

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

## Nazi Troops Are Massed in Balkans For Thrust at Greece to Aid Italians; Major Far East Crisis Approaches As Japanese-British Tension Grows

(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.)

### IDES OF MARCH:

#### Hitler Again

In March, 1933, Adolf Hitler incorporated the rich Saar Valley into the Reich. In March, 1936, he occupied the Rhineland. In March, 1938, German troops moved southward and annexed Austria. In March, 1939,—breaking the pledge of Munich—der fuhrer moved into Moravia and Bohemia and made the Czechoslovakia provinces German protectorates. In March, 1940, he got set for his moves into Norway and Denmark.

March, 1941, arrives.

If Hitler wins any success this year, he will thank his lucky stars. For Hitler is a believer in astrology and is declared to consult astrologers before he makes any major moves.

#### The Balkans

Even before the first of March, Hitler had gained the success he planned in the Balkans. The final moves may come in March, but the path of the army was paved by earlier diplomatic moves. Rumania was the highway and Josef Stalin fired the starting gun.

Deserted by its protectors, Bulgaria gave way to the Germans who had placed 600,000 soldiers on her border with Rumania. Bulgaria had been promised the help of Turkey, pro-British ally. And Turkey based its security on the promises of help from Russia. But Russia collapsed again. It notified Bulgaria to expect no help from Soviet troops and it influenced Turkey also to withdraw its promises to Bulgaria. Jugoslavia, surrounded on all sides, saw its ministers called to Munich and receive orders.

All this to get to plucky Greece. Greece, despite its army's victories over the Italians, saw its neighbors fall before the Nazi threat. It had a choice of making a futile effort to fight Germany alone, or to capitulate like all the rest.

Greece was given little time to decide. A German ultimatum was drafted. Resistance means that the nation would be the battleground of German and British armies—provided the British could, in sufficient time, extract troops from the African front and convey them to the Balkans.

#### The Far East

Meanwhile in Asia the other Axis partner, Japan, was growing more and more belligerent. Troops and naval concentrations were moved into Thailand (Siam) and close to French Indo-China. Threatened principally was the British naval base at Singapore. But threatened as well were the Malay peninsula, rich in rubber and tin; the Dutch East Indies, wealthy in the same



Here is an Australian soldier, typical of the large contingent just arrived in Singapore to protect British empire interests there. He is pictured boarding a troop ship with a number of his "tough, hardened" companions.

products. And between these two spots stood two other potentially valuable colonies that long have been the apple of Japan's eyes—Australia and the Philippines.

The question was what would Britain and the United States do in the face of this hostile action. The question was not long in being answered. Britain sent convoy after convoy of tough, hardened Australian troops to Singapore—men who were ready and anxious to fight for their homeland.

The United States' reply was less spectacular but just as defiant. It sent home the wives and children of all army and navy men in the Far East. Other U. S. citizens were told to get out as quickly as possible. The U. S. Pacific fleet sailed off, no one knew where.

To a Japanese declaration that it was the most misunderstood nation imaginable, and was willing to negotiate for peace anywhere at any time, undersecretary of state made an answer. "We are more interested," he said, "in deeds than in words."

### MORE SOLDIERS:

#### U. S. Defense

Surveys have begun in the war department with a view of expanding the army to more than 3,000,000 men in case of emergency. It is hoped to be able to be accomplished the next year if necessary.

Sites for additional camps are now being quietly surveyed all over the country. Production plans are being revised to reach this end and congress has been asked for some of the preliminary funds.

What the army hopes to realize is the ability to put 55 divisions into the field instead of the 27 which will be in camps on June 1 of this year. To reach this it is possible that the present National Guard units will be held in the federal army for another year and that many of the selectees now going to camps also will be retained. The latter go on reserve immediately upon completion of their training and can be recalled as needed to fill the requirements of the standing armed forces.

In the near future President Roosevelt likely will present to congress a \$3,000,000,000 program toward this end.

#### Equipment

Meanwhile the first flow of supplies are beginning to reach the armed forces. The army air corps



CHARLESTON, S. C.—The U. S. navy destroyer "Ingram" pictured sliding down the ways after its christening. Thus, America adds another link to her first line of defense, as its shipbuilding program goes far ahead of schedule.

units expect to receive in March the first new fighting planes embodying features developed in European warfare. Deliveries already have started on a limited number of Bell P-39 pursuit ships whose armament includes a 37-mm cannon fired through the propeller.

Also scheduled for early delivery are medium and light bombers, which, like fighting planes, are equipped with leakproof fuel tanks, armor protection and heavier fire power. Many will go to the Panama Canal Zone and others to Puerto Rico.

#### SPIES AND OIL: In Latin America

Usually informed circles in Mexico City discussed a sensational report of a Nazi Fifth Column ring which was said to be operating from the Canadian border to the Cape of Good Hope. The ring was declared to be directed from Philadelphia.

Mexican circles, describing the alleged conspiracy, said it was a preliminary step in Nazi efforts to gain economic control of the Western hemisphere. The plot was said also to engage Communists and Spanish Falangistas as well as Japanese agents, and the objective to be sabotaging of U. S. aid to Britain, blocking the American defense plans and antagonism against the United States in some of the Latin American countries.

For weeks there has been evidence of increased pro-Axis activity in Mexico. Several pro-Nazi publications have appeared. Ships arriving from Japan have unloaded numerous Germans. Propaganda has been aimed at creating suspicion on the United States' good neighbor policy, and at a whispering campaign that the U. S. would drag Mexico into war.

President Manuel Avila Camacho often has expressed his friendship for the United States and his dislike for totalitarian policies. Just a few days before news of the alleged ring was made public he submitted to a special session of the Mexican congress a bill which would reopen the rich Mexican oil resources to private exploitation. The bill apparently would clear the way for resumption of operations by U. S., British and Dutch companies expropriated in 1938. The government, however, would participate in the control.

### 'Bugs' at Capitol



The U. S. army, while demonstrating the latest type of one-ton reconnaissance car to a committee of Senators and Congressmen, permitted Sen. James Mead of New York to drive "the Bug" up the U. S. Capitol steps. The vehicle is capable of 75 miles per hour and its 80-inch wheelbase permits bombers to transport three of the units at a time.

### TRAVELERS:

#### Home Again

Wendell L. Willkie and Harry Hopkins, former secretary of commerce, came home from war-torn Britain to make reports to the President and congress. Hopkins data were secret, Willkie spoke to congress.

But Willkie's suggestion that the United States make available to Britain 5 to 10 destroyers a month met with opposition. First objection came from Naval Secretary Knox who said the United States could not spare any more ships without unbalancing the fleet. There was indication, however, that Willkie's proposal would be given more than casual consideration once the provisions of the lend-lease bill are under way.

Meanwhile Willkie revealed he may make another journey of inspection. This time he may go to the war front in Asia, visiting Gen. Chiang Kai-shek in China.

Two other American representatives were waiting for the opportune moment to fly to Britain. They are John C. Winant, the newly appointed ambassador, and C. Averell Harriman, who was named by the President to the task of co-ordinating the British aid-program. Harriman is the son of E. H. Harriman, one of the nation's greatest railroad builders.

#### MIGRATION: Men at Work

For the first time in more than a decade unemployment in the United States has virtually been wiped out. William T. Livingston, economist of the Alexander Hamilton Institute, reported after a nation-wide survey. Livingston estimated the total employment now nears 50,000,000, a record high, more than 4,000,000 above the 1929 peak.

By comparing census figures, social security records and relief totals, he estimated that there are now but 1,669,000 men without jobs. He pointed out, however, there always is a number of persons who are temporarily out of work as the result of changing jobs, and seasonal factors.

#### New Problem

High officials of the American Federation of Labor, however, expressed concern over another problem—the thousands of men who have been shifted around the country to meet defense needs. They feared many of these might soon again find themselves unemployed and far away from home.

More than 300,000 of these men are engaged in the building trades, erecting cantonments. Much of this work may be finished by early March.

Concentrations of men in many of these communities has also increased the health hazard, since the small communities around camps and defense industries are unable to furnish homes and adequate food supplies.

#### MISCELLANY:

**Arrested**—Harry R. Bridges, West coast C. I. O. leader, was arrested again on an order to deport him to his native Australia. The warrant was issued by Attorney General Jackson who said Bridges was a Communist. Similar proceedings by Secretary Perkins last year brought about an acquittal report from Dean James M. Landis of the Harvard law school, the trial examiner.

**Romance**—Mr. and Mrs. George I. Searle, of Des Moines, Iowa, who were divorced 33 years ago, have changed their minds. They remarried.

**Family Busy**—The entire family of former Gov. John G. Winant of New Hampshire got into the newspapers within a week. First the governor was named U. S. ambassador to London; then Constance, his 20-year-old daughter, eloped with a Peruvian. Finally Mrs. Winant scored. One of her pets won a blue ribbon at the New York dog show.

## Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

BY DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

**U. S. FIRMS PAY AXIS POWERS**  
WASHINGTON.—While the senate is preparing to enact the lend-lease bill committing this country to vast outlays for Great Britain, certain American firms are paying out hundreds of dollars monthly to Germany and Italy, which funds are being used to fight both the United States and Britain.

This secret Axis aid is being delivered in the form of royalty payments on industrial formulas, trademarks, copyrights and patents. The money is paid in dollars and is deposited to German and Italian accounts in New York banks.

The justice department, which has conducted a secret investigation, has uncovered these interesting facts:

1. That the royalty payments are now running around \$500,000 a month, of which Germany gets at least 80 per cent.

2. That a considerable portion of the money was used by Germany last year to buy U. S. goods for delivery to Latin American buyers, to make good on contracts that Germany confidently had signed after the fall of France but was unable to fill, because of the unshaken British blockade.

3. That Nazi and Fascist agents have drawn on the funds to finance racial and anti-defense propaganda in this country; also anti-American propaganda in South America.

4. That while U. S. firms fork over their tribute in dollars, such royalties as Germany and Italy pay are in the form of blocked marks and export lira; that is, money that can be spent only in Germany or Italy.

Actually, the money levy is a secondary consideration. What really worries the authorities is how much vital military production information these royalty agreements betray to the Axis.

Since most royalties on patents are paid according to the number of units sold, it should be a simple matter for the Axis to obtain detailed figures on types and rate of flow of important materials to the U. S. army and navy and to Britain. Last year the justice department cracked down on Bausch and Lomb when it discovered that under a secret royalty agreement the firm supplied the German licensor with a detailed accounting of certain instruments delivered to the navy.

#### WILLKIE RATES CHURCHILL OVER F. D.

Wendell Willkie went all-out for the President's lend-lease bill, but personally he doesn't like Mr. Roosevelt any better than before. Willkie made this clear to friends following his conference at the White House.

Winston Churchill, he indicated, had it all over Roosevelt in ability and personality, was "much simpler and more direct in manner."

"There isn't anyone in America quite like Churchill," Willkie said. "He was the most congenial companion I've met in a very long time. He has a gay buoyancy that is incomparable."

Willkie also told his friends that he had absolutely no intention of taking a job under Roosevelt.

"The President hasn't offered me anything," he said, "and I hope he doesn't because I'll turn it down. One thing I don't want is an appointive office. If war should come I will enlist in the armed forces, but I'm not taking a government job."

Willkie is still undecided what he will do, but is leaning toward a return to law. He has been offered a number of lucrative positions, one carrying a salary of \$120,000 a year.

#### NEW FARM BOARD

After many years of supporting the New Deal farm program, the powerful Farm Bureau federation wants to set up a new government farm agency which it would largely dominate.

In backstage congressional conversations, the farm leaders have proposed that the AAA, the soil conservation service and the farm security administration be taken away from the department of agriculture and be made a completely separate agency. Then they want a five-man board to run these important bureaus.

Naturally, they expect to have a goodly representation of members on that board.

So far, Vice President Henry Wallace and Secretary of Agriculture Wickard are vigorously opposed. So also is the President.

**Note**—Herbert Hoover established a famous farm board to buy wheat. It was a mess.

#### MERRY-GO-ROUND

Elder Statesman ex-Senator King of Utah is being promoted by friends to become a commissioner of the District of Columbia.

Although hampered by having its offices scattered in six widely separated buildings, the immigration bureau is mailing out 95,000 receipts a day to registered aliens.

Pennsylvania Republican chiefs will not have to ask Sen. ("Puddler Jim") Davis twice to be their candidate for governor next year. He is panning for the chance.

### Friendly Visitors From Nippon



This friendly visit of a Japanese military delegation to the Reich-chancellery in Berlin to see Hitler may be symbolic of co-operative implications far beyond mere casualness, as Japan regarded the landing of Australian troops in Singapore as a "belligerent action." Standing beside Hitler is General Yamashita of Japan.

### When It Rains in California—



Heavy downpour takes severe toll in property damage throughout southern California, causing landslides, washouts and floods. Topanga river becomes a raging torrent. This picture, taken in Topanga canyon, shows a home as it crumpled into the rampant waters. Rescue workers are attempting to save a marooned family.

### Never-Ending Stream of Italian Prisoners



A seemingly never-ending stream of Italian prisoners is here shown pouring over a bridge following the capture of an important base during the British sweep west through Libya, which was climaxed by the capture of Bengazi, an Italian stronghold. In all, the British captured 100,000 Italians, it was claimed.

### Lifeboat for a Playroom



These British children were assigned to this lifeboat on the S. S. Georgic during its hazardous journey to New York. When the steamship docked the children used the boat, which was to be their watery home in case of torpedoing, as a sort of playroom. The Georgic was the first British passenger ship to dock in New York since November 18, 1940.

### Against No. 1776



Sen. Robert Reynolds (D.) of North Carolina, telling the senate that Bill No. 1776 "may lead us directly toward a declaration of war," Reynolds became the first southern senator to oppose the bill.

### Patriot!



Jean Greaux, 22, native of the Virgin islands, spent his savings to make a 4,000 mile trip to enter the army. Here he is receiving his uniform at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. He enlisted at Camp Robinson, Ark.

### Winning Ski Jump



Torger Tolle of the Norway Ski club soars to victory in the F. D. Roosevelt ski tourney at Bear Mountain, N. Y. His poorest leap was 165 feet. His best was 180 feet, which beat by 9 inches the mark he established two years ago.

### Deportation?



Deportation proceedings against Harry Bridges, West coast labor leader (above), have been ordered by Attorney General Jackson. Basis for this action is the FBI report that Bridges is a communist.