

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1940

No. 17

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Farnham F. Dudgeon

Allies Stage Big Counter-Attack In Attempt to Check Nazi Drive; Senate Passes Huge Army Bill

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



Because they fear invasion of Great Britain by the advancing German forces, English officials are taking concrete steps to defend their homeland. In the above picture, beyond-war-age veterans of the last World war are shown receiving equipment and arms to be used against parachute troops that might be dropped from the sky. While the younger men are fighting beside the French on the continent these older men are guarding vulnerable spots throughout England.

THE WAR: Revised Edition

On the fields of northern France and Belgium the story of 1914-18 continued to unfold itself in new, grim and bloody chapters.

This time the forces of Adolf Hitler were playing the leading German role as they made their bid for Paris, capital of France and for ports on the English channel, gateway to Britain. For a time as these forces battled their way through The Netherlands, across Belgium, into France, it looked that there would be no stopping them until they decided to write the final chapter themselves. Even the dispatches from the allied war camps told of the constant advances made by the invading legions.

Jittery, harassed and worried, the British-French war council switched control of the army to Gen. Maxime Weygand, former commander of the French army in the Near East. Veteran of the World War, General Weygand swung into action with a dramatic dash across German lines, a return trip to Paris and the issuance of an order to launch an immediate counter-attack. Directing this new move—the first major attack of the allies—with all the vigor for which he is famous and all the respect, he was successful in stalling the German machine, for a short time at least.

Two important key points near the channel, Arras and Abbeville, were reportedly retaken from the Nazis. Soon word came through, however, that the Germans were pounding at the gates of Calais—which is only 26 miles across the Strait of Dover from England.

This fight for the channel ports may well be the most decisive battle of the current conflict. For as long as the English and French control the channel they are really "united." Should these ports fall into Nazi hands, however, Hitler would be in an excellent position to launch his threatened air and land attack on Britain—at home.

Waiting Evidence that England was worried and preparing for such an at-

HEADLINERS ... in the news

Shadows of Frederick the Great fall from the person of Adolf Hitler in the opinion of his henchman, Field Marshal Goering. In Berlin on a short visit from the fighting front, he compared Hitler to Frederick and pictured him as a master military strategist.

From Boston came word that Senator Bridges (Rep., N. H.) had declared that city to be overrun with Nazi bundsmen and he called upon President Roosevelt to clean up this "fifth column" before proceeding with the national defense program.

And another senator, this one from Massachusetts itself—Senator Lodge (Republican) came a suggestion that the United States regular army be increased to a standing force of 750,000 men. He figures the present goal of 380,000 men will be reached by fall.

'Fifth Column'

... what it means
"Outside the gates of Madrid four columns of our troops are engaged. But within there is a fifth column, which, at the proper time, will arise and overthrow the defenders."

Since the day that the Spanish rebel general Quiepo de Llano, made that now famous remark regarding the "fifth column" the term has been used to refer to all those residents (citizens or aliens) of a nation at war or faced with the possibility of war at some future date, who act or speak in a fashion that may in some way aid the enemy or possible enemy.

Such aid to the "enemy" may come in many different ways. It may mean sabotage or disclosing military secrets. Most striking examples of "fifth column" activity usually come however, as the troops of the enemy are marching into the home country. The "fifth column" is already there and has placed itself in key positions to aid the advancing troops.

Thus far, it is claimed, the German forces have successfully used these tactics in Denmark, Norway, Holland and Belgium. "Fifth columnists" may or may not be citizens of the country in which they reside. They filter into the nation in times of peace as students, tourists, workmen, refugees or any guise which is not apt to be alarming.

AGRICULTURE: No Acreage Cut

Further reduction in the acreage of major U. S. farm crops has been decided against, according to Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.

After discussing the current farm surplus situation with President Roosevelt the secretary announced that the impact of the European war was making a profound effect upon American agriculture. He said that because of the war future emphasis should be upon increasing domestic consumption and storage of crops against future needs.

Exports of U. S. farm products have been sharply curtailed because of the German invasion of Norway, Denmark, Belgium and The Netherlands, as these markets have been cut off. Then, too, the allies have diverted much of their agricultural buying to their own colonies.

POLITICS: Home Stretch

Republicans have picked virtually all of their 1,000 delegates to the national convention and yet no candidate has enough publicly instructed votes to assure first-ballot nomination for the presidency race. On the other side of the political fence, with only about three-fourths of the delegates chosen the Democratic party is apparently going to give President Roosevelt another chance—IF he wants it. With the war situation being what it is inside New Dealers feel certain that the President will choose to run.

Talk of postponing the Republican convention, scheduled for June 24 in Philadelphia, was spiced by at least one G. O. P. leader, Alf M. Landon. He told newsmen in Topeka, before he left to keep a luncheon date with President Roosevelt in Washington, that he was "opposed to any suggestion . . . to postpone . . . the convention" . . . or have the Republican party . . . "lend itself to any intangible coalition which would tend to decrease party responsibility." His latter remark referred to a suggestion emanating from some quarters that the formality of a presidential election be abolished and a "coalition" government be formed to meet any threat of American invasion or any other foreign danger.

Like Mr. Landon, political leaders in both major parties are generally opposed to any such suggestion, the thought being that the ideals of free government can best be served even in times of "crisis" by proceeding along regular democratic channels in governmental business.

MISCELLANEOUS:

¶ In California, the Imperial valley suffered a series of fairly severe earth shocks. At least eight persons were killed and supplies of water were cut off in six cities. Estimates of property loss ran to about \$3,000,000.

¶ Possibility of a shortage of steel supplies in the United States was reported by the magazine Iron Age. Pointing out that the war-generated demand was causing reserve supplies to decline rapidly, it was said the pinch would be felt in midsummer.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Washington Stirs With War Talk As Defense Plan Takes Shape

President Roosevelt Asks Congress for Billion Dollar Military Appropriation in Addition to Regular Annual Grants for Army and Navy.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
WNU Service, National Press Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—I shall try, in this article, to provide you with a picture of your national capital during the last few weeks. It is a situation, a condition that, in general, gives rise to very little pride. But the facts must be faced, for in this capital city, things have happened that can best be described as the screaming and play-panic of children playing cops and robbers. Only, of course, the screams were screams of men and women in places of official responsibility and the panicky outbursts and orders were the excited and unbalanced procedure of leaders in public and private life.

In the midst of this period which I am attempting to describe came President Roosevelt's voice, heard over the din of the others because the President and his office are respected. He drove to the Capitol building and there, before a joint assembly of senate and house, he asked for new national defense measures, and he asked for \$1,196,-

blared forth in loud tones the learned wisdom of a statesman. It shouted to the world that the United States of America must do everything it can to help the allies. Yes, we must supply money! And so, Senator Austin argued for repeal of that so-called Johnson Act.

Now, it may be remembered that Senator "Hi" Johnson of California fought and fought until he was able to convince congress that none of the foreign nations who had not paid their debts should be allowed to borrow any more money in the United States. The California senator is one of seven men now in the senate who were there during the first World war, and he is still going strong.

No Payment on War Debts Has Been Made Recently

The law that he forced through congress, almost single handed, was a good law when it was passed. It is a better law today, considering that those nations which we helped by men and billions of dollars are involved again in a war to save democracy. And, incidentally, they have paid nothing on their debts in the last 10 or 12 years, so that they still owe around \$13,500,000,000.

Lights have been burning late in the war and navy offices. Mr. Roosevelt worked one night until two o'clock in the morning. That was while he was preparing his defense speech. Even the gambling spirit is around. One can get bets in the capital city that we will be mixed up in Europe's war, and the dates that are offered range anywhere from a few weeks to next winter.

And the politicians! Yes, they are busy about the thing, also. The "inner circle" and the third tier advocates are smiling with that self-satisfied appearance that goes with a knowledge that they have gained ground. Privately, many of them will say that the nearness of the war makes certain that Mr. Roosevelt will be elected for a third term. They are sure the country will not dare to change horses in the middle of the stream, not even if France and England did change their principal leaders. Mr. Roosevelt will have to remain on the job because his two terms give him a great advantage in dealing with these foreign problems, they are saying.

'He Kept Us Out of War' Is Now Being Revised

And dear Mr. Secretary Wallace of the department of agriculture. He couldn't get in on the excitement any other way, apparently. So, in his keynote speech to the Iowa Democratic state convention, he announced that Mr. Roosevelt had kept this nation out of war. That was his tribute, but immediately there were a good many persons able to recall a similar slogan from back about 1916 when it was used with great effectiveness.

All through these days that I have sought to describe was a steady stream of bad news from Europe—bad news for all of us who want to see the allies (or anybody else who can do it) knock Hitler and his gang into smithereens. The United States is pro-ally. Of that there is no doubt. The Hitler drives into Holland and Belgium have made it certain that few supporters of Hitler dare assert themselves in this country. But I have a hunch that allied censorship has been opened somewhat in order that we, here in the United States, can get the full impact of the slaughter, rape and arson being committed by the German legions. I say it is just a hunch. You see, it might be possible after all that the allies would like to have us in the war on their side to pay their bills and have our soldiers killed, again.

President's Request Added To Regular Appropriations

The vast sum for which the President asked is in addition to about \$3,278,000,000 in appropriations that were requested for the military services in the regular annual appropriation bills for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 1940. He assured congress there was no overlapping of items. This was all new stuff; it represented the best thought of what ought to be done to meet the challenge of Hitler's legions.

As Hitler's legions overran Holland and Belgium, the war fever of Washington hit a new high. It had started up when the German dictator went into Norway. Naturally, the temperature increased when the awful forces of the Hitler machine were turned loose in the Low Countries. Mr. Roosevelt's speech to congress, well advertised in advance to a nation of people that was waiting for decisions from Washington, turned on all of the valves of excitement as a street cleaner floods a street from a fire hydrant. Only the fire hydrant gives off cool water in which children like to play.

But before the President's speech, there were such sour songs as that sung by Senator Austin of Vermont, assistant Republican leader in the senate. Mr. Austin rose gravely in his place in the senate and there



GENERAL JOHNSON Says:

BIG JOB FOR INDUSTRY

Washington, D. C.

The President's speech on armaments was excellent oratory and a great show. The stage-management was intended to impress Mussolini.

Congress should act promptly, but the business of bum's rushing a billion dollar bill through without looking at it is the same old stuff—especially since it gives the President a couple of hundred million lump sum and sight unseen.

There is no need for any such haste as that. The money can't be gotten into action in the rush that it can be appropriated.

It is doubtful if the navy money can begin to be spent within the year of its appropriation.

This situation could be remedied, but not with the present system. The President gave no indication of any change in his present attempt to combine in himself the powers and duties of secretary of state, war and navy.

Indeed, the requests for personalized appropriations indicates he intends to carry it still further. He is fitted neither by training nor ex-

perience to do this present job and he has far too much to do already.

If we have not enough plant and shipbuilding capacity, the job is to go out and create them.

That is purely an industrial job and nobody in the administration is equipped to undertake it. If we have not enough machine tool equipment, the task is to set up a system of priorities—right now.

If we fear any shortages of tin or rubber, we ought to begin now conserving them for defense. A large percentage of our normal use of both comes from reclamation. We should begin restrictions on the unnecessary use of both and stop at once the wastage of tin and rubber scrap.

All these suggestions are merely by way of example. There are scores of other ways to get this job done quickly and far more economically than it has been done or than there is any prospect of doing it.

If our whole problem is, at this stage, industry—now just as much an arm of national defense as the army or the navy, it is a job of industrial strategists and tacticians, just as much as the army needs generals and the navy needs admirals.

They do not exist in government. I would as quickly consent to entrusting it to a soldier, sailor or politician, as I would let one of them cut off my leg, or ask an industrialist either to do that amputation or to run the army.

We can get the job done, but not merely by appropriating money—no matter how much noise we make about it and not with the present men and organization without expert industrial advice and direction.

WAR AND INDUSTRY

What is the matter with the stock market? Was it Josh Billings who first said: "Congress is a ass." Superficially it would seem that no group of more or less independent individuals can be "a ass," but there is such a thing as a mob mass mind—especially in panicky times. When it appears and begins to work it is a frightful knock on the average run-of-mill donkey to compare mob intelligence to that of an ass. It is far below that.

This country's safety just at this stage depends not nearly so much on its army, its navy, or its air force as it does on its industries. They are going to have to go to work overtime not only to supply our defensive needs but to take up the burdens of formerly competing nations, now cut off by war in supplying the needs of the world. Happily or otherwise, it will create a boom.

Speaking of Sports

Texas Golfers Plan Invasion Of U. S. Open

By ROBERT McSHANE

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

FOUR long years have gone by since any golfer outside the state of Texas walked off with championship honors in the National Open tournament.

Top-flight club welders from every section of the nation are devising ways and means of ending the Lone Star state's monopoly of golf-dom's shining crown.

It's going to be a tough battle for them. When the Texas squad is drawn up in early June battle formation on the Canterbury course in Cleveland, Ohio, it will include such formidable foes as Jimmy Demaret, the man with the quick smile; Ben Hogan, the mighty atom of golf; Byron Nelson, the defending Open titleholder; Ralph Guldahl, '37 and '38 titleholder; and Dick Metz, Tex- as born and bred in golfing ways.

The Competition

There are plenty of fine golfers from the outside who have a good chance for the title, including Sammy Snead, Henry Picard, Craig Wood, Gene Sarazen, Harry Cooper, Olin Dutra, Gene Sarazen, Layson Little, Paul Runyan, Denny Shute and half a hundred others.

But the Texas Rangers still get the nod. Opposition can't forget that Demaret won seven major tournaments during the winter and spring, not including pro-amateur



Next? —Kirby in N. Y. Post.



RALPH GULDAHL

wins at Palm Beach and Miami Beach. Critics hail him as the most relaxed star golfer since the days of Walter Hagen's prime.

Ralph Guldahl is just coming back into his own. Twice champion of the U. S. Open, Guldahl saw a hard winter. His game suddenly blew up. He lost his putting touch, and his left arm went bad. But he's always a dangerous golfer, particularly over a course he likes. And this may be the year he'll win his third title. Despite his blowup, Guldahl is a cool, almost icy, golfer.

'The Mighty Atom'

Little Ben Hogan, a 125-pound chunk of dynamite, is one of the longest hitters golf has ever known, regularly getting 280 yards off the tee. While Demaret was moving at a breath-taking clip, Hogan was right on his trail. He led the winter and spring field with an average of 78.5 strokes per round through 16 medal play tournaments. He broke 78 in 11 tournaments, and at Pinehurst, Greensboro and Shelbyville, he led the field by the astonishing margin of 15 strokes. He played four major tournaments against billing competition, a total of 288 holes, 23 under par for one of the truly great records of golf.

Byron Nelson, present Open champion, is a determined, hard-fighting finisher. He is just the opposite of Demaret in that he can't relax. He takes his tournaments seriously, and is always keyed up to the tournament's end. Despite his tenseness, he doesn't discourage easily. In the last Open, Nelson started with a 73 that might well have been an 80 or worse. He saw more trouble in a single round than he usually does in a tournament.

Who's going to stop the Texas invasion? Well, it might be Slamin' Sammy Snead, the West Virginia hillbilly and mystery man of golf. Snead is a great golfer, but still must learn to keep his nerves under control. It could be Gene Sarazen, Jimmy Thomson, or Martin Pose, the Argentine champion. It could be any one of dozens of well-known players, or it could be someone comparatively unknown as a tournament threat.

But the native sons of Texas will give no quarter—and it won't be an upset if the Lone Star Rangers keep the crown another year.