

"New Order" Faces Its Decisive Test

(By Kirke L. Simpson, Associated Press Staff Writer)

The cold gloom of Europe's second winter is closing in amid multiplying signs that it may see the Nazi-Fascist "new order" fellowship put to a supreme and perhaps decisive test.

Impponderable factors preclude even a guess as to where or how the war will end. Among the horsemen of horror loosed on Europe by the war to make this probably the most tragic Christmas season the Old World has ever known are starvation and freezing cold for tens of millions of noncombatants.

There are discernable, however, certain symptomatic items indicating that there may be graver concern over the winter outlook in Axis Europe than in London. They give the lie to the Nazi-Fascist assumption that mankind in the mass can be dragged by force alone into a new way of life.

Intimations of tottering national morale point now toward Italy, not England. No other reasonable explanation of the Italian army's fiasco in Greece has been offered. It may have stemmed from Italian public distaste, extending into the ranks of Mussolini's best troops, for the war and the Axis partnership.

Tragic blundering by Italian strategists and army staffs alone cannot account for Greece's rout of her attackers against great odds of numbers and modern battle gear. The Italian army in Albania was hand-picked and carefully prepared for its invasion job. It was composed of forces recruited from northern Italy, from the Italian Alps. Those Italian units proved the toughest fighters of her World War armies, yet in this war they failed at the first test against a foe utterly inferior in numbers and equipment.

It is now revealed by Washington government reports on Italy's economic plight that the British blockade has been grinding for months at Italian morale. Sharply rationed food and skyrocketing prices are noted. That is all Italy has thus far gleaned from Mussolini's great adventure at war in Ethiopia, in Spain and Greece.

By contrast, in bomb-tortured England there is no hint of declining morale. Bright visions of delivering a finishing stroke at Italy are reflected in London war news. The essential pillars of the Hitler-conceived "new order" structure for continental Europe are lacking still. Spain in the west and Bulgaria in the East are still standing aloof.

An upsurge of French public reaction has thwarted the Hitler-Laval hopes for an effective political union between Berlin and Vichy. Intima-

SAFETY FIRST Merry Christmas Also Famous As Year's No. 1 Danger Season

If you want a truly merry Christmas be sure that the frivolity of the season doesn't turn it into tragedy. The National Safety Council points out that the holidays are the most dangerous part of the year, replete with auto casualties, home accidents, burns and falls. Keep these "don'ts" in mind and you'll live to see the new year:

DON'T give children dangerous toys, or toys with sharp points. If they operate with electricity, be sure you supervise their use.

DON'T decorate the tree with lighted candles unless it's absolutely unavoidable. Carefully wired electric bulbs are much safer.

DON'T place the tree near a stove or fireplace.

DON'T leave a lighted tree unguarded at any time; you must be on the lookout for fires.

DON'T use a rickety, unsafe ladder in decorating the tree.

DON'T place Christmas candles near the tree, curtains, paper wreaths or other decorations.

DON'T overlook the opportunity to make your tree fire-resistant. Ac-



cording to the United States forestry service, you can do it this way: Divide the weight of your tree by four and buy that many pounds of ammonium sulphate. Dissolve it in water, one and a half pints to each pound of ammonium sulphate. Cut the end of your tree trunk on a diagonal, put some solution in a jar and stick the diagonal butt into the solution. Add solution as the tree drinks it up.

DON'T be excessive about Christmas "spirits."

DON'T leave toys exposed where people can trip on them.

DON'T leave your tree in the house after it becomes dried out.

DON'T allow steps and sidewalks to become icy in cold weather. During Christmas you'll probably have many guests; sprinkle salt or sand in dangerous spots.

DON'T drive carefully—unless you want to live and enjoy 1941.



YULE SKY TO BE LIT UP BY "STAR OF BETHLEHEM"

New York, Dec. 1.—A rare heavenly conjunction of two planets and a newly-discovered comet—which astronomers believe may be one explanation of the Star of Bethlehem—will shine in the Christmas skies

this year. Professor William H. Burton, Jr., executive curator of the Hayden planetarium, said today the Cunningham comet and the planets of Jupiter and Saturn would be in visible conjunction by Christmas.

It will be the first time since 1683 that the two planets have been in conjunction, Barton said. "The great astronomer Kepler was so impressed by a conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter that he figured back and found that in the year generally accepted as the Nativity these two planets were not only close together as they are at the present, but had been joined by the planet Mars, to form an extraordinary sight in the sky," Barton said.

"Perhaps that was the 'star' the Wise Men followed to Bethlehem," Leland E. Cunningham of Harvard college observatory staff discovered the comet September 18,

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