

# FEW WAR CASUALTIES

## Babson Says Statisticians Are Optimists

By Roger W. Babson

Babson Park, Florida, Feb. 18.—Well, I am back again in Florida;—I hope to be here for the remainder of the winter. I am more and more convinced if we followed the habits of the birds instead of men, we all would be better off. This is one reason why I have a Bird Sanctuary at Babson Park, Massachusetts, and gladly support the John Willison Bird Museum there. Well—among other good things—birds know when to go South and when to return North.



BABSON

**DON'T GET EXCITED**  
As soon as I can get some gasoline to get about (it's awful tight here) I'm going to write a column about Florida. It rather looks now that Florida is getting all set for another boom. At any rate it makes me cheerful to be here. The low figures for the number of our boys who are being killed in the war are also encouraging. Statistics indicate they are almost as safe in the army as at home. They enjoy better health, have no joy riding and are free from industrial accidents. In fact—based upon an average of 5,000,000 in the armed forces since Pearl Harbor—only 1 man out of every 140 has been killed; while an even smaller proportion have been wounded severely enough not to return to active duty.

Having nothing to do today but sit in the sunshine, pick flowers, drink orange juice and listen to the birds sing, I had time to study my maps! Now, I am not a military man; but only a humble statistician. During World War I, I was an Assistant to the Secretary of Labor in Washington in charge of heading off industrial strikes and did a pretty good job of it. During that war I learned that the big things really going on are not talked about. Hence, we should "prove all things" as the Bible says, before getting excited.

### THERE WILL BE FOUR "INVASIONS"

With this thought in mind and a deep interest in future war casualties, I am now wondering about this much heralded and pre-digested Second Front. This is promised to start in Northern France where the Channel is narrowest. Without doubt there will be a landing on the shores of Northern France; but whether it will come before Germany shows more definite signs of collapsing is a debatable question. Certainly, such a landing will be only a part of the Second Front invasion.

A careful study of maps will convince anyone that if the Allies institute an effective invasion against the will of Germany, landings will be made at four different points:—

- (1) At the Balkans aimed to destroy the Rumanian oil fields if Russia has not already taken them. Watch General Patton's army.
- (2) At Southern France by moving troops in from the Island of Corsica where they are now assembling.
- (3) At Northern France, Belgium and Holland by moving troops in from England.
- (4) At Norway where the Germans have the fewest troops and where it would be very difficult to bring reinforcements. I feel very sure that Norway will be a part of the program. There are excellent airfields just south of Stavanger which is only about 400 to 500 miles to Hamburg, Bremen and Berlin. Furthermore, securing such Norwegian air bases should enable the Allies to get a foothold in Denmark. From Northern Denmark it is only 250 miles to the industrial cities and seaports of Germany.

### WEATHER AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

In view of weather conditions in Norway and elsewhere, this may mean a delay of the real invasion of Europe until Spring or Summer although men are now being rapidly sent to England and elsewhere. Delay is in favor of the Allies because (1) Germany is being systematically destroyed by continued bombing; and (2) because the Allies can be better prepared with more troops and armaments the greater the delay. Then there is always the hope that the German army leaders will dethrone Hitler. They surely had rather let us march triumphantly into Germany than have Russia. This thought was the reason for the Pravda article about German and English peace talks which created such excitement last month. Certainly, the Allies are not

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THE EDITOR.

advertising in advance their plans. Rather, their leaders are talking publicly about the very opposite of what they actually will do. Note that 90% of our European war news comes from London and every word of it must pass the English censors. It also should be remembered that more news is put out for German consumption and to mislead our enemies than to inform our own people. This is no criticism of our government. It does, however, suggest that most time spent listening to radio war commentators is wasted. We had better use this time figuring how our returning soldiers will get jobs when World War II is over.

### OUR BOYS NOT IN GREAT DANGER

My real reason for writing of these things this week is to cheer up parents, sister and wives who now have boys in England and elsewhere awaiting the invasion. War is almost wholly a question of mathematics and spirit. The Great Invasion will not start until the Allies are 100% ready.—Russia notwithstanding. Hence, mathematics and spirit will be greatly in favor of our boys. Thus, our casualties should continue low. In addition, the invasion will not be confined to Northern France where we might expect heavy casualties. Washington may be justified in scaring us; but statisticians and geographers are not frightened.

The invasion will come simultaneously at about four places. These will reduce the striking power of the German Army 75%. "But why will this division not also reduce our striking power?" you ask. The answer again is one of statistics. The Allies can choose where to place each of their men. A man properly placed is worth four men hunting aimlessly for intruders. The old comparison between defense and offense no longer applies in this day of airplanes and radio. Therefore, let us not worry about our boys just yet. There will be no massacre of our men in Europe.

R. N. Shearon of Franklin County produced a ton of pork a day for every day in 1943, except Sundays and holidays, reports Assistant County Agent Walter Fuller. Shearon's two sons are in the armed services.

PHONE 283-1 FOR FIRST CLASS PAINTING

## Army-Navy Chiefs Cite Role of Paper In Invasion

Paper and paper-board—the principal products of pulpwood—are playing a highly important role in preparations for the invasion of western Europe, according to two top-ranking officers of the Army and Navy who are concerned with equipping the men who will batter Hitler's Fortress.

Lieut. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, commanding general of the Army Service Forces, recently spoke of the importance of paper in an outline of the work involved in preparing an army for battle.

Describing the coming invasion as "probably the most difficult feat that has ever been conceived of by man," General Somervell said: "There are some several hundred thousand different articles that we in the Army have to handle. There are probably almost as many in the Navy, maybe more.

"Let's take the case of a division going to England. That division will require about 15 shiploads of material. Fifteen shiploads of material means about 150,000 tons.

"There is hardly an article of these hundreds of thousands of articles that isn't wrapped up in paper or has a paper tag attached to it or in some way doesn't require some paper in its handling and manipulation.

"You have to have cartons for your shells, for everything in short from shells down to blood plasma. You have to have it for rations. You have to have it for clothes; you have to have it for practically everything we use. And we can't send over 100 per cent of the things that are wanted unless we have 100 per cent of the materials here."

Rear Admiral Henry L. Brinser, Inspector of Navy Material, spoke of the necessity of paper wrapping for both shells fired by big naval guns and more delicate instruments of naval machinery.

"The deadly explosives fired from out battleships, he explained, "must be handled with the same care that eggs are transferred" else they may jam the guns or, due to irregularities, miss their target.

"It has been definitely established in many instances," he said, "that our paper containers are far superior to wooden containers because of their cushioning effect as against the rigidity of wood which might act as a damaging agent to the material. Card board containers apply as well to all precision navigation, ordnance, radio and optical instruments.

"In the case of air shipments, cardboard containers are used around the product which in turn is protected by a water-proof wrapping and then only a minimum of wood crating is necessary. In the case of air shipments, where weight and space are all essential, the use of paper and cardboard containers is practically universal. This allows approximately 100 per cent greater carrying capacity due to weight and space."

Rear Admiral Brinser pointed out that in the construction of the gigantic U. S. Missouri, recently launched, 175 tons of paper were used in the preparation, plans, and blueprints. This is equivalent to 700,000 newspapers of approximately 64 pages each, he said.

"That is just one battleship," he added. "And I think I am not saying anything off the record when I cite that we are going to build more ships in 1944 than any year in history."

Military boxing, crating, and shipping used some 15 billion board feet of lumber in 1943. Figuring on a basis of 25,000 board feet needed to build a five-room residence, that lumber used for military purposes is enough to build 600,000 houses.

## Blood for the Armed Forces



Pictured here are American Red Cross volunteers delivering blood plasma to an Army plane—destination unknown. But this much is known—the blood of patriotic American citizens is saving the lives of many of the nation's valiant defenders. Nearly 55,000 persons have donated blood at Red Cross blood donor centers since Pearl Harbor.

We think of steel when we view one of our mighty battleships like the U. S. S. Missouri, which was launched in late January. But plenty of wood is needed to send their ships on these missions. Besides the wooden construction of the shipway, 15 tons of paper were needed to plan her on paper—and about 300,000 board feet of wood were needed to lay her decking.

The final test of a good provider is to have spare shoe strings in the house.

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### HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT WHEN YOU WANT IT

Nobody can bake a cake like Mrs. Jones does use the same ingredients, in the same proportions, bakes it at the same temperature. It still isn't as good as Aunt Sally's. When we have a party at our house we want a cake Aunt Sally baked because we know exactly how good it will be. She never fails.

What is this mysterious ingredient that makes us like one cake, or soup, or automobile better than another—regardless of the fact that according to the label, competing articles are made of the same things? One manufacturer advertises: "The priceless ingredient of any product is the honor and integrity of the maker." That seems to be the right answer.

That is why the movement that's afoot to eliminate trade marks leaves us cold. Supposedly, some new government-supervised method of specifications would guarantee us better value for our money. We don't believe it. We think that manufacturers who

did not have to identify their products with their trade marks could easily slip one over on us, because with no trade mark to tell us, we wouldn't know whom to blame.

Contrariwise, we know that when we ask for an article by brand name or trade mark, we are going to get that "priceless ingredient" that satisfies us. We wouldn't know how to describe the taste we like about Campbell's tomato soup—we just know we like that particular taste and the simple way to be sure of getting it is to ask for Campbell's tomato soup.

You won't catch us buying any "Grade A Sedan, specifications 16P9" when the war's over. We want a Ford. Furthermore, we'd like to see the Ford trade mark stamped on our car in a conspicuous place. We've got faith in Henry.

Fire is responsible for the greater part of all damage to both young growth and mature timber, according to the U. S. Forest Service. Fire damages and weakens trees, making them easy prey for insects and wood rotting fungi.

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1,000,000 tons of natural Chilean nitrate—the tonnage U. S. farmers used last year—properly applied, would produce 250,000,000 bu. of oats or 100,000,000 bu. of wheat; 125,000,000 bu. of corn or 4,800,000 tons of forage crops; 6,000,000 tons of vegetables, or 2,500,000 bales of cotton and 1,100,000 tons of cotton seed.

These figures show why farmers need all the Chilean Soda they can get to smash '44 goals and help make Victory sure!

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