

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVII

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1941

No. 42

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Congressional Neutrality Act Revision Permits Armed U. S. Merchant Ships To Sail Through Belligerent Zones; U. S. Faces Serious Labor Situation

(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.)



Everyone in Soviet Russia is learning the soldier's trade these days. Even the students in school. Here an instructor is shown teaching secondary school students methods of bayonet fighting. Note that girls as well as boys are present for instruction in this class.

NEUTRALITY: Revision Complete

When the house voted 212 to 194 to permit the arming of U. S. merchant ships and allow them to sail through war zones into ports of nations at war it amounted to a repeal of the neutrality act's main provisions. For as the senate had already adopted the same measure, the administration's battle on this vital issue was over.

As a vote neared on the measure a warning came from President Roosevelt that its defeat would be evidence to Hitler that "the United States is disunited." For a while there were strong indications of a Democratic revolt in the house, as many members were reported to be demanding a firmer presidential stand on defense strikes in return for "going along" with the Roosevelt foreign policy.

When the President's warning, in the form of a letter to Speaker Sam Rayburn, was read before the house, it was inferred that assurances were being given that the strike situation would be dealt with and many members were reported to have then fallen in behind the White House revision plans.

Marked by a hectic battle on the issue, the principal fight centered repeal of the combat zone and belligerent port provisions. For shipping arming had already been approved by the house and senate tacked on the controversial provision when it passed the broader bill and returned it to the house for concurrence.

GERMANS: Fighting Front

Frank admissions from Berlin that the attack on Russia was entirely stalled no longer had been withheld as the Germans were finding it necessary to explain to the people the failure of their armies to capture Leningrad, Moscow or the defenses in the Donetz basin.

German press announcements blamed entirely the weather. It also was claimed that the Russian defenses, especially around Moscow, were based on the knowledge that the German mechanized army could not operate over fields and through woods on a terrain covered with snow and rain.

One communique said: "This has forced us to use roads instead of traveling cross-country, and these roads are literally minefields, especially the shoulders."

The defenses around Moscow were described as extremely powerful and intricate, including subterranean tank garages from which Red tanks would dash directly into battle and then circle and re-enter their "bunkers" after firing a few shots, and before the German attacking forces could organize their defense.

This system really gave the Russians movable fortifications. The German communique also said they were encountering flame throwers so concealed in the ground that only the nozzles were showing, and which could be operated from a considerable distance with devastating effect.

The Russians thus have been able to hold back the Nazi attack, Berlin frankly admitted, though it was claimed that at one point the assault had reached within 31 miles of the borders of Moscow.

Nothing was said about Russian claims that her troops were actually taking the offensive at many points.

BRITISH: Loss

Loss of the aircraft carrier Ark Royal was admitted by the British who said that the craft (claimed many times as being sunk by the Nazis) had been torpedoed in the Mediterranean east of Gibraltar. The 22,000 ton floating airfield was sunk while in tow after a submarine torpedo had struck her.

STRIKES: Galore

Highlighting the news of a troubled labor situation in the United States was the strike called for December 7, by 350,000 operating employees of the nation's railway systems.

The American Federation of Labor trades in San Diego, 2,000 members of which had walked out, crippling navy and marine defense projects, went back to work. At the same time the C.I.O. chieftains in the coal dispute in the captive mines walked out of the conference, and it began to look as though the army would have to take over and operate the mines.

In the steel-coal-mine strike, however, after a quadruple plea by President Roosevelt to John L. Lewis he had temporarily halted the threatened walkout of 53,000 workers and had sent them back to work pending negotiations before the national mediation board, trouble developed as soon as the board decided adversely to the closed shop demand.

Lewis had set his deadline, and only three days before that time the board, on which Philip Murray and other C.I.O. chieftains were sitting, declined to vote the closed shop. Murray and his aides had announced that they were quitting.

WAR: And Mr. Welles

Administration forces saw the approach of America's entry into actual hostilities as closer, not because of repeal of the neutrality act's main restrictive paragraphs, but as a result of increased pressure on this country by Japan and Germany.

Sumner Welles, undersecretary of state, and President Roosevelt himself, in their Armistice day addresses, had issued most solemn warnings.

Mr. Welles, in particular, said: "Another war may be forced on the United States at any moment by Japan or Germany."

"The tides are running fast. The heart-searching question every American citizen must ask himself is whether the world in which we have to live would have come to this desperate pass had the United States been willing in those years which followed 1919 to play its full part in striving to bring about a new world order based on justice and on a steadfast concert for peace."

He said that President Wilson, dying five years after he had laid the groundwork of such co-operative effort, "was laid to rest amid the apathy and the sneers of those of his opponents who had, through appeal to ignorance, to passion and to prejudice, temporarily persuaded the people to reject Wilson's plea that the influence, the resources and the power of the United States be exercised for their own security and their own advantage, through our participation in an association of nations for peace."

Queen's Job



LONDON, ENGLAND.—A queen's job includes many things and here the cameraman pictures Queen Elizabeth of England having her shoes "fitted" upon visiting a shell factory. In order to prevent accidents when entering the "danger zone" of the factory special attention must be given to the fit and type of shoes worn.

ROME: And Hostages

Italy, by arresting 150 hostages in Yugoslavia as an aftermath of a Serbian uprising in which a large number of Italian soldiers and civilians were slain and wounded, had placed herself in position to go into the hostage-execution business in a similar manner to that of the Nazis in France and other occupied countries.

In the official casualty list in Greece and Yugoslavia issued by the Italians since their armies occupied those countries 179 Italian soldiers had been reported killed, and 128 wounded.

It was the first time since the outbreak of the war that the Italian command had resorted to the "hostage method" of control or reprisal.

MEDITERRANEAN: Battle Report

British warships, under the guns of a highly superior Italian naval force, had engaged a convoy in the Mediterranean, and had sunk several freighters, also three destroyers.

The British admiral announced in a later communique that four more Axis troops had been sunk, two sailing vessels sent to the bottom, and four other vessels damaged.

All of this was accomplished by submarine action, the British asserted. It was considered possible that the action might have been a prelude to activity by the British in North Africa.

MARSHALL: On Morale

Gen. George C. Marshall, head of the army, declared there was in progress a "sudden and widespread" attempt on the part of the Nazis to "sabotage United States munitions, utility and transportation industries—also the army's morale."

Already, the general revealed, there has been uncovered an Axis propaganda attack designed to disrupt army morale.

This campaign, using "clever methods" has succeeded already in upsetting the families of soldiers and has also misled some members of congress.

The general's daily mail, he said, reflects "German scheming through letters from families who are worrying about their boys in the army, who have been led to believe, for instance, that the soldiers lack food, proper shelter or medical attention."

"They come from members of congress who have been similarly misled."

He cited the various events indicative of disrupted morale which occurred during the summer.

ELEPHANTS: Circus Tragedy

The sudden death of 10 elephants in the Barnum Bailey circus at Atlanta was followed by a statement from the management that it was clearly a case of "elephant murder."

Autopsies determined what the poison was, and that it was an "inside job." Arrests had been promised.

The story had much "human interest," and it was expected that it would blossom out into detective fiction. Most of the animals that died were young for elephants, 30 to 35 years old.

197 Destroyers Now Building

Construction Pace Equals Combined Power of Any Two Axis Countries.

WASHINGTON.—The speed being attained in the construction of United States destroyers to help keep open the sea lanes vital to defense is exceeding the highest expectations of navy officials.

After subtracting the 50 over-age destroyers transferred to Great Britain, the United States had in active service at the end of 1940, 180 destroyers, 80 more than those possessed by Japan, strongest Axis naval power. And this numerical superiority does not tell the complete story; military consensus credits this country's destroyer force with a speed and hitting power superior to that of any other nation.

Japanese destroyers carry only six to nine torpedo tubes, as against 8 to 16 on similar American craft. Another technical achievement in our favor is the fact that on our newer destroyers the torpedo tubes have been mounted upon the superstructure to permit firing in heavy weather. The Japanese tubes remain on the main deck. In both fleets the destroyers' five and six-inch guns have been set in turrets, but the American turrets have additional light armament. In some quarters Tokyo's torpedo carriers and submarine hunters are deemed top-heavy.

197 Now 'Building.'

Two hundred destroyers were ordered for the United States navy in 1940, and 197 are now listed as "building." The speed with which this program is being carried out can be deduced from the production record set between January 1 and September 30 of this year. By the end of September the keels had been laid for 57 destroyers, 10 had been launched and 12 completed and placed in active service. This is a construction pace superior to that of any two Axis nations combined.

An indication of the production speed is provided by several destroyers recently completed. In World war days the average time for constructing a 1,200-ton destroyer was nine months. When the Edison, a 1,700-ton vessel of more complex design than the World war models, was launched, 8½ months after keel laying, it was deemed an exceptional achievement. But the Bristol and Ellington, both 1,700-tonners of the same class as the Edison, slid down their Kearny, N. J., ways only 7½ months after keel laying.

The destroyers are part of the production of 375,000 men in the country's shipyards.

Cavalry of the Sea. Another development which has heightened the importance of our destroyer force is the nature of modern warfare. Destroyers correspond to the army's mechanized cavalry. They are swift-moving and hard-hitting and are constantly being improved. American destroyers can be controlled from so many different protected places that the chance of losing control through enemy gunfire is negligible. United States destroyers are the only ones in the world which can be refueled without stopping at sea. How this is done is a secret.

Latest reports which have reached this country also show that the destroyer is well adapted to combat the dive bomber. The speed and maneuverability of the destroyer has enabled it to avoid being hit by air bombs in many Mediterranean and Atlantic sea battles.

The workers pointed out that barbershops were closed after 7 p. m. The bottleneck got so bad that the city council repealed a seven-year regulatory ordinance—and the city's 20 barbershops now may remain open 24 hours a day to accommodate 2,000 defense workers.

Nazis Skimp on Food of Red Prisoners of War

BERLIN.—Russian prisoners of war will receive food inferior to that of prisoners of other nationalities, the high command decreed.

This unusual measure was based on the fact that Russia did not sign the international agreement covering treatment of war prisoners and that in the high command's opinion "there is accordingly no obligation to grant Soviet war prisoners rations corresponding to said agreement as regards quantity or quality."

Ruins in Alaska Show High Culture

Industry, Commerce, Art and Religion Flourished.

NEW YORK.—On a barren gravel spit 130 miles above the Arctic circle a highly developed and complex civilization came into being before the dawn of history on the ancient migration route from Asia to America.

For a few thousand years it thrived. Then it declined and ultimately died, leaving behind a mystery as deep as that which once shrouded the pyramids.

Relics of the ancient lost civilization, which once made Point Hope, Alaska a place of animation where industry, commerce, art and religion flourished, were discovered only two years ago.

A full report on what is known about it became available when Dr. Harry L. Shapiro of the American Museum of Natural History released details of discoveries made on the site during the past summer.

Much as Dr. Shapiro and his predecessors discovered about the Point Hope culture, more remains to be learned. Science does not yet know what race laid out the ancient city now referred to as "Ipiutak." It only knows that the Ipiutak civilization was more highly developed than either ancient or modern Eskimo culture, that the inhabitants were deeply religious, highly artistic and skilled in the crafts of daily living.

In 1939 and 1940 members of an American museum—University of Alaska expedition located the vast ruins of the prehistoric town. Dr. Shapiro extended their discoveries last summer.

He found that Ipiutak—which is the Eskimo name of a small spit of land near the site—had five long avenues on which some 600 dwellings, since buried, housed about 3,000 persons.

Army Patriarch Retires; Bounces Soldier a Day

FORT BRAGG, N. C.—Wild Root, 33-year-old army mule, which threw a soldier a day for seven long years and two the last day she was saddled—just to show that she was not weakening—was retired with full military honors.

There was a formal review. The orneriest mule that ever stuck her nose into an army feed box stood by Lieut. Col. William Clarke, commander of the Fourth Field Artillery battalion; Capt. J. O. Seaman and other officers, as the battalion—her own—including 687 mules and 117 horses swept past in full pack.

Maj. Gen. Jacob L. Devers recommended the retirement as one of his last orders before relinquishing command of Fort Bragg to take command at Fort Knox, Ky., of the armored forces of the United States. Over the time-hewn back of the little, dun-colored "toughy" hung an army blanket with service stripes. There was little of her famed friskiness as she took her honors. In fact, there was a trace of boredom in her apathetic eyes, where evil was wont to dance.

Motorist Wasn't Drunk, He Just Had a Glass Eye

ORANGE, N. J.—On the ground that his glassy stare after an automobile accident was caused by a glass eye he has worn since 1918, and not by intoxication, George W. Thomas, 40 years old, was freed of a charge of drunken driving in Orange police court.

Dr. Frederico Luong, Orange city physician, who had pronounced Thomas unfit to drive after the accident, was asked on cross-examination today, "Doctor, would it make any difference if you had known that Mr. Thomas had a glass eye?" "Oh, yes, quite a difference," Dr. Luong replied. "My opinion might be changed materially."

Judge Philip Singer then ruled the defendant was "not so intoxicated as to render him unfit to drive," and dismissed the charge.

12 Reds Give Lives to Kill Thousands of Foes

STOCKHOLM.—A squadron of Russian living bombs—old airplanes loaded with dynamite which crash on their targets with the pilots still at the controls—sank 12 German ships off Russia's Kronstadt naval base, the Soviet radio said.

The radio report, published here in the newspaper Aftonbladet, said that "the Red army sacrificed 12 old planes, several thousand pounds of dynamite and 12 pilots, but the Germans lost thousands of men and 12 ships and a large amount of war material." The report said a German assault on the Kronstadt area was beaten off largely as a result of the heroism of the suicide squad.

Washington Digest

Three-Way Pulling Match Builds Defense Log Jam

Washington Sees Conflicts of Authority, Effort And Viewpoint as Threat to Satisfactory Carrying Out of Program.

By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

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

There is a log jam today holding up the defense program that is going to take dynamite to blow up. Whether there is the courage and the unity and the understanding to do the job remains to be seen.

It will take understanding because the men who make the charges will have to know the facts and realize the conditions and the traditions which have created the evils.

It will take courage, for a premature burst may damage a lot of innocent bystanders.

As far as can be judged from information leading out of the cracks in the defense machine it is a three-way pulling match. The difficulty in analyzing the situation is the difficulty in classifying and identifying the opposing forces.

The usual classification is: One, the New Deal group. Two, the dollar-a-year men. Three, certain army and navy officials.

But this is a very misleading classification because there are some dollar-a-year men who are working with the administration. There are some members of the administration charged with playing into the hands of the dollar-a-year men. There are some army officials who are co-operating with the so-called New Deal element.

Roughly—the Charges

Roughly the charges are these: Those sympathetic with the viewpoint of the New Dealers say that some army officials insist on favoring the dollar-a-year men who manage to steer defense contracts to big business, block sub-contracting to the smaller firms.

Some of the army and navy officials say that they are not going to let amateurs run their affairs, that they have dealt with certain firms for years who know how to do what they want done.

The champions of the small business men and congressmen who have attempted to help them say that priorities assignments are sending essential materials to the big business firms—and they mention the utilities in particular. Small manufacturers and public projects like rural electrification which is bidding for precious copper for its power lines, are being passed by, is the accusation.

The dollar-a-year men say that they are protecting free enterprise and that those opposing them are trying to turn business over to government control.

These bitter conflicts of authority, effort and viewpoint naturally prevent the co-operation essential in the tremendous undertaking which the Office of Emergency Management is attempting to carry out.

This is one reason for the log jam. There is another. In Washington itself criticism is growing. This is not new. It is criticism of the overlapping and conflicting authority among the officials of the OEM.

Theoretically, Vice President Wallace is the responsible head of all defense effort and in that capacity he reports only to the President but the money he requires to carry out his functions is controlled by Jesse Jones, head of the RFC as well as secretary of commerce. That is just one example of similar anomalies right down the line.

The strange thing about it all is that everybody in Washington seems to know all about the log-jam except the President himself who is the only man who can straighten it out.

'ABCD' Countries In New Trade Pact

The "A B C D" countries have just drawn up a trade agreement which bottles up a large share of the raw materials of the world. The ABCD's (America, Britain, China and the Dutch East Indies) control a large share of the things that do not or will not grow anywhere else. The agreement has a two-pronged purpose. One is a horn of famine, one is a horn of plenty. The horn of famine is pointed today at Japan as a threat to keep her within her own domain. The horn of plenty is a peaceful promise. Its purpose is to provide a working arrangement so that all nations may share in the riches of the earth, the

precious raw materials of which the "have-nots" say the "haves" are depriving them.

We do not realize how much of a "have-not" nation the United States is. I did not until I saw the report of Carter R. Bryan of the department of commerce. It was a story of his visit to a country store.

Mr. Bryan looked over the goods on the shelves and counters and hanging on hooks against the walls and then began to trace them to their origin. I haven't the space to mention more than a few but the next time you go to the store you will be able to use this list as a starter and surprise yourself.

List of 'Have Nots'

Of course he began with tea from China and coffee from South America and then went on:

"Among other things were binder twine, made of sisal, which comes from Yucatan, and halter ropes, made of hemp from the Philippines; brushes, made of hog bristles from Mongolia, soft drinks containing coca leaves from Peru and kola nuts from Jamaica, and tapoca from The Netherlands Indies or the Dominican republic."

"Cocoa beans from South America are used in making cocoa and chocolate. The same is true of the chocolate bars in the candy case. Even those penny peppermint candy sticks," he continued, "are made of sugar, which probably came from Cuba, and peppermint oil from Russia, and that chewing gum was made of chicla from Central America or Mexico."

Then of course there are spices—"And spices," he pointed out, "have played a big role in history before. Columbus wasn't looking for America when he sailed west; he was looking for a new route to India and spices in the days when another barbaric horde interfered with trade."

After noting several large bunches of bananas from Central America and pineapples from Cuba, he continued:

"One whole section was given over to bottles containing cod liver oil from Iceland, old-fashioned castor oil from India and Brazil, hay fever and asthma remedies containing Ma Huang (Ephedra Vulgaris) from China, purgatives containing psyllium seed from India, ipecac from Nicaragua, senna from the Levant, and aloe from The Netherlands West Indies, that, invaluable cold and malaria remedy, quinine, from The Netherlands Indies, camphor oil from Japan and iodine from Chile, horehound from Spain, and other medicinals from every part of the earth."

As I said, this was only a starter. Bryan named at least 100 other articles right in that one country store, all or a part of each shipped in from foreign lands. If this country, with its wide range of climate and mighty resources has to depend on foreign countries for these products used in our daily life it is easy to see how dependent all nations have become, one upon the other. Trade barriers must go down if civilization is to continue to go upward.

Birds, Traffic Signals And Early Risers

Some people here in Washington have been living dangerously before you and I start our day.

They are up and doing before the traffic signals begin their rhythmic cycle of red, yellow and green. It is a period of comparative freedom, the lights flash yellow—a warning to be careful, not a command to stop. To some of the mad, pre-dawn motorists the flashers are not warnings at all. They are simply lures for the heedless autos dashing at the intersections like moths at a candle flame.

That makes it stimulatingly dangerous for early folk whose reveille has sounded long before our bacon sizzles. They have to be wide awake. Except the birds—one of the few forms of life, feathered, furred, or pajamaed, whose waking is pleasant to hear—the plaintive peep that gradually swells in a soft crescendo to a cheerful chatter.

And the birds are about the only living creatures who can risk an early start for they can cross the street without regard for the traffic lights.