

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEABODY & ROBERT ALLEN

## BOMBER OUTPUT

Washington, D. C. Though not announced by the White House, two impelling factors were behind the President's sensational letter to Secretary Stimson asking for an immediate increase in the monthly output of bombers.

One was the obvious need of providing Britain with more and bigger planes to carry the offensive to Germany. Second, known only to inside authorities, was intelligence information that the Nazis are increasing the bomber force of their Luftwaffe. The reports are that the German air force now consists of the following:

Six main air fleets, each comprising 1,000 bombers, 625 fighters and 75 reconnaissance planes, a total of 10,200. Also there is an independent air unit of 2,750 planes, a naval air service of 1,000, an operational training unit of 650, and a transport organization of 3,500 planes. In addition to these first-line ships, is a reserve of 12,000 others, plus 5,000 trainers and transports.

Grand total: About 35,000 planes.

German airplane production capacity is estimated at 3,000 planes a month, including about 500 bombers. However, except for bombers, Germany is not now using her full production capacity as she doesn't need that many new planes a month.

Nazi March production is estimated at 2,200 ships of all types, but only 1,600 in April. In May, however, intelligence reports are that Nazi plane production is being stepped up to replace Balkan and North African losses.

Reports are vague about what the Nazis are doing with the nine government and eleven private aircraft plants in France, most of them located in the occupied zone; also regarding the eight Dutch factories, including the Fokker works, and the seventeen Belgian plants.

These plants have large potential producing capacity, but best information is that the Nazis are stripping them of their machine tools and other equipment. How much this will boost the Nazis' 3,000 planes a month is only a guess.

U. S. Goal. Weakest link in German plane production is aluminum. From captured planes, the British estimate that the Nazis use about 500 pounds of this vital metal per ship. The American average is 5,000 pounds.

The undisclosed bomber goal of 1941 to which Roosevelt referred in his letter to Stimson, is 600 a month.

The four new assembly plants in Omaha, Tulsa, Kansas City and Fort Worth should produce about 300 bombers a month. To double their output it will be necessary to build and equip at least as many new plants, plus taking over an increased ratio of automobile and other plant facilities to turn out the necessary parts.

The letter which OPM Director General Knudsen sent auto makers that they will have to hold down their 1942 car production to 78.5 per cent of this year's output, is considered only a beginning. Insiders predict that there will be another big cut soon.

## LATIN ADMIRALS

The state department scored a ten-strike when it finally persuaded the navy to invite the chiefs of Latin American navies to visit the United States. The junket definitely carried weight. For the United States navy, without any ifs, ands or buts, is the most powerful in the world, and the thing that counts in South America today is the belief that this country can really ward off Nazi invasion.

Behind the scenes, the man who helped most to dress the stage for Latin American admirals was Johnny Thomason, better known for his prolific pen portraits of the marines (Red Pants, Fix Bayonets, Jeb Stuart, Salt Winds and Gobi Dust).

Thomason, now a colonel in the marines, had served in Latin America, knew the importance of the admirals' visit. Other U. S. brass hats didn't. Admiral Harold Stark, chief of naval operations, fumed and fretted, only wanted to show the Good Neighbors a few East coast stations. At this point Johnny Thomason remarked: "This visit is giving you a pain in the neck. How about letting me take it over?"

Thomason insisted that the trip was important enough to do it right, demanded more enter-tainment money from the White House and got it. At first he worked on the idea of meeting the admirals with U. S. cruisers at Barranquilla, Colombia, taking them out to the mid-Atlantic to view the U. S. naval patrol at work. This was given up as too long, and a coast-to-coast inspection of U. S. naval stations was substituted.

## MERRY-GO-ROUND

The G.O.P.-controlled Kansas legislature hit Rep. Jack Houston, long Kansas Democrat, with everything but the waterbucket in gerrymandering his district, but he takes it philosophically. "When a salesman makes good on the job," he says with a grin, "his territory is increased."

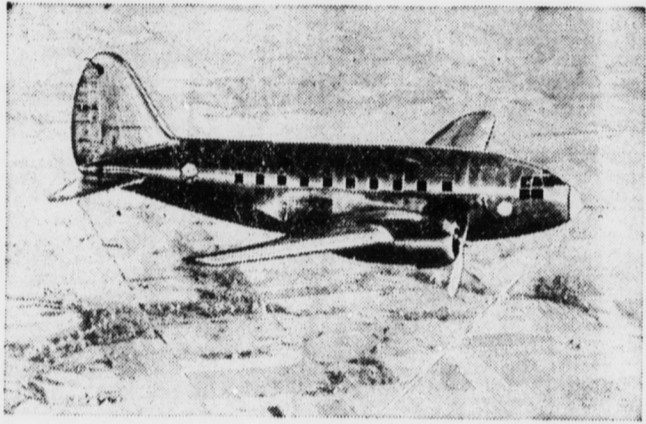
U. S. military intelligence places the number of German panzer divisions at not over 20 out of a total of 260 divisions.

## Draft Objectors Put to Work



A group of conscientious draft objectors being signed into Camp Patapsco, Elkrige, Md., America's first camp for conscientious objectors, where they will serve their year doing non-military service. They will be put to work improving roads and doing conservation work. Seated at desk is Dr. E. Wildman, director of the camp. By July 21 such camps will be in operation throughout the country under administration of the American Friends Service committee.

## Largest Transport of Its Kind



The world's largest twin-motored airliner, the new 36-passenger Curtiss-Wright transport plane. The plane, designed for army troop transport, arrived in New York after a non-stop flight from St. Louis. It can accommodate 40 soldiers. Cruising at 60 per cent of full speed, it averaged better than 215 miles an hour on the 933-mile test flight.

## Full Equipment Swims to Harden 'Tommy'



Officers and non-commissioned officers of the British army are shown somewhere in England, in the most strenuous part of their "hardening" course. At the top, a detail of men takes a swim with full equipment. Below, the men with rifles strapped to their backs and in full kit clamber from the water after their chilly dip.

## Hawaiian Lei Queen Rules Festivities



Shown in the center of this picture, with her court attendants, is Pauline Wessel, Lei Queen, as she ruled over the annual Lei Day festivities in Honolulu, Hawaii. The coronation of her majesty at the University of Hawaii was the high spot of this colorful celebration.

## Rules New State



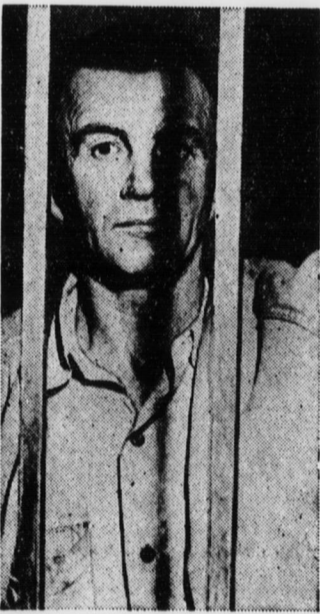
The duke of Spoleto, 41-year-old cousin of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, who has been named king of the new Axis-created state of Croatia. The new kingdom was carved from Yugoslavia, with areas taken by Germany and Italy as a result of victorious war.

## Men Hitler Trusted



Ernest Roehm (left) and Rudolf Hess, the only two men whom Hitler fully trusted seven years ago. Yet Roehm was assassinated in a "purge" and now Hess has fled Germany.

## 'Investigated'



A German alien, Frederick Reis, 43, of Oakland, Calif., was jailed in San Francisco with the police claim, Bethlehem Steel company shipyard blueprints in his possession. FBI agents began an immediate investigation.

## Women's Leader



Mrs. J. L. Whitehurst, of Baltimore, who was elected president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at their Triennial convention in Atlantic City.

# Walter Winchell

(WNU Service)

## Items I Never Knew ...

**'Til Now**  
(But which you knew all along)  
Rob't Sherwood's fine play, "There Shall Be No Night," won the Pulitzer Prize, which should have happened a year ago. This is regarded as highly encouraging to the theater in general—having the Pulitzers only one year behind the parade.

Billy Gilbert has named his estate "Gezunt Heights."

Ned Russell, of the United Press, was given a 3-week vacation in Dublin, and came back with a story which shows the extreme eagerness and the extreme ends to which the Irish Free State is going to preserve its neutrality. The Irish navy (consisting of two torpedo motor-boats) was ordered out on maneuvers, and their instructions read: "You will proceed from the harbor to sea, where you will meet and engage either the Hood or the Scharnhorst . . ."

James Gleason plans his sixteenth newspaper managing editor on the screen in the soon-due "Affectionately Yours." (That's either a record or a rut!)

At Fort Williams, there is a Private William Williams, who comes from Williams Street, Williams, W. Va. (Or, to put it briefly, where there's a Williams, there's a Williams.)

A discussion was in progress about democracy, and one of the group seemed to think his ancestry entitled him to a dogmatic view on everything. "I think," he smirked, "that the argument on America should end with my views. After all—my ancestors came over on the Mayflower" . . . "You're lucky," was soprano Genevieve Rowe's comment, "after all, the immigration laws are a bit stricter now."

The America First outfit claims in its ads that it hasn't wealthy backers . . . A few months ago that group was asked for a list of its backers, but refused to give it. Finally they gave a partial list—which included many wealthy men and women . . . Why have they such short memories?

According to Wilfred J. Funk, the average pet dog has a vocabulary of 60 words. (That's the number of words it understands.)

In the new book, "Men and Politics," the author says: "Germany has no unemployment. But neither has a prison."

According to the Open Book, whether a black cat following is bad luck depends on whether you're a man or a mouse.

You can tell the difference between a Nazi and a British plane by their sounds. Nazi bombers sound like this: "Voom, voom, voom. Vooma-doom-voom" . . . British planes sound like: "Yowzer-yowzer-yowzer" . . . Or so returning correspondents are telling the Stork Clubbers, at any rate.

When it was rumored Marshal Goering might receive an Austrian Knighthood, Punch suggested his new title be: "Sir Cumference."

## Memos of a . . .

**Girl Friday:**  
Dear W. W.: After two months of trailing Jan Valtin, Steve Birmingham (the Dies Committee sleight) caught up with him in the parking lot opposite The Algonk and served him with a summons . . . Jimmy Walker evened things with certain Hollywood people (formerly of Broadway) at the Jack Benny affair. Jimmy called to the spotlight man and said: "Please turn off the light so I can see the people who couldn't see me the last four years."

The Nat'l Defense Organization is sponsoring R. H. Markham's exciting reply to Anne Lindbergh's book. He calls his: "The Wave of the Past!" Be sure and read!

Just got a button reading: "I'm a Copperhead." It is the emblem of a West coast outfit whose meetings are attended regularly by most Bund members out there. The head of it is the chairman at the Save America First meetings in L. A. . . . Quentin Reynolds sent a cable to friends saying: "The Saturday blitz and the arrival of Hess took Londoners' minds off the war!"—Your Girl Friday.

## Private Papers . . .

**Of a Cub Reporter:**  
Jimmy Dorsey kept the gagging going when he relayed the one about the same dictators who were arguing over the division of spoils . . . Hitler, of course, was conceding nothing to his very junior Axis partner in crime . . . Finally, Benito could stand the humiliation no longer, and he blurted: "Listen, Hitler. Where would you be today if it weren't for my help?" . . . Hitler retorted: "In London!"

## Flowery New Slip Cover Beautifies a Worn Sofa



HOW lovely that "impossible" old sofa becomes when you put a bright new slip cover on it! And you can easily make, yourself, the smartest of slip covers.

Exact details of cutting and sewing this slip cover are described and diagrammed in our 32-page booklet. Also tells how to cover and trim different types of chairs. Tips on fabrics, colors. Send for your copy to:

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635 Sixth Avenue New York City  
Enclose 10 cents in coin for your copy of HOW TO MAKE SLIP COVERS.

## Love of Country

I would have you day by day fix your eyes upon the greatness of your country, until you become filled with the love of her; and when you are impressed by the spectacle of her glory, reflect that it has been acquired by men who knew their duty and had the courage to do it.—Pericles.

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As some insects are said to derive their color from the leaf upon which they feed, so do minds of men assume their hue from the studies which they select for it.—Lady Blessington.

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Give feet wings of coolness. Sprinkle Mexican Heat Powder in shoes. Relieves tiredness. Little cost. Lots of comfort.

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When you feel gassy, headachy, tory due to clogged-up bowels, do as millions do—take Feen-A-Mint at bedtime. Next morning—thorough, comfortable relief, helping you start the day full of your normal energy and pep, feeling like a million! Feen-A-Mint doesn't disturb your night's rest or interfere with work the next day. Try Feen-A-Mint, the chewing gum laxative, yourself. It tastes good, it's handy and economical . . . a family supply costs only

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• You can have your own Bureau of Standards, too. Just consult the advertising columns of your newspaper. They safeguard your purchasing power every day of every year.