

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1941

We Stand Here

Red Cross Gives the Civilian Population
A Chance To Break Out Its War Colors

So you wish, by the great Harry, that you could get a shot at those devils, eh? You bemoan the unappointed time that marks you out to be a civilian in a safer part of the world while in the Pacific your sons and your country's sons are fighting off the little yellowbellies—that right? You crave to do something, something fist-shaking, yourself—in that way of it?

Becher, step right up. They're not something for you to do.

Tomorrow a whole lot of men and women in this city are going to join with men and women all over the country to make a minimum of \$50,000 for the American Red Cross. Now, the way in which the rest of the country responds is of great consequence to us, but it is beyond our control. The rest of the country will probably do all right, and we do not too much to hope that the request for \$50,000 will be answered with a stinging contribution of twice \$50,000.

But the matter over which this community alone has full and exclusive determination is its own Red Cross War Fund Campaign. Our minimum quota is \$50,000. That's a great deal of money. It's 70 per cent of the all-time high raised only a month or so ago, in the Community Chest campaign. It is three times the amount got together 'patriotically and selflessly' in the last Red Cross Roll Call.

True, and as well understand not only that the raising of \$50,000 in this community is a heavy undertaking but also that the Red Cross will require continual and increasing support as we go against it. No use blinking what we're up against.

And having taken it in, let us take it

to heart. Let the challenge be issued; we are primed for it. This need for \$50,000 concerns every one of us. It is not a roll call in an ordinary morning of making some perfunctory donation in order to obtain a Red Cross button. It is a roll call in the sense that every one of us, rich and poor, male and female, black and white, young and old, should be accounted for with a gift as much money as we can scrape together. General participation, the contribution of dimes and quarters and dollars, would carry the campaign far along toward its goal, and general participation should be a privilege.

Experience shows that the real strength of all campaigns comes from a relatively small number of the people, which is to say from you, and you, and you. And that means that instead of discharging our obligation with a dollar gift, we shall have to give two dollars at the least, five if we can.

It means that where under normal circumstances we might have been put down for \$5.00, we shall ask now to be put down for \$10.00. And that instead of writing a check for \$10.00, we shall pause a moment to let the impulse get in its ticks—and make the check for \$25.00. It means that the donors of substantial sums in hundreds, five-hundreds and thousands, shall make them for more, for much more if they can, and be greeted with the opportunity.

And what it means, at the core of it, is that even as we do not dare thank the men of our armed services (falling us, we will not fail the men of our armed services. We stand behind them. We greet and congratulate this first opportunity to show where we stand, to raise our colors and cry, 'Let's Go, America!')

Heroes

America Produced Them;
War Provides the Setting

Like all wars that come, so to speak, in the sudden dead of night, the Japanese onslaught has given America heroes. Never before in our history—unless it was at Concord in 1775—had heroes been made so quickly. The challenge was flung without warning and there were brave men to pick it up.

One was Captain Colin Kelly of the Army Air Corps, whose battle-scarred Japanese bomber he shattered, sinking him, and did not come out of the third dive.

Another: Lieutenant Boyd Wagner, Army Air Corps, who, attacked by five enemy fighters while flying over Northern Luzon, blasted two out of the air, and then destroyed twelve enemy planes on the ground. He returned to his base only because he had to. His fuel was low.

Another: Lieutenant C. A. Keller, naval flier who spotted a Konga class enemy capital ship off Luzon, who clung to her despite enemy anti-aircraft and fighter attacks until other heavy planes could come up and cripple the battleship.

And the hundreds of gallant Marines at Wake and Midway Islands—men twice hailed as captured—who fought against odds of twenty to one, and taught the Japs a first lesson.

In the first World War it was different. Only a few months of fighting did the heroes appear. Rickenbacker was a knight-errant of the air, dog-fighting champions of the enemy under more or less sporting rules. His deeds were glorious, but the outcome of the war did not depend upon them. Yet what he did was almost beyond belief, but it took place in October, 1918.

Yet when a Wagner or a Kelly sinks a Japanese warship, he may be changing the strategy of the entire Pacific. The airplane is now a weapon of offense and defense—and at last the American people have learned its importance.

We had been told that our fliers were made in the heroic mold. Now they are being made in the heroic mold. Now they are being made in the heroic mold. Now they are being made in the heroic mold.

Written In Blood

By Hugh S. Johnson

'THE air and the commentators' columns are pretty much being taken up either with explanations of why the Japs did not force the Japanese assault on the Philippines, or why the Japs did not force the Japanese assault on the Philippines, or why the Japs did not force the Japanese assault on the Philippines.

Turning to Pearl Harbor, it is probably the strongest naval and air base in the Pacific. If the attack there had been with all the modern weapons which we have, it is incredible that a very large naval and air fleet could have been destroyed.

Putting these two considerations together, it seems certain that, in addition to the harm intended to vessels afloat, the objects were two: first, to destroy our military planes; second, a diversion of our Atlantic Fleet, plus perhaps the British Pacific fleet to cover some greater naval effort and objective.

TWO SEPARATE BLINDERS WERE MADE

These post-mortems do little good in explaining the general strategy in the Pacific. It is a good deal of weight, I think, to the analysis made here a day or two ago which stated that there should be some effort to send a good deal of blunders made by our own command. The lesser, probably correct, view is that there is a relatively subordinate position, was the fact that our airplanes were planned to be in the air on the day of the attack.

COMMANDERS WHO FAIL TO BE SEVERELY REBUKED

It may be quite true, as this column is used, that there are not enough facts yet upon which to base a judgment. As I look out my office window, I can see men busy painting signs, and men busy with the lights so there will be an alarm of light to be a target for the raiders.

Nineteen Letters Of Plans

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR. Nineteen letters began the attack on December 7, 1941. We need fifteen more Jap warships to make the account—and we'll get them.

Treat Soldiers Like Buddies

Keep 'Em Grounded

By Herb Cook

Letters to the Editor: Air Raid Alarm In Frisco

Editors, This News: You people perhaps wonder what it is like to be in a city where enemy raiders come out and where blackouts remind us that we are in the exposed danger zone.

Christmas Spirit—What is It?

Editors, The News: How does a person go about getting the Christmas spirit? You know that almost every day now someone is asking you whether you have it. What is the Christmas spirit anyway?

Today's Bible Thought

Side Glances

Senator Soaper Says:

Visitin' Around

Free Men In Action

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON: WHEN Congress was put to the test this week, it came through. Congress has been calm and efficient. It has been 'business like' and has not wasted time in idle words.

IT MADE PROMPT UNANIMOUS DECISION

UNPRECEDENTED POLITICAL TRUCE IS EFFECTED

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

ABOUT WAR HEADLINES

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

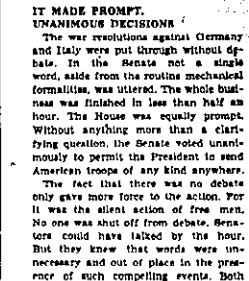
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SENATOR SOAPERSAYS

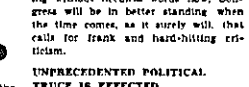
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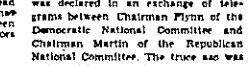
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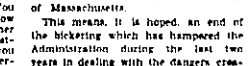
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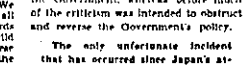
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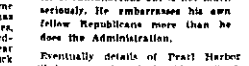
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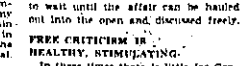
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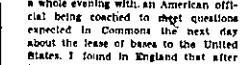
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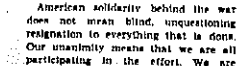
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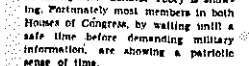
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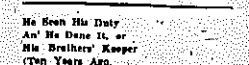
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