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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Food Shortage in Europe This Winter Means Thousands Are Doomed to Starve In Most of Areas Occupied by Nazis; U. S. Court Obtains Spy Confessions

(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.)

What Price a Mad World!



The scene is a street in Uniondale, N. Y. The country is not at war. It is, however, arming for defense. Arming as never before. For the menace, it is charged, is world wide. And so an army pursuit plane leaves Mitchell field, New York, one day. A few minutes later it crashes in Uniondale street. You see the wreck still burning. You don't see three children burned whose clothes caught fire. The pilot of the plane bailed out.

INCIDENT:

U. S. S. Greer Attacked

When the news was flashed that a submarine attacked the U. S. destroyer Greer while the latter was en route to Iceland, the words "incident of war" leaped to the thoughts of many. Still, there were other "incidents" and they did not bring war. The Greer was not hit.

FOOD:

For Conquered

Most were agreed that the coming winter will find starvation walking the lands of conquered Europe. Germany took the bull by the horns by stating her position clearly. Not only, said Berlin, was Germany not going to feed the hungry in conquered Europe, but she felt at complete liberty to feed herself from the stores of conquered countries. If anybody was to feed conquered nations, let Britain and the United States, who control the seas, do it, declared Berlin.

As long as this was the declared Nazi policy, it was a certainty that the United States and Britain would do no feeding of these populations, for if the food was sent over, Germany felt "at liberty" to feed herself with it. The food would just be going into enemy hands and doing no good to the starving millions, it has been held.

Assuming that the Russians in conquered sections of the Ukraine had not been able to flee, but had been able to burn their wheat, as seemed likely from general reports from the area from both sides, then there were a few million Ukrainians in danger of starvation within the shortest possible time.

Nor were the people in France, Norway, and the low countries in any better condition, and with the exception of the Rumanians, the Hungarians and the Croats, reportedly fighting with the German arms, and the Finns, coming down from the north into Russia, most of Europe was going to be hungry.

I talked with a Russian refugee from Paris, who had been conquered by the Germans but had escaped to this country by a devious route, and he told of the French people eating dogs, cats—any meat they could get their hands on.

Starvation already was stalking the land in August, he said, when he escaped via Lisbon.

Medical men said this hunger would not point definitely to revolt, however, for starving people soon lose their ability to fight or to resist even the inroads of their own hunger. Starvation carries with it only apathy, finally coma and then death, they declared.

While Moscow disclaimed anything but a peaceful intent for this trip, another Japanese paper, the Times and Advertiser, took alarm at it, stating it was "an effort to establish a warplane service between the United States and Russia."

This newspaper said that Japan felt itself now encircled by the British and Americans on the south, through these countries' aid to China and the Dutch East Indies, and that any "effort to encircle Japan on the north" would be a matter for grave study.

Some filling station operators wanted to close down, said they were forced out of business. Others wanted a price rise of a cent a gallon. Others wanted a government subsidy. Still others said they were getting along O. K.

Some oil suppliers said there was no shortage, others wanted barges built, still others wanted 17,500 idle tank cars used, and yet the Washington authorities said they couldn't find the cars.

SPIES:

First Trial

News reporters turned their eyes to New York where 19 out of 33 members of an alleged German spy ring went on trial on charges of espionage.

The other 14 pleaded guilty, which made it improbable that the full story of their guilt would be told.

But the trial of the 19, prosecutors in the federal court said, "would unfold ramifications beyond belief."

U. S. Attorney Kennedy said that much of the information in the possession of the prosecution had been obtained from those who had pleaded guilty.

JAPAN:

Full Mobilization

Ordering a full mobilization of his country, and at the same time, according to rumor, bidding President Roosevelt to visit him "in the Pacific on a Japanese battleship," Premier

Spy



Lucy Boehmler, 18, who pleaded guilty in New York to charges of espionage for Nazi Germany. She is said to be part of a ring which visited various parts of the country to obtain military secrets.

LENINGRAD: Near Siege

Despite what undoubtedly has been one of the greatest defensive actions in world history, the Russian defenders of Leningrad had before them the question of a siege of the city itself, and the problem of whether they could hold the attackers back until cold weather comes to their rescue.

Like northern New England, Leningrad weather is described as "nine months of winter and three months of early spring," and this spring-tide has now given way to the autumnal rains, which will shortly be supplanted by winter's heavy snows.

The Russo-Finnish campaign at the beginning of the war demonstrated that mechanized warfare doesn't pan out so well in the snow and ice, and the Reds are hoping that if they can hold out through the rest of this month, they'll get a progressive breathing spell along the whole front that will permit American aid to materialize, and a reorganization of their defense.

It was evident, not only from the Soviet but from the German communiques that the Russians were putting up a magnificent resistance all along the line, that Budenny's army got across the Dnieper without being completely knocked out as the Germans had forecast, and that General Timoshenko in the center is carrying on a protracted and more or less successful counter offensive, while Voroshilov on the north is holding the attacking Germans and Finns back as long as he can, while keeping his armies generally intact.

Berlin dispatches told of Russians "contesting every foot of ground," and halting the spearhead advance of the Nazi forces to only a couple of miles or so a day.

Moscow said that first reports of a separate peace with the Finns were premature and inaccurate, yet this might have meant simply that the Russian negotiations with Finland had fallen down, and that the Finns had decided to stick with the Nazis and carry through.

Some observers had thought that as soon as the Finns reached the Russian frontier, and had recaptured all the old Finnish territory that Russians had taken over at the beginning of the war, they would probably quit, or be glad to negotiate for peace.

GASOLINE: Still a Fight

The gasoline shortage in the eastern section of the United States still was in the controversy stage, with much of the muddle being discussed in print, and revealing how hopelessly confused legislators, administrators and oil operators were with regard to each other and the problem itself.

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The railroads offered to cut the tank car rate 50 per cent, from 5 cents a gallon to 2½ cents, and the big oil companies pointed out that the tanker rate was one cent a gallon, though this was difficult to figure because practically all the tankers are owned by the companies themselves and they need figure no profit.

Meantime, three pipeline propositions were milling around, trying to get ready to start, while several senators and congressmen, including Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, charged "bureaucratic blundering."

Washington Digest

'Morale for Defense' Is National Problem

Lack of Rhythm Marks American Efforts to Arm; Wider Use of Plastics in Industry Would Benefit Farmer.

By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

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

If you've ever watched a slow-motion picture of a high-diver, a professional golfer, or any other trained athlete in action, the thing that strikes you first is the perfect rhythm.

If you come back to America's peace-capital of Washington from Canada's peace-capital of Ottawa, the first thing you notice is the lack of rhythm.

As one just-returned American who was comparing notes with me remarked: "Canada seems to be taking the war in her stride."

Certainly Washington is not. "The use of plastics is slowly on the increase," I was told, "but the little gadgets you see in the stores are just the bridge from the test-tube to commercial production."

Already the aluminum parts on certain machines are being substituted with plastic. Washing machines. Business machines. However, so far these smaller articles are chiefly synthetic, chemical plastics. They aren't touching the cornstalks. They are as yet experimental.

Tung Oil Production. In other fields, the war has created new uses for agricultural products. War conditions have hastened perfection of these uses. Formerly we imported 10,000,000 pounds of tung oil a year. This year we have produced 5,000,000 tons from our home-grown tung and we have made great progress in producing drying oils from other things such as soy beans, linseed and castor beans.

Thorough tests have been made of the use of soy oil in paints and enamels and a report on that subject is now available from the department of agriculture. I'll be glad to send you one.

The humble soy bean, once considered good for little but to be plowed under as fertilizer, is coming to the help of Britain. Casein from soy is replacing casein from milk, which makes it possible to release more cheese for England—cheese, and dried milk, too, are two of the island's crying needs.

Waste Found But No Graft. Senator Truman, Democrat of Missouri, has been checking up on how efficiently the defense program was being run. Among other things, he reports that a million dollars have been wasted because of lack of plans for training the huge force of men which was inducted into the army. This applies specifically to housing the soldiers.

As a matter of fact the army wasn't expecting any such number as was suddenly placed on its hands. They had to hurry, and haste makes waste. But there is one consolation. The senator found no graft.

Checking Up on Air Propaganda. When I was broadcasting the early days of the war from Germany, it always gave me a strange feeling to sit in the government-controlled radio station in Berlin and listen to the foreign broadcasts coming in. I knew that it meant penalties as high as death for the German citizen to listen to what I was hearing. Of course, German radio officials monitored the stations.

Today the American government is monitoring foreign broadcasts. Not because they care whether the Americans listen or not—not very many do—but because, to quote from a statement by the Federal Communications commission: "Today almost every political, diplomatic or military move is presaged by shifts in propaganda treatment. Consequently through study of propaganda trends, it is often possible to predict such moves."

Excitement seems to vary in direct proportion to the distance from the shooting. The nearer to the front, the more folk saw wood and the less they say.



Berlin Is Using Trees as Shield

Planted Atop Buildings to Fool R. A. F., Says U. S. Minister to Greece.

NEW YORK.—Extensive camouflage is being carried out in Berlin, with trees planted atop conspicuous buildings to shield them from the view of British bombers, Lincoln MacVeagh, United States minister to Greece, reported on his arrival here recently.

Describing the safeguards being taken in the German capital, Mr. MacVeagh declared:

"Evidently they are expecting something big. Along the bicycle roads to Potsdam and such places everybody uses bicycles and the tracks are as wide as a room. The tracks, which were white, are now being painted green.

"On the outside of Berlin the ponds and sheets of water are being covered with reeds so that they will look green. On the tops of conspicuous buildings like the stadium, where they hold the frower show, they are planting live trees."

Lack of War Enthusiasm. Referring to the feelings of the natives of Berlin, Mr. MacVeagh said:

"On the Sunday that the Russian war broke out there was no enthusiasm shown by the people. They apparently had expected Russia to come to some sort of agreement at the time Turkey did. But when the Russians did not the Germans expected that war would come.

Mr. MacVeagh and his wife and daughter were in Athens while the Nazis made ready for their invasion of Crete. Preparations for this campaign began immediately after the Greece fell, he said. The MacVeaghs left Athens on June 5, went to Berlin, proceeded to Basle, Switzerland, from the German capital, continued to Barcelona and then to Lisbon. They made the overland journey by train and automobile.

He described the food situation in Greece as "a progression toward famine." Disruption of communications also had upset the country, he added.

Characterizing the Greek spirit, even in defeat, as "magnificent," he declared:

"I'm proud of that country. They are not whimpering a bit. They are defeated but unconquered."

Greeks Cheer R.A.F. During British air raids over Greece at night, he disclosed, the Greek people cheered the R.A.F. from streets and rooftops, despite Nazi admonitions that such demonstrations would lead to arrest.

Another passenger, Michael Gut, a United States citizen, who worked in Gdynia, Poland, since 1922, disclosed that that port was used as a naval base by the Nazis. He said he had seen 40 German submarines there six months ago, and added that the German liners Deutschland and Cap Arcona were among the ships moored in the harbor.

Henry Kahn, 86-year-old United States citizen, born in Alsace-Lorraine, who is a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, and a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, arrived with Mrs. Kahn. He predicted that "within a very few months you'll see blood running in the streets of Paris as the French people rise in revolt."

Coeds Display Driving Talent for Army Work

HARTFORD, CONN.—Connecticut coeds soon may be driving army trucks—bearing out a prediction of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Michael A. Connor that "properly trained women could safely and efficiently operate heavy army transport trucks ranging in weights up to 2½ tons."

Connor's conclusion was formed after an experiment conducted at New Britain Teachers college. Woman students who had completed a safe driving course conducted by the motor vehicles department took part in the test.

"The general performance was such," said Commissioner Connor, "that we were satisfied carefully selected women, properly trained, could well substitute for men in the operation of these types of army vehicles."

Army Gets Double Milk World War Men Drank

WASHINGTON.—The soldier in the American army today is getting twice as much milk as his World War predecessor. The war department estimates that his rations include a pint of milk daily.

The daily pint usually is divided equally between milk served in natural form and milk used in cooking or served in processed foods such as cheese.

Elk Forget Manners to Woo My Lady Nicotine

SOUTH BEND, WASH.—Game Protector Josh Allen would be happier if his herd of North River elk hadn't taken up with Lady Nicotine. Not that he minds their moral delinquency, he said—but they've become a traffic hazard. Allen said that elk now were in the habit of going on to the highway at all hours to "mooch" cigarettes from motorists.

Iceland Is Key to Weather Forecasts

Reports Jealously Guarded By Great Britain.

CHICAGO.—United States' occupation of Iceland isn't going to help the weather man a bit—despite the fact that the rocky island is the key point for long range forecasting for the entire North American coastline.

Dr. C. G. Roseby, assistant chief of research from the Washington weather bureau, points out that Britain has been keeping reports from Iceland's weather stations "a jealously guarded secret" since occupation of the island.

And Britain would be foolhardy not to do so, says Roseby. "The reason is simple. Icelandic reports would aid in plotting long range forecasts for eastern America, but they are of vital importance for day to day European forecasts."

"When I worked for Sweden's weather bureau," he said, "Icelandic conditions were the first thing we'd look for on the chart in making up our forecasts."

Rosby, who will remain on leave of absence from his Washington post until September to serve as director of the University of Chicago's new institute of meteorology, is the leading exponent of the air mass theory forecasting in this country. He believes that within the next 10 or 15 years the U. S. bureau will be able to extend accurate long range forecasting to 30 days or so.

Long range forecasting, he explained, is concerned—not with predicting each day's weather—but with assaying temperature and rainfall anomalies that will occur in each area.

"The five-day reports now are being used for agricultural and various industrial purposes, and eventually, when these and other uses become more widespread, man may become so adjusted to this long-range forecasting that he will consider it a necessity."

Hobby Yields 200 Ingots Of Aluminum for Defense

SUFFERN, N. Y.—A mysterious stranger with a mysterious hobby drove to the community aluminum bin in this village and deposited 70 pounds of pure aluminum molded into about 200 cakes the size of muffins.

The stranger, who was about 30 years old, gave his name as Edward Stryko of Suffern, and said his hobby for the last 10 years had been to collect old aluminum and melt it down in his furnace into small ingots. When the nation-wide drive for aluminum opened he decided to contribute his hobby to national defense.

However, when village officials decided to inquire further into his hobby, they were unable to find any trace of Stryko. He is not listed on the tax rolls of the village or of Ramapo township in the outlying areas and he seemed to be unknown in Suffern.

Parachutist Strategy Dates From Franklin

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Benjamin Franklin had the idea of parachute troops back in 1783.

"The Command and General Staff School Military Review" prints in its current issue the following excerpt from volume nine of Franklin's writings:

"Five thousand balloons, capable of raising two men each, could not cost more than five ships of the line; and where is the prince who can afford so to cover his country with troops for its defense as that 10,000 men descending from the clouds might not in many places do an infinite deal of mischief before a force could be brought together to repel them?"

Name English Woman, 33, As Only Female General

LONDON.—Slim, 33-year-old Mrs. Jean Knox took over control of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial service branch of the army.

With the rank of major general—she sits at a big desk in the war office. The mother of a 14-year-old girl and wife of a Royal Air force squadron leader, she is the youngest general in the British army and the only woman general.