THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1937 ●

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TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1942

The Big Shot

Supreme Jap Admiral Gets a Whiff of Defeat

According to the Jap radio, which would seem to have no apparent reason for lying in this instance, the enemy fleet our naval forces smashed and sent reeling back in the Coral Sea was commanded by old Yamamoto himself.

This admiral, whose peculiarly mustachioed face appeared on the cover of Time magazine a few months ago, is the highest ranking naval officer in Japan. He it was who boasted that he looked forward to dictating peace terms to the United States from the White House in Washington.

Isoroku Yamamoto is a tough baby, a hard professional fighting man who got his baptism of fire with Admiral Togo when the Japs crushed the Imperial Russian fleet at the great battle of Tsushima in 1904. He left the first and second fingers of his left hand aboard Togo's flagship Mikasa, when he stepped ashore after the battle.

From that day to this, Yamamoto has studied, planned, and worked for one objective and one only: to defeat the United States and Britain in the Pacific Ocean.

Toward this end, Yamamoto has pinned perhaps the bulk of his strategy on one type of fighting ship—the aircraft carrier. Another favorite weapon is the torpedo, as used by planes and submarines. Guns he considers ancillary weapons, to be used only when torpedoes and bombs fail to do the trick.

That may explain why, in the Coral Sea battle, the Japs were so well supplied with carriers. It also indicates that the enemy must have sent one or more battleships into the fight. It is not likely that the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Imperial Fleets would go to battle in anything less than a capital ship.

All that Isoroku Yamamoto took with him into the Coral Sea did not return however. And among those missing were one and possibly two of his precious aircraft carriers. If the Admiral was still looking forward to dictating that peace from the White House last week, he must have learned a new respect for the size of his job.

For Sale

Many a Car-Owner Would Welcome Confiscation

One of Bob Reynolds' peculiarities is a tendency toward proposing spectacular legislation—bills that neither he nor his colleagues seriously expect to pass. The Senator's latest offering (which, incidentally, comes up for discussion by the Senate Military Affairs Committee today) is a suggestion that a Federal speed limit of 40 miles an hour be legislated and enforced by confiscation, with compensation, of offending vehicles.

Even with the introducer ensconced in the chair of the committee which will consider it, it is doubtful that such a bill will be reported out favorably; one might well ask in the first place why auto confiscation is a matter for the Military Affairs Committee.

Yet we know several automobile-owners who say in quick earnestness that they wish to heck the bill would go through. First thing they'd do, they say, is to go out on the highway and drive at the speed of 50 miles an hour until caught. They would accept confiscation (with compensation) gratefully and joyfully. Some of them have been trying to sell their cars at a fair price. Trouble is, here in war-blighted North Carolina, nobody seems to want a used car if it's more than a year or so old. We've got no big war industries to speak of, except maybe the coast shipyards.

Why, all the Government need do, if it wants used cars, is to let word get around. When gas rationing gets in full swing, even more drivers are going to realize that it's not worth while to keep a car if you can't drive it more than about 30 miles a week.

Man-Sized Job

USO's Quota for Mecklenburg Puts It Up to Civilians

The United Service Organization's quota for Mecklenburg County has been set at $68,900, which is about a seventh of the $440,000 quota assigned to the whole state of North Carolina. And when one recalls the difficulty Mecklenburg had in raising $20,000 last year—matter of fact, it wasn't raised, was it?—it becomes readily apparent that State Chairman George Ivey and Mecklenburg Chairman Grady Rankin have laid out a man-sized job for themselves and the community.

There are few more appealing of war-worthy causes than the USO. Its activities spring from the same generous impulse which impelled the cities and towns in the Carolinas to throw open their homes to the soldiers on maneuvers last Fall. It constitutes one of the limited ways in which civilians grateful for the manly, uncomplaining spirit shown by the nation's armed forces, may make a direct contribution to their continuing welfare wherever they may be. Even so, for Mecklenburg to meet its quota, as for North Carolina to meet its quota, is going to take a lot of digging down by the people at large, all the more deeply because of the war savings campaign just completed.

Facing the campaign with that realization, it becomes all of us to assume individual responsibility, properly expressed in terms of contributions, for its success or failure. And it is well to remember that the beneficiaries of this great undertaking are our own men and boys in khaki and navy blue.

Guy To Burn

Rationing Raises a Problem In By-Products and Storage

Back in the days before the internal combustion engine became commonplace, gasoline was just so much sawdust to oil men. The remunerative refinery product was kerosene for the lamps and lanterns of the nation. Byways could be found for a little lubricating oil, too, but gasoline nobody wanted the dangerous stuff. It was a surplus by-product and millions of gallons were poured out and set afire.

Millions of automobiles, of course, revised all that. Gasoline became king, and in devising new ways to extract more of it from crude oil, petroleum chemists discovered hundreds of new by-products. Among these is toluol, a substance necessary to the compounding of trinitrotoluene, TNT. The chemists also discovered how to make high octane gasoline which has been the greatest single factor in developing military aviation.

These two items, toluol and aviation gas, are indispensable to the war effort. Refineries must keep turning them out in tremendous quantities. But here's the catch. Refineries cannot produce these substances without also turning out as a by-product if you will—tremendous gallonages of plain automobile gasoline.

Now if the consumption of automobile gasoline is to be cut on any such scale as contemplated under the eastern seaboard rationing scheme, what is going to become of all this extra fuel? That's what worries oil company executives. They recognize the transportation difficulties, but they feel that it would be a shameful thing to be obliged to burn billions of gallons of gas.

Yet, unless some way of consuming the stuff economically is devised, burning seems to be the only alternative. Storage of such quantities of liquid is out of the question. Even if steel needed for ships and tanker were available, storage tanks could not be built fast enough to take care of the production.

And if millions of motorists with gasoline to burn have to read about the new fluid they want being intentionally set afire, the slaughter of tempers is going to be clearly audible.

War now is so swift a Phil Sheridan could make the 20 miles while you're reciting the poem.

On Malta bombed 2,000 times a tail of Maltese cats and dogs would be considered a fad.

Butch O'Hare is given a Navy promotion and a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor draws an extra $2 in pay. Lord, how the money rolls in.

Lost somewhere in forgotten Indian lore is the Redman's secret of running a continent that size without a public debt.

"The Hawaiian language has only a dozen letters." With these, though, it has been possible to write innumerable songs, all of which turn out to be "Aloha."

How Much Was That?

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON, MR. ROOSEVELT has been getting ready to ask Congress for another war appropriation of $56,000,000,000, which will bring the victory program to the unbelievable total of $185,000,000,000.

This is six times as much money as there was in the United States last year in all the banks, Treasury, or pocketbooks. It represents about two-thirds of the national wealth of the country, as calculated by the Census Bureau, back in 1922. ($320,000,000,000.)

It is five times as much as the Federal debt accumulated through the entire history of the country, even after it was doubled during the New Deal era before Dec. 7. It is the greatest expenditure ever conceived in the mind of man.

NAZIS AND BRITISH TOGETHER ONLY SPEND A LITTLE MORE.

You may not be interested in figures but you will be interested in these because you have never seen anything like them before. At the moment we are spending at a rate of $40,000,000,000 a year. This is nearly as much as Britain and Germany together are spending.

Germany's outlay is hard to calculate, because it is involved in fictitious mark values and low slave-labor costs. Disregarding these incalculable factors, Mr. Roosevelt's economists figure the Nazis are spending $25,000,000,000 and $20,000,000,000.

Britain is spending only half as much as we are today. Their war production is running not more than $2,000,000,000.

The German production, however, is coming out in ready-to-shoot form, whereas a very small percentage of our expenditures represents this finished fighting form of equipment so far.

A relatively large amount of our iron and steel is going into the building of factories, or ships to carry equipment to faraway fronts, whereas the Nazi factories have long been finished and they do not need ships to get their stuff to the front. Also Hitler has built up huge inventories of war materials and has an edge in that respect—for the moment.

COLOSSAL AS IT IS, THE MONEY CAN BE SPENT

There need be no doubts about Mr. Roosevelt's ability to spend the colossal amount he plans. The sum was reached on a basis of ability.

So far we have actually spent about two-thirds of it, around $30,000,000,000. The total for this year will be about $55,000,000,000 or 25 per cent of it. Next year will come the peak when we will put out $75,000,000,000, and by that time the money will represent a much greater percentage of ready-to-shoot goods.

BRITISH ONLY PLAYING WITH SOCIALISM

An American, back from London, is telling the strange tale that the British public would vote for Socialism today if presented with the choice between that and its own capitalistic democracy.

He may be exaggerating, but what he says is at least partly verified by recent news dispatches from London concerning the popularity of the Cripps kind of Socialist politician.

How anyone could fight for democracy and rubbish the opposite while doing so is a question that remains to be answered. The only answer the American had is that the average Briton is not for Russia's war effort, and Red toughness, solely because of what the Russians have been able to do to the Nazi military machine.

But people jump to quick and foolish conclusions in the excitement of war, especially people who have gained a few victories for the British. What they need apparently is a little fighting, and less politicking at home a few successes on the field of battle to dispel their blood, political dreaming.

When these come along, as they surely must, British popular disenchantment manifested itself now in such a peculiar way will evaporate.

Dept. of Understatement, Japanese Division

From "Encyclopaedia Britannica" Eleventh Edition

Concerning the Japanese Articles of trade and industry, excellent goods dwelling upwards have been expressed. The Japanese samurai always prided himself on having no sword word." He never drew his sword without using it, he never gave his word without keeping it. Yet it may be doubted whether the value attached in Japan to the abstract quality, truth, is as high as the value attached to it in England, or whether the consciousness of having told a falsehood weighs as heavily on the heart. Much depends on the motive ... the average Japanese will not sacrifice expediency on the altar of truth.

Coventry Treatment For a Bad Word

Greensboro News

President Roosevelt won't use the word inflation, or didn't in his message about it. It's an interesting experiment this trying to banish the thing into good behavior.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

We may experience the mighty exaltation of penitence too. *Being by the right hand of God exalted, he hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear.*—Acts 2.33.

Hard Hit? We're Just Being Tapped on the Shoulder!

—By Herblock

Wallace's War Aims

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK, THE first statement from a high American personality giving his war aims was made by the Vice-President, Henry Wallace, in New York on Friday night. Mr. Wallace chose the right platform for it—a dinner of the Free World Association.

The fact that the war has a substantial scope is vaguely comprehended by everyone, but this sense has not yet been so clearly articulated as it was Friday evening. The lack of adequate articulation of war aims has resulted in a certain sense of frustration and inadequacy. There has been lots of talk about "morale" — a horrid word—but not enough about morale. Mr. Wallace appealed to the morality of mankind, not to "morale."

THE WAR'S REVOLUTIONARY ASPECTS ARE EMPHASIZED

And he is the first American of high position to dare to stress the essential revolutionary nature of this war. The object of this war is to create a great peace in a new world. And in envisioning such a peace and world, Mr. Wallace set Hitler's war in its correct historical perspective, and revealed it as a counter-revolution of immense virulence against the great developing revolution of the last 150 years.

He does not see our war as our victory as a return to a previous epoch, but as the means by which this great revolution will be liberated to greater fulfillment.

This revolution for the Rights of Man arose in the first place, in Mr. Wallace's analysis—from a deeply religious view of man's relation to man and God, out of which came ordinances for law, justice, human dignity, education and freedom. He who would try to halt the course of this movement in mid-road—like Lords of men and society in, for Mr. Wallace, the druid. (Mr. Wallace does not obliterate the devil. He merely has cast him out of the Cassida henchmen and other crooks.)

UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT IS RECOGNIZED—NOT INSITED

He recognizes that this revolutionary development has been uneven in advanced and backward countries, but rejects the idea that in Britain's uneasiness there is any preconsidered will of God or nature.

Also, most importantly, Mr Wallace does not claim that we, in some mystical way, the most advanced people, have yet fulfilled our possibilities or our mission. We have not annihilated the fear of peace, and that is a basic step in the march of the liberation of Man.

In this philosophy and scheme it is impossible to damn any peoples — even our enemies. Mr. Wallace is not a bit soft on this subject. It happens that the counter-revolution is being carried by peoples who must be defeated. Mr. Wallace's was one of the lightlingest speeches delivered in this war. Yet he can fit our defeated enemies, as peoples, into a vision of the future.

And he did something else. He placed the Russian revolution where it belongs in the historical scheme of things. For Mr. Wallace, this revolution, the most radical of our epoch, is only a half-way house, and embodies partial truths. Is something neither wholly to be condemned nor wholly to be praised, but rather to be understood. He is not afraid of it. He sees where and to what extent it fits into the movement of mankind toward greater lives. When he would not dream of fearing that a revolution which was reaction from extreme feudalism, occurring in a largely illiterate country, could impose itself intact upon a highly developed and literate nation with a long tradition of education, prosperity, and self-government.

HE WAS UNDEMAGOGIC TO POINT OF DRYNESS

Mr. Wallace's speech was utterly without demagoguery, even to the point of dryness. In his desire to speak precisely and in the prohibition that he placed upon himself not to inflame but to clarify, he evoked distress. But there was more vital eloquence in his dryness than in most people's eloquence. It was the speech of a man intellectually convinced and spiritually supported—the speech of a concealed prostate prophet.

His candor was equal to his courage. Putting the Russian revolution where it belongs, as a step in the struggle of a great people toward fuller consciousness and higher organization, he clearly affirmed his belief in private property as a basic human right.

But he does not believe that private property rights stretch to the unchecked control of huge international cartels covering basic raw materials and industries from which live whole nations of men.

Mr. Wallace sees that the Nazi-Japanese world affirms the whole of the last 150 years of human progress as aberration and blunder. He thinks our enemies are fighting a century and a half and that encourages him to optimism. And, in imagining a peace, he is most concerned with the fulfillment of the basic liberal trend. He knows that all mankind can be lifted to an immensely higher economic level by reasonable international organization, and, as a deep Christian recognizes that the soul inhabits a body with justified demands and needs. So he does not leave economics out of Peace.

WALLACE WREAKS WITH "BALANCE OF POWER" THEORY

His speech should be compared with Anthony Eden's, made the same day, foreseeing a United Nations pelleting of the world in the interim between victory and a more universal order. Eden's speech, like Wallace's, is a hash with the old Balance of Power theory of peace manipulated by always precarious equilibrium. It is a vision of the world society made imperative by universal educations, technology and science. A world based upon reciprocal rights and duties as between men and nations, without which there is no Justice and therefore no peace.

There is a hard clear streak of Biblical righteousness in Henry Wallace greatly needed in this time. With it goes humaneness and mercy.

The Free World Association will print the speech. It should be widely circulated and widely discussed.

Slight Alteration in The Clap-Clap Song

Asheville Times

After reading the President's address on the dangers of inflation and the necessity for higher taxation, it's plain that as one consequence of the war all of us are going to be "Deep in the Heart of Taxes."

Our Bridge Of Planes

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, MRS. ROOSEVELT reports in her column that her son, Elliott, a major in the air corps, has returned from Africa with a germ that means a spell in the hospital.

That is not surprising. Malaria and dysentery lurk everywhere and sometimes defy the most careful precautions. I saw Elliott in Khartoum where we spent an evening together. He was as impressed as I was with what the Americans are doing, especially under difficulties strange to the United States.

WHEN IN DOUBT YOU DRINK BEER

You do not dare drink a drop of water that has not been boiled. Often it is difficult to know whether the water has been boiled. When in doubt, you drink beer. Toward dusk everyone puts on mosquito boots, to keep out the malarial mosquito which hovers near the ground. Everyone takes quinine. It is not a preventive but helps fight the fever if one is bitten.

That is the kind of thing, on top of all other difficulties, that American forces in Africa, the Middle East and most of Asia must cope with. There are sandstorms, tropical heat that slays unless you wear an insulated helmet reaching down over the back of your neck, torrential rains that make operations difficult, and always the native labor that insists on doing work in slow, ancient ways that drive Americans to exasperation.

Yet, in face of these difficulties, the Army and the Pan-American Airways, working together, have within a few months put into operation this most remarkable air route across Africa. Work began last Summer. We were not in the war and Pan-American was given a contract to start the job for the United States Government.

A 7,000-mile overseas air route had to be developed from the United States to Africa before the land operations could begin. Next came the task of constructing land bases and enlarging the pioneer British airway across Africa. This was the largest single air transport assignment ever undertaken by a private organization. Pan-American operating for the U. S. Government.

NO TIME LOST IN GETTING STARTED

Veterans of Pan-American's regular overseas operating staff were put on the job. The first shipload of men and materials was on the high seas at the time of Pearl Harbor and reached Africa a few days later.

Pan-American drew on its long experience in flying both oceans and the South American jungles, and was thereby able to start operations without losing time in costly experiments. It had to organize, transport and set up a complete transcontinental airway across Africa, providing not only airports but servicing facilities, living quarters, food, medical aid and equipment.

That meant building an airway over 5,000 miles of jungle, desert and mountains, with temperatures far above 100 degrees, without telephones, telegraph or trains. It meant using camels and donkeys. Gasoline had to be carried over trackless deserts by pack animals.

All of this has been done since last December in what is known as the "white man's graveyard." One American out of three was in the hospital with malaria at one time. Pan-American brought in a medical corps, built hospitals, drilled wells, installed purifiers, sewers, drainage ditches. Now less than one per cent of the men have malaria.

PAN-AM IS DOING A GOOD JOB; WOULD ARMY HELP?

Transports were operating within 60 days of the President's order. Now the African route is one of the most heavily traveled air routes in the world and is capable of unlimited expansion. It was built out of the spirit and technical competence of Pan-American Airways.

There is talk that the Army may take over the Pan-American operation in Africa. The pioneering has been done. While there may be good reason for militarizing the line, it would be a loss if the Pan-American organization, professionally trained for exactly this kind of work, were swallowed up into Army routine. The British have returned their air transport to civilian hands after trying out BAP operation.

The African line is working with speed and efficiency under private operation. Space is under Army control. It is an instance of close teamwork under pioneering conditions and could easily be crammed up by the wrong kind of a move now as we all remember from the alt-mail episode.

Side Glances

"With all the stuff you have to sell, I wish you could tell me why my spinach, beans and carrots didn't come up!"

Visitin' Around

But What If Her Won't Surrender the Orange?
(Piller, Lexington Dispatch)

Walls painted with blue and green appear lighter than if painted with her orange or yellow.