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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Reports of Hess Flight to England Fill News Columns and Radio Lanes; Convoys Plus Strikes Plus Priorities Equal Headaches in Defense Program

(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.)

BOMBHELL:

Human Variety

The Rudolf Hess incident was the dropping of a bombshell into the moors of Scotland which went up with a louder explosion than any of the tons of TNT that Hitler's aviators had yet sent across the channel.

Imaginations ran riot—the house of commons was in a dither—more than 20 basic theories were advanced to explain why Hess fled Germany in an airplane and dropped to earth in a parachute, and with the interweaving and variations of these, one had several thousand stories to choose from.

To list the British theories and those of neutrals would be futile because they were not only limited by the imaginations of their creators. To list the German explanations also would be futile because they obviously were the propagandistic outbursts of a government whose nose was temporarily out of joint.

Outside of this, all was speculation, all was guesswork, but the guessers, most of them being paid at so much a word, let themselves go and endless columns were printed.

Yet the story was not being "overplayed"—most thinking newspaper men being at a loss for earlier comparisons in journalistic history, which, one must recall, doesn't go far back when history is considered.

But outside of the type of story that history presented in the Middle Ages and during the days of Caesar and Hannibal, and Anthony and Cleopatra, and Cassius and Brutus, and Helen of Troy, Hess' flight was unique.

Most newspaper commentators were willing to call it the biggest story in centuries and let it go at that. They wagged their heads and said, "What if Cordell Hull were to fly to Germany, or what if it had been the other way over the channel and Anthony Eden had made the trip?"

This was enough to settle the point as to the magnitude of the news to their own satisfaction, anyway.

Basic explanation of the Hess incident, on the standpoint of logic,



RUDOLF HESS

'A louder explosion than bombs.'

brought personal considerations and personal safety to the fore. It was pointed out:

a. Hess had evidently wanted to escape Germany for some reason for he was practically under a detention sentence by Hitler's having grounded him.

b. If his reason for escape was sound, then to pick out a spot where he would be utterly safe from retribution, England was the one and only spot in the world.

c. If personal safety was his motive, then an inescapable parallel was that something must have been wrong with the unity of the Nazi party of which he was No. 3 fuhrer.

This was enough explanation for British serenity over the incident, also for German perturbation. It was significant that most German dispatches covered these three points.

Point No. 1 was covered when Hitler announced Hess was crazy and had been detained for his own safety. No. 2, that he should select England, Germans explained by saying that the nature of his insanity was that he believed that he, single-handed, could bring about peace. Point No. 3 was handled by a straight-out denial that anything was wrong with the Nazi party. Hess was a "good Nazi but crazy."

PRIORITIES:

And OPM

A new difficulty in the U. S. handling of defense work loomed when William S. Knudsen, motor official and head of OPM, seemed to take as a personal issue the question of taking priorities out of his hands and giving them to a special organization answerable only to the army and navy chiefs.

Knudsen was quoted as saying that he would quit if the plan went through.

Thus the question of priorities lifted its head as a vital defense issue, further complicating the picture.

Priorities were becoming a very real issue in business, also, many manufacturers finding that this one question might easily keep them from success or failure in carrying out contracts. The right to a priority of delivery of machine tools might alone answer an entire question of manufacture.

Knudsen took the attitude that if the work of production manage-



WILLIAM S. KNUDSEN

He forced an issue.

ment was his, that to remove from his hands a vital tool like the right to decide questions of priorities, would be to make his task impossible, and to rob him of his prime prerogative.

It seemed likely that unless this question was ironed out swiftly to the liking of the Danish-born production expert, the government might be looking for a new man.

STRIKES:

Up-Grade Again

The labor trouble tempo in the United States defense industry was on the upward curve again, with a \$30,000,000 order for Browning machine guns held up at the Colt factory at Hartford, Conn., and other old labor difficulties threatening to break out anew, including the coal strike.

Always rearing its head was the threatened General Motors strike, which would, if it occurred, affect millions of dollars in defense work and about 160,000 employees, and John L. Lewis said that if the coal contract with southern operators was not forthcoming soon, he would call the 400,000 coal miners out again.

This brought the strike news back onto the front pages with a bang, and Representative Thomas of New Jersey, a Republican, called for a roundup of Communists in labor groups, and to order them all arrested on treason charges. This was the most drastic step suggested thus far.

SHIPS:

Britain Bound

President Roosevelt assured the nation that the administration's objective of 2,000,000 tons of merchant shipping for Britain would be realized by mid-June.

This assurance carried with it the important promise that the bill permitting the President to take possession of foreign vessels idle in American ports was in the category of "sure things."

The senate and house engaged in a desultory effort to write into the bill amendments chief among which was the Tobey amendment forbidding the use of convoys.

The whole convoy issue, as indeed all other news of the war on this side of the water took a back seat during the news ascendancy of Rudolf Hess, but the issue was there, ready to rip itself out into the open at an appropriate moment, and to become the central point of a whole congressional debate on the President's general foreign policy.

Gold Star Mother



When American Gold Star Mothers conducted their annual ceremonies in Glendale, California, Mrs. Anna Barnbrock, 94, oldest of the group in the nation, participated in the ceremonies. Mrs. Barnbrock is pictured standing before the marble statue, "A Compassionate Mother," which was unveiled.

DRAFT:

Bars Lifted

Of extreme import was the decision of congress to lift all bans to the size of the army or to the question of selective service for any purpose for which it might be used in the national defense.

Also vital was the decision immediately to classify the 10,000,000 young men still unclassified in the first call, and to set up the second call for an early date, probably in July.

Two things were highly likely as a result—that the draft would be used to call men of a younger age than before, and that it would also be used to hunt out "missing links" among the skilled trades for use in defense industry.

The first eventually naturally would follow the report of army chiefs after a few months' experience with draftees that the younger men were far more adaptable than the older, and could take their training quicker and better.

The second resulted from the realization that many men in the uniform would be much more productive to defense in shipyards or munitions plants and that the classification lists, if turned over to defense production men might result in discovery of these facts before the uniform was donned.

The lifting of any ban on the size of the army tended to indicate that there was justification for the growing belief that the end of a calendar year would not very likely mean the end of a man's military service, under present conditions.

VICHY:

A New Role

More and more it was becoming apparent that newest German propaganda was to convince the world, especially the United States, of one fact—that the war was over and Germany was about to undertake the difficult task of reconstruction.

In effect the story to (as one German writer put it) "poor daddy Roosevelt" was this: "All British have been chased from the European continent except at Gibraltar.

"Thus Germany's prime objective has been achieved. We shall now try to cement these 300,000,000 people into one force, working for Germany.

"With this force we shall confront the United States and defeated Britain."

First move in the "war is now over game" was to lighten, somewhat, the armistice terms for France—and to ask deeper collaboration.

This, according to dispatches, Vichy accepted unanimously.

The German plan called for the return of some prisoners of war, the raising of the line between occupied and unoccupied France, and a list of demands on the French for co-operation which might never be made public.

Most observers believed that Germany, in order to get and hold the Mediterranean, would give almost any concession to beaten France to grab the French fleet, but this did not appear on the surface as a condition.

Why a Change?

What did change Vichy's role in the world? Up to that moment the world had pictured Vichy and unoccupied France as a saddened, hungry nation, bled white by the Nazis, and hoping against hope for the day when a British victory would return the country to peace, prosperity and freedom.

Washington Digest

U. S. Plans Broadcasts In German for Aliens

Prepare Campaign of 'Counter-Propaganda'; Russo-Japanese Neutrality Pact Cools U. S. 'Friendship.'

By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

WNU Service, 1343 H Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—You hear more and more talk in Washington these days about total defense with the accent on the total.

Another way to say it would be "all-out" since that is the popular phrase of the day borrowed from the English who usually borrow their slang from us. A better way to say what officials are now calling for is "everybody out." If there is to be a final test between this democracy and totalitarianism it will be "everybody out" with a vengeance.

Already the ramifications of the defense effort are reaching into all corners of national activity. While our factories are filling the air with bombers and fighters for England, the government is planning a little peaceful air-offensive of our own against Germany.

When you feel around on the dial of your radio set some day you may suddenly pick up a voice in German broadcasting from Washington.

Do not worry. That will not mean that the fifth columnists have arrived on the Potomac. The voice will be coming forth not in spite of, but because of, the department of justice. The words may be as persuasive as those of Propaganda Goebbels or as pleasing as those of the Poet Goethe but they will be boosting democracy.

If you can understand what the broadcaster is saying, you can learn some good things about your country and its customs that you may have forgotten even if the message is not meant for you. It is meant, as a matter of fact, for the German-speaking foreign-born of this country and the broadcast has been planned for two purposes.

The first is to remind these more recent arrivals on our shores who may have been listening to the short wave broadcasts from Berlin that there are a lot of good points about the country of their adoption which they may have overlooked. The second is to try to unite the newcomers and their offspring in an effort to use their influence, if they have any, to pass on some of these points to the people in the old country with whom they may still be in touch, directly or indirectly.

The idea has the support of Attorney General Jackson but he would carry it still further. He believes in fighting fire with fire and shooting counter-propaganda right at the Germans in Germany.

Of course, news reports from the United States are being beamed at Germany and France and other European countries, as well as South America right now. We know how difficult it is for the Germans and people in the occupied countries to listen to foreign broadcasts. It may mean a life sentence. But we have ample evidence that the American stations have listeners—a great many more than would be expected under the circumstances. The people in those countries are starved for the news. They know that the newspapers they get are simply rubber stamps from the censor's office. They know our news is authentic, unbiased, accurate.

But some people think that we ought to go much further in this battle of the ether than merely broadcasting news. They think that, in addition to the newscasts, there should be interesting feature broadcasts which would contain material planned to counteract the propaganda which the Germans are sending out to their own people and to others abroad.

There are those, of course, outside the government who are openly demanding that we go even further than this. They say that we should not limit our efforts to defeating German propaganda by a counter attack on the air waves, but that we must take over some of the Goebbels methods in foreign countries where his fifth-columnists are busy now—that we should match dollars against marks where they will do the most good, organize secret agents of our own, especially in South America.

Right now American business men in South America on their own initiative have bought time on the air for programs of news and other material concerning the United States.

What further steps the department

of justice, or whatever government agency might undertake the work, may do or may be doing now for that matter, is not officially revealed. But this we do know: the stations of the National Broadcasting company, Columbia, Westinghouse, General Electric and the privately owned station WRUL in Boston expect greatly to increase the number of newscasts they are sending out to foreign countries in foreign languages.

Soviet Diplomats

Hold an "At Home"

Many a Washington official who speaks of Russia's dictator with a curl of the lip has a secret admiration for the wily Comrade Stalin. Some call him the "Volga Goat-man"—because he gets so many diplomatic goats.

Recently it was the policy of the state department (following the British lead) to make up to the czar of the Soviets. Russia wanted machines and tools. We wanted Russia to growl at the Japanese. And so the anything-but-proletarian Sumner Welles, our undersecretary of state, was forced to let his chin down at least one hitch and converse pleasantly with the anything-but-aristocratic Tovarisch Oumanski, charge d'affaires of the Soviets.

Then came the sudden announcement of the Russo-Japanese neutrality pact. It broke upon the dignified diplomatic world with all the indignity of an over-age egg exploding on an immaculate shirt front.

About that time of the month there occurred an "at-home" at one of the Sixteenth street's most prominent residences (to quote the official guide book). This mansion, built originally by the widow of the Pullman palace car millions and later palace of the perfumed and be-moocled emissaries of the Romanoffs, is now the Soviet embassy.

The "at home" was a great success. The great and the near-great from belligerent and peaceful nations were there. In fact, it was quite a job keeping the Canadian diplomats out of one salon while swastika and hammer and sickle tete-a-tete over the tall tea-glasses.

Earlier that day the state department had minimized to inquiring reporters the importance of the Russo-Japanese pact. But diplomats, as you know, use words to conceal their thoughts. Their actions speak much louder than their official statements. At the Soviet "at home" state department officials were exceedingly conspicuous by their absence.

Germans Prepare

To Inoad England

Will the Nazis try to invade the British Isles?

Most experts say, yes.

The question is when? Recently some information has come to my ears which touches on this point. It comes from two sources which are sound and reliable. One is a story which was told to me by a French newspaper woman who is Hitler's Private Enemy Number One. She is Madame Genevieve Tabouis, and she escaped France ahead of the hungry Gestapo and is here in the United States.

She told me that the Germans had held a practice maneuver in France which consisted of pouring oil on a certain river. They then ignited the oil and hundreds of German soldiers, dressed in specially prepared fireproof clothing jumped in. The next day the river was full of corpses and the hospitals full of frightfully burned soldiers.

The experiment did not work. Spreading burning oil at invasion points is said to be one of the methods of defense the British are planning against invasion.

Now the second story comes from a man whom I cannot name but who has recently been in Germany. He says that the Germans have been working a long time on perfecting amphibian tanks—tanks which will actually float. He believes that there will be no invasion until these tanks are ready.

He also says that a psychological moment will be chosen. One when British morale is at a low point. For instance, if both the Suez and Gibraltar were captured the Germans might feel that this was the moment.

Drill Mountain For Elton Tube

24,100-Foot Tunnel in Utah Is Nearing Completion After Four Years.

TOOELE, UTAH.—Eighty men who have been driving through solid rock, thousands of tons of dirt and braving manmade waterfalls inside a mountain are approaching their long-sought goal after four years—completion of the 24,100-foot Elton tunnel through the Oquirrh mountains.

The tunnel, starting from Tooele on the western slope of the Oquirrh, was designed to provide drainage for mines at the upper end of Bingham canyon, site of fabulously rich deposits of copper and rare metals.

Water from the mines will flow through the tunnel to irrigate hundreds of acres of now-arid lands in desert-like Tooele valley. Through the tunnel will be hauled ore from the mines to smelters already operating here. The ore now is hauled over a tramway that crosses the summit of the mountains, named the Oquirrh because that is the Ute Indian word for "west hills." The mountains rim the western edge of the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

Drill 35 Feet in Day.

The average progress of the miners is about 35 feet a day. Last August a monthly record was established when the bore was advanced 1,042 feet in 31 days.

Hard rock and treacherously soft rock, in addition to floods of water, have presented the chief difficulties to the tunnel workers.

When hard rock was encountered, a drill carriage was brought to the face of the tunnel. Five drillers mounted the carriage, drilled the rock face in 35 places and loaded the holes with dynamite. The powder, exploded electrically, shattered tons of rock from the face and it was hauled out by "bull gangs."

Engineers put the average rock broken out with each round of blasts at 125 tons.

The soft dirt presented the danger of cave-ins and carpenters were kept busy, fashioning supports for the roof of the tunnel.

Excelsior as Blotter.

The water, trickling through the hill from snows that cover the mountains from November to June, came through at times in virtual torrents. Last December, a subterranean stream was struck that released a flow of 5,514 gallons a minute. Average flow is 4,300 gallons a minute.

Only through use of tons of excelsior—fashioned into huge blotters—and miles of steel rods that supported the excelsior was the water kept away from the working surface.

Four major faults—geological term for a strata of rock formed by earth slippage—have been encountered so far. Supt. A. W. Filion believed one more fault will be encountered before the tunnel is finished.

On February 18 of this year a fault was encountered that was so hard that crews required 30 days to fight their way through 28 feet of water and rock.

Man, 80, Given License

To Pilot an Airplane

WATKINS GLEN, N. Y.—There's quite a contrast between driving ox-carts and piloting an airplane, but 80-year-old A. I. Martin, Watkins Glen resident, has proved himself proficient at both.

Martin, who recently received his solo pilot's license after successfully passing his flying test, is believed to be the oldest man in the country to receive such a permit. Belying his four-score years, Martin obtained such high standards in his physical examination that he received a commercial pilot's rating.

The latest Schuyler county flier has been an ardent aviation student for the past two years. He is an active member of a nearby flying club where his sage advice has often proved of aid to the organization.

New Glass Proves Aid

To Army Photographers

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—A new kind of glass which is giving American military aviation improved aerial photography was announced by the Eastman Kodak company.

The glass is made without silica, and the result is glass which bends light more than has hitherto been possible.

Applied to a camera lens, the new "eye" will photograph a wider area and at the same time give a sharper picture over the entire area.

Substituting for silica are three elements: tungsten, tantalum, and lanthanum, a rare metallic substance. The new glass was perfected a year ago, and kept secret.

Tourist Travel for 1941 to Be Record

Florida Leads in Increases For Winter Season.

DETROIT.—Tourist travel, stimulated by defense spending and a record number of automobile sales, will be at least 10 per cent higher this year than last, according to a travel authority.

E. S. Matheson, travel manager of the Automobile Club of Michigan, and nationally known travel expert, said that motorists went to the open roads during the winter months in numbers 6 per cent greater than the 1939-40 winter.

"Most of the increase was accounted for in Florida where travel was 22 per cent over the same period a year ago," Matheson said.

The encampment and industrial defense areas of the South were scenes of heavy motor travel.

"Motor travel usually drops as employment figures near 100 per cent," the travel authority continued. "Motorists are too busy making money to take extended trips and they seek recreational facilities nearer home."

It was pointed out that automobile production and sales, nearly 500,000 units a month, was giving the motoring public new means of getting to the national highways.

Thomas P. Henry, president of the American Automobile association, reported that domestic touring would continue "at boom proportions" while there would be big increases in travel to Canada and Mexico.

Henry said several states were contemplating increases in their tourist advertising expenditures to compete for larger shares of motor vacation expenditures which in 1940 were "well over" \$5,000,000,000.

All travel records were smashed in 1940 "and there is every likelihood that this large volume will be matched if not exceeded in 1941," Henry said.

Louisiana Man Hews Out

Decoys With Knife, Ax

LOCKPORT, LA.—Clovis Vizier, the gray-mustached little "Cajun" from the John Guidry community, has his summer's work waiting for him and his supplies gathered in.

Vizier caters to the sportsmen who haunt this swampy section of South Louisiana during the duck season. He furnishes them their decoys, fashioned by his small hand axe and his old-fashioned whittling knife.

"At the end of one hunting season, I usually have enough decoys ordered to keep me busy until the following year," the bald little man said.

Vizier's friends and neighbors—fishermen mostly—know the type wood he needs for his decoys. Wherever they are, in the swamps or shrimping on the Gulf coast, they pick up pieces of wood they think he can use.

Preliminary work on the decoys is done with the hatchet. Then comes hours of tedious whittling—smoothing out the marks left by the axe and cutting out the sweeping lines for the wings. The body of the decoy is carved first. Then, at night, before the fire, he carves the bird's head, figuring out the smallest detail. When a decoy is sanded down—Vizier uses a steel file instead—the head and body are nailed together and then painted.

Bombs Increase Truancy

In Birmingham Schools

BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.—Almost 40 per cent of the school children of Birmingham are playing truant, and many boys of 13 and 14 are earning as much as \$8 a week in factories.

This work is mostly part-time. The rest of the time the boys roam the streets, and as a result there has been an increase in the number of cases in the juvenile court.

The trouble began when attendance was made voluntary because of inadequate air-raid shelters at the schools.

Now the children refuse to return to school, and ignore parents and school attendance officers alike.

Seven Bells Are Added

To Valley Forge Carillon

WASHINGTON.—Seven additional carillon bells are being dedicated at the Washington memorial at Valley Forge, Pa., by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The bells have been presented by the D. A. R. of Alabama, North Dakota, Arkansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oregon and Tennessee.

They will bring the total number of bells at the carillon to 37. When completed, the carillon will have one large national and 46 state bells.