THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1863-1937

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1943

No Man Was Ever Written Out Of Reputation But By Himself.—RICHARD BENTLEY.

First Steps

Beer Bans Aren't Likely To Halt Disorder on Streets

The ban on light drinking by the County was invoked as the direct result of Sunday night's fighting among soldiers on Trade Street. Prior to that wild scene, the Commissioners, we feel sure, had no idea of passing such an ordinance. Now that that form of control has been attempted, it must be accepted. We do not expect the beer ban to halt drinking over the weekend, either of beer or wine; it will continue, and the run-of-the-mine problems of City and County police aren't likely to decrease.

We agree with City Council that this beer ban should not be rushed into without careful consideration. There is considerable evidence on every side that such little prohibitions do not accomplish their tasks. It may be that the Army, though it asks outright for such a ban, is in the wrong. Perhaps some other form of control may be used to prevent a recurrence of such outbursts as occurred Sunday and Monday.

There has been a disposition on the part of some to lay all the blame for the recent riot on the soldiers. That position is unfair to the boys in uniform who, after all, are the same boys they were before entering the service. It may be said that Charlotte has not put itself out to entertain the young men. Except for movies, an enlisted men's club and the Armory reception center, there is no place for soldiers to go. Other cities, thronged with soldiers, have done a much better job than we of providing for soldier entertainment.

On the other hand, there are those who hold that soldiers must be provided with some entertainment every waking moment of their leisure. That is not a sensible view; soldiers of other wars took a great deal of boredom as part of their task. There is no disposition on the part of Army officials to pamper their soldiers, to provide something for them to do every moment when they are not hard at the task of learning to fight for their country.

Charlotte's problem, as we see it, is to attempt some special form of recreation for the soldiers who throng the downtown streets over the week-end. That done, methods of strict control should be attempted. We feel sure the Army itself will agree that its troublemakers must be roughly handled; the Army handles them roughly itself. If the dives and joints in the downtown area continue to breed trouble as in the past (among civilians as well as service men), they should be closed summarily as nuisance spots. If the beer and wine ban as passed by the County is found to be too weak, or is not working at all, then it should either be strengthened, or recalled altogether.

We have heard that at least some Army officers have debated the Charlotte question this week among themselves on this basis: Whether to forbid their soldiers to come to town at all; or to permit them to come and bar them from certain joints; or whether to let them come and go as they will, and instruct military police to have guns and clubs ready when trouble starts.

That is the hard-thinking way of the Army. The community, with a great deal at stake in this situation, can do no less. Moves must be made to insure order at all times in the downtown section. Those steps, it seems to us, may be taken while actually improving the lot of soldier visitors. If this County beer and wine ban is not enough, we should not fear to take the next steps.

From yesterday's City Council session, we're inclined to agree with Citizen Bob Lassiter, who saw fit to wonder if Army discipline shouldn't prevent any such scenes. And we're inclined to disagree strenuously with Councilman Charles Daughtry, who believes that, because these boys are in uniform, they should be allowed to do as they please, no matter where they are. He wishes to be twenty years younger himself, so that he might join. Fighting in the streets, we gather from his statement, is what he considers good, clean recreation. We hope Councilman Daughtry is one of those who turns to deep thought during the period of consideration of this beer ban.

A London psychologist avers, "Some [illegible] because they feel they are [illegible]. That is not what it [illegible] Hitler's army.

The Air Lines

They Must Be Considered On the Basis of Service

The proposal of American Airlines that Charlotte be placed on a North-South route on a Detroit-Miami run deserves the attention of City officials and citizens at large. The time is coming when the future of transportation in this area will be decided for a great many years, perhaps for generations. This time, in contrast to the time when rails were being laid in the South, there should be planning for the best interests of all the people.

In air transport, many aviation experts hold, North Carolina and the Mid-South in general have long suffered from monopoly. For the opening up of the region to travel and traffic by air, they insist that more airlines must be given charters to compete with big Eastern. The Eastern point of view is that it is now serving the needs of this territory adequately, under certain handicaps of the time, and that it deserves first chance at giving any service, having pioneered the territory.

Several other companies have applied for routes through the region. One of them, State Airlines, has been giving unscheduled service out of Charlotte for some three or four years, and has applied for a run North to Pittsburgh, connecting the City with the big transcontinental lines. Because this firm, though a relatively small one, has been operating in the field for some time, consideration must be given to its application.

The News cannot favor the application of any of these companies for air lines. What it will continue to insist upon, as in the past, is that the State and local governments devote some serious thought to the coming of expanded air service, and that any routes proposed through this section be considered in the light of service offered the entire population. And the views of City and State governments should be offered to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

A correspondent visiting an African outpost finds Britons who still dress for dinner. It is what we associate with the bulldog breed—a stiff upper lip and shirt front.

Unfinished

Dr. Odum Talked About Negro Problem—That's All

Dr. Howard W. Odum of the University of North Carolina, whose several studies of the Southern region are regarded as standard works in their field, has been to Chicago, speaking on "race tensions." From what we could find in the story reporting his speech, they must have given The Doctor precious little time to chip in his bit. For, strange to say, the Odum suggestions were not suggestions at all, but only words. The Doctor himself, judging from his admirable books, would be the first to admit the truth of that statement.

His line of reasoning was that the South faces its "greatest crisis since 1840" as regards the Negro problem. Asked how the problem might be settled, Dr. Odum flowered into generalities:

First: "America and the South in particular" to "declare a moratorium on all violence, on rumors that poison the public mind and inflame the emotions, on all political demagoguery, as well as highly emotional reaction to what is being reported, spoken, and written.

"Next, America now needs to exercise, as rarely in her history, maturity, wisdom, moderation, honesty, courage, and a strategy worthy of her rich heritage, and of the demands of a new crisis.

Third: "Doing away with "the immature blaming of somebody here and there, or the calling of names and of bitter denunciation, while against Negro, Negro against white, South against North, North against South."

Well, The Doctor may as well have remarked, upon being confronted with a crisis in mosquitoes, that we'd all just have to quit itching, scratching and catching malaria. There was nothing definite in his offering, and the questions he left behind were the big, original questions. We'd still like to know what this eminent authority thinks might be done to alleviate the current strife between races—in the South and elsewhere. Perhaps Dr. Odum has a plan. If so, we'd like to hear it. Perhaps he has not. If so, we'd like to hear that. We'd like to hear from any man who has a sensible, workable idea for the betterment of this situation. We'd like to hear from Dr. Odum if he has such a plan. We'd like to hear from him if he has not such a plan, if he has only the generalities he offered in Chicago.

We'd like to hear from him because he is a man who has devoted his life to the study of this problem, and we feel that he should be able to offer more than he did in Chicago if he is to live up to his reputation as a student of the problem. We'd like to hear from him because he is a man who has written books that have been of great value to students of the problem, and we feel that he should be able to offer more than he did in Chicago if his books are to live up to their reputations as valuable contributions to the study of the problem. We'd like to hear from him because he is a man who has been given a great deal of space in the press of his region, space that might have been given to men who have not written books of great value to students of the problem, men who might be able to offer more than he offered in Chicago if they were given the space he was given in the press of his region.

We'd like to hear from Dr. Odum because we feel that he is a man who should be able to offer something more than he offered in Chicago if he is to live up to the reputation he has built as a student of the problem.

News From Home

The Army Is Amazed

By Raymond Clapper

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NORTH AFRICA

AMERICAN soldiers in North Africa know fairly well what is going on at home and some of the news that comes over is discouraging.

I talked with a young fighter pilot who has been out on 50 missions. He has five Nazi planes to his credit and has been ordered home presumably to train new pilots. He is Lt. Daniel Kennedy of Boston who worked on the Boston Traveler before he joined the Army. All he wanted to talk about was his P-38 plane. "It's got it over the 109 Focke Wulf," he said, and he told how he picked off three of them in two minutes. He modestly described the feat as a combination of luck plus the ability of the P-38 to outmaneuver the Focke Wulf.

Our soldiers are getting good equipment and plenty of it. That is a job in which the home front can take deepest pride. But that is largely an industrial achievement. The management side of the home economy picture reaching here is of petty politics, reckless bickering and shortsighted controversy that makes sweating, dusty soldiers here wonder what kind of country he is going back to.

They read the Stars and Stripes. The circulation figure is secret for obvious military reasons but practically every man in Africa reads it. Here's the news from home that greeted tens of thousands of American soldiers on the African front on a single day:

Secretary Ickes appealing to miners to go back to work on the "eve of the greatest military campaign in history."

The threatened breakdown of price control means that the allowance the soldiers are sending their dependent families won't go so far. Soldiers read that butter in San Francisco bounced to $1.25 a pound when the price ceiling was lifted. You can imagine the worry over how their families are living. The picture over here is that Congress' vote refusing to allow subsidies actually invited a wild break in prices and an orgy of profiteering. If that is not what Congress favors it would be a good idea to get the correct impression over here.

The Wallace-Jones dispute also was reported in the Stars and Stripes along with Roosevelt's lecture to the press. Such public quarreling at the peak of the home front structure is known to practically every soldier here. It seems to be going on just the same as when most of them left civilian life or left the States for the war theater.

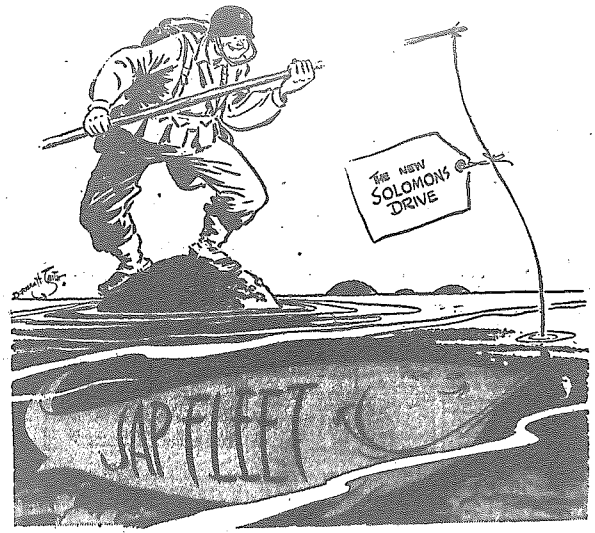
We baby ourselves with the idea that democracy even in war time must have its bickering as usual. On the contrary, from over here it looks like a careless abuse of the privileges of democracy.

In England they have got over most of that kind of thing because it is not compatible with the best war effort. They have free debate but have held it within limits by a general sense of responsibility on the part of politicians who feel they can wait until later for their real go at their opponents.

American and British forces in the European theater and here in the African theater are working together with a smooth co-ordination which I never expected to find in either place. The French act like we do at home and most soldiers here are disgusted with their political bickering. Our news from home sounds too much like demoralized French affairs and both give democracy a bad name.

After Bigger Game

—By Dorman Smith



Platform Of The People

Soldiers Are Up In Arms

Editors, THE NEWS:

This letter is an answer to the one by Kenneth W. Whitsett on soldiers and laundry that appeared in THE NEWS Monday. Since I am unable to to contact Mr. Whitsett myself, I would like to express to you the feelings of several of my fellow soldiers here.

Maybe Mr. Whitsett thinks this Army is just a business proposition, to be turned the way civilians think necessary. All soldiers realize what their families and friends go through for Uncle Sam and his part in this war. Well, we're just civilians assigned to a slightly harder task. Every day and every hour we spend here is so valuable for training to defend our selves and our country.

There is little enough time given us to do as we please. For Mr. Whitsett's information, we do plenty of our own washing, and only the most necessary things are sent to the laundry. What would we look like in a self-cleaned dress uniform?

Camp rules prevent us from hanging out any washing to dry, except in a few free hours. There are things all of us must give up for this war. If there is no sacrifice, there is likewise no victory. Plenty of heated remarks arose as one soldier read this article on laundry.

Maybe I have overstepped my bounds as an employee of the Government, but I feel as though I still have the right of freedom of speech and writing. Things are very different in this war as compared to the last, Mr. Whitsett. If I have offended you in any way, I apologize.

—PVT. KARL B. FRIEDMAN
—PVT. JOE LABARBERA
—And Others of Our Platoon
Camp Croft, S. C.

We Don't Have Time To Wash

Editors, THE NEWS:

Kenneth Whitsett's letter in the July 8th Charlotte News stirred quite a bit of interest! The subject "Soldiers and Laundry" under Platform of the People.

If it could be called that, I would think you would feel neglected not to receive an answer or comment. It is taken for granted that the writer had no people at all in service and had never visited a unit dispensary, either before, during or after sick call to see the ailments that occurred due to long hikes and intensive training.

The average training day is from 12 to 24 hours. I will assure you after trying this job, whichever you like, for a length of time you wouldn't have the strength or thought in your unbalanced mind to wash a mere handkerchief. I don't believe there is a service man here who asks for free laundry. They pay for it just like any other human. As you call it "our laundries plagued with help shortages and capacities taxed" could take care of normal civilian needs, shows extreme lack of business management and lack of common sense to all concerned.

Did you ever stop to think of "Army Morale"? Undoubtedly you haven't. I have yet to see a soldier able to wash his laundry in twenty minutes. Field equipment has to be cleaned, guard and fatigue details pulled and you say, after spending time in the Army, that this would be a help to the Army.

You also say "if soldiers were forced to do laundry and menial tasks we would raise a real fighting Army more quickly." I, and many others, could never agree excepting one sense of word. More fighting that occurred in my town and yours this past week-end. These operators who are getting sick of Army washing are doing an intelligent thing. You should try it and stop criticising the soldier of today for taking advantage of a public laundry to save time.

In my years of Army life I have yet to see a pair of khakis take to crease. That and the rest of the statement about "Soldiers And Laundry" is demoralizing and unintelligent.

—A CAMP MACKALL GI.
Hoffman, N. C.

This Is a New War, Brand-New

Editors, THE NEWS:

This is an answer from my battery to the article by Kenneth W. Whitsett about soldiers and laundry—and this is what me and the boys think:

The soldiers nowadays don't care what you old soldiers did in the last war. We only care what they do in this war. And one of them isn't washing clothes, although it is easy like you say. But did you ever try to wash three or four uniforms in twenty minutes? I don't think you did, and if you are so scared that you won't get your suits cleaned and pressed these days, because the soldiers are taking up all the room at the laundries, why don't you clean them yourself?

You were so good at it in the last war. I think if the soldiers want to send their clothes to the laundry it should be okay with everyone, being as there are a lot of them. And who cares who gets rich off of it? If you are jealous because the laundries are making more money than you, why don't you go in the business yourself?

Please keep your big nose out of the Army affairs, unless you are a big part of it yourself, because as long as there are laundries, and we can get to them, we'll send our clothes there, and no civilian can do anything about it, unless he runs the laundry himself.

—PFC. OSBORN M. McCOURY.
Navy And Soldiers at the Sick.

Visitin' Round

And the Results?
(Walnut Creek Item, Marshall News-Record)

Mr. Paul Reese and Sgt. Frank Wallin were out riding Tuesday night.

White or Jarhead?
(Poplar Springs Item, Cleveland Times)

Marion Hamrick had the misfortune of losing a mule last

Side Glances

"As soon as Brown's chickens pick up enough weight dining in my victory garden, I'm going to claim a couple of them for board!"

Millions Of 'Em

GI Voters

ALL newspaper correspondents report from the battle fronts that soldiers and sailors of World War II intend to have much to say on how the country is governed, and who governs it, after the war is over.

Eleven and a quarter million men and women in the armed forces by July of next year is the estimate made by the War Manpower Commission. This will be two and one-half times the maximum of the last war, 4,800,000. It will be almost five times the number, 2,400,000, who served in the Northern armies during the Civil War. But the number now is only about the same as in the Civil War in proportion to the population.

Almost all the states have provisions, on paper, for voting by members of the armed forces. However, in 1942 the voting arrangements were sketchy, and the interest of the Army and Navy command in getting out the soldier and sailor vote was practically non-existent. For that matter, with no Presidential election being held, most men and women in the uniform seemed uninterested in voting. With a Presidential election to be held in 1944, the situation is expected to be different. OWI has already announced plans for getting the speeches of the candidates and the propaganda of the parties across to the soldiers and sailors, abroad and at home.

The failure of most men in the uniform to vote was one excuse given by the Administration for the poor Democratic showing in 1942. Administration apologists held that more persons in the armed services would have voted Democratic than Republican. They declared: (1) Most voters remain affiliated with the party for which they cast their first vote; (2) Most soldiers and sailors voted for the first time in 1932-40, when the country went Democratic in a big way.

If the Administration holds to the above assumption next year, it may be expected to bend every effort to get out a big vote from the soldiers and sailors. According to some Democratic thought, many of them would vote for the President, if he should run again, just because he is commander-in-chief. At all events, it may be noted that the number of men and women in the uniform by the 1944 elections will be about twenty per cent of the total number of voters.

If the past be any guide, the veterans of World War II as a group will be irresistible on legislation affecting veterans after the war, but cannot be herded as a bloc for one political party.

One year after the close of the Civil War the G.A.R. was organized. Internal strife arose as soon as the organization tried to take a hand in the nomination and election of candidates in certain states, and in 1868 the G.A.R. put in its constitution a declaration against using influence in a partisan way. Pension legislation was another story, and on this the G.A.R. was a unit. After pensions were liberalized in 1879, the G.A.R. membership doubled.

In 1884 the Republicans nominated John A. Logan, a former G.A.R. commander-in-chief, as Vice-President, and adopted a pro-pension platform. The Democratic platform was less generous in its pension plank. Nevertheless the Democrats won with Cleveland.

A bonus in the form of deferred payments for veterans of World War I was voted in 1924, full payment in 1936. In each case a Presidential election was at hand, the President vetoed the proposal in vain, was re-elected despite the veto.—Editorial Research Report.

Short-Lived

Summer Idyl

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

OUR gurgling over the absence of a German offensive in Russia was hollow. There is a German offensive, a big one, on the Orel-Belgorod front. Those who fought the war with a loud ha-ha directed against the Germans for not being able to make an offensive have now had their ha-ha returned to them. They may wear it on their lapels, under their V-buttons.

Those Americans, and Englishmen too, who rested their propaganda case against Germany on her presumed inability to mount an offensive in Russia, now have no case. It has been blown up. We made a claim; a foolish, premature claim. It has been answered.

Let that be a lesson to us, to stop snickering. Snickering is not propaganda. Even if the new German offensive ends soon, even if it turns out to have been a feint, the biggest in history, an elephantine feint, there will still be no ground for resuming the chuckles and low laughs with which we had blithely unprepared ourselves for this great threat.

If the German offensive was delayed, it was delayed for a reason; when it was made, it was made for a reason; if it halts, it will halt for a reason. To reason out those reasons, to come to know them, in all their awful seriousness, is our task, and not to make each other's ribs sore with much nudging and early and feverish self-congratulation.

What was Germany doing while we thought she was only holding her wounded toe? While we have been improving our defenses against the submarine, which is Germany's weapon of economic blockade, she has been improving her defenses against bombing, which is our weapon of economic blockade. Our ratio of bomber losses seems to have increased lately. We have taken a great deal of cheery comfort in the fact that Germany has switched much of her aircraft production from bombers to fighters. That is cold comfort, especially for American and British bombers. What's there to be glad about in Germany's switch to fighters?

Germany seems, also, to have decided to defend Italy. Mr. Hanson Baldwin, in the New York Times, names the German divisions which have been sent to save Mussolini. He makes the flat statement that the moment of an easy victory over Italy has passed. Italy's new coolness supports this account. Her first wild terror seems to have evaporated like a nightmare dream.

I do not bring up these points to cause alarm. I bring them up to show there is no cause for mirth. I bring them up so that maybe from now on we can avoid doing the movie-comedian's double-take, in which the smirk of glee forever fades down to the wistful oh! These moods of strange, unreal delight come upon us whenever we try to puzzle out some way of defeating Germany without a second front.

That manic hope pursues us yet. See, she can make no offensive against Russia! We put our eggs in that basket, then the basket is kicked over. See, she is evacuating the Ruhr! See, she is turning to a limited war, no longer trying to conquer the world, but merely to hold on.

What of it? Our side fought a limited war, too, for years, not trying to conquer the world, but only to hold on. What do these scenarios prove? The basic pattern of Germany's war has not changed; it is still that same pendulum, swinging now this way, now that way, as we pursue our goal, which is the destruction of Germany's power to make war.