



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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of the war. W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927

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TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1943

Black Name

Charlotte Is Capital of
Venereal Disease and Vice

It is a shocking situation that finds Charlotte so full of prostitution and its kindred evil, venereal disease, that the Army is seriously considering declaring the whole city off limits. The Friendly City is too friendly, is the Army position. The courts here, often charged with laxity, have been too easy-going with prostitutes. Healer officers, whose word is to be recognized as law in dealing with venereal disease, have somehow been remiss—or understaffed. Police squads have been formed, but are very ineffectual. The community is in danger, and now is the time for action.

In self-defense, if for no other reason, every citizen of the community should do all possible to bring the problem to the attention of all to seek action from Police and Health Departments, to help in stamping out the most difficult form of prostitution to handle—"amateurism" on the part of young girls who follow soldiers. It is to the good of local business and the entire local economy that this menace be stamped out immediately, or Charlotte will be outlawed. The Army is determined to tolerate no such conditions.

The responsibility is now upon the entire community, but the burden of performance now falls upon the Health Department and the Police Department. Under the law, health officers are empowered and instructed to take action by investigation, examination, detention and quarantine. In Charlotte, there has not been strong enough action by health officers, nor by the police. The drive against vice has come too late, and follows by several months the first drive, which quickly and quietly died down. There must be no flurry. This city must be cleaned up, now.

It is the young "amateurs" who frequent the juke joints, who are guilty, then in Heaven's name let the offensive places (and they are thick in the downtown business section) be closed; let a curfew be declared, and enforced. And let an honest, fearless drive upon all the brothels in the city be opened. If these steps are not taken, Charlotte will first be declared off limits for soldiers; then the May Act might be invoked, and the city will be upon difficult terms, the only way that it might be averted is in the community going into action. We want to see it now. Today.

Easter

Two Local Services Call
For Support of Community

This is a week in which the war seems more grotesque and unreal than ever. As Easter approaches, and the anniversary of the rising of The Lord coincides with the tender turning of the season, the thoughts of Christian men everywhere will turn home, and back through the years to Easter-times they have known. For this time is almost a season unto itself; early or late it calls man to a new understanding with his Maker. War has only deepened the significance of Easter.

In Charlotte, as of old custom, the community will worship in celebration together. Friday afternoon, the First Methodist Church, there will be services open to all. And early Sunday morning, the Stadium will be the scene of the traditional Easter ceremonies.

This is a time when the people of the community should take part in these services—if never before. War has made it certain that times of great sorrow are coming for the homes of this and every other American community. In the days before the dark time, this community has the opportunity to make Good Friday and Easter Sunday days for themselves and The Lord.

The war Easter calls to mankind everywhere. Many thousands of people of this county should take part in these community services this week.

Casualties

Fortresses Now Vulnerable,
Though They Make For Suffer

Some of the most depressing news of the war came out of the glorious victory over Axis aircraft in Germany over the weekend. The big headlines showed that the Allies had knocked down 50 German planes, and that was a sensational bag. But it was added that our losses had been sixteen flying machines, and that a great deal of our planes were lost in the loss of the

fact that the Nazis have, somehow, discovered how the heretofore almost invulnerable fortresses may be downed, is of grave consequence.

In the past, big flights of the Forts promptly took off alone, crashing their bombs upon the targets in broad daylight. After a few early experiments with the long-range power of Fortress guns, the German pilots stayed away. The Ploetz-Wulfs that came near enough to cause trouble paid a heavy price. The bristling turrets took the big planes out and back in safety. They were in the air over Europe in limited numbers for many weeks before the first one fell. Their lives were magic. The war in the air had been something new.

It was later that they began to fall, one here, another there. But never many at one time, and the enemy always lost. But in the raid on Bremen, the loss of sixteen meant the loss of 160 precious men, trained as fighting teams at great expense—and the planes themselves, at approximately \$450,000 apiece, represented a loss of over \$7,000,000. The Germans, though they can ill afford to lose so many as 50 planes, lost only 50 men, and a far lesser investment in equipment.

So the victory is to be lamented, rather than cheered. Somehow, the Nazis have found the Fortress weakness. That weakness must be found and remedied, or we have lost our most powerful weapon in the air—a great bomber which cannot be downed.

The Eighth

Italians Agree With General
Montgomery as To His Process

Since the days when Napoleon scoffed at the soldiers of Italy, there has been little respect for the fighting men descended from ancient Rome. They have never been again the gallant legions of the Caesars. They are, as in The Little Corporal's day, a Pantheon People. But they know when they're licked, these Italians, and when to pay tribute. And they know beyond the shadow of a doubt which is the greatest army in the world.

In words that tremble, not only with fear—but also with the pure passion of hard-won admiration, they have glorified the British Eighth Army. They have done a service to themselves and the world. Listen to these words:

"The Eighth Army is unquestionably the best equipped, best prepared, and most modern fighting force at present engaged in any theater of operations" was justified with the pronouncement that "too hasty judgments on this point have cost us dearly."

"The British infantry in the Middle East is of the highest quality, not only as regards physique, fighting spirit and preparation for combat, but also as regards arms," the statement continued. "The British infantry surpasses all others in the world."

"No army today possesses anti-tank weapons of the power, number and mobility of the British infantry."

"The British leaders and their commanders, chosen for their experience in the theaters in which they are engaged, are no mere theoreticians, ignorant of conditions in the field. Their liberty of action is equalled only by their responsibilities and the abundant means accorded them."

Those paragraphs are chosen from an official Italian communiqué, apparently intended to inform the nation that Tunisia was as good as lost. They find agreement in the Eighth's commendation from its General Montgomery. His words, if and when Africa comes to be known as the turning point of the war, may well come to be famous in military history. Some days ago he addressed his troops, and the world heard him. We think the words should be repeated often, and that Axis camp alike may know who cleared Africa and Central Tunisia in particular:

"I doubt if our empire has ever possessed such a magnificent fighting machine as the Eighth Army. You have made its name a household word, and the name of the hour. I am very proud of my Eighth Army."

The General has every right to be. There is little doubt that both Italian and Englishmen were right in their claim; at least there is not yet in sight any army fit to rank with Britain's Eighth Army. He said it. He said it in conference. He said it before.

In War Time

The Press Needs Some Discipline

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON
It is announced that the press will be excluded from the conference in Hot Springs, Va. which will deal with food problems of the United Nations.

The press is naturally disappointed. Newspaper men argue that the exclusion is unique in the history of international conferences, that it will only give rise to speculation in the place of fact, and that the American press can be trusted to observe discipline in matters involving the war.

The argument for exclusion is that there are bound to be differences of opinion which, if aired during the conference, may tend to influence it, deepening divergencies, that such conferences need to be held without outside pressures, that the results will be made known to the public, and that that is all the news safe to print. Now, although I hope that the policy will be changed, and reporters admitted to the conference territory, still, I think, there are some words to be said upon the function of the press in wartime.

It is true that the press, as a whole, has imposed self-discipline upon itself. Few secrets, likely to give aid to the enemy, have been exposed in the press even though the press had knowledge of them, and though by a normal standard, they were big news. But the temporary withholding of facts is not adequate discipline in time of war. This is a negative discipline, and the press also needs positive disciplines.

The other day, passing through Chicago between trains, I picked up a morning paper. The only war news on the front page was an account of the sinking of

four American ships at Guadalcanal. Discouraging news. Encouraging news from Tunisia—was buried in the middle of the paper. The front page was given over to accounts of food shortages, and civilian inconveniences. The editorial page was full of Hitler criticism of the Administration. Doubts were raised about Russia. The net effect was the impression that we were waging a dubious war with great civilian suffering, that the Administration, and not the war, was responsible for our inconveniences, and, in fact, that our real enemies were in Washington and Moscow.

In the last few days General MacArthur has issued warnings that the Japanese are preparing a full-fledged invasion of Australia and that he is hopelessly outnumbered. This came out in the form of interviews and seemed a public appeal for help. Meantime the help has been promised by the Secretary of War.

In this case the press cannot be criticized. But I cannot think of a parallel case in which a General has taken a case to public opinion instead of taking it to his General Staff. In Britain as well as America, there has been an impression that General MacArthur is opposing the basic strategy of the war. That is his good right; but the way to do it is to his superiors and not to the public. A war cannot be run by million polls, and criticisms given to the American public are also given to the enemy. General MacArthur's statement is dynamic in the hands of German and Japanese propaganda.

The press is full of revelations of what our State Department intends to do after the war. Mr. Kingbury.

Smith, in the American Mercury, lays down "Our Government's plans for Post-War Germany." Mr. Edgar Mowrer, in the New York Post, announces that our Government plans the dismemberment of the French Empire after the war. In both cases the intentions are no doubt good, but the effect is terrible.

Both correspondents claim to reveal Government policy. I have no doubt that they have revealed such ideas as are discussed in certain Government circles. But Government policy can only be revealed by the Government, and not by persons on the periphery who think they know what it is.

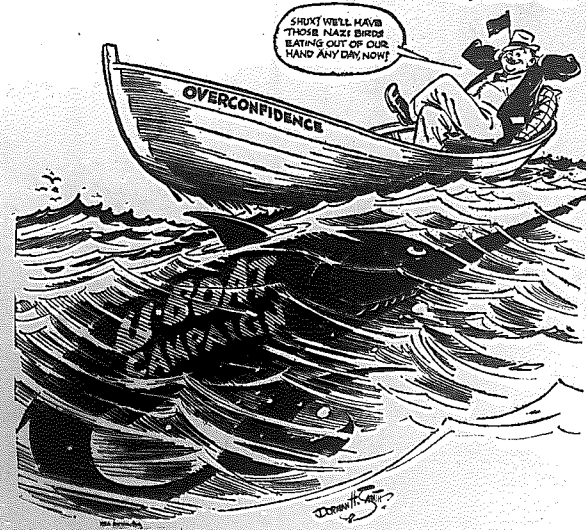
I am strongly in favor of discussing post-war plans. I am very against the suspension of public debate in wartime. But correspondents have not, I think, the right to commit the Government to a policy, which the Government itself has not announced as a policy. Incidentally, I do not think these revelations express the policy of the State Department. I believe it has not yet crystallized. But I do know that such revelations are used by the Axis to influence the people of Europe adversely, in a moment when invasion may be imminent.

In time of war it is not enough to ask oneself even the question, "Is this the Truth?" One must ask oneself two further questions. Is any purpose to be served by publishing this at this moment? Or, second, "Exactly how can I reveal it, so as to do good, rather than harm?"

Dr. Goebbels's agents are avid readers of American newspapers. Every person who writes in them must realize that he is being read by the enemy, and that his lines for war material—bulletins, to be used against us.

Anything But Shipshape

—By Dorman Smith



Unlike Jefferson

We're Confused

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
THOMAS JEFFERSON believed in man, says the President. Correct, he believed in some men. Alexander Hamilton was not. But Thomas Jefferson did not believe in him. A number of Belgian patriots have just been shot. They were trapped by Gestapo agents, posing as Allied parachutists. The European patriots must be full of these swine. Thomas Jefferson would have believed in the Belgian patriots, but not in the Gestapo agents.

Tom took sides. When the French, in his day, were going through a revolution for democracy, renouncing monarchy, and so on, Thomas Jefferson believed in some Frenchmen, but not in all. I know of no one now making speeches about Jefferson who is taking sides in favor of democratic Frenchmen and against others, to the same extent as did our Thomas. He is still better than his admirers, after a century and a half.

Watchman, how doth the dignity of man fare, with our Tom long dead and lately become a monument?

Not too well. A Representative from California, Mr. Gearhart, has just denounced our reciprocal trade treaties. He says we "enclosed" Hitler Germany, by making trade treaties with all the countries around Germany, but not with Hitler. He says we denied "advantages and privileges" to Germany, which we gave to Belgium and Sweden and France and Finland and England and Turkey and Russia. Mr. Gearhart makes the suggestion that perhaps it was not a case of "baphance" that we did this, that maybe we didn't like Adolf Hitler.

There was no one in the House Ways and Means Committee room to hit off Mr. Gearhart's wagging finger, and to answer pithily: "You are quite right, Mr. Gearhart. Hitler is a fascist and we hated him. He meant no good to us. How do you feel about him, Mr. Gearhart?"

I think our Tom would have made that answer. Yeah, man. And yeah, dignity of man. It fareth poorly when all can say for himself, through the lips of Mr. Secretary, that the trade treaties, after all, probably had nothing to do with Hitler making war on us. The implication is that if our treaties did hurt Hitler, it was accidental, and please excuse it.

What is worse, we know the administration doesn't mean that at all. It has really always hated Hitler. But it has almost always shied at assuming the awful dignity of saying so. Not all is gloom in the capital, however; there is an unofficial belief to the effect that the expected signing of the Axis from Tunisia will enlarge the scope of Giraud's regime in Africa, and will "increase his prestige." With whom? Obviously, it is hoped, with the French people. We are building the dignity of Giraud, in the name of the dignity of man.

We are actually trying to impress the poor and hungry people of France with the rising dignity of authority like their own. And Attorney General Biddle speaks to Italian-Americans in New York, and he calls on the people of Italy to rise. But, in accord with our general propaganda, he calls them to elect any and every man "tyrant," Mussolini. He does not mention the Italian king and his fleabag royal circle.

I don't think our Tom would have liked any of these dull official games. He would not have understood our policy of adding Italians to rise, Spaniards to lie down, and Frenchmen to wait.

Tom took sides, all the way. This week, were he alive, he would be furious. I think, that after our years of war we have got little direct, positive connection with the people of Europe that a few Gestapo agents can pretend to be, and we actually get away with it. He would have figured out something to stop that, even if he had to recognize popular leaders, and give them authority and dignity.

Visitin' Round

What Was His Status?

(Route 2 Item.)

North Wilkesboro Newsleader

John V. Foster attended court

in Wilkesboro last week.

And There's A Food

Shortage In Guilford

(Erlanger Item.)

Guilford, N. C.

Ed Williams, of the village, and

Mrs. Opelia Fields, of Greens-

boro, were married in Greensboro

on Saturday, April 10. Mr. Wil-

Whitcomb.

lams, who had been employed in the carding department of the Erlanger Cotton Mill, moved at Mrs. McGinn's boarding house, has moved to Greensboro.

AIN'T SEEN IT,
But Like To Have
(Classified Ad.)
Rock Hill Herald

LOST: FRIDAY IN BUSINESS section, pink wool skirt. Reward, \$10.00. L. C. Chandler, McLaughlin Hall, Winthrop.

Side Glances



Purty Is As Purty Does

By TOM JIMISON

In Birmingham County Journal
LYNWOOD FOWKIES took me out to his farm 'other day and showed me two of the purtiest houses he had ever owned within a Sabbath day's journey, or more. They held their heads high and showed me the most majestic mule. And each one of them is purtier than the other.

Looking them over reminded me of what I once heard in a sermon at a mission conference. He said it before.

horses and purty women, or at 520 hills, he wanted to die and go on to Heaven.

Back in the days when I was a Methodist preacher I rode a circuit on a dappled bay. He was full of spirit, and when I would occasionally ride him to town he would caper all over the streets and stand on his hind feet. He enjoyed his riding, and he would frighten some of the city fliers, and that pleased him no end.

But I had a few old women

like that. They thought I should ride a mule, or a brindle steer. A lot of folks think it is powerful wrong to ride a horse any more. One of England's greatest poets wrote, "O pleasure, thou art a pleasant thing, though one must be damned for thee, no doubt."

It has ever been thus. But I have an idea that the Lord loves a fine horse, one with five galls and a high head, and that somewhere out beyond the stars He