THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVII — GRAHAM, U. C., THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1941 — No. 23

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

'Scorched Earth' and Guerrilla Fighting Is Soviet Answer to German Thrust; Revenue Bill for Defense Spending Provides Many Additional New Taxes

(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.)

This is the scene in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) federal court as 25 members of the huge spy ring were arraigned by the government. Called "one of the most active, extensive and vicious" spy rings in the nation's history, 26 men and 3 women were arrested throughout the country. Most of them were of German descent. They were charged with transmitting vital defense information to a foreign government. Three men in foreground are lawyers.

ORDEAL:
By Communiques

Following the first couple of weeks of the Russo-German war some wag of the airwaves referred to the conflict as an ordeal—for the public—by communiques.

In the absence of any possible direct war correspondence, that is exactly what it developed into, ever-lengthening communiques by both sides, so much at variance that the public could do little but guess.

As the German columns advanced Premier Josef Stalin urged upon his people a policy of "scorched earth" to be coupled with universal guerrilla warfare. He warned of the "grave danger" of the Nazi successes and acknowledged the forward movement of German troops. He asked his people to destroy everything that might be of value to Germany if it could not be saved behind the retreating Soviet columns.

Only at certain points did the reports of the two high commands coincide, and these were so exceptional that they were more to be honored by their absence than their presence.

Speaking of an important town on the southern front, the Germans said, "We captured Lwow," and the Russians said, "We left Lwow." And even in that point of coincidence there was a variance which left much to guesswork.

Yet from the very names of places it was possible to take a map and see a picture of the German plan emerging, though it was impossible by the same token to picture the Russian defense.

The picture was that of a giant clutching hand, with the wrist to the north and the fingers outstretched—though which way the joints of the fingers would flex themselves could not be foreseen.

Three fingers were stretching toward Moscow and Leningrad, and two were extending southward into the rich Ukraine. Two or three of these five shafts showed signs that they might form pincer movements, snipping off and surrounding bodies of Red troops here and there along the battlefront.

Already the Germans had claimed one such success east of Bialystok, stating that 100,000 Russian soldiers had participated in a mass surrender, and that everywhere the Russians were on the run.

The Red communiques stated that their lines were holding intact, and that at some points the Russians were fighting far behind the most outstretched German points, and that some of these actions might work out badly for the invaders.

Yet, military observers pointed out, such occurrences were of the very nature of the Nazi blitz technique, and that in France, in Greece and on other fronts, including the town of Tobruk in northern Africa, groups of defending troops often were left behind in the swift advance, later to be encircled.

The Greek army of the east was trapped in just such a way, and though it held out and fought for considerable time, it was forced to surrender in the end.

It was impossible, however, to see just what the Russians were accomplishing in their defense, for the "town name" reports showed continued German advances, and the capture en route of important points.

TAXES:
And Spending

The tax structure by which the congress intends to raise additional revenue to the tune of $3,500,000,000 during the coming fiscal year was practically complete.

In addition to the huge amount expected from the new income tax structure, the congress' tax-makers had agreed that business would have to yield about $1,360,000,000 more than the $3,000,000,000 it is now raising.

Excise taxes were to be increased by a 10 per cent tax on electric fans, cooking appliances and similar articles; a 10 per cent tax on rubber products not including footwear and auto tires or tubes, which are on other tax schedules; 10 per cent on electrical and metal signs; 10 per cent on washing machines for commercial laundries; one-sixth of a cent a bottle on soft drinks (4 cents a case); 10 per cent on retail furs; another 10 on toilet preparations; a "use" tax on vending machines that pay off in tokens; $5 for vending machines which dispense articles; 10 per cent on optical instruments other than eyeglasses; 10 per cent on office and store machines.

Thus the boil-down of the tax structure was this:

Excise taxes (like the above) $867,000,000.

Income levies including excess profits, $2,468,500,000.

Estate and gift taxes $113,700,000.

Giving a total of close to the $3,500,000,000 sought.

This enabled the public to get a generalized sort of picture of what is coming to the American way of life, at least from a tax standpoint during the next tax year.

SHOCK:
To British

Scarcely less shocking to the British than the arrival of Hess on Scottish soil was the news that Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell had been relieved of his command in Africa and the Middle East.

General Wavell had been Britain's Number One hero, the only man who had won for the British an important victory and one which challenged the imagination.

Wavell's men had driven through Cyrenaica and had taken it away from the Italians, capturing more than 100,000 prisoners on the way.

True, the Nazis had come across the Mediterranean and had taken all this territory away from him, including the trapping of a number of thousand of the Wavell troops.

It also was true that there had been a good deal of criticism of Wavell at this time. It also was being remembered that he had been given at least a part of the responsibility for the disaster in Greece and Crete.

Although the war ministry simply recounted that Wavell had been transferred to the high command in India and that his place had been taken by Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, a Scotsman, the general feeling in Britain was that it was a shocking demotion.

This notwithstanding the war ministry let out the rumor that perhaps Wavell was being given a more important task, the preparation of the defense of India should the Russian resistance collapse and find the Nazis blitzing in that direction.

Army Tour

No shot is too tough for the veteran billiard champion Willie Hoppe (right), who is setting up a difficult arrangement on the wing of a giant bomber when he and Welker Cochran visited a San Diego, Calif., plane plant. Hoppe is starting a tour of army camps soon as a part of the war department recreation program.

PLANES:
A Slowdown?

Observers on the economic and defense production fronts in this country seemed skeptical of the OPM outlook that "grand mass-production" of medium and heavy bombers would be under way early in 1942.

The OPM plan calls for the auto makers to build airplanes in a number of small sections, like wings, fuselages and tails, etc., and ship these sections to large assembly plants in Omaha, Kansas City and Fort Worth and Tulsa, where they will be put together in assembly-line fashion.

That was the motor industry's answer to large-scale production of bombers.

Now those who feel that this objective will not be reached until some time in 1943 point out how the aluminum shortage can possibly play hob with the best laid plans.

They say that when a plane weighs 10,000 pounds, it actually takes 13,600 pounds of ingot aluminum to do the job because of the weight loss through scraps.

These scraps cannot be melted down into airplane metal again because of the number of different alloys required.

The observers who feel that OPM is being too optimistic also point out that the scrap losses under the automotive plan of plane building are likely to be more than in regular plane factories, where the workers have more experience and will make fewer mistakes.

They also feel it is going to be a huge problem for the big plane manufacturers to operate in cities as far distant from each other as Baltimore and Omaha, for instance, and still maintain a cohesive and clever organization.

However, present plane production, gloomy as this outlook might be, took a step upward when North American Aviation got back to its scheduled 10 planes a day, and the 1,500 soldiers who had been stationed near the plant were sent away to more distant points.

The wage structure finally decided upon turned out to be 60 cents for beginners for the first three months and then 75 cents minimum after that point, and on up to $1.50 an hour for more skilled workers.

KNOX:
And His Speech

Secretary of Navy Knox, in his Boston address, stirred up an outbreak on congress which threatened to bring out an impeachment resolution and found administration supporters reportedly working under cover to prevent this outcome.

In the address the navy secretary hinted that "the time had come" for the navy actively to sweep the German menace from the seas, and spoke of the Russo-German war, occupying Nazi attention, as a "God-given opportunity" to insure the arrival of lease-lend aid to Britain.

Leading non-interventionists, headed by Senator Wheeler of Montana, leaped on this speech with all their power, declaring that the navy secretary was stepping beyond his powers and seeking to get President Roosevelt to order a "shooting war" between the navy and the German submarines and surface raiders.

The question, when immediately put to President Roosevelt brought from him a denial that he thought American participation was necessary at this time, and holding out continued hope that this country could remain out of the war.

Write History In Washington

Envoys of Warring Nations Confer Daily in State Department.

WASHINGTON. — A dingy, dim-lighted corridor in the state department is the crossroads where world historymakers meet.

Their footsteps echo across its black-and-white marble floor as they call on Secretary of State Cordell Hull or Undersecretary Sumner Welles. They are prime ministers, foreign ministers, defense ministers, as well as lesser diplomats. They all seek United States aid in a troubled world.

Across the polished desktops in the rooms off the corridor these men discuss state secrets, often in low tones. Their conversation may involve lend-lease aid for "nations resisting aggression," assistance for moving goods across perilous seas to a friendly nation, or loans to help a "good neighbor." Then, again, they may talk of military problems, American use of Far Eastern fleet bases, defense of the Western hemisphere, action against unfriendly espionage or propaganda.

Convoys Drop In.

Australian Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies dropped in as he wings his way from shattered London to his quiet homeland; Chinese Foreign Minister Quo Tai-Chi calls en route from bombed London to bombed Chungking; The Netherlands Foreign Minister Eelco Van Kleffens is on his way to inspect East Indies defenses; Canadian Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King discusses joint Candian-United States defense problems; Latin-American collaboration is taken up with Argentine Foreign Minister Ruiz-Guinazu, going home from his former diplomatic post at the Vatican.

Frank Aiken, Eire's defense minister, seeks guns and ammunition to "poke in the nose" any nation which touches his homeland. Diplomats from invaded governments file a protest, for history and "the record," against the aggressors.

Halifax Calls Often.

Most frequent visitor is Lord Halifax, Britain's ambassador and still a member of the war cabinet. He calls several times a week, stays an hour at a time. He freely gives reporters his impressions of the war in a soft-spoken voice. German correspondents avoid these meetings.

Halifax does not meet Gaston Henry-Haye, Vichy's ambassador. Nimble-witted attendants see to that. When minor members of the French and British embassy staff meet they are invisible to each other. Such is the power of protocol, or perhaps caution.

Germany's Charge d'Affaires Hans Thomsen avoids the risk of unpleasant contacts. He never comes in. When he protested the seizure of Axis ships he sent the note by messenger, at night. It was left at a guard's desk at the entrance door. Italy's diplomat left his protest quietly, without discussion, in an obscure office.

Army Typewriters Change Clicks to Girlish Tempo

LONDON, ONTARIO.—Almost exclusively an inner sanctum of the masculine sex in the past, the corridors and offices of military district headquarters will soon resound to the click of high heels and the dainty touch of feminine fingers on the typewriters.

Plans are being made to employ female stenographers and clerks in the offices of the Corps of Military Staff Clerks, hitherto a stronghold of uniformed soldiers. The young women are being employed on a civilian basis to succeed male clerks who have gone on active service.

This change of policy is said to be caused by a shortage of skilled male office employees. Women have been employed for some time at district headquarters in the old post office, but with one exception, womenfolk have never before been hired at the main building.

Arab Collects 20 Suits In France; 21st Unlucky

VICHY.—Colonial dispatches from Algiers told the tale of Abdullah, the Arab who was demobilized from the French army 21 times without being mobilized once. He made a profession of getting out, and might have gone on doing it indefinitely if prosperity hadn't turned his head.

Twenty times, with the aid of false papers, he was demobilized, and each time he drew the usual 1,000-franc bonus. On the proceeds he bought 20 suits, 100 ties and other apparel. Police knew no Arab ever had such a wardrobe legally. They shadowed him, and as he was being demobilized the twenty-first time they arrested him. And he was wearing a Croix de Guerre.

Sapphire Mining Booms in Montana

Gold-Panned Streams Being Searched for Gems.

HELENA, MONT.—Montana, the land of the shining mountains, may become an important cog in the nation's defense machine because of a little-known and long-ignored stone—the sapphire.

The gem, cousin of the diamond and exceeded only by it in hardness, abounds in the gravel bars of streams where miners once panned fortunes in gold.

Men who "dug for gold in the rain and cold" are gone and mining camps are ghost towns, but the war in Europe may fill the treasure state's mountains again—this time with sapphire hunters.

Because they are much cheaper than diamonds and only a little less hard and resistant to wear, the sapphire is widely used in watches, scientific instruments of all kinds, gauges and airplane and navigation instruments.

Once Montana sapphires began to assume some importance in the Swiss watch industry, but demand collapsed when a Frenchman devised a better "mousetrap"—a synthetic sapphire—in 1931.

For seven years Montana stones were forgotten. Then came the war and the Western world was deprived of the French synthetic by the blockade. Then, too, it was proved the imitation stone was inferior to the natural sapphire for many industrial uses.

In 1938 prospectors and miners began to heed the increasing demand for the blue gem and once more began to work the bars and gravel beds that once produced the famous Yogo sapphires. Today electrical manufacturing companies and makers of scientific precision instruments are turning to Montana for a supply of blue stones.

New Mexicans Win Fight For Water for Dry Farms

HOPE, N. M.—Man's fight to carve fertile farming fields from the dry, dusty desert lands of this southeastern New Mexico country is nearing a final victory after a 38-year battle.

A new $60,000 retard dam on Penasco river, nine miles west of here, soon will be storing up valuable irrigating water to supplement the rest of the state's conservation system for this section.

The new structure, 482 feet long, with a maximum height of 32 feet, will increase by 1,500 acreage feet the supply to almost 3,200 acres of cultivated land which not so many years ago was arid.

When the new dam begins storing up the water of the Penasco, a struggle which began in 1903 to obtain a water storage or detention structure to supplement to failing irrigation water supplies, will have ended. About 40 farm families will be benefited by the additional water.

Financing of the structure was made possible by $50,000 in federal funds and $10,000 raised by the Hope Water Users' association and by merchants in nearby towns.

Cost of Death in War Is Mounting Dizzily

TARENTUM, PA.—The cost of killing a soldier has increased from $50 in the time of Julius Caesar to between $50,000 and $75,000 in the present war, according to H. V. Churchill, an industrial chemist.

Churchill told a meeting here the expense of war-time killing has risen steadily through the centuries, with a tremendously great advance occurring between the World war and today.

By the time of Napoleon, the cost had become $1,500 for each man killed, the chemist said, and during the World war the figure was about $2,500. He added that Napoleon's advisers and allies thought the cost far too high in their time.

Churchill cited as the reason for the huge increase in the cost the fact that war is now fought with machinery—which adds greatly to the cost—although manpower still is the backbone of war.

Professor Finds That Autos Habit-Forming

STATE COLLEGE, PA.—Automobiles are habit-forming, Charles S. Wyand, assistant professor of economics at Pennsylvania State college, believes.

Wyand is making a study in an attempt to determine what makes people trade in their old cars for new ones.

"It is easier to postpone buying one's first car than it is to postpone replacing an old one," Wyand said. "The new buyer is more likely to fear depressions and economic insecurity than one who has owned a car."

Washington Digest

Russian Help Welcomed Despite Communist Bogy

Problem of Defeating Hitler Held Paramount; Dykstra Returns to Wisconsin University; Train 1,520,000 Defense Workers.

By BAUKHAGE
National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

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

WASHINGTON.—It was one of those Washington mornings when the clouded sky above lets in the damp, heavy heat and an aching glare on wall and pavement even though it shuts out the sun itself. The German armies were smashing through Poland and into the Ukraine. With the Luftwaffe roaring eastward for a change, British bombers were blackening skies and shaking the earth of northern France and industrial Germany.

A British military and economic mission, we knew, was sitting down with the Soviet leaders in Moscow, offering them utmost aid in their fight against Germany.

The papers were crying over a drop in American airplane production, still reporting strikes in defense industries and, very casually, at his press conference, the President had announced that the United States would aid the Soviets as much as possible.

Later, I sat in the office of a perturbed government official.

"How," I asked, "can you reconcile to the American people the anti-communist feeling in this country and aid to Russia?"

He paused and looked out over streets, black with staggered shift of government workers on their way home—in another hour there would be another echelon of hurrying men and women, in another hour, another—recruits in the army of defense.

Americans Dislike Communism.

Finally, he spoke:

"Of course," he answered, "that is the problem we have to face. We know that most Americans feel as unsympathetic towards Communism as they do toward Naziism. And the subversive activities of the Communists in this country have aroused strong hatred against Moscow. Our attitude on that score has been plainly stated."

Then my friend quoted the statement made by Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles, shortly after Hitler's speech declaring war against Russia.

Mr. Welles had stated:

". . . doctrines of Communistic dictatorship are as intolerable and as alien to our own beliefs as are the principles of the Nazi dictatorship . . . but the immediate issue that presents itself to the people of the United States is whether the plan for universal conquest . . . which Hitler is now desperately trying to carry out, is to be successfully halted or defeated."

Then the man across the desk from me said: "In other words, when your wagon gets stuck in the mud, you don't look too closely at the man who helps pull you out."

What the government would like, I suggested, would be to have the Nazi gingham dog and the red calico cat eat each other up.

"Perhaps," he laughed, "that would be the best solution. But it isn't as simple as that. The pup seems to have so much stronger jaws, in this case, that we believe it might be wise to furnish the cat with an extra claw or two."

The trouble, I suggested, is selling that idea to the American people. He agreed; but he added that there were certain things which ought to be understood in regard to subversive Communist activities in this country.

Subversive Activities Overestimated.

"Let's take for granted," he said, "that we would have nothing to do, if we could help it, with the fellow who is helping us pull our wagon out of the mud. But we do want to get the wagon out, so there isn't much choice.

"Now, as things are today, a Communist is not likely to do as much harm as we may fear," the official went on. "There are three reasons for this statement: In the first place the government has subversive activities under much better control than is generally known.

"In the second place, pressure is now being brought to bear effectively on the labor unions to promptly remove all members of any subversive organizations from their memberships.

"Thirdly, in all probability, now that Russia needs our help, the Party line will probably order any obstruction of the American defense program to cease. Communist leaders here have already indicated that this is their new program.

"And then, it can be definitely stated that the Communist situation in this country has never been as bad as certain publicity-seeking gentlemen have painted it," the government officials seated across the desk concluded.

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Dykstra Returns To Wisconsin University

C. A. Dykstra, president of the University of Wisconsin, has gone back to his campus and his cloistered halls beside that shining lake in the Middle West. He did a historic job here in Washington, as director of the Selective Service system and first head of the National Defense Mediation board, two great jobs that required all, as Stevenson put it, that a man has of fortitude and delicacy.

Mr. Dykstra, as readers of this column know, did not get his knowledge of men and government solely from books. He was a successful city manager of Cincinnati, he held positions of civic responsibility in Cleveland, Chicago, and Los Angeles. But he was chosen to head the draft because of his deep and sympathetic understanding of American youth. When he left Washington, I asked Mr. Dykstra for an exclusive two-paragraph valedictory, just for the Western Newspaper Union readers. This is what he said about his experience as head of selective service:

"My experience with selective service convinced me that the young men of America are neither soft nor indifferent. They can be counted upon to give a good account of themselves. Moreover, public acceptance of selective service has proved to be much more favorable than was anticipated."

Dykstra is an optimist, but not one who can't see the hole as well as the doughnut.

"My experience on the Mediation board," he told me, "makes me optimistic that labor and management are developing a better understanding and a more co-operative approach to a developing industrial jurisprudence. On the whole there has been a minimum of recalcitrancy on both sides. The appointment of Davis is absolutely right."

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Train Workers For Defense Industry

One record of achievement in the defense program has come out over a hundred per cent better than promised, and you hear very little about it. Much of the credit goes to a little, dynamic man, from out where the tall corn grows.

He is John Studebaker of Iowa, commissioner of education, and he is the drive behind the federal program of training for defense industries.

Commissioner Studebaker promised congress last October that the vocational training groups of the nation would produce 700,000 workers trained for service at lathe or bench by June 30, 1941. He now reports that 1,520,000 have actually been trained. Moreover, although the one-third more than the regular program was undertaken, the cost of the Washington end was only about 1 per cent, and less money was used for the entire project than congress had originally appropriated—an achievement in these days!

The average cost of training, per man hour, was 21 cents, and 97 per cent of the total amount of money spent in the training was spent in the local community. That was part of the Studebaker idea—keeping the training decentralized—using the local schools, shops, equipment and teaching force—leaving the running of the program to labor, industry, and the local school officials. This not only proved efficient but it served to bring labor and industry together on a thousand advisory committees which were formed all over the country. Labor and industry each furnished 3,500 members of these committees. The rest were made up of consultants. Five hundred systems provided the machinery to carry out this task, and they worked 24 hours a day to do it.