

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

British See Far East 'Squeeze Play' In Japan's Attitude Toward Thailand; Nazis Claim Big Victories Over Reds; Mussolini's Son Killed in Air Crash

(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.)



Here's a striking contrast in the modes of fighting equipment. According to the Berlin caption the picture shows a German horse-drawn artillery piece racing past a burning Soviet tank somewhere along the Russ-Nazi battle lines of the eastern front.

CONGRESS: Big Work

Three bills of huge importance were before congress, and although passage for all was predicted, the importance laid as much in what their final form would be as it did in whether or not they would become law.

These were the tax bill, the draft extension bill, and the price-fixing bill, the latter linked inseparably with the "draft-industry" bill.

The tax bill, it was apparent, would be voted into existence minus the requirement that all married couples file joint income tax returns. Roughly, this will cut \$250,000,000 off the yield of the law, which will then have a ceiling of about \$3,200,000,000.

This is to be divided, roughly, into a billion for income taxes; a billion for miscellaneous and special taxes; and a billion and a third for corporation income taxes, a small balance coming from gift taxes.

The draft extension bill showed the opposition to the administration losing one battle after another, but reforming their lines with more support after each defeat.

When the administration's resolution calling for an extension of present draft terms by 18 months was brought to a vote, the senate passed the measure by a vote of 45 to 30. This meant that total term of draftees, National Guardsmen and reserve officers would all serve a total of 2 1/2 years. The bill went from the senate to the house following the vote.

The price-fixing and draft-industry bills were chartered along a more difficult course. The latter passed the house, but immediately thereafter started in the opposition press a battle, claiming that there was a threat to the freedom of the press and freedom of speech through radio—as these businesses, too, might be seized by the government.

As to price-fixing, Leon Henderson seemed the center of this fight, and many in congress declared they would feel more kindly toward the bill if they felt more confidence in Henderson's ability to carry it out. Indeed, the house appointed a special committee to oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

JAPAN: Warned Again

London warned Japan that if she moved against Thailand in any way, she would find that Britain would consider such a move as a definite threat to Singapore, and would act accordingly.

This was seen as a sort of confirmation that the British are sending expeditionary forces of occupation into Japanese territory, and that any Japanese effort to cut the Burma road will bring the world war to the Far East.

The statement came from Foreign Secretary Eden, making it in the house of commons. It had been rumored that 100,000 British troops would be sent to Thailand from eastern bases, and that a considerable British fleet already was in those waters.

And it also was believed that Japan was committed to move against Thailand by its agreement with the other Axis powers. This was viewed as part of a squeeze play against India.

Early Bird



PHILADELPHIA, PA.—First veteran to appear on the scene for the national encampment of the Veterans of Foreign Wars here was Jack Farley, known as the "Irish Traveler." He hitchhiked to Philadelphia from Louisville, Ky., and is being rewarded at convention headquarters by getting the first badge.

HOSIERY: And the Women

The governmental placing of silk in the vital raw material category closed down the silk hosiery industry and sent American women in a wild blitzkrieg on the silk stocking counters of the nation.

There were no tears shed over the situation, the women apparently regarding the whole thing as a sort of a gay lark, and dashing into the stores to stock up—just to be doing something more than for any other reason.

For surveys of women's opinion showed that the ladies were perfectly willing to go bare-legged, if necessary; to spray "makeup" stockings on their legs, or to wear cotton, if they could be made good-looking.

It was obvious that the new nylon industry would not be able to supply the demand, at least at prices women were willing to pay.

But as to the cotton situation, the government had finished researches at Beltsville, Md., from which had come 150 types of cotton stockings, many of them pretty stylish-looking.

Philadelphia, with a \$25,000,000-a-year hosiery industry, and other nearby cities and states with smaller organizations, began changing over to cotton right away. One mill already had out a line of samples of cotton lisle stockings, several of them of the "mesh" type.

These were displayed by pretty models, and the salesmen started out to see what the reception of the American Woman would be.

On that, they said, depended what the factory would do—close up or continue to put out the cotton stockings.

LLOYDS: And War Bets

Lloyd's was reputedly offering odds on the end of the war, even the likelihood of Washington, D. C., being bombed—circumstances which told their own story.

The war is more likely now to be over December 1 than it was at this time last year. Lloyd's was offering 7 to 1 last year, and now has reduced the odds of the war ending in 1941 to 3 to 1.

As to the bombing of Washington, the odds were 1,000 to 1. However, as it was pointed out, the odds weren't really that much, for it was simply the offering of a premium of \$1,000 for \$1 that no property would be lost within a year in Washington, thus really meaning that Lloyd's was betting 1,000 to 1 that no particular private property in Washington would be damaged.

Leninrad, on the north, was a hopeless city, menaced from the south and the north, with another small "island" of surrounded Red troops still holding out in the vicinity of Tallinn, Estonia.

Kiev, on the south, was shown in this document as partially surrounded, with two huge pincers having pierced the Stalin line north and south of the city itself, which is an integral part of that line.

The claims were contained in four special communiques from the headquarters of Adolf Hitler himself, and were broadcast throughout the German nation.

RUSSIANS: Their Version

Completely ignoring the claims of the Germans, the Reds, admitting Nazi pressure on the south, say that they are counter-attacking and were using the same tactics "which threw the Germans back in the central front."

In fact, the Russian reports considered the front from Smolensk to Bel-Tserkov, a distance of 350 miles, as a single unit, rather than a definite pincer movement, and said that there was mobile fighting going on all along this front.

In fact, the Reds asserted they were holding the Germans in two other sectors, that of Kholm, 180 miles south of Leninrad, and on the Estonian front—where the Germans had claimed important advances.

The Russians also reported taking many prisoners, and revealed that many of them are either 17 years old or the older type reservists, showing that the Nazis are drawing heavily on their reserves.

Washington Digest

Real 'Warfare of Dollars' Is On in South America

U. S. Wages Trade and Economic Battle In Effort to Oust Axis Influence From Western Hemisphere.

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About a month ago I wrote that there was a rumor to the effect that the United States was in an undeclared war which had been marked "private and confidential," and that therefore nobody would talk about it. It was a war of dollars instead of bullets.

This new brand of warfare is economic and it has broken out on two new fronts with the blacklisting of the pro-Axis firms in South America, and the freezing of Japanese trade. The whole story can now be told.

Although some officials still shy at the word "warfare" when discussing these methods of attack, there are others who feel that it should have been used frankly and the methods and purpose explained long ago. They say this strategy would have been received sympathetically by the people as a preventive measure against actual warfare.

Just what is the difference between the battle of dollars and warfare of bullets? What is the purpose of each?

The word "war" goes back to the Anglo-Saxon "werre" which meant a quarrel. And in those days a quarrel meant a fight. Since quarrels no longer necessarily mean fights, some people cling to the hope that war need not always mean shooting. Senator O'Mahoney recently said in the senate that he did not think the President was leading the United States into war of the shooting variety. And the people who believe in the battle of the dollars say that this kind of a "werre" may prevent shooting.

The object of war in the military sense is the destruction of the military forces of the enemy. In these days the theory seems to be that in order to destroy the military forces it is necessary to destroy everything else.

The object of economic war is to destroy the economic forces of the enemy. Unlike military war, dollar-warfare, according to its opponents, checks the steps which lead to actual combat.

South America As Battlefield

Using South America as the battlefield, this is the way they explain their thesis:

The Germans set about to control the Latin-American trade. By making the economy of a country dependent on the wishes of Berlin, the Nazis obtain political influence just as business and other pressure groups sometimes control political power in this country. Once the Germans have control of the economic forces in a country they supplement this control with bribery and intrigue and finally attempt to put a 100 per cent pro-Axis government in power.

Nazi control of a number of key governments in South America, according to the proponents of the theory of economic warfare, will result in a menace to the safety of this nation.

The recent attempt to overthrow the government of Bolivia is an example of Nazi-Fascist methods. It was broken up with the help of United States agents who discovered documents revealing the plot and turned them over to the Bolivian government. A similar plot, you may recall, was discovered in Uruguay in the early days of the war.

What are the methods which the United States government employs to stop the German economic and political penetration and pursue its own economic warfare? Well, they are in part the methods employed in the early days when the great trusts were built up in the United States. Except that the United States government itself is a trust organized to benefit all and not to exploit any of the peoples in the Western Hemisphere.

Two Methods Of 'Trust' Operation
A trust has two principal methods of operation. One is a perfectly honest attempt to perfect the manufacture and distribution of its products or its services. The second is the use of a means, now discontinued and forbidden by law in the United States, of ruthless, cut-throat competition to drive its competitors out of business.

The latter method has been used by the Germans in South America. The United States is now applying similar tactics insofar as pro-Axis business is concerned. There is a difference, however—the United States is working with the help of the South Americans in most cases to an end which they recognize will benefit all.

As in the case of military warfare, sacrifices are necessary in economic warfare as well. American manufacturers are not allowed to trade with the Axis-controlled firms in South America which have been put on the blacklist by the President.

The South Americans suffer, temporarily, too, much as a nation suffers when it is the ally of another nation fighting an enemy on its own soil.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the grandson of the man whose "trust" is famous in history for its ruthless methods of obtaining a monopoly, John D. Rockefeller, is now heading one of the organizations which is attempting to bring the southern and northern nations of the Western Hemisphere into one great combine to compete with the Axis "trust."

Four Campaigns Are Under Way

There are four separate campaigns now being conducted against the Axis in South America by our economic general staff.

One is based on agreements to purchase, over a period of time, South American surplus products, especially war materials such as zinc, lead, tin, copper, nitrates. This not only prevents such materials from falling into Axis hands but provides a dollar exchange with which South America can buy from us things which she might otherwise buy elsewhere.

The second economic drive is to force the transfer of commercial agencies from Axis into native South American hands. Black-listing pro-Axis firms helps this. For instance, for years the dominating commission business in the city of La Paz has been handled by Germans. Suddenly, these Germans lose all American accounts, are cut off from American credits. Their business is ruined. The United States encourages a prominent Bolivian family to establish a commission business. It gets the profitable United States accounts. American personnel and other help is furnished. The Axis firm is smashed.

Another means of ousting Axis influence is to eliminate foreign control of the airlines. For this purpose, Jesse Jones, secretary of commerce, has organized an Airlines Development company, a government corporation. This company will lend money to any South American country for the development of airports; give it priority on the purchase of planes—provided that country gets rid of the German or other foreign-owned lines within its borders. This step has been taken in Bolivia which has nationalized its internal airlines and removed German pilots. This action has also removed a vital link in the German international transportation system which has served Peru, Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina.

In many of the countries the airlines are already nationalized. But in some places German pilots are still flying the planes. In Brazil, German-controlled lines exist but many concessions have been granted to the United States. In Central America the lines are all controlled by a New Zealander who started out with an old Ford plane, hauling freight.

The fourth plan of economic battle is the government loan. Loans are advanced to South American governments for the purpose of keeping the local currency stabilized. Loans are also made for internal developments, irrigation projects and port developments which it is expected will pay out over a long period of years, which will tend to increase the standard of living in the locality and thus open new markets for American goods.

Peril of Wood Tick Nullified

Vaccine Now Is Effective Against Mountain Spotted Fever.

HAMILTON, MONT.—The Rocky mountain wood tick, once a bone-chilling man-killer of the Pacific Northwest, now is almost a tamed bug—feared less by people than by sheep and cattle, source of the tick's existence.

Dr. R. R. Parker, director of the United States public health service laboratory here, indicated in an article soon to be published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine that 15 years' use of vaccine against spotted fever had proved vaccination 91.89 per cent preventive.

In 1915, the Rocky mountain wood tick killed more than 500 persons in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon. In 1939, fewer than 100 died of tick bites.

Most Virulent.
In the western Montana area—most virulent in the world, according to Dr. Parker—of those who contracted the disease between 1925 and 1939, three of the 37 who had been vaccinated died, while 42 of the 51 persons who had not been protected succumbed.

Dr. Parker's statistics showed deaths from spotted fever in the Pacific Northwest since 1935 have decreased almost in direct proportion to liters of vaccine used.

Cost of the serum for one person once was \$20. Today it is \$1.
Before May 10, 1924, when Dr. R. R. Spencer, who pioneered tick vaccine, injected a mixture of ground-up ticks and weak carbohic acid into his arm, almost everyone who contracted the disease died.

Fatalities were so high that natives of the Bitterroot valley dared not venture into the mountain canyons where infected ticks lurked on every tree and bush. People who lived in the infected areas abandoned their homes to the deadly bugs.

Success at Last.
Then in 1921, Dr. Spencer, Dr. Parker, an entomologist, and their assistants, Henry Cowan, Bill Gittinger and Elmer Greenup, established a laboratory in an old schoolhouse near Hamilton. They began searching for an antidote for the deadly bite.

The ticks killed Cowan and Gittinger. They died, shivering, with temperatures above 103, their skins covered with black spots. But Spencer discovered the immunizing magic of a soupy concoction of ground-up ticks and weak carbohic acid.

Today the laboratory has a staff of 125 and produces spotted fever vaccine for most of the United States, Canada and Brazil.

The mixture of squashed ticks and carbohic acid has been supplanted by a new vaccine reared in a chicken egg.

Ancient Letter Requests Bounty for Indian Scalp

HARRISBURG, PA.—From a faded old manuscript in the archives division of the state library, comes the 184-year-old complaint from an American pioneer woman.

A letter sent by Mrs. Margery Mitchell, Shippensburg, to the secretary of the governor's council in 1757, complains that although she had made a "fatiguing and expensive" journey to Philadelphia, she had not yet received a bounty for the "Indian Scalp" she had delivered.

"One might think Common humanity would induce the Gentlemen to allow me some small matter on that occasion, especially as I lost my husband & Son," Mrs. Mitchell's letter continues, "and much time from my household."

History of the incident ends with the letter, so there is no indication of whether Mrs. Mitchell received the bounty or not. Officials are not looking for the scalp.

Effects of Environment On Life Being Studied

NEW YORK.—Ecology is the study of the interrelationships of organisms and their environment. It is not only concerned with the effects of the environment on life, but the effects of life on the environment.

The ecology of bacteria is a relatively neglected field, these microbes having been studied most intensively from the medical standpoint, although only about a hundred, or one-thirtieth, of the recognized species cause human disease, writes M. W. Jenkinson in New England Naturalist. It is no exaggeration to say that bacteria and other microbes play a role in nature so fundamentally important that without them life on the earth literally could not exist.

Ship Construction Is Rising Rapidly

Expect 1,250,000 Tons by End of Year.

WASHINGTON.—A prediction that the nation's rapidly expanding ship-building facilities will turn out 1,250,000 dead-weight tons of merchant ships this year, with an increase to 3,500,000 tons in 1943 and 5,000,000 tons in 1945 came from the maritime commission.

In its first comprehensive summary of a vast three-way construction program, the commission placed the cost of 705 merchantmen "built, building or under contract" at \$1,625,000,000, with an additional investment of \$86,000,000 in new facilities, bringing the total cost to \$1,711,000,000.

Divided into three parts, the construction program now includes:

1—Long-range program calling for 500 ships in a 10-year period. This now includes 283 ships, of which 91 have been delivered. Except for the luxury liner America, recently taken over by the navy, all contracts have been let since January 1, 1938.

2—Emergency national defense program calling for 300 "ugly duckling" cargo carriers. Of approximately 10,000 deadweight tons and designed for mass production, the first "ugly ducklings" are expected to be completed in November.

3—Construction of 222 vessels for transfer to Great Britain under the Lease-Lend act. This program includes 112 "ugly ducklings," 72 high-speed tankers of 16,000 deadweight tons, 10 C-1, 22 C-2 and 6 C-3 cargo boats. The "C" boats, among the world's finest of their class, are the backbone of the long-range program. They range from 7,500 to 12,595 deadweight tons.

Aerial Fighting Puts Weather on New War Role

BOSTON.—The phrase "military science" has a new and deeper significance in this war, according to Capt. William W. Jones of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The general pace of modern warfare is geared to economic production and advances in scientific knowledge, says Captain Jones, who reveals that military aviation cannot act independently of meteorology. He quotes a high-ranking British authority who says:

"The chief of a bomber command has to be concerned first with meteorology and secondly with strategy."

In view of this new development in modern warfare the army air force turned its energies to the perfection of a complete meteorological department and is training a full complement of expert weather forecasters for duty with the military forces. Men for this work are hand-picked from college alumni, all come highly recommended and many are Phi Beta Kappas.

Special training is being carried out at several of the nation's engineering schools and the best in field equipment is provided as they move into their army stations. Nor is the new branch of the service designed as an emergency measure. Their work will go on in peacetime or wartime.

Ticklish Job Is Solved By Letting Ice Melt

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.—Several tons of ice—and the engineers who thought of it—are credited with preventing mishap in the ticklish job of installing the army air corps' huge new underground fueling system here.

Sixteen 25,000-gallon gasoline tanks had to be lowered evenly—and gently—into excavations dug for them at the air base. The problem was solved by placing blocks of ice under the tanks as they were suspended over the 15-foot holes, then timbers of the supporting platform were torn down.

Gradual melting of the ice eased the fuel containers safely to their underground base.

Philadelphia Ice Cream Traced Back to 1796

HARRISBURG, PA.—History gives Dolly Madison, wife of President James Madison, credit for creating a sensation in Washington by introducing ice cream to society folk in the capital.

A recently discovered manuscript found in the archives division of the Pennsylvania State library, however, indicates the concoction was probably known to residents of Philadelphia a dozen years before its appearance in Washington.

The parchment, dated 1784, is a petition to the state legislature from a Haitian requesting permission to sell ice cream in the Pennsylvania statehouse yard in Philadelphia.