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The Underground Rallies

Another indication that the invasion of Europe is not far distant is the news that instructions have gone out from western front headquarters to the vast underground army in that area to launch a campaign to disrupt communications between the existing and potential invasion fronts.

Upward of 500,000 men, partially armed, comprise the underground in Europe and allied planes are providing them with increasing quantities of weapons and supplies.

The news that the Allies are now ready to launch a coordinated attack from within fortress Europe must be disconcerting to the German high command. It reveals unmistakably that their Gestapo has been unable to subdue rebellious elements in Europe and that the Luftwaffe has been weakened to the point that it cannot obstruct the transfer of equipment of these elements in quantities sufficient, in the judgment of the Allied command, to enable them to materially weaken the Nazi grip on conquered nations.

Another phase of the war from within is worth noting and has, of course, been duly assessed by our military leaders. Its primary objective is to prevent the Nazis from reinforcing the point, or points, at which the Allies attack. It is a safe assumption that the Nazis have large forces at these points already, and if the communications behind them are torn up they cannot escape and perforce must die or surrender.

Bad News For Japan

A ceremony which took place at the Brooklyn navy yard Saturday must have created considerable anxiety among the warlords of Japan. While 26,000 people looked on, the battleship Missouri, the mightiest yet built by any nation with a displacement of 45,000 tons, slid into East river nine months ahead of schedule.

Admiral Ernest G. King sent this message to the men who built the mighty battle wagon: "1944, our year of attack has just begun. Plans have been made for the most extensive and important naval operations ever undertaken. The launching of the Missouri at this time is therefore particularly appropriate."

Ensign Eddie Varner, who is here on leave, told the writer of this article a few days ago that he had visited this ship several times. For obvious reasons, but little can be told about the Missouri, especially those improvements which, in addition to its enormous size, make it the mightiest fighter afloat and practically unsinkable.

Buy Bonds . . . And Hold Them

Americans are being urged to buy war bonds. It seems that a considerable, and growing, percentage of them should be admonished to hold them. It is obvious that bonds held only a few weeks and then converted into cash are mighty little help in financing a war that is costing billions.

Total redemptions of all war savings bonds sold from May, 1941, through December, 1943, amounted to \$2,051,000,000, or around eight per cent. The monthly redemptions have continued to rise until they reached a peak of \$207,000,000 last December, or 24 per cent of the sales for that month.

It is inevitable that a certain percentage of bonds will be redeemed, but the ratio is entirely too high. Where intensive selling methods are employed, as in the war bond drives, people will buy more bonds than they can hold. But the redemptions in December suggest that there were many people who repossessed their money to buy Christmas gifts.

We don't know the extent to which this practice is prevalent in Transylvania county, but we do know that more than a few of our people are surrendering their bonds. That is their privilege, of course. Still, the fellow out there on the fighting front has no such option. He can't change his mind when confronted by hardships—hardships more real than any that might arise on the civilian front.

The Savage Jap

The American people were stunned and enraged a few days ago when the army and navy released a story telling of the unbelievable atrocities inflicted upon America and Filipino fighting men after the fall of Bataan nearly two years ago. The information was supplied by three American officers who were taken on Bataan and Corregidor and who escaped after a year's imprisonment to reveal for the first time the unbridled savagery of the Jap.

Congressmen, infuriated, were quick to call for full reprisal and in many parts of the country sales of war bonds soared.

Mention is made in the officers' story of the "march of death" from Bataan to San Fernando and Camp O'Donnell. Raymond P. Cronin, chief of the AP bureau in Manila, who was imprisoned in Manila from January, 1942, until last September, obtained from trustworthy sources much information relative to this grisly "march." The story of the three officers, Cronin says, "tells only part of the bitter tale" and he proceeds to supplement it with incidents of Jap cruelty.

Cronin estimates that 4,000 men died on Bataan as victims of Jap brutalities. Hundreds of others succumbed as they were marched out. Sick men were routed from hospitals on the peninsula and were forced to march. When they dropped from exhaustion, they were beaten and bayoneted. Soldiers who paused to ease their suffering also died under Jap bayonets.

Why these stories were withheld from the public so long we do not know, but their publication along with a speech by Anthony Eden, British foreign secretary, revealing mistreatment of British subjects in prison camps coincides with unmistakable indications that operations against Japanese strongholds are being speeded up and enlarged. To our way of thinking this shocking narrative was not needed to impress upon our people the pressing and inescapable—and at the same time difficult—duty of exterminating the enemy in the far east.

Buy Bonds Today!

Sale of war bonds in Transylvania county is picking up, but we are still a long way from the goal and the Fourth War Loan drive will end soon, on February 15. With victory not even in sight, our men in uniform certainly can't quit and neither can we here on the home front.



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS By PAUL MALLON

Washington, Feb. 2 — Messrs. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin were sitting around chatting at Teheran after work was done, when Mr. Churchill, with his typical sly humor, is supposed to have allowed (in effect):

"There is no doubt about it. We are reconciled to the fact that the world after this war will be no more pink."

It had to be explained to Stalin. He did not know of our use of the word "pink," as the story goes among diplomats here who accept it as authentic. When the translator finally conveyed the precise Russian equivalent for Churchill's meaning, Stalin chuckled. Mr. Roosevelt intervened with: "The world will be all colors of the rainbow."

Whether the world is to be rainbow or pink, Russian diplomacy lately has been pure red. It is now clear the "Pravda" charge that the British were attempting to make a separate peace, as well as the mystifying attack on Mr. Willkie, was simply a Russian diplomatic move to make the Curzon part of Poland, the Baltic states, and Finland a similar deep hue.

Stalin turned the heat on the British who foster the exiled Polish government and upon Mr. Willkie who has advocated more independence for the Baltic states particularly.

There may or may not have been some incident behind the peace negotiation rumor. Both Russia and Britain are supposed to have conducted some indirect talks with Nazi peace bearers from time to time in order to sound out the enemy for military purposes. These, however, in no way impair the genuineness of the agreement among the United Nations for unconditional surrender.

To the contrary, some negotiations are proceeding now between Russia, Britain and the United States for occupation of Germany when victory finally is won. It is being decided what part of Germany, Russia will occupy no matter who gets to Berlin first. (Incidentally, a Russian general made a statement a few weeks ago saying the final battle line would be the Spree river, which runs through Berlin, although he referred to military operation rather than to political occupations.)

But this is not the most important phase of last week's sensation. This country is entering a new era of diplomacy in which official Russian newspapers may be used by Stalin to stir up whatever diplomatic pot he chooses to bring to a boil.

American news reading and American diplomacy must be adjusted to the different conception of news from Russia. There, it is used for official purposes and not necessarily or primarily to inform the public what is going on.

This time, as usual, it was accompanied by agitation from the communist elements in both London and the United States to drive from the British and American governments what they called "anti-Soviet influences." The Daily worker long has been gunning for assistant state secretary Berle, for instance, mainly because, in state

You're Telling Me By WILLIAM RITT Central Press Writer

Some Japanese two-man submarines, says a report, are disguised as whales. Don't expect the whale to return the compliment. Too dangerous.

Those retreating Nazis in Poland, says Betcha Dollar Dyer, are showing a lot of early foot but he's betting they'll be colared in the stretch.

Grandpappy Jenkins says he will devote the next 11 months to planning a revenge on the relatives who gave Junior a tool set for Christmas.

A Pennsylvania woman claims she has worked 18,000 hours during the last 15 years solving crossword puzzles. The union of crossword puzzle makers-uppers should send her a suitable reward—say, an emu or, at least, a printer's measure.

Berlin has been raided 100 times. But in this case—as the Berliners will discover—the first 100 will prove not nearly as hard to take as the next.

Folks of a Canadian town claim they saw a butterfly this week. Zadok Dumkoph thinks it was just a snowflake camouflaged.

Even that nimble-tongued alibiace, Herr Doktor Goebbels, must be having a devil of a time explaining to the Germans how the Russian front happens to be in Poland.

The absurd suggestion that interned Japs could show mid-west farmers how to bathe naturally has everybody in a la-ther.

department councils, he is supposed to have resisted some Russian claims.

Obviously, if domestic communists are going to help conduct Russian pressure diplomacy by agitating against officials who are not putty in their hands, you would think the American press well might retaliate by advising Stalin bitterly as to who should be dropped from his official family. This, of course, would be practically ineffective. If our press did, Stalin simply would not print it in Russia and the agitating purpose would be lost. But we publish his "news" as possible truth.

Incidentally, in all this series of Moscow agitations (including the Czechoslovakian treaty, etc.) no criticism of Mr. Roosevelt or any of his actions has been involved. True, the Pravda agitation came as a miraculously timed unofficial rebuttal to Mr. Hull's offer of mediation, but, in general, Stalin and Roosevelt get along far better than Stalin and Churchill.

The flying fish, according to Factographs, remains in the air but 30 seconds. That's plenty long enough for it to realize the life of a bird isn't all it's cracked up to be.

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