

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by
The News Publishing Company
W. C. Dowd Jr., President
and General Manager
J. E. Dowd, Vice-President
and Editor
W. C. Dowd, 1885-1927

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 25 cents a week; one month, \$7.50; three months, \$22.50; six months, \$42.50; one year, \$80.00.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1942

Q. E. D.

See Power With Air Power
Can Defy Shore-Based Planes

There is a lesson to be learned by comparing the Japanese attack on the Prince of Wales and the Repulse off Malaya with yesterday's action in the Straits of Dover. In both instances the British failed to accomplish their objective and suffered heavy losses. In both instances the failure can be summed up in two words—air power.

One of the great naval axioms of this war is that sea power unsupported by an adequate air escort cannot safely venture within the range of enemy shore-based aircraft. The sinking of the Repulse and the Prince of Wales provided a classic, if tragic, demonstration of that hypothesis.

As a corollary it was assumed that sea power fully supported by an umbrella of air support could pass within the range of shore based aircraft with success. Through the narrow (40 miles across at the narrowest) waters of Dover Straits designed the O'Brien, Schornhorst, Prinz Eugen, and a protective flotilla of destroyers. Overhead roared a cloud of German fighter planes. The British struck with everything they had—planes, warships, and even shore batteries. Even so, the Germans made it, apparently without serious losses. On the other hand the British lost at least 41 planes, including many heavy bombers, and an unannounced number of destroyers. The theorem was proved.

The British are left without even a plausible alibi. They mention a bad weather. But they also admitted five-mile visibility. The bitter truth seems to be that the Germans out-maneuvered them and out-shot them.

There is an even more ominous overture from the Dover battle. In part the German battleships can safely run the Channel, there is little doubt that all of it, supported by even stronger air forces, could screen an invasion of Britain or, more likely, of Ireland. Surprise seems to be the most important element in the German's mastery of surprise.

Short of invasion, the most serious threat the Germans could make would be to send their heavy units out on the Atlantic high seas at the very moment that all available Allied sea force is needed in the Pacific. They are free to do so now whenever they please.

Manpower

At Last, a Faltering
Step Toward Mobilization

The military services and industry both need trained workers. They need more of them than there are in the nation. So many localities more skilled persons are needed than there are inhabitants. This simple and obvious notation, paraphrased from a notation on the President's desk, has been brought to light. It looks very much like we are going to get a manpower mobilization board with Paul McNutt as chairman.

It might be said that it would not have been too early if such an authority had been set up two months ago, or two years ago. Germany started full mobilization of its manpower shortly after war became inevitable, which, to be exact, was on March 3, 1939, when Adolf Hitler took over. It is interesting to note that the most outspoken opponents of labor conscription in America are labor union leaders. Hitler spared himself this opposition by summarily dissolving all labor unions and then conscripting labor.

There is no comfort in bemoaning what might have been done. What matters now is to do it. The new board going to get a green light and (1) will its chairman have complete and final authority to do what must be done? The latest word is that President Roosevelt is not expected to put through the executive order until after he meets with the six-man CIO-AFL board a week from today. A week from today is too late. Tomorrow is too late. If it had been done yesterday it would be too late. Here is a job crying to be done. Promise to do it, and then do it. The war may depend on it. Why can't it be done now? Why shouldn't it be?

As to whether Mr. McNutt will have enough authority to distribute and train labor effectively and whether he will use such authority even if he gets it, well, that remains to be seen. It took two years to get a Nelson in war production. A labor supply executive who did the job could have to be a comparatively ruthless man, recognizing the supreme urgency of his task, would stop at nothing to make trained manpower available where it was needed. Mr. McNutt is a popular gentleman

with a reputation for astuteness. If a diplomat were needed, the choice would be excellent. But what we are more likely to get in the way of a manpower mobilization authority is a half-baked, compromise board with no real power to do anything except recommend, argue, and complain.

It appears that the public still hoarse from shouting La Guardia and Mistress Roosevelt out of the OGD, had better catch its breath for another serene.

Niggardly

Local Draft Workers Are Understaffed, Underpaid

Three old saws of uncertain origin but familiar usage will serve to sum up the situation in which Charlotte draft boards find themselves. To wit:

The willing horse is worked to death.
Many a mile makes a mircle.
A stitch in time saves nine.

Singularly willing, the local draft boards have been added with ever-increasing burdens. The size and complexity of these requirements have long since passed the point at which they were commensurate with the number of workers authorized. (Each board is permitted only two full-time paid employees—a clerk and a stenographer). Not only have quotas of draftees been more than tripled, but the local draft boards have called for hundreds of individual investigations.

Uprooting a citizen from civilian life and ordering him into the Army is serious business. It is a job calling for the most careful consideration and judgment. The amount of work involved in every draft case is staggering. From the time he registers until he is called, the draftee must fill out questionnaires, receive notices, have his life records checked and corrected at every change in status. Small wonder that most of the local boards are a month or more behind in their work. Heaven knows what would have happened if a separate agency had not been set up to handle the new registration.

Another thing. The overworked draft board clerks and stenographers were required to meet Civil Service standards, but were specifically exempted from Civil Service rules of pay. They get considerably less than others who passed the same examinations.

At least one of the boards has been closed to new recruits, volunteers at a distance. There have been no complaints about those who have donated their services, but we have yet to hear of any Federal agency in Washington using unpaid clerical help—whatever the emergency. With billions being poured out lavishly in Washington there is no excuse for such niggardliness.

"In Reserve"

For What Emergency Are
Canadians Being Held?

About the same time that those French-Canadians were rioting in Montreal, shouting "down with conscription," an American reporter in London remarked that so far in the war not a single unit of Canadian troops had been sent into battle. They are being held "in reserve." In reserve for what? We don't know. Just "in reserve."

It was not so during the last war. In the dark days along Vimy Ridge, the Canadians were in there shooting it out with the Germans. They were on the job when they were needed and they fought magnificently.

No one can say that the Australians have been held in reserve. Their unmarked graves are scattered across half the North African coast, the mountains of Greece and Crete, and down the full length of the Malay peninsula. They have won the only real victories the British Empire has achieved and stood up under some of its worst defeats.

Canada has been held in reserve for manpower. Only recently did the Canadian Government dare call a plebiscite on the question of conscription. This same Government was elected on a platform which contained an unqualified promise to resist to death the demand for overseas service. And when the plebiscite was asked, there were riots and all fighting in the streets of Montreal.

The rioters seemed to have been drawn from Quebec's large French-speaking population. But by birth they were Canadians. If their loyalties remained with France to which France-Vichy's or De Gaulle's?

The simple fact is that any man who is under conscription either the nation's enemy to win or he wants somebody else to do his fighting for him. In either case the reputation of Canada as a partner in this war is not improved.

No Phony Shortage

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

There is nothing phony about the rubber shortage (except the black dealing in second hand tires). Frankly we have about 600,000 tons of rubber available. Used normally it would last a year. Counting tire stocks it might last two years. But the Army and Navy alone would use it in that time. A plane cannot get off the ground without a rubber tire.

By the first of the year we will be producing at the rate of 150,000 tons of synthetic rubber. In six months more we will be getting 300,000 to 400,000 tons a year. Thus the crisis is likely to last until mid-1943.

Within 60 days, therefore, you are likely to see extreme changes in the most vital element of civilian life. It is possible long distance buses may be stopped eventually and delivery trucks withdrawn to haul defense workers to and from work. No civilian will be immune from the early effects. In this phase, first and foremost, is war likely to impose itself upon the average man. Here the first belt-tightening will be required.

THUMBS DOWN ON MILITARY CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Certain cities have been seeking quickly to get out of their own civilian defense mess by employing retired Army officers (former corps commanders) with a sense of military organization and discipline.

They have seen political hangers-on and third assistant street lighters appointed to positions where experienced leadership is required. This series to be a local counterpart of the choice of friends of Washington officials to the national headquarters.

But to all such suggestions, the War Department has shaken its head negatively. No reason has been offered, but it is a fairly well recognized inside fact that the White House killed them. He is effort to transfer all OGD to the Army. No doubt the boss at the top also caused the War Department to clear of even indirect involvement.

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About Jimson Series: Why Limit Probe?

High Point Enterprise

Investigation of conditions in the State Hospital for the Insane at Morganton has been ordered by Governor Brantley, who exercises constitutional authority for his action. We assume no one will question either that it is the Governor's privilege or the Governor's duty to inquire.

In the course of investigation, the Governor asserts, a full study will be made of the management, food, medical care, and other conditions of staff, and every other pertinent factor. "Would it not be well to have an official investigation of the conditions under which the inmates of the State are housed in the institutions maintained by the State?"

If as the Governor states, the investigation will not be limited to the charges made in the exposure by Tom Jimson, a former inmate there, who made the investigation in the "Jimsion" investigation? Why not make a thorough investigation of the conditions under which the inmates of the State are housed in the institutions maintained by the State?

Incidentally, one of the uglier allegations made by Mr. Jimson was that the institution at Morganton served three types of meals—two of them in the scale of quality fed to the patients.

We suspect that any investigation of the conditions under which the inmates of the State are housed in the institutions maintained by the State will be a struggle with inadequate appropriations for the service they are set up to perform. There may be other inadequacies of personnel and scientific treatment which cannot be corrected by the mere act of adding to the budget.

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Monotonous Monologue

A Morning To Stay Home

It was a gloomy morning, made gloomier than ordinary because it was the day that greeted the stirring household. At any rate it was a wonderful morning to stay at home. The weather was just what was needed for a day of rest.

He coughed. Arousing no solace, he coughed again. No response. I have a bad cold, he said in a strangely hoarse voice. I'm a little better now, he said. I think I'd better go to kindergarten.

Get on with his dressing, he was told, to which he seemed to agree. He looked at his reflection in the mirror. All the other little children would catch his cold, he said, with affecting, hoarse voice. Was it right that all the other little children should be given colds because one little boy had to go to kindergarten when his parents should have let him stay home?

All through dressing and all through breakfast he roused his tones by forcing them through a hoarse, hoarse, hoarse voice. Once he had finished dressing, he looked at his reflection in the mirror. All the other little children would catch his cold, he said, with affecting, hoarse voice. Was it right that all the other little children should be given colds because one little boy had to go to kindergarten when his parents should have let him stay home?

Finally he gave into him, almost knowing that he was putting on a show but not wanting to take any chances. He could stay home, he was told, but only on the distinct understanding that he would remain in the house all day and could have no company. His face brightened. "V. for Victory," he said in normal voice; "V. for Liberty."

Civilian Defense Ballet

—By Herblock



It Was Only An "Accident"

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

THE burning of the Normandie was, we are informed, an "accident." That is to say it was not our enemies who caused the disaster. It was just our own carelessness. So we are supposed to breathe a sigh of relief. Nothing sinister about it at all. Just a workman operating an acetylene torch in the vicinity of highly inflammable material—that's all. And huge transports, the second largest ship in the world, put out of commission for unforeseeable time.

WE WERE LED TO EXPECT AN EASY WAR

Before the war we were told by our military authorities that the war against Japan would be won very easily. Most of us are not army or navy intelligence officers, and thus it is the Governor's privilege or the Governor's duty to inquire.

In the course of investigation, the Governor asserts, a full study will be made of the management, food, medical care, and other conditions of staff, and every other pertinent factor. "Would it not be well to have an official investigation of the conditions under which the inmates of the State are housed in the institutions maintained by the State?"

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Co-Ordination Of Manpower

The New Yorker

We've been told of a young engineer, a diamond merchant, who was recently drafted into the Army. Since, in the course of his business, he has found it necessary to learn not only English but Spanish, German, French, Italian, and Swedish, he put in a request to be assigned to either Intelligence or Communications. Communications accepted him, and he is now stationed at Fort Monmouth, in charge of a squad of carrier pigeons.

INDIGNATION IS BASIS FOR NATIONAL AWAKENING

This nation can win this war. But it is by no means certain that it will win it. It will not win it without a national awakening and the basis of that awakening will be indignation. I ask the Department of Justice: what are you doing about the re-education of every young man and woman in this country and their American allies? I ask the Department of Labor: what have you done to clean up union racketeering, to organize the investigation of every union member, and above all, what have you done to educate the union membership?

Senator Soaper Says:

As we remember the pre-war talk, back in the home town, he seems to have had all the essential vitamins and some left over for his face.

Strangest optical illusion of the Winter was the President's supposition that a Red stand in three feet of snow had been beaten by his knees.

Side Glances

WEAKNESS OF MIND, OF CHARACTER

And the initial disaster at Pearl Harbor like the disaster of the Normandie, happened because of a mental attitude, not a weakness of mind and character. The response of General Short and Admiral Kimmel to the Roberts report is a case in point. One reporter got a job on the Normandie without any investigation whatsoever, and first after blinding that he was "in trouble." He smoked on the Normandie although he was against the rules and no one discovered him. He saw a hundred opportunities to get fired. After that, with his coat collar up, another reporter walked in, around, and out of



A Time To Think Hard

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

THIS is one of those moments of awful disaster that make your stomach sink. But it is a moment, also, when a nation must think hard, and keep its head, and make new determinations. Singapore is going. It may be gone by the time this dispatch is in print. Defenders of Singapore have now put their fate in the hands of God.

New Japan is entrenching in this vital spot, 2,900 miles from Yokohama. From that advance base she can follow up her new conquests on the whole southeast Asiatic area. It is as if we had taken England and from there were ready to swallow up the continent of Europe. Japan's long dream of empire is on the way to coming true, now. It will if she is allowed to hold.

OUR PACIFIC POSITION IS EXTREMELY DESPERATE

The position of the United Nations in the Pacific is desperate. They are all but driven back now to Hawaii. And they will be if Japan is able to follow up Singapore and take Australia and the Dutch East Indies, which are already beginning to feel the concussion. India is in danger. China is close to being bottled up. If Japan succeeds in finishing up what she has begun with such rushing success, the whole nature of the world is bound to be changed.

The United States and Great Britain between them have maintained a worldwide system through control of a globe-encircling belt of strategic points. Panama, Gibraltar, Suez and Singapore are the gates through which commerce passes from one ocean into the next ocean. Whoever controls them dominates the world-wide flow of human activity. We haven't been very conscious of that because our side has always controlled them.

Now the gate between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean is being taken over by Japan. Gibraltar and Suez are reported from London to be next on the Nazi list. Panama alone is still unmenaced. President Roosevelt says we are the target of a world encirclement. It is about sure. If the other side should break through, and hold, we could then live in that world only by always remaining an armed camp, on the alert—as we were not in Hawaii—for the dawn attack that might come any night from any point of the Western Hemisphere.

America will never accept such a fate.

LINCOLN'S GREATNESS WAS HIS CONVICTION

Lincoln had to make his decision. It was that just one thing counted. The union must be preserved. His country was beset by confusing considerations. Some wanted peace at any price. Some wanted compromise. Some wanted to let the South go and set up its own nation. Some on the Pacific Coast wanted a western nation of their own. There was the agony of war between brother and brother. Lincoln knew that all questions were complicated within the question of whether America should remain a nation, free to work out its destiny. Never once did he waver, not even in the most bitter hours of defeat before the turn at Gettysburg. He was beset by appeasers, compromisers and deluding politicians within his own circle. He was gnawed by the suffering of his people. Still the union must be saved. There was Lincoln's greatness. That conviction was his gift to this nation.

Tomorrow, when the loss of Singapore hits home, we shall be beset with confusing considerations. We shall be told that Lord-Lease was a mistake, that none of this would have happened if we had followed some other policy. We shall be told that we have wasted our materials on other nations instead of hoarding them here. We shall be told that Russia is still willing to run out on us, and that the British are not trying very hard to win the war. We shall be fed with many other brands of poisonous propaganda, sometimes by people who don't know it is poison and sometimes by people who know all too well that it is poison.

The United Nations all need each other desperately now, for better or for worse. We must depend upon others to get time for us. If they can act in the time, we shall build the strength to achieve the victory that must come before we can rest. America can accept no other outcome.

Visitin' Around

Gotta Beat It, Eh?

(Hot Springs Item, Marshall News-Record)

Mrs. Drum will leave soon.

Did the Distinguished Guest Show Up?

(Sheffield Item, Daily Record)

The Sheffield rainy day mood will have a comical aspect to meet the ground hog on Feb. 2.

ALL right! Maybe it doesn't look romantic—but my girl's saving newspapers as her part in the war, and this bundle is her "valentine!"