

# NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

## BEST BRAINS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE VICTORY

WASHINGTON.—It is very probable that Mr. Roosevelt will revise his government immediately for victory and the fourth term campaign.

Now, as never before, he needs brains in the top places. With the chaotic condition of the world, with our ability to survive questioned on every front—financial, diplomatic, economic, military—the best politics and simplest sense demands the best manpower in government as well as in the army, factories, and field.

You cannot win without power at the top. Yet Mr. Roosevelt's own senate leader has now publicly proclaimed what everyone else knew, namely that the cabinet and presidential advisers fall far short of representing the best intelligence and experience of the country.

In the beginning, to satisfy this deficiency, Mr. Roosevelt brought in the Byrnes, Baruch, Vinson, Jones setup as a super cabinet. As Senator Barkley noted, this has not been enough.

Any ordinary man in Mr. Roosevelt's spot would go out and draft the best men of the nation to handle subjects they know best. A belated move along that line is imminent.

Anonymous news has been appearing in the papers suggesting a few cabinet changes are under consideration. The question is whether they will go far and deep enough.

### SOME PROSPECTS:

Edward R. Stettinius, the state undersecretary, is receiving some mention as possible vice presidential nominee instead of the left-leaning Wallace. This talk originated with no more inferior an authority than Democratic National Chairman Hanagan.

Mr. Stettinius has an ex-big business background in Morgan business not unlike that of Mr. Willkie. Certainly Stettinius is being groomed to succeed Mr. Hull, when and if.

Foreign Economic Administrator Crowley also has mounted the toboggan and a successor is needed for him.

A sounding-out rumor has been published that Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones might go to the treasury with Joseph P. Kennedy, ex-ambassador to Britain, replacing him. The rumor is probably off the mark.

Mr. Kennedy's finance-business brain is regarded as the best in the country and the place for him is treasury. When big business leaders get in trouble, they call on him to straighten them out for an extraordinary fee which they must pay because no one else can do the job.

In the current international financial dilemma (Keynes-White international currency stabilization and even domestic taxes) Mr. Roosevelt could get him for a \$10,000 a year cabinet salary, whereas a private corporation seeking his services would have to pay 10 to 20 times as much. Why not?

The only objection is political. Mr. Kennedy is erroneously designated by certain contrary political elements as an appeaser—and conversely also as an Anglophile.

This is world war, and more than that, it is world revolution within war. The people of the country really care far less whether a man is a good political appointment than whether he can help win for us. The best politics would be no politics.

In a life and death world crisis like this, we cannot choose political directions or political appointees, whether leftists or rightists.

A thorough change is called for—and is imminent.

### WEAKNESS FOUND IN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Roosevelt, speaking in the closed fraternity of his few top advisers after his third term victory, is supposed to have complained that the Republican campaign against him was weak and technically defective. As they remember it, he put it something like this:

"If I had been planning their campaign I would not have made the fight against me, but against the men around me."

Mr. Roosevelt certainly knew his weakness. That weakness has now been publicly exposed again by the courage of his own Democratic Senate Floor Leader Barkley. No one has risen to dispute Barkley's theme that the President is at least partly surrounded with men he (Barkley) described as nitwits or worse—"a mind more clever than honest." That long has been a glaring Washington deficiency.

The public has assumed Barkley was shooting at treasury officials who normally would submit data for a veto message on the subject of taxes. Inside congress that assumption is rejected.

Barkley is believed to have had in mind one particular Roosevelt adviser who did most of the work on the veto message—a man not in the treasury.

The departure of this man from the White House coterie may be necessary before a more friendly undercurrent of relations with congress is possible.



## Britain's Swordfish

By Scott Newhall

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with Collier's Weekly.)

Though most Americans wouldn't believe their eyes if they saw it, the plane known as the Fairey Swordfish is one of the mainstays of Britain's Fleet Air Arm.

Every time a Swordfish goes roaring down the flight deck of a carrier and claws its way aloft, the pageant of man's conquest of the air is lived again for a few tense seconds. For, to the casual spectator, a Swordfish flying off to battle in this war looks about as efficient and dangerous as a crossbowman on his way to tackle a squad of Commandos.

A Swordfish is a large, gangling biplane. It would fit comfortably into any movie sequence of the period 1917-1918. The wings and fuselage are covered with fabric, which is originally painted in shades ranging from gray to blue, but because every Swordfish invariably has a light rash of patches on its skin, the general result is a sort of mottled shade.

The patches are the result of a curious hazard in a Swordfish's life. After some service, the fabric becomes brittle, and curious visitors find that their fingers inadvertently punch holes in the wing surface. Also, in a dive or tight turn, the fabric covering sometimes flutters in an unpleasant, nervous fashion.

Fleet Air Arm pilots, both in affection and alarm, call these planes Stringbags.

The space between the two wings is pretty well filled with struts and wires and such, and back by the tail a lot of wires come out of the fuselage and run to the control surfaces. The fuselage itself is a long, narrow structure. The three open cockpits start immediately behind the following edge of the upper wing, the pilot in the first, the observer in the second, the aerial gunner in the last. So the Swordfish looks and sometimes acts like something out of a mail-order catalogue.

**Aerial Hide and Seek.**

Yet, regularly, stories come back on how these planes can muddle through. For example, in the Norway campaign a Stringbag from the Ark Royal found itself on the business end of a Heinkel III. The Swordfish, however, came back to its carrier with nothing worse than a slight case of dizziness aboard. The pilot merely dived down on a Norwegian mountain and then flew in tight circles around it. The Heinkel couldn't cut corners so sharply, so he finally gave up and flew away.

As a matter of fact, one school of Swordfish philosophy argues that the incredibly slow speed of the aircraft is an asset. The fast-attacking enemy aircraft simply cannot slow down enough to get in an efficient burst.

The Royal Navy calls its Swordfish torpedo-spotter-reconnaissance aircraft. Every carrier in the fleet has flown them off to seek the enemy and, if possible, get a torpedo into him. To be a naval success a plane must have a quick takeoff, a low landing speed, and carry a heavy load. And that is where the lumbering Swordfish excels.

There is no sense in trying to make a silk purse out of a Stringbag. It is painfully slow and awkward and ugly. Its performance has guaranteed that as long as the war lasts there will always be a Swordfish. It has a great record behind it. On many and curious missions this strange craft has proved its worth. The crews who fly the Stringbags have developed an odd and somewhat contemptuous affection for their planes.

**Italy's Bad Luck**

Swordfish flew into the Italian fleet at Taranto, putting three battleships out of action and changing the balance of naval power in the Mediterranean. They bombed Genoa early in the war, covered countless Malta convoys and put torpedoes into the French fleet at Oran. Again, Swordfish were down in the Channel fog looking for the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau when the German ships made their dash from Brest. That time only a few came back.

But it was in the wintry North Atlantic that the Swordfish did its greatest job. Stringbag torpedoes disabled the Bismarck so that the surface fleet could close in for the kill.

Stringbags have also engaged in extracurricular activities. At the time of Dunkerque, some of them were sent over the French and Belgian coasts. So they flew up and down the coast in tight formation, pretending to be fighter coverage for the troops below. Apparently they got away with it, too.

In another case a Swordfish was turned into a fighter when, after the two machine guns were emptied, an observer drew his revolver and assaulted an attacking Italian plane with that. The Italian flew home across the Mediterranean.



## THOSE SMALL-TOWN TEACHERS

(Apropos of a recent belittling of school teachers by the mayor of New York on the ground they came from small towns.)

They're just some small-town teachers—

They're just the smaller fry; They come from little places (Where no loud-speakers cry); They're small-town educators— Their I.Q. it is slight; They merely know the secret Of teaching truth and light!

They're just some small-town teachers—

Not qualified to talk Of things like education In cities like New York; They come from all those hick spots Like Yorktown, Miller's Run, Benning, Ticonderoga And—let's say—Lexington!

They're just some little people From places far away From all the super spotlights And microphone play; Just schoolma'ams who don't matter—

The class and type I scorn— Who teach in towns like Springfield Where Lincoln's kind are born.

They're just the small fry tutors— The mind they merely mold In Concord and in Plymouth And other spots of old; They're merely bush-league teachers—

You know the sort I mean— Who taught the Hales and Prescotts Kit Carson and Nate Greene.

They teach in far Missoula, In Saybrook and Fort Lee . . . In Medford town and Trenton In Kent and Little Tree; In schools around Mount Vernon And Saratoga Heights In Gettysburg and Moultrie; They're just the lesser lights!

Such teachers! Merely bushers! The kind I scorn and shun; They merely taught Steve Foster, Bell, Ford, and Edison! How dare they make suggestions To cities all aglow, Where noise and size and clamor And rudeness run the show.

### IN THE RED AND BLUE CHIPS

How're you doing with those new ration "tokens"? The red and blue chips that will supplant coupons are now in circulation.

Good fun, too!

This department has investigated and found that tokens have it all over coupons for fun and utility. If a coupon falls from your pocket you can't hear it drop, a disadvantage completely removed by tokens. And remember that a coupon always had one big drawback: You couldn't stitch it onto a pair of pants as a suspender button.

It is also possible, if you are a skilled operator, to use ration tokens in buses, peanut machines and juke boxes. We just tried out the juke box angle. We put in ten red disks and got two frankfurters, a piece of cheese and a song hit.

For five blues we got a half pound of "Shoo Shoo Baby" on rye bread, three eggs and one patty of butter.

Then we tried a pinball machine. We used about 500 points in ration tokens and only got 350 points on the pinball scoreboard. The matter was referred to OPA which promptly referred it to the department of justice.

Those new red and blue ration tokens are now being issued in change for ration coupons. This means you are allowed twice as many arguments on the same number of points.

When you come back from the butcher market you now have, not only your bundles, but a collection of disks, slugs and buttons of Junior's party-pants.

These tokens or buttons will be worth one point each as a starter. (If the baby swallows a few, bring him to the nearest delicatessen store and swap him for a can of peas and some meat loaf.—Ed note.)

If daddy swallows a couple just tell him it serves him right for reaching for aspirin tablets in the dark.

Our grocer, however, says he is well pleased. Customers with coupons could always swoop in and take him by surprise. But carrying these new tokens he can hear 'em rattle at 200 yards.

Elmer Twitchell is always looking for trouble. He has put in an application to be a referee when the executors of Mrs. Shaw's estate begin trying to remodel the Irish.

Mayor LaGuardia announces that butter may be served again at lunches in New York restaurants. But we didn't have much luck. "Butter, please," we said. "No butter," said the waiter. "The Mayor says I can't have it." "Get it over the radio," he snapped.

## Two Roads That Lead Direct to Heart of Japan



Map shows two roads back to Tokyo—one via conquest of the Marshalls, Truk, the Caroline group and Bonin. The other is directed at the Philippines.

## Up and Coming People Make Today's News



Now that so many wives and mothers are engaged in war work, men are learning to cook. Picture at left shows Carlton Roll, student at a cooking school for men, just opened in New York. Center: Miss Mary Fretch, whose suggestions for speeding up production have saved 2,500 man hours a year in one plant, receives special award from Donald M. Nelson, head of WPB. Right: Merrill Wolf, 12, youngest student ever enrolled at Yale.

## Life Goes Merrily On in Burma



A tiny half-dressed Burmese girl gets an early education on how to carry on, in spite of being homeless and poverty-stricken. She is helping her mother sift rice near the rough shelter they call home. Right: A pretty Burmese nurse feeds a tasty bit of food to Capt. John Colling of San Francisco during a jungle picnic somewhere in Burma.

## 'Young Democrat'



Pretty Mrs. Dorothy McElroy Vredenburg, 27-year-old Alabama leader of the "Young Democrats," shown upon arrival in Chicago.

## Senators Live a Day on Army Rations



Five of the senators who agreed to subsist on army rations for a day are shown lunching on the field chow that keeps our boys going in the battle zones. Rations were distributed to the other senators by Sen. Styles Bridges (N. H.) who queried them on their reactions. The senators are, L to r., Weeks (Mass.), Johnson (Colo.), Maybank (S. C.), Gurney (S. D.), and Bridges.

## Battlefront Baby



An Italian baby boy is pictured here playing in the sand outside his grass home, near Anzio, Italy. Their original home was destroyed in the battle for the beachhead.

## Perhaps It Was the Way That Mr. Smith Said It

Smith was discussing his wife's peculiarities with a few friends. "The other day," he said, "my wife put on a new dress which was atrocious beyond words. I dared not say a word about it, and dared not I went to the window to have another look and—"

At this juncture his wife entered the room suddenly. "And," continued Smith, "they found the cat eleven days later on top of the Eiffel Tower!"

And Mrs. Smith still does not understand what there was in that ridiculous statement to make them all laugh so uproariously.

## Acid Indigestion

Believed in 5 minutes or double money back. When excess stomach acid causes painful, acid-burn, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe the fast-acting medicine known as Peppermint. No laxative. Peppermint is a natural acid neutralizer and returns your stomach to normal. See at all drug stores.

## SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Authorities expect that Latin American countries will contribute 35 to 40 thousand tons of crude rubber during 1944. In 1941 the U. S. and Canada used 800,000 tons of rubber, and current requirements are larger.

The Quartermaster Corps has developed a rubber and canvas Army boot for tropical wear. The sole contains both crude and reclaimed rubber, and is not affected by jungle moisture and soil chemicals.

Over seven billion passengers were transported by motor bus in 1942, compared with about four and a half billion in 1940, reflecting the curtailment of passenger car use by rubber conservation.



## Invest in Liberty Buy War Bonds

## WHY BE A SLAVE TO HARSH LAXATIVES?

### Simple Fresh Fruit Drink Has Restored Millions to Normal Regularity!

Here's a way to overcome constipation without harsh laxatives. Drink juice of 1 Sunkist Lemon in a glass of water first thing on arising.

Most people find this all they need—stimulates normal bowel action day after day!

Lemons are among the richest sources of vitamin C, which combats fatigue, helps resist colds and infections. They supply valuable amounts of vitamins B and P. They pep up appetite. They alkalinize, aid digestion. Lemon and water has a fresh tang too—clears the mouth, wakes you up, starts you going.

Try this grand wake-up drink 10 mornings. See if it doesn't help you! Use California Sunkist Lemons.

## To relieve distress of MONTHLY Female Weakness

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is made especially for women to help relieve periodic pain with its help relieve nervous, blue feelings—due to functional monthly disturbances.

Taken regularly—Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such symptoms. Here is a product that helps nature and that's the kind to buy! Famous for almost a century. Thousands upon thousands of women have reported benefits. Follow label directions. Worth trying!

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

## RELIEF! RELIEF! FROM MISERIES OF COMMON COLD

HUMPHREYS "77"

For soothing, easing relief from misery of common colds, take Humphreys' "77" right away. Works internally to help relieve head and throat irritation and that weak, achy feeling. Dr. Humphreys' original formula! 30¢.

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