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And Evening Chronicle.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1942

Java Was Vulnerable

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON
FIRST announcements of the Jap blow at Java did not fit together. The official communique here said that the United States Navy broke up a convoy of 40 transports, chased it north and prevented landings.

Before this was cold on the front pages, came 'bigger' headlines from Batavia revealing that the Japs had landed in three places. The conflicting accounts had to be published in the same edition.

As a matter of fact, both were true. Four separate attacks were made by the Japs with about 120 transports. The one that was reported was the attack on the shore, north of Soerabaja. The three successful landing attempts followed in one day.

HEAVY JAP CRUISER SQUADS ARE RUMORED
The Japs did not send many of their big ships into the Java attack. They sent only two heavy cruisers the last two weeks. Some naval rumors suggest one-third of the Jap fleet strength has been put out of commission, but this is a hopeful guess, not officially responsible.

Obviously, however, they kept their main fleet in home waters. They are not expected to become a serious range of Allied bombing planes.

No one of any authority here had ever claimed Java could be held. The narrow island is more than 800 miles long, a greater air line distance than from New York to Florida. Each part here in that space could not possibly be protected with the forces at hand.

The only thing that could have broken up the Jap fleet was counter-attack on the bases from which it was launched, or upon Jap supply lines. Our forces were apparently insufficient or untimely. Here again was demonstrated the need for a more effective action as the only feasible defense.

While the news of Jap successes here has been a source of concern, it cannot be classed as unexpected.

DEFEAT OF 40-HOUR AMENDMENT WAS SURPRISE
Overwhelming defeat of the Southern Amendment was a great surprise to the leaders. As late as four hours before the vote, Speaker Rayburn and Floor Leader McCormack privately said they thought it would pass.

A combination of sudden political circumstances was responsible. Requirements at bat as the debate developed into a quarrel between Southern Democrats and Northern Democrats.

This fact helped the Republicans to let the Democrats take the majority. The Democrats' words placed them in favor of the amendment, while the opposite was true.

Strong overnight lobbying by labor (chiefly the railroad brotherhoods) and by the industrial lobby of the internal political situation. Mr. Roosevelt's opposition did not make much difference in the final result.

In a closed session of the Senate Labor Committee, Chairman Davis of D.C. Labor Board, dropped the impression that a stronger stand against strikes and labor unrest was demanded.

Also, he said that he would follow the House lead and prevent constant digging of union wages upward.

Next morning after his appearance, his policy failed to apply the bill to the General Motors strike demands. It sent the dispute back to negotiation by the company and the union.

Maybe It's Time To Juggle Juggins
Hanson Baldwin, in New York Times
Above all, we must realize this is not a war of money; buying defense bonds is essential but will not win the war. It is not a war of production lines or machines. It is a war of men.

They are responsible for many of the troubles of the United States in this war, yet we do not always select the best leaders available. The man of them who Lord Fisher described as "Juggins"—duly promoted through seniority.

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Representatives of "The New Order"

—By Herblock



Unity Of Decision

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
AN increasing number of persons here are saying we should have a general staff for the war.

I am not certain in detail what they mean by that. Perhaps they are hazy also. But their point is clear. It is that President Roosevelt cannot be the general staff himself—even though the main decisions must be made by him.

Under the present arrangement, lines run from President Roosevelt to the Army, Navy, War Production Board and Maritime Commission. When representatives of each are brought together, they appear as leaders for their respective agencies. Admiral Land might be called a general staff member for the Navy, Secretary Stimson for the War Production Board.

Under such an arrangement, only President Roosevelt is detached, free to view the whole picture and strike a balance.

STAFF WOULD ACT AS A GO-BETWEEN

Those who would insert a general staff between the President and the services and agencies have in mind a detached body, viewing the war as a whole, conscious always of the main direction of strategy, the points of major emphasis, working as a central war planning group. This group would not be, as under the present system, a collection of men each representing his own service or agency. A general staff would think of us as President Roosevelt must think of it—as one whole operation.

The idea is to provide him with additional brainpower. The final decisions still must be his but he would have an inner council upon which to lean instead of having to resolve by himself the conflicting pressures of the various services.

Some such arrangement would go far, probably, toward overcoming the situation with regard to air forces. It would enable us to use our limited supply of shipping to more effective purpose because the general staff would have a clearer idea of the main purposes of strategy. Now the shipping goes wherever the yell for it is loudest, not necessarily where the over-all plan of the war calls for it. Plans go where the pressure of the competing interests is strongest. They may go to our own bases or to whichever of the United Nations is most successful in lobbying, wheedling, and maneuvering for them.

WISE DECISIONS UNDER PRESSURE IS DIFFICULT

President Roosevelt is caught in the swirl of these rival pressures. It is a superhuman job for one man, as great as he is, to settle a multitude of questions, to do the final compromising alone and do it with wise decisions.

Such a general staff, if properly composed, would do much to offset the tendency of the older controlling officers, in both Army and Navy, to think in traditional military terms. The agitation for a separate air force has its strength from such a staff.

Both services are full of younger, more imaginative officers, but the policies and emphasis are determined by senior officers. One informed authority says he will never be satisfied until the leadership complex has been broken in the Navy until at least 100 younger officers, men who think in air terms, are moved up into positions of influence.

UNITY OF COMMAND MEANS UNITY OF DECISION

Only through a general war staff can we achieve that real unity of command which everyone is demanding. The real unity of command that they want is unity of planning and direction at the top. It does not mean uniting the Army and Navy into a department of national defense or any similar formal reorganization which might only cause confusion and loss of time. Once there is unity of decision as to the major directions of grand strategy, Army and Navy operations and all other parts of the complicated war machine will be steered in those directions.

It all gets over toward the German system. Making total war is one thing the Germans know how to do. If they have hit upon a successful scheme, that's a good recommendation for it.

Resonance

That's What Government Press Agency Lacks

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels... I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

—I Corinthians, Ch. 13, v. 1

In her article last Tuesday, Dorothy Thompson bled down to an essence the sense of feeling of frustration at the Government's ineffectual press agency. She led up to it by pointing out that the writers, lecturers, and commentators not on the Government payroll, each eager to do his part in his own field, might at least have been called into consultation by the Government and mobilized.

"But not a single agency dreamed of doing this. Instead they create bureaucratic instruments which have no resonance among the masses of the people; they press to the front end of the word—is treated on the whole as though it were a public nuisance; something that has to be got rid of simply because we are a free country."

That's it—The Government Bureau and their press agents fail to achieve "resonance among the masses of the people." Heaven knows how many tons of printed and mimeographed matter these bureaus mail out every month. Reams of the stuff is disgorged daily in newspaper offices all over the country, and the great bulk of it hardly hesitates before finding its ultimate destination in trash baskets.

Presentations, expensive stuff much of it, to top-notch radio traders, men and handsonedly turned out. Yet it has no "resonance." It starts out but does not get any place. It issues but does not arrive.

Civilians' Gift

Not Alone the Soldiers May Offer Blood to Country

The plasma bank to be established in Charlotte by its Red Cross chapter is one of those undertakings so deserving of full public approval that they mean more to the country of the process by which the blood plasma rather than the whole blood may be used for transfusions is Science's contribution to the preservation of humanity at a time when humanity is using every device of Science exterminate itself. It is timely in another sense.

Blood is a sort of currency in war times. By the expenditure of so much good, wholesome young blood, the people of nations express their courage, their devotion, their will to remain manly in this war of readiness of the manhood of a nation to offer its blood, symbol of life and that readiness alone, which can assure a nation of survival.

From this spiritual offering civilians are usually excluded. There has been a good deal of blood-letting among civilians in this war. The ready hand of the citizens of London, Plymouth, Coventry and now of the suburbs of Paris. But these unfortunate have not given their blood to any purpose; they have simply bled it.

Not so with those whose blood the Red Cross will convert into plasma. They will have later, they know that it may be used to restore life and health to others. And even as they have given it unto humanity, they have given it unto themselves.

Pin Money

Soldiers and Sailors Could Use a Little Extra Pay

Obviously, there is not enough coin in the realm to compensate the men who fight for their country. American boys are not to be bought for \$20 a month, nor, as the bill now before Congress would make it \$20.

Yet there is much to be said in favor of the proposed pay increases for the fighting forces. For an ordinary soldier, man the peace of pay is so meager that, after deduction, he scarcely has enough left to keep himself in eke-out, let to mention an occasional evening's entertainment. Moreover, there is an over-accumulation of married men in the ranks. And when the whole-scale drafting of 3-A classifications begins, even a larger number of married women will be dependent in some measure on the amount their soldier-husbands can send home.

It would not improve morale either on the fighting or home fronts if soldiers had cause to worry about whether their families were getting enough to eat. There is another angle about which

there is considerably less certainty. The soldier's bonus does it will be called, grew out of the feeling that the men who served during the first World War did not receive pay commensurate with the earnings of other men in war-time industry. Theoretically, at least, it would be better to remunerate the fighting forces somewhat higher during the war and thus avoid liability for future claims.

On the basis of present enrollment, the extra pay would cost us about a quarter of a billion dollars a year. And despite the number of noughts in the figure, we can't think of any cheaper way of making life a little more bearable for a man who risks his life.

Deferred

Charlotte Waits To Be Called to Active Service

One of the most frequent arguments to the contrary encountered by those who seek war industries for Charlotte is that there isn't enough skilled labor available to operate a big plant. Of course there isn't. There never is, in any place. But the skilled labor shortage is by no means peculiar to Charlotte; it is everywhere.

On this point some figures just released by the U. S. Census Bureau are extremely enlightening. In 1940, for instance, there were 4,508 skilled craftsmen and foremen in Charlotte. Of these, 4,290 were gainfully employed. Quite a substantial nucleus, isn't it, when you consider that in the whole state there are only 86,024 craftsmen.

How many skilled laborers could Burlington offer when that city made a successful bid for an aircraft factory?

Even more promising is Charlotte's professional resources. Of the 402 electrical engineers in North Carolina, 100 reside in Charlotte. Of 442 mechanical engineers, 100 are in the city. In 1932, Charlotte is also the residence of 28 other technical engineers and 69 designers and draftsmen.

There is no legitimate reason why these as well as other even more important human and technical resources should not be allowed to assume their rightful place in the nation's industrial war effort. With that in view it becomes the duty of every Charlotte citizen to insist that their city be called to active service in this effort, rather than kept in a deferred classification.

For The Files

If It's Robert You Seek, Look on the Wrong Side

That infamous retirement bill which Congress passed and then shamefacedly repealed is now so much spilt jam, but there is one side issue in connection with it which we have been at pains to look up and which now we would like to set down for the record.

Where, in all the hubbalo that followed the bill from its passage in the House over to the Senate, stood that famous statesman and patriot, the Hon. Robert E. Reynolds, Senator from North Carolina? How did he answer to the roll call of the Senate by which the bill was passed? And how did he answer to the roll call by which it was repealed?

On the question of passing the bill, Robert was absent. On repealing it, Robert was absent by reason of illness.

This interesting detail not only subtracts a great deal to the legislative stature of the Senator from Bunceton, but it certainly funds him in character.

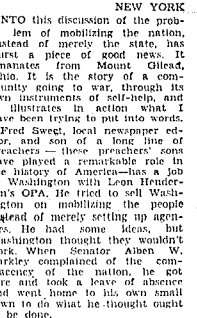
To the German people, Joe Stalin intimates that things might be different if they rid themselves of the Nazis. It suggests a wistful picture: Tossing the wolves to the wolves.

When the defendants, Blinn and Dandier, spoke out against "the real betrayers of France," the court at Rome was aghast, as a hasty examination reveals no such sequence in the scenario.

In keeping with the times, commencement addresses to young graduates this year will be short and snappy—along the line of "Here's the World. You take it."

Community Self-Mobilization

By Dorothy Thompson



NEW YORK
INTO this discussion of the problem of mobilizing the nation, instead of merely the state, has burst a piece of good news. It comes from Mount Gleed, Ohio. It is the story of a community going to war, through its own instruments of self-help, and it illustrates in action what I have been trying to put into words.

Fred Sweet, local newspaper editor, and son of a long line of preachers—these preachers' sons have played a remarkable role in the history of America—has a job in Washington with Leon Henderson, Director of War Relocation Administration on mobilizing the people instead of merely setting up agencies. He had some ideas, but Washington thought they wouldn't work. When Senator Allen W. Thurley complained of the incompetency of the nation, he got sore and took a leave of absence and went home to his own small town to do what he thought might do.

WAR IS WON BY COMMUNITIES
Now, what did he do? He began by recognizing a fundamental fact, the lack of recognition of which contributed to the fall of France; the recognition of which accounts for the resistance of China and the remarkable stand of Russia.

This fact that war is not fought and won by bureaucracies or by individuals. They are fought and won by individuals, but in order to have the community fight you must re-create and strengthen the community. The false slogan of unity must be replaced by the true slogan of community. Unity means the individual agreeing. Community means the people together acting.

Mr. Sweet called together all the people. He did not stage a debate or a forum. He presented a plan—a plan for "production and war." The plan was not a petition to Washington. It was a plan to do something in his own town. It was a proposal for doing something and an offer of help.

Mount Gleed, Ohio, has problems. It has the same problems that beset our industrial and agricultural communities. How are the farmers to increase production with a labor shortage everywhere? How are the war demands with a shortage of trucks, combines, rubber, auto transportation, etc., that must be met and met in full? How are they to be ready to meet emergencies that are not anticipated for instance, the possible invasion upon them of evictees from menial areas? How are they to be ready, if we are attacked on our seaboard, our Urals will be the British Isles?

THEM PRUSSIAN HENS MUST BE WORRIED
The Country Book
An East Prussian hen, working overtime to produce Adolf Hitler, has just set a German record by laying 278 eggs in a year. Hens entered in the East Prussian Poultry Fanciers' contest averaged 205 eggs a year, with Leptons taking top honors. Such a record would get hardly more than a pitying glance from an American farmer.

The United States record is 244 eggs in 51 weeks, set up by a Rhode Island hen in 1939. Her record has been recently equaled by the mark of 1,000 eggs in five years.



traveled for his own good, but for as many workers as it could carry.

Now, we saw in this big meeting in a little town the same division we see everywhere. One man, and he was in charge of the local Defense Council, thought the Defense Council should do it. He was the reactionary present. But the people almost unanimously were in favor of taking hold themselves.

What they are doing, of course, is to create co-operative action. But they didn't attack names and ideologies in it. They looked at reality, and did what reality required. Reality in war, that is to say in a desperate crisis, has no room for the kind of mixed-up individualism that has been preached, and fairly preached, in the American way—the individualism of every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost.

NOT WHO CAN GIVE MOST BUT WHO CAN GIVE MOST
Morrow County, Ohio, has started on the right path. Let us see



When it comes to income taxes, you should be able to deduct loans to relatives as bad debts after 24 hours!

Visitin' Around

Library
(Cantrell Hill Item, Lenox News-Topic)
Mr. Bb Jones has moved his saw mill to Mr. W. O. Ervin's.
For Complete Details—
620 Years Ago Here,
Morgantown News-Header)
Paul Harmon, of Charlotte, and Misses Mura McCoy and Theresa Bristol, met with a very serious accident near Marion Saturday. The wonder is that they escaped without fatal injuries.