

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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## FEEDING ITALY

Chief issue in the long series of backstage arguments over feeding Italy has been President Roosevelt's desire (1) to get the Italian people to play a greater part in the war; (2) avoid a repetition of Greece. Already there have been rumblings of rioting, and should Allied tanks and guns be turned against the people of Rome as in Athens, the repercussions would be tragic.

Theoretically, the British have agreed with Roosevelt. When it comes to putting the policy into effect, however, it is different. Following some disagreements last August and September, F.D.R. thought he had the whole matter ironed out at the Quebec conference with Prime Minister Churchill, only to find that in late October nothing had been done.

Finally, on October 31, he took the unprecedented step of giving a direct order as commander-in-chief to the secretary of war. He wrote: "I have had before me the shipping difficulties in getting supplies to the civilian population of Italy and I note that we have been building up some reserves for use when northern Italy collapses.

"In the meantime, it seems to me that the situation is so acute, from the point of view particularly of food in southern Italy, that some risks must be taken regarding supplies at the time of the collapse in northern Italy. That collapse may well not come until Germany itself collapses, in which case the shipping situation will be much less acute.

"Under the circumstances, I have determined to assume the responsibility for asking General Wilson to increase the ration to 300 grams throughout all of Italy that our forces occupy."

Despite this categorical position by the President of the United States, Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, referred to above, did nothing. Last week, Secretary Stettinius emphasized shipping as the reason why increased feeding had not been given Italy. But he did not give the whole story. Actually, as pointed out by the President, there has been accumulating a stock pile of food for unliberated northern Italy.

### POORLY PAID CONGRESSMEN

The struggle experienced by many congressmen to make both ends meet in Washington, and also the steady retirement of A-1 officials from public life because they cannot take the financial sacrifice, has an interesting parallel in the early days of the nation.

Some of the founding fathers, being honest men and without private fortunes, found it impossible to live on their government salaries and were threatened with imprisonment.

For instance, the great revolutionary war hero, Gen. William Moultrie was imprisoned for debt. Also, the first associate justice of the U. S. Supreme court, James Wilson, had to flee Pennsylvania to escape his creditors and was about to be served with extradition papers in Edenton, N. C., when he died.

Also, John Rutledge of South Carolina, one of the chief drafters of the constitution, was threatened with imprisonment for debt and only remained out of jail through the suffering of his creditors.

Today, U. S. congressmen, cabinet members, and federal judges remain relatively among the poorest paid public servants in the world. A U. S. ambassador to London is paid \$17,500, while the British ambassador to the United States is paid \$80,000. A U. S. Supreme court justice gets \$20,000, while a New York state Supreme court justice gets \$25,000.

### PERSUADING NAZI PRISONERS

Recently the army's shrewd psychological warfare branch installed sound equipment at the edge of a Nazi-held port behind the Allied lines in France and offered the Germans a novel "Trial Surrender." The message broadcast to the Germans went something like this: "Try it out for three days. If you don't enjoy being a prisoner with us, you can return to your units."

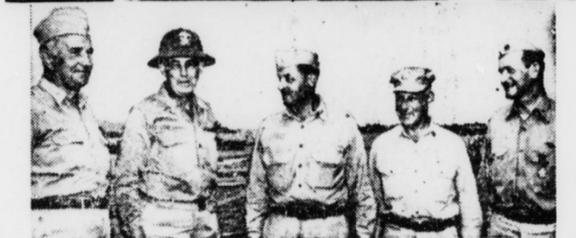
As a result of the offer, eight Nazis surrendered. At the end of the three days, four agreed to stay; the other four asked to go back. The army let them go. To their surprise, however, the four came back a few hours later bringing more than 50 of their tired Nazi comrades to join them in the comparatively luxurious prison camp surroundings.

### CAPITAL CHAFF

Students of lend-lease will find at an American neuropsychiatric rest home at Shugborough park, in England, a rather undistinguished flagpole about 15 feet high bearing the stars and stripes. At its base is a sign: "This flagpole loaned the American forces at Shugborough park by the Earl of Litchfield."

The Hollywood post office has made a special rubber stamp to re-address mail to Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas, who once lived in Hollywood.

## Directed Luzon Speed Landing



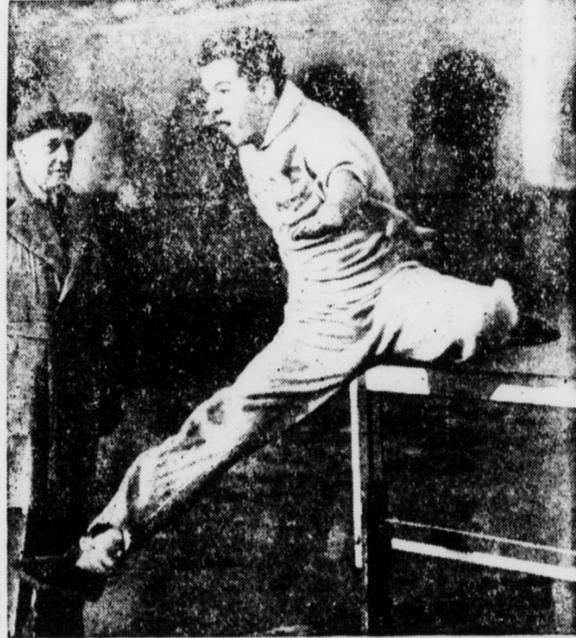
Gen. Douglas MacArthur, left, and Lieut. Gen. Walter Krueger, C.G. of the 6th army, which led the landings on Luzon, are shown above. Below, the naval staff responsible for success of undertaking. Vice Adm. Thomas G. Kinkaid, second left, giving final instructions to his staff.

## Country's Top Football Scorers



L. to R.—Lieut. Bill Dudley, Randolph Field, with the Robert Smith trophy, received for best outstanding service player of the year; Don Adams, president, Washington Touchdown club; LeRoy Zimmerman, Eagles, outstanding professional; and Don Whitmire, navy, winner of Rockne trophy for being the outstanding All-American lineman.

## Track Coach Begins 30th Year



Lawson Robertson, famous track coach of the University of Pennsylvania, is shown at left, watching the hurdling form of Lou Moretzohn of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as Robertson began his 30th year in the sport. Forty men turned out for first practice and Robertson has high hopes for the coming season.

## Germany Gets Real Taste of War



There have been hundreds upon hundreds of scenes like this in war-torn countries over which the Germans have rode roughshod, but this one is different. This is Germany—the same Germany which has dealt death blows to every country in Europe—now having war brought to its own door, in the city of Saarlautern.

## Not Chic—but Comfy



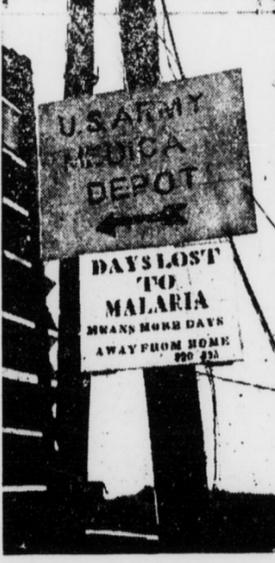
This youngster of Bastogne has no ambition to be a Beau Brummell. All he is interested in is getting and keeping warm, so he is perfectly happy wrapped in this handsome outfit and oversized muffler furnished on relief quotas.

## Wins Ski Tourney



Lieut. Arthur Devlin, U. S. army air corps (left), and Merrill Barber pose together at the Bear Mountain Ski Championship tournament. Barber made a 130-foot jump to take top honors. Lieutenant Devlin with 125 feet took second place.

## Wage Malaria War



This warning by medical units of the 12th air force bomber base emphasizes malaria control on the island of Corsica. The swamps are sprayed from air and land and the newest control methods are put into practice.

## Nazis May Bomb U. S.



That New York and other cities will soon be targets for German robot bomb attacks has been predicted by Rear Adm. Jonas H. Ingram, C.G. Atlantic Fleet.



### Snowflakes:

King George of Greece is irked with his public relations experts. They kept him staying in his London hotel room during the Athens mess—instead of okaying His Highness' usual routine of making the London late places surrounded by a bevy of beauts. . . . Cuba's Batista will settle in Brazil.

### The Federal Trade commission

is checking up on endorsers of products in ads. Wants to find out if the celebs who endorse them actually use them. . . . The reason for the New York butcher strike is this: The Gov't clamped down hard on black marketing. The butchers learned the fine was too high to make any profit, even at b.m. fees. They decided it was cheaper to get out of business than make wholesalers rich and themselves poor.

### Add rackets:

Phones in Florida are bringing as high as \$500 each from people who lost theirs to the armed forces a year ago. . . . The mobs are set to run the bookmaking in Mexico and Havana. They had been figuring on the tracks suffering disaster for more than a year. . . . Sidney Kingsley dashed off a five page scenario in 30 minutes, for which Zanuck paid him \$50,000. More than a 1,000 smackers per minute.

### Though war plant absenteeism

was a contributing factor, the Washington grapevine is saying that the main reason for closing the tracks was this: congress was preparing to stick a 10 per cent tax on the mutuels, and the track owners (instead of cooperating gladly in view of the fortunes they've garnered lately) made ready to fight it. . . . It was their attitude, more than anything else, which irritated the powers that be.

### The first Broadway hit show

to beat the jinx of the amusement page alphabetical listing is "A Bell for Adano." . . . Many shows that put an "A" in front of the title to inherit the top of the list flopped. "Angel Street" was the exception for a long time. . . . The commies in Indianapolis, Erie and Buffalo last week started their campaign to discredit G-man Hoover with a national smear attack. . . . They say N. Y. Times' critic, Brooks Atkinson (now in the hospital after a long session covering China's part in the war), doesn't want to resume drama-inspecting. He prefers doing something important, such as his recent assignment. His excellent reports are credited with actually influencing U. S. policy in the Orient.

### Faces About Town:

Libby Holman, the blues thrush-to-bacco heir-ess, who is quietly backing Broadway shows. . . . Band chief John Kirby, \$5,000 wealthier after winning a libel action from a Pittsburgh writer, who cast aspersions on his draft status. . . . Canary Bernice Parks, currently at the St. Regis, who will decorate Life's pages as best-dressed gal. She has 16 fur coats. Her match book covers feature photos of her feller. . . . Horace MacMahon, one of the stage's capabilities, serving the nation by delivering war bond speeches—while waiting for producers to come to their senses. . . . Milton Berle, who at this tardy time is feuding with Joe E. Lewis over the song, "Sam, You Made the Pants Too Long!" Apparently after reading the "Fight or Work" edict.

### Story of the Week (By Dr. Elisha A. King):

Do you remember the Indian juggler described by William Hazlitt in one of his famous essays? The juggler was perfect in throwing and catching brass balls—keeping four in the air at once. That was his whole stock in trade, but it was the best he had. Seeing a number of people go to the Shrine of the Virgin Mother bowing, praying, etc., he became interested and wanted to worship. Finally, he went in, squatted in front of the image and performed. It was the best he had to offer and doubtless acceptable. . . . I mention this because of a report from Guadalcanal describing a Christmas evening service. Father Gehring celebrated midnight Mass, but no one could play Christmas music. A soldier had gotten a small organ from somewhere, but no one could play it. However, one man was found who knew only one tune, "Yiddisher Mama," so he played that.

With the heavens for a roof, Mass was said in Latin, a Jewish boy played the one piece he knew and several hundred Protestants, Catholics and Jews knelt and listened.

### The Radiocoles:

Talk about deflation. When CBS last week dropped Raymond Scott's 20-piece orchestra (which cost the network more than \$250,000 in two years) the spot was inherited by Milt Herth's Copacabana, which has only three musicians. . . . Ted Adams, acting-producer of "We, the People," had no trouble booking H. Hodgkins, the youthful spy-catcher for the program. . . . Because Adams summered near where the spies landed—for 25 years.

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