THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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Red Letters

The Army Runs a Brawl On Its New Officers

Great numbers of civilians without military training have become commissioned officers in the armed services. Many of those officers have gone into uniform through pressure channels by use of influence, political or otherwise. The papers of all those who enter thus, we are told, are stamped "P. I.", meaning political influence. We think it well that that is so.

A few days ago, as a Congressional committee met with leading generals, a Congressman asked a ranking personnel officer if certain men entered the Army with papers marked The general confessed it to be true. The Congressman wanted to know why, though the reason is a perfect specimen of the obvious. He had a point.

Why, Congress wants to know, should its recommendations of a civilian to the Army be made to look like political patronage "If a man I know to be of good character comes to me for a recommendation, and I give him such in good faith and the Army is taking officers like him by the hundreds why should that be held against him?" That was what the Congressman wanted to know.

The Army assured Congress there. In a hearing made public through Government Printing offices, that no Congressional endorsement is to be held against any officer. The indications of political influence is for the record. The Army wants to make sure of its men; wants to know the caliber of its officers from every angle. This is protection against what has happened to many an Army in the past. Against what, for example, happened to France.

It is our belief that hundreds of the most valuable men in uniform today are those who were civilians until a few months ago. It has already become apparent that the Services of Supply, bolstered considerably by civilian rail and shipping experts, by big business men from the food industries, have made great strides since the last war. That, to a large extent, may be traced to the invaluable aid of ex-civilians.

It is certain that doctors, nurses, engineers, ministers, scientists, have accepted commissions and gone into service to make ours a much more efficient army. The co-ordination of military and industrial strength necessary to winning the war, we have been led to believe, it being brought about largely by men who never learned a manual of arms.

The conclusion is that the wholesale induction of civilian specialists into all the services is vital and pressing. But we agree with the Army that every man who takes a high rank in service with some political push behind him should be so noted, for the duration of his service. The unfit in command show themselves in every war, and a great many of those have entered the ranks through that ever-dangerous portal the Army has wisely branded, "P. I."

A Single Chief

Tentatively, a Motion Is Put for Discussion

Proceeding on the assumption that if Chief Joyner be not replaced now he will be in time, we should like to put a motion before the house this afternoon—tentatively. Just to see how it is received and likewise to see what we ourselves think of it. What's wrong with Stanhope Lineberry for Chief of both the County and the City Police Departments?

The County, it is likely, would be reluctant to share his services. On the other hand, the City department has long been disorganized, and has an enormous volume of crime and a good many established criminal rings to cope with. The City needs not only a full-time chief but a chief and a half.

So far, the suggestion appears to be unworkable.

But look at it in this way. There really isn't much sense in having two police forces for the one community, in drawing a tough circle and in saying to the City Police, you function within the circle, and to the County Police, your province is without. Consolidation of those two departments would be a wholly logical procedure. But consolidation would require, doubtless, an act of the Legislature which the local delegation would be hesitant to introduce. A single chief for the two departments, however, could be named under local authority.

We are not sure that it would work out in practice or that there are not valid objections to it. We recognize, too, that the County is getting along very well with its present police set-up and might oppose any involvement with the City. But there again is a purely arbitrary division in a single community, and why, we ask you, would not a single chief of known ability be able to run the two departments and to co-ordinate them?

End Of Luck

Showman Teter, an Artist, Meets the Death He Dared

Earl Teter will not be remembered as a great American, but there will be those among the millions who will never forget having seen his taunts with death. He was, this lucky Teter, an artist and a scientist in the realm of entertainment. In his field he was a great one.

His shows were never daring jibes at the laws of the universe; they were ever meticulously planned operations of great skill. Never a Teter show went on until minute measurements and timing had been made. He and his men rode flying automobiles as horsemen followed front, always knowing the limits and the rules. Teter was no reckless showman.

When his troupe toured the country it rolled on strict rules of safe driving. In every car drivers were used in rotation, no man driving over fifty miles at a stretch. Teter's men drove in the same rotation. He preached to them and to the public at every chance, the rules of safe driving. From him it sounded very much like a jest to the denizens of fairs and carnivals where he had broken all attendance records. It was no jest.

The stunt that killed the most spectacular showman of the generation was his newest and greatest and most dangerous. It was one that he had insisted upon stretching longer and longer in each step on the big circuit. Crowd-pleasing Teter contained to give the spectators more and more for their money.

In the last event of his last show the end came just as uncounted thousands of the thrilled had known it would come, and there is not much point in moralizing upon it. Those who dare death always face it.

The Good And Bad

Allied Gains Are Offset By Nazi Russian Drive

The thin trickles of good news widened over the week-end. There was revolution in Egypt and a new sting in British attack. There was the beginning of strength in China, where an American air force began official operations. There were the bases for our hopes, but there was darkness on the Don.

Should the threat to the Suez across the burning sands be eliminated, should the tide of Pacific warfare turn in our favor, the Allies could still find grief on the Russian front. That the Soviet must hold is as much an old as that phase of the war. Today, it seems to be more of a pressing truth than ever.

With the rising of the American tide of manpower and equipment in the battle zones, the chance for striking at the soul of the world's evil comes daily closer. If Hitler could suddenly satisfy himself in Russia, stake out new lines for the holding by reserve troops, he could turn on our early arrivals in the Near East or on the British Isles should he find them untrammelled and as yet unprepared, we would have lost priceless months, priceless material.

At home, the little readers of the headlines, the little listeners, the little street-corner experts, regardless of what they think they know should sit on the lid. The good news from anywhere in this war will have to be simply *overwhelming* to prove the passing of grave danger. The fact that the Allies are beginning to stir is no cause for rejoicing. We are still losing more than we gain, and in ships sunk we are losing the means through which our gains will have to be achieved.

Patriotism is that ineffable something which oozes from three of us who never used sugar in the coffee anyway.

For what there is left of it, when this is over, a "little world's fair" might be plenty.

Changed Strategy

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

AS EGYPT GOES, so goes the whole Middle East theater of war.

No more military information than that provided by a world map will tell you that Axis closure of the Mediterranean will require a wholly new concept of the world struggle by the United Nations. A changed strategy for victory will have to be devised.

The shipping distance from New York and London to Basra, at the head of the Persian Gulf, is greater than from San Francisco to Australia. Any Middle East defensive campaign, based on that port (which would be the only feasible one left by Egypt's fall) could be sustained only to a very limited and difficult extent.

Any effort to keep the tiny dot of Malta in the middle of the Mediterranean would hardly be worthwhile. The Navy nearly gave some military aspects heart failure the other day by announcing, during the battle of Egypt, that the American aircraft carrier Wasp had arrived at Malta with vital plane reinforcements.

With Egypt tottering, it was no time for an American aircraft carrier to be there. It developed the Wasp venture had been carried out earlier. As a matter of fact, it was started earlier, about last May 1, to be exact.

The British could have no use for Malta, with Egypt gone, because there would be no landing place for British or American convoys to go through that inland sea.

Nor could they use it for planes or subs to break or prey upon Rommel's line of supplies, because Rommel's supply route could go straight from Italy to Alexandria, beyond plane range. Malta no doubt would have to go as Egypt goes.

A stand might be made in Palestine or Syria for the Near East oil fields, but, as pointed out above, this defense would have to be supported hazardously by the circuitous route of supplies back through Basra, while the Nazis enjoyed perfect interior supply routes back to Germany.

The Nazis were cut up considerably, but not critically, in taking Sevastopol. Perhaps fifteen of their twenty divisions in the Crimea may shortly be available for the big Hitler effort that is to come. He may have to make two out of one in some instances and get many untrained replacements, but there is no reason to hope that the coming venture has been made impossible by his Sevastopol losses.

The best reports suggest he has 185 to 210 divisions on the Russian line (around 3,000,000 men). His losses so far this Spring and Summer have actually been greater than the Reds, although his total manpower is about the same as last year.

Now, however, he is using more Italian and Rumanian troops and calling upon untrained replacements.

His tactics are different. Rommel is still using in Egypt, the stop-and-go and "Kesse" strategy for tanks that proved so successful in France. The tanks break through, rummage around and encircle.

Hitler cannot do that any more in Russia. The Reds are deployed in depth. Therefore, Hitler has switched to short battering ram blows. He puts his assault tanks up at the front of the line to make short jabs, follows up with lighter tanks, used with infantry.

Because Hitler is now losing more men than the Reds, no one here thinks the long range Russian outlook is very bad, despite devastating losses they have driven back, but the channels very obviously favor their ability to keep their Army fighting nevertheless. Therefore they need all new aid possible.

Our convoys have been getting through to Murmansk despite the submarine blockade, but Hitler claims his bombing attacks on the docks there and on the railroad leading south have been successful. There is no reason to doubt it, or to doubt that something must be done about it in the way of forestalling the Reds more planes.

The Chinese who seem able to cope with the Japs better than the British did in Malaya, have likewise been clamoring for more planes.

The new strategy therefore is likely to take cognizance of these realistic desirables in event of Egypt's loss, always admitted, of course, of the day ahead when enough of men and material can be accumulated for the American-Australian forces to fight their way back up to the Philippines and for the organization of an invasion of Europe.

New Open Season

From the Bristol Herald-Courier

Nobody anywhere would hesitate to put his money on the Russians, if they could situate in here their famous Winter weather set in about the Fourth of July.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

If it is bad for others it is bad for you. Justice is blind and knows no favorites. Get right with your conscience and be charitable to others: *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God.*—Romans 2:3.

The Question

—By Herblock

On The Record

Not Churchill - - - - We

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

IT IS a good thing for those who write in these days, to take time off for sustained contemplation. This, therefore, will be the last column to appear On the Record for four weeks. It is the need for quiet thought, rather than the need for rest, that impels the calling of a brief halt. For, with exciting news daily, there is a danger in the immediate reaction. We see that in the comments on the New Eastern war, both in this country and in England. There is a defeat. The immediate reaction is, Who is to blame?

Yet among the critics of Mr. Churchill are those more responsible than he for the decline of British power in the last twenty years. This they forget, washing their hands of guilt for the last setback, and seeking a scapegoat.

They raise the cry: "How can this be?" And the Prime Minister is asked to explain. But the explanation requires, to be accurate, an analysis of full twenty years of victors dissipated; of illusions about reality; of a diplomacy that embraced its enemies and turned its back on its friends; of a pacifism emanating from both streams of society, from the right and from the left, with a class egotism in both, both permeated with a guilt complex, a schizophrenia will to relinquish their civilization, and die nobly.

During all this period Mr. Churchill was a solitary Cassandra proclaiming the decline to dead or hostile ears, and one suspects that now, when the news that he inherited has inevitable results there is a certain compensatory satisfaction in his critics' jeering their comeback.

It is as though a careless house owner, having refused to accept expert warning that his house was ill-protected, should call in the expert when the house was blazing, and when there is delay in extinguishing the flames shouts: "Look at him! He doesn't know his job!"

These thoughts lead me to America, whose house was also ill-protected, out of the same mentality as the English. If we are to draw conclusions from a series of disasters, let us draw them for ourselves as well as for the British.

Neither Britain nor America are military powers. In land warfare we are inexperienced amateurs up against the world's greatest professionals. Each of us has created a young army, on an old stock, with a nineteenth century mentality. The Germans and Russians have new armies, reorganized from top to bottom, with new methods of warfare, and, even more importantly, with a new mentality of warfare.

Recently the Germans commented, "If Erwin Rommel were in the British Army he would be a sergeant." That is probably true; but it is also true of our Army.

And, strange as it may seem, the two states have more democratic armies than the democratic countries. There is more opportunity to rise in the ranks; there is more personal attention paid to the individual recruit; and there is a greater mental and spiritual participation in the war, on the part of these armies. Germany and Russia wage revolutionary wars, for revolutionary objectives, with revolutionary methods. We don't.

The old form of army was of units of combatants, each separated—navy, airforce, army—each jealous of its own sphere; and within the forces everything separated: infantry, tanks, anti-aircraft, etc. The modern German and Russian armies are working societies, organized like a great industrial factory, where every process fits in with another process.

But not only this. The whole people are part of the fighting society. Everything that everyone does is a contribution to the war effort. In reality there is no life outside the war effort in these countries.

This has not even begun to be achieved in this country. There is no complete single-mindedness. We have sporadic "drives" for this or that, which fall apart when the drive is accomplished instead of systematic, continual, and integrated effort.

Take a simple thing, we have still not got a systematic, house to house, continual salvage campaign in this country.

It is a terrible blunder to assume that bureaucratic appeals are a system. Every factory manager will tell you that he doesn't produce by appeals, but by organization. If we want scrap iron and rubber, let us not appeal: let us organize and go and get it.

We haven't even defined what scrap rubber is. Is it the White House door mat? Is it useless rubber or inessential rubber? If we are after inessential rubber, then hundreds of thousands of tons of stair treads, rubber carpets, door mats and many other things should be requisitioned. But you can't depend on people rallying them to a filling station.

From the setbacks in Libya and Egypt, to the revitalization of our Army, to the civilian organization of available resources in relation to the issues of the war in every Army camp and every school, is a single line, the mobilization of the whole people for the war of the peoples.

Platform Of The People

Talk To Empty Seats

Editor, The News:

One striking feature of your interesting paper is the occasional Appeals for Congressional Support from the Congressional Record. I am pleased to find one and then. Speaking of the Record, I have just come across the following quotation which "points a moral" plain enough for anyone to read, even while running at top speed.

(Congressional Record, June 30, 1942, page 5057.

Mr. Norris. Mr. President, it is refreshing to know that The Record shows that there is a quorum present. . . . To a great extent it is to empty seats I shall talk. . . .

JOHN SMITH.

Chapel Hill, N. C.

Our Bob Is Busy Vindicating What?

Raleigh News and Observer

Several days ago Senator Robert R. Reynolds properly instituted proceedings for the dissolution of the Vindicators' Association, Inc., of which he is president and which was formed to keep the United States out of the war.

It was generally assumed that suspension of the magazine "The Vindicator," was also contemplated. It now appears that the assumption was incorrect and it is reported that the magazine will continue to be published, presumably as Senator Reynolds' personal organ.

What is the magazine to vindicate? If the Senator feels himself personally in need of defense, he would be well advised to devise some other means of obtaining it. The Vindicators' Association has outlived its usefulness, if it ever had any, and the founder has now, after six months, recognized that fact. The magazine is too closely associated with the ill-fated organization to ever be an asset to the Senator. If he continues its publication he will find it to be a liability.

No More Figgers

Nation's Business

Competent economists — if any economists are extant these days and if any are competent — estimate the total cost of the war will be $400,000,000,000. They then admit that this is an precise a statement as to say that there are a great number of braves in the North Woods. No one knows how much the war will cost, no one can even guess at the probable length, in which way it will spread or what new demands will be made. That $400,000,000,000 figure ought be compared in the agreement card players make to stop playing at 11 o'clock. It is a cop in the domestic conscience. Every one understands that we will go on fighting until we win.

Don't Lose Your Head

From the Durham Herald

Have You Dry Scalp?
What of It?
Buy U. S. War Bonds or You Won't
Even Have A Cranium.

For A Month

Thompson Leaves Us

TODAY is the final appearance of Dorothy Thompson's column on this page for almost a month. The most celebrated of American women journalists is off on her annual vacation, and will resume her writings here on August 3.

During her absence three well-known writers will fill her place in The News:

Pertinax, famed French journalist and commentator.
Jay G. Hayden, Washington correspondent.
Col. Frederick Palmer, military expert and war analyst.

The three writers will alternate during the weeks of Thompson's absence, appearing more or less regularly.—Editors, The News.

Pressure On Leaders

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

FEAR of public criticism and of reprisals by pressure groups is at the bottom of much trouble in Washington.

High Administration officials agree that nation-wide gasoline rationing is necessary to protect our supply of rubber. Why does the Administration hold back? Because it fears public disapproval. Congress holds back because various members fear the effect back home. The House Ways and Means Committee dropped the plan for joint income-tax returns because nine community-property states objected, and thereby lost $400,000,000 in revenue.

Senators and Representatives say it is easy for the critics to talk about what ought to be done but let them go out and try to get elected. In other words, a Senator or Representative can't always stand for what he believes to be best, because he might not be re-elected. Pressure groups hound men in public life. Labor groups fight a ceiling on wages, and lobby to get wage increases, and then the farm pressure groups go to town for all the themselves. Organized minorities make public life dangerous for men who try to be independent.

If the Administration and Congress were certain that the public would back them up in whatever measures they felt were necessary, you would see a big difference in Washington.

War involves many complex problems. Much of the information necessary to a decision must be secret. The fate of the whole nation is involved. Wrong decisions might lose the war. It is not like peacetime when a nation can correct its mistakes later. When you lose a war you have lost it and it is too late to correct mistakes. So there is strong common sense in favor of giving unusual latitude to men who are in a position to judge the facts. Hold them accountable for results but let them do the driving.

It's important because the war is in a tight place. War production demands far heavier cuts into civilian consumption. We need far heavier taxes, including a sales tax. Nation-wide restriction of automobile driving is needed. The Army wants men below 20. We are up against an imaginative foe who is fighting with great daring. Rommel's 88-millimeter anti-tank gun has caught our side asleep although it is not new. He uses this gun more effectively than we use ours because he is fighting with imagination and not by fixed rules. That can't be done by men who have to keep looking over their shoulders to see what the political effect of their actions is.

Only a hopeless idealist would expect pressure groups to change their ways. But can't officials and legislators be protected from the knives of pressure groups? Can't we protect these public servants while they are exercising their best judgement as to what ought to be done?

Possibly we can. But it involves a job for the average citizen who has no axe to grind. All the job requires is that the independent voter stand up for the official and the Senator and Representative who are using their independent judgment in trying to win the war. Write your Government officials and write your Senator and Representative and tell them you will support them against pressure groups. Beware of the one who is going to do something for you. If he is going to do what is best for the nation he can't always do what would profit your own occupation, industry or section. Give him your name and address. See him when he comes to your community and encourage him with your pledge. Don't insist that he always agree with you but only that he be independent of everything except his own best judgment.

If enough people did that, it would do the trick. But of course the average American citizen won't take the trouble to do it. He'll just sit around and gripe and let the organized minorities go on putting the fear of God into the legislators at Washington. Maybe you are different. If so, you will do something about it.

Visitin' Around

Boogie Woogie In The Hills?

(Conley Item.

Marshall News-Record)

We appreciate the interest the people are taking in our new song books. We hope they still will continue so.

Pulling For Her, Eh?

(Silver Hill Item.

Lexington Dispatch)

Mrs. James Gobble is suffering from a bad tooth which gives plenty of trouble sometimes. Hope she may soon be o. k.

Neatest Trick Of The Year

(Piller, Waynesville Mountaineer)

More prisoners are recaptured each year than escape from North Carolina prison system.