... why not? If it really is too late for Hitler to shift his war to the West again, one circumstance could make that impossible. That is if he were suffering under our control in Russia; if he had lost control of events in Russia, he would be being swept along in formless defeat.

Then Hitler could not shift his war to the West. But there is no real indication that he cannot hold Russia along a shortened line. The war of 1918 has not been touched in the East. The end is not yet. The struggle is only developing and flaring up. The German army may yet recover in Russia. These are Stalin's words.

That is the real danger. If he were being swept along in formless defeat, the objective of preventing a second front would be worth while. Hitler's chief military problem is to prevent combined action of the forces of Russia and the West. His chief political problem is exactly the same. So long as there is no second front, it can fairly be said that Hitler's policy is succeeding, and that ours is not, in spite of all successes, in spite of all ever-loving references to Russia, in spite of all staggering German losses of territories, which are not German territories.

In this struggle, Hitler seeks alternately to unroll the West on Russia, and Russia on the West. In September, when his West flooded through the Caucasus, he twinged Russia on the West. He opened a second front. In January, when the Russian army had made a mess of the blitz, he turned his attention to the West, and tried to turn us with a vision of Russia ever-running Europe. If now he halts second front plans, he can turn his propaganda back toward Russia again, and tell the Russians that there will be no second front.

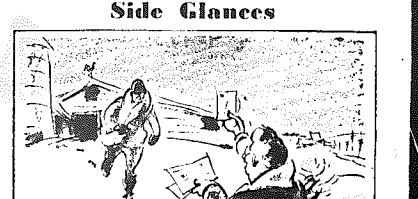
It would be folly to believe that the Germans have no plan in the East. Undoubtedly their schedules of retreat have been broken; armies have been trapped; confusion has been brilliantly and systematically inflicted on them. But that they are merely running home is to be doubted. They will make a stand.

Stalin's order of the day on the Red Army Anniversary was a little unobtrusive in never mentioning English and American assistance. There is not even a whisper or an indication in the lengthy statement of the nearly 6,000 planes and 6,000 tanks supplied him, through deadly shockers, by giving exclusive and specific credit to Russian industry for Russia's weapons. But in his insistence on the absence of the second front as the key fact in the war, he is quite right. The absence of the second front is Germany's chief current strategy, continued absence of it will be another victory; to prolong its absence will be her strategy; all who help to keep it absent will be partners in that strategy.

Visitin' Around

Shh! Not So Loud—Everybody'll Be Drooping In To See 'Tm Bedtime (Poster Creek Item, Marshall News-Record) (Poster Creek Item, Marshall News-Record)

Side Glances



"Well, our boy has put one over on us—he's seen the President, even if he did have to go."

Listening for Victory Bells

—By Herblock



Destructive Joy

Congress Goes Mad

By Raymond Clapper

IT IS inevitable that Congress, after a long period of domination by the President, should take advantage of a reaction to pass itself. But the danger of such a reaction is not so much in the Government activities as in the reaction of the people.

One of the most alarming proposals, and one with a good chance of passing, is that of Senator McKellar to require some 33,000 Government employees to be voted on by the Senate.

Perhaps some Senators would be too busy to bother to use this new power. They would, however, could use this power to strengthen their backs home, as many Senators have always done with numerous jobs such as Interior, revenue collector, district attorney, and marshal.

The House recently voted economies in the independent-offices appropriations bill. But some of the economies were extremely questionable. The Budget Bureau, which is the big economy agency of the executive branch, was whittled down.

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Platform Of The People

End Of A War Cry

Editors, The News: The Rev. Herbert Spangh in his interesting daily feature, "The Everyday Counselor," said in The News yesterday afternoon, Feb. 15, commemorated the sinking of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor in 1898.

A Good Turn From The Scouts

On behalf of the entire membership of the Mecklenburg County Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America, we wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to you for the coverage given us by the Charlotte News in conjunction with the celebration of Boy Scout Week, Feb. 6-12, 1943.

Today's Hike Thought

Mountains of difficulty have been moved by people who have a mind to the task. Your mental attitude is the determining factor after all. So we built the wall for the people had a mind to do it.