

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1941

Bad, Yet...

Navy's Heroism Redeems the Tragedy of Pearl Harbor

As delaying as the information Secretary Knox brought back, as needlessly dear a loss as was suffered in men and ships of the sea and the air, Pearl Harbor was not so bad as had been feared, as had been described by rumor and official report.

an "executive assistant" at \$4,500. The excuse: Every Senator would have so much more work to do, now that war had come.

No doubt the Senators will have more work to do. But won't we all? No matter how low the emergency, a Senator can't seem to relinquish his perquisites.

Perspective

The Sports Editor Submits For the Editorial Editors

For Sports Editor, The News has a level-headed young man named Bruce Davis. Presently he serves the editors—the editorial editors, that is—as an advisor on sports topics which have an editorial slant.

When, with the coming of war, America became a under-achieving democracy and the mightiest weapon on earth trained upon aggression's tyranny, there were those among us who cried for the three-monkey method of making war: see nothing else, hear nothing else, speaking nothing else.

To which philosophy the least damaging criticism would be: It can't be done. It won't work. Our nation will move to a whole new level.

The Big Show

The United States Is Not Engaged in It

The news from all the fronts except Hong Kong, where the Japs seem to have the military edge in a slight spot, and from Malaya, where a defensive action against odds (greater because of the severe blow to British naval support) is being fought to keep the Japs from cutting the Burma Road and from retreating Singapore—the news is favorable. The second week of America's war against Japan begins with rising hope.

It's a well, however, to remember that the ABCD-Japanese engagement is only a side show to the main performance: the "Grand Operation" of his Nazi Legion. There, for the present at least, the battle goes marvelously for our cause. The Russians have handed the Germans a defeat from which they were disgraced by the fury of Soviet tanks on the Eastern and the mercilessness of the Russian Winter.

That is the No. 1 front in this war and will remain so until the Nazis strike elsewhere. The No. 2 front in importance is Libya, approach to Suez, and there too great things are being done. The No. 3 front is Malaya, key to Singapore, which in turn is key to the maintenance of British support in the East.

Local successes at Wake Island, Midway and in sea action are welcome, and add their weight to the pressure of adversity upon the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis. But the true perspective needs to be kept in mind. So far, the United States is engaged in only a minor conflict. The Japs must be disposed of, yes, and with dispatch, but so that we may be free to join with our allies against the master of the West.

Heroic Senate

It Girds for the War Effort With a Special Perquisite

From early last week until late last week, Congress had been measuring up handsomely to the situation. Factious party strife, personalities all had been laid aside in the greater task of supporting the war effort. It seemed almost too good to last. It was.

"Want A Ditt?"

Navy Bank Hitch-Hiking but Not the Offer of a Service

About the least troublesome way we know of lending a hand in this struggle between the armed forces of our country and their enemies is to adopt, unanimously and by acclamation, a suggestion that has come from General Parker at Fort Bragg: Orders have been published forbidding soldiers to make hitch-hiking gestures or aggressively to solicit rides from motorists. But the boys still crave to get where they're going. Frequently they haven't the money for bus or train fare, and there are more soldiers than there are seats in buses or trains.

General Parker's proposal is that motorists let it be known by a sticker on their windshield that they will cheerfully give a ride to any soldier, along with a card vouching for the motorists, from some organization, and Coleman Roberts of the Carolina Motor Club already has seen his opportunity in, that he has offered the services of his 62 officers.

Tribute To Clapper

By Westbrook Pegler

(Reprinted by courtesy of United Feature Syndicate and The Charlotte Observer.)

THIS living document was being me up on a charge of being too hot-headed because it is fitting to be a tribute to my friend and colleague, Ray Clapper, the editorial writer of the News, who distributed by the same firm that produces mine. If so, however, no little respect for his work as a dollar tie, suspended during good behavior, for I have had so little experience in practical writing that it probably won't be very complimentary after all. It might be made in memory of him as happened when I thought I'd finished Knute Rockne and he threatened to take his job as coach at Notre Dame because the rewards of public life weren't sufficient compensation for such a loss. I am probably the only journalist in the trade whose grades are reported for each class.

Well, anyway, as I look back over the last few years I realize that Clapper was the only comic commentator in the trade who really let it all out. There is no one nearer to our country. Much of his work on that theme was necessarily pretty dull going, and I will admit, to my shame, that I was a little bit of a snob with the inward remark that, Oh, Ray, Ray was on his rubber, Boredom, Boredom, Boredom, and again, and the importance of Singapore to us and the vulnerability of our cities.

We've all been hammering on the subject of the Japanese attitude toward the United States since the official Chinese monks of Nippon and the historical cynicism of their statesmen. We've all been hammering on the subject of the Japanese attitude toward the United States since the official Chinese monks of Nippon and the historical cynicism of their statesmen.

I assume Ray was getting his material from the Department, and possibly from the President, because he plainly seized the opportunity to get his own most monopolizing our attention in the East while the Japanese were still in the air.

HE WROTE MODESTLY, WITHOUT SHOUTING. He is not a noisy writer, being little given to rhetorical rhapsodies and never known to break out in an attack of the cuts, which may be a pity because possibly the very solemnity of his warnings militated against results. But, anyway, the fact that practically all of us were reading his words was a thing that he could not deny. Hitler certainly no fault of his, because he was right on the target all the time. And I am afraid his information was altogether too sound on the subject of our stockpiles of oil, and I am afraid his information was altogether too sound on the subject of our stockpiles of oil, and I am afraid his information was altogether too sound on the subject of our stockpiles of oil.

IF AMERICA FAILED TO HELP WAS IT HER FAULT? In the matter of hatred of war psychology against Japan and Japanese only a comparative few Americans living on the West Coast had any preparation at all. The rest of the American people start, old, although, of course, the events of last Sunday and of the hours since have brought the country to a full boil. Clapper didn't take the time to say, "Break, but kept kicking us gently under the table and muttering, 'Don't look like that, but I think this is a little squinty guy behind us is carrying a knife.'"

Well, this, for me, is hysterical hero-worship, but you know how very seldom I am right. Things and I won't be surprised if next time I meet Clapper he lets me know that he has a little squinty guy behind us is carrying a knife.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT After all God has a plan for humanity and us: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; therefore will we not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. —Psalm 46:1, 2

Russian Victory Is Ours

By Dorothy Thompson

A hand across the sea to the Russians, and a firm clasp, and the honesty to be grateful, is a commendable quality of the brave of all countries, of all almost defenders of their homes. This transcended ideologies.



His own lips: "Roosevelt is in error. Obviously somebody must be crazy, for the situation is abnormal."

RUSSIAN STANDBY OPPOSE HITLER HORROR But Russia stands at Moscow, and hurling back the invaders in the most heroic exploit of this war, offers the disaster at Pearl Harbor and outdoes his plans.

CLAPPER REALLY FELT JAPANESE THREAT Well, anyway, as I look back over the last few years I realize that Clapper was the only comic commentator in the trade who really let it all out.

THE DREAM OF APPEASEMENT VANISHES The Great Strategist, with his pessimism, always saw clearly a very little game. It is apparent that as he looked temporarily in the direction of the East, he had hoped again to oppose Russia through the attack on America.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS: Isaiah's Encouragement Editors, The News: I have just come in from work and was reading the Bible.

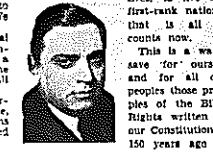
UNITY In the matter of hatred of war psychology against Japan and Japanese only a comparative few Americans living on the West Coast had any preparation at all.

AGGRESSIONS PERSECUTIONS NEW CONQUESTS THE HEAD: FREEDOM IS MENACED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

This Is A Good War

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON PROPERTY, money, material possessions don't mean much now. Freedom, the right to live our own lives, to live as a first-rank nation—that is all that counts now.



THE Bill of Rights can exist for individuals or for nations only in a free world safe from conquest. Regimes of force can't tolerate them. Even in our own country we may have to suspend some of those rights during the war.

PROVIDING A ROCK BOTTOM FOR FREEDOM These 10 precious amendments to our Constitution distill into a few simple principles the whole conception of the free way of life. They only set down in outline the practice of our free nations.

ONLY A KNOCKOUT WILL END THE WAR This war may end in a knockout of one side. We know that after Pearl Harbor that we are not safe until Japan, Germany and Italy are smashed. Until then we will be safe from another treacherous attack.

CONGRESS WOULD BE HITLER'S FIRST VICTIM If we would not make peace with Hitler, Germany, do you think Hitler would make peace with a Roosevelt America with a Democrat in the White House?

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