

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



And Evening Chronicle
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by
The News Publishing Company, Inc.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1942

The Valiant On The Volga

Stalingrad's Magnificent Stand Takes
Place In Great Chapters of Warfare

These are the times that golden-voiced Homer should be alive and singing
the epic lay of Stalingrad, ruined City of Steel. Too much has this, one
of the great chapters in the old, old history of fighting men, become a household
word. This far-off, flaming scene, fit to be woven into the tapestry of
time, is only a commonplace, a passing of the day. "Well, they're still holding
'em at Stalingrad today — much as if speaking of the whistles of the
warplanes or a Troy, or a Milan, or an Alcazar, a Vicksburg — or
even a Bataan, a Tobruk, a Sevastopol. This Stalingrad dwarfs men like
Roland, trapped by the Saracens at Roncesvalles, or yellow-haired Custer,
desperate by the Little Big Horn. For time to come Stalingrad will be a word
for siege, for a mighty stand, for the free, fanatical giving of flesh and blood
for the mother country against barbarous onslaught.

For where the Volga runs red and the ancient earth of the Caucasus soaks
up German and Russian blood alike, there is being thundered a melodrama
of endless heroism. From the little hills wounded Russians have run with their
weapons, to give their lives for those of the invaders; in tiny scattered forts
Russians have died in fire, exacting a toll of life as they expired. The venerable
passageway of the conquerors never saw such death and destruction, and gal-
lantury.

More than seven weeks the bastion stood, while the dead piled up, or flew
to grisly bits in the blasts of mechanized war. This has been more than a
Thebes, or a Troy, or a Milan, or an Alcazar, a Vicksburg — or
even a Bataan, a Tobruk, a Sevastopol. This Stalingrad dwarfs men like
Roland, trapped by the Saracens at Roncesvalles, or yellow-haired Custer,
desperate by the Little Big Horn. For time to come Stalingrad will be a word
for siege, for a mighty stand, for the free, fanatical giving of flesh and blood
for the mother country against barbarous onslaught.

Fighting for the symbol that was once a city, the Red Armies have thrown
cruder, lighter weapons against a never-ending stream of men and machines.
As bold Timoshenko held his lines intact, though forced backward step by
step, he fought the "guts and gumption" fight. The will to win, and die win-
ning, blunted the edge of the German thrust, field by field, street by street,
house by house.

German soldiers, fed into the slaughter they could not understand while
their leaders remained behind them, told the incredible story of Russian resist-
ance: "What we take today, we must fight for again tomorrow." To other
peoples of the world Stalingrad has been a bloody message from Russia: that
no force can overcome a nation passionately devoted to its will.

Whether or not the message is answered, the seven weeks of Stalingrad
will live. Their immortality in the annals of battle, whether the city stand, fall or
be rescued, will be that of weeks full of the sacrifice unsurpassed. In those
weeks, men without number have flung their lives upon the highest altar.

Free Elections

Democrats and Republicans
Fall Over Themselves

In one way of looking at it, the anti-
bill tax bill passed by the House is another
"force" bill, designed to abase the
South. In another view, it could be called
simple democracy.

Only eight states still require the pay-
ment of poll taxes as a condition for
voting — Tennessee, Texas, Virginia,
Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia, Ala-
bama and Mississippi. In the last four
states named the Negro population runs
from a third to a half (in Ole Miss). But
in Tennessee and Texas, which still
retain the poll tax requirement, the per-
centage of Negro population is far lower
than in many another Southern state
which has no such provision and evi-
dently is getting along without race
trouble at the polls.

The House bill would have the effect
of outlawing the poll tax requirement
in both primaries and elections but only
in voting upon candidates for Federal
office. Hence the eight states would be
making a more limited experiment in
free elections than their neighbors have
already made without any compulsion
and without any of the awful effects
which Southern Congressmen predicted
in arguing against the bill.

We think it goes without saying that
the Democrats in Congress, enthusias-
tically assisted by the Republicans, were
making a play for the Negro vote. We
think it goes without saying that the
South (which is funny that way) might
better have been left with its eight
poll-tax states than thus offended by
Federal intervention.

But if no great furor is raised in
those states, if men of good will prevail
instead of extremists in both races, the
difference in the next election is not
likely to be noticeable. If it should turn
out that way, we wonder if Congress
and the Democratic Party would be dis-
appointed.

Tenshun, Pop!

Mecklenburg's Fathers Prepare
To Answer Call of the Draft

These days, no matter who or what
you are, the war is breathing down
your neck, and if your stay on this
planet has been reasonably short, your
uniform is almost ready. To Mecklen-
burg the mump-for-war problem
has finally come home. We are running
short, so short that the present high
draft board quotas will be breaking up
families almost immediately.



FDR's Answer
A Strong Leader Speaks

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
FREQUENTLY the complaint has been made that President Roosevelt was conducting the home
front with one eye on the Fall elections.
Sometimes it has looked as if there might be
something in those complaints. Election is less than
a month away and everybody was listening for political
ballyhoo in the President's radio report to the
country. But I couldn't see much of it. There wasn't
anything in what he said that would not have been
just as naturally said after election.

Certainly Mr. Roosevelt was frank in saying
that he believed it would be necessary to lower
the draft-age to eighteen years. He said as
frankly that we must ration manpower, and that
if volunteer methods don't work then it must be
done by compulsion. He said he did not believe
the American people would shrink from it. He
said boys and girls not yet through high school
should be asked by school authorities to help
the war by working part time in factories and on
the farms. In reply to the demands for a second
front, Mr. Roosevelt stood firmly in his tracks
that this must be a military decision and not a
straw vote decision.

All of this seems to me to be the kind of hard
leadership that is needed. If it is good politics, so
much the better for politics, so much the better for
a leader who is bold enough to do what he thinks
is best—and not merely what he thinks would be
popular. So if it is a political speech, that's even
better yet. For when leaders can do the hard things
that war requires, and can win popular support for
doing it, then we have in democracy the thing that
the dictatorship claims as a special virtue.
I wish he had gone on a little longer for at the end,
Mr. Roosevelt was talkative about how useless it is to
win a war unless it stays won. He said there are a

Platform Of The People
A Mirror For The Dregs

Editors, The News:
In The News' issue of Oct. 10 Mr. Elywan Dunbar
in effect blames the deplorable murder status existing
in Charlotte upon the opponents of prohibition. With
all due respect to the good people of this area who
conscientiously support dry rule, may I ask Mr. Dunbar
why this perverse and unwelcome condition obtains
in a county ostensibly dry for 38 years?

In this connection I beg to remind our ardent
dregs that their regime commanded a decided
majority endorsement of this state's electorate
for fifteen years. During that lengthy tenure
only a small minority here exerted their influence
for repeal. Under such circumstances, wherein
Mr. Roosevelt was talkative about how useless it is to
win a war unless it stays won. He said there are a

A Poem From Forsyth

They came so fast,
You seldom see
St. Peter hurried
"it was very irregular
See Peter's secretary
Tells me she doesn't yet
But it happened.
'I've heard it rumored
The signals were mixed
But I secretly noted
The thing was fixed
By the Boss.
'Of course, he knew
How the schedule ran
But if there's anything
He loves his courage
In a man.
'You have seen the Heavenly Host
Guarding the entrance
To His Presence
Along with the Holy Ghost.
'Somehow
This sergeant got by,
Marched in his squad,
Sailed his head red,
Tink off his battered helmet,
'Good morning, God,
He said.
— DAN H. JONES,
Winston-Salem, N. C.

Phony Patriots

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON
HOT-AND-COLD-BLOWING patriots have been buying Government
bonds in public, then sneaking to the post offices and banks to
redeem them for cash.

The number of these chameleon heroes is growing, not much,
but too much. The last Treasury figures show \$25,000,000 of war
bonds were redeemed in July, \$22,000,000 in August, and \$24,000,000
in September, for a total of \$71,000,000 redeemed of all bonds sold
since May.

How many stamp chiselers have tip-lead in for redemption,
nobody knows. The amount involved in dollars cannot be large,
yet it seems almost incredible that any American, at a time like
this, would cash in either his bond or his stamp, unless he faced a
personal crisis just as serious as the national crisis which caused
him to invest in victory.

Not much is said publicly about these people. From the purely
financial standpoint, the Treasury is not alarmed, inasmuch as the
September redemptions amounted to only .027 per cent of the bonds
sold that month.

But everyone knows it costs the Treasury money to sell bonds
(administration, advertising, etc.) and every bond or stamp redeemed
must be sold over again at added expense.

There are few more effective ways you can aid the enemies of this
country than by bravely pretending to buy what you do not propose to
hold and defend.

Tires For All

The Government is not fooling now in its promise to provide
tires for all, to keep this motorized nation going on wheels. The
promise of Mr. Jeffers can and will be fulfilled. The Government
already has practically doubled the reclaimed tire quotas for public
disposition this month of October, from 425,000 to 925,000.

As tires wear out, B, C and S card-holders will go before an inspector
every 60 days (A card-holders every four months) and from them may
secure certifications with which to appeal to the rationing boards for
reclaimed rubber tires. No one here suggests the program will not work.

Two months ago rubber was the hottest subject. Today, it is the
coldest.

The only thing that has happened in the meantime has been a
straight-forward, common-sense investigation of the problem and the
appointment of an experienced (but not in rubber) business man with
an affirmative reputation to work out an affirmative policy all that
anyone, including this column, ever asked.

The only new part of the program is the proposal to develop
20,000,000 victory tires from reclaimed rubber, and even this proposal
was being worked up in the Government mill before Mr. Jeffers
took over.

It might have been instituted anyway. So what Mr. Jeffers has
conducted actually is a change of Government policy from repression
to affirmative help.

The old chant that the automobiles of the nation would be in the
ditch, or everyone would have to walk by such and such a date, has
been replaced in a few weeks with a valid and workable solution.

The alteration is a really great achievement of Government, and an
excellent example of what can be done, by selecting Government directors
who say they can do things, in place of those here who have
favored a "can't" chant from the beginning.



Don't ask me why there are so many boys in the neighborhood, but there's no manpower shortage in this army, so we don't need any female snipers!

Here Nor There
War Information

The New Yorker
The Regional Office of Civilian
Defense has asked me to advise
you of a correction in an Office
war information story for re-
lease August 29 dealing with the
OGD publication "What Can I Do?"
The "Men's Handbook for War."

In Paragraph Three: "This little
handbook should help us get in up
to shoulders." — Memorandum to civil-
ian from the Washington State
Defense Council.

Hold your nose and keep keep-
ing, Elmer. It's a total war.

(F) B Lines, Maybe
Headlines from the Durham Sun:
Naxls Placarded
By United Press

3 Ships Damaged
By John H. Wiegman
When they getting their infor-
mation?

Up With, No Put
Grand Magazine
When a memorandum passed
around a certain Government de-
partment, one young potent scribbled
a postscript drawing attention
to the fact that the sentence
ruled with a preposition, which
caused the original writer to cir-
culate another memorandum con-
taining the same information. The
postscript was "offensive impertinence,
unwith which I will not put."

Who Dropped That Extra
Duffin On The Plate?
(Antioch Item)
Margaret News-Herald's
Pilotry-rite at a n.d. Sunday
School, and \$75 offering.

Bible Thought Visitin' Round

God will faithfully look after
his own, but we must keep our
selves within the great Shep-
herd's fold: He that keepeth
Israel will never slumber nor
sleep. — Psalm 124:7.