

# Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Washington, D. C.

## WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA

Most Americans have been so engrossed in the World War that if you told them war was brewing right here in the Western Hemisphere, they never would believe it. Yet buzzing backstage in the Washington diplomatic corps has been a growing, worrying reverberation over the ultimate danger of war between Argentina and Chile—not this year, perhaps not next year, but before very long.

Additional attention was focused on the unhappy situation with Argentina's bid for a conference of Pan-American foreign ministers—on an obvious move to put the U. S. A. on the spot and force recognition of the Fascist Farrellist military government in Argentina.

The whole tangled diplomatic controversy between Argentina, the United States and other neighbors is so involved that it takes an expert to understand it. But out of the mess emerges these basic and alarming facts:

1—Argentina is rushing armament. Hedy Lamarr's former husband, Fritz Mandel, the Austrian munitions king, about whom "Idiot's Delight" was written, is busy building airplanes for Argentina night and day.

2—Argentina could bomb Santiago, capital of Chile, from Mendoza, just across the Andes, in 40 minutes. It would take five hours for Chile to bomb Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina.

3—The people of Chile today are worried sick over Argentina. The Socialist, Communist and Conservative parties, usually vigorously divergent, are now united on this. They fear that the Argentine Fascists, looking for means of keeping themselves in power, as Hitler did with the German people, will make a Czechoslovakia out of Chile.

## Brazilians Admire Argentina.

Other Latin Americans are divided. Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru sympathize with Argentina. Officially Brazil does not. But actually the Brazilian people, plus many of the Brazilian army, are reacting sympathetically for the one country south of the Rio Grande which has successfully thumbed its nose at the Colossus of the North and got away with it.

Nothing succeeds like success, especially in the Latin American mind. The state department adopted only halfway measures with Argentina; snubbed her diplomatically, but made her prosperous economically by continuing to buy meat. The Argentines didn't care much if they were snubbed as long as they were prosperous.

Result is that many "good neighbors," though not liking Argentine Fascism, enjoy seeing U. S. diplomacy come to grief.

NOTE—Meanwhile, the United States is less equipped to handle things in our own hemisphere than ever before in two decades. Secretary Hull is sick. His best Latin American experts were friends of Sumner Welles and were given the gate after Welles resigned.

## CONCERNING THE WAR'S END

A lot of people have tried their hand at predicting the war's end, including this columnist. Some were high-up officials, some private prognosticators. Some were pretty good, some pretty bad.

Rep. Earl Wilson, Indiana Republican, in June, 1943, got an average compilation from 140 congressmen that the war would be over in October, 1944.

Adm. William F. Halsey, who predicted "complete, absolute defeat for the Axis in 1943," was asked again, on December 13, 1943, and "wasn't so sure when the war would be over."

Gen. "Hap" Arnold, chief of the air forces, on February 14, 1943, predicted "the German war will be over by February 14, 1944."

Jim Farley, on January 20, 1943, "The war will be over this year."

Gen. Levin Campbell, January 15, 1943—"The war will be over in about two years."

Herbert Hoover, November 6, 1943—"Certainly we are now in the last stages of the war."

Raymond Moley, November 8, 1943, predicted end of the war "earlier than envisioned by the administration."

Senator O'Mahoney, Wyoming Democrat, January 2, 1944—"The most conservative Swedish observers do not believe that Germany can endure beyond next June."

Sun Fo, president of the legislative Yuan of China, January 2, 1944—"Germany will be knocked out between the spring and summer of this year."

Henry Ford, March 20, 1944, predicted war would be over in two months.

Senator McKellar of Tennessee, July 21, 1944—"The Red army will be in Berlin in 60 days. The war will be over on all fronts in six months."

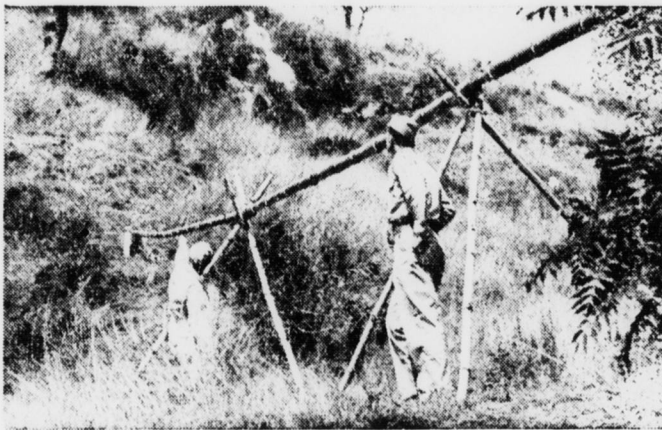
Congressman May, Democrat, Kentucky, July 28, 1944—"Germany will capitulate by December 1."

## Aviation Conference Underway



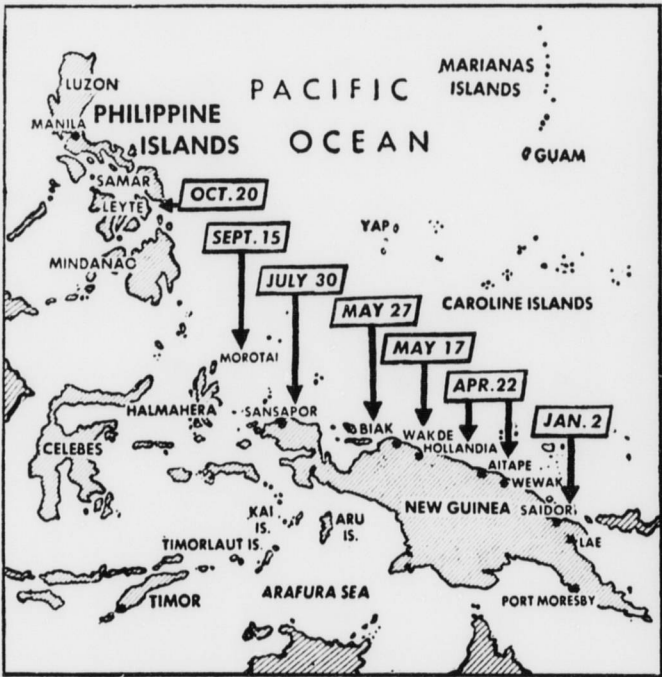
Adolph Berle, assistant secretary of state, and temporary chairman, is shown as he made the opening address of the International Civil Aviation conference held in Chicago. Delegates representing 50 countries met in first conference of its kind, hoping to work out a plan for world air transportation. The conference has dedicated itself to the world-wide peace-time aviation development.

## GIs Build Bamboo Water Line



Bamboo water line is supported across a defile by trestle also made of bamboo. This improvised line, in Yunnan province of China, the end of the lines for American army supplies, released hundreds of Chinese coolies from carrying water in order that they could handle other essential war supplies for American and Chinese forces.

## Gain by Gain Toward Victory



This map shows the steps taken by Gen. Douglas MacArthur as he kept his vow to return to the Philippines. On the second day of January, 1944, he made his first major leap-frog jump along the coast of New Guinea from Lae to Saidor. The map shows the succeeding operations, climaxing in the invasion of the Philippines.

## Awarded Nobel Medicine Prizes



All 1944 Nobel prizes for medicine went to the United States, the Nobel committee has announced. Dr. Joseph Erlanger, St. Louis, Mo., (left); Dr. Edward A. Doisy, St. Louis, Mo., (center); and Dr. Herbert S. Gasser, of the Rockefeller Institute, New York city, were awarded the prizes for medical research work.

## Guest of Air Force



Hot dogs and raisin pie were served to this French lad by members of the U. S. army Ninth air force service command unit in France. Mess call always finds a number of the French children lined up for chow with the GIs. Thousands of French children have to be fed.

## Commands Invasion



Maj. Gen. James L. Bradley, commanding general of the 96th infantry division, leads his division in the invasion of Philippines. The troops received extensive training for the present campaign in the Hawaiian islands.

## Crossing the Alps



Typical of the terrain over which our forces must battle in northern Italy is this jagged pass at Della Stelvio. These are the Austrian Alps on the Italian-German border. The man-angled white strip is the Burma pass-like road.

## Waiting for Flush



Dog, Joe Contender, and his hunter, working like two halves of a well-oiled machine, stand by a covert. The dog is in a point and the hunter is ready for his shot.



## Notes of an Innocent Bystander:

**The Moom Pitchers:** Lana Turner, whose marriages are always headlined, now appears in "Marriage Is a Private Affair." Lana carries on an absorbing cinema romance as though she invented kisses, while your eyes carry on a romance with Lana's Turners. . . . A comedy, "Rainbow Island," stars a sarong, ably supported by Dotty Lamour. The lilt is infectious enough to have a juke box named after them. . . . "Abroad With Two Yanks" exhibits some lusty, hair-on-the-chest humor, but more often the wheezes are tripping over their beards. . . . "San Fernando Valley" offers a batch of scenic-knacks—until the script ruins the view. . . . A postwar theme is handled shabbily in "My Buddy," making it the first atrocity of peace. . . . "Murders in the Blue Room" searches for goosepimples and gets lost in a deep yawn. . . . Hollywood entertainers overseas were shoved a fortnight ago. Recently Olivia DeHavilland was stricken with pneumonia while touring the Pacific war zones.

**The Intelligentsia:** Paul Kennedy of the Times cinema staff is en route to Spain to report the imminent blowoff there. His ancestry is Irish-Spanish. . . . One of the first fashion editors to go overseas will be Life's new staffer, handsome Elmer Lower—destination Paris. . . . Henry C. Cassidy's piece on what to do with German prisoners is the feature of The Atlantic Monthly. . . . Gen'l Robert Johnson's first book, "But, General Johnson," (Princeton Univ. Press) contains a chapter titled: "The News, the Columnists, and the Commentators."

**Quotation Marksmanship:** Chas. Dana Gibson: A lady is a woman who always remembers others and never forgets herself. . . . Dwight Moody: I never met a man who has given me as much trouble as myself. . . . J. Hamilton: Only a wise man knows if he fell in love or was trapped into it. . . . Will Rogers: I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. . . . H. R. Warfel: He made words march like warriors against ignorance. . . . Margaret Halsey: Bleak as the end of a love affair. . . . M. Dooley: The man who gets fat under the belt isn't as bad as the man who gets fat under the hat.

## Broadway Ballad:

Make mine Manhattan—when the Autumn brings  
Its soft enchantment to the noisy town...  
When memories brush the heart with silken wings,  
And all the leaves are turning golden brown,  
Make mine Manhattan—when the moon is low,  
And tiny taverns bid you enter in . . .  
And thoughts go drifting back to long ago . . .  
When constancy was marked the Crowning Sin.

And yet how soon a foolish lad can learn,  
That it was you who gave the nights their charm,  
That it was you who made the torch-fires burn  
In that brief space before we came to harm . . .

That it was you who made Manhattan mine—  
When Autumn spilled its cask of golden wine!

—Don Wahn.

**Ha-Hollywood:** It happened on the MGM lot. A woman writer from New York saw a Red Cross mobile unit parked in front of one of the studios. She hadn't been to the blood bank in quite a spell and she thought this would be a good time to donate.

As a nurse checked on her history, it was discovered that the would-be blood giver was not an MGM employee.

The nurse consulted with the interne, the interne consulted with the doctor and the doctor pondered with his hand to chin.

"I guess it won't hurt," he finally decided, "but please keep it under your hat. We are not supposed to take anything on this trip but Metro blood."

It was at a cocktail party in Washington. A dowager asked a British Major: "What about the privileged classes in England?"

"I presume, madam," was his dead-pan reply, "you are speaking of your countrymen, because at the present time the only privileged class in England are the Americans."

**True Story:** A Navy officer writes us that a Naval hospital held a contest among the patients to find out how many could pick Betty Grable's legs out of a batch of leg pictures.

The only one who could identify them was a chaplain!

**Add public service:** NBC's program, "World's Great Novels," which dramatizes the best literature. . . . The news about another son of Ring Lardner being killed in action saddened the craft.

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT HELP WANTED

Persons now engaged in essential industry will not apply without statement of availability from their local United States Employment Service.

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