

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Washington, D. C.

GERMAN DEATH RATE

Diplomatic dispatches from Europe report that the German death rate is going up and the birth rate is going down.

Also the number of German soldiers killed or permanently disabled since the war began now totals 1,900,000. This estimate made before the Russian counteroffensive began, and before the British turned back Rommel in Egypt. Obviously, therefore, the total is now well above 2,000,000.

This does not include prisoners nor men suffering minor wounds. If these were included, the total casualty figure would be, according to accepted military ratios, more than twice the basic figure, or approximately 5,000,000.

Meanwhile, exact figures on the German birth rate have been received. These indicate the usual wartime downward trend of births, despite Hitler's frantic efforts to make procreation popular.

The birth rate was 20.5 in 1939 per thousand, 26.4 in 1940, 18.8 in 1941, but for the first three months of 1942 took a drop to only 15.8.

Neutral diplomatic sources report that business men in Germany are beginning to foresee defeat. But the people as a whole will not be aware of approaching defeat, and their morale will not crack, until the German army suffers a major military reverse. The heavy casualties, now comparable to the total suffered in the First World War, are not enough in themselves to cause popular revolt, as long as the German armies successfully dominate Europe.

But when Rommel is cleaned out of Africa, and when that news seeps into the German consciousness, we can look for popular discontent, plus burning distrust of the Nazi military machine.

ITALIAN UNREST

Those who expect the bombing of Italy to cause a revolt of the people are badly mistaken. The bombing may knock out her industrial productivity and cripple her fleet and shipping, but will not cause a popular revolt.

Reasons for this are two: 1. Nazi troops have such a stranglehold on Italy that no revolt could gain headway; 2. There are no leaders left to head a revolt.

Italo Balbo was an opponent of collaboration with Germany. He led a spectacular flight of planes to the United States, and was an admirer of this country. But he differed with Mussolini on African policy, contending that Libya could not be defended. Balbo died in what was officially reported as an airplane "accident."

Pietro Badoglio was skeptical about the Greek campaign, told Mussolini he wouldn't undertake it without ten divisions and four months preparation. Mussolini ordered him to take one month and four divisions. Badoglio is popular among the Italian people, but too old to lead.

Rodolfo Graziani was also skeptical about the defense of Libya, though largely responsible for preparing its defenses. Much younger, he has broken with Mussolini and is under surveillance, possibly under arrest.

People Hate Mussolini.

Yet the sentiment of the people, especially in southern Italy, is such that they would welcome deliverance from Mussolini and Hitler. U. S. diplomats, waiting for release from internment after Pearl Harbor were told secretly by Italians: "We will not forget!"

There are many things they will not forget, including the ludicrous behavior of Mussolini, who conceals his baldness and his wien by never removing his hat before a camera; the wild behavior of his daughter, Edda Ciano; and the lavish entertaining of Count Ciano, who serves soup-to-nuts banquets while the people eat a few ounces of rationed bread.

As yet there has been no bombing of Rome, but some indication of what might happen was given early in the war when the French sent planes over Rome for four nights. The people poured out of the city on everything that had wheels, including push carts, bicycles and baby carriages. Yet the French had dropped nothing more harmful than leaflets.

It is reported that when Allied bombers come over the city, the people kneel at the altar of their patron saint, San Gennaro, and with Mussolini in mind, say: "Dear San Gennaro, tell them he's not here—he's in Rome!"

LET THE NAZIS KNOW

Many an army official is over-cautious about speaking for publication these days, but not Lieut. Gen. "Hap" Arnold, commander of the army air forces.

Disclosing that U. S. fliers are being turned out of preflight schools at the rate of 40,000 a year, Arnold was asked if the figures could be quoted.

"Why not?" he chuckled. "It won't do any harm. Might do a lot of good. It'll show the Germans how many we've got!"

Tough Going for Planes on Captured Field



The airport at Safi, French Morocco, offered hard going for navy planes which landed as the field was captured from the French. In picture at top, men are laying a metal strip for takeoff of the torpedo bomber before which they are working. These metal strips have since played an important part in Allied air operations in Tunisia. Below: A navy dive bomber lies nose-down in a ditch near the Safi airport. Another takes off, using the roadway for a runway.

U. S.-China Link



President Roosevelt is shown handing a letter to the Chinese ambassador, Tao Ming Wei, which he wrote longhand to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and which was transmitted by radio telephoto as the first facsimile sent to China over the new radio photo service between America and China. Time for transmission to Chungking was about an hour and a half. The President spelled "generalissimo" with two "i's," but the error was detected and corrected.

Russia's Ace Sniper



In the foreground, setting out for the advanced line is Soviet sniper Vassily Faronov, who has already shot 136 German officers and men, taken seven prisoners and destroyed one Nazi tank. Faronov has been decorated with the Order of the Red Star and the Medal of Valour. Take note of the telescopic sight on his gun. Crack shots like Faronov, to say nothing of bravery, have helped to make the defense of Stalingrad one of the epics of the war.

Vagabond



The gagster who accused this baby kangaroo of being kicked out of its mother's pouch for eating crackers in bed, might know by this picture that the youngster, despite the fact that it is on its own, is doing very well, thank you. Open air mess is picnic time, and a generous officer like this one (commander of an Australian armored division) proceeds to make life easy for the baby vagabond.

Ace of Aces



Capt. Joe Foss, 27, of Sioux Falls, S. D., who is the champ of all aces stationed on Henderson Field, Guadalcanal. Foss has shot down 22 of the 450 Jap planes bagged at this base.

Hero of USS Boise Returns Home



Upon his arrival in San Francisco, Capt. E. J. ("Mike") Moran, of the cruiser Boise, hurried to his home in San Rafael where he was greeted by his two children, Michaela, 13 (left), and Moore, 11, whom he has seen for only ten days in the last two years. Captain Moran's light cruiser settled for six Jap warships in the Solomon waters.

Pacific Fleet Commander Talks to Newsmen



Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, is pictured giving his fifth press conference of the war at Pacific fleet headquarters. He reviewed the first year of the war in the Pacific. Seated on his left is Capt. L. J. Wiltse, assistant chief of staff.

Kids Buy Army Jeep With War Stamps



Up the steps of the 24th Street school, Los Angeles, goes an army jeep loaded with thrilled children. The jeep was their present to Uncle Sam, a present bought with war stamps from their savings. At the wheel is Sgt. Virgil Yewell. Stamp sales totaled \$11,190.35—a lot of nickels and dimes—and they're buying more.



Red Tape . . . Enemy

By Lieut.-Gen. Brehon Somervell

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with American Magazine)

Red Tape is slowing down our war effort, and if we don't cut and burn every shred of it, we may yet lose this war.

Men and women sit smugly at home and are shocked by newspaper reports that red tape is delaying deliveries of vital war material. But in their own homes, and in millions of similar homes, red tape is getting in its dastardly work.

The housewife's red tape may be in her housekeeping methods. She finds it "impossible" to alter her menus to fit food shortages, so she becomes a hoarder. She must dust the guest room every Wednesday, so if the Red Cross meets on Wednesday, she can't possibly go.

Habit binds her husband to golf or poker dates, so he continues to buy luxuries he thinks are necessities and can't spare money for war bonds.

In nearly every store and office old methods of procedure are wasting man hours. Many a business could release men and women for war work, if unnecessary forms, reports, letters and conferences were eliminated.

There is too much paper work in government, but government isn't the only horrible example.

No matter where you live, you would hotly resent it if you were told that your state, and perhaps your city, was holding up the war effort. Yet dozens of states and hundreds of cities, are tangled in red tape that prevents them from changing peacetime laws to fit wartime conditions.

State Laws Hamper.

State taxes on war contracts definitely cramp our war effort. Different sets of state laws on truck loads, length of trucks, drivers licenses, weight and gasoline taxes, delay truck shipments. Truck drivers have been sent to jail for technical violations, and munitions of war have been held up because local authorities weren't big enough to cut red tape.

There are state and local regulations on building, excellent in normal times, but hindrances in war. Building codes force extravagant use of strategic materials. State laws require long-drawn hearings by public utility commissions before new bus lines can start hauling workers to plants.

Most states boast food public health laws applying to milk, but they were written before hundreds of thousands of soldiers moved into these states. In some of them, all the milk legally obtainable is not enough for the army.

Few persons who are tangled in red tape realize their dilemma even when their best friends tell them. They protest: "You've got to do it this way. We've got a system. We have to use it."

To such persons, I like to relate an old story about a man who sold an elaborate system of forms and files to a manufacturer. After a few months the salesman returned and asked: "How's the system working?"

"Wonderful," said the manufacturer.

"How's business?" asked the salesman.

"Business?" the manufacturer repeated. "Oh, there isn't any. We've all been too busy running the system to bother with business."

Red tape generally is defined as customs, rules, and procedures that cause unnecessary delay. It is everywhere—for it is a state of mind as well as a method of procedure.

Red tape is the act of postponing decisions, taking your time, playing safe, following routine, stifling initiative, quitting when the whistle blows, business as usual, politics, picnics and golf as usual.

This war is total war. That means that every ounce of muscle and brain in every able-bodied man and woman must be used. It means that we must discard everything that doesn't help win the war.

We have only one objective, and we must evade, ignore, erase and knock out all rules, restrictions and habits that get in our way.

The army's Service of Supply this year will spend approximately 32 billion dollars.

Sometimes we have bungled details, sometimes we've been too slow to make up our minds, sometimes red tape has bound us so tight that we've found ourselves running as though we were in a three-legged race. But we're doing a job. We're delivering machinery, food and weapons in ever-mounting quantities.

Speaking Sports

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WHAT will happen to football in 1943?

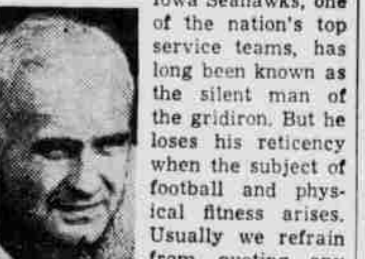
While many things still remain in doubt, one thing is certain. College football will be largely under the control of the war department, which plans on taking over approximately 300 colleges and universities during the coming year. At least 300,000 of the 18 and 19-year-old boys will attend those institutions for officer training. These youths will be drafted, but the cream of the crop will be given advanced training in the air corps, artillery, signal corps and engineers.

It is the belief of most interested observers that football should be given first place on any physical training program. Some war department officials, while realizing the value of the sport as a conditioner, want schools under war department supervision to play only an intramural program.

On Competition

Such a course likely would prove unwise. Any sport, to be successful, demands outside competition. Service teams have fully as much pride in their outfits as do college teams. Servicemen can't be expected to get much kick out of beating themselves—they'd sooner tackle a fairly close neighbor. Long distance schedules are out, of course, but there are enough training camps within almost any given area to provide plenty of stiff competition.

Bernie Bierman, former Minnesota coach and now mentor of the Iowa Seahawks, one of the nation's top service teams, has long been known as the silent man of the gridiron. But he loses his reticency when the subject of football and physical fitness arises.



Bernie Bierman great length—their words seldom are pearls of wisdom. But Bierman's remarks before a recent AAU luncheon are worthy of repetition.

"Never before in our history has the value of physical fitness been brought home so emphatically as it has by this war. There may be some slight disagreement over the methods to be used in achieving fitness, but the objective is the same."

"The great majority of our boys haven't had a real body built into them. Our college, high school and amateur athletic programs have done a great job in the past, but they didn't reach far enough nor boys enough."

All-Inclusive

"Our plan is to make athletics attractive and also to put some compulsion into them. That's the only way to reach every one."

"At our Preflight school (Iowa) we get a group of boys who are a cross-section of American youth. They are slightly above the average intelligence and physically O. K., but otherwise they're like the boys of their age you meet every day. Athletics doesn't have any bearing on a boy's admission to the flying schools. In their course at the Preflight school they have to take 10 to 20 lessons in nine different sports. So far we haven't found a single boy who wasn't able to carry the physical load."

"Our courses have eliminated the lighter sports. What we have chosen develops stamina in the boy and the ability to handle himself in personal contact. Swimming is a must, because any flier may come down in the open sea. Rough-and-tumble scrapping is another, because it gives the boys a better opportunity to make their way back to their own lines if forced down in enemy territory."

Required Sport

According to Bierman, 65 per cent of the boys who come to the Preflight school haven't played football, but 100 per cent wanted to. They were granted their wish. Football is one of the required sports. About 500 boys are divided into platoon squads who finish their course with an actual game. In connection with this, Bierman added:

"It's amazing how quickly they develop not only a liking for the sport but the desire to win. We had one group final which wound up in a 0-0 tie. The boys were scheduled to do a 17-mile hike in 3 1/4 hours the next morning, but that night they went to their commander and asked if it would be O. K. with him if they got up early enough to play the game over before their hike."

The future of professional football and baseball is a different matter. There is little question but that the war department believes both big league baseball and professional football are helpful morale builders. The thing is to find a way to keep them going. The two major handicaps are transportation and the draft. The need for manpower is, of course, the leading feature. It is impossible to say how many professional players will be left by next season.

Unquestionably the ranks will be thinned to a very great extent.

Curtains, Drapes to Brighten Your Home



CURTAINS and draperies—the quickest way of transforming a room! Make your own from these clear directions and have your choice of valance, swag, varied draping and arrangement.

Pattern 443 contains detailed directions for making curtains and drapes in a variety of styles. Send your order to: Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth Ave., New York. Enclose 15 cents (plus one cent to cover cost of mailing) for Pattern No. .... Name ..... Address .....

How To Relieve Bronchitis. CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis. Youth and Old Age. Old age in the future. Old age in the past. What old age has is something real.

RASHES Superficial Externally Caused. RESINOL. Great Small. Great men never feel great; small men never feel small.—Chinese Proverb.

Use at first sign of a COLD 666 TABLETS, SALVE, NOSE DROPS, COUGH DROPS. Try "Rub-My-Tam"—a Wonderful Liniment

PUT HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS TO WAR WORK. HOARD YOUR PENNIES TO BUY WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

Kidneys Must Work Well. For You To Feel Well. 24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.

DOAN'S PILLS