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And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1941

Exit Christmas

Now There Is No Excuse For Half-Hearted Effort

It is something felt rather than observed, we suppose, but during the building up for Christmas, a good many level-headed persons were saying that the country couldn't adjust itself to the war until after the holidays were past.

To whatever extent this preoccupation prevailed, Christmas was a definite barrier to our war effort. For a few, no doubt, it was a convenient excuse for procrastination, for putting off the inevitable pitching-in. And pitch in we must, either voluntarily sooner or at Government command later.

Well, Christmas is here. In a few hours it will be over, and with it going the full effort of every American must be turned to winning the war. The barrier of preoccupation is past. There need be but one New Year's resolution: to work as hard as we can wherever we are needed.

Bang, Bang

The Gunpowder That Was Burnt on Christ's Birthday!

There was some splendid music in Charlotte churches on Christmas Eve and today. The services, as far as we were able to ascertain, were impressive. We wish so much to say that, neither singing nor the other aspects of worship were improved by the constant punctation of bursting firecrackers.

Whatever local laws there are against the reckless use of fireworks were deplorably and repeatedly flouted in Christmas during the holidays. It must be assumed that the reluctance of the police to do anything about it stemmed from a sort of paternal indulgence of a habit of long standing.

Well, next year, we are likely to find out. Even the fireworks makers and sellers are freely admitting that this is the last year their product will be available. To the war program there is no need for such a waste of explosives.

There will be shortages of many things next Christmas. But there is a silver lining to every cloud. Whatever sacrifices we are called on to make will be tempered by the passing of an inconspicuous and wasteful habit. We shouldn't be surprised if even the most indulgent parents will be able to get their Christmas gifts without allowing their offspring the means to acquire scorched fingers and powder abrasions.

The Good Fight

Douglas MacArthur Is Covering Himself With Glory

Being strictly amateurs in the field of military tactics, we don't expect anything we say on the subject to carry authority. But from where we are sitting the blunder, it looks like General MacArthur is doing a grand job of defending the Philippines.

Put your dollars on the firing line against Japan. Buy Defense Bonds and Stamps today—and buy as many as you can.

The War Department now admits that this is more of a probability than a possibility.

But while the magnificent Douglas MacArthur is remembered that in the second of a few feverish years, he treated one of the world's worst armies into a force of superb fighting men, it was not until MacArthur revealed the mistake in Washington that the War Department had a long-time plan for

withdrawing from the Philippines immediately after the beginning of hostilities with Japan.

Furthermore, let it be recorded that when a Japanese general might have scattered his forces to meet the initial Japanese landing parties, MacArthur sent only small detachments to the north and south of Luzon, keeping his main army intact to meet the two major invasions when they came.

When he departed for the Philippines several years ago, he promised that he would make the islands invulnerable, or so nearly invulnerable that their capture would cost the enemy more than they were worth.

Next Move

But Must Hitler Move As All Before Spring?

Motivated by characteristic and feverish restlessness, those who profess powers to predict Hitler's next move had the Nazis marching into Spain the other day. At least, the invasion, along with the resignation of Petain, was coming in a big black headline. It turned out that both reports were fiction, but the experts continued to guess undaunted that Hitler will invade Turkey, Egypt, Spain or Britain.

He may. Yet, fully aware of the risk in making any forecast concerning Hitler, we should like to suggest—ever so timidly—that if Hitler will not attack anyone right away, the bulk of the German army is in Russia. It is there indefinitely and for a good reason. That reason is the Red Army.

It is obvious that if the Red Army was strong enough to reverse the full tide of every man and machine Hitler could muster, it is not going to be possible to stand it off with any skeleton defensive force.

Hitler may have had a nervous breaking down, but unless he has gone raving crazy, he isn't going to weaken his armies in Russia by sending a few divisions at the most. If he should, the certain overwhelming of his remaining troops might send Cossacks galloping into East Prussia again.

Why is it not just as reasonable to assume that, instead of marching into Spain and North Africa to establish new lines of supply lines and spread his armies all thinning, he will sit tight? He has already promised the German people that the Russian offensive will be resumed when the snow melts. He will certainly be fighting a stronger Russia then, and if his own armies are further expended during the winter, how could he hope to do better than Von Brauchitsch and Von Bock did?

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The pioneer wife who is supposed to have had trials and tribulations should be with us to get a load of the sisters of daytime radio.

It turns out that one percent of the war of 1812 is still alive and well; at Independence, Oregon. We had gone on congratulating ourselves that that one was paid for.

Hitler's Impasse

By Paul Mallon



WASHINGTON. As Hitler signs suggest German retreats, it is probable that the withdrawal in Russia in the city of Kehl, the retreats. Hitler left 3,000 as a rear guard. They fought to the last man to cover the escape of the associates.

The Germans establish a Winter line from Leningrad down to Kerk. Smolensk, Kharkov and Mariupol on the Black Sea. They will be fairly well strengthened out on a much shorter front. This would require a retreat averaging 100 miles in the north, 70 in the south.

But the Germans may be sacrificed. They will be compelled to accept a separate peace, when the British begin their re-communication to Leningrad.

INVASION OF BRITAIN WOULD FIT INTO PATTERN. Hitler customarily extricates himself from disaster by daring what is the greater offensive.

It is probable that Hitler would fit into his established pattern of madness. All inside evidence suggests that he is incapable of "no can-do" get control of the air although he has spirited his air force away from the Russian front. He would be limited by the time which would require him to complete the attack before the Red campaign opens in March.

Safer would be the now widely forecast march through Spain and Portugal, to Africa. Hitler would believe he can save himself in Libya. He will be faced with an allied invasion in the spring unless he does something in the interim.

VON BRAUCHITSCH WAS LINK BETWEEN PARTY AND ARMY. The German general staff has been intercepted. It would be bad policy to indulge optimism in the grim task ahead.

Well, Japan, you have had your first landing and over 3,000 of our men lie dead, many of them beheading the waves of the great Pacific—no longer the Pacific, but the ocean whose mighty waves will be written the history that will decide the destiny of nations and among them, you, Japan.

JAPS AREN'T GOOD JUNGLE FIGHTERS. The Japanese can be held for even a month at the edges of the jungle, or in it, things may go bad with them.

HITLER'S DASH OFFEND THE GERMAN PEOPLE. But the fact that Hitler, instead of showing another general to the front for his dash, is the revealing aspect. In my opinion he would not have dared offend the German people if he had his own personal position not been precarious.

DON'T BRIBED YOUR UNIFORMED FRIENDS. Today's suggestion of what you may do to help with this war.

SOAPER SAYS: This session Congress to be called by the Father may be the most memorable since the fall and the career took the optera for a while.

Middle age is a sudden realization that the "young married set" refers to some new crowd.

An inventor who says "you can now go to the moon on a bicycle" is probably more interested to return to the earth's interests, us strangely.

Keep 'Em Down the Middle



Generals Jungle & Cootie

Fletcher Pratt in the New York Post

EVERYWHERE else encouraging, the eastern war news is made definitely bad by reports from Malaya. The Japanese progress has been fast, with its implication that Penang has fallen as well.

Letters To The Editors: Foretelling Japan's Doom. The aroused wrath of over 130 million Americans is the handwriting on the wall, so far as your nation remaining a first class power is concerned.

Today's Bible Thought. This is the foundation of a democracy. But that is great credit among you shall be servant.—Matt. 23:11.

Side Glances. The epidemic can be stamped out by placing men in permanent quarters in good clean buildings, by the liberal use of soap and by providing frequent change of clothes.

TYPIST SHATTERED SERBIAN ARMY IN 1915. The epidemic can be stamped out by placing men in permanent quarters in good clean buildings, by the liberal use of soap and by providing frequent change of clothes.

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Blackouts Are Tough

By Raymond Clapper



WE haven't any conception in this country of what a real blackout means, or how difficult it will be to achieve.

England was experimenting with blackouts two years before the war began. When I was in the Pull of 1922, I saw that the blackouts were being conducted in some locations. By the time I returned last Summer, you could not see even a light at night.

One night I went to the top of the large hotel where I stayed. In daylight one could see all over London, for miles in every direction. But as I looked out over the city that night, it was completely dark—as dark as in the middle of the Atlantic, except for the occasional flash of an electric car crossing a switch and the faint low glow which moved along in front of the sleeping taxicabs but which they told me could not be seen from higher up in the air. It was a strange experience, as if one had suddenly met a ghost.

FRIENDS LOCK ARMS IN COMPLETE DARKNESS. In Glasgow the darkness was so thick that, although I knew it was in front of my hotel, it was necessary to walk along feeling the wall with my hands in order to find the entrance.

One night in a small restaurant the air-raid warden came in and said a crack of light was showing. The proprietor radiated his curtains but 15 minutes later the air-raid warden was back again, this time not with a courteous request but with a sharp warning that the place would have to give up the crack of light was not shut off. The proprietor personally supervised the door when anyone left the restaurant. He first opened an inner door, and after everyone was inside the vestibule the inner door was closed. Then the proprietor would open the outer door. The greatest danger is stumbling and falling when stepping out of a lighted place into the blackout.

LIFE SLOWS DOWN AT NIGHTFALL. Buses stop running about blackout time and few people are on the streets after dark. Taxicabs are difficult to find, and getting about London after dark is a real trial.

It is in hotels the guests are warned not to touch the blackout curtains. The floor mat is responsible for catching the light in the rooms in her charge.

This has gone on for more than two years, every night and all night. It is a perpetual blackout after sundown, and the effect on everyone is depressing. By the time I got to wartime England I found everyone tired of the blackout. People seemed to complain more about the inconvenience of the blackout than about the bombing.

THE "QUICKIE" BLACKOUT DOESN'T WORK. If complete all-night blackouts are insisted upon in this country, the life of cities so affected will be radically changed. The partial blackout has been found ineffective because lights show a long distance at night, as anyone who travels by plane after dark can see. To attempt quickie blackouts after the alarm sounds is risky because everything has to be turned off and it is probably impossible to quantify any community so that this can be done instantaneously by everyone.

Now that we are tackling the blackout job, we can appreciate more the high degree of self-discipline which other countries at war have maintained, and what total war will require of civilians here.

Visitin' Around

The Barflies of War (Zebulun-Reed)

Due to the present crisis the Lone Star Quartet will not be at Hopkiss Chapel on December 18, as has been announced previously.

Incidental Intelligence (North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. James Wyatt, of Ashe County underwent a gland operation at the Wilkes Hospital last week. This is the second time he has undergone this operation for the same trouble. It was his son-in-law, Mr. Jenkins, who supervised construction of the Gaddy Motor building here during the Fall.



You can stop sulking because your wealthy relatives didn't send us any presents—I just discovered that you forgot to mail those lovely letters I wrote to them last month!