

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

Anti-Nazi Unity in Norway, Denmark Brings New War Threat to Sweden; Advent of Spring Weather Heralded By Increased Battlefront Activity

(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.)

TOLL: Of U. S.-Jap War

News, some good, some bad, continued from the various battlefronts on which American troops and sailors were meeting the might of Nippon.

The navy had admitted the loss of three warships, the aircraft tender and former carrier Langley, the navy tanker Pecos and the destroyer Peary, with the loss of some 700 lives.

This had been a bitter tragedy of the waters off Java, adding to the awful toll of the Battle of Java Sea. First the Langley, spotted by Jap planes, had been "smothered in bombs."

Her crew, all but about a dozen men, got safely off, swam about, clinging to debris, until picked up by destroyers, later transferred to the Pecos. The latter, trying to escape to Australia, was caught by flights of Jap dive bombers, evaded the first run but was smashed in the second. With two crews aboard one boat, the loss of life was heavy.

The Peary was done to death in the Aussies' port of Darwin, but went to the bottom with all guns blazing, her commander dying at his post.

Not all was to be defeat, however, for our naval forces. American submarines had taken a heavy toll of Japanese shipping in the neighborhood of Ball and south of Java, and in the Christmas island region.

Following these disclosures, the navy reported that since the start of the war 47 Japanese ships of war had certainly been sent to the bottom against 24 for the American navy.

More than 200 ships of all types had been sunk, many of them by plane action, many by submarines, many by army planes and shore guns.

This rate of loss was deemed certain to be more than the Japs could stand, while America was increasing her production average of more than two ships of war daily going into the water, and more than this number of merchant vessels.

With the attack on Australia definitely turned back, at least for the time being, military leaders were taking a more optimistic tone as to the chances for a 1942 offensive in the South Pacific.

UNREST: In Norway, Denmark

Observers, still writing frankly and against the Nazis in the Stockholm press, saw the spring season bringing even more anti-German unity to the Danes and the Norwegians.

Both nations were finally realizing that all German promises of post-war freedom were obviously false, and that occupation and puppet government meant simply conquest.

The Danes were united behind two national heroes, the king and the minister to the United States. Hen-



HENRIK DE KAUFFMANN Number one Danish hero.

rik de Kauffmann, the latter, one German had been angrily quoted, was the No. 1 Danish Hero in the eyes of the people.

As to the Norwegians, their resistance to the Quisling government had solidified until no risk was too great for the people to impede the puppet leaders. Evidence was that German plans on giving Quisling enough rope to hang himself.

Sweden was not inclined to view these developments with joy, but rather with fear, seeing the day not far distant when she, too, would be drawn into the war.

PROFITS:

Agreement by a senate committee on the principle of limitation of war profits by industry had brought to light reported profits running as high as 4,000 per cent on invested capital. While, with the government pouring capital into essential industry, such profits always would be great, the senators felt that a sliding scale of maximum permissible profits might be the answer.

Some companies had returned excess profits, one check to the government amounting to \$40,000,000.

INDIA: Hindus Debate Homeland Defense

Several occurrences had contributed to the continuance of conversations among Indian leaders with Sir Stafford Cripps, General Wavell and American representatives as to the question of the Hindus' part in the defense of their homeland.

Among these events had been the perhaps fortunate mistake of a Chinese spokesman, who had given out incorrect information about the Japanese occupation of the port of Akyab. This port, so close to Calcutta, had actually not been taken, but the mere thought of it for several days had made the Indians realize the war was at their door.

This alone gave Cripps a big advantage. Also the timely intervention of Chiang Kai-shek, and the arrival in India and in the Burma front of a sizable force of American planes and fighting pilots were telling circumstances, and played a big part in the keeping open of negotiations.

Indians, with the exception of the Mahatma Gandhi and some others among his immediate followers and disciples, were beginning to realize that they were faced with bullets and bayonets, and that if they were going to get ready to fight, they had better be getting on with it.

The Mahatma was counseling "no violence" and was continuing his life-long policy of a passive resistance to the invader. The Moslems, 70,000,000 of them out of a 390,000,000 total population, were perfectly willing to fight, but were demanding their right to a separate government of their own.

Nehru, past president of the Indian congress, had seemed to be the toughest nut to crack. He had seemed to be holding out for the right of the Indians to do their own drafting of manpower, their own training, while conceding the right of Britain to do the leading.

DE GAULLE: Important Recognition

The formal recognition by the United States of the DeGaulle government control over French Equatorial West Africa, and the French Cameroons, strategic territory along the supply route to the Middle East had been considered highly important.

It brought, for one thing, closer ties between the United States and the Free French and put Petain, despite his refusal to allow Laval a



GEN. CHARLES DE GAULLE Second official approval to him.

place in the government of Vichy France, very much on the spot regarding his future conduct.

It was the second official approval of DeGaulle and his followers. Recognition of his control over New Caledonia had come first. But French West Africa was a terrific territory with a population of millions and close to a million square miles.

Oddly, on the same day, the Vichy government reported that Germany had given it "permission" to rebuild its air force, and to this was added the information that Vichy now had more than 1,000 warplanes, or actually more than all France had at the outset of the war.

CORREGIDOR: Nipping Off Japs

Despite the widely increased pressure on the Bataan lines of General Wainwright and the almost constant attacks by Jap planes on Corregidor, American fighters continued to take their toll of Jap planes.

Just as the British on Malta had held out through the entire war against hundreds of attacks from the air, the anti-aircraft gunners on Corregidor were getting from two to four enemy planes a day with machine-like precision.

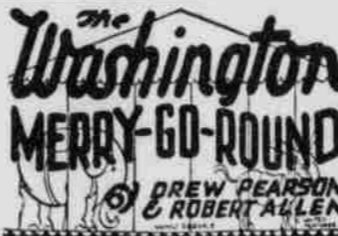
They were only counting those they dropped. Many more were reported badly damaged and probably disabled.

A sharp land counterattack had turned a Jap thrust into a trap on the land.

General Wainwright was continuing the tradition set up by MacArthur.

MISCELLANY:

Washington: The government took over control of the entire national stock of quinidine. Huge amounts are needed for soldiers in the tropics. San Francisco: Survivors of the Langley told odd stories of what they saved. One officer said he shoved two oranges in his pockets. He said he saw a Filipino messboy swimming along with a ouija board on his head.



STANDARD OIL LOBBY

Lobbying will always be practiced in Washington. Recently, however, it has reached new heights.

In the pre-New Deal days, lobbyists lobbied to get land grants, lumber concessions, and Teapot Dome oil leases. Under the New Deal they lobbied for Public Works contracts, WPA grants, and steamship routes.

Today they lobby for war contracts. But perhaps the most avid, rapacious and lustful lobbying is for priorities on the purchase of materials.

In this connection, Standard Oil has just managed to get a remarkable priority rating for the shipment of \$14,500,000 worth of steel to Venezuela. The story illustrates how a job can be done if you have the lobbyist to do it.

In this case Standard Oil is ably represented by Washington attorney John N. Bohannon, who knows his way around, even to the White House.

What Standard wanted was steel for its oil wells in Venezuela, and it had the plausible argument that it must keep up Venezuelan oil production for the American and British navies. However, other American oil companies also wanted steel for wells in Texas, Louisiana and California.

Also they had the advantage of producing oil which does not require a long and hazardous tanker haul. However, they did not have the advantage of an A-1 lobbyist.

For Mr. Bohannon went to Admiral Stark, then chief of naval operations, and practically scared him to death about the danger of losing Venezuelan oil. Stark called Donald Nelson, boss of War Production, and put the pressure on him.

Meanwhile Bohannon and friends pressured the state department, lend-lease administration, board of economic warfare and finally the White House.

If there was anyone Standard Oil forgot to high-pressure they were sick in bed. So Standard Oil got what it wanted, a priority rating of A-1-C, higher than that of domestic oil companies, and the materials have now been shipped.

LEWIS PAYROLL

The Washington Merry-Go-Round wishes to correct an earlier statement that John L. Lewis had three relatives on union payrolls whose salaries, plus his own, gave the family an annual "take" of \$48,500 from the collections of union dues.

We regret to say that on further investigation we find we erred grievously. We apologize to Mr. Lewis for underestimating his capacities and print below the full Lewis family payroll showing that the miner czar has not three but nine relatives in cushy jobs and that the family "take" is not \$48,500 but \$70,500:

Table listing Lewis family payroll details: John L. Lewis, president, United Mine Workers \$25,000; Kathryn Lewis, daughter, secretary-treasurer, District 50, U.M.W. 7,500; Dennis Lewis, brother, head of United Construction Workers organizing committee 10,000; J. R. Bell, brother-in-law, C.I.O. controller 6,000; Orin Miller, brother-in-law, superintendent of the U.M.W. office building in Indianapolis 5,000; Dan Collins, brother-in-law, C.I.O. organizer 3,600; William Thomas, cousin, superintendent U.M.W. building in Washington 5,000; Margaret Lindig, sister-in-law of Dennis U.M.W. stenographer 2,400; Orin Miller, daughter of brother-in-law Orin Miller, U.M.W. stenographer 2,400; Son-in-law of Floyd Bell, another Lewis brother-in-law, District 50 organizer 3,600.

Total Lewis family payroll \$70,500

(\*In addition to their big salaries, Lewis, his daughter and brother also have fat expense accounts. What they spend is their secret. No figures have ever been revealed, even to union members.)

And Still More.

Imposing as is this payroll list, it still does not tell the whole story. There is one Lewis relative who is not on a union payroll but who garners a high-bracket income from unions controlled by John L. He is brother-in-law Floyd Bell, an insurance agent. Representative of a surety company, Bell has what amounts to a monopoly on the business of bonding all national, district and local U.M.W. officers and all C.I.O. officials.

His commissions are estimated at \$40,000 a year.

This sum, plus the payroll listed above, would bring the total "take" of the Lewis family up to \$110,500 a year.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Wayne Coy, brainy young White House assistant, is slated for a promotion. The ex-Indiana newsman will be made assistant budget director. Coy will also continue as head of the Office of Emergency Management.

Good news for the cotton grower. Under war stimulation, cotton consumption now is around 1,000,000 bales a month, is expected to reach an estimated total of 13,500,000 bales for the year. This is nearly 3,000,000 bales more than last year.



First Signal Officer

IN THE post library at Fort Monmouth, N. J., is a simple velvet-covered box with an engraved plate which reads: "Compass and chain worn by Brigadier General Albert J. Myer, First Signal Officer, U. S. Army. Presented by his daughter, Miss Gertrude Myer, through Major General Campbell B. Hodges, by the Chief Signal Officer to the Commanding General, Fort Monmouth, March 3, 1942." This latest addition to the collection of early signal corps equipment at Fort Monmouth is a memorial to the man whose foresight and pioneering with flags and torches, during and after the Civil War, blazed the way for the army's streamlined signal communication systems.

When 20-year-old Albert J. Myer was graduated from Hobart college in his native state of New York in 1847, his graduation thesis was titled "A Sign Language for Deaf Mutes" and it contained the germ of the visual signaling system which he was to devise later. After his graduation from Buffalo medical college, he practiced for three years. Then, in 1854, he was commissioned assistant surgeon in the army and ordered to the Dry Climate of the Southwest, where the clearness of the air made it possible to see objects at a great distance. Myer became enthusiastic over the possibilities of visual signaling and devoted his leisure hours to developing a simple system.

In 1858 the war department recognized the work of the young doctor by appointing a board to examine "the principles and plans of the signaling, mode of use in the field and course to be pursued in introducing to the army." The next year John B. Floyd, President



Buchanan's secretary of war, commended his system to congress which appropriated \$2,000 for the "manufacture or purchase of apparatus and equipment for field signaling." It also authorized the appointment of one signal officer on the staff of the army with the rank and pay of a major of cavalry and on June 27, 1860, Assistant Surgeon Myer became Major Myer.

The army's first signal officer soon had an opportunity to demonstrate the value of his system. He was detailed to duty with Gen. E. R. S. Canby's expedition against the hostile Navajos in the Southwest, where an extensive test of his new system, using both flag and torch, proved a distinct success. The result was the opening of a signal school at Fort Monroe, Va., under his direction and at the outbreak of the War Between the States, Myer was called upon to organize signal communications in the Army of the Potomac. Immediately after the battle of Bull Run, he submitted a plan for a separate signal corps but it was not until March 3, 1863, that this was done.

Within a year he was no longer Major Myer but Colonel Myer, having been brevetted lieutenant-colonel for gallantry at the battle of Hancock Court House and colonel for similar services at Malvern Hill. By the time the war ended he had been brevetted brigadier general.

After the war Colonel Myer, who had been relieved of duty as chief signal officer following a disagreement with Secretary Stanton of the war department, was reappointed to that post by President Johnson. He succeeded in having West Point include signaling as a permanent part of the cadet course and the naval academy at Annapolis also adopted his methods. Myer was promoted brigadier-general on June 16, 1880, and died in Buffalo, N. Y., two months later, on August 24, while still on active duty in the service he had organized.

Myer has another distinction which entitles him to the grateful remembrance of his fellow-Americans—that of "Father of the Weather Bureau." In 1869 he proposed that the peacetime activities of the signal corps be extended to include sending out storm warnings. He influenced congress to establish the United States weather bureau under the direction of the signal corps and during its first 10 years it was supervised by "Old Probabilities," as Myer became familiarly known all over the United States.



Man About Town

The Charlie Chaplin-Paulette Goddard bustle is in the offing. They've finally agreed to the division of the spoils . . . It's another image over at the War Correspondent H. R. Knickerbockers. He's in Australia . . . When Louise Atwill divorced General MacArthur (to wed actor Lionel Atwill) someone asked her why she divorced the hero. "Oh," was the champion eating-your-words crack of all time, "I was just exchanging a few small stars for one big one!"

The boys in the camps are sizzling over Rita Hayworth's husband (Eddie Jordon) for demanding a 30G settlement. They rate her the "nicest dish of all" . . . Isn't Japambassador Nomura's brother in Mexico as a Jap navy specialist in hydrographic surveys? Mexico might find it advantageous to dig him up.

Mrs. O. O. McIntyre has been offered a colym job after the manner of the late New York chronicler . . . Here's something different in items: A B'wayite is using a colymist for saying he was a gyp. The case is due shortly—and he's in the hoosegong on a burglary charge! . . . An Upstater sought by G-Men in the lottery expose was right in Mr. Hoover's outer office at the time. He was wild to be a G-Man!

Buy Defense Bonds—Richard Whitely, who paid his debt to Zoociety, has offered himself to the armed forces in any form. So far no takers . . . From forty entries Sherm Howard was voted the homeliest man in Hollywood. The judges were Virginia Bruce, Priscilla Lane and Anne Gwynne . . . Variety rejects some of the slang in "The American Theatrical Slanguage," claiming they have a phony ring. All the phrases listed sound "manufactured," which language can't be. Slang is slang for the same reason that a man is tough: It can't help it.

Lord Beaverbrook says Hess is still in a London (not Ontario) prison, as suspected . . . Mr. and Mrs. Goe Shing Wong of 398 Mass Ave., South End, Boston, have named their newborn—Douglas We Win Wong . . . Midtowners are laughing over the big shot who threw a party at the Cops for Hollywood people and paid off with a check that bounced . . . The FBI took away three Fifth Avenue department store employees—suspected of Nazi activities.

Notes of an Innocent Bystander:

The Wireless: There's the makings of a nice feud in the Elmer Davis-H. V. Kaltenborn disagreement. Davis took Kaltenborn's labor blast apart piece by piece and said "N-h-n" to the charges. It claims it's the old demand for lower wages wearing a new frock . . . All those quips on the radio about tires are wearing thin . . . A must of the week is the "This Is War" program. Big-time playwrighting . . . Midget Joe Goebbels' spring styles in lies are being exhibited by some of the commentators. Goebbels is building a Bolshevik scare, in case the Nazi offensive fizzles. The American dopes couldn't be more obliging to him.

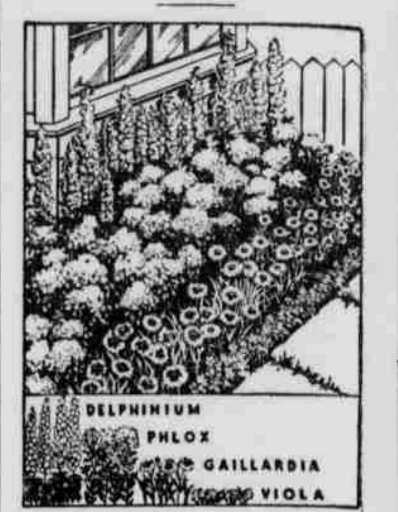
Buy Defense Bonds—The Front Pages: A statesman laughed off the hysteria of that Chicago syemer. "A rag that styles itself the world's greatest newspaper," he said, "has to pitch the rest of its reading matter in the same farce key" . . . Lieut.-Gen'l. Jonathan M. Wainwright authored a dispatch that belongs to America's catalogue of inspired words. The Japs sent an ultimatum to surrender to Gen. MacArthur's successor. He reported it to Washington, adding the glorious postscript: "No reply was necessary and none was made" . . . Raymond Clapper cabled a line from the Far East which should be a good tip to US industry. He wrote: "China has more pilots than planes."

The Story Tellers: Could Milton Mayer's piece in the SEP be the cause of the big walkout? Race discrimination is nothing new. The Irish were abused over here for half a century. As recent as the Blaine-Cleveland campaign the anti raised "the Irish question." It is all reported in "The Story of Scapegoats in History," a pamphlet by Kenneth M. Gould . . . Another pamphlet, "Greece Fights," relates a wheeze about Benito. A Greek town, was mutilated. A fine of 10 drachmas was assessed against every inhabitant. All paid twenty, explaining that covered tomorrow's mutilation.

Buy Defense Bonds—

Jay C. Flippin of "Hellsapoppin," was looking at Ika Chase's autobiography and observed: "A person must be very careful these days—the stage doorman may be writing his memoirs!" . . . Another gyp who scorched her set in print retorted to cries of "Shame!" with this: "But I made sacrifices to write my book. The royalties I got didn't come near the hush money I passed up!" . . . What this country needs are more Gen'l. MacArthurs and less Gen'l. Nuisances.

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