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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Removal of Consulates From Moscow And Torpedoing of U. S. Destroyer Mark Important New Phase of War; Crisis Seen as Japan's Cabinet Falls

(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.)



When the British and Free French took over mandated Syria from the Vichy French, they also took over the job of providing food for needy Syrians. Here is a typical scene at a food distribution center. Pails, pots and even wash basins are held aloft for offerings.

WAR: New Phase

Evacuation of the foreign consulates from Moscow and the torpedoing of the U. S. S. Destroyer Kearney off Iceland, occurring as they did about the same time, were looked upon as two major events marking the entrance into a new phase of the war.

Immediate reaction to these reports was noticeable in their effect upon the congressional voting on changes being considered for the U. S. neutrality law. Effect of the news was also reflected in the progress of the "aid for Russia" program in which the United States, Great Britain and Russia were engaged.

'On Patrol'

First news of the Kearney incident came from Washington when the navy announced that the destroyer (one of the newest types) had been torpedoed while on patrol duty off the coast of Iceland. This report indicated that the ship was able to proceed under its own power.

President Roosevelt on the same day issued a statement saying that the torpedoing was clearly in the American defense zone.

Removal of the consulates from Moscow took place as the Germans, with their long range guns, began their "all out" campaign against the city.

JAPAN:

A Cabinet Falls

When news came from Tokyo reporting the fall of the Japanese cabinet headed by Prince Fumimaro Konoye it looked like prelude to an Axis move in the Pacific.

Immediate speculation was that the fallen cabinet would be replaced by one more "warlike" and it was indicated that this change meant the collapse of the so-called "peace talks" between Japan and the United States.

President Roosevelt conferred for two hours with top military and state department heads just following the announcement of the cabinet's fall. White House sources did not at once discuss the conference or issue a statement on the new threat in the Far East. Other informed quarters, however, viewed the situation as grave and some forecast that the change in government in Japan came at a logical time for that country to strike a blow against Russia to aid Germany.

RUSSIA:

Soviet Scene

As the German troops admittedly had smashed back the Russian defenders many miles from Smolensk, past Bryansk and past Vyzma, the picture became one in which the Russians admitted setbacks but always spoke of "heavy losses" to the enemy. The Germans issued optimistic statements so fast that the wires could hardly carry them.

Admitting many of the Nazi claims, Russian sources were asserting that "fresh legions" were entering the fight, that the Nazi advances had been made in spite of terrific losses, that the invader had been slowed, even halted and turned back at some points.

The British, including Churchill, took a rather gloomy view of the Russian situation.

Warmth in Iceland



Newly arrived U. S. soldiers are shown in their "homes" in Reykjavik, Iceland, warming chilled hands. In co-operation with armed forces of Great Britain these troops are "on the alert" for the protection of what has been defined as a Western Hemisphere defense outpost.

DRY DOCK: News Stories

What had been, by navy censorship, mystery yarns, and very nearly resulted fatally for one newspaper cameraman and a plane pilot, now has become regulation news stories, since the navy reversed itself and permitted the press to have access to British warships in drydock.

At one time or another docks in almost every sizeable port had been occupied, and the Warspite, a big battleship, was at Bremerton, Wash., and a 24,000-ton aircraft carrier was at Philadelphia.

And the skippers of these ships were giving out hair-raising interviews and pictures of combat, and the press cameramen were running wild with feature pictures taken on board.

The change in policy probably had been engineered by the President, who was leaning over backward to preserve press freedom, and a general feeling that this sort of story was the type of thing that would bring home the reality of the war to fun-loving Americans.

NORRIS:

Has His Say

Senator Norris, the only man living and now in the senate who voted against American entry into the last war, spoke his piece about the Russian situation, and had this to say:

If Russia loses to Germany, then Japan will become so bold that we are sure to become embroiled in war with her.

"Not that it would be so bad for us," he said, "in some ways it might be a very good thing."

The senator coolly and dispassionately revealed that navy men had informed him that the Japanese fleet couldn't hold out two weeks against the American navy. He also pointed out that in a bombing war against Japan, Nippon was particularly vulnerable, as most of her cities were built largely of wooden structures, which would go like tinder on a windy day, set off by a few incendiaries.

GOODWILL:

Visit to U. S.

The duke and duchess of Windsor, in paying their visit to Baltimore, the duchess' former home town, received an ovation which dwarfed anything seen in the United States surrounding any British visitor.

As a good-will ambassador, former King Edward had no rivals. A crowd estimated at 250,000 persons, one-fourth of Baltimore's defense-swollen population.

The duke played golf, and it took an army of Scotland Yarders, G-men, even diplomatic corps representatives to keep the gallery away.

The duke and duchess went to a reception to which 800 were invited, while an estimated 80,000 gazed their teeth because they were left out. Finally 1,200 jammed into the club, gaped, cheered, were won by the charm of the couple, and went home happy.

MISCELLANY:

New York: For the second time it had been testified by Nicholas Schenck, movie magnate, that Bi-Off, labor leader, had demanded a "shakedown" price of \$2,000,000 not to wreck the movie industry by strikes.

New York: The B.B.C. radio stated that German losses (not giving the authority) since the start of the central offensive against Moscow, had been 160,000 killed and 450,000 wounded.

Washington Digest

U. S. Farm Aid to Britain Likely to Pay Dividends

Better Home-Consumption Market for American Farmer Is Cited as Post-War Period Goal; British Expected to Co-operate.

By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

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

After sitting down for an hour with the undersecretary of agriculture, Paul H. Appleby, on a quiet Saturday afternoon when only defense workers and newsmen have to labor, I walked back through the park with a feeling that perhaps some of the lease-lend bread which America is casting across the water might come back buttered, and even with jam on it.

Undersecretary Appleby was fresh off the Clipper from Europe where he and AAA Administrator Rudolph M. Evans had been talking food with the British.

Three things came out of my queries of the undersecretary as to his experiences.

First: Thanks to the United States, the British have passed what looked like a crisis in their food supply.

Second: The American farmer is going to get a little extra gravy for the extra sweating he is going to do to produce more "food for freedom."

Third: (and this is what I meant by the butter and jam on the lease-lend bread) Appleby believes, and he told the British so, that the United States has a post-war goal in its extra-production efforts. That goal is to build up a better home-consumption market for the American farmer—and all farmers—and the British are expected to co-operate.

As to the first point, Mr. Appleby was chary about giving out facts and figures. He did assure me, however, that quantitatively the United States is now delivering at British ports an amount of food sufficient to take care of the basic needs of the population, civil and military. That means there are enough ships to handle and deliver, taking sinkings into consideration, this minimum tonnage. So if the present amount of tonnage is limited and the type of food required for a balanced diet is raised in the United States, this island will not starve. Although the British will be getting on with a lot less than they are used to, they will have enough of the right kind of food to do the job they are expected to do.

Complaining 'Wasn't Done'

According to Appleby, even when the pinch was at its worst early last spring, popular opinion in England was such that morale was not affected seriously. Complaining simply "wasn't done," as the English say. In other words, if somebody sounded off about what he was not getting to eat in a public place, he would be reproved in short order by his listeners.

The British food ministry and the department of agriculture officials now understand each other, according to Appleby, and each is satisfied as to the other's efforts, and those efforts have been co-ordinated.

Specifically, Undersecretary Appleby and Administrator Evans received suggestions as to improved packaging—for instance, minor changes in the content of a canned product, the kind of cartons that best protected a certain commodity. You see many of these products, in fact most of them, the United States had never exported at all before and American officials did not have experience in the best packaging methods. For instance, there were lessons in packaging and labeling to be learned about cheese.

The Americans suggested to the British that it would be easier to arouse the sympathy and co-operation of people in this country if they knew just what this food was being used for—say, one thing for school children, another for babies, something else for workers.

The British showed a break-down in the statistics was impossible because of exceedingly abnormal conditions of transportation. There is, for instance, uncertainty as to where a given ship is going to land, what railroad will be available for shipments. Then, too, there are many difficulties of administration which make it impossible to channel special shipments to special points or assign them to special groups.

Distribution Control

Another thing the Americans examined thoroughly was the control by the government of distribution of the products. All food belongs



U. S. Active in Newfoundland

American Workmen Making Rapid Strides on Naval Plane Station.

ARGENTIA, NEWFOUNDLAND. —A huge United States naval air station has begun to emerge in the last two months on this lonely shore, a third of the way from New York to London. A corps of more than 1,000 American engineers and workmen is rapidly building the base, one of the eight in the Western hemisphere which the British leased to the United States for 99 years.

The base already is the center of extensive United States naval operations. On one day this summer there were 60 war craft in the harbor. Three were troopships, and submarines and supply ships were among the rest. American freighters and airplanes also were present in large numbers.

Recreation for the Men.

Work of building the base began in earnest eight months ago, but the greater part of the first six months had to be given over to housing and otherwise providing for the workmen and to preparations for permanent construction.

Barracks had to be erected. Mess halls, laundry, shoe shop, food refrigeration plant, bank, newspaper, compressed air-power plant and even a post office had to be put up. A theater, too, was built. Recreation for the men in this far-away spot was a serious problem.

Dredging and the removal of the layer of peat which covers this part of the Newfoundland coast also were necessary preliminaries. In some places the peat is 20 feet deep, and there were times when the great shovels removing it were out of sight in the holes they were excavating.

As the base begins to take shape, more measures of secrecy are being taken.

Now Part of U. S.

Under the agreement with Great Britain this little part of the Newfoundland coast has become a part of United States territory for all but a year of the next century. The American flag flies here, and American stamps are used at the American post office. Imported materials from continental United States come in duty free.

Despite this, many of the workmen have become homesick for the States and have left, to be replaced by others from the United States or, in a few cases, by Canadians.

The weather has been one cause of grumbling. It was still snowing in mid-June and not until mid-August did the temperature creep above 60.

Cabbage appears to be the only vegetable that grows on these peaty shores. Flowers are scarce, too, although one workman found seven or eight varieties, including white and deep-pink mountain laurel, buttercups, moss tulips, wild pansies, dandelions and rush flowers. These were put on display in a beer bottle, the first flowers many of the workmen had seen since leaving the United States.

Balancing such drawbacks is the fact that there are no mosquitoes, black deerflies, snakes or reptiles of any kind. The climate is supposed to be good, too, for sinus trouble and hay fever. Salmon fishing also is good here.

Jail Trusty Celebrates With Unusual Ill Luck

PAINESVILLE, OHIO. — It was "in-again and out-again" of jail for a local youth.

The young man, a trusty at the county jail, was sent to the bakery on an errand for the sheriff's sister. Several other prisoners' wanted some errands performed. In all the young prisoner had \$3.

With the money in his pocket, he decided to pay a visit to near-by Cleveland and see a movie. As he was coming out of the theater he was much surprised to meet the sheriff, who was in Cleveland on business.

The young man went back to his jail cell.

Portable Bar Dispenses Food for Tourists' Dogs

CLIPPER GAP, CALIF. — Fido has come into his own at Clipper Gap.

Resort owner Robert White, noting that many tourists stopping at his Sierra place left their dogs in their automobiles while they had refreshments, set up the Clipper Gap dog bar.

On a shady lawn he installed a portable bar dispensing canned dog food, pup biscuits, fresh milk and cold spring water, without charge. In a 45-day period 378 dogs were served.

Old Town Well Now Spouting Gasoline

No Leakage or Seepage Is Found in Checkup.

TAYLOR, MISS.—Threats of a gasoline shortage are not worrying citizens of this community since the old town well, after more than a century of loyal service as a thirst-quencher, suddenly began producing gasoline.

All efforts to explain the enigma have failed.

First indications that all was not right with the old well came when an unmistakable odor of gasoline was noticeable. "Some boy playing a joke," residents said. But the gasoline odor kept getting stronger and stronger.

A Negro was lowered into the well to investigate the trouble and the fumes were so strong that he was overcome. When he was revived, he reported gasoline was two feet deep in the eight-foot depth of water.

It was decided to experiment further by tossing a lighted match into the well. The result was an explosive roar and a tower of flame that surged high into the air. Buckets were lowered, and when brought to the surface, were filled with fire.

Members of the state geological survey were summoned and after an investigation, they reported the fuel was seeping into the well from a nearby filling station. The filling station owner, however, said a three weeks' check on his tanks revealed no shortage.

Once more the well was emptied and a thorough check was made on the walls of the 50-foot shaft. The second report declared there was no seepage of "gasoline or anything else" through the walls.

"Whatever is in the well is either coming in from the top or bottom," Mayor J. E. Walker said.

'Death Ray' Proves Able To Cause Brain Fatigue

BERKELEY, CALIF. — A death ray developed by an American naval officer—it kills bacteria at a distance of six inches—can cause mental fatigue in humans, it was revealed.

It is a magnetic device which produces 9,300 vibrations a second. This frequency is just within the upper limit of human hearing. It produces an extremely high-pitched shriek which can be heard a block away. There are several other types of vibrator which can kill microscopic life at short distances.

The machine was built by Commander A. P. Krueger, head of the navy's first mobile medical research unit.

Individuals who stand close to the machine longer than a few minutes at a time become mentally weary, Commander Krueger said. They lose some of their ability to do mathematical problems. This effect persists for several hours.

State Will Buy Fulton, Boone Historic Sites

HARRISBURG, PA.—The historical value of Pennsylvania has been increased considerably with the purchase of the homestead and birthplace of two famous Americans—Daniel Boone, and Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat—under legislation enacted by the 1941 session.

Gov. Arthur H. James approved a bill appropriating \$25,000 for the purchase of Robert Fulton's birthplace, which still stands in Fulton township, Lancaster county. Another \$5,000 was appropriated to the Pennsylvania Historical commission for administration and maintenance of the 127-acre site for the next two years.

The other bill appropriates \$35,000 for the purchase of the Daniel Boone homestead near Birdsboro, Berks county. Roads leading to the site will be constructed by the state highways department.

New Zealand Army Chief Minimizes Nazi Forces

WELLINGTON, N. Z.—New Zealand's new chief of the general staff, Maj. Gen. Edward Puttick, who is back here after commanding a brigade in Greece, described the Greek campaign as "pretty easy going."

He said the principal maneuver was one of bluffing the enemy. Getting the men away from beaches for embarkation to Crete, he said, was "pretty hot stuff" but that, heavy as the New Zealand casualties were, they were worth while.

General Puttick insisted that the Germans the New Zealanders met were not equal to their fathers in the last war, not so tough or well trained. He said his men captured nine Nazis who attempted to hide behind one olive tree.