

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1941

Terrible Blow

The Prince of Wales Left a Grim Warning

Japan's terrifying successes against our dreadnaughts and Britain's—reached terrifying peak today.

Butler as the news may be must accept the inescapable conclusion: If enemy planes can sink the Prince of Wales—the last word in dreadnaughts—they can sink anything we've got.

It now appears certain that both Britain and America badly underestimated Japan's air power and ability.

We had been counting on our capital ships—great floating fortresses like the West Virginia and the Prince of Wales to carry the war to the shores of Japan.

Now we must have planes and more planes—air power that can blast the black marauders of Nippon out of the sky, bombers that can strike Japanese factories a decisive blow.

At Hawaii

The Future, Not the Past, Requires Investigation

In wartime, when a sentry is found asleep at his post, it is summarily court-martialed and shot.

Senators are demanding that Secretary Knox and Admiral Hart be called on the carpet and asked to explain why and how Japanese warplanes were able to catch American destroyers at Hawaii.

All that is generally known about the attack on Pearl Harbor is:

(1) Many Army and Navy officers were playing golf or otherwise relaxing at the very moment bombs began falling;

(2) Many of the U. S. warships and many of the anti-aircraft emplacements at Pearl Harbor were manned by skeleton crews;

(3) Thousands of holidaying soldiers and sailors were scattered over the city of Honolulu.

Our knowledge of military terminology is limited, but if U. S. armed forces were "on the alert" Sunday afternoon in Honolulu, we'd hate to think what would have happened had they been relaxed.

L. W. Pridgen

Throughout a Long Life He Served The Charlotte News

It was just after the turn of the century that L. W. Pridgen came to work for The Charlotte News.

at 717 West, partly because he was in point of age and service the oldest man of all.

A few months ago, in the 70's, he had to drop out because of a severe illness, but before long he was back on the job.

"Air Raid" East Coast Gets a "Test" Which Reveals Impotence

We don't know what went on in the rest of the country, but the "false" air raid alarm on the East Coast yesterday certainly caused a hectic and enduring excitement in this newspaper office.

It was between two-star and three-star editions, with the first run almost completed and the second all ready to start that the teleprinters began to click out in that ominous way they sometimes have:

Mitchell Field, where the First Air Force is stationed, whether disclosed that the warning placed the enemy planes about two hours out of New York at noon, and that all precautions were being taken, that civilians had been evacuated, all warplanes ordered up.

It was more, but there it was, and every additional word that came in confirmed the genuineness of it. The enemy planes were placed off the Virginia Capes, headed north, and although no statement came through as to the number or nationality of them—indeed, though their progress was not reported, except by the lessening of their estimated time away from New York City—air raid alarms followed one another up the seaboard like dominoes stood up in line and set to toppling.

There was also the possibility, of course, that the warning was a mistaken one, a false alarm. But there was no doubting that Army and Civilian Defense officials considered it the real thing.

It now appears that the alarm resulted from a series of false reports and misunderstandings. It was a mistake, but the Army, suspecting as much, could take no chance, and had to go through with it all for nothing. And yet, was it not a warning, that this reasonable facsimile of the real thing exposed our utter vulnerability to attack in force by air, perhaps you are inclined to be grateful for the demonstration. At least it shows how weak are our defenses and suggests the need of the will to about strengthening them with might and main while there is still time.

Mustard Gas

Japanese Revive a Dormant Horror of Modern War

A few months ago it was reported and confirmed that the Japanese had attacked Chinese forces with shells and bombs containing "mustard gas."

But it remained for the despicable little yellow men of Japan to re-open gas warfare in earnest.

United By Bombs

Anne O'Hare McCormick In New York Times

AMERICAN officers were playing their usual Sunday round of golf on the sunny course near Honolulu in Washington the Secretary of State was holding a conference with the "peace envoys" from Tokyo.

The Thundering of Bombs Broke the Peace

It was in this atmosphere that the thundering word arrived. The sound of bombs broke up the peaceful golf game in Hawaii.

But neither had prepared either the Government or the American public to expect that Japan's first blow would be aimed directly at the United States.

Nobody Anticipated a Frontal Assault

On a Saturday afternoon, as it was anticipated was a frontal assault on American territory, invasion of Hawaii, Burma or Russia would have constituted a divided American opinion, as Germany's indirect attack on our interests in the Pacific had been.

Mr. Kurusu may have come here to find out for his government and its Axis partner, whether the United States really intended to stand firm and all-out war.

WE LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT SAFETY, LAW OR ORDER.

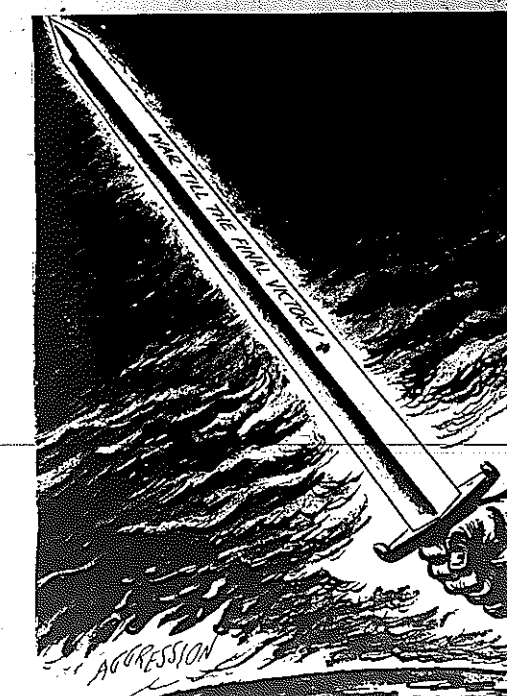
The having of a revolver reverted to the most complacent American that we live in a world without law and order.

The Flickering Films of Yesterday

Girls and boys of yesterday get out your pencils and check the olden days you attended 25 years ago.

"In the Diplomatic Service," with Frank O. Bowman and Beverly Bayne.

The Only Course—The Only Outcome



The Man With One Vice

Eddie Dolery in Chicago, Ill.

There once lived in this great city a man whose name was never heard in many ways an exemplary character.

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HE DIDN'T CRY OUT FOR HELP

IF he couldn't find the combination he used other means of trying to get into the safe.

THE HIRE OF "THE WORK"

One wandering patrol of 50 Italian soldiers in the Alps in Ethiopia, if it had nothing to do it could offer grand opera at 50-cent prices.

Government in Business

Colorado's sales tax collectors must have mixed feelings concerning the new law that enables them to take over a business and run it until they have managed to make enough to pay off delinquent taxes.

ASH SURE ENOUGH

SO HE DIDN'T CRY OUT FOR HELP

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

A Thought For Today

Side Glances

Japan Must Die

By Raymond Clapper

AMERICANS can be proud today. We can be proud that we stand to the bitter end to avoid war.

WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR PATIENCE

ALL DOUBTS, HESITANCY ARE SWEEP AWAY

THE MODERN WORLD CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE THE ATROCITY OF CONQUEST BY FORCE.

WE WILL COME OUT OF THIS WAR WITH FIGHTING STRENGTH THE LIKE OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN DISPLAYED.

Yeh, But Where Was Moses When the Light Went Out (Mt. Olive time, Morganton News-herald)

He didn't stand him up on our dance date—if he had stood up behind a counter all day, he'd know what the word meant!

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THE EDITOR TAKES A LEAF FROM NAPOLEON'S BOOK (David Reeder)

THE EDITOR DIDN'T HAVE A TURKEY FOR THANKSGIVING AND IF BUSINESS DOESN'T IMPROVE—BEND THE GIVE OF TURKEY—DRAG WE WILL BE MURDER A TURKEY WHEN CHRISTMAS ARRIVES.

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