

KALTENBORN SAYS:

Enemies Stalemated After 6 Months Because Defense Outshines Offense

By H. V. KALTENBORN
Noted Radio Commentator

AT THE end of the first six months of war we find that the major belligerents have not yet begun to fight, while the major neutral powers have begun to fight for peace. Small wonder that the late Senator Borah called this a "phony" war.

Only in Finland is there a major military effort and mighty Soviet Russia does not even admit that she has gone to war against little Finland. When the war began no one expected Soviet Russia to participate in military operations and no one expected Finland to be invaded. On the other hand, everyone expected an immediate air-raid by hundreds of bombing-planes on the capitals of Europe, and for weeks the headlines spoke of the coming big offensives on the Maginot and Siegfried lines. Neither the raids nor the offensives developed during the first half-year of fighting. Why?

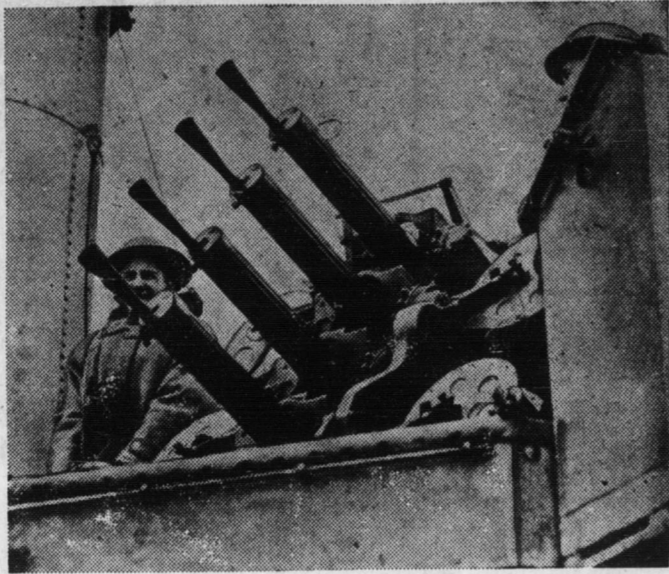
Defense Is Major Factor.

The primary reason is that in modern war, defense is stronger than offense. The war in Spain showed the world that air attack on large cities is tremendously destructive, but it also showed that it is not likely to be decisive. The expense in planes, fuel, bombs and aviators who do not return is apt to offset the military advantages gained in any mass bombing fight. And the effect on neutral opinion of the killing of thousands of women and children, together with the destruction of historic monuments in cities far away from any actual fighting zone, might well be disastrous.

The fear of such wholesale air-raids led France and Britain to surrender at Munich. Now, after a year and a half of additional intensive preparation for air-defense, they no longer fear German attack. They are prepared to meet it and could make it so costly that it would probably not be repeated. The successful defense of the Mannerheim line against the most highly concentrated Soviet military effort showed the strength of defense fortifications in modern war.

Why Poland Was Weak.

The two great surprises of this war so far have been Poland's weakness and Finland's strength. Poland's weakness arose from a lack of national unity and domination of the illiterate masses by an aristocratic caste. In the larger sense, the government of Poland was nei-



BRITAIN GUARDS THE SEA—Somewhere in the north sea a multiple anti-aircraft gun aboard a British mine sweeper watches for enemy raiders.

santly, directly on the fighting lines or indirectly through the air-waves. Nazi leaders are apprehensive about casualties in the propaganda battle. They impose severe punishment on anyone who listens to a foreign broadcast. The British and French, on the other hand, have enough confidence in their people to permit them to listen to whatever Dr. Goebbels orders said.

More Activity on Sea.

At sea, a war of movement has been possible. This is why there has been much more activity at sea than on land. Britain's control of the sea has again demonstrated its importance. The German fleet is bottled up. Except for submarines, the German navy and the German Merchant Marine have been swept from the seas.

The Near Eastern Franco-British army of half a million men under the leadership of General Weygand is now waiting in Syria, ready for instant action against Russia or Germany in any part of the Balkans. This army may yet prove the decisive military factor in this war. Allied victories in Palestine and Turkey presaged the collapse of the Central Powers in 1918.

Germany's commerce-raiders were swept from the seas much more quickly than during the World War. The Graf Spee lies wrecked in Montevideo harbor after being put out of action by the combined

far less successful in destroying shipping than mines. The new magnetic mine sown by the Germans proved very destructive for the first few weeks in which it was used. Then more effective mine-sweeping methods and the establishment of narrow ship-channels which were carefully patrolled reduced the successes of Germany's mine-laying airplanes.

British Also Unsuccessful.

On the other hand, the British have been no more successful in their raids against the German navy. Both German and British submarines have destroyed an occasional warship, but these forays have been costly to the submarines attempting them. The British and French claim to have sunk between 40 and 50 German submarines since the beginning of the war. The Germans admit the loss of less than half this number. Yet whenever a submarine is lost, the entire crew is lost with it, and it takes five years to train men to handle a submarine under war conditions.

Talk about the Germans building one submarine a day is nothing more than talk. It is more likely that the Germans are completing anywhere from six to ten U-boats a month, which is just about the rate at which they are being destroyed. Already planning for Peace.

There is, then, nothing decisive in action at sea or in the air. Defense is stronger than attack. But what about the economic front? That is probably the most important front of all and the one that will be dominant long after the war has ended. Already Secretary of State Hull is negotiating with the neutral powers to work out a plan of economic reconstruction. The plan must be ready for instant application on the day of the armistice if Europe is not to sink in to chaos when the fighting ends.

Every country in Europe, neutral and belligerent alike, has mortgaged its future. Only if the New world remains out of the war and stands ready to lend its resources for European reconstruction is there any hope of true peace. Europe was ready for revolution before the war came and will be much more ready for it when the war is done.

What After Collapse?

France and Britain count on economic pressure to bring about the collapse of Germany, but one wonders whether they have asked themselves, what then? Will they march into Germany at the head of a victorious army, establish a new Kaiser and a new Junker government? Or will they stand aside while Germany's underground Communist movement re-asserts itself and calls out for assistance to the Red brethren in Moscow?

There is the third possibility of organizing those liberal forces that have either been driven out of Germany or driven under cover within Germany, and helping them to re-establish constitutional government by granting them a generous peace. That would be the hardest task.

Rumania Under Pressure.

Meanwhile, there is more pressure behind the economic than behind the military war. Members of the Rumanian government are being bribed, bulldozed, flattered and cajoled by both sides. Both are seeking to purchase Rumania's oil and Rumania's grain. Each wants it so that the other cannot have it. The French and British offer gold, the Germans threaten war. So far, King Carol has kept a precarious balance; Britain and France continue to guarantee his frontiers and King Carol remembers the Blitzkrieg against Poland. Poland had been given the same guarantees.

On the diplomatic front, the Allied powers won their greatest victory in winning Turkey to their cause. This gives them control of the Dardanelles and the Black Sea, in case of war with Russia. It also assures France and Britain complete dominance of the Mediterranean thereby discouraging Italy from siding with Germany.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WILKES MAN IS GIVEN 20 YEARS

Somers Man Charged With Death of His Deaf and Dumb Mother

DID NOT ADMIT GUILT

North Wilkesboro — Andrew Gregory, 50-year-old WPA worker, charged with the death of his mother, Ganzada Gregory, at their farm home in Somers township on January 14, was sentenced in Wilkes court Monday to serve 15 to 20 years in state prison.

Gregory, who never admitted being guilty but offered to shoulder all blame in connection with the death of his aged mother, entered a plea of guilty of manslaughter.

Reviewing the known facts in the case, officers testified that Gregory, in a drunken condition, went to the home of neighbors on that afternoon and told them that his mother had burned to death. He said that he found her clothing afire that morning, that he put out the fire with a bucket of water and sat by her until she died. Later he said that he was so drunk he could not recall what happened and what he did, officers testified.

A physician who examined the body found her nose broken and a bruise on her forehead. Blood was found on Gregory's clothing and on his arms. A large splotch of blood was on his back. Investigators from the state bureau of investigation said it was human blood.

Neighbors said Gregory had been abusing his mother when he was drunk and that when he was sober he treated her well. She

was deaf and dumb but was an industrious and active woman despite her advanced age. She and her son operated a small farm and he worked on WPA during winter months.

ROCKFORD

(Deferred from last week) The Home Making Class of the Adult School gave a party at the home of Mrs. T. B. Holyfield Monday night.

The work of this class was put on exhibit at this time and Mrs. G. E. Burrus, Mrs. Harvey Burrus and Mrs. Coke Wall were the invited guests who acted as judges for the class. It was very hard to tell who should get the prize in the sewing contest for all work was exceptionally good. After much discussion among the judges the prize went to Mrs. Bertice Jarvis, for a pair of pillow cases.

After playing a number of games planned by their teacher, Mrs. Alma B. Holyfield, they were invited into the dining room where delicious angel food cake, pound cake, pickles, hot chocolate and pop corn prepared by the class were served. About twenty were present.

Rev. D. G. Reece of Jonesville filled his pulpit at the Rockford Baptist church last Sunday.

Mr. Paul Marion of Burch was a visitor in Rockford over the week-end.

Mrs. J. W. Thore and Miss Eulala Burrus attended the county council meeting of the Home Demonstration Clubs at Dobson last Thursday.

Mr. Woodson Burrus of Winston-Salem visited relatives here last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Coe returned to their home here last Friday after having spent the past week in King and Winston-Salem visiting relatives.

His First Job An Irishman got a job at a railway station. When the first train came in, however, he forgot the name of the station, so he called out: "Here ye are for where ye are going. All in there for here, come out."

Mattie Mae Powell

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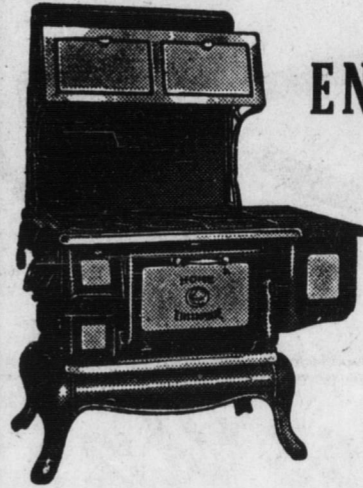
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Thursday, March 14—(Today)— (Matinee and Night)

DEAD END KIDS ON DRESS PARADE
Devil Drivers - News — Admission 10c-25c

Friday-Saturday, Matinee and Night—
Hang on! You're going for a New High in Up-UP-UPROARIOUS FUN!

Monday-Tuesday, Matinee Monday—

Selected Short Subjects — Admission 10c-25c

Wednesday, Matinee and Night—

BOB STEELE In "RIDIN' FOOL"

Disney Cartoon - Serial — Admission 10c to All

THE AUTHOR—

H. V. Kaltenborn attained outstanding eminence in the radio news field during the European crisis last autumn, when his frequent and accurate reports over the Columbia network were awaited each day by millions of listeners. A native of Wisconsin, he worked many years on the Brooklyn Eagle before entering the radio news field as a sideline in 1922. For more than 30 years he has been a keen student of international politics, a background which makes his extemporaneous analyses over CBS among the most accurate heard by the American audience today. His famous broadcast from a haystack in Spain is the first radio description of actual warfare on record. During last autumn's crisis he literally lived at the CBS studios in New York, prepared to go on the air at a moment's notice.



their popular nor efficient. The Finnish people are literate, sturdy and possess a strong sense of social and political independence.

Just as the failure of Poland's defense plan undermined morale, the success of Finland's well-organized plan of defense has given tremendous encouragement to the army, the people and the government. But the success of the German blitzkrieg against Poland and the failure of Russia's blitzkrieg against Finland depended primarily on the difference between the attacking armies. The German army was well organized, well equipped, well directed. The Russian army is poorly organized, poorly equipped and suffers from bad generalship.

Western Lines Invulnerable. Already Finland's Mannerheim line has withstood an overwhelming Russian assault for more than three months. It is apparent, therefore, that the much more completely organized and much deeper Maginot and Siegfried lines would be similarly invulnerable to attack. And whereas Russia has a superiority of something like 20 to 1 against Finland, the forces lined up on both sides of the French frontier are practically equal in fighting strength.

In considering the progress of this war, we are too much inclined to dwell on military factors. Yet during this first half-year the military front has been less important than the diplomatic front and the economic front. There has even been a more continuous exchange of ammunition on the propaganda front than between the fighting armies themselves.

Radio and loudspeaker systems have made it possible for belligerents to talk to one another incessantly.

efforts of three small British cruisers. The Deutschland, her sister pocket-battleship, thought it best to return to a safe German harbor.

Nazis Stress U-Boat Warfare. But raiding with surface ships is a minor factor in Germany's sea warfare against Britain and France. The Germans remembered how close they came to forcing a decision with their submarines during the World War. They had from 60 to 75 submarines ready when the war began. For the first few weeks of the war, they used these to excellent advantage.

Then the protective measures which Britain developed during the World War and since became effective. The larger ships were sent out in convoy; airplane patrols were created; minefields against submarines were established and all the resources of the British navy were mobilized against the U-boats.

On the whole, they have proved effective. In six months, the British have lost 550,000 tons of merchant ships. At the same time, the French lost 75,000 tons and the neutrals 350,000 tons. This makes a total of a little over 1,000,000 tons.

Losses Not Important. But nothing in these losses produced by mines and submarines even suggests the possibility of a decisive result. The British merchant marine alone totals 21,000,000 tons. The British claim that deducting from their losses purchases and new construction, their net loss in six months of warfare has been less than 200,000 tons. It is also probable that the losses will decrease rather than increase, since at sea as well as on land defense is proving itself stronger than attack. Already submarine torpedoes are