

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by
The News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. C. Dowd Jr., President
J. E. Dowd, Vice-President
and General Manager
W. C. Dowd, 1845-1927

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1858. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 5, 1914.
The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

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Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under No. 417 of March 3, 1918.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, \$7 cents; three months, \$22; six months, \$42; one year, \$10.40.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1942

Rueful Note

This City Could Have Made Use of a Promoter-Mayor

There has been some talk recently of trying to bring to Charlotte defense plants which would replace in part business activity and employment adversely affected by the war. The feeling is that Charlotte, being primarily a distribution center, and the distribution of many goods having been curtailed, could use and support war enterprises.

In that connection it may be timely to point out that the only two new war establishments in this city were brought here primarily by the efforts and foresight of former Mayor Ben Douglas. The U. S. Air Base and the Quartermaster Depot were steered to their present sites by the indefatigable promoter who perceived the opportunity and acted upon it.

Morris Field, for that matter, very likely would have been by this time double or triple its present size had not the voters of the city, badly advised, turned down a proposal to buy adjacent land, thus causing delay and uncertainty at a time when haste was the Army's watchword.

Sometimes a rueful mood comes over us when we think of the events leading up to the change in City Administration. Our Best People, who had most to gain or lose, demanded that we get rid of a man who evidently (and understandably) detests the job, and who took it only because he couldn't get out of it.

It is probable that Mayor Douglas would not have run for re-election in any case, but it is probable also that, if he had, the city's advantages for defense plants would have been called again and again to the attention of those in charge of such matters.

Somber Speech

Churchill Takes Blame for Singapore

They called it Churchill's "somber speech." In essence, it was an admission by the Prime Minister that he had guessed wrong about Japan, but that even if he hadn't, circumstances of the Japanese attack made it impossible to do much more than was done. It was a plea for continued unity, particularly for unity of purpose, only by forgetting our aims, or warping them, he said, could we be defeated.

Yet, the criticism which Churchill, it seemed, made it impossible to stop. It has seemed to grow more unified on one point: reconstitution of the Churchill Government. The British have no desire for any other Prime Minister than Churchill, but the demand for certain changes within the regime. They want to have done with some of the men whom they blame for the success of British disasters.

If Hitler had thought to shake Churchill out of power by running his battleships through the Channel, he had miscalculated. What he will have succeeded in doing may well be a strengthening of the Churchill Cabinet.

"Not only by rhetoric," shouted the British newspapers, "will the Prime Minister be able to achieve his hour." Churchill has provided the rhetoric. Now it remains to be seen whether he will make the necessary Cabinet changes. He may do so, or he may not. For even if he defies public opinion, the Prime Minister has one great asset in the hole. He has only to ask, "Very well, then—and what man will you choose to put in my place?"

To that question there has been, as yet, no answer.

Heavy Drinking

Liquor Sales in N. C. Reflect Falter Walles

Wine is fine but liquor is quicker. This discerning proverb has overruled drinking habits of North Carolinians since the colony was settled. Let the Charlestonians sip their madeira and the Virginians their sherry. In Tar Heels are hard liquor drinkers.

And last month, not counting what we bought from bootleggers and in neighboring states, North Carolinians guzzled well over a million dollars' worth. The 25 wet county stores rang up total sales of \$1,320,883.30. That's almost twice as much as was sold in January, 1941.

Durham's stores, being the "farthest west" oasis, led all the rest, accounted for more than a tenth of the total sales. Now come we to the question of how much liquor will be sold at several reasons. For one thing, there's been a big increase

in the number of soldiers down east. Moreover, there was a good deal of bad news during January when a drinking man might have found a good excuse for tilting his elbow. But most important of all, there is more money in circulation this year. It has never been charged that a drinking man will risk ruin when he can afford red liquor.

No doubt some of our dry brethren will attempt to show a connection between the increase in North Carolina liquor sales and the fall of Singapore. There may be one, too, but for the moment it escapes us.

30-Watt Ideas

What Does the Senate Think It Is—Napoleon?

Unless it be the House of Representatives we cannot name offhand any group of persons less fitted to dictate the strategy of the war than the U. S. Senate. It is sufficient to observe that the chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee is Robert Rice Reynolds. If Bob had had his way, we should have tried to make friends with Hitler as well as with the Japanese, and would have been bristling with enmity toward Russia.

Moreover, under the Constitution, the Senate has no business telling any executive unit how to run the war. Senators are legislators—not executives. Neither may they force their own ideas, as does the British Parliament. Yet a good many Senators seem to have assumed the prerogatives of an M. P. To hear them criticize our generalship you'd think they were empowered to defeat Roosevelt on a vote of confidence.

They're fooling nobody but themselves.

But while they can't get rid of the President, Senators can embarrass him. The last time the U. S. Government faced a threat comparable to today's—in the 1890's the meddling of the war Congress disgraced that body and, in the opinion of some, prolonged the war by one or two years. Only a few weeks ago, a slip of the lip of a U. S. Senator cut the heart out of the Pan-American declaration—after complete victory was almost in the bag.

Now a portion of the Senate—a minority, thank goodness—comes forward with a resolution of 20-watt military ideas. Vandenberg wants to bring MacArthur home and put him in complete command of the war. Others want to shake up the whole general staff and attack Japan immediately. Some of the ideas are clearly bad, some may be not so bad.

But the point is, it's not the Senate's place to waste its time and ours by setting itself up as a board of strategy.

Loss Of Face

For Sub Was No Match For U. S. Garbage Boat

There is a delightful little item (for our side) in this week's Collier's. To the Japs, no doubt, it will appear singularly unfunny that one of their prized long-range submarines was rammed and sunk off the West Coast by an American garbage scow. Contemplation of the embarrassment in Tokyo only heightens our enjoyment of the incident.

Take a week, the *Tahoe*, a rusty old steamboat built out from Oakland, Cal., with a load of refuse. One day she was in the conversation that swept the plodding old tub when, on the Saturday before Christmas, a Jap sub surfaced dead ahead. Captain Vartanov of the *Tahoe* reacted with purposeful alacrity that would have done justice to a destroyer commander. Full speed ahead. And the *Tahoe*, straining with every ounce of her strength, rammed the Jap sub amidships. The raider went down. Large blobs of oil and pieces of debris bobbed in the surface.

Captain Vartanov proceeded on his course, dumped his garbage, and turned back toward port. And on the battered prow of his vessel was smeared its badge of valor—gray paint that Navy chemists have identified as Japanese.

Football coaches, now "at liberty," can sympathize with the Nazi General, cast adrift in the dead of Winter with no team, no prospects, no social security number.

Who now remembers when embattled farmers fired shots heard round the world, instead of holding out for 20 cent more above parity prices?

500,000 Japanese

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

THE Japs have been doing all this Oceania conquering with less than 500,000 men. A late check suggested 20 more than 100,000 to 150,000 rolled over Malaya and Singapore. About 200,000 went into the Philippines.

Around 40,000 have shown in Burma and an equal number is spread around elsewhere upon other newly conquered islands. This adds up to only about 400,000 men—a mere corporal's guard in comparison with our ruling army and those of Europe.

WHOLE JAP ARMY NUMBERS 2,000,000

In all, the total Jap field army counts no more than 2,000,000 fighting men, and only 600,000 efficiently equipped. Of these, 1,000,000 are holding China and possibly 500,000 of the Russian front in Manchukuo.

The most conservative estimate of British forces in Malaya was 60,000 to 80,000 so they certainly were not outnumbered there to the extent publicized. The British plan is just not to have the jungle-fighting training and equipment and particularly the planes. They were wide open to air attack throughout.

HEIFERICH BELIEVES IN ATTACK

The new Dutch commander of our and other naval forces in the East has his own ideas. Those who have recently returned from Batavia say the Vice Admiral C. E. Heifrich has been telling his associates the U. S. and British were using too many ships for conveying troops for fighting.

The old submarine commander is a stern advocate of attack as the best defense.

The spreading Jap plan of naval attack against him is evident in developments so far. The main drive is headed at Java, housing the capital (Batavia) and the last United Nations naval base in the Far East (Soerabaja).

The Japs have established land air bases in Borneo and the Celebes just to the north of Java and have started a bombing campaign. They are moving to pick up a few more bases in adjoining Sumatra and then will throw their full air strength at Java from three sides.

NEW GUINEA MAY BE NEXT

Once in control of Java, the Japs are likely to spread east. Seizure of Timor and New Guinea, which are strongly defended could give them air bases hanging over the head of the northern coast of Australia. They could also use the Torres Strait, new up the port of Darwin in an important village of about 4,000, with a good harbor and no shipping facilities.

If the Japs go beyond that into the Pacific, they will push them, they will greatly surprise everyone here. There is nothing in the northern half of Australia. The population is largely centered in the southern corner beyond Sydney which is 2,000 miles as the crow flies from New Guinea.

New Guinea therefore seems to be the end of the line.

A Couple of Seamon Yanks

Business Week

The old saying, a man I know—call him Brown—who lives in a little town in the North Carolina mountains, was awakened one morning by a pounding on his front door. It wasn't one of those polite raps, with a pause to let you get to the door. It was a lusty pounding, and it kept up until he had wrapped himself in a bathrobe and got to the door, and opened it.

There stood a mountaineer, he knew, who lives some five or six miles and a half out of town, a big fellow in the upper sixties, about six feet four.

"Can I have a word with you, Mr. Brown?" he asked.

"His voice carried an overtone of business," so Brown replied. "Sure thing, come in."

"Could you come outside?" continued the mountaineer.

Brown then knew the business must be serious. He stepped outside and pulled the door to.

"What's up?"

"It's Jim," the mountaineer said. "His eyes were hard, and his jaw was set."

Now Brown knew—or, more accurately, he had heard—some time ago that Jim, the oldest of five sons, had been doing a little bootlegging in the mountains. So he was not altogether surprised.

"I'm terribly sorry," he said. "Honesty!" replied the old man. "Honesty!" What do you mean? "What was he doing there?"

"Jim joined the Navy, you know, some time back."

"No, I didn't," said Brown. "I'm terribly sorry. Is there anything I can do?"

"Yes, sir. That's what I came down about. You know we ain't got no car."

"I know. You can borrow mine if you need it. Can you drive?"

"No, I can't. That's just it. I wonder if you'd bring George and Fred down here, you'd run 'em down to Asheville?"

"I'll be glad to," Brown assured him. "When do they want to go? What's going to Asheville?"

"They got to go right now," replied the mountaineer. "They're going to get into the Navy. They got to square things for Jim, you know."

"Yes," answered Brown slowly, gazing off into the mountains. "Of course."

"Thanks, I'll bring 'em right down."

And without another word, the plain-coated, plain-faceted man of the hills turned away and drove his two-and-a-half mile hike to get two more of his sons on their way to meet their country's need.

Thought Alone Is Eternal.—EDWARD LYTTON

Another Thing That "Couldn't Happen"

—By Herblock



Letters to the Editors:

A Soldier Remembers

Editors, The News:

This is a long-planned letter. Like all men in the service, I am imbued with that delightful tendency to procrastinate until last minute when I read your editorial regarding Charlotte's viewpoint on General Heifrich.

Turn, my second thought, it seemed only natural that you would come forward and pull no punches on this issue.

While we are on the subject of editorials, Dorothy Thompson's on "Remember Pearl Harbor" was a masterpiece.

Knowledge of lesser importance but in keeping with "The News" way of thinking was the "Mickey Rooney" copy. Gladly, you hit it, but really, that time, the soldiers were definitely not improved.

So this is an attempt at praise. "You all," in Charlotte will be remembered as going all-out to take care of us. Not all the cities did you know? Well, forget and forgive. But you will remember. Make us know our appreciation in the more bitter days to come.

P. S. The boys at the copy desk of my own home-town sheet would say to me, "Well, editorial, it's all the same, day and night, just as much as I have."

Heifrich.

A Stagnant Bitter Accusation

Editors, The News:

"Don't you 'kinder,'" with right by yourself with your own conscience, feel sometimes that before you switched around and began cursing Roosevelt and the Administration for not being ready for Pearl Harbor, you should have, in an editorial, over your own signature, announced the fact that you were in the power for a number of years, that you caused the country should be utterly unprepared for just such an event? I refer, of course, to the fact that you were limited for years, every dirty article, including Hugh Johnson's diatribes, charging the people and the Congress to fight every effort made by the Administration to prepare this nation for war. You and other papers were so successful in convincing the country that no one would attack us, that you caused the Navy and Army to believe you and go to sleep.

This short letter cannot be candidly answered except by putting "ack cloth and ashes" upon your head.

—JOE P. LANE

Editor, General Johnson's opinion on his own and were published as such even though The News frequently derided them editorially. As for "fighting every effort made by the Administration to prepare this nation for war," you and other papers were so successful in convincing the country that no one would attack us, that you caused the Navy and Army to believe you and go to sleep.

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Consider the ever recurring sun, lighting the world since beginning of days.

And preserving life with essential rays.

And how Man, without it, would be unroofed.

The quarrelsome lion, in her quiet might.

Rolling the tides since time started its flight.

And from whose phases fishermen can tell.

When the tide will ebb and when it will swell.

The faithful wife with a babe at her breast.

And her mother-love, in hapless blind.

That spurns artificial birth prevention.

As naught other than Satan's invention.

The joy dispensed by self-effacing Nurse.

Obedient to the Crucified One.

Their actions planted in every clime.

Ministering to Man in weak and hour.

Heard waking song birds, in happy, happy, day.

For they start the new day's life on the wing.

And know that happiness men can hold.

When, in obedience, Heaven they woo.

Earthly happiness inherently

Out of the acts of obedient things.

—L. A. TATUM.

Wise Action

Charlotte Observer

Governor Hargraves has moved swiftly and wisely in ordering that an investigation be made of the management of the State Hospital for the Insane at Morganton in consequence of the writings of Tom

Side Glances

Charlotte Observer

War now moves with great speed over distances that once seemed fantastic. Japan is within her electric three thousand miles from home. What she has been able to do with little as far from home, we can do with much, which we shall have as surely as the clock goes around. We are going to have it because we are making good use of our time, as everyone who has taken a look around industry agree.

Visitin' Around

In Miami?

(Ruffin item, Caswell Messenger)

Mr. and Mrs. Betty Worham are sight-seeing in Florida.

Yeah, but Think What Might've Happened If He Had Fallen Out (North Wilkesboro Newsweek)

Private Owen Kilby of North Wilkesboro, who is in the army at Fort Benning, received a broken arm when he fell on a motorcycle recently.

Happiness and "Obedient Things"

Editors, The News:

Everywhere while life lasts. Nature will show.

On the face of the sky, the waters below.

Earthly happiness inherently

Out of the acts of obedient things.

"Maybe it's awful to have such thoughts, but don't you wish we were young enough again to be insulted?"

We Won't Lose War

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

As an academic statement of the theoretical possibilities, it is accurate, I suppose, to say that we can lose the war.

But the realistic fact is that we won't lose the war.

First, I know we won't lose the war when I see something like the Chrysler tank arsenal and know that the same amount of war production is being wrought over and over again in many parts of the country. I know it is a mathematical certainty that we shall far outdo the Axis.

WHO WOULD GIVE UP BEFORE VICTORY IS WON?

Second, do you know any American who is ready to give up until the war is won? Everything I hear is the other way. We heard from the grassroots again when All London reported that out in the Kansas country they had been pretty much against the war but now would settle for nothing short of victory.

Third, General MacArthur and his men, and the men at Wake Island, have set an example of courageous and skillful fighting that will be the pattern of American fighting and its inspiration throughout this war. All American fighting forces will make it their business to live up to the heroic level which has been set in these opening engagements.

Those three circumstances alone point with certainty to victory.

MORE BAD NEWS WILL COME, BUT TIME IS WITH US

You can ring all the changes on the disaster that has reached its climax at Singapore. You can paint a black picture, without exaggeration, of the failures which made that possible. You can point to the train of blows likely to follow as a result of it. Nobody can be blind to them. Our run of bad news is not over yet.

But this war is going on. It is going on until the other side is licked. The longer it goes on, the closer comes the day of inevitable defeat for Germany and Japan.

Because the longer the war goes on, the more telling will be the blows from this fresh country against the weary, thinly spread spider web of the Axis. Ford's Willow Run bomber plant will, a few months hence, be turning out four-motor, long-range bombers an hour. That is one plant out of several. Where in the world are new ships being built to such volume as here? American industry is going to win this war because it can be and is becoming big enough to win it—when its weapons are put into the hands of a man like George MacArthur.

Our pessimism now comes because we forget the time factor. If we had begun when Germany and Japan began, and had put into our effort only part of the effort they put forth, our planes, their theirs would be clashing the sky. It would be our tanks rolling through the jungles, our ships swinging into the docks loaded with reinforcements.

NO TIME FOR MORBID INTROSPECTION

We started late. That's the trouble. We didn't realize what kind of wolves were prowling in the woods until they came out at us.

We should have known. We have only the excuse that we credited Germany and Japan with higher tactics than they prove to have. In that respect we were a little sappy on the idealistic side.

For the time being we are paying the price of having tried to be good neighbors. They knocked our windows out.

But no self-flagellation is called for. We are not the kind of people to waste much time in morbid introspection. The work is going on. Time-saving short cuts are being introduced at a thousand points in the production work.

War now moves with great speed over distances that once seemed fantastic. Japan is within her electric three thousand miles from home. What she has been able to do with little as far from home, we can do with much, which we shall have as surely as the clock goes around. We are going to have it because we are making good use of our time, as everyone who has taken a look around industry agree.

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