

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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Reformation

Doom of Comintern Takes
Hitler's Last Weapon

The announcement from Russia that
steps were being taken to dissolve the
Comintern, and officially cease the 24-
year-old effort at the Communist world
revolution, is likely to have a vital effect
upon the war and peace negotiations.

Whether the story is credible to all
ears or not, it must stir to heart, and
read with great interest. It is important
that all parties read the announcement
through the lines. It might mean every-
thing for the future. If Russia may be
tricked not to attempt further wrecking
of the democratic and semi-democratic
and guard-democratic, then the peace
may be made more binding between
opponents. The sign may be taken as
an indication that the Soviet Union is
moving even closer to the democratic
world.

Berlin, with its last weapon stolen
will be heard on this theme at great
length. There will be this and that
official claim that Russia is lying, that
the scheme was cooked up with the
British. There is little doubt that
Hitler had a hand in the formation of
the policy; but Joe Stalin assuredly took
the step and made the decision for
himself. What brought it about was the
co-operative attitude shown by the
British. It is a good sign that the United
Nations, at last, are about to become
united. Joe Stalin has volunteered a
great service to the cause.

Geometry

Bloody Progression Haunts
Axis As Defeat Drains Near

With the passing of each day's war-
fare in the Mediterranean it may be
seen that the coming of victory throws
the balance of power toward the United
Nations with an ever-increasing rate of speed.
That may be seen, for example, in the
destruction of Axis aircraft. Last week's
loss of destroying 275 enemy planes in
three days would not have been possible
earlier, when the scales were nearer the
balance. And that victory means that
even greater ones loom ahead.

As a part of the great strategy of the
war in and around Europe, this destruc-
tion is vital. The story is that 275 planes
were knocked down one week—but
that the toll will not be the same 275
next week. It may be, instead, twice that
number—or even all the enemy planes
daring to fly. Success, as the powers of
our forces grow, jumps up the scale
exponentially.

It is of importance, therefore, that
the enemy's great price in the long,
bloody battle for Africa be remembered.
Because the retreat from El Alamein to
Tush-Berke was so long and costly,
Tush-Berke and the area more easily
sited and Sardinia are more easily
pounded. Because those islands are being
pounded into a state of virtual defense-
lessness, the cracking of Italy will be
the easier. And if that country falls to
the final assault on Germany will be
made correspondingly easier.

As the time comes near for the end
of Hitler and his war regime, the costs
will mount distastefully, but with every pass-
ing day they will become greater and
greater. Already the great strain is upon
the leaders and the people of the enemy.
After months of that strain, combined
with the mounting pressure soon to be
brought by Allied operations, there can be
only capitulation. And that final vic-
tory is being won now, these days and
nights, as British and American young-
men sweep the remnants of enemy air-

Flat Feet

The Army Tells That One
On Rejected Negro Men

We were intrigued by a recent announce-
ment that only five or six men of a
shipment of over 50 Negro conscripts
were accepted for service. The men were
sent to Fort Bragg by a Charlotte draft
board, and nine-tenths of them were
returned. Inquiry reveals that the Army
rejected them because of flat feet.
Because we thought most Southern
Negroes were blessed with flatness of
the foot, that story seemed subject to
some doubt.

Though there has been no official
pronouncement from the Army on the
policy of drafting Negroes, it is likely
that they are being turned down in
large numbers. The rejected quota of
Negro soldiers might be met. It is logi-
cal that the Army would not like the
proportion of Negroes to whites to be
too large, that it has long ago set its
figures, and that the "flat feet" an-
nouncement was only a blind of sorts.

We feel certain that most of the
Negroes now in uniform (and a great
many whites as well) will show tenden-
cies toward flat-footedness upon inspec-
tion; and do not believe that the spread
of a Southern Negro's foot would in any
way handicap him as a fighting man.
It is not, we think, that the race is being
discriminated against. Not at all. It is
just that the quotas are relatively small,
perhaps in line with the national popu-
lation, and that polite little stories
about flat feet and the like are being
told in order to avoid delicate racial
considerations.

A critic remarks that Bernard Shaw,
once a prophet, has fallen behind the
times. Synchronizing Shaw, in England,
corresponds to the American pastime of
co-ordinating John Lewis.

War Film

"Desert Victory" Should Be
For All People Back Home

The British made film on the Eighth
Army, "Desert Victory," is the clearest
message yet from this war; despite all
its vivid correspondence from the front,
it is a little dull. It is not so much the
moving story of a new kind of war-
fare in which man plays a smaller, more
pitiful, yet more courageous part. As a
simple, unadorned record of General
Montgomery's drive across a continent,
the picture is the finest remembrance
Americans could be given.

In its reels people back home can
look and understand why America must
pay a great cost in life for victory
against the incredible odds thrown
against her machines by nature. There
is also to be seen the desperate, killing
need of the private soldier at the front
for an endless supply of weapons, mun-
itions and supplies of all kinds. No appeal
we have seen presents the case for our
men as well with such force.

The film might well be shown in every
ward plant in this country, and especially
to heart-headed Labor leaders who have
taken a minority of our workers down
an irresponsible trail of resisting the
war effort. To see the actual flaming
of a terrible barrage on the Egyptian
desert, and hear the rumble of the very
guns which won for us the first phase
of the battle for freedom, is to more
fully understand this war. It is a pic-
ture which should be given the widest
possible circulation, as the first one
from the war completely free of hokum.

An Army flier married the girl only
four hours after they had met. Though
aviation becomes safer all the time, these
things do happen.

Is there any quadruped that travels
sideways, the wild life editor is asked.
None but the rocking-chair on the Sum-
mer hotel porch, we believe.

Another year of lawn-mowing looms,
science having done nothing about a
grass with some sort of thyroid upset
which keeps it stunted.

"Disguised as a barber, a prisoner es-
caped from an Oklahoma jail." If they
mean talked his way out, why don't
they say so?

Tunisian Damper

Goebbels Cools Off

By Raymond Clapper

STOCKHOLM
THE war news has taken much of the force out
of the Nazi propaganda here. Since Tunisia it has
been even more subdued. At the moment the Nazis
are busy expressing chagrin at the welcome Sweden
has given visiting American newspaper men. The
Nazi newspaper complains editorially that officia-
authorities, organizations and big industries are mak-
ing "a deplorable effort ever what it calls" "this gang
of bold American journalists." The paper notes that
the Swedish Foreign Office thinks about all this in
the face of its assurance of Sweden's independence
neutrality.

I suppose the German question answers it-
self, in the fact that the Nazis are allowed to
denounce us freely in their newspapers. Thus
each side is allowed its say. The real line
general news is to picture Germany as the
savior of Europe from Bolshevism, an enterprise
in which it is argued that all countries must help.
The Nazis have a hard time explaining the
strongly pro-Ally attitude of the Swedish press,
so they charge that the Swedish press is run by
Jews in the interest of Britain, Russia and
America.

Of course the idea that the Nazis are saving
anybody from any menace explodes here on the hard
and ugly fact of Norway, where friends and relatives
of their property are being tortured and robbed of
their property on a scale that has provoked the
deepest revulsion in Sweden.

Ally, but that does not quite give you the picture, as
there is considerable pro-Nazi activity which has
attracted a large number of people under a cultural
cover of Europe from Bolshevism, and the people always
being aware of it. Some in fairly high places here
have formerly indicated Nazi sympathies, but the
forces for a free Sweden are now setting their
sails for an Allied victory.

The use of some minor Church channels in
Sweden by the Nazis has been the subject of
comment in recent months. The Nazi attitude
toward Christianity in Germany is well known.

Confirming Our Suspicions

—By Dorman Smith



Around Carolina

Life In The Weeklies

Chapel Hill Weekly
MRS. CHARLES BARTLETT went out to Carboro
last Friday and bought a hen for Sunday dinner.
She took it, alive, to her home on McCalley Street
and put it in a neighbor's yard. The hen was
about to have it killed Saturday she noticed that it
had laid an egg.

"If it's going to lay eggs," she said to her-
self "maybe I'd better keep it." So she post-
poned her intention to see that would happen.

The pen had been used by the family dog, and
when Saturday night came the dog decided to re-
possess it. He tore a hole in the side of the pen and
entered. The hen used the hole as an exit and
disappeared into the night.

Mrs. Bartlett and her son got up early Sun-
day morning to make a search, and presently the
poultry was found in the hen's yard. The pen
was made secure for it, and other sleeping quar-
ters were provided for the dog.

The hen didn't know it, but her life depended
on whether or not she laid another egg promptly.
To save an expedition that I rushed down to see.
She did lay one and thereby gained another day's
reprieve. She kept on laying an egg a day, and so
she is still alive. Before long, at the present price
of eggs, she will have paid for herself.

Hot Bluebird Pie

Morganton News-Herald
WE had an experience at our house Saturday
evening that was pictured in a believe-it-or-not
cartoon in Sunday morning's paper. But having
opened in another household. Granville Clarke said
I wouldn't tell on myself—so here goes.

The first of the week Granville had made the
necessary adjustments for the summer by the
use of an electric hot water tank in the
basement. He set the controls rather high and
the water was "scalding hot"—not enough to
pick a chicken, Laura said. She told me several
times she could hear it boiling. Better have it
tender, it might burn. I tried to get it cooler,
heard noises in the kitchen Saturday afternoon
that seemed to come either from the stove pipe,
or the tank beside the stove. It sounded to
me more like scratching than boiling.

When I got home at supper time Laura was
still so perturbed by what she thought was
the sound of an explosion that I rushed right down to
the Morganton Hardware for somebody to do some-
thing about it. I impressed Granville with me,
although he tried to reassure me that the tank was
controlled by a thermostat and there was no need
to be so alarmed. Incidentally, he had been using
the electric stove exclusively and there had not been
a fire in the wood range for several days. When
Granville told me the front leg of the stove and a
bird-it might have been a blue bird—was in the

of the Nazi religious propaganda has in
Sweden is that God has chosen Germany to
be the power to crush Russia. There has been
some criticism to the effect that the Church is
lazy in scrutinizing the uses to which various
organizations put the funds for which it sponsors
collections. It has been asserted that some
money for missionaries in the Ukraine went to
men who were actually German chaplains.

Nothing should be deduced from such incidents
concerning the attitude of the Church in Sweden.
Nor should suspicious deductions be made from the
fact that an investigation of the Stockholm police
force some time ago disclosed that out of 100 police-
men checked more than 100 were or had been mem-
bers of pro-Nazi organizations or sympathetic with
that cause. The Nazis here, as at home, manipu-
lated into the fringes, but on the whole these
fringe activities mean little or nothing, as we saw in
our own case.

German propaganda is probably most suc-
cessful in cultural fields. Sweden's noted explorer
Sven Hedin got an honorary degree at Uppsala
in January. On his return he said in an inter-
view that Germany was unconquerable and that
it was tragic for America and Britain to be help-
less in the Bolsheviks' derelict culture. In connec-
tion with the publication of Hedin's huge study
of Asiatic explorations, the German Government
is financing the publication of an enormous map
of lectures, preachers and musicians. The Nor-
wegian author, Knut Hamann, writes for Nazi
publications, and his wife lectures in Germany.
German scholarships are available for Swedish
engineers, foresters and farmers. The Nazis are
working through Swedish farm organizations with
propaganda.

Probably one of the most devastating blows Ger-
man propaganda has received was the visit of a
group of Swedish journalists to America a year ago.
Their writings, and speeches about America upon
their return here had a deep effect.

Side Glances



"Don't misunderstand me—I'm hanging this ham-
mock here by the garden so I can see a weed
as soon as it appears and pounce on it!"

Old Isolation

The Marauder

By Samuel Grafton

ISOLATION is always looking for recruits. It is now doing its best
to entice the people of the West Coast. Its heart beats for them,
it alone (it says) strives to protect them against the perilous Japan-
ese. While the Administration persists in a European adventure,
sleep over protecting the people of the West Coast.

These were the sad, glad, mad days when Senator Wheeler
was telling the people of the West Coast to sleep, on Nov. 12, 1941,
exactly eighteen days before Pearl Harbor, with the assurance:
"Then there is the reason why the United States and Japan should go
to war. Our difference can be worked out amicably, and I believe
they will be." The Japanese aircraft carriers had already been
given their orders.

This same man, who has enlisted with Senator Chandler in the
drive to switch our major forces away from Europe, and into the
Pacific, once had this to say about our interests in the Pacific: "Why
all this sudden talk about war with Japan? What is America's stake
in the Malay Archipelago, in Burma, in Indo-China, in Siam, in
Singapore?"

So, when isolation turns now, to make political use of the people
of the West Coast, one must inquire into the reasons for this sudden
outbreak of love. It is akin to isolation's new long-distance love affair
with the people of China, it says, a nation must be saved, like the people
of the West Coast. And surely they must be.

Yet, again, in these last six years, during many months when
we were opening and closing the Burma Road like a zipper, there
was plenty of opportunity for American isolation to intervene in
behalf of the brave people of China, to isolate them from Japan,
to take advantage of its then unique chance to save China. (Instead,
we yielded up a variety of bad jobs about the "Wildlife crusade
to preserve the Chinese way of life." "The Wildlife Crusade,"
May 24, 1941.) The isolationist audience howled at that one.

Isolation demands now, through Senator Chandler, and with
wheeler applauding, that we come to the rescue of China, but on
Aug. 24, 1941, when Japan had its hands around the Light, Senator
Wheeler was saying: "Japan is one of our best customers for
cotton and petroleum and we are one of her best customers and there
is no reason why we should not live in peace with her." Japan was
using our petroleum then to bomb the same Chinese people who must
be saved, even at the cost of dropping the European campaign.

And so I suggest, without much humility, that isolation's new
passion for the people of the West Coast and of China is perhaps
something less than a case of true love. I conceive it my high duty
to warn the people of the West Coast and the people of China
that the new breed of isolationism endorses them to his hard
breast, he carries many flowers, but he never seemed to give two
whom in a rain barrel about their perils presently.

I believe in love, and it hurts me to break up a grand new love
affair. Isolation's new passion for the people of China and the
people of the West Coast, it seems to me to be a case of love, not
negotiations for a marriage of convenience. The people of the West
Coast are being used, because they are a handy weapon in isolation's
private war with Russia, and its open war with the President.

Platform Of The People

Firm Conviction

Editors, The News:
Dr. Sockman comes all the way
down from New York to tell us
"he thinks the United States will
survive the crisis."
In this section of the coun-
try there is, no disagreement
whenever with him on this
point. He is very damn sure
it. But the task could be made
much lighter, if "the nation
could be relieved of dragging
the non-self-supporting insti-
tutions of Church behind it
to the front of the line."
Why do we need a Road Map?
Surely Religion hasn't failed in
charting the course.
"Self-Confidence and
Materialism" marred the Ameri-
can Way of Life! It seems to me
the presence, in abundance,
in America of these two factors princi-
pally, are saving the World today,
Why is "the World Dark?"
The Church has always claimed that
it, and it alone, is the Way, the
Truth, and the Life.
How can one, both "selfish and
Christianite his imagination,"
and be a Christian?
Attaining a reputation for
being "a model," New York
Minister, I would say, is
certainly wasn't done through
such dissembling, as was done
here yesterday. Old Rock's
surrender had an off-day.
J. R. CHERY

In The Ads

Mysteries For Sale

Baltimore Sun
TWO heavy personal losses, of approximately the same amount of
money, today engage our attention. One was the killing of Dr.
Ping Yee Liang, Chinese resident surgeon at the Freebriar Eye,
Niagara Falls hospital of Baltimore. He returned yesterday from a
trunk in his room and stolen \$8,516, mostly in currency. Everybody
(except the thief) will feel sympathetic—that's no way to treat a bread-
winner, or anyone else.

The other loss evokes more curiosity than sympathy. It bears of it
through the public notices columns of the New York Times.
Here it is:
"WILL THE PERSON WHO WAS entertained about three
months ago by a young lady in a flat on West 61st Street, New
York City, and lost \$16,000 from his wallet, please communicate
with Mrs. Louis Slattery, President of the New York City, New
York, N. Y. Telephone 3-2325. Your identity will be kept confidential."
If we ever take to writing mystery stories, that's exactly the way
we'll start off. A character in our tale who goes gallivanting around
New York City with \$16,000 in his wallet will find himself short by
ten grand following a visit to a young lady's apartment. The best
thing he knows the Jersey cops will be advertising for his confident-
ially in the Times. With this as a starter, we shall proceed to intro-
duce our Lieutenant—but hold on! We're not through yet!