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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

### Russian Army Plan for Slowing Blitz Follows China's 'Retreating' Technique; Churchill Hails Soviet as 'Real Ally'; Extension of Draftee Service Sought

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.)



Deeper into Russia than their companions—but unarmed—these invading Nazi soldiers are marched off to a Red prison camp after capture "Somewhere on the eastern front." That bald-headed, shirt-clad panzer trooper, fourth from left, in the front line, looks out of place among his companions, who seem to be shock-headed boys.

#### BEAR: On Defense

The Russian Bear, no matter what the communiques might say, was obviously putting up a hard fight before the advancing German mechanized forces, and the British, who had taken the quick defeat of Russia as a foregone conclusion were beginning to cheer.

Churchill, who had been through three previous milder stages of hailing Russia as a companion in arms, finally and very bluntly told the house of commons "of course Russia is an ally of Britain."

One of the signs that the Reds' defense of their homeland was vigorous and not without military merit came from an official admission on the part of Germany's high command that the Nazi armies had hurled back a considerable counter-attack.

Communique "solvers" naturally saw in this admission proof that the Russian armies were actually fighting, and battling to some purpose in their gradual withdrawal to the Stalin line and perhaps further to the interior.

Washington observers cautioned against too much faith in an eventual Russian victory, however, unless the defenders would be able to withdraw their armies with much of their equipment intact, into that hinterland broadly described as "the Urals."

As in the Battle of France, it was conceded that the French would have had a chance of immobilizing the war only if they were willing to give up Paris and other cherished cities, and move backward with the assault, harassing the advancing Nazis and softening their blows, "riding with the punches" as the boxing phrase has it.

This was the technique which enabled to make a four-year-old war of position out of the Japanese blitz of 1937 in China. It was the same technique which observers in this country were recommending for Russia.

There was nothing in dispatches to show that the Reds were not doing just that, save that no city of vital importance like Leningrad, Moscow or Kiev had yet fallen, though Germans claimed they had passed the latter.

It was impossible, in view of conflicting claims, to determine with even probable accuracy and allowing for a wide margin of error to figure the price being paid by either side in the Russo-German war.

If German claims were to be believed, Russia had left only a fragmentary part of her motorized equipment and her air force. If Russia were to be believed Germany was reduced to using "canvas" tanks and mere boys to operate them.

But even the German communiques admitted Russia still had hundreds of tanks in action, and hundreds of planes, and the Reds' bombing activities were reported from neutral points to be hitting targets far within Rumania and far within Finland.

The actual facts of the war, however, remained continually clouded in mystery, despite the fact that correspondents finally were admitted to Moscow, which also installed a short-wave radio to give out war news to the United States and other countries.

#### MARSHALL: His Plan

Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the U. S. army, urged two major points before congress' senate military affairs committee, and apparently the President was willing to go along with one, but not with the other.

Point No. 1 was that the selectees should be kept in uniform longer than a calendar year from the time of their induction. He wanted this restriction removed by congress from the selective service law.

Point No. 2 was that he wanted the restrictions removed ordering that selectees could serve only in the Western hemisphere. The President apparently was willing to exert some White House pressure on congress to get the second provision passed.

However, early polls of senatorial reactions to both points were unfavorable, though a majority of those questioned reported themselves "undecided" and "preferring to hear the debate."

The question had broadly resolved itself into how large an army the U. S. should have, and how long it takes to train a soldier.

General Marshall also made the point that the selectees had been poured into all army units, with the result that if they were sent home after a year, these units would suffer dismemberment.

#### JAPAN: On the Verge

The sudden resignation of the Japanese cabinet, together with many dispatches quoting the indefinite "diplomatic sources," seemed to indicate that Nippon might be on the verge of some important step in world affairs.

What this might be remained hidden, though British statements seemed to hint that Japan might be contemplating a move into Indo-China.

A secondary guess was that Japan might be planning a "token" assault on Russia's east coast—Siberia, perhaps to attempt to close the port of Vladivostok—name famous in the Japanese-Russian war at the turn of the century.

The quitting cabinet is the one which put Soviet Russia into the Rome-Berlin axis, and also, strangely enough, into a neutrality accord with Russia.

The government was almost exactly a year in office, so it could not be charged with the stalemate in China, in fact it was not organized to do anything about the Chinese war.

There was little that could be said surely about the situation, some holding that the cabinet resignation meant that Japan's whole foreign policy would be reoriented in view of the German-Russian war.

Whether this would mean that the next government would be more pro-German, or whether Japan was getting ready to withdraw from all European commitments could hardly be told.

Certain it was that in Tokyo was a little group of Nazis who were said to have dominated the last cabinet, and to have been urging the strongest possible intimidation of America in the Pacific, in order to occupy the United States so strongly with the West coast that aid to Britain might be minimized.

## In the Navy



Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., son of the former ambassador to Great Britain and Harvard graduate, has joined Uncle Sam's navy, enlisting for the duration in the air force. He made his entry along with many other college men and was quickly inducted. He is shown in a training plane, ready for Lesson Number One.

## SYRIA: Now British

The victory of the British and Free French in Syria, being somewhat dwarfed by the news from Russia and the war developments in this country seemed to receive only minor mention in the American press, though the British were getting more solid satisfaction out of it than had appeared on the eve of the armistice.

Some of the terms began to come overseas, and it was significant that they called for the turning over to the British of all arms except those belonging to individuals, including ships and planes.

Paris was quick to report that all planes and ships had escaped capture, though this dispatch, coming from German-controlled territory, was somewhat discounted.

Churchill summed up the advantages of the Syrian victory briefly as removing to a greater distance the threat to Suez, also the fact that some of the disaster of Crete had been overcome, in that the air base on the island of Cyprus now could be protected. The Germans, heavily engaged with Russia, however, seemed in no hurry to try another air conquest from Crete to Cyprus.

That the Germans' air position in the eastern Mediterranean was sufficiently strong was indicated in the sinking of a British small naval vessel of 1,200 tons by air fire, the survivors reporting that they were attacked by 80 dive bombers at one time. Their convoy escaped with supplies destined for Tobruk's beleaguered garrison.

Most important of the Syrian armistice terms was the choice to be offered to French residents, civilian and military, as to whether they would be deported to French territory, or whether they would join the Free French government under British mandate.

## R. A. F.: Business as Usual

The Royal Air force, stepping up its bombing scale steadily, reported as one day of "business as usual" the dropping of 1,500 tons of bombs on cities in Germany and occupied countries.

The British were claiming that these attacks were at least as severe as any Britain had had to withstand during the hey-day of the German onslaught from the air and that they would get stronger as time wore on.

One contrast between the Nazis' blitz of London and other British objectives and the British attack on Germany and occupied countries was in the photographic evidence.

Outside of one or two pictures sent out from Germany showing fire fighters atop buildings in Berlin, the country might as well be entirely unscathed, as far as picture evidence would go.

Whereas the American newspapers had carried literally thousands of photographs of air-raid effects in England, from the digging out of the dead and wounded to the damage that was done to Westminster Abbey and the tower from which Big Ben chimes out the hours.

The reason was that the British took the pictures of their own damage, and the censors permitted them to be sent out. So the United States got a view of what modern war was like.

The Germans permitted two or three such pictures to get to this country, but for more than a year nothing of the kind was shown, and as the air attacker can't get low enough to photograph his own damage—it didn't look as though any would get out.

## Washington Digest

### U. S. Is Now a Reservoir For European Livestock

Fine Breeds of Cattle and Horses Are Shipped Here to Protect Them From Results of War.

By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

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

The tall hostess with the spiked head-dress who gets the first look at America's new arrivals (I mean Miss Liberty, of Bedloe's island, New York harbor) has seen some strange sights lately.

Some of the anxious shiploads that pause at her doorstep hurrying westward have brought a tear, some a worried frown, some a hopeful smile.

There was one group of refugees, proud yet humble servants of man, huddled below decks. Miss Liberty could not see them. Had she been able to, she would have dipped her torch in welcome.

For the war has brought to America some of the finest bloodstrains of homes and cattle from the bomb-riddled fields and pastures of Europe.

Today, this nation holds no greater treasure, in the deep vaults where the gold bullion is stored, than is sheltered in barn and stable. Some of the great breeds of livestock, which have been all but wiped out in Europe, are preserved here.

Best Reservoir. "The United States now has the best reservoir of blooded livestock in the world," said a department of agriculture official to me the other day.

The two tiny segments of English soil which the Nazis have taken from the British—and the only two, so far—held some of the finest dairy stock in the world: the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, in the English channel. When the British withdrew they gave the islanders a chance to get out—to go to England.

Some of the herdsmen preferred to stay with their herds. What has happened to those herds now we cannot learn. We do know that many have been slaughtered for food or because they could not be fed.

But just before that happened 100 head of the best Jersey breeding stock were sent over to the United States.

And before the bombs began to rain too thickly on England the British did what they had never done before—they exported to this country a number of thoroughbred horses, some of their finest racing stock which has never before been permitted to leave the islands, at any price. This stock, stallions and mares both, has been sold and delivered to wealthy American owners.

Great Draft Horses. What happened to the great draft horses of France and Belgium, whose strains are already well established in America, is not known. Many, it is reported, were slaughtered because of lack of fodder to support them. Many were used for food, for even in the piping days of peace the continental has no prejudice against "steak equine."

Now, America can boast all the pure-blood strains—horses, sheep, cattle, hogs, and poultry. From now on, instead of being chiefly an importer, as we have been from the days when the first Spaniard brought in that strange animal that terrified the Aztecs, the horse, the Western hemisphere will be an exporter of blooded stock.

When the American farmer stands among his herds or flocks, or his wife admires her chicken yard, they often forget that the only livestock which lives and breathes on this continent whose ancestors were not immigrants is the turkey. No wonder Benjamin Franklin thought it ought to be our national bird, instead of the eagle, borrowed from the imperial Caesars.

Today, there are more Holstein cows in the United States than fleck with black and white the fields of the province from which that prize milk-giver gets its name. As a matter of fact, we have the world's record Holstein producer of milk and butter.

Other Bovine Breeds. And we have all the other bovine breeds here, too. Ayreshires have long been familiar figures on American farms—even the red Danish cattle and the brown Swiss are as much at home here as some of their better known sisters.

It is not that America lacked noble blood among its herds or flocks before the war—it simply means that the animal aristocracy has escaped the firing squad of the totalitarians. We have now become the greatest

treasurehouse of the world's blooded stock.

As a matter of fact, the 700,000 cows and bulls which have long made up America's card-catalogued nobility need bow before no foreign bovine. These 700,000 whose record is kept, with the co-operation of their owners, by the department of agriculture, now produce 325 pounds of butter fat per cow per year, against a figure of 169 pounds, which is the average for the rest of cowdom.

#### Action on Iceland Started in Washington

Washington was startled when on 20 minutes' notice the President announced that marines had landed in Iceland. It should not have been. Secretary of the Navy Knox had said it was time for more aid to Britain. The President would not comment on that statement. He just acted. So I won't be surprised to hear that familiar phrase "the marines have landed" anywhere from Cape Town to Singapore.

The next step will not be war either, in administration eyes. There may be shooting. But shooting won't mean a declared war for some time. Not while Germany is tied up in Russia, anyhow.

General Marshall's request for permission to send troops outside the Western hemisphere does not mean he is grooming an expeditionary force for Europe. There are several reasons.

There is no place to land troops in Europe. An expeditionary force without armored divisions is N. G. An armored division is N. G. without repair, replacement and supply bases. To make an expeditionary force against Hitler it would be necessary to move Pittsburgh to France.

#### U. S. Surplus Agency Gathers Food Supplies

Reports to the department of agriculture indicate that if all of the food available in the British Isles were divided up, the British people would be on about one-third of their normal ration.

In the last three months the Surplus Marketing administration of the department of agriculture has bought more than \$300,000,000 worth of foodstuffs. A part of this is destined for Britain. How much has actually reached there even officials of the department do not know but they do know that more ships are being made available for this purpose than when the lend-lease bill became law.

What is not sent to Britain, Milo Perkins, Surplus Marketing administrator, explains, is being used by needy families and hungry children, here. Thanks to scientific advances it is now possible to produce enough food "to go round."

"Up until the last few years, man has always lived in civilizations in which there was not enough to go round," said Mr. Perkins. "Today, with our capacity to produce, it's physically possible to provide a decent living standard for all of our people. That's the most important material thing that's happened to the human race since the discovery of fire and the invention of the wheel."

#### Memories of an Old Opera House

Washington's "Opera House" is going. It is a long time since actors trod its boards, since its "Ambassador's tier" glittered with the jeweled ladies of the diplomatic set. For years it was known as the "Belasco theater," one of the most attractive playhouses in the country. Of late it has been a movie house.

On my way back across Lafayette park the other day I glanced up at its sad facade—doors closed, windows blank. And it was then, for the first time in all the 27 years that I have passed it or entered its portals that I noticed the words "Opera House" engraved above them. I walked over and looked at the plaque on the wall, which I had never read before. It said:

On this site Commander John Rogers built an elegant house in 1831. In it on April 14, 1865, an attempt was made to assassinate W. H. Seward, secretary of state, by one of the conspirators who murdered Abraham Lincoln on the same night.

## Despite War Show Goes On

British Producers Busy in London and Provinces; Writing Perks Up.

LONDON.—Old Vic is closed, Covent Garden dark, Drury Lane given over to shows for the troops, the electric glitter of London stage life gone, but the theater in Britain is far from moribund.

Both in the capital and the provinces producers are active, giving audiences the best plays and musicals and the biggest stars that wartime conditions permit.

The war has brought about a decentralization of the British theater and the development of a genuinely national theater. Many towns that in the old days seldom saw anything but the shabbiest theatrical efforts now enjoy the first-rate regularly.

Players returning from extended tours report an amazing response in the provincial communities and consider it a bright augury for the post-war theater of which the nation dreams even now.

Playwriting, itself, producers and managers say, has perked up, further stimulating the theater at a time when stagnation would be understandable and excusable.

Plays Above Par. "It has been some while," one theater man said, "since so many good manuscripts have been submitted. It is a significant and healthy sign that a marked improvement in the quality of dramatic and comedy writing should come at this time."

Some of the best-liked productions, however, are revivals, and there is a growing desire to see American plays. Among the major London successes is S. N. Behrman's "No Time for Comedy" in which Katharine Cornell starred in the United States a couple of seasons ago.

In the next several weeks the city will have ballet, opera, symphonic programs, recitals and a bit of Shakespeare, the late spring and summer days with their extra two hours of light making possible a greater variety of entertainment and more frequent performances.

#### Opera in Road Show

Meanwhile, the theater doubtless will continue to flourish in the provinces. Forthcoming shows for the road include a production of William Saroyan's "The Time of Your Life," which will be seen later by Londoners who are inordinately curious about it.

The provinces have had their taste of opera, too, and have liked it. In one city "La Traviata" played to a capacity house on a Saturday night after a solid week of blitzes. The back of the theater had been bombed and a chill wind blew through the damaged scenery dock, but neither performers nor audience minded.

Actors have faced raid dangers, entertained amidst ruins, and undergone numerous hardships; some have been injured. One company, appearing in Cardiff some time ago, played through to the final curtain while an air attack on the Welsh city was in progress.

Most of the troupers hold that it is essential to keep the theater alive and consider that their job on the home front is by no means the least important.

#### Population Density Up; Now 44.2 a Square Mile

WASHINGTON.—Density of population per square mile in the continental United States increased from 41.1 in 1930 to 44.2 in 1940, the bureau of the census stated.

The first 10 states in the 1940 census, ranked by population per square mile, are Rhode Island, 674.2; New Jersey, 553.1; Massachusetts, 545.9; Connecticut, 348.9; New York, 281.2; Pennsylvania, 219.8; Maryland, 184.2; Ohio, 168.0; Illinois, 141.2; and Delaware, 134.7.

This ranking was the same as in 1930, except for New Jersey and Massachusetts, the former capturing second ranking from the latter.

Nevada achieved a population of one person per square mile for the first time in 1940. In 1930 it was 0.6.

#### Uses Eight Bushels of Apples in Single Pie

FREMONT, OHIO.—A 430-pound apple pie was baked here in a local bakery by Boyd M. Frazier of Toledo to show the Apple Growers' institute how it should be done.

Frazier took four hours to prepare the pie and another four hours to bake it. The ingredients included eight bushels of apples, 85 pounds of sugar, 10 ounces of cinnamon, 2½ ounces of nutmeg, two pounds of butter, a half pound of lemon juice, a pound of cornstarch, 48 pounds of flour, 30 pounds of lard, six quarts of water and a half pound of salt.

## Leaky Faucet Wins Fame for Engineer

Research Into Waste Turns Up Mass of Figures.

WAUKESHA, WIS.—A leaky faucet brought fame to Arthur P. Kuranz, superintendent of the Waukesha water department.

Kuranz was attracted one day by the trickle of water from a worn faucet. Scientifically minded, he brought out his slide rule and a stop watch and did some calculating with the result that he became a pioneer in the field of counting drops of water.

His study of the subject with a view to preventing waste has resulted in state and national recognition. Winner of the national Fuller award, presented for achievement in the water industry in the state last year.

Some amazing figures on the amount of water lost through a leaky faucet were turned up by Kuranz's calculations. For instance, a tap leaking at the rate of 120 drops a minute adds up to 172,000 drops lost daily. Taking Kuranz's estimate of 63,000 drops to a gallon, that means a waste of almost three gallons from the single faucet.

Add to this total from other worn faucets in the building and, in the case of a hot water tap, the cost of heating the water (about 85 cents a month in Waukesha for one tap) and Kuranz's seemingly insignificant job of counting water drops becomes something significant. The problem grows in importance when a community has a limited water supply.

One of the difficulties encountered by Kuranz has been to determine the number of drops of water in a gallon. The National Water Meter institute at Washington admitted that the problem has not yet been studied "in anything approaching a scientific way" and solicited its members for suggestions.

## 'Highway of Silver' Runs Through Utah Community

PARK CITY, UTAH.—There is no record of any one ever having seen the mythical "street of gold," but in northern Utah there is a "highway of silver."

It also contains deposits of lead and zinc. The highway, which runs through Park City's main-business section, has been surfaced with tailings from the nearby Consolidated Mining company containing silver, lead and zinc.

Although the material is not valuable enough to ship to smelters, it does contain metals from small fissures crossed by miners in running exploration drifts, raises or crosscuts. The ores, although rich, were found in too small a quantity to be saved.

The white piles of debris have provided a new and interesting pastime for Park City youngsters. Many small boys are equipped with toy outfits for melting and molding metal soldiers. They search the waste piles, removing chunks of ore containing lead, silver and zinc. The pieces are then cleaned, melted, and cast into toy soldiers.

## Tommies Avoid Girls in Khaki—and Give Reason

LONDON.—Complaints that their uniform is a hindrance to romance and scares soldiers away are made by some of the auxiliary territorial service in a big northern command training center.

"Soldiers seem to think that the A. T. S. is either the old maid's last hope or else that to be seen out with one of us indicates that a soldier has been unable to get a girl outside the barracks," said one of the girls.

What do the soldiers say? "We want girls who are not in khaki," said one of them. "We see too much uniform. The A. T. S. is a part of the army just as much as the officers and clerical staff are part of it, and we treat them accordingly."

"Just as few men fall in love with the girl who works in the same office as themselves, so the soldier wants to get his girl friends from a different atmosphere from that in which he spends his working day."

## U. S. Army Gets the Most For Its Clothing Dollar

WASHINGTON.—The army is making sure Uncle Sam gets full value for his soldiers-uniform dollar. The quartermaster depot at Philadelphia has established a "house of magic" which tests all army clothing materials for strength, wear, warmth and water repellency. Machines there can detect the tiniest hole in a raincoat, crush buttons to see how much stress they can stand, and create artificial rainstorms and windstorms to test waterproof qualities of the cloth.