

When Do We Shoot?

By Raymond Clapper

WHENEVER we start shooting, and how soon, now appears to be thirty up to Hitler.

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox has been heard to say that the Navy is now under orders to shoot orders more than to patrol. He referred to President Roosevelt's announcement of the evacuation of Iceland, which states that the Navy has been ordered to assure safe communications to that outpost and to other outposts in the Atlantic.

Hitherto the naval patrol has been charged with the duty of scouting and reporting information concerning the location and nature of hostile craft. As Secretary Knox continues the President's words, the Navy now is under orders not merely to report the presence of such craft but to clear them out.

NEWS OF SHOOTING MUST NOT SURPRISE US

THIS means that we must be prepared at any time to hear news of sea or air engagements between American and German forces in the North Atlantic.

We have not declared war but we have taken up positions which we apparently are ready to defend. Whether that means war depends now on the other fellow.

A twofold purpose lies behind this policy. One purpose is to protect the Western Hemisphere by occupying advance territory lest Hitler get there first and establish a jumping-off base. The other purpose is to assist in getting war supplies to England. Iceland is important to both purposes. Protection of the northern Atlantic is important to both purposes.

Indeed, the two purposes resolve themselves to a considerable extent into one purpose.

AMERICAN POLICY IS TO USE BRITAIN AS BARRIER

Our policy throughout the war has been to consider England as a barrier which must continue to stand against the advance of Hitler so that he might not break out into the Atlantic. Before the war began, Mr. Roosevelt tried to repeal the arms embargo so that England might obtain war supplies here. On the day war began, Mr. Roosevelt, in a radio statement, under the country, branded Germany as the aggressor and made it clear that the United States was not neutral in this struggle. That he obtained repeal of the arms embargo and established this country as an arsenal of the resistance to Hitler, enabling the aid later through the lend-lease act. All this was upon the reasoning that it was to our advantage to have Great Britain hold out against Hitler.

Meanwhile we developed another policy that goes out to meet this one. We acquired additional bases off the Western Hemisphere and took Germany under a protective, to build up a protecting screen for the Western Hemisphere. We have our eyes on islands out in the Atlantic from which attack might be launched toward us. We added Iceland to our protecting screen.

IRELAND'S OCCUPATION HAS TWO BENEFITS

Ireland occupies a position facing two ways in this situation. First, it is an outpost which, in hostile hands, might give us considerable trouble and which we therefore find it useful to hold ourselves. Second, Ireland is a strategic point along the line of supply to England. We have taken over the occupation of it from the British but the two powers will use it jointly for their mutual protection.

This brings us much closer to the war than we have been before. We are undertaking to crowd Germany back to clear considerable area of the North Atlantic of her sea and air raiders, and to make it impossible for Germany to establish an advance sea and air base out in the Atlantic. This takes us inside the area which Germany proclaimed as a war zone, and because it does, it is a defiance of Hitler on our part.

This is the first time Hitler has been crowded. From the day he marched into the Rhineland in 1936, Hitler has seen the other countries fall back and give way time and again. Never have they pushed him. It is impossible to foresee how he will react to this action of ours which does not fit the pattern to which he has become accustomed.

Visitin' Around

Subscription Renewed (Davis Record)

H. S. Carter, who lives in the classic shades of Clarksville, was in town one day last week and left us a frog skin.

21¢ Cents Apple (38 Years Ago Item, Transylvania Times)

\$5.00 Reward—The above sum will be paid to anyone who can identify the designer of a particle of decent sidewalk in the Town of Brevard that has been built by the present board of aldermen—200 Distinguished Pedestrians.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. C. Dowd Jr., President and General Manager
J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor
W. C. Dowd, 1885-1891
The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle, established in 1923, was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 5, 1934.
The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
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One Month \$1.00 \$1.00
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15 cents per week by carrier

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1941

Responsibility

Hospital-Managed Ambulance Service Is An Obligation

No one denies that ambulance service in Charlotte should be transferred from private funeral homes to Memorial Hospital. By so doing, every ambulance answering an emergency call could be staffed with an intern. Charlotte's accident victims, like those in other cities of comparable size, would get immediate, expert treatment as soon as the ambulance arrives.

Local funeral homes favor the idea. Two morticians have said that they would be glad to donate their ambulances to Memorial Hospital if the plan were adopted. Ambulance service is a financial liability to the local funeral directors and they would be glad to let someone else do the job.

And there's the hitch. If the funeral homes are now losing money operating ambulances, it appears likely that the shift would mean an addition to the budget of Memorial Hospital. Hospital authorities say their young institution hasn't any extra funds for the purpose. Let the City make up the deficit? Well, the City Attorney's office interprets a State Supreme Court ruling as meaning that regular tax funds cannot be used for hospital purposes—hospitals are not "necessary expenses" of government.

If we must get technical about it, there are decidedly few "necessary expenses" of government. By this same standard, we might as well disband our State Police (whose members would doubt, we would, the opportunity of seeing their families again, after working 12 hours a day, seven days a week), protection against injury to life and property by fire more "necessary" than saving human lives by the right kind of ambulance service? There are more automobile accidents alone in Charlotte than there are fires.

Why have a department of public health and sanitation? A citizen who dies from typhoid is no less deceased than an accident victim who bleeds to death on his way to the hospital.

Charlotte is a "big city" now. It is time to accept the responsibilities that become the inevitable burden of all big cities. Hospital-managed ambulance service is only one of these responsibilities.

Mum's Th' Word

"Ask Me No Questions, I'll Tell You No Lies"

Soldiers out at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, are starting to come back. In the girl friends of soldiers in service pledge to refrain from mentioning dates with other men in their letters. The idea is, of course, to keep the boys in camp happy. Private Stubbs couldn't be expected to soldier with the utmost efficiency if his gal, Sadie, had just written him about the good time that was having with the male civilians back home. The soldiers appear to have accepted the theory that what you don't know won't hurt you.

We have questioned several young ladies of our acquaintance about a few ideas and if their enthusiasm may be accepted as typical, the "Don't tell me (let me guess)" drive is going to be what Hollywood would call a "smash-hit."

Advice Is Cheap

The Red Army Is Doing All Right Without British Strategy

British generals and high government officials are reported to be shaking their heads gloomily at the prospect of a shattering Nazi triumph over the Russians. According to the London dispatch, the English officials think the Soviets are trying to defend too much territory. They predict that the depressing of Red Russia will result in a German breakthrough, followed by disaster. Maybe so. Nearly all neutral military observers foresee a defeat of the Red armies from the beginning of the invasion.

But when have the British the right to give any other nation advice on how to stop the Nazis? In France, where in less than time already has used in the Russian campaign, the British armies were bottled up and "Dunkersque." Not in

Norway, where pretty much the same thing happened. Not in Greece either, or in Crete.

Admitting that the Russian armies have a better than even chance of being decisively defeated, the record doesn't indicate that the British have superior strategy.

On the contrary, it appears that the Russians have put up a brand of resistance that for the first time has turned the blitz into a battle. For the first time, the Nazis have paid for their gains with tremendous casualties. Furthermore, the main Red armies appear to be intact, with 8,000,000 fresh soldiers reported moving up to reinforce them. It is a far better record than all but the most optimistic had predicted for the Russians.

This is a good time for the British to go easy on the advice and let the Russians fight their war in their own way.

It Was Murder

But Tuskegee's Patterson Insists It Was A Lynching

On our desk while this is being written are two pieces of printed matter. One is the annual report of President F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. Fifty-three pages of pictures and type tell the heart-warming story of what this great Alabama Negro institution is doing for the social and economic betterment of the race.

Beside the report is a four-paragraph newspaper clipping: "Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today a lynching in other states in past years was 'a similar to positively recorded lynchings in other states in past years' and consequently there would be no change in the classification of three lynchings listed by the Institute's department of records and research."

Last week The News presented positive and unrefuted testimony showing that the "lynching" in question was a clear case of murder. The perpetrators of the crime were tried, convicted, and are now serving prison terms of from 14 to 24 years.

William R. Johnson, Negro consultant of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare, as well as many North Carolina newspaper, joined with us in earnestly requesting President Patterson to reconsider his decision. President Patterson has declined to do so.

In closing his annual report, President Patterson said: "There is everywhere the desire and determination to carry our work to new heights of achievement in spite of the seriousness of the times and the limitations which are imposed."

We can only conclude—and we say it with genuine regret—that President Patterson has in this instance contributed to those limitations.

It Ain't Hay

Nosir, Not If You Have The Right Job In Winston

There is something about the big money that fascinates, and this is as good a reason as any for passing along figures on how high you'd have to count if you were a Winston-Salem tobacco baron. These figures are not precisely any of our business but since they were made public at the current anti-trust trials in Kentucky, we don't feel that we are scandalizing anyone.

So here goes: Mr. W. N. Reynolds (brother of the late R. J.) has received during the past fifteen years a total of \$4,000,000—an average of \$266,666 a year.

Mr. B. Clay William (chairman of the board of Reynolds Tobacco Company) has received during the same period, \$2,280,000—an average of \$152,000 a year.

Mr. James Gray (brother of the late Bowman Gray Sr. and president of Reynolds) total \$4,370,000; yearly average, \$291,333.

Mr. R. E. Laster and Mr. J. W. Glenn, somewhat lesser lights, received totals of \$2,150,000 and \$607,000, respectively. We have no comment to make about this except to say in somewhat hushed voice: Brother, that ain't hay.

Tank units find a perfect arena for their combat on the North African sand. If there must be auto graveyards, the desert is the place for same.

The Blitz In Russia

By Dorothy Thompson

IN the year 1938, Colonel Braun, German strategic expert, writing in the military weekly, "Militarische Wochenschrift," the exact blueprint of the blitzkrieg, and described the prerequisites of its success.

He said, "The attacker disregards international law and attacks the offensive without provocation and without declaration of war. On the eve of the attack fast, mobile, and powerful forces are deployed along the border. The attack starts at dawn, with driving fury, superior force, and tremendous speed, eliminating all existing border defenses within the first few hours, and penetrating deeply into the hinterland. Consequently, the attacker attacks a single all-important vital point in the interior, destroying it within a short space of time. Parachutists and air-borne infantry are landed at other strategic points in the interior, destroying all vital power stations, commercial centers, bridges and Government headquarters. The blitzkrieg must show decisive results within two or three days, accomplishing all objectives and leaving nothing up to operations to the infantry. Prerequisites of successful blitzkrieg are suitable terrain, absolutely assured surprise element, overwhelmingly superior attacking forces, with enormous reserves in the back ground, co-ordination of all combat units, uninterrupted supplies, and favorable weather conditions. Its ultimate success depends on 100 per cent luck."

LET'S GO TO WORK FOR NAZIS IN RUSSIA

Let us now apply Colonel Braun's formula to Russia. The campaign began in the early '30s, and two days later Hitler announced that a decision of world importance would be made on Wednesday. That decision has not occurred yet.

Colonel Braun's formula, which worked out in France, calls for "the elimination of all existing border defenses within the first few hours." The border defenses of the Soviet Union are the Stalin line, and they have not yet been eliminated. The Germans claim to have penetrated it at certain points but no decisive attacks on Wednesday, complained of "licky defenses."

It is not suitable enough to fulfill the Colonel's prerequisites, but how "absolutely assured" was the "surprise element" if the Russians had been scrambling on this frontier, perhaps, for the purpose of a surprise attack? The surprise element was not there. They may have had some warning. For, as the Nazi frontier service is extremely good and thoroughly modern. Again, how "overwhelmingly superior" were the attacking forces? They are certainly greatly superior in numbers of all sorts, planes, tanks, and gun power. But how superior are they in man power, at the spot, and in resources?

PSYCHOLOGY IN THE LOSS OF LIFE

It is well to believe only those things in which we have evidence. Russian communiques agree. Both admit terrific loss of life. And here the Russian communiques are physically and psychologically. They are biologically more Freud than three times as many Russians as there are Germans.

Russian facts influence the psychology of nations. The French, for instance, had a horror of loss of life, relating their diminishing numbers. Also, the farther East one moves the cheaper human life becomes. Germans are more reckless of life than the French, Russians more reckless than the Germans.

What happens in Russia is also extremely important to German morale in the further course of the war. For the first time the Nazis are encountering an army of greater numbers that fight and for the first time there is that terrific loss of life that the Nazis suppose to avoid. As German mothers receive the news of the death of their sons, the enthusiasm for another battle on the beaches of England, with another great army that also intends to fight, may wane.

HITLER THINKS GERMAN CAN STAND HIM

It is nothing to count on Hitler once said, "The Germans endured Attila the Hun and the Thirty Years' War, and they can endure me."

Just the same, if the Russians keep on as they are doing, this campaign may be the turning point of the war. The "hundred per cent luck" of Hitler is certainly not there. Seventy per cent, or sixty per cent, but not a hundred per cent.

And, since the idea of invincibility is one of the greatest assets in his whole armor, this change of "luck" is important.

Letters to the Editor:

No Time For Poison

Editors, The News:

I have just read the letter to the Editor "Mr. Nyk's Dose Of Poison" in today's issue—written by one Mr. G. N. Ramsey, Lincoln.

I did not hear Mr. Nyk's broadcast but he said "I had all better take a dose of poison than oppose Nazi Germany; we could get a dose at 10 cents per head then fight." Then I think he is lacking a little something that most of us call Americanism.

Personally I can think of a lethal dose for less and would be glad to furnish him and his cohorts a dose at my expense.

I, of course, don't go for this kind of tommyrot, but there is so many people who believe this kind of propaganda and of course will side with him to them I say—I'll furnish the dose.

LET'S STOP THIS KIND OF TALK

and get down to a real fighting spirit and if needs be go win the German again. It has been done. It can be done again, but if we listen to this kind of Fifth Column stuff there is no telling where we will be when the final analysis is made.

—A READER

Blessing Liberalism

With Five-Dollar Words

Editors, The News:

Notwithstanding the derogatory charges of several local Protestant laymen recently appearing in The News, concerning the commendable action of a majority in the Charlotte City Council in modifying the antiquated and obstructive Sunday closing ordinance, it seems to me only fair to assume that the city should be responsible for this course were largely governed in their deliberations by the following consequential factors: That the best criterion as to the ethical value of Sunday closing mandates is general social statistics which plainly disclose that in communities where wholesome Sabbath recreations are denied, a considerable number of the population are tempted by monetary desire to the otherwise dull time to resorts of unwholesome and irreverent character, irrespective of the restraining influence of Christianity. That blue laws are a flagrant violation of both the ninth Bible precept and the Federal Constitution. That the Scriptures unmistakably grant to the believer

the benign privilege to interpret their pronouncements in the light of individual conscience, while the fundamental law of the land expressly forbids Congress from prescribing in any degree the free exercise of conscientious belief. That these summary statutes are authentically speaking an arbitrary survival of European benighted medievalism and consequently occupy no rightful place in a twentieth century republic where traditional dictates regard religious tenets exclusively a matter of private opinion and in no sense a governmental prerogative. That Charlotte has already attained a population of 100,000 despite the former retrogressive religious attitude and the same inviolable social rule obtains here as elsewhere. No American municipality reaches such proportions unless the inhabitants come in a great measure not only from every other state but all parts of the world together with their multitudinous faiths and diverse convictions, not to mention the conflicting opinions of the native citizenry. These significant facts are bound to become more pronounced as the city increases in size. Therefore contemplating the complex religious status of our city one can readily discern that the conflicting opinions of the native citizenry are confronted with a similar situation encountered by the founding fathers at the nation's inception. Since some 150 denominations are now locally represented it is a practical impossibility to continue legislative enactments embodying the elected concepts of one sect or group without by the same token committing gross discrimination against the differing religious opinions of a large quota of Charlotte's populace. Under existing conditions our city rules very properly determine that the national interest is precisely Charlotte's interest and the furtherance of the old outmoded policy exemplifies neither prudence, equitability, Christianity, nor friendship.

I firmly believe however time will fully verify my appraisal that the provincial religious order can sacrifice nothing vital with the advent of the liberal dispensation. Unwieldy of compulsory restrictions institutional Christianity is in a position to command an added public respect and by virtue of exemplary actions and idealistic attitudes its precepts should yet make their precepts an instrument for the accomplishment of great and enduring good.

—A. M. GAUNT.

Route 5, Charlotte.

FPA Airs Pet Peeves on Food

Franklin P. Adams in "The New York Post"

"Bartlett peas of fine flavor and solid flesh," observes Miss Jane Holt in The Times, "are said to be ideal for stuffing with cream cheese and nuts for a warm-weather fruit salad dessert." Said by whom? Because any lily-painter that spoils peas, or any other fruit, by the addition of cream cheese and nuts, or tries to make a salad of a self-respecting fruit, has us to fight. Those are the same kitchen-middlers who put sugar on tomatoes, and cinnamon and cloves in pie. By the way, next time we are anybody put brown gravy on cold roast beef, the second thing we will do will be to hand ourselves over to the police.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

"And it came to pass, when the days were well-nigh come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem—Luke 9:31."

Side Glances

"I'll be a senior in chemistry next fall, and dad says a Summer in a drug store is just what I need!"

The QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

- No. 1—An Uptown Theater-Auditorium
- No. 2—A Separate Court District
- No. 3—An Uptown Rest Room
- No. 4—Street-Widening

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