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EDITORIALS

## Current Comment

### WHEN THE TERRIBLE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

Destiny holds for evil souls a certain terrible compensation or retribution. This fact is best expressed by Scripture thus:

"Be sure your sins will find you out."

Once the proud people of Berlin laughed and strutted when German airplanes were raining fire and death on the cities of England.

It was after the great retreat from Dunkirk, when 30,000 Englishmen died, and the Britons were almost beaten to their knees.

On London the clouds of Hun planes swept over and over. Many thousands of British, among them helpless women, old men and little children were buried beneath piles of masonry. The city of Coventry was almost effaced from the landscape.

The terror and suffering throughout England was beyond compare.

The people of Germany smug behind their panzer divisions, sheltered by great aerial fleets, were assured by Goering that no bombs should ever be dropped on the Fatherland.

The Huns danced and feasted, and Hitler sent word to England: "Surrender or be destroyed."

The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine.

Now the terrible chickens of destiny come back home to roost.

The capital of Germany, proud Berlin, big as Chicago, no longer laughs and dances and struts and feasts. There is mourning everywhere. Immense conceited Berlin is being daily and nightly pulverized by English and American bombs. A large part of the city has been wiped out.

Countless thousands are dead and maimed, countless thousands are homeless.

The invincible air power of the allied democracies—England and America—is there in its fury and its vengeance.

And the terrible chickens of destiny are roosting over the streets, the homes, the great public buildings, the parks and the boulevards—the terrible chickens of destiny flapping their black wings in the widespread terror and death.

Ah, proud city of the Fuehrer, home of the "superior race," citadel of the evil of Hitlerism, nest bed of unprecedented international crime, is slowly being destroyed.

### WATCH YOUR FIRES

Fire is not only a constant danger to property but offers a very serious hazard to life as well.

The last week-end in North Carolina eleven persons died by violence according to a survey made by the Associated Press, and out of these seven perished from burns as follows:

At Kannapolis, three colored burned in their home, which was destroyed.

In Winston-Salem, 2-year-old white baby burned to death.

In Charlotte, 4-month-old negro baby, burned to death in home.

Near Charlotte, 53-year-old lady perished in flames when her clothing caught fire.

Near Fayetteville lady died in hospital from

### THE TWO-OCEAN NAVY LOOMS

The world begins to see the almost unbelievable productive power of America, as the two-ocean navy looms. It is greater than that of all other nations combined, including England and Russia.

Besides merchant ships, planes, tanks, cannon and machine guns, the war factories of the United States are building the most stupendous aggregation of battleships ever dreamed of by history.

The other day the greatest battleship afloat was commissioned ready for fighting, when the Iowa steamed out to sea, destination a secret, and then we are told its sister ship the New Jersey will be launched in six weeks.

At Camden, N. J., last Monday the Monterey, the fifth aircraft carrier to be launched by the New York Shipbuilding Corporation in six months, slid down the ways. This yard has averaged one carrier every 26 days since August.

From the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. at Kearny, N. J., five destroyers were launched in February.

The above figures are records from just two or three yards. Many others are at work with equally amazing records.

Secretary Knox declared this week before a Senate Committee:

"We shall utterly destroy the Japanese fleet."

### IS THE CHURCH LAGGING?

In another column of this newspaper the Rev. Ralph L. Buchanan, pastor of the Presbyterian churches of Danbury, Pine Hall and Sandy Ridge, presents some very interesting and enlightening figures with reference to the progress of the church (we speak of all churches) in the United States.

Mr. Buchanan used the statistics in his Sunday morning sermon of February 21 at Danbury, and at the Reporter's request gave us the statistics which may well cause concern to the different religious denominations throughout the nation.

Of immediate and special import to the readers of the Reporter in Stokes county are these facts:

Out of a population of 22,656, there are 16,744 persons in Stokes who do not belong to any church. The church membership in the county is divided as follows:

Baptist	2,415
Methodist	1,380
Presbyterian	391
Episcopal	77
Lutherans	12
All others	2,204

burns received at an open grate.

Near Danbury a narrow escape was made when the Frank Christian home was burned Saturday night.

It will pay everybody to watch the fire.

The damage of property from fire is enormous, the fatalities from burning are appalling.

### WAR NEWS IS FINE

On all fronts the Axis is meeting defeats this week.

The Japs met the worst licking in the Southwest Pacific they have yet received, and they have received some mighty bad ones.

A huge Jap convoy bound for New Guinea was completely destroyed. Twenty-two Jap warships and transports, loaded with troops were sunk by General MacArthur's Flying Fortresses and fighters. Of the Japs aboard, more than 15,000 now lie at the bottom of the ocean food for the fishes. Fifty-five Jap planes were shot down. The American loss was only 3 planes.

In Russia the Germans have been beaten back from their attempted offensive, are now flying in full retreat with the Russians armies in pursuit.

In Tunisia the Americans, British and French continue to press Rommel's men back and have regained most of the ground lost in the late action. The great tough British 8th army is approaching closely now to Rommel. A big battle is soon to begin. The allies claim around 500,000 men, the Huns and Italians 250,000.

There is no question about the result.

The U-boat toll of ships is being steadily reduced.

### VICTORY IS IN THE AIR

The brilliant and overwhelming victory of MacArthur's planes over the huge Jap convoy this week, when added to all other plane victories of the Americans in the South Pacific as well as in Europe, demonstrates conclusively, unmistakably that victory over the Japs and victory over Hitler is in the air.

Naval power is very essential, and land armies will in the long run, if of sufficient power and efficiency, win the war. But these are slow and costly in manpower.

Only by pre-eminence in the skies can the allies win the upperhand quickly and effectively and decisively.

When once America and England are furnished with bases in China and Russia for our giant and ever increasing Flying Fortresses and fighter planes, the doom of the yellow rats of the yellow seas will be determined.

Remembering Pearl Harbor, the destruction on cities and manufacturing plants of Japan must be super-powerful, constant, unrelenting and deadly.

Then let the fleet headed by such engines of chaos as the Iowa and the New Jersey, move in on the scene.

The consummation of the destruction of Jap power will be preceded by the air forces.

All Americans hope for this early fruition.

### BAN ON JOY-RIDING MAY BE ABOLISHED SOON

The gas situation must be improving when the head authorities decide to stop hounding motorists by patrolmen and other State and county officers.

The policy of an "honor system" is being established instead of the hounding.

It is hinted that the ban can be eliminated by March 22, when new gasoline coupons go into effect.

But remember, this is only a suggestion. Better be careful.