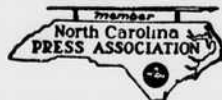


THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
TABLOID NEWS PAPER

By Mail — \$2. Yearly — In Advance
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA
THE LARGEST NEWSPAPER IN HALIFAX COUNTY



CARROLL WILSON, Owner and Editor

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OFFICE EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
ADVERTISING - PRINTING - EMBOSSING

EDITORIAL

"THE TORCH"

● ● Thousands of poems are written which are never printed or heard again. One of thousands written during World War I which still lives in print and memory is "In Flanders Fields", written by an Army officer who was Over There then.

For World War II, we make an exception to our rule of No Poetry by printing the following answer to Flanders Fields, where lie the bodies of thousands of American soldiers. It is "The Torch", written by a Roanoke Rapids girl, Miss Edna Wafford.

Where is the torch he flung to us,
To hold on high and light the way to peace?
What of the promise to him given,
As Flanders folded him in sweet release?
Who dropped that torch and let it die,
In dust of false security and trust,
While vanquished foe, unvanquished still,
Prepared anew to satisfy their lust?

No time have we to probe the past,
Nor place the blame for something which is done.
Relit, that torch, will be our sword,
And by its might redemption shall be won.
So Flanders dead, rest on, sleep on,
Once more we carry on the freedom fight,
To win for all through blood and tears,
The right to live, to love, and die in LIGHT!

ECONOMIC PATRIOTISM

● ● Textile employees of Roanoke Rapids will start buying Victory Bonds on a systematic basis next week. Those who wish to do so, will authorize the office to take at least fifty cents a week from their check to apply on their purchase of Bonds.

There is no desire to demand this from any unable to keep up the weekly payments and no one signs up unless they feel they want to do it. The idea is voluntary: each employee makes up his own mind.

For our folks to agree to this is a patriotic gesture because in many cases it will mean sacrifice: giving up something they have been accustomed to in the past.

We wish to point out, however, that such sacrifice will pay them in the future. Not only will they help to provide the money to Keep Them Rolling, Flying, Sailing (and as Anti-Aircraft units say, Keep Them Falling), but also this plan of the local textile management will mean that our textile employees will be saving for the future. For every three dollars they put in Bonds, our government will pay them back Four dollars. We save and we earn with the money we invest now in Victory Bonds. We build for the future of our country's safety and ourselves.

The result of the campaign among our textile citizens will be watched with interest. We feel the result will be acclaimed with enthusiasm. Others of us would do well to follow suit on the same systematic basis.

An Ultimatum



SPIES IN ROANOKE RAPIDS

● ● Patriotic American citizens may become too active and over-zealous in their desire to do something to prove their patriotism. In the first place there is no need for any American citizen to prove patriotism and love of country by making the headlines.

There is always the danger that we try to make some grandstand play and end up by making a farce or a mess of the whole thing to the confusion of everybody, the help to nobody and untold injury to innocent persons. Such action on our part serves no good and plenty of harm.

There are places where there are paid spies of the Axis but we can rest assured that FBI and the Intelligence units of the Army and Navy have had their eyes and ears on them for some time. Those spies are in places where they do their employers the most good. They are not in Roanoke Rapids.

Perhaps they may come later, when the need demands it, but for the present there is no good reason why we should have a "spy scare" here.

We report a case which bears out what we have written above. After careful thought, we mention no names because that would add only to the embarrassment of innocent persons. It happened in Roanoke Rapids. A lady is the victim of this show of patriotism. She is an artist who sketches and paints the wonders of our land and whose only interest is this land she loves and the things in it which she paints. She was sketching one of our mills at sunset the other afternoon. People passed by and paused, as they will, whenever an artist plants an easel. She went on drawing. Some person or persons reported her to the police. As she entered her home she was stopped and examined. Let us state here that her reaction to this procedure was better than ours would have been. She was hurt, yes, but she was calm, considerate and, after it dawned on her why she was subjected to questioning, she was generous in her understanding to the officer who had been made the unwitting agent of "special G-Men".

This lady said later she was glad to live in a city where the police were on the alert. She not only cleared the policeman of any blame but she also showed her greatness of spirit and patriotism. How many of us could have shown that same fine spirit under the same circumstances?

The real blame in this unfortunate happening lies with the self-appointed G-Men and maybe G-Women who reported something of this nature without a full and proper investigation of the facts. In their zeal to do something for their country, they overstepped their bounds and jumped to conclusions which brought only embarrassment to a

fine lady and a faithful officer of the law.

Our investigation shows that the lady is not only a good American citizen but that she is also related by blood to some of the leading citizens of Halifax County and by marriage to some of the same type of citizens in Roanoke Rapids; that she is kin to some of the settlers of Halifax County and has ties which go back years farther than most of us who live in Roanoke Rapids today. What a shame that such a thing should have happened here.

How Hitler would laugh with glee if told of this which would show him how we can muddle things and what amateurs we are. Let's get our feet on the ground and learn to keep our mouths closed until we have enough true facts to make a case. Let's not start running around in circles with whispers.

People who want to make headlines are the worst offenders at a time like this. Real, patriotic American citizens will talk less from now on and do more. They will buy Victory stamps and bonds when it calls for real sacrifice to do so; they will give to every good cause which has the approval of the U. S. (such as Give A Book to The Boys this week); they will pay their new taxes without grumbling; they will walk instead of ride to save tires; they will do without as much sugar and other luxuries we have known so long, without griping; they will change their whole standard of living without expecting to get their name and picture in the paper or hear it over the radio, by knowing as they go to sleep every night that they are doing ALL they can do to help win the war.

What will do more harm to Roanoke Rapids than a nest of spies is a group of our own citizens who will groan, grumble and complain when things get tight with them.

The test from now on will be how you take it and not how you mess around trying to be a Sherlock Holmes. We repeat the warning of Colonel John T. Kennedy, Commanding Officer of Fort Bragg: "The War Department has warned that false rumors to alarm the people are a recognized form of Fifth Column activity."