

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by
The News Publishing Company, Inc.W. C. Dowd, Jr., President E. J. Dowd, Vice-President
and General Manager and Editor

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The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1885. The Evening Chronicle, established 1903, was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.

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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Mailed as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 87 cents. By mail: One month 87 cents; three months, \$2.60; six months, \$5.20; one year, \$10.40.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1942

Time Lapse

Repetition of Dieppe Raid
Means Relief in the East

It is now seventeen days since Dieppe, and because that nine-hour stay at Hitler's Europe has been followed only by air activity on the Western front, the big raid seems destined to enter history as a mere experiment. It is disappointing to the Allied Command that it has been unable to follow up its success. Regardless of price, there is a vital job to be done in such operations.

We do not know the price paid at Dieppe, except that it was heavy. As an exchange of information between enemies, it may have been an even swap; it certainly found no weak spot in defense. It was in the air that the Germans suffered, and there they showed such a weakness as to invite further forays.

Perhaps a third of the Luftwaffe's effective strength in France was wiped out. During such an operation, the defenders could not afford to play to the air. They had to come out and fight; otherwise, real invasion might have set in. In fighting it out, they lost far more planes than they could afford. Had the Allies struck again, shortly afterward, they would have found a greatly reduced air force to meet them, could have knocked out more of Hitler's power.

Such blows quickly and directly affect the Russian and Egyptian fronts. If the planes based in France were cut down to an ineffectual minimum, Hitler's only move would have to be a switch from the Eastern theaters—and in Russia and Egypt such relief would mean Allied progress. The Red Armies have already proved what they could accomplish when not pounced from above with superior power; the British-American forces in Egypt are beginning to show their own mastery in the air.

Therefore do we mourn the failure to press new and frequent attacks on the continent, where, if he is not vulnerable on the ground, Hitler is woefully weak upstairs. Forcing him to fight there is enough of a second front to support the gamble of high stakes. It has already been a long time since Dieppe, and while there is reticence about such operations, the Allies in Britain make no secret of the fact that their striking power is at a peak. Why, then, we wonder, is not this striking power being used? There is the power and there is the enemy.

What War?

Political Bosses Have No
Place on Hospital BoardsDelaware's Guillotine Runs
On a Strategic Principle

In little Delaware, where the corporations go for spawning, the Democrats filed a minority opinion this week. A state convention, in a close vote, named a Wilmington lawyer, Ennals Brol, to the Senate to succeed James H. Hughes. That was a Congressional change, we noted at once, and interest rose. We followed along.

We knew, as anyone would know, that the issue of the campaign must have been the Hughes record in the Senate. Important, naturally, would be his record on pre-war and early-war voting. Important, too, would be his share in the government of a nation. In short, he must have stood or fallen on his record.

He fell. State Democratic Chairman Joe Marvel, Jr. (and we saw nothing significant in the name, at first) gave after Hughes had been toppled, the reasons for Delaware's changing of horses.

Senator Hughes, he said, had left the party dissatisfied with the amount of Federal patronage received during the one-year Hughes term.

On The Contrary

Business With Some Firms
Is Now Better Than Ever

"How's business?" was once a simple question, bringing only simple answers. In these times, however, it has become a probe into the national economy, productive of long yarns about the troubles of wartime operations. Nevertheless, it is a social tool. With it, the other day, we made a mistake. Casually, we asked it of a baby-food salesman. The answer, we thought, should have been a short, trouble-free. It was not that.

Business, he said, is terrific. It is up 175 per cent over last year, which was, in turn, up about 100 per cent over 1940.

City Hall Today

The Health Muddle

By Dick Young

A POOR job of selling has been done by the State Board of Health and the State Merit System Council, and a rather poor system for health and social welfare organization is being received with lifted eye brows. In Charlotte, the door has been closed and the plan, as far as the City Health Department is concerned, has been rejected for the time being.

All this is bad. Because there is merit in the proposal and because Charlotte's health program needs the kind of help that would have come from the State Board of Health if the City Council had agreed to enter into the merit contract.

In the premise, it would be well for North Carolina and Charlotte to get all the Federal aid funds possible. The more money our health program can get from Washington the more comprehensive and better it will be.

I think Dr. Reynolds, the State Health Officer, was correct when he said at Wednesday's conference that the State Board of Health Commissioners, that North Carolina's present grant of \$2,000,000 is but a drop in the bucket to what will later flow from Washington in the way of health programs. We should, in truth, as Dr. Reynolds said, pay every worker pound foolish not to put ourselves in the position to receive our share of these funds.

It would be shortsighted indeed if Charlotte did not avail itself of the opportunity for assistance in this field. The State Board of Health, that agency is responsible, due to its pioneer health work here in the Camp Green days of World War I, for Charlotte's present Health Department. We have made progress, but that is not all. For the next 20 years we will no doubt have even greater advancements. We ought to be in a position that we can take advantage of the coming assistance.

And the present requirement for attaining that advantage is to enter into the merit system plan.

It might be well to explain that the merit system proposal came from Washington as one of the strings attached to its grant and aid to the State Board of Health. We ought to accept the merit system plan it could not get Federal funds. And if Charlotte, down the line, doesn't accept it, then Charlotte will get no Federal funds.

For as things now stand Charlotte is out of it and I am informed most of the other large cities with the exception of Asheville are also not in it. And this brings me back to the original statement that a poor job of selling has been done

for us, don't ask questions.

Outlook

The Home Front Has Got
To Get in the Fight

We remember, on those days when scrap collections were underway and all the little householders were supposed to have placed their offerings on the curb so that trucks might pick up and haul it away, we remember going to the window of the Ivory Tower, high up here in the Trylon, and observing that only about one house in every twenty was represented. Good, we said, for that one in twenty, and for the other nineteen, goodness knows, what's going to happen to a country at war whose people can't even take the trouble to contribute their junk.

Yesterday WPA told assembled newspaper publishers in Washington that there was only two weeks' supply of scrap in the yards of the steel mills. Two furnaces at Chicago were expected to go down over the weekend. San Francisco was in bad shape. Pittsburgh and Youngstown were in "horrible shape."

We thought of those nineteen out of twenty householders and their unresponsiveness, and we went again to the window of the Ivory Tower, high up here in the Trylon, and looked out, and we were ashamed for them and for America.

Gentle Hint

Political Bosses Have No
Place on Hospital Boards

Some of the directors of the State Hospital at Morganton may feel, since the awful disclosure that this asylum, that the proper thing for them to do would be to offer their resignations, thereby expressing regret and some chagrin at their official remissness in the past. We are confident that the Governor would be aghast at any such development, and would endeavor to prevail upon the members of the board not only to serve until such time as the Legislature sets up a new type of board for all mental institutions in North Carolina but, in the meantime, to apply themselves wholeheartedly to the rehabilitation of the place and its miseries.

That, certainly, would be the better service, and insofar as The News has earned any proprietary interest in the hospital at Morganton, that would be its suggestion.

There is one director, however, whose name came up repeatedly, and in an adverse sense, both in Mr. Jimison's articles and in some of the testimony before the Governor's committee. That was Mr. Harry Riddle, secretary of the board, resident of Morganton and somewhat of a political boss in Burke County. Dr. Watkins, superintendent of the hospital, appeared to be much influenced by Mr. Riddle, and it came out, though not necessarily with any denunciation to Mr. Riddle, that a note from him was as good as a job in the hospital.

After what the State of North Carolina has learned about this institution, it surely would never place a local politician on any hospital board of directors. If the local politician now on the Morganton board were to offer his resignation, it might be a welcome development.

Getting the Churchill cigar in the same room with Stalin's pipe gives the aroused Allies a wholly new conception of their own strength.

Test of Strength

By Herblock



On Two Fronts

Tojo And Rommel

By Paul Mallon

probable that this crafty Nazi general knew we were about to attack and threw his forces in first, to push us off balance.

True, he had been openly moving up tanks, troops and planes to the front, but that was a general maneuver several days before the fighting started. But we were fighting because we expected Rommel to strike, and we expected it because his position was uncomfortable.

Our short Alamein line was ideal. Alexandria was an excellent supply point, with adequate transportation facilities by both rail and road, enabling us to rest troops, and shift them about with the greatest of ease.

Rommel, however, could not rest any troops without sending them back 200 miles. All his transportation facilities were inadequate. He was squirming in an unfavorable position and had to act.

The Japanese, too, had made a difficult position for themselves, fields eight miles deep. Fragmentary early account of the fighting has this written: Tojo is told of a German victory in penetrating our lines by eight miles, which really only meant that they got through the mine fields and up to the line of fighting.

The weakness of the Russians in the vital Caucasus region was the early fighting for that excellent natural line of defense.

About all the Russians seem to have in the Caucasus are remnants of the army which escaped from Stalingrad. They are in the Caucasus, too, and their especially trained mountain forces, trying to hold the passes further east (and not doing very well at all accounts).

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Side Glances



"You'd think a man in his position would have better sense than to play the horses—especially the kind of horses he plays!"

Our Problem, Too

India And Egypt

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
INDIA has dropped out of the news, but it is an artificial silence. Washington's silence arises from a self-imposed censorship.

The war in the East is being placed in silence apparently by executive order. The Indian problem is seriously crippled by strikes. Steel works, tin-plated mills, cotton mills and other establishments have been affected. Railroad traffic was interrupted on one main line, forcing an attempt to move vital strategic materials out of India by airplane. One important railroad line was closed to all communication, including radio, telephone, and telegraph, for ten days.

Some of this has been overcome. On the other hand, the real non-co-operation movement has not been started. Most of the disorders thus far have been sporadic outbreaks. Gandhi's systematic plan of paralyzing the country through shunning work about 30 million Indians has not yet started, and when it does, it is expected at any time. In other words, the real test between the Gandhi forces and the Government evidently is still to come.

Washington is watching this situation with much anxiety. It is the subject of discussion in high quarters. Asked from all other questions, the subject of India is not even mentioned. In India, where American troops are now stationed, causes most concern.

Thus far Washington's efforts to persuade the British Government to undertake new negotiations with the Congress Party have been unsuccessful.

Censorship has prevented the American public from seeing how the trouble in India is interfering with war production. The general situation has been to follow the Government's lead and to hope that the British would eventually take to heart the situation. It is a question how long this will last. There is a certain amount of impatience on the part of the London press which American troops are now being prepared to fight.

Relations with the Egyptian Government have not been good and there are no assurances that we will be treated with friendliness and respect when we side with our ally but from the standpoint of the British, who had it in Malaya and Burma. American forces will be fighting the invader under the heel of a hostile population. It is likely to be true also in India if conditions are not improved.

The British press is critical of its own Government's India policy. Press comment in England indicates widespread belief there that the British Government should make further overtures toward reaching an agreement with the Indian nationalists. The London Times said recently that the Indian policy of the British Government must include a German responsibility as the preservation of order. The Times says the Indian demand for more active participation in the conduct of affairs is reasonable. The Manchester Guardian says there can be no satisfaction in a policy of simple repression in India.

On hearing of this affair, while always in favor of a friendly position, I am afraid it is a question how long this will last. There is a certain amount of impatience on the part of the London press which American troops are now being prepared to fight.

The position with a situation of this kind is that it rocks and rolls, and the more it does, the more it will be in Burma, the embittered native population turns on its defenders and helps them out. We cannot fight both the Japs and the Indians in India. But that's what we will be doing unless conditions are improved before the Japs strike.

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