THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1941

Iceland

America Shows Up Hitler's Methods in Occupation

In ordering American Naval forces to occupy Iceland, President Roosevelt not only struck a telling blow against Hitler in the Battle of the Atlantic; he demonstrated that democracies have an effective answer to the philosophy of brute force.

When Hitler "occupied" Norway, Denmark, and the Low Countries, he used treachery, swarms of bombers, terrorism. He butchered Norwegian patriots; he wiped out whole cities in Holland. In so doing, he sowed seeds of resentment and hatred that will continue to sprout into violence for centuries.

What a contrast to all of this is recorded in President Roosevelt's orderly, peaceful negotiations with the Prime Minister of Iceland! No Stuka bombers were held like a bludgeon over the head of Mr. Jonasson. No Fifth Column was sent to Iceland to stir up discontent and strife. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Jonasson, as the two decent gentlemen that they are, wrote letters to each other. Mr. Jonasson listed the conditions under which the American occupation of Iceland might be permitted. President Roosevelt agreed. There was mutual understanding and more than that, each government leader trusted the other. That is the important part of the agreement: trust—the assurance that there will be no double-cross of the brand that has become commonplace in Europe.

It is true that America has openly defied Germany by occupying Iceland; the Nazis have declared that the island is in their "war zone."

But the United States is determined that to it that deliveries from "the arsenal of democracy" shall arrive safely in Britain. Occupation of Iceland is merely an incident in the master plan to accomplish this end. There is no turning back.

As to the legality of the President's move, it is sufficient to say that the Constitution designates the Chief Executive as commander-in-chief of the Nation's armed forces. Naturally there will be opposition from certain quarters in Congress. Senator Wheeler announced several days ago that he had information foretelling the occupation of Iceland. He made this information public and in so doing jeopardized the entire move. Had the Nazis taken Wheeler's announcement seriously, U-boats might have attacked American ships on their way to the island.

If Senator Wheeler is willing to shoot off his mouth about Iceland, obviously he may be expected to blab about even more serious matters.

We were lucky this time. The Iceland business went through without a hitch. There is nothing to get excited about, but we may fervently hope that our Government will be more careful in the future to keep our Wheelers uninformed.

Distraction

The Peru-Ecuador Squabble Didn't "Just Happen"

The outbreak of hostilities between Peru and Ecuador is far too timely to have "just happened." It comes when the United States should be devoting the entire attention to giving Britain what she needs to strike Germany. It comes at the moment of the great opportunity, when the Nazis have weakened their western defenses to turn against Russia.

Since the Nazis—and the Japanese—are fully aware of the situation, it was to be expected that their agents would attempt to create some distraction for Uncle Sam in the Western hemisphere.

There is a striking precedent for such plot. During the World War, when Germany wanted to keep America tied up in her own back yard, the Kaiser's agents stirred up trouble in Mexico.

This latest fomentation of the Japanese and Nazis puts the United States on the spot. If we take stern measures, if we order the quarrelling Latin Americans to quiet down—or else, we open ourselves open to the old charge of dollar imperialism and arrogance. If we do nothing, the dispute has every chance of developing into a full-fledged war involving other South American nations participating, in either event we would be in for a peck of trouble.

It will be interesting to watch how the "Vichy gang" in Washington reacts to the South American squabble. If there is an attempt on the part of Wheeler, Lindbergh, Robert Reynolds, and others to divert American attention toward the South, it may be a tip-off on how far these "statesmen" are willing to go in support of a Nazi machination.

USO Smear

A Columnist Gets Vicious About Recreational Program

Yesterday a nationally syndicated column—not the Washington Merry-Go-Round—viciously attacked what it alleged was "coddling and pampering" of the new United States Army.

Specifically, Mr. Ray Tucker, author of the piece to which we refer, declared:

"The Army, incidentally, is cool toward Thomas E. Dewey's USO drive, which is designed to erect social centers in towns and cities outside army cantonments. GHQ believes that it can provide within the camps all the entertainment the soldiers need. The generals are afraid that Mr. Dewey's program will sissify the boys in khaki."

To which we say, incidentally, that Mr. Tucker has been talking to the wrong "GHQ."

The United Service Organizations recreational program was planned with the assistance and consent of the highest-ranking Army and Navy officials in the Nation. It has the personal and individual endorsement of President Roosevelt, as commander-in-chief of all the armed forces, of Navy Secretary Knox, of War Secretary Stimson, and of the Army Chief of Staff, General Marshall. Not only is the USO program welcomed by the army and navy, but it is our understanding that military appropriations will be used to help defray the cost of building the recreation centers.

No Washington newspaperman worthy of the name could be ignorant of these facts; it must be assumed that Mr. Tucker is guilty of a deliberate attempt to smear the USO at the very time when it is bidding for public support.

As for "GHQ" believing "that it can provide within the camps all the entertainment the soldiers need," well, we'd like to take Mr. Tucker down to Fort Bragg of a Sunday and let him see how much entertainment it is possible to provide on the reservation for more than 50,000 soldiers. The commanders of military camps have been the first to condemn the mushrooming of questionable "joints" around their areas and to plead for the substitution of wholesome recreation facilities.

The idea that giving a soldier a place to relax and have a good time without injuring his body or his character means "coddling" and "sissifying" him, is ridiculous. On the contrary, the real army GHQ—not Mr. Tucker's fictitious one—tells us that a plan like the USO's will do much to build morale.

It is most unfortunate that Mr. Tucker's smear attack on the USO should have appeared in Charlotte at a time when the local campaign needs the support of every patriotic citizen. While nearly half of the other North Carolina counties have already oversubscribed their quotas, Mecklenburg still has $10,000 to go.

Intelligent citizens must recognize the Tucker attack for what it is—a deliberate prevarication intended to accomplish a purpose so dastardly that it may well shame all who read it.

"This gaseless Sunday would interfere with my going to church," a local golfer points out, after thinking the thing through.

With taxes what they are and threaten to become, many are passing up that unhealthy daydream, "What would I do with a million dollars?"

It appears that during the North African bedlam a British general wrote a book. Such a fellow could carry on in Hollywood's conception of a newspaper office.

Lindy's Preference

By Dorothy Thompson

"I would rather," said the ineffable Mr. Lindbergh, "see my country ally herself with England, or even with Germany with all her faults, than with the cruelty, the Godlessness, and the barbarism that exist in Soviet Russia."

I have seldom read more insincere words. What Mr. Lindbergh would "rather" see us do he made very clear way back last Summer. He would "rather" see us make a non-aggression pact with a victorious Germany. What he advocated in Chicago last Summer was that we recognize the fact that Germany was going to win the war, and then make a treaty with the Nazis. He said that without such a treaty "with the dominant power of Europe," there would be no possibility of peace.

Now, what it would be interesting to hear from Mr. Lindbergh is whether, after the attack on Russia, he still thinks that a treaty with Hitler is a treaty.

LINDBERGH WENT EASY ON RUSSIA FRIENDLY TO NAZIS

It is very curious that no word of condemnation of Russia passed Mr. Lindbergh's lips as long as Russia was, in effect, an ally of Germany. On the contrary, Mrs. Lindbergh assured us that both Communism and Nazism were "Waves of the Future".

Wholeheartedly and wholehogsedly, both Lindberghs swallowed the then official Nazi version that this war was against British Imperialism, and that the future lay with the "socialist" states. Nor did Godlessness bother either of them.

Mrs. Lindbergh, in her book, put Christianity and capitalism in the same paragraph as two things she was no longer quite sure about.

"The longer this war in Europe continues, the more confused the issues become," said Mr. Lindbergh.

The issues are confusing to Mr. Lindbergh because he has been following the Nazi party line in interpreting the war. That certainly makes things confusing. Because Hitler's war was first to free and unite Germans, then against Bolshevism, then against plutodemocracy, then against the British conception of the gentleman, then against the division of Europe and the destruction of its unity, then for "freeing" such little states as Slovakia and Croatia, and now against everything. Hitler has fought for nationalism and against nationalism, for socialism and against socialism, for Europe and against Europe.

BRITISH VIEWPOINT IS NOT CONFUSING

But the British viewpoint has not been in the least confusing. Neville Chamberlain stated it at the outbreak of the war. "If I should think that one man wished to dominate the world, I should think he would have to be stopped."

Nobody is fighting Nazism, as a philosophy of life for Germans. If the Germans like it, why it's okay with the rest of us. What the world has been fighting has been Nazism's aggressions against the world. The world did not go to war against Communism because Stalin kept his armies at home. He kept them home, that is to say, until Hitler began moving his.

The world, as Mr. Lindbergh ought to know, is round. If Hitler moves far enough east he ends on on the frontier of Alaska where Russia now is, and if he moves far enough west, he ends up in the Portuguese islands, which are the nearest points in the Atlantic to South America.

WE'VE GOT A GOOD REASON TO BE PRO-RUSSIAN

Since Russia stands in the way of one course, and Britain in the way of the other, we are pro-Russian and pro-British in this struggle. Because we simply do not wish to see Nazi Germany dominate the world. Also, we would not like to see Britain or Russia dominate the world. Mr. Lindbergh, but we do not happen to think that either eventuality is likely.

Nothing is at all complicated, Mr. Lindbergh, except if you are trying to keep up with Dr. Goebbels. Then you are likely to meet yourself in the doorway coming out.

But on our side, there is nothing confusing at all. We are against one man and one nation dominating the world, and we think that if he dominates Europe, Asia, and Africa, the United States will be on the spot. We, whom you call "interventionists", are strongly in favor of blocking him before he gets to the Portuguese islands and before he gets to the gates of Alaska.

We think that if he gets to the Portuguese islands and to the gates of Alaska the "treaty" you recommend will have the value that all treaties have when negotiated at the point of a gun, plus the value that any treaty has when negotiated with Hitler.

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

Hope In Russia

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

Was The Report Shelved?

Editors, THE NEWS:

It is somewhat surprising to those who have kept closely in touch with juvenile court proceedings in Charlotte to learn that no official action was taken by the City Council and the County Board of Commissioners in regard to the report presented by the special committee appointed to investigate conditions.

The committee's report, which was accepted as a matter of form by the two governing bodies, is the result of much investigation and study by the well qualified men and women on the committee. If conditions inimical to the best interests of Charlotte exist in this highly important branch of our local government, then they should be brought to the public attention and certainly should be corrected.

As an interested citizen and a member of the Junior League, which organization is vitally interested in this court, I hope that the findings of this committee will be given immediate and sympathetic attention both by the court and those who are charged with its administration. To shelve these findings and recommendations until they are dusty and out of date would be a reflection on the character of the committee and an imposition upon the citizens of Charlotte.

—FRANCES STOWE BURWELL,
Charlotte.

Deeds of Valor By Modern Vikings

J. D. Ratcliff in the Toronto Star Weekly.

Norway's fing floats over the low, gray barracks. Officers toast King Haakon with sherry; enlisted men hoist their beer mugs. Here Norway is building the greatest air force in her history. Yet this is not Norway; it is Canada.

Camp Little Norway clings to the waterfront at the foot of Toronto's Bathurst Street. It is one of the most romantic military establishments in history. The men have come from all corners of the world. Twenty of them left Antarctic whaling vessels to join the colors. Others worked passage from South Africa, China, Japan, the Argentine. But the majority of the 700 fliers in training escaped from Norway itself. They slipped through the Nazi cordon to be passed by friendly Swedes to Finland, thence to make their way across Russia and Siberia and the Pacific.

Others crossed the North Sea—a hornet's nest of submarines, mines and hostile planes—in frail little boats. A few actually rowed their way to freedom!

Take, for example, the two husky, blond kids who prefer to go unnamed—having families in Norway. When they had enough of German occupation, they pooled resources. They had $6. Five of this went to buy a leaky old rowboat. They caulked seams to make it seaworthy, bought cigarettes and bread with their remaining dollar. Then their odyssey began.

Rowing at night, they dodged through some of the 150,000 islands that dot the coast. During the day they slept in fjords. To have been caught meant death. This went on for a week until they struck an isolated spot near Bergen. Here they set out to sea, guided by a pocket compass. That they reached the tiny Shetland Islands is an amazing feat of navigation. The journey took six days. Except for the briefest rest periods, they rowed constantly. Otherwise, they would have frozen. Trouble? "It was bad when the cigarettes ran out."

Another pair, university students, made slightly better time in a twenty-foot boat. Rowing by day and sailing by night — when the sail wouldn't attract enemy attention — they made the Shetlands in four days.

Three others slipped out of Oslo. From a fisherman they bought an eighteen-foot boat powered with an ancient one-cylinder engine. He warned them that they must keep the temperamental engine going. They did—for three days. During the trip a submarine came to the surface near them. The men expected a shell any second, but a feeble disguise got them through. Enemy patrol planes circled overhead on two occasions. More work with nets, and they went away.

Four men in a 22-foot sailboat traveled 4,000 miles through the Arctic Ocean to reach Canada. Another pair stowed away in an oceangoing tanker bound for Greenland, where they skipped ship. In a stolen rowboat they made their way along the coast for a week until they struck an Eskimo village, where they were picked up by a Canadian trader.

How many have been lost in these hair-raising efforts to escape from Norway? No one dares guess. But from time to time bullet-ridden bodies wash up on the British shore—mute testimony that all don't get through.

Another One Of Them Things

Billy Arthur in Onslow County News & Views

Tom Posey, one of the boys who stay around around at the Riverview Hotel Annex, has entered the hall of fame by coining an expression that, according to reports, is taking the country like wildfire. Nothing takes like wildfire, you know, unless it is Tom's expression!

"I want you to know!"

He and the boys and girls, too, around the Annex and all over town now are prefacing what they have to say with "I want you to know."

J. P. Shelley, another of the gang, was down at Charleston last week-end, and said that the expression had already taken hold in Sand Charleston, and that's an accomplishment.

My information is that the expression came about partially by accident. Tom was doing a bit of explaining to his girl friend via long distance one night, and his convincing "I want you to know" expression was born there.

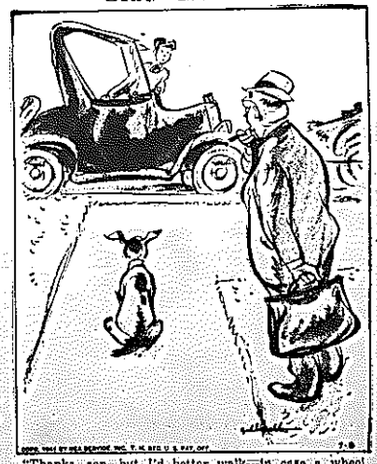
Or a One-Armed Paper Hanger?

That submarine menace of old iron, Davy Jones, is becoming as busy as a cerotner on the warm Sunday.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.—Job 15:34.

Side Glances



"Thanks, son, but I'd better walk—in case a wheel flew off that thing I'm afraid I wouldn't be as spry as you in jumping overboard!"

No Trade With Nazis

By Raymond Clapper

THOSE PEOPLE who think Lindbergh is right and who spend their time writing abusive anonymous letters to defend his juvenile ideas would do better to spend an evening reading a short book entitled, "You Can't Do Business With Hitler."

I have referred to this book twice before. If I put in another word for it, that is because for $1.50 you can get the real picture from a man who spent more than fifteen years as American commercial attache in Berlin, studying how the Germans do business. The author is Douglas Miller, who was one of the aces of the exceptional staff of commercial attaches that Herbert Hoover scattered around the world when he was Secretary of Commerce. Too bad Mr. Hoover doesn't read what his ace observer has to say before he makes those complacent radio speeches.

NAZIS WOULD BAR ALL PRIVATE TRADE

Assume that Hitler would not attempt military attack on the Western Hemisphere. Hoover, Lindbergh and others of their school think that we are safe from military attack and that everything therefore will be all right. He can just go on having democracy and a free economic system here.

Well, Doug Miller quotes Walther Funk, German Minister of Economics, as saying that after the war no private international trade will be permitted; that all world trade must be between governments, as private transactions only lead to international anarchy. Does Mr. Hoover think that Government-controlled trade is the kind of democracy he wants?

Suppose the Nazis suddenly became big-hearted and permitted trade with American individuals and corporations. We shall be fearfully handicapped. Mr. Miller says, if we allow individuals on this side to negotiate with a centralized bureaucracy on the other side. Do not forget the Nazis have had long experience. Almost inevitably the United States Government would have to extend its control over business operations in order to prevent a stiff front against Nazi pressure, so that American business could trade at all on any successful basis.

OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORCED TO CHANGE

If we have to conform to the Nazi pattern and conduct special negotiations between Washington and Berlin covering commodities on a barter basis, we shall have to upset our whole economy as we know it now. Mr. Miller thinks. This would put the American Government directly into all sorts of enterprises. Our authorities at Washington would have to swap goods with the Nazi Government at fixed prices and then import the Old World equivalents and allot them to firms in this country. Remember Hitler and his allies would control most of the outside world.

"Just how," asks Mr. Miller, "can we maintain our free enterprise if our Government is thus forced directly into all the deals which concern trade with the outside world? A quick result would surely be the introduction of fixed prices covering the imported commodities and those which we exchanged. This would lead to a forced allocation of commodities to private individuals and firms in the United States. We should be on a fair way to planned economy and a system of state socialism."

LOOKING AT A SKY OF UNBROKEN CLOUDS

That is not merely the emergency picture. It is the permanent long-run picture if Hitler comes out supreme in this war — the United States left alone and friendless in a totalitarian world, forced to adjust its democratic economy under pressure from across both oceans. And don't forget, if Hitler wins a complete victory, South American nations will be under heavy economic and political pressure internally to play ball with Hitler. We haven't done much for them. Argentina, the bellwether of the opposition in Latin America, is ready at any time to lead the parade out of the democratic bloc. Our Congress has deeply alienated Argentina by its refusal to allow Argentine meat to come into the United States. I don't know many of the answers and nobody else does. But it is hard to understand how anyone who has passed the mental age of six years can mumble complacently that we have nothing to fear because Hitler can't invade us tomorrow at dawn.

Visitin' Around

Aw, Cut Out The Details

(Johns River Item, Lenoir News-Topic)

Fred Pope got his arm broken last week.

Insurance Or Another Payment On That Sewing Machine?

(Rt. 3 Item, Lenoir News-Topic)

Max Wilson was a business caller at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Moore Monday.