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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Farnham F. Dudgeon

German War Machine Invades Belgium and The Netherlands; Chamberlain Resigns His Post

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
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IT'S HIS FAULT I REALIZE THAT I'LL TAKE THE BLAME
(Left to right: David Lloyd George, Prime Minister Chamberlain, Winston Churchill.)
(See *Weary Warrior*.)

THE WAR:

More Protection

Germany has respected the integrity of Belgium and the Netherlands under the self-evident precondition that these two countries, in case of war between Germany and England and France, would observe the strictest neutrality. . . . These requirements have not been fulfilled. . . . Thus read the beginning of an official Nazi message handed to the Belgian and Netherlands governments as the world learned that once more Adolf Hitler had unleashed his mighty war machine.

For earlier word had been flashed that the German army had invaded the three low countries; the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. According to Berlin the Germans were moving into these tiny nations to "protect" them—even as Norway and Denmark were "protected" on April 9—from invasion by Allied forces.

When the news of the invasion reached Paris, French officials, acting in response to an appeal made by the Belgian ambassador, ordered the French army to march into Belgium. In London, Exchange Telegraph, British news agency, reported that 400 persons were killed or wounded in the first German air raid against Brussels. And in Washington when the same report was received the Belgian ambassador to the United States asked the state department to notify Germany that Brussels was an "open" city, contained no troops and therefore should not be bombed.

Meanwhile President Roosevelt, upon learning of Hitler's latest war move, immediately summoned his cabinet officials and army and navy chiefs to plan America's course in light of this newest war development.

Anxious Days

Elsewhere nations were attempting to calculate the effect of Hitler's invasion of the low countries. The governments were cautious, the citizens—jittery.

Premier Mussolini told Italians that "only facts will break" his silence on Italy's future course of action in world affairs. The Italian press busied itself accusing England of improper motives because of that nation's fleet concentration in the Mediterranean.

In the land of the Pharaohs, Egyptians were "treated" to their first

AMERICAN LETTERS:

No Sour Grapes

Usually when the Pulitzer prizes for outstanding work in American letters are announced there descends upon the award committee a deluge of abuse from critics that would strike fear into the heart of the sturdiest of men. But each year the awards are made, abuse notwithstanding.

This year experts in general agree that the committee has done well in making the following 1939 selections:

Outstanding novel award to John Steinbeck for his "Grapes of Wrath"; original American play, William Saroyan, for his "The Time of Your Life"; book of history, Carl Sandburg for "Lincoln, the War Years"; Ray Stannard Baker received the award for the best American biography by writing, "Woodrow Wilson, Life and Letters"; and Mark Van Doren's "Collected Poems" was classed as the most distinguished volume of verse. Each winning author is granted a \$1,000 award for his winning work.

TRANSPORTATION:

Pay As You Go

While the nation's vacation-minded populace was beginning to salt nickels and dimes away for two weeks of frolic come next summer, U. S. railroads presented a credit plan that will revolutionize long-distance rail travel. Under this new plan it is possible for any person with respectable credit rating to buy transportation, Pullman accommodations and all-expense tours on time payments on trips costing \$50 or more.

Sixty-six major rail companies are participating in the plan which requires merely that the traveler call at the ticket office, apply for credit in the amount of cost for his proposed trip, wait 24 hours for the routine credit inquiry, and if this is approved he receives his ticket just as if cash was being paid. No collateral is required—only the signature of the individual and no down payment is necessary, payments being made on a monthly basis later.

HELPING HAND:

Red Cross

Meeting in Washington for their annual national convention, members of the International Red Cross were read a letter written by President Roosevelt in which he pledged his support for any international agreement which indorsed condemnation of warring nations bombing noncombatants.

Norman H. Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross, reported that U. S. women had made over 2,000,000 garments and surgical dressings in response to demands for these articles from European nations. One million dollars in Red Cross funds was set aside to help European war sufferers, he said, and \$800,000 more was received in voluntary contributions. Most of this money has been spent and he stated a new drive for funds may soon be necessary.

Strangest voice of the opposition was that of David Lloyd George, the man who led the empire to victory in World War I. Time after time he was cheered as the house heard him blame failure of the Norwegian campaign on Prime Minister Chamberlain. He flayed what he called "unintelligent and half-hearted leadership" for lack of success.

When the shouting was over 281 members rallied behind Chamberlain as 200 voted against him, the result being that he was not forced to dissolve his cabinet. But as he left the debate cries of "Resign! Resign!" rang loudly in his ears.

Two days later, after Hitler's army began to march, Neville Chamberlain followed this advice and resigned.

DOMESTIC:

U. S. Blitzkrieg

Mobilized from quiet military posts in 33 states thousands of modernized fighting men of the United States were going through their paces as the regular army's largest peace time maneuvers—the annual war games—got under way in the deep South. Sixty-six thousand professional soldiers in opposing "Red" and "Blue" factions are fighting it out in the grim exercises which terminate May 25.

This make-believe war was giving officials a chance to test much of the new mechanized equipment and "streamline" infantry divisions that have been built up and organized to give the U. S. a modern army.

Bruchart's Washington Digest

War Is Likely to Be an Issue In National Political Campaign

President's Projected Trip at Time of Republican Convention May Provide Chance to 'Air' U. S. Foreign Policy.

By WILLIAM BRUCHART
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WASHINGTON.—Whether he like it or not, it is now almost certain that the national government policy with relation to Europe's war will become an issue in the forthcoming national political campaign. None can measure yet how great or how small a part this issue will have in the electioneering on the hustings, but I am afraid everyone has to agree that the subject is going to figure in the campaign.

If proof were needed of the statement above, one has only to look into the announcement that President Roosevelt has chosen the latter part of June for a trip to the Pacific coast and return. He said, in making the announcement of his plans, that he was going to talk generally on "conservation." A wag in the press conference that day asked: "conservation of what?" The answer was a hearty Roosevelt laugh.

The Roosevelt announcement quite naturally set political tongues wagging at a great rate. Whether it was so planned or not, the early part of Mr. Roosevelt's projected trip—and he says he is sure to make the trip unless the European war conditions or failure of congress to adjourn serve to prevent—will put him into the newspaper headlines just as the Republican national convention gets into full swing at Philadelphia. Of course, I would not accuse Mr. Roosevelt of trying to steal the show, but I do recall that he shared front-page space with a Republican convention once before.

The President's planned trip—which he says was carried over in the nature of a postponement from last year when international conditions were hot—includes a visit to, and dedication of, the Great Smoky Mountains National park in North Carolina and Tennessee; a dedication of the Natchez-to-Nashville highway and a visit to Natchez, Miss.; a visit to his son, Elliott, in Fort Worth, Texas; a visit to the San Francisco exposition, and then a dedication of the Olympic National park, in the state of Washington.

President May Visit Alaska

If Europe's Condition Permits
In addition, Mr. Roosevelt may go to Alaska. Whether he makes that trip depends entirely upon conditions in Europe, he has explained.

There was no mention of the plans for the trip back to the Capitol. The return journey, however, obviously will take the President through the Middle West. It is in those areas that his conservation and trade agreement program have had the hardest sledding. The farm vote in those sections is admittedly in a position where it can upset or reestablish New Deal control in the forthcoming elections. Since there is no politics in the trip—only conservation and a vacation for the President—it must not be assumed that the President has an eye squinted to see what the situation is.

To get back to the foreign policy question, however, it ought to be recalled that Mr. Roosevelt has asserted, time after time, that the United States is going to stay out of the wars in Europe and Asia by "policies short of war." What those policies are have not been put out in too much detail, and there are people who want to know more about them.

It is never to be forgotten that the American people are easy to arouse. Their sympathies are quick. There certainly has been an earnest, unqualified demand, that the United States stay out—that the war is Europe's war and must be kept out there.

On the other hand, there are a substantial number of people who think that Europe's war is America's war. They believe that if Hitler wins this war, the Western hemisphere will be the next on his list. I think that school of thought is wrong, but anyway that is the nature of some of the talk.

'Policies Short of War' Should Be Defined

It appears unthinkable that Mr. Roosevelt, or any other person, would dare to propose measures that would take the United States into the confagration. But these "policies short of war" may be only steps—not deliberate steps, but mistaken steps. There are differing opinions all ready on what has been done. Thus, it seems fairly clear

Speaking of Sports

Fistiana Loses Most Colorful Of Promoters

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THE most strident voice of boxing was stifled recently just as it was warming up to one of its greatest efforts in behalf of the Tony Galento-Max Baer fight.

The voice belonged to Joe Jacobs, fight impresario who talked Max Schmeling into the world's heavyweight championship and himself into a colorful, important position in the boxing game.

The extremely voluble little manager, a well-known figure among Broadway sporting circles, died at the age of 44, victim of a heart attack.

Jacobs inaugurated his ring career at a tender age. The son of a tailor, he came from tough Hell's Kitchen on New York's West Side. He wanted to be a fighter, but soon learned the futility of absorbing punishment when one might just as well get paid for shouting advice. In fact, it was said he actually had fighters on his pay roll before he got out of high school.

'Yusell the Muscle'

Known as "Yusell the Muscle," Jacobs collected first by himself, then served as Tex Rickard's right-hand man. During the years, he turned up as guardian of such fighters as Andre Routsis, featherweight champion; Frankie Genaro, flyweight champion; Johnny Dundee, featherweight king; Mike McTigue, light heavyweight titleholder, and a host of others.

Though his fighters brought him both cash and glory, Jacobs' chief claim to fame was his unequalled ability to think fast and play all the angles. In a racket full of conniving geniuses, Jacobs more than held his own. He was a sharper than most sharpers.

The most fantastic single phase of his career was in shouting Schmeling into the heavyweight champion-



JOHN D. HAMILTON — The bombastic colonel 'happened to miss him.'

ship. In June, 1936, Jacobs reached the zenith of his career. Schmeling and Jack Sharkey were meeting to decide the championship vacated by Gene Tunney. First "Yusell the Muscle" set up a pre-fight cry about the nine times Sharkey had won by fouls or had claimed fouls.

The Schmeling 'Victory'

In the first three rounds of the fight Sharkey seemed to have the situation well in hand. But in the fourth round Sharkey cut loose with one blow, quickly followed by an uppercut. The German went down, holding his groin.

Referee Jim Crowley was getting ready to count when Jacobs, with the inevitable cigar in his mouth, crawled through the ropes and screamed: "Stay down! Foul! You was fouled!"

Schmeling obeyed his master's voice, and thus became the first heavyweight to win the title while resting on his back.

Perhaps his most masterful job was done with Tony Galento, the Orange, N. J., saloonkeeper. Jacobs prodded Galento, a roly-poly, catch-as-catch-can brawler, into the status of a national rowdy and heavyweight threat.

Galento was one of Jacobs' favorites. The boisterous, swaggering barkeep was a natural for "Yusell the Muscle's" ballyhoo talents. Tony was considered a washed-up fourth rater, but under Jacobs' guiding hand he fought his way into a title bout with Joe Louis. Galento lost the fight but startled the boxing world with his showing.

Because of his manager's death, the blubbery Galento insisted on postponing his fight with Baer from May 31 to July 2. Without his manager he was lost.

GENERAL JOHNSON Says:

THE WAR AS ELECTION ISSUE

Washington, D. C. The rapidly crystallizing policy of this administration to defend America by mixing aggressively in European and Asian power politics, with whatever consequence that may carry, is sure to be an issue this year.

As in 1916, the sentiment against that, west of the Alleghenies, is overwhelming. In 1917, we were at war and, before the end of that year, with complete and even enthusiastic support of the country. Yet immediately after the declaration of war, there was no such sentiment except on the Eastern seaboard.

I know, because I had undertaken the organization of the selective draft in every American community.

Most of the gray hairs I had until recently, I got in the first annual 30 days of that effort.

Was the ambitious experiment going to flop? In most states, except the East, there was only aloof and skeptical if not sullen acceptance.

By the persuasive power of the eloquence and idealism of Woodrow Wilson, by some arts we used of blatant ballyhoo and hollow national high-pressure selling, that was changed in a few weeks to a war psychosis which approached hysteria.

Woodrow Wilson could do that because he prepared the seed bed by months of patient and long-suffering restraint and, of far more importance, because we were actually in, and not merely flirting with, a bloody war and a sickly season.

Can Franklin Roosevelt do that—which is to be elected, he must do, or sincerely change the whole course of his foreign policy? Can he do it when we are not engaged in war, and when no such seed bed is ready?

He has another handicap which Mr. Wilson had not. This country had then never tried a mass adventure in the double-crossing war diplomacy of Europe.

We tried in 1917 and 1918 and we know it to have been the most disastrous gamble this nation ever made.

Apart from the handicap of our dolorous experience, is the simple military question of whether we should scatter our strength over vast areas of this globe, or whether, the obvious course is to retain our interior lines, our concentrated strength, the advantages of our natural barriers and our unquestioned unity.

It is a reversal of every American traditional (if not constitutional) political principle and of every military and naval axiom. Coupled with the reversal of the third term tradition, it will certainly be a massive handicap. It cannot be brushed or even minimized.

Only the persuasive skill of Mr. Roosevelt, his literary ghosts, and the greater pulling power of four billion dollars, coupled with possible Republican campaign blundering could overcome it.

Yet, so great is the power of good or ill of all these elements, that I for one, am not yet ready to say it can't be done. . . .

OMINOUS WAR MOVE

How can the British abandon the Mediterranean? That would be to abandon France, whose lifelines and link with her African colonies is it. It would be to abandon the great Anglo-French near-eastern army, which is rapidly being assembled as a threat to the totalitarian left flank. That army couldn't be maintained and supplied by the long route around Africa. It might possibly be fed by supplies coming through the Red sea but not supported by munitions and equipment.

To abandon the Mediterranean to Italy would also be to abandon Turkey and leave the mess in south-eastern Europe in Hitler's hands, to the extent that he could divide up the spoils by some kind of trade between the supposed enemies, Mussolini and Stalin. Such a pairing of strange bedfellows would be stronger than the coupling of supposed enemies, Hitler and Stalin, to ravage and divide Poland.

Such results are impossible for England and certainly for France to contemplate. Therefore it seems pretty clear that England is not leaving the Mediterranean with anything except her ordinary commercial traffic usually routed through the Suez canal. She is just getting her rich argosies promptly out of an area of danger from a sudden possible clash of aerial and maritime navies in those waters.

It seems to me that the critical element in this war just now is not what happened in Norway, as what may happen in the Mediterranean.

NAMES

... in the news

¶ In France, Joan of Arc's name was in the news as soldiers and civilians joined in paying tribute to that nation's legendary heroine on the national holiday in her honor.

¶ In Russia, of course, it was none other than Josef Stalin who had his name in the news as it was announced that Soviet union citizens read more of his literary works than the writings of any other author. Probably it was "planned that way."

¶ One year ago the submarine Squallus was a name in the news when she plunged to bottom of the sea carrying 28 men to death. Now the vessel gets another headline as she is being recommissioned. New name—the Salifish.