THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1941

Preliminary

War-Time America Prefers Deeds to Words

It is a most spectacular answer to demands for an Allied "supreme war council." Yesterday there was only speculation. Today Churchill is here in America—at this moment, closeted with Franklin Roosevelt. Whatever else may come of the discussions between these chiefs of state, it was certainly a thrilling play. If the first reports from London are representative, it went over big in Britain. In America the reaction is hopeful but—as we sense it—something less than fully reassured.

For it is peculiarly characteristic of an America at war that it puts more stock in deeds than in words. For that reason, a Colin Kelley or a Doug MacArthur stirs us more by what they do than a Roosevelt or a Churchill by what they say.

This is not to discount the tremendous importance of the conference now in session at the White House. But we find ourselves thinking, This Churchill-Roosevelt talk is all right—fine—but when do the general staffs meet?

Without a conscious effort to seem obtuse, we cannot imagine what specific agreements on general strategy Churchill and Roosevelt can make unless professional soldiers of both nations are there to advise and counsel. It would be redundant for the two men to say that their purpose was to defeat Hitler. That is no excuse for Mr. Churchill's making the long and dangerous Atlantic crossing. The question that begs for an answer is how to defeat Hitler. Roosevelt and Churchill are primarily political leaders. The grim business of planning Hitler's military defeat is a job cut out for generals and admirals and boards of military and economic strategy.

If the Allies can agree upon a general plan quickly and execute it, the chances are they can beat Hitler to the draw—that is, they can move before he does. But, again, this is a military problem, not a political one. The political problem can wait a little while. The work ahead of the generals and the admirals cannot wait.

No Quarter

We May Expect None From Two Such Adversaries

If the destruction of warplanes is a legitimate war enterprise, and of course it is, the destruction of pilots is equally so. Our airmen need expect no sporting generosity from their opponents, but rather to be shot down when parachuting to earth from a gone plane or under any conditions, however ignoble.

If the destruction of warships or commercial vessels is a legitimate war enterprise, and of course it is, the destruction of seamen is equally so. Survivors of the U. S. tanker Emidido, torpedoed twenty miles off the California coast, will testify that, legitimately or not, the enemy attempted to destroy them even after their ship had gone down. The Jap sub shelled their lifeboats.

In neither of our principal enemies, Germany and Japan, is the quality of mercy to be expected or likely to be found. Both nations have prepared themselves for war by deliberately cultivating barbarism, by giving themselves against the trespassing impulses of human kindness and fellow-feeling. Their outrages against us, against contestants and civilians, will be limited only by their ability to inflict them and our ability to prevent them.

We are up against the brutality of the Dark Ages batted by civilized intelligence, and it is we or they.

Slacker

Not Being With Us, Eire Is Actively Against Us

The time may be rapidly approaching when Eire will have to make the choice she has refused so far to face. Japan's siege of Singapore and the high probability of a German thrust into the Mediterranean compel so wide a dispersal of British sea power that the all-important Atlantic shipping lanes, Britain's Burma Road, are left exposed to the depredations of German submarines.

Churchill has said, discretely and with the tact that is advisable when an ally addresses the Irish, that the Allied cause would be greatly simplified were Eire defended were Eire to be the battleground of bases on her coast. Eire's answer was prompt and angry. There was nothing doing. Even though the island already had suffered a foretaste of punishment and had been generously bombed by German planes, even though its traditional friend, the United States, had been forced into active partnership in the war against Hitler, there was still nothing doing.

What works unceasingly in the Southern Irishman's bosom is, of course, his ancient grudge against British overlordship. He is determined to maintain his freedom from British rule at all costs, to suffer Nazi raids meekly and without retaliation, to perch supinely on the fence like some fat pullet waiting to be plucked, all because he cannot stomach Englishmen.

It is stupid folly, an everlasting degradation of the Irish name. Freedom from British rule could be easily and sincerely and positively guaranteed. Beside, Irish freedom and the freedom of all peoples everywhere is subordinate to and desperately dependent upon the winning of the world's freedom from those who would destroy it.

Eire is either with us or against us. Not much longer will it be possible for her to huddle in the lee of the British Isles hoping that the winds of destiny will blow over. If her bases become indispensable, they will be offered or seized.

A Slow Start

Does Mecklenburg See the Size of the Job Ahead?

There is no disguising the news that this community, in its first war-time test, has failed signally. Despite the efficient, enthusiastic manner in which the Red Cross War Relief drive was organized and carried out, the money simply hasn't been forthcoming. Despite the thrilling contribution of $9,000 by Lance Inc., itself a considerable part of the amount raised so far, the drive is nowhere near going over.

As it stands now, all the people who have given would have to give twice as much again to reach the goal of $90,000. As for all the people who haven't given, twice nothing is still nothing, so there isn't a great deal to be expected from that source.

It may be said that the quota was set too high. Certainly, the raising of $90,000 in a locality which ordinarily garners only a little more than that for its Community Chest would seem to be a major undertaking.

The National Red Cross, we daresay, will get along well enough in spite of the unsuccess of the drive in Mecklenburg County. But there's something wrong here, something more than whether well-to-do people gave only nominal amounts or others of lesser means gave stintingly or not at all. There seems somehow to be a lack of realization that the country is engaged in a war which means its very life or death, that even at this moment its armed forces are under attack in force, that millions, literally millions, of its sons and perhaps their fathers as well are likely to be engaged before it is over.

All-out war requires all-out civilian support. Evidently our people are yet to comprehend what they are up against.

Lock-Out

What Are a Few Ships When Union Dues Aren't Paid?

"Several pickets," the AP reports, "carried banners reading 'We want to work.'"

The scene, of course, was one of the San Francisco shipyards where, because of a union affiliation dispute with the AFL, a handful of welders have set up picket lines. They are striking, say the welders, because they want their own union and in protest against being ordered to pay back dues to the AFL. Tremendous issues, aren't they, with the United States fighting for its life—and fighting mostly with ships?

At the shipyard where the "we want to work" banner was displayed, 100 welders' union cards were taken up by AFL officials because they refused to pay dues. This is tantamount to dismissal. Under the closed shop arrangement, only union members in good standing are allowed to work.

So is it a strike at all? From here it looks more like a lock-out, with the union doing the locking. What certain union bosses and more than a few employer bosses can't seem to get through their thick skulls—and we use the word advisedly—is that business as usual is out, for the duration. There are no exceptions.

Handworn Excuse

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON.

HOW the British could fare so poorly in defense of Singapore—against a land attack for which they have been preparing at least fifteen years—is the first major mystery of the Far East war. The explanation being sent out of that "impregnable bastion" by the newsmen is that insufficient men and material were furnished by London. This would seem to be a handworn and miserable excuse.

The truth is they slipped in only one particular, the most important one. They neglected to concentrate sufficient pursuit planes to protect the adequate troops and material which they had mustered. They underestimated the Jap air force (as has everyone else). Such fighting planes could not be flown to the Orient in view of their short range, but had to be shipped out around South Africa. As they were also needed at home and elsewhere, the British fell easily into a critical error.

WE MUST HOLD PHILIPPINES UNTIL MAY

Our defense of the Philippines has relied heavily upon the British group of the Singapore flank. If the Japs win there, their fleet and troops can be turned full on General MacArthur. Furthermore, the helpful rainy season is about over out there and good fighting weather will prevail through April. If the Philippines can be held until next May, they will never be lost.

MR. LUNDEBERG GETS TOUGH

The meeting of the Maritime Commission and ship operators swiftly got down to business here. Called by John R. Steelman of the Government's Labor Conciliation Service and Admiral Land of the Maritime Commission, it developed immediate unity. Strikes were barred. War aid was promised. But then the union leaders and operators got into a discussion of how the ships would be run to win the war. Guns should be placed here and there, aliens should be restricted thus and so.

Straight, tough Harry Lundeberg of the Seaman's Union stood it as long as he could. Arising before the bickering Commie lawyers from New York (representing some of the unions), and the immaculately garbed ship operators, he shook the walls with his booming voice.

"All right, gentlemen," he said in effect, "but before we try to tell the Government how to run these ships, maybe we had better get on a ship and find out how to run it ourselves. I move that we sign immediately on a ship today and run it to Manila so we can get detailed experience upon which to base these recommendations."

The motion was not acted upon. The subject evaporated along with recommendations. The idea of "Commie" union lawyers and ship operators taking a ship into Manila clearly had no appeal, except for Mr. Lundeberg.

A GUESS: TANK TO BECOME OBSOLETE

Surprises are not over in this war. This Government, while always slow to take up innovations, has a few which may breeze your hat off eventually.

It is my personal guess that the tank — that shocking new spearhead of the blitz — will be an obsolete weapon inside of a year. As now constructed, it is apt to become useless when confronted with newly conceived devices.

Also the end of development in airplanes has not been reached.

No weapon has ever been found for which an equally forceful answer could not be contrived, and none such will be found.

DEVELOPING HOME SOURCES OF STRATEGIC METALS

The Nelson and Henderson defense groups are belatedly and therefore quietly moving to develop American resources of magnesium and chrome in the West. But the credit for forcing them into action goes to a Senate Military Affairs Subcommittee and specially to its counsel, George Malone of the Industrial West Foundation. Malone has been working months, unsuccessfully and without pay, to make this Government offer a price high enough to warrant development of our own resources of strategic raw materials being supplied more cheaply from abroad.

LIVE AS HAPPILY AS FREELY AS POSSIBLE

Today's suggestion of how you personally can help to win this war:

Don't abandon your plans to enjoy Christmas, a Winter holiday in Florida or whatever other brief relaxation from war which your circumstances allow. A gloomy, tense nation never won a war. The U. S. Travel Service of the Interior Department is advocating Winter excursions ardently. It is your duty to your country as well as yourself to live happily and freely as you can in war times.

Senator Soaper Says:

All we get out of that great farm chart which is called history is that, as a rule, the side with the last loaf of bread wins the war.

A marked shortage of mistletoe is reported; but things even themselves up pretty well. There may be blackouts.

If numbering it doesn't make it entirely clear, history could call this one the World World War.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

The spirit finally triumphs over the physical and material. *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.—I Cor. 15:22.*

"We Did Better From the Back"

—By Herblock

Enemy Agent: 1942 Style

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK.

THE case of Laura Ingalls, arrested by the FBI as a German agent, needs some elaboration.

Miss Ingalls was a member of the fifth column in the United States. Whether she was paid or not paid is of relatively little importance for us. It seems that she was, but if she had not been her activities contributed to serve the purpose of our enemies. That purpose was to make us as unprepared for war as possible, spiritually as well as technically. Her particular task was to work up American mothers, by accusing the President of conspiring to kill their sons on the field of battle, and so to spread defeatism, pacifism, and fear of their own Government in every family.

Laura Ingalls was no great genius and no great international spy. She was one of a great network of conscious and unconscious agents, working on the mentality of a whole people.

THERE IS A NEW KIND OF ENEMY AGENT

In former wars the "foreign agent" was a spy, seeking for military secrets, organizing sabotage, and informing his government. He still has the same function, but he has another: sabotage against the entire mentality of a people, with the purpose of confusing and dividing them—first, among themselves, and second, from their allies. They conduct a systematic, and even scientific, psychological warfare, with the directions laid down in Berlin.

There is a monstrous fifth column in the United States—just as there was a fifth column in Hawaii, which contributed to the disaster of Pearl Harbor. Of course, this fifth column gave information to the Japanese. But it had another task; to create a feeling of security about Hawaii in the minds of our armed forces. Have those people been found—and are they not still operating?

The only way one can tell who is a fifth columnist today is to look at the results of certain activities, and investigate their origins.

AXIS AGENTS WHO SABOTAGE WITH TALK

There are Axis agents in this country, American citizens, whose entire task is to spread the following talk at dinner parties and in business offices: Britain cannot win the war; Britain has already made a deal with Germany about Russia; Stalin has made a deal with Hitler and Japan; Germany has new inventions which make her invincible. It is only the fault of Roosevelt that we have been attacked.

And these people attach themselves to native movements. Miss Ingalls was a speaker for the America First Committee. This does not say that the leaders of America First Committee were foreign agents, but it does say that the America First Committee was used by German agents. And Laura Ingalls was not the most important and influential of these agents.

FIFTH COLUMN CHANGES ITS TUNE

This fifth column is now operating. But the attack on Hawaii changes the situation, and therewith the strategy of the psychological warfare. It is obvious that one cannot continue to spread the slogan of "Keep America Out of the War," when our fleet has been attacked without warning, in American waters, and our land attacked without warning by Japanese soldiers, and Germany and Italy have declared war upon us.

So what is being spread?

This is what is being spread: "Let us confine ourselves to our own war." "Americans are fighting for Britain and Russia—why not fight for themselves?" "Don't give any more aid to Britain and Russia—you need all you can produce for yourselves."

Their present propaganda is "100 per cent" Americanism, and seems to be very patriotic. And their object is to lead us to defeat.

Here, as everywhere else, their tactic is to prevent a war of coalition, and thus defeat one nation after another. What they do not want is a common strategy of American-Britain-Russia-China. Hitler drove Japan into the war in order to divert us to the Pacific. Roosevelt, who saw this, did everything in his power to prevent the Pacific war—short of handing to Japan China and all the strategical points from which we could be even more effectively attacked. And what we must do is what our enemies do not want us to do — obviously.

COVERING UP BY ACCUSING OTHERS

This fifth column, furthermore, will try to cover itself by accusing others. It will spread a dreadful fear of Communism, and everyone will be a Communist who has any sympathy with liberal movements. It has been doing this for a long time. They will attack the "enemy alien," as they did in France, spreading the word that the refugees from Hitlerism are German agents. Maybe there are some among them. But they are inconsequential in the whole picture, as the thousands of wretched victims thrown into French concentration camps were inconsequential in a picture that included Admiral Darlan and Pierre Laval and Marcel Deat, who spread defeatism during the whole war and counted on their own rise to power through defeat.

The usual Department of Justice methods of uncovering agents and spies are inadequate to the revolutionary methods of the totalitarian powers.

THE PRESS IS STRONGEST WEAPON AGAINST THEM

One of the greatest weapons that can be used against them is the press: publicity; clarification of their methods, so that the people themselves can see what is going on.

We need have no fear of disunity in pointing out a few facts. Ninety-five per cent of the people of this country understand this war. But the concept that there is 100 per cent unity is not justified by the experience of any other country. The people who have been counselling defeatism, attacking our allies, calling for the impeachment of the President, cannot all have been converted overnight. Here, as in France, they hide their time, counting on a terrible coming year.

Since the psychological warfare is directed against the American people, not the Government, only the American people can defeat it—by constant awareness of what is going on.

Meet Paul Mallon - - -

At the age of twelve, he started writing letters for the juvenile section of the Louisville Courier-Journal . . . and won so many prizes that the editor disqualified him from further competition. Since then Paul Mallon has covered some of the biggest news "breaks" in the world: the Teapot Dome scandals, the Shenandoah disaster, two Worlds' Series, the Lipton Cup Yacht Races (he was in the blimp that fell 2,000 feet into Jamaica Bay during one race).

With an encyclopedic mind, seasoned by events that had made headlines for a decade, Paul Mallon went to Washington in the twenties, made a name for himself, in his daily column, he tells the news behind the news and tells it straight. His news sources in Washington are everywhere that headlines are made.

As Washington replaces Berlin as the war capital of the world, both the volume and the importance of the news made there increases. Today and daily hereafter, Paul Mallon will be at your service on this page, as part of the constantly increasing coverage of . . .

The Charlotte News

Expanding A Charter

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON.

FOR obvious reasons officials do not wish to discuss at this time what is being done toward an Allied compact for joint management of the war and for restoration of a free world after the victory.

Except to say that discussions are going on, President Roosevelt remains silent. High officials in London have indicated that important announcements may be expected soon.

The most logical and practical move would spring from the Atlantic charter itself. This was drawn up on the high seas by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill last August, before the United States went to war.

TRANSFORMING CHARTER INTO A COMPACT

As they said at the time, they were stating the principles common to the two countries on which they based their hopes for a better future of the world. This document related to the postwar world, but in point six the final destruction of Nazi tyranny was recognized as a necessary preliminary.

[Note: Apparently Mr. Clapper had wind of the Roosevelt-Churchill conference in Washington when he wrote this column, although he was careful not to come right out with it. The article was written at least 24 hours before the official announcement that Prime Minister Churchill had arrived in the U. S. —Editors, THE NEWS.]

Now that the United States has entered the war, the two Governments are in a position to transform that charter, or statement of principles, into a compact with which others like Russia, China, the Latin American nations and the Governments in exile could affiliate. This would be set up the core of a new free world, bound together not only for victory but to win the peace afterward.

Such a program requires, first, joint conduct of the war. This would operate through an Interallied War Council on the military side. With it would go joint economic measures, and pooling of shipping, plus fluid financial and material assistance already operating through the lend-lease policy. The need for joint conduct of these activities is recognized everywhere as the only means of effectively using Allied resources over the literally world-wide front of the war.

WE SHOULD PREPARE, TO MANAGE VICTORY

In the second place, the program requires preparations now for managing the victory. President Roosevelt has just called on all State Governments to begin preparation of programs of public works to cushion postwar unemployment. Similar forehandedness is necessary among the Allied nations, with commitments now to participate, so that social and political upheavals may be less severe.

The principles which will govern were outlined in the Atlantic charter. Roosevelt and Churchill stated their common principles as opposition to aggrandizement by any country, or territorial changes not freely accepted by the peoples concerned; respect for the right of peoples to choose their own form of Government; free access by all countries on equal terms to trade and raw materials; international collaboration to improve labor standards, economic advancement and social security; free use of the oceans by all; disarmament of aggressor nations until a wider and more permanent system of general security has been developed.

DISCRIMINATION AMONG NATIONS MUST END

This charter was built around the core of our own international trade policy as outlined by Secretary Hull a few weeks earlier, on May 19. In a broadcast, Secretary Hull said the postwar program must not permit discrimination in commercial relations between nations. Raw materials must be available to all nations without discrimination, and international agreements regulating the supply of commodities must be so handled as to protect consuming countries—a provision directed principally at the British and Dutch monopolies of tin and rubber in the Far East. Mr. Hull also insisted that international finance must be set up to give aid to essential enterprises and continuous development of all countries, and to permit payment through trade consonant with the welfare of all countries. He insisted also that measures taken to give effect to these principles must be freely open to every nation willing to co-operate in maintaining peace.

These are the foundations for the more binding measures which must be taken soon and which will broaden the Atlantic charter into a compact for winning and holding Allied victory.

Visitin' Around

Anything To Do With The Gallup Poll?

(Union Hills item, Hendersonville Times-News)

Miss Gracy Fair Face, who has a position in Hickory, spent the past week at her home here.