

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1940

No. 29

WEEKLY NEWS REVIEW

By Farnham F. Dudgeon

1,000 Nazi Bombing Planes Launch 'History's Greatest Mass Air Raid'; Aliens in U. S. Start Registration; Aircraft 'Bottleneck' Slows Defense

(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



A French soldier and sailor are pictured here reading the poster written by General De Gaulle, head of the French military forces in England. It reads: "To all Frenchmen: France has lost a battle—but France has not lost the war."

THE WAR: 'Greatest in History'

From Wales to Scotland, German bombers attacked the island of Great Britain in what was being called the "greatest mass air attack in history." Always before as the Nazi planes attacked, their numbers could be reported in fives and tens but this time dispatches from both Berlin and London indicated that there were hundreds of planes in the air.

One official British source estimated that in a single day a Nazi air armada of more than 1,000 planes had rained bombs on all of England—from Scotland's border right through the midlands to Wales. Even London itself was bombed for the first time during the war as the German pilots dropped tons of high explosives up and down the river Thames, concentrating on a terrific attack upon famed Croydon airport, one of Europe's largest and best equipped landing fields.

As usual both Germany and England claimed that the enemy came out second best. England said that her famous fighter planes had driven off the Nazis in time to prevent "great damage." But Berlin, while not at first admitting that London had been bombed, did claim that "the entire Thames valley witnessed methodical, irresistible German air attacks which threaten all military establishments with destruction."

Southern Exposure

Mussolini has chosen to attempt the Italian version of a blitzkrieg in Africa. He sent 250,000 soldiers streaking across British Somaliland with control of the Suez canal and the British lifeline to India as stakes in the gamble.

The campaign will be hot in more ways than one. This is the time of the year when intense heat of more than 120 degrees grips Somaliland and the monsoon blows from mid-night to mid-afternoon. Clouds give little relief from the enervating sun and there is little rainfall. The British hold all the best oases, where men must drink or die.

ALIENS:

I (have, have not) . . .

Five million questionnaires in six key languages are being distributed to aliens living within the United States. All must answer 15 searching questions asked by the government before December 26. Before that time also all residents not native born or naturalized must be fingerprinted.

Most pertinent query reads: "Within the past five years I (have, have not) been affiliated with or active in (a member of, official of, a worker for) organizations devoted in whole or in part to influencing or

In the . . . HEADLINES

DISMISSAL—WPA Commissioner F. C. Harrington announced 429 work relievers who refused to sign affidavits that they were not members of the Nazi Bund or Communist party have been discharged.

CHRISTENING—For the new navy aircraft carrier, soon to be launched, President Roosevelt has selected Bon Homme Richard, name of the flagship of John Paul Jones, father of the United States navy.

NAMES

. . . in the news

George Bernard Shaw, British playwright and vegetarian, is laughing at meatless rations. "I cannot hope that we will become a nation of Bernard Shaws," he said "that would be too much to hope for."

Herbert Hoover is backing the movement to feed Belgium and France, if the English will lift the embargo.

Rear Admiral Robert L. Ghormley expects to have a reserved seat for the British invasion. On special orders of the President, he was sent to London as an observer, the highest ranking officer ever to hold this position in peacetime.

Mannel Quezon, president of the Philippines, was voted virtual dictator powers by the national assembly. He has control over wages, farming, industry, profits, transportation, rents and prices.

Lady Byng, widow of the one-time British field marshal, arrived in the United States as a refugee. Of the value of German bombing she said: "It was a bit wearying."

Fugitive



Patricia Wynn-Williams, little refugee from London—a fugitive from an aerial blitzkrieg—is pictured as she arrived in New York, en route for Chicago, where she and her sister will stay with friends until the war is over. She seemed a bit bashful as the cameraman pleads for a "big smile."

BUILDING PLANES:

Speed Up

U. S. arsenals and navy yards went on 24-hour schedule as contracts for arms, munitions and ships began to pour out of the office of the national defense commission. Many industrial plants, bidding on thousands of articles needed to equip and train an army, also were given orders amounting to billions of dollars.

Bottleneck

Production of vitally needed airplanes still is the headache of all concerned. William Knudsen, production chief of the NDC, said American factories now are prepared to turn out planes at the rate of 10,800 a year and by next January will have speeded up to the rate of 18,000 a year.

But immediately following this announcement came the depressing news from War Secretary Stimson that although congress had appropriated money for 4,000 fighting planes, contracts had been let for only 33 of them.

And national guardsmen on maneuvers at the Canadian border are without equipment. Trucks are used as make-believe heavy tanks, station wagons simulate light tanks, logs are passed off as cannon, and gas pipes have signs informing those to whom it may concern that "this is an anti-tank gun."

Stimson said businessmen wanted to know, before they undertook contracts, how they would be taxed, as well as assurance of tax credits for the cost of plant expansion. Stimson said a company which undertook building of new factories for defense orders was taking an abnormal risk because the plants might turn out useless in case of "a sudden cessation of the emergency."

On the QT

Inside dope is that some airplane companies are not waiting for congress to make up its mind about taxes. Planes are being produced and put on the shelf. When congress passes the tax legislation, planes will be available at once.

Washington Digest

Congressional Expenditures Pass Twenty-One Billion Dollar Mark

This money could buy entire railway system of U. S. Or House one-fourth of families in nation, according to survey by A. F. I.

William Bruckart, for many years Washington correspondent whose letters appeared in this newspaper, died suddenly Sunday, August 4. Temporarily the Washington letter will be written by Carter Field and others.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

By G. F. WASHINGTON. — For the first time in American history one session of congress has authorized federal expenditures in excess of \$20,000,000,000.

The nation was astonished and indignant in 1913 when two sessions of congress appropriated \$1,000,000,000. It was our first "billion dollar congress."

In 1934, we had our first \$10,000,000,000 session.

Six years later, between January 3 and August 15, 1940, the third session of the Seventy-sixth congress authorized spending to the extent of \$21,439,678,000.

How much is \$21,000,000,000. It would buy outright the entire railroad system of the United States—every mile of track, every bridge, terminal and yard, every piece of rolling stock and locomotive equipment, every mile of telephone and telegraph equipment, plus every station and siding.

The official reports of the Interstate Commerce commission place the current value of American railroads at roughly \$20,000,000,000. The nation built up this railroad system over a period of 115 years.

It is difficult for the mind to grasp such spending. But we may reduce the authorizations of the present session to familiar terms. Let us assume that the whole amount authorized since January had been devoted to building houses at \$3,000 each. That would be a substantial house—better than the average American home today. Federal appropriations for these eight months would build 7,000,000 such houses, or one for every fourth family in the United States.

Translated into bushels of wheat at current market prices, the expenditures approved for the program since January this year tell a more impressive story.

Assuming a farm price of 70 cents a bushel and an average yield of 30 bushels per acre, we arrive at a gross production of \$21 per acre.

This means that it will take a billion acres of wheat to pay for the federal spending authorized in eight months—assuming the government took every ounce of the national farm production.

But, of course, we could not raise a billion acres of anything in a single year. The combined harvested area of all American farms and all crops is only 300,000,000 acres. This means it would take the full crop of three successive harvests, plus one-third of the fourth harvest, to pay the federal spending bill as approved in the year 1940 to date.

Stated another way, every American farm would have to produce its normal crop and turn everything over to the government for more than three years to pay for this first \$20,000,000,000 congress.

This would mean nothing left on the farms for feed, seed, or family food supplies. It would leave nothing for routine operating expenses.

Our federal government is the fastest growing "industry" in the United States.

Recent official figures show public employment in 1939 as 125.3 per cent of 1929—despite a small decrease in the combined state and local payrolls over the decade.

Only one major sector of American industry employed more persons last year, as compared with 1929—the electric utilities, with employment at 102.4 per cent.

But total factory employment for 1939 was but 80.4 per cent of 1929. Employment in retail trade was 75.6 per cent; and railroad employment, 64.7 per cent.

The U. S. civil service commission's July report shows a few more than 1,000,000 civil employees on the federal payroll—against 564,487 on March 4, 1933.

American industry in 1939 paid taxes aggregating \$611 for every person on the payroll. This is the figure reported by the American Federation of Investors, on the basis of detailed reports from 183 leading corporations.

All taxes were 54 per cent of combined net before taxes. Seven corporations earned a profit but landed in the red after paying taxes.

Taxes were \$3.05 per common share outstanding, against dividends of \$1.62 per common share paid for the year.

These corporations maintained average employment of 3,376,255 persons.

Conclusion of the study: "Ever-mounting tax burdens are not only a handicap to the national welfare, but also raise added problems for every manufacturer and business man. They directly affect every employee and stockholder. They increase the cost of doing business, and reduce or wipe out profits."

They Call It POLITICS

By CARTER FIELD

WASHINGTON. — Aid to Britain has slipped into second place, with our own preparedness now first. This is not because President Roosevelt wants it that way. The President believes that aid to Britain is the best possible policy for the United States—that every day Britain holds off the Nazis gives the U. S. that additional day to prepare, that every weakening of Germany under the British defensive blows will make the eventual task of the United States that much easier. Put a little stronger, he believes that when we give the British soldiers and sailors something to fight with, we save the lives of American boys later on.

There is a very strong following for this theory throughout the country, entirely distinct from the group which sentimentally favors Britain either as a country or as a form of government, in contrast with the dictatorship. Actually it is believed here that the Republican high command feels the same way, with the exception of the vice presidential nominee, Charles L. McNary.

Yet it is politics which has caused the President to turn cagy on new steps to aid Britain. He has to be SURE that he is not endangering his own re-election. Not because the high command of the Republicans would attack such an action, but because the isolationists are making such a determined effort to convince the public that Roosevelt is leading us down the path to war.

For instance, take the matter of these 50 destroyers. Ambassador Lord Lothian said in a radio interview a few weeks back that the greatest aid this country could give Britain IMMEDIATELY would be 50 of those World War destroyers. These are the destroyers which up until the present war broke out everyone thought would eventually be broken up for scrap. They had been packed in grease, with no thought of their ever being put in commission until last fall, when President Roosevelt ordered them put in shape for use. At that time there was much talk about the "neutrality patrol."

But later there came the torpedo-bomb episode. It developed that the United States had built some of these little ships with 18-inch torpedo tubes, the size used by the British. We have no 18-inch torpedoes; our navy does not like them, preferring the 21-inch type.

Congress discovered by accident that these torpedo boats were to be turned over to the British and there was a terrific outcry from the isolationists. They protested despite the obvious absurdity of our keeping a type of boat which fires a different size torpedo from the one we use when the British were eager to pay for them, and we could use that money to build the type we do want.

So eager is the President to aid the British that there is no doubt he would have forced the issue, and have forced the issue more recently on the 50 old destroyers, if he were not alarmed by the strength shown by Wendell Willkie in the polls. As it is, he is afraid of alienating the followers of the isolationists—just a few of them voting against him in November might decide whether or not there is to be four more years of the New Deal.

But he is working on public sentiment. The fact that Secretary of State Cordell Hull virtually summoned photographers to picture him congratulating Gen. John J. Pershing, after Pershing's radio appeal to let Britain have the destroyers, speaks volumes.



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

THE UNPREDICTABLE NEW YORK.—General Pershing said that no matter what else we do to mix up in the European war, we shall never send an expeditionary force to Europe. On all the military probabilities he is right, as he usually is on such questions. But the unerring certainty quality about strategic planning is its unerring uncertainty—its utter unpredictability.

Who would have dreamed in 1913, for example, that before November, 1918, we would have more than 2,000,000 American soldiers in France—a larger combat force than Great Britain ever had there? I'll tell you some who didn't dream it—the President of the United States and the general staffs of Germany, France, England, Austria, Italy, Belgium and the U. S. A.

When the first selective draft started I wrote a memorandum, in July, 1917, suggesting that it be for 1,000,000 men—not to take them before they were ready, but to classify and warn those who would have to go. It came back ink-spattered by an angry pen-point that had punctured the paper and spurted indignation. It was initialed "W. W." and said, in effect, that the American people would never stand for a draft of a million men, that our contribution was to be largely in money and supplies, that it was absurd to think of an offensive in any such terms—just as General Pershing says today.

That was perfectly understandable. The Allies were then saying that all they advised was a "token" American force of a few divisions to "show the flag" and boost French and British morale, that they needed our factories, our supplies, our money and the available shipping to keep business as usual much more than they would ever need our untrained levies. The enemy general staffs agreed. They did not count on Americans in mass until we actually began to send them, after the British debacle of March, 1918.

We in the selective draft organization never agreed. As the system started, it was not geared to get 100,000 men a month. In December, 1917, I revised the entire machine to examine and classify the whole 10,000,000 pool of man-power. A result was that when the pressure came in 1918 and the Allies began to scream for "men in their undershirts," it was enabled to step up the monthly taking from some 30,000 or 40,000 to 400,000 men a month—without a ripple. I shall always believe that this change did much to win the war.

Anyway, it burned in on my mind the fact that no man is smart enough to foresee the course of war once the fateful decision is made to engage in it. We do a lot of talking about "defensive" war and "defending" the Western hemisphere. No country at war can completely decide its own policy any more than Joe Louis could decide what he had to do against Max Schmeling in their first fight. The enemy has something to say about that. If we get into this shindy we may have to send men in the army to Europe, Africa or eastern Asia. We almost certainly will have to send men in the navy and marines to all those places. As has frequently been remarked in this space, in a knock-out fight you can't afford to "hit soft" and you can't enter any fight with one hand tied behind your back or one foot hobbled to a post.

Germany is fighting this war as England always fought her wars—to win. If we get into it, that is the way we must fight—with everything we have and anywhere on the surface of the globe where a powerful blow may bring victory. Let's make no mistake about that or be fooled into any action on the error that any war is a picnic or that either combatant can call his shots without regard to what the enemy may do.

PATRIOTIC UNDERSTANDING

I can't see much the matter with the President's avoidance of a direct endorsement of the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill in its present form. He has at least twice indicated his belief in the principles of selective service.

The cost of registration is utterly negligible. You simply use the existing local machinery for registration for elections. The service is voluntary and uncompensated. The only expense is for forms, stationery, postal and telegraph bills. That will have to be borne whatever the age limits, and the additional cost for registering men up to 64 would hardly equal that of governmental mimeographed political handouts for one day.



SPEAKING OF SPORTS By ROBERT McSHANE Released by Western Newspaper Union

Baseball and Conscription

WHAT will happen to competitive sports if conscription comes? Will football, baseball, boxing and all the rest be things of the past if the nation again calls upon its young men for compulsory military service?

These questions are bothering quite a few people just now. And well they might. It is taken for granted that every form of competitive sport, whether professional or amateur, is completely secondary to the call for national defense. It is just as certain that an athlete, trained to meet opposition and kept in fine physical condition, is the best equipped individual for military purposes.

It is very unlikely that any form of conscription will have much effect on this year's sports program. Baseball's regular season will be completed and the World series a thing of the past before the full force of any draft measure is felt. The same is likely to be true of football.

The effect of conscription on baseball is a much-discussed subject—largely because baseball, more than any other, is the great national pastime. Authorities hold that the age range of the proposed first draft class—21 to 31—will take in more than 80 per cent of baseball's hired hands. Of course, it is improbable—though not impossible—that all eligibles would be called at once.

Different Story for '41 Present plans call for training to begin October 1. It is unlikely, however, that the program will be so far advanced on that date. But a far different story is likely to be written in 1941. There will be many, many changes next year.

The average person's blood pressure would ascend several notches if any attempt was made to exempt ball players from the draft. No attempt will be made. Bob Feller will be just another soldier's name to the powers behind the draft. That is as it should be. Athletes, professional or simon-pure, claim no special privileges.

Baseball occupies an important place in the everyday scheme of things. More than 18,000,000 people paid to see the minor leagues play last season, and more than 15,000,000 paid to see the big league teams in action. All of which proves that the game is important to a lot of people. Millions of people who can't afford to join a golf club, sail a boat or engage in other recreational activities, find their amusement in the country's ball parks.

Regardless of one's personal feelings, it would be a difficult situation if conscription put an end to the amusement of so large a share of the population. And that by no means is meant to infer that ball players should be exempted from the proposed draft.

Training Period Suggested Rather, it leads up to a suggestion made by a New York sports writer—Joe Williams. His suggestion is that immediately after the season is ended every baseball eligible should be placed in an army camp and kept there until spring training starts.

Williams' suggestion—if adopted—would give the players five months of intensive military training. That, of course, would be less than the usual conscript receives, but the trained athlete has quite a few advantages with which to begin—both in physical and mental conditioning.

The public would likely look upon the plan with favor. Every ball player of military age would be ready to take his proper place in time of conflict. And in the meantime the nation's ball parks would provide an outlet for John Q. Public's inhibitions.

There is always the chance that the country's position will remain as it is. Then the ball player could be sent back to military camp at the end of the next season. But if any conflict occurred during that time, the next step would be obvious. The nation's parks would be closed and no one would object.

Sport Shorts

BABE PRATT, Alex Shibicky and Al Collins of the New York Rangers hockey team have enlisted with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. . . . Paul Christman, Missouri's football star, and Bill DeCorrevont, North-western's gridiron luminary, both spent part of the summer in a hospital—the former for a tonsillotomy and the latter for an appendectomy.