THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. G. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1942

Good Guess

But Maybe the Commissioners Knew More Than They Let On

Last year, when the County Commissioners were drawing up their budget for the fiscal year 1941-42, they estimated that within the twelve months 83 per cent of current taxes would be collected. We took issue with the figure and predicted, in our vociferous way, that better than 85 or 86 per cent of current taxes would be collected within the year, or we'd eat somebody's hat.

The Commissioners went ahead, however, and budgeted only 83 per cent. Last week the County Collector of Revenue reported that through March, with three more months set to go the County had collected 84.64 per cent of current taxes.

This helps to restore our faith in ourselves as minor but trustworthy prophets. It likewise will give the board a rather sizable unbudgeted surplus, which may have been its intention all along.

On Bataan

Wainwright's Exhausted Men Were Overcome, Not Defeated

On Bataan peninsula, it was no longer a question of courage. Already General Wainwright's men had shown unlimited bravery. Now it was a matter of physical exhaustion. Outnumbered by perhaps ten to one, the defenders were falling back with the weary steps of men who have reached the limit of human endurance. And in the air—even the great-hearted fighters of Bataan were not able to lick their quotas of ten Japs each while those devilish dive-bombers kept distracting them.

For five long days and sometimes at night, the Jap bombers have been at it. They have worked in relays and in shifts, with never an American fighter plane to spoil their aim. Their artillery barrage has been a continuous blasting; their infantry attacks like the waves lapping at a shore. The concussion-deafened defenders have sighted with sleepless eyes over red hot gun barrels and pulled weary trigger fingers again and again. But there is a limit to all bodily endurance and today it seems as if the heroes of Bataan had nearly reached it.

They may be overcome; many of them may never reach Corregidor fortress for one last stand. But in a larger sense, they have already won their victory. No matter how the tide of battle goes now, nothing can erase their achievement from the record. For these Americans and Filipinos, fighting together, have taught the world that free men can humble their infamous assailants, even in death.

And no matter what the Japanese Army may do now, it can never retrieve the face it has lost on this little bulge of jungle Japan had hoped to make it seem as if she had "freed" the Philippines. That dream, no matter what happens on Bataan, is now an empty illusion.

There's a slogan in it for us: 'Remember Pearl Harbor" never quite shed. There is little merit in remembering when the enemy caught us flatfooted, albeit by treachery, and revealed our shocking unpreparedness. Rather let us remember Bataan—when a few thousand Americans and Filipinos unmasked the enemy and bared his loathsome purpose to the eyes of the whole world.

First Condition

Cab Fare, 10 or 15 Cents, Must Cover Public Liability

Mr. Keith Beaty's impatience with the Council yesterday is understandable, in a way. For some years he has had an exceedingly good thing, virtually a monopoly on the dime-cab trade which was made possible because the terms of the City ordinance under which he operated had been framed to order for him.

The 1938 City Council which permitted the dime cabs to resume operations after they had been banished (for compelling reasons) was a good deal more cognizant of Mr. Beaty's insistence than its obligation to the uninsistent public. The members of that Council still in service have not changed. When the dime-taxi ordinance was revised recently they still were voting for Mr. Beaty and against the public.

The difference between the ordinance which Mr. Beaty objected to yesterday and the ordinance which it replaced may be stated with graphic simplicity. Under the old ordinance a human life was valuable at not in excess of $2,500. Under the new ordinance a human life is valuable at not in excess of $5,000. The latter figure, to our notion comes a great deal closer to representing the worth of personality on the hoof and of course the operators of dime cabs may always avoid paying these considerable claims by avoiding the accidents which give rise to them.

And if the cost of a journey in a dime cab plus the cost of reasonable compensation for injuries to passengers and the general public add up to 15 cents instead of 10 cents, why, that will have to be the tariff. For the manifest principle reaffirmed here is that the first condition which common carriers must meet is adequate responsibility to the public.

Johnson C. Smith

Charlotte Has Reason To Be Proud of This Institution

This week Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte's largest institution of higher learning, celebrates its 75th anniversary. The period of elapsed time is itself significant for only 77 years ago today the last shot in the War Between the States was fired.

Charlotte has reason to be proud of the fact that just two years later—before the scars of conflict had begun to heal—there was established in this city a college for Negroes. Two ministers—Rev. S. C. Alexander and Rev. W. C. Miller were responsible for raising the first money for the institution. Colonel W. R. Myers donated a tract of eight acres. A Philadelphian, Mrs. Mary D. Biddle, gave a substantial fund and her name to the infant college.

In those days all of the instructors were white, for the excellent reason that no qualified Negroes were available. It is a long way from slavery to the campus.

One of the first presidents was Dr. Stephen Mattoon, of New York State, whose daughter married Welling Evan Thomas. Their son, Norman Mattoon Thomas, prominent Socialist and frequent candidate for President of the United States, is reported to have been born on the university campus here in Charlotte. *Who's Who*, however, lists Norman Thomas' birthplace as Marion, Ohio.)

The building of a Negro University did not come easy. On Southern hills were the gutted ruins of homes set fire by the Yankee invader. The first wave of sincere and capable Northern educators and reformers was submerged under a tide of self-seeking carpetbaggers.

But Biddle University survived these trials, outlived the Ku Klux Klan. And in 1922 Mrs. Johnson C. Smith of Pittsburgh gave the institution nine new buildings and an endowment of $750,000. In that year, the school took the name of Johnson C. Smith University. Three years later, James B. Duke gave Johnson C. Smith an endowment of approximately $1,300,000.

Meanwhile, in fat years and in lean, this University has held fast to its high purpose: the training of leadership for the Negro race. For the past 37 years it has been guided in this endeavor by the patient wisdom of President H. L. McCrorey.

Johnson C. Smith celebrates this diamond anniversary as a widely recognized and fully accredited University. Since 1934 it has been a full member of the Association of American Colleges and of the American College on Education. The pre-medical course there is under supervision of the American Medical Association. For almost ten years it has held an "A" rating in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

It can be said with full assurance that Johnson C. Smith University has come of age and that its promise to the future is one of continued growth and service.

We don't know how the periodicals specializing in pants went with weather clothes rationing, etc., as you can't just go on picking the ten best-dressed generals.

In Washington, the tireless Dies Committee takes a firm stand against nudism in the public service. It will not, however, insist that cuffs be put back on pants.

With the new microfilm, one may carry the equivalent of a public library in a small trunk. It greatly simplifies the problem of being washed up on a desert isle with ten books.

Fortress Is Tested

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

A LONE American Flying Fortress met 21 Zero fighters of the Japs at low altitudes the other day. That meant curtains for the Fortress.

The Zero naval pursuit plane is the best ship the Japs have, and one of the best in the business. It can climb faster than our standard pursuit ship, the P-40, and has greater maneuverability. To get this superiority, it has sacrificed armor so that if you hit one, you are apt to collect.

But when 27 of these speedy fighters catch one lumbering big bomber, the fight is supposed to be over before it starts. This is especially true at low altitudes where the greater maneuverability of the Zero has full play. The Fortresses generally try to escape by going higher than the Zero can climb.

IT WAS A FIGHT TO THE FINISH—OF SOME JAPS

Nothing could be done this time, except fight it out. Everybody stayed around as long as his ammunition lasted or until he dropped. When the last bullet had been fired, the lone Flying Fortress went on home, counting twelve Jap planes missing from the squadron of 27.

In an encounter against impossible odds, it actually shot down nearly half the enemy planes and escaped.

Nothing could better tell superiority of our big bomber, the type of ship best suited to the long hauls of the Far East. It is proving its name. Its armament seems to have made it invulnerable to the explosive type of bullet which the Japs favor.

The Zeros can theoretically shoot it down. They carry 50 caliber machine guns and a 20 mm. cannon. But they must get it in the right spots. They have an idea that if they can get on top of it they have it at their mercy. But getting on top is difficult in view of the hitler range of the Fortress.

At any rate, very few of our prize battle wagons of the clouds have been lost in the Far Eastern skies. Most of those wrecked have been caught on the ground. The only things these ships respect are weather and engine trouble.

HITLER SAYS HE HAS A NEW TANK

Hitler has a new tank. At least he is telling it as new to his adversaries. Fact is, he has merely made a few additions or corrections in his old medium model, without changing the model.

Three of the improvements are important. The firepower has been stepped up from 37 mm to 50 mm. A flame thrower has been added to the equipment, no doubt to catch those Russian guerrillas who are always prowling around at night, tossing vials of explosives. Also he has added armor in front, so the tank can take greater blows from straight ahead.

Gone is the day, when Hitler's new weapons cast fear. He conceived this war and secretly built slightly better weapons than he thought he would have to encounter at the outset.

But now everybody knows his secrets, and in the course of conflict, his opposition has improved its weapons constantly beyond his. What we have added to the Flying Fortress, for instance, is what has made it superior to any long range bomber.

No one can change models radically now, without throwing his production line out of gear. The day of surprises is waning. The mechanical basis of the war has been set. From now on it will be a war of mass production and improvements. No nation has ever been better than the United States at that game.

CEYLON ATTACK HAD LIMITED OBJECTIVE

The sensational Jap raid on Ceylon has been over-interpreted sometimes as preliminary to invasion of India. Its limited objective was somewhat like that of Pearl Harbor.

When the Japs took Java, the British and Dutch sent their ships to Ceylon, a military secret the Japs were not long discovering. We sent ours on to Australia, as they also will know, soon.

The 75 Jap planes went into Colombo from two or three aircraft carriers which had sneaked up southward of Ceylon. They were seeking the British and Dutch naval fighting ships from Java.

Also the British apparently were building some ship facilities there on the inner shore of Ceylon, more than 100 miles away from their established but more exposed naval base at Trincomalee.

In one respect the attack was different from Pearl Harbor. The British picked up news of the Japs coming by scouting or detectors and were ready for them.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

If we work in harmony with God's love and will nothing can stop us. Alone we are powerless, learn to use infinite dynamic power: *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. —John 15:5.*

Australian Gov't Ponders Minor Air-Raid Problem

—By Herblock

For A Supreme War Council

By Dorothy Thompson

THE formation of a Pacific Council for the joint planning of the Pacific war by all the nations concerned is a step in the right direction, but it would seem to be inadequate. For, again, it is a council for the joint strategy of a Pacific war, instead of for the Grand Strategy of the war, which is global.

What is needed is a War Council, to take decisions on a strategy to defeat Japan and Germany. That consideration and that consideration alone should move it. Its decisions would determine the overall strategy and allocation of troops and material, ships and planes, for a common assault on vital points.

PRESSURE GROUPS SHOULDN'T CONTROL WAR

We are in serious danger of conducting this war like domestic politics—according to pressure groups. The pressure is understandable; every nation has something peculiarly dear to itself. But this is not the way wars of coalition are won. It is the way such wars are lost—the way Europe was lost; the way the world can be lost.

At this moment influential groups are insisting that, as far as America is concerned, only the war in the Far East is important. This opinion springs from sentimental considerations—the fact that more American forces are directly engaged in this area than elsewhere—and from a primitive concept of political and military geography that still thinks in terms of two oceans and islands instead of globally.

It also springs from a continuance of the defensive mentality. Looking at the globe, it is quite clear even to a layman that Germany and Japan can be defeated only on the Great Continent—the continuous land area of Eurasia-Africa. The decisive center of this war is where the word itself indicates: in the center. And that center is Russia, and the Near East—the juncture of the three areas, Europe, Asia, Africa. We and the British are by nature on the outskirts—and so is Japan. Will it help us, in winning the war, that is to say in defeating our enemies, to be very active around the outskirts?

We were correct in not wanting Japan in China. Japan in China is more dangerous than Japan in Java or even in Australia. Japan in India would be even more dangerous, and Japan in Russia could be disastrous.

Russia is an Asiatic power—not merely a European power. That is her supreme significance in this war. She is a great Asiatic land power and small Asiatic sea power, in possession of one of the most important points for an offensive against Japan. It is said that until now, Russia plays no role in the Pacific war. That is not true. She immobilizes nearly a million Japanese troops. The existence of Russian Vladivostok obliges the Japanese to maintain an air fleet on the Asiatic Islands and a naval fleet around them. They cannot throw all their planes and ships against the South, because of Russia.

THE DECISIVE BLOW WILL FALL IN EURASIA-AFRICA

The largest and most powerful armies on our side are in Eurasia-Africa, on the continent. The greatest source of manpower is there. The decisive blow will be struck there—for us or against us. And it will be struck this year. It will be struck within six months. If, by the end of this year, the Russian and Chinese armies are still fighting, destiny's dice will have turned up with our numbers. If they are not, then this struggle can be of unforeseeable length and bitterness, and of unforeseeable revolutionary consequences all over this earth.

The political blindness of some people is as great as their military blindness. A victory of Russia will leave the western world intact—and liberate it. A defeat of Russia will plunge us and the globe into chaos. This is the supreme paradox of our century.

Therefore, we should set up now, a supreme council of strategy including Russia. And its object should be to keep Russia and China fighting, in the place where the decision will be taken. To accomplish that we will require the prevention of enemy concentration through diversion of their energies. Such diversions may not even be successful as individual battles. But if they prevent the concentration of the enemy's forces, they are successful for the war. Troops in reserve, for defensive purposes, in the spring and summer of 1942, will accomplish nothing. Germany will hold no troops in reserve. Neither will Japan. They are going to gamble for the world this Spring and Summer. If they fail, in 1943 the war will be over—with a victory for us.

NO ROOM FOR LOBBYING IN OUR WAR EFFORT

Such a supreme war council would be a council of responsible political leaders, with a responsible military council sitting in next room. The decisions must be taken together. At present, a kind of lobby is going on, each country trying to get something for itself. Representatives of Australia, Casey's job in this lobby, and he did the job supremely well. But when Churchill called Mr. Casey in the Near East, he called him to the place where Australia's cause can be lost or won—and not on the island. Islands against Islands, we can defeat Japan. But continents against continents we can lose—in both Germany and Japan.

The war has now developed to the point where we can have a bird's-eye view of the globe, and see the war as a whole. And now is the time to fight it—as a whole.

Side Glances

"He's been extra ornery lately! I guess he knows the Army will get him one of these days anyway!"

Pungeons, Gussets And Cord-Necked Finches

Willis Harvey In Chapel Hill Weekly

Besides chickadees, robins, sparrows, yellow warblers, etc., I logged these birds last week:

1. Double-crested sap-rater.
2. Cord-necked finch.
3. Twilled-back pungeon (Saturday, March 21; usually does not get up as far as South Carolina until April).
4. Speckled gusset.
5. Olive-green rice-eater (really a South Carolina milkwake).

Nos. 1 and 2 I had never seen before and had to look them up in Uncle Walter's big book on birds.

AVG Needs New Planes

By Raymond Clapper

CHUNGKING, CHINA

EVEN the vaunted American Volunteer Group is now suffering from a shortage of planes. The AVG has been gradually whittled down, although in so doing it has established a heroic record for quantity of Japanese aircraft destroyed. The successes of the AVG are the talk of all Africa and Asia. I have heard its praises sung everywhere I have been.

But now the group will probably be worked into the U. S. Army air forces. General Claire L. Chennault, its founder and the master-mind of its successful tactics, would be given an important air command.

AVG SHOULD JOIN THE ARMY NOW

While the AVG has served a highly useful function as a free-lance air force, it is now considered that with America in the war the situation is different, leaving no place for an individualist group.

It is hoped that most of the men of the AVG will agree to their induction into the Army air forces, and that they can be retained as a separately recognized unit in order to conserve the morale value that has been built up by their highly successful operations.

The secret of the success of the American Volunteer Group has been in tactics, rather than in quality of aircraft. Their planes are inferior in maneuverability to those of the Japanese. The AVG pilots overcame this handicap by the use of diving tactics. The Jap fliers have been unable to cope with the combat techniques studied out by General Chennault.

The men of the AVG are mostly adventurous youths who volunteered from the Army Air Corps back in the days of American neutrality. They are paid high salaries by the Chinese, and they receive in addition a bonus for each enemy plane shot down.

REGULAR ARMY FLIERS LEFT AT DISADVANTAGE

One person, in discussing the advisability of bringing the AVG into the Army air forces, pointed out that regular Army fliers have been left at a disadvantage in comparison with the bonus payments, free discipline and individual character of the AVG. The situation poses a delicate problem, but every effort is being made to adjust it to the satisfaction of all hands, and especially to save the services of these talented fighters who have already done so much—not only so much actual fighting, but so much to uphold American pride and prestige.

The loss in the AVG's airplane strength is typically of the situation in China at the moment, a situation which it is hoped can be overcome in the next few weeks—and which must be overcome if China is to be held in the war.

CHINESE MUST CONTINUE TO HOLD AND HARASS

It is not necessary to think of this as a possible area for a major offensive. The difficulties of transport are so great that it seems doubtful if this can ever be a decisive theater. But it is most important that the Chinese continue to hold and harass the Japanese, tieing up large enemy forces that otherwise could be released for other campaigns. The continuation of China in the war is most essential for that reason.

Even if heavy weapons cannot be brought in, fighter planes and bombers are the most essential things. A few more of them would make a big difference.

The record of the American Volunteer Group shows what can be done with small numbers of new planes.

Visitin' Around

And Little Eldridge, What Does He Hope?

(Big Laurel Item, Marshall News-Record)

Little Eldridge Rice is on the sick list at this writing, hope he will soon get well and get to go back to school.

We Allus Did Say Raymond An' Vernon Played Together Nice

(Unity Item, Stanly News & Press)

Raymond Efird spent awhile with Vernon Underwood Sunday.

Who's Seeing Nellie Home These Days?

(Pearce Item, Zebulon Record)

Quilting parties are very popular in our community.

Oh

(Earl Item, Shelby Star)

R. L. Nichols and Joe Austell have recently had chicken breeder houses erected at their homes here.