

# Wilmington Morning Star

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1941

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

—Roosevelt's War Message

## Star-News Program

- To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.
- Public Port Terminals.
- Perfecting Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities.
- Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.
- Extension of City Limits.
- 35-Foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington.
- Paved River Road to Southport, via Orton Plantation.
- Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax.
- Shipyards and Drydocks.
- Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital.
- Adequate hospital facilities for white.
- Junior High School.
- Tobacco Warehouses for Export Buyers.
- Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

## TOP OF THE MORNING

God give us seeing eyes, a mind to understand  
The beauty Thou hast wrought on every hand.  
Make us responsive to the upward lift  
To life's high call. Let us not drift  
In aimless groping, blind and unaware,  
While beauty goes unnoticed everywhere.

—FROM CALENDAR.

## Anonymous Letters

The Star-News is always pleased to receive letters from its readers, written for publication, but will reproduce none that are anonymous.

If the writer wishes his or her name omitted when the communication appears in print, and so requests, initials or a "blind" signature will be substituted, but in no case will any letter be reproduced which is not signed with the writer's name. The Star-News must know the source, if the letter is to be given consideration.

Because of the limited space available, letters should not contain more than 300 words. And, of course, they must be in good taste and contain no libel.

## Censorship

Official censorship of news is to be viewed as a necessary wartime measure.

Inestimable harm might result from the spreading of information having value to the enemy. For the public welfare and success of our arms it is imperative that only news of no worth to the Axis be promulgated. By approving the censorship bill congress has but taken a necessary step.

But it is important that the proposed censorship be under executives competent to judge what is properly censorable. As much harm could be done by withholding important news as by promulgating dangerous news. To be effective, personal bias and prejudice must be completely eliminated.

Censorship in the United States can be either dictatorial or common sense, according to the judgment and disposition of the individuals who conduct it. A great responsibility, therefore, rests upon the President and his aides, in setting up a censorship board, to see that the personnel is capable of doing a fair and competent job.

## Be Prepared

In 1939 North Carolina's manufactured products had a value of \$1,421,329,578. In the same year North Carolina's farm products yielded a cash income of \$219,861,000. Mineral products had a cash value of \$18,533,720; the cotton cash income was \$324,208,233; tobacco, \$91,212,000; furniture \$53,370,050.

These are a few—only a few—of this state's resources. The statistics might be continued, to the confusion and weariness of the reader, and without adding impressiveness or strengthening the point we have in mind—which is that war, coming so suddenly upon us has placed them all, and all that every individual owns and cherishes, in jeopardy.

That is the outstanding fact of the war situation. Another fact of no less interest and importance is that North Carolina's coastal area, from which enemy attack must come, is so poorly defended that landings could be effected almost at will and bombing raids be over before organized resistance could be offered.

It is bootless to say that no enemy is at our doors and that ample time remains for preparation before the foe could arrive. If the Japanese could cross the eastern Pacific and descend on Hawaii, it would be equally possible for Nazis to organize and carry out a similar hit-and-run raid on this section of the eastern seaboard, especially as it is well known that Nazi submarines are operating in the Atlantic.

We know that Wilmington is such a target as the Nazis most covet because of its oil terminals and its ship yard. It is not for sentimental reasons alone, but for a very realistic purpose, that we are urged to remember Pearl Harbor.

This is written with the sole aim of impressing the people of this community with the vital need to prepare for any emergency that war may create. Agencies have been set up for civilian defense and for civil protection. In some one of these organizations there is a place for every individual. Wilmington must not be taken by surprise like Pearl Harbor. Wilmington must be ready, to the last citizen, to strike a blow—and an effective one—at any moment, day or night, for home, for the liberty without which we could not exist.

As the success of defense depends in large measure upon the efficiency of the defending forces, and efficiency can be acquired only through training, it is imperative that the entire citizenship enlist now and start training at once.

The preservation of North Carolina's vast resources and wealth might depend upon Wilmington's defense in an emergency.

## Up To U. S.

The British retirement continues in southern Asia, a situation which the British themselves explain by naval losses. And this may be the cause, but there is reason to believe that if the British had moved in on Thailand well in advance of the Japanese attack and placed more soldiers in the area whose defense naturally falls to their lot, Japanese advances in Borneo and upon Hongkong would have been prevented.

That, of course, is strictly a layman's view, but it is supported by what happened when Britain failed to move into Belgium and Holland before Hitler's attack and her completely inefficient and haphazard expedition to Norway. This history, apparently, is being repeated in the Orient. And thus far, results have been similar.

Whatever lies behind Britain's failure in the present fighting is of less consequence than the fact that Britain is not putting up the kind of battle expected of her forces and the tone of London comment on the trend of events in the southern area of the battle-triangle Japan has created in the war of the Pacific.

When British spokesmen declare that the loss of Hongkong, and even Singapore itself, is not to be overestimated, it becomes apparent that a section of British thought anticipates their fall, and that such thinking is defeatist. It seems to admit the possibility that Hongkong might be a second Crete, and Singapore a third.

And, what is of vital importance to the United States, it suggests that the United States, with the Dutch and Chinese, will have to win the Battle of the Pacific. The day by day news from the Orient makes this conclusion inescapable.

## Sacrifice, Conservation

There is a tremendous problem before the American people, in addition to the problem of fighting a winning war. In fact, it is so closely associated with winning the war that it may be classified as one equation of that problem.

It concerns equally the reduction of civilian requirements and the conservation of civilian necessities. A remark credited to Peter F. Drucker states the case clearly. It is this: "In 1942—at the latest by 1943—one-third of the nation's capacity will be engaged in the production of arms and will thus have ceased as effectively to produce for civilian consumption as if it had shut down. While three-thirds of the nation will work, only two-thirds will produce goods for consumption."

There is only one sensible way to meet this situation. Individuals must reduce their consumer-demand by at least one-third. This means that many a so-called "necessity" must be reclassified as a luxury and given up. Unessential use of gasoline in private motor cars for instance, cannot fail to place a drain upon the nation's supply. And gasoline is a major requirement of war industries. Every unnecessary mile driven not only creates a

waste of fuel but causes extra deterioration of tires, at a time when rubber is vital, but growing scarce.

Many a dainty now forming part of the average home diet will have to be done without if we are to meet, and offset, this war-drain on industry. To be fully cooperative, women will abandon much of their cosmetic glory and men go back to shaving with ordinary soap, as their grandfathers did. Sacrifice and conservation must be watchwords in daily life.

This is a mechanized war, and mechanical weapons of all types can be produced only by industries. It is the duty of the people to accept the fact that industrial America must have a free hand for production without complaint.

## Waste Paper

The paper shortage has become so acute that the government has asked the people to hoard old newspapers, magazines, wrapping paper and bags, and to devise means for regular collection thereof.

In Wilmington the collection problem has been solved by the youngsters of the Brigade Boys' club who are making regular rounds of all residence sections with a truck, loaned by Luther A. Raney. Because waste paper gathering was a regular business in the downtown area before the boys launched their campaign, they are confining their activities entirely to residential regions, and are doing a good job, too. Their first day's solicitation yielded about 2,700 pounds.

This is but one of the projects the Brigade Boys' club has started as its contribution to defense. Others concern good citizenship and good sportsmanship and cultivation of the highest standards of morale.

## Stewart Says:

LaGuardia Is Doing Amazing Defense Job

By CHARLES P. STEWART

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.

How Fiorello H. LaGuardia has managed to be civilian defense administrator of the United States and mayor of New York simultaneously is a puzzle to everybody.

He's a wonder at his civilly defense job, though.

That he isn't neglectful of his mayoralty is a question for New Yorkers to answer. Anyway, you never hear it so much as whispered that he's of Italian parentage, which he is, however. Nevertheless, there never was a more deeply-dyed American than he is. His name's Italian, he speaks Italian and he looks Italian, but his popularity is tremendous. If anything, it's more so now than it was before Italy declared war on us and we reciprocated.

There's no second generation German corresponding to him, and certainly no Jap, of however many generations descent.

After this war is over it wouldn't surprise me to see him nominated for the presidency and I wouldn't bet against his selection, either. But what ticket he'd run on is a problem. He's held office as a Republican, a Socialist, and American Laborite and a Fusionist, he'd just as soon be called a Democrat, and he could easily qualify as a Progressive of the elder Senator La Follette's type. Or he could be an Independent, like Senator George W. Norris.

Civilian defense naturally should have been difficult to organize.

Mustering the country for war has a popular appeal to it, but teaching folk how to hunt their holes in the event of air raids, to extinguish fires, to rescue bomb victims and to repair damages in hot haste doesn't suggest anything so romantic as getting out and shooting and being shot at.

Yet Fiorello has succeeded in putting no end of enthusiasm into it.

It isn't mere defense, according to his description; it's an offensive line of activity. The truth is that the cuss is a great man. In the house of representatives he was one of a small group who were recognized as liberals, but as rather too liberal to register among historic statesmen.

He's put himself across now, though. He's an extraordinary combination. He's a liberal who isn't a bit cuckoo. He's unprecedentedly good effect—no lost motion. He's honest, but lots of honest men are nothing but honest. He is. He's got the goods to go with it. And he's supremely pungent and convincing.

A combined New Yorker and westerner, he knows the whole country.

Some of the bad language he used during his last mayoralty campaign got him momentarily a bit criticized, but he's lived that down, with his record as a civilian defense administrator.

It advertised him from coast to coast, from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande and in everything, from the biggest cities to the tiniest hamlets.

He got his civilian defensive designation by virtue of his chairmanship of the national organization of mayors, which he acquired as chief executive of the country's biggest city. New York's mayors haven't all been ideal officials, but Fiorello's been a model. And my! What a corker he's been in getting civilian defense a-going!

He's in Washington these days more than he's in Manhattan.

That's why I've suggested that his attention as a mayor, may have been more or less distracted, but there hasn't been any kicking about it.

To be a competent mayor of New York and a super-competent national civilian defense administrator, at the same time, calls for a nearly unprecedented live wire, but a live wire is what Fiorello is, if ever there was one.

It would be funny if the United States presently should have on one of its presidential tickets a candidate whose first name was Fiorello—Italian for the Little Flower.

Fiorello's always contended that that name was a terrible political handicap to him. Nevertheless, he's been elected every time he's run for office, so the voters must have recognized that he wasn't to blame for it—his parents wished it onto him.

Don't pronounce his last name "Gard," as in "guard." It is "Gwardia," as in "quantity."

## QUOTATIONS

Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time, that men have died to win them.—President Roosevelt, announcing Bill of Rights celebration.

## AS BAD AS HITLER!



DESTRUCTION IN THE NAME OF PATRIOTISM

## Interpreting The War

### Retreat In Russia May Sound 'Taps' For Axis

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
Associated Press Analyst

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. Nazi armies falling back in Russia are perilously close to being blown up by their own blitzkrieg petard, designed to conquer the world.

The war machine they fashioned and used effectively to shatter many continental armies in quick succession obviously is backing in reverse. Russian progress reports, unchallenged from Berlin, indicate that what started as a vast German withdrawal to winter lines rapidly is turning into a rout in many sectors along a 1,200-mile retreat front.

That may be an overdrawn picture, traceable in part to Russian enthusiasm. It still is too early to judge accurately either the planned scope of the Nazi retreat or the real strategic motives of the German high command.

There can no longer be doubt, however, that the Germans in Russia now are swallowing much the same dose they meted out to France and a dozen other nations. They have lost the initiative, the attack role for which their ponderous and terrible battle-machines was created.

In retreat, it is nowhere near so deadly. The Russians are finding it vulnerable even to cavalry, the all but forgotten arm that once was the corps d'elite of every army.

There is no mystery about it. Blitzkrieg attack technique relies wholly upon mobility and surprise. It is based on massing at a selected point such overwhelming superiority in fire-power that no army strung out even in considerable depth to defend a long line could hope to halt the drive.

The results are spearhead breakthroughs to points deep behind enemy advance echelons. Concentrated air-bombing and wide-roving tank columns spread utter confusion, far to the rear, disrupting communications and, worst of all, shattering the morale of the front-line defenders.

That happened everywhere in France, the Low Countries and the Balkans and Greece. It happened time after time in Russia to break up successive Red army defensive stands.

But, it did not happen fast enough in Russia to prevent her ancient and never-conquered ally, winter, from moving to her salvation. Winter, plus Russian fighting elan and all but inexhaustible Russian manpower, finally stalled the German attack. The Nazis retired from dangerously exposed salients and attempted to correct their whole front to a winter holding-line not yet defined clearly.

Hitler has admitted that the Nazis originally miscalculated Russian preparedness for the struggle. His great retreat, following blatant claims to his people that Russia's power of prolonged resistance utterly had been shattered, now confesses an even graver misapprehension of Russian morale and staying powers.

And, that retreat also discloses that blitzkrieg panzer warfare with its dive-bomber air auxiliary fully is effective only on the attack. On the retreat, it loses its punch. The confusion and clogged transport lanes now are on the other side of the war ledger.

Often, tanks, undamaged tanks, become a burden instead of an asset for retreating troops. Buried

## Clapper

Watches Washington

By RAYMOND CLAPPER  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.

Within a few days, the military conduct of the war probably will be centralized in an inter-Allied war council.

I hope and believe this is the beginning of a much broader move. I hope and believe the nations on our side will join in compact of freedom, first, to fight the war jointly; second, to carry their joint control through the armistice; third, to manage the post-war world so that never again can butcher regimes grow dangerously strong and force war on nations which want only to live their own lives in peace.

Most urgent, and, therefore, properly first in order, is the joint military command.

On our side it must be one for all and all for one. Defeat of any single nation fighting on our side would cripple the others with a desperate wound. Imagine the United States trying to finish a two-ocean war with Britain knocked out. Imagine the United States and Britain with Russia knocked out. How much longer and harder our battle would be if Singapore should fall, or China.

Danger at any point is danger at every point. The war must be waged as a whole. If our side has only enough planes and submarines to defend either the Philippines or Singapore, but not enough to save both—and I do not assume such is the case and only invent the supposition—the decision as to which shall be saved must rest upon which is more necessary to the winning of the war.

In this grim business, which is to determine whether our side or the other side runs the world, military decisions must be made to win, and for that one purpose, alone. Hard, cruel answers sometimes may be necessary. But if they are the right answers, they cannot be as hard and cruel as the catastrophe that the wrong answers would bring upon us.

The point is to defeat the Axis and save all, not to save this ocean or that ocean, this base or that base, and lose all in the end by losing the war. These are military decisions. We, on the outside, must accept them from those who have the full information. Kibitzing from the sidelines can serve no helpful purpose.

Beyond the military operations is the broader question of complete pooling of resources and energies on our side. All of the shipping on our side must be used as one great carrying fleet. Raw materials and manufacturing capacity of any one nation must go into the common pool, serving where it is most needed.

All of the nations on our side must bind themselves to such merging of strength. They must bind themselves not to make a separate peace. They must agree to go through the Armistice together.

A fatal mistake after the last war was that the joint Allied controls were allowed to fall apart after the fighting ended. Nations benefitting from each other's resources now must stay with it and win the peace if we expect to prevent another world war.

A compact of freedom to these ends could, and should, be made now. The sooner, the better. The two closest powers, having great military strength, resources sea power and similarity of political ideas are the United States and Britain. A compact between them, growing out of the Roosevelt-Churchill Atlantic charter, is the most solid foundation for a group of free nations. Russia, China, the other American republics and the exile governments should be affiliated.

There must be organization to carry out the purposes if such a compact is to be a living, effective thing. Details will be worked out as we go along. But, I believe something of this kind is coming, because it must come.

## As Others Say It

### BREAKING SALES RESISTANCE

She was working extra and extremely anxious to make a good sales record. Thus, when a customer examined a dictionary priced at \$35, she utilized every argument at her command. The quality of the paper was extolled and the binding was mentioned in solemn tones. Finally came time to apply the clincher. "And another thing you will notice," the saleswoman cooed, "is that this dictionary is arranged alphabetically!" Indianapolis News.

### CAN'T DODGE IT

Be yourself. You'll be found out sooner or later, anyway.—Rochester Times-Union.

## A Selectee's Diary - - - - - September 8



## Factographs

The first Pullman car was built in 1865 by George Pullman, and cost \$20,000. It was hastily completed so that it might form a part of the train that bore the body of Abraham Lincoln from Washington, D. C., to Chicago, thence to Springfield, Ill.

Ten states produce 70 per cent of the total wool clip of the United States. With one exception, Ohio, they are located in the west and southwest. They are Texas, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, New Mexico, Colorado and California.

When, in the 17th century, English wood cutters came from Jamaica to the mainland of South America to get "logwood," a valuable dye wood, they discovered this resin produced mahogany.

Coral is usually pink, red and white, but sometimes yellowish and black. It is a product of sea life secreted by some small organisms.

"Nothing succeeds like success" is said to have first been used as a reference to the first operation performed by Dr. John Collins Warren at the Massachusetts General Hospital on Oct. 16, 1846.

Nighthawks build no nests. They lay eggs on the ground, on a flat stone, or even on flat roofs of houses.