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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Nazis Widen Scope of Bombing Attacks On Vital Ports and Industrial Cities; Italian and British Naval Forces Clash; Weird Stories Told of Rumanian Purge

(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.)



BUCHAREST, RUMANIA—Shortly after this picture of King Michael and his mother was taken, the streets of this city ran red with blood. This is the last picture taken of the king and his mother before the outbreak of the Iron Guard blood purge of political enemies. Now Michael has fled into hiding and his mother is reported to be in Italy.



MEXICO CITY, MEXICO—Smiling a dazzling smile, General (Alfonso) Almazan, defeated candidate for the presidency of Mexico, is shown as he arrived at Mexico City airport and renounced all claims to the high office following U. S. recognition of Manuel Camacho, who was inaugurated at ceremonies attended by U. S. vice president elect, Henry Wallace.

RUMANIA:

Haywire?

Bringing to mind the French revolution, the downfall of Tsarism in Russia, and other rarities of human experience of similar ilk, Rumania went haywire following abdication of Carol and Anschluss with the Axis.

Guns barked in public squares of half a score of towns, including Bucharest, where the enemies of Iron Guards found themselves perforated and laid in row upon row of corpses in bloody streets.

In vain did Gen. Ion Antonescu order peace and quiet, death followed death; jails and other refuges were entered and victims dragged forth to the general slaughter.

The Germans, who had touched off the inner revolt to the Nazi way of life, were agast at their handiwork, fearing lest all value of their new acquisition would be swept away in an avalanche of anarchy.

King Mihai fled into hiding; his mother, Queen Helen, who had returned to Bucharest joyfully as soon as Carol and Mme. Lupescu decamped, hastened off to Italy and the comparative safety of exile there.

None could tell where Rumania was headed. Revolution immediately spread to the recently Sovietized Bessarabia, its dwellers crying out for "food, lower prices, fuel and medicines."

Weird stories emanated from the madness within Rumania, perhaps the oddest of all the story that 30 Iron Guards, the ones who slew the 84 "enemies" who were held responsible for the prior assassination of Codreanu, had immediately committed suicide after the slayings.

Another yarn told how during the slayings a loud-speaker blared forth the voice of Codreanu, words of a threat against his enemies made during a famous speech when he was at the zenith of his career.

BOMBS:

For Industry

After the British had been wondering what new line German bombing would take, the Germans made it instantly plain by starting a new type of attack on a long series of industrial centers of Britain with results the reports of which varied according to the source.

The test tube for these attacks was the relatively small town of Coventry, but this was followed with smashing bombings of Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Southampton and other cities of greater size.

In general the industrial heart of England lies in the Midlands, and on many nights the bomber waves passed up London entirely to smash away at towns in this territory.

German accounts of damage done are optimistic, the British call them "highly exaggerated," but apparently the Nazis didn't know and the British wouldn't tell how extensive the damage has been.

Berlin claimed and London admitted that Southampton was in flames after a bitter day and night attack by the Nazis. England's chief southern port town, Southampton, is 80 miles southwest of London. Once the main port of call for transatlantic liners it was the object of the constant pounding by the feared dive bombers. While German dispatches stated that the city was in

flames, London admitted that many fires had been started but that they were put under control within a short time.

Of interest to war observers, however, was the adoption by Germany of the tactic which has been earmarked by the R. A. F. since the commencement of the "all-out" air war.

From the first the R. A. F. has concentrated on objectives of two types, despite the widespread popular demand for bombings of Berlin. The R. A. F. planes have deluged the "invasion ports" with explosives, and also the industrial and munitions centers of Germany.

This attack also has been extended to industrial Italy, with devastating blows at Turin, Naples and Leghorn among other centers. Before the war, military observers predicted that of the three nations, Germany's industrial cities were best protected against air attack, England's next best and Italy's most vulnerable. All predicted, however, that if Germany held mastery of the air she conceivably could cripple British industry.

GREEKS:

History Makers

Generations to come will find in their history books the story of the defense of their nation by the Greek armies under General Metaxas, who continued their successes, though at somewhat slower pace as they proceeded many miles into the difficult Albanian terrain.

Study of military maps showed the dangers of the Italian position, but reports tended to show that although badly beaten and knocked back on their heels into Albanian territory, the Italians were still planning to make a fight of it.

Greeks were taking their victories calmly, General Metaxas giving the United States to understand that little Greece could not hope to "go it alone," but would need expanded American aid in addition to liberal help from British land forces and airplanes.

The Grecian armies were fighting a brilliant and vigorous campaign, with much of the drive that goes with repeated successes. Dramatic details were the fighting of the Macedonian women, who told how they gathered on a mountain plateau against orders of Greek commanders and started avalanches of heavy rocks down on Italians trapped in a ravine below them.

Another dramatic sidelight was provided by the Italian radio, which broadcast a bitter denunciation of the Greeks for use of the bayonet, calling it a "barbarous weapon."

Leslie Hore-Belisha, writing of the Greeks, said real test would be reached when Italians reached the coastal plain, where Fascist mechanized equipment would get a fairer test. Greeks were promising to make no stops in driving Italians into the Adriatic.

DIES:

Vs. Administration?

Martin Dies, foe of the fifth column, whenever and wherever he finds signs of it, ran into a snag when President Roosevelt handed him an admonitory telegram at his Orange, Texas, home. President warned Dies that his "White Paper" and "Red Paper" were premature and hampered work of the G-men.

New Senator



LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—Berkeley Bunker, above, appointed by Governor Carville to be United States senator from Nevada, to succeed the late Key Pittman. Bunker, 34, served two terms in the Nevada legislature and was speaker of the house, last year.

AMERICA:

A World Banker

The United States, digging deep into the taxpayers' pockets to finance preparedness for the national defense, now has become the world's banker, reverting to the American status of 1914-1918, when this nation put out \$24,000,000,000, not much of which ever returned.

Present requests for war credits came presently from Lord Lothian, representing Great Britain, which will want some sort of credit status in 1941; from Greece, which says its need for aid is immediate; and China, who has been needing more and more right along.

China was first to get hers, the U. S. okaying \$100,000,000 in credits of which one half is secured by Chinese "metals," to be delivered during the next two or three years. Part of this will be the priceless antimony the world supply of which is highly restricted. It will pass from China to U. S. via the Burma road, under the hall of Nipponese bombs.

China got her credits on the very day when, as Japanese and puppet state envoys were getting together to sign a treaty of "peace," guerrillas blew up a train—estimated dead and injured, 400.

Sumner Welles announced the United States had agreed to Grecian aid "in principle," and that exact details would be worked out, and munitions sent.

Britain's first maneuverings for credit, however, met with a storm in house and senate circles, strongest opponent being Hiram Johnson, author of the neutrality act. But from embassy circles and also across the water came the plea:

"Send us planes, lots of planes, and we'll blast Germany out of the skies."

The planes, paid for in cash and motors, are on the way.

TO SEA:

Goes the War

Naval activity, which has furnished some of the best stories of the war thus far, spruced up, with British, Italian and German naval units clashing on the high seas.

One observer said "battles appear to have been on a large scale if we ever find out what happened," recalling that they are still telling the story and publishing pictures of the Battle of Oran—way back early last summer.

Sketchy accounts show these facts:

British Mediterranean fleet met strong force of Italian vessels, headed by two battleships, off Sardinia. British ship firing started at "extreme range" (probably about 15 miles) as ships were "hull down" on the horizon. Italian cruisers fled for harbor under smoke screen.

British cruisers followed and met heavy fire from heavier-armed battleships, then veered away themselves for safety. They say that battleships also fled from the engagement, pursued by aircraft, which caught up with them and torpedoed at least two vessels, one of largest size.

British admit that Italian airplanes made three attacks on their fleet, admit that one cruiser was hit by a naval shell and eight killed, several wounded. Observers told how Ark Royal, aircraft carrier, vanished in spray from 30 bombs, which hit nearby, but came up firing and drove off planes.

Italian story checks with British in major details, but with opposite result.

British battle with German vessels took place in the channel, Germans claiming two naval vessels damaged and two merchant ships sunk, making it apparently a convoy engagement. British were mum on this meeting.

Washington Digest

America Faces Grave Choice Between Isolation, Intervention

Advocates of Both Policies Want to Protect United States; Economist Foreshadows New Tax Policies; Roosevelt Holds Press Conference.

By BAUKHAGE

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

The steel-engraving days have come to Washington; bare, black tree-limbs etched against the bright high-light of the clouds; the lagoon and the river beyond, a molten gray; the monument, the porticos of the White House, sharp white.

And the shape of things to come is being etched deeper into the consciousness of the capital, too.

America is starting down a strange road. Ahead is a fork. Shall we let the team choose or does the driver know?

One thing seems to be certain. The driver knows where he wants to go. So do the horses. Back home, back to the world of things we understand. The familiar gateway that takes us up the lane to the barn; the warm light in the dining room window, the friendly smoke curling up the chimney.

The world we know! You hear that phrase often these days. The job is to get back to it. There are two roads. One is the hard way, the way that leads so near war that the hardest hesitate. It means throwing all we have with Britain, banking on her victory, insisting on absolute defeat of the totalitarian powers.

The other is the easier way. A short cut to our own backyard. Close the gates. Bar the door, lock the windows, learn to live within ourselves if we can and let a new, mad world wag on outside.

Which is the President's way? There is no doubt that Mr. Roosevelt considers that his election meant that his foreign policy has been endorsed. He knows, of course, that even the people who endorsed it don't quite know what that policy is. But they do realize that it means aid to Britain short of war and they must sense that there is the risk that we may not be able to stop short of war.

Many Disagree

On Foreign Policy

Inside the government, as well as outside, there are those who do not agree with this policy. They believe that while we must do everything to build our own defenses, our effort should be to bring about some kind of peace between Britain and Hitler and let Europe settle its own problems, because, as H. G. Wells put it, if the war goes on, the destruction of property, of life, cities and institutions will be so great that our civilization itself will be destroyed.

But those who think they know the President's mind say that he feels that civilization as we know and want it can be saved only if Britain with the aid of the United States breaks the power of totalitarianism, liberates the occupied democracies and helps lead the world back along the known paths which we have traveled. That belief and the assumption that it is the policy of which the majority of Americans approved in the last election and to which all Americans will submit, is the backbone of the President's policy now taking concrete shape.

Another thing is certain: From now on you will hear far less from the New Dealers who are the mouthpieces of the so-called reform measures. Their voices will be drowned out by the voices of the men running the defense commission; the secretaries of war and the navy; of the military advisors and the diplomats.

The President has frequently said it was the administration's purpose to "hold the social gains" rather than to try to advance the ball. He is now demonstrating this. The "quarterback," as the President used to call himself, is now more interested in the "quarterdeck" and the factory.

That seems to be the picture which is slowly being etched into the background of Washington as the third term is about to begin.

Financial Experts

Exchange Views

A new figure has appeared recently in Washington who is conducting a highly interesting shadow show in which conflicting viewpoints within the administration and outside, play highly exciting roles.

The man is tall, quiet Milton Harrison, one-time familiar as a discreet lobbyist in congressional corridors, now editor and publisher of the Savings Bank Journal.

He is gifted with an impish sense of humor as well as a keenly ana-

lytical mind and has taken particular enjoyment in arranging a series of roundtables where experts can emphatically disagree.

The roundtable follows an excellent dinner at a Washington hotel and sometimes the meetings last well after midnight. The speakers are exceedingly free and frank in their speech. The press in general is not invited but certain special writers are. They can't quote the speakers except with consent and confirmation of text. The men chosen to take part are selected because of their sharply conflicting views. They include such figures as Rexford Tugwell, the first-term New Deal undersecretary of agriculture; Jerome Frank, now head of the Securities Exchange commission and also one of the early crusaders of NRA days and others like Robert Garner, president of the Guaranty Trust of New York, and conservative bankers and economists.

Mr. Harrison enjoys the hot arguments and whether or not the participants benefit from each other's views, many excellent points are brought out in such of the debate as is permitted to reach the public.

At a recent meeting of this group, to which I was invited, Mordecai Ezekiel, economic advisor to the secretary of agriculture, said:

"Industry faces these alternatives: It can continue to take very large profits whenever it gets into high activity. But, if so, it must be prepared for large government expenditures to provide buying power necessary to keep the economy going, or heavy taxes to redistribute the national income. Otherwise, industry can help labor unions and the government to work out some system by which a greater share of national production will go direct to wage earners or direct to consumers."

This statement gives a broad hint of administration tax policies.

There is a chance, many believe, that before the boom which is ahead has a chance to explode, some such a system will be worked out by co-operation of men picked from government, industry and labor—and if Mr. Ezekiel has his say, with agriculture having its voice as well.

This is only one of the many expressions of opinion which have been brought sharply to the attention of economists and others as a result of Mr. Harrison's parties.

Roosevelt Holds

Press Conference

At a recent White House press conference I thought the President looked very weary. Instead of the usual chit-chat with the first arrivals while the rest of the reporters are filing into the oval office in the executive wing of the White House, he sat silent, nervously playing with a paper.

I thought of the remark of a friend a few minutes earlier as we made our way up the winding drive under the dripping White House elms. It was a dour day, conducive to pessimism. He said:

"I wonder how much longer he will keep this up?"

He meant how much longer would the President continue holding these semi-weekly meetings with the press. I couldn't help recalling Woodrow Wilson. He introduced the idea of these meetings where any member of the press can ask the Chief Executive any question he wants to. And yet Mr. Wilson gladly seized upon the excuse of the war to abandon his press conferences.

As I stood looking at Mr. Roosevelt, his hair much grayer now, I could see the lines of care which the presidency burns into any active incumbent of that thankless post and I felt that he, too, might like to dodge these sessions.

But by the time the conference was over, I was ready to change my mind. I heard his tired voice acquire its old ring and I watched the glint in his eye when he had parried an embarrassing query, noted the deliberate assurance with which he told an apt parable to illustrate a point he wanted to drive home. Mr. Roosevelt may not love the newspapers but I doubt if he is ready to abandon this informal contact with their representatives, no matter how much an inconvenience it may be, or how difficult it is to get over his side of the story to men not only trained to analyze every word, but ready to see some hidden meaning in every look and every gesture as well.

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE

Released by Western Newspaper Union



ROBOT PLANE SCORES HITS
WASHINGTON.—No military secret is more closely guarded than a sensational new robot airplane now being tried out secretly by the navy in both Hawaii and Langley field, Va.

Navy experts have been working for more than 10 years to develop a reliable "pilotless" plane operated by radio control. Observers who have witnessed some of the latest tests, pronounce the device as near miraculous. A robot bomber takes off, discharges its bombs over a distant target, returns to base and lands without being touched by a human hand.

The distance of the target is calculated in advance, and when the robot reaches it a device automatically releases the bombs. Naturally the aiming is largely a matter of chance, but in the tests a number of direct hits were scored. The cruising radius of the robots is limited only by fuel supply and the radio frequency range.

While most effective at short distances, the robot can be used for long-range bombing in conjunction with piloted planes or by a so-called system of "relay control" that is, by radio stations along the line of flight.

So closely is the invention guarded that navy officers have been warned that any talk about it will be considered a violation of the Espionage act, and make them subject to court martial and dismissal.

DEFENSE 'INFLUENCE'

There was a hidden brickbat in that sharp warning issued by Assistant War Secretary Robert Patterson that no one has an "inside track" in the awarding of army defense contracts.

What the mild-mannered former U. S. Circuit court judge didn't say was that he is planning to insert a little clause in every army contract, requiring contractors to swear they paid no commissions or any other fees to obtain the order. Penalty for doing so is cancellation of the contract.

Under the law Patterson is legally responsible for the entire industrial mobilization program and passes on every large army contract. The boasts of certain lobbyists and high-pressure promoters that they can get army orders through "inside influence" are, therefore, a direct reflection on him. He doesn't like it one bit and has no intention of putting up with it.

Some of the "influence" operators have even told officials of cities they could deliver defense projects which had already been located elsewhere by the war department for strategic reasons.

DUTCH PRINCESS

Inside story of the expected White House visit of Crown Princess Juliana of the Netherlands is that she and Mrs. Roosevelt have kept up a correspondence ever since the princess arrived in Canada six months ago with her two baby daughters.

The visit to Washington might have come sooner, but the princess put it off because she didn't relish a round of extravagant entertainment. She wants to avoid being dined and wined while her own people, now under German domination, are living on rationed food.

The princess, with her two children, has been living in a rented house in Ottawa. Her husband, Prince Bernhard, is in London as aide-de-camp to Queen Wilhelmina, and her brother is reported to be in a German concentration camp.

In Ottawa, the princess has not entertained, has amused herself by walking and playing tennis. She will be a White House guest for two days, beginning December 18.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The man responsible for the light sentence given the eight divinity college students who refused to register for the draft was not the New York court, but Attorney General Robert Jackson.

The young men, who were students of Union Theological seminary, were about to receive a three-year sentence. But as a result of Jackson's intervention, they got a year and a day.

Jackson polled the judges in advance of the decision and found they were all in favor of a long, stiff sentence. Partly for humanitarian reasons, and partly because he didn't want the boys to become martyrs who would arouse wide popular objection to the law, Jackson instructed U. S. Attorney Cahill to ask for a short sentence.



ROGER PECKINPAUGH

ears. But Peck isn't interested in last year. He summed up the situation not long ago when he said:

A Fresh Start

"Last season never happened so far as I'm concerned. It's none of my business. I don't care who was involved and who, if anyone, was at fault. We'll start fresh in 1941. I will run the ball club to win games and I expect discipline. If the players want to play poker and the stakes aren't too high, that's all right with me. If they want to play golf, that's all right. They will have to get in early nights as usual. I don't see why I should have any trouble."

It is likely that the question of discipline won't arise to haunt him. But there are other factors of equal importance. Despite all of his troubles, Vitt brought the club home only one game out of first place. Any worse showing in 1941 is apt to give the wolves a chance to howl.

Peckinpaugh is faced with almost the same conditions today that resulted in his dismissal in the middle of the 1933 season. The major cause of his ouster, of course, was Cleveland's failure to win enough games. A contributing factor was the feeling of fans that he didn't show enough enthusiasm.

In direct contrast to Vitt, he is quiet and retiring. Vitt spent a great deal of time bawling umpires. In fact, it was one of his favorite forms of recreation. The bleachers loved it even though the players didn't.

The Beginning

Peck started his baseball career on the sandlots of Cleveland and caught on with the old Cleveland Naps in 1910. His boyhood idol was Larry Lajoie and he later played shortstop beside the great second baseman.

Since 1910 he has had only one job away from the diamond and that job kept him in close touch with the game. He had a promotional assignment with the American league which he relinquished to take command of the Indians.

Already the new manager has talked about trading for outfield power, and perhaps another pitcher. He can spend hours discussing the pitching ability of Bob Feller, who he rates as one of the game's truly great hurlers.

"I don't expect to work Bob more than any other pitcher," said Peck. "Of course, it's always a temptation in a close game to toss in a fellow like that as a ninth-inning relief man."

"I remember Clark Griffith had that temptation while he was managing Walter Johnson at Washington. Griff used to solve the problem by pitching Walter in the first game of a series and then sending him home so he couldn't weaken and use him in relief roles."