

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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Eleventh Hour Last Preparations For Invasion Go Apace

These are days of feverish preparation for the great battles which will end the war in Europe. Day and night, Allied bombers tear at Germany's vital, her people and her machine of war. Italy shivers in fear of the coming blows; it becomes apparent that the storming of that nation will not be one of the minor accomplishments of this war.

The Heroes Give Up Germans Get Cheer For Heroic African Retreat

Worth at least a laugh in the passing show of war is the final German communique from North Africa. The German High Command, at a loss to explain away the debacle of Tunisia, made talk like this:

"The heroic struggle of German and Italian Africa detachments to-day came to an honorable conclusion. The last groups offering resistance in the vicinity of Tunis, after having fought for several days without water and provisions, had to capitulate after their ammunition had been used. They had to concede to the lack of supplies and not to the onslaught of the enemy."

Deserted by commanders and left to their fate, they simply cashed themselves in and got out of the war as swiftly and dishonorably as if they had deserted. It is not to be taken for granted that German armies met on the continent will not give tough, but a twin there is great sacrifice ahead.

Japan's Number Despite Drive On Hitler, Nippon Will Get Attention

The time of trial for Japan may not yet be near, but the plans for her extinction are certainly being carried forward. Already, the giant nutcracker begins to take form. It is likely that a twin there is heroic proportions will be made this Summer against Nippon, even while the thrusts against Europe are at their peak.

Experiment Trusted With Power Bills, Public Is 99 Per Cent Pure

Will never cease to be amazed at the increasingly marvelous revelations of the character of Americans during wartime. We are now advised that a sizable section of the population of a small California town has been found to be dishonest and untrustworthy. Perhaps, even after the shortage of manpower has subsided, some power companies may continue to allow patrons to make up their own bills. Perhaps, if only one per cent of the nation's citizens is found to be dishonest in such a poll, all varieties of businesses may cut down on services and leave it to the conscience of the people to see that they get their fair return.

The Last Hitch Little Germans Sacrificed

A SIGNIFICANT development in Germany is the emphasis on the policy of wiping out small business everywhere. Little retailers are being closed out. This is considered here to be an indication of extremes difficult over manpower and materials. The civilian economy in Germany has been squeezed severely for years, but this additional tightening has some long-range implications that are being given special study on the Allied side.

The first implication is that with the civilian economy so tight any damage to it at any point is damage to the Nazi war effort. Hence new opportunities for economic warfare are opened up. It becomes more practical to sweep the neutrals against letting supplies into Germany. One thing about Sweden that rubs a visitor the wrong way is to see materials going into Germany. While visiting the Baltic fleet I saw a lumber ship dip its Nazi flag as we passed. It was loaded with lumber, which iron ore she likes. She has a few Swedish iron ore licenses. Of course, it is recognized that Sweden must have Sweden must get it by trading with Germany. However, the fact remains that it becomes more important every day to squeeze down on neutral trade into Germany, for that is where American and other resources in the end.

It is now evident, incidentally, that it is useful to inflict bomb damage on civilian as well as military establishments in Germany, for this helps wear down the German will.

In the second place, the policy of wiping out small business in Germany will complicate the problem of reconstruction, because it means Germany is destroying her private distributive system. When the governmental system of distribution collapses with the defeat of Germany, the whole private trade mechanism will have to be rebuilt.



"Well, there's one thing about this rationing business—it takes your mind off the war!"

Platform Of The People Of Jeff Davis

Editors, The News: Your recent editorial about the destruction of the old Philor home on North Tryon Street in Charlotte was interesting and informing. In the course of the editorial you referred to the last meeting of the cabinet of President Jefferson Davis being held "under a sassafras tree near Fort Mill." That was news to the writer—that is, so far as the variety of the "tree" was concerned, and was the first time I ever heard of the sassafras bush being referred to as a "tree." Usually, the sassafras in this section grows to a height of only a few feet. Do you must have drawn on your imagination, just as you did in another meeting of the cabinet when you referred to Mr. Davis as being "Lincolnesque."

All my life I have heard of the Confederate cabinet meeting that was held in Fort Mill early in the Spring of 1865. The meeting was not held under a "sassafras tree." It was held on the lawn of the home of Colonel William E. White, which is just outside the limits of the cabinet of the Steel Creek road. This meeting was a day or two subsequent to the meeting of the cabinet in Charlotte. It was not the "last" meeting of the cabinet, but was the last full cabinet meeting. All of Mr. Davis' cabinet officers were present for the Fort Mill meeting, but a few days later another meeting, at which less than all the members were present, was held in Abbeville, S. C. The Abbeville meeting was the last. Confederate history supports this statement.

Way To Peace 10 Commandments

By ERICH BRANDEIS Of King Features Syndicate. COLUMNS and columns are being written about it. The wisest men in the Allied countries are thinking about it, talking about it, holding meetings, debating, planning, envisioning. How to have a permanent peace. How to put an end to wars. That is the great problem and it seems to be extremely difficult to find the answer.

Well, gentlemen, I'll save you time and money. I'll save you traveling expenses, reams of paper, gallons of ink. For I, no expert in economics, politics, statecraft, psychology, sociology, a simple-minded newspaper man—I have the answer. And that answer has been here ever since the twelfth chapter of the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament was written. For in that chapter are contained the Ten Commandments. If we will but live up to them there can never be another war. Each war, so far conducted, has been caused by the breach of one or more of the ten commandments. Hitler created strange gods and took the name of the Lord in vain. He killed his neighbor's house, his servant, his ox, his ass and everything that was his. He showed no mercy, he stole, he honored neither father nor mother. And now that he and his accomplices have violated the commandments, there will be eye for eye, tooth for tooth, wound for wound, strip for strip. Don't you see how easy it is? Why go to all the trouble of finding a way, when the way is so clear, the road so well marked, the whole thing written out for centuries, ready for use? This is my plan, a plan I learned from my father and mother who had it handed down to them, generation by generation. That's all you need to do, you learned statesmen and politicians.

"Papa, That Man's Still Here!"

By Dorman Smith



Thundering Crisis Fear Of The End

By Samuel Grafton

ONE thinks again, these days, of that wonderful chapter in "War and Peace" in which Tolstoy raises the question of why Napoleon retreated from Moscow. At that time there was no battle to start, his army was running for home. He sat in Moscow, the Russians sat outside. But, bit by bit, it became clear to both the French and the Russians that the Russians had gained many more soldiers than they had had before, that they had become stronger, that the scale had been tipped. The Emperor turned and ran, though no visible disaster had struck him.

We are in that kind of period now. Italians are running from Rome, from Milan, from Naples, from the big cities, sending their families to the mountains and into the forests. Trains and roads are crowded. Observers have seen the mistress high on top of the car, the classic sign of appointment and flight. Yet the big events have taken place in Africa, not Italy. Italy has had some extra bombing; not much more. But the beam has been tipped. Italy's train and road network are being completely disrupted. Her food distribution has been upset by these mass movements. It has become necessary to issue emergency allotments of spaghetti and macaroni against bread tickets. This has been done to Italy by remote control, from Africa. As we see in the land in Sicily and we may be doing that even as these words appear these frightened Italian mass movements must stand in the way of shipping refueling and materials to the fighting zone, or of evacuating them from it. At the lower levels of war activity, men and families busy moving toward safety cannot do war work or operations, or keep stores, or buy war bonds, or whatever. The drama of Europe today is this drama of progressive deterioration of Fascist order.

Visitin' Around

Rural Free Delivery (Luck Item). Marshall News-Record. The hens in this section are trying to decide whether their nests in the mail boxes. Oh, Sure, We Know Her—The Name's On The Tip Of Our Tongue (Hot Springs Item). Marshall News-Record. Mrs. ... and small ... Lenoir News-Topic.