

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

Nazi Advance Guard Enters Bulgaria; Japan's Arbitration Offer Rejected By Britain; Far Eastern Crisis Grows; Defense Board Speeds Up Arms Work

(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.)

BALKY BALKANS: And an American

As Adolf Hitler's advance guard slipped into Bulgaria from Rumania there was none to stay them. Clad in civilian overcoats which they did not remove but from which protruded sleek military boots, members of the German staff took over the principal hotel of Sofia and the main Bulgarian resort town 40 miles away.

Where before anti-Nazi signs had been scribbled on walls and Bulgarian national songs were heard, now orchestras turned to Viennese waltzes and raised their right arms, palm open. Bulgarian army generals came to the Sofia hotel with bundles of maps under their arms. All day and all night they and the boot-clad men poured over them.

There was only one show of hostility. But it was a beautiful while it lasted, which was about an hour. George H. Earle, American minister to Bulgaria and former governor of Pennsylvania, was in a night club just around the corner from the embassy building. The place was filled with the mysterious boot-clad, civilian-overcoated foreigners. The governor didn't like the tune the orchestra was playing and asked them to switch to "It's a Long Way to Tipperary."

One of the mysterious strangers took offense. Earle said later he was a major of the German general staff. Words were passed and finally Earle said the major threw a bottle at him, which he ward off by covering his head with his arm.

The former governor has never been known to pass up a chance like that. In the World war he commanded a submarine chaser.



GEORGE H. EARLE
Waiters and Bulgars were enlisted.

After the war he took up aviation, cracking up several machines but always getting into another and flying off just as quickly as possible. He is an expert boxer and has not refused to make use of his fists before.

Earle said he "injured the man's features." Reporters who were present said the battle lasted for an hour with bottles, chairs and tables being used in the melee. The mysterious foreigner was aided by reinforcements which consisted of certain other boot-clad and overcoated gentlemen. Earle enlisted the waiters at the restaurant, where he was known and various and sundry Bulgars who were present. Police had a hard time with both sides for the next hour.

AIR CRASH: Number Four

Last August the commercial airlines of the country had established a no-accident record of 17 months, but with the midnight crash of an Eastern Airlines sleeper plane near Atlanta, Ga., the number of accidents in the intervening six months was raised to four.

When searchers, near dawn, reached the scene of the crash they found seven persons killed, nine others injured. Among those found dead was a member of congress, Rep. William D. Byron of Maryland, and among the severely injured was the famed World war flying ace, Eddie Rickenbacker, president of the company on whose plane he was riding. Also killed were the pilot, the co-pilot and steward of the plane's crew.

Next day a report from Balboa, Canal Zone, told of the crash of a U. S. army bomber into Panama bay. An immediate search, first reports said, failed to disclose any trace of a crew of seven.

SPAIN:

Ex-Monarch Dies

Spain's former monarch, King Alfonso XIII, died of a heart ailment after an illness of two weeks. He died in his Rome hotel room which had been his exile home for the past 10 years. He reigned as king of the Spanish people for 29 years, during which time at least eight attempts were made to assassinate him. His reign ended in April, 1931, when he left the throne, saying that "I no longer have the love of my people."

New Angle Triangle



GLENDALF, CALIF. — A triangle consisting of a man, his wife, and the U. S. army, landed Mrs. Esther M. Moore (above) in jail when (in violation of army rules) she refused to cease making frequent efforts to visit her husband, Sgt. G. G. Moore. A veteran army man, Moore is completing his flying course at an army air school in Glendale and Mrs. Moore was arrested on a charge of disturbing the peace after a series of attempts to get by the sentries on duty.

PIG BOATS: In the Atlantic

Hitler made another speech. It was more eloquent in what it did not say than in what was said. Der Fuehrer pictured an impressive spring campaign against England's life lines in the Atlantic. None got up and left the meeting, although some, hearkening back to the same speech in January, may have thought to do so with the expression, "Here's where we came in."

In reality, the speech made in the Munich beer cellar where Nazism was born, was a tactic admission that Hitler's air power, his original major weapon on which he risked war, had failed to produce decisive results. And between the lines of the speech can be read the admission that British sea power is gripping the Axis countries even tighter than it did last fall.

So Hitler, during the winter months, has been building a new type of U-boat, known as "pig boats" to naval men. In Norway, Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands and in France all the vast ship building yards have been turning out pocket submarines during the winter months. How many the Germans have on hand is not known, but best estimates are 1,000, with hundreds more ready to be delivered before summer.

No nation has nearly this many undersea craft. The United States has but a few hundred and England even less. Germany last fall was estimated to have almost 500 standard size submarines. But submarines do not fight submarines. To sink them, fast cruisers and destroyers are necessary. Britain, even with the 5 destroyers obtained from the U. S., will have a difficult time to cope with the situation, if even a fraction of that number U-boats begins to prey on the sealanes that bring her food and munitions.

Explanation

Mussolini also made a speech. Whereas Hitler seemed scornful of wavering within the German lines, Il Duce seemed less sure. He blamed discontent on Jews and Masons and dwelt on the indissoluble ties that bind Italy to Germany, which is a nice way of putting it now that German censors are in charge of communications leading from Italy to the outside world.

He had a new explanation for the disasters in Africa. Marshal Graziani earlier blamed failure on lack of mechanical equipment in the Fascist forces. Mussolini said, however, that the British succeeded because they achieved numerical superiority. Since all British reinforcements to Egypt pass within 50 miles of Italian naval and air bases, Il Duce seemed here also to be making an admission of the ineffectiveness of his battle forces.

MISCELLANY:

¶ In the main hall of the Kremlin, in Moscow, a national conference of the Communist party was in progress. Members charged that production in several key industries was delayed due to buck-passing and overwhelming red tape. The Central Committee hinted shake-ups. Among those losing their official heads was Maxim Litvinov, former foreign commissar, and Paulina Shemyonovna Zhemchuzhina, wife of Premier and Foreign Minister Molotov.

¶ The annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awards for outstanding acting in the films went to Ginger Rogers for her performance in "Kitty Foyle" and to James Stewart for his role in "The Philadelphia Story."

¶ There was confusion at Mrs. Roosevelt's press conference. The 40 or more women reporters were sitting in the Madison Room at the White House when past the door walked a bathrobe-clad male figure. He heard the female voices and fled. It was Harry Hopkins, presidential guest. Someone closed the door.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

DOLLAR-YEAR-TROUBLE
WASHINGTON. — Defense chiefs aren't advertising it, but they are quietly trying to ward off a blow-up over the host of dollar-a-year men now working for the government.

Some of the One Dollar men are conscientious and sincere public servants. Others are less scrupulous. While representing the government they have sold goods to the government, exerted inside pressure in favor of their industries, represented clients before government agencies.

All this has been no secret on Capitol Hill, where the steadily growing corps of One Dollar moguls has been eyed with increasing resentment. Recently this undercover indignation took form in a bill by Sen. Kenneth McKellar, veteran Tennessean, to ban such business men from government service and to probe their operations.

McKellar's plan is to await enactment of the lend-lease bill before pushing his measure, but meanwhile defense chiefs, seeing the handwriting on the wall, have quietly started cleaning up the situation themselves.

This has been done in a series of apparently unrelated moves. Under cover of transferring the original defense organization to the new office of production management, several One Dollar men have been eased home with the high-sounding, face-saving title of "Advisory Consultant" pinned to their coat-tails. Others have been shifted to jobs not directly connected with their own industries.

Also, several non-commercial experts have been brought in to replace One Dollar men in important sections of the OPM. And more house-cleaning is still to come.

Note—Among non-commercial experts who have been brought into the OPM are Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins, president of Dartmouth college; Dexter S. Kimball, former dean of Cornell university engineering school; William E. Wickenden, president of Case School of Applied Science; Dr. W. S. A. Pott, president of Elmira college; and Dr. S. S. Stratton, Harvard professor of economics.

MR. SMITH GOES TO LATIN-AMERICA

It looks as if Senator Barkley was right when he denounced the box office smash, movie, "Mr. Smith Comes to Washington." That film is now causing all kinds of headaches for the U. S. A. in South America, where it is used by the Nazis as one of their deadliest propaganda weapons.

John Hay ("Jock") Whitney has just made this report to the Rockefeller branch of the national defense commission. The story of a grafting senate ganging up on a young reformer, Whitney says, is being circulated through Latin America as an illustration of U. S. government graft.

Whitney has been pressuring Hollywood moguls to halt further foreign distribution of the film.

Another big problem for Whitney is newsreels. Just how damaging a newsreel can be to the "Good Neighbor" policy if even a slight detail of sequence is overlooked, was illustrated in a recent report to the state department by Norman Armour, ambassador to Argentina.

In a Buenos Aires theater one night, Armour was witnessing American newsreel shots of an air raid on Great Britain. Immediately following the raid pictures a bathing beauty contest in California was flashed on the screen.

"The letdown of the audience was terrific," Armour reported, pointing out that the newsreel made it appear that United States had its mind on bathing beauties instead of defense.

THE TAFT BROTHERS

William Howard Taft's boys, Bob and Charley, are at odds again, Charley having been in Washington more than a week in his new job before he got together with Bob.

Reason is the job Charley has taken from the hands of Roosevelt. It sounds harmless enough—"Assistant Co-ordinator of Recreational Activities for Defense"—but it's a sufficient tie-up with the administration foreign policy to leave anti-interventionist Bob a bit chilly.

What hurt more, perhaps, was that Charley, who has long quarreled with his brother over domestic policies, accepted the job just the week before the historic lend-lease debate opened in the senate. Bob knew where brother Charley stood long before, namely with the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. But this brought the split into the public gaze.

"You don't have to agree with your brother all the time, do you?" is Bob's shrugging comment.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

You can reach hard-working John R. Steelman, head of the U. S. Conciliation service, practically any midnight in his office working on some labor dispute, but not between 7 and 7:15 p. m. He always takes this time out to listen to a favorite daily radio program.

The budget is full of unique little items, such as \$6,000 for a fence on the Texas-Mexican border, \$76,000 for personal funds for inmates of federal narcotic institutions, \$10,000 for sea food inspection.

Seven Killed, 9 Injured, in Plane Crash



Seven persons were killed and nine were injured when this Eastern Airlines plane crashed near Atlanta, Ga. Rep. William D. Byron, of Maryland, was one of the seven killed. Among the injured was Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, World war flying ace and owner of the airline. Photo shows rescuers searching in the debris for bodies.

Win Film Awards



Ginger Rogers, who won the annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award for her performance in "Kitty Foyle," and James Stewart, who was voted 1940's outstanding actor for his work in "The Philadelphia Story."

Flies to Post



John G. Winant, U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, going aboard the Atlantic Clipper at La Guardia field, New York, en route to Great Britain, via Lisbon.

Police Clash With Pickets at Steel Plant



Police try to force hole through pickets to allow car to pass through Number 1 gate of the big Lackawanna plant of the Bethlehem Steel company, near Buffalo, N. Y., during the C. I. O. strike, which periled defense production. The Bethlehem company has 1½ billion dollars' worth of military orders.

Land at Boston Army Base



The first U. S. army transport since 1918 has just landed 1,200 soldiers at the Boston army base. Some of the 1,200 are shown above debarking from the troopship General Hunter Liggett en route to Camp Edwards and Fort Devens. These men have just completed five weeks' secret maneuvers in the Caribbean.

On Special Mission



Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard university, aboard the S.S. Excalibur, as he sailed for Europe on a mission for President Roosevelt. Dr. Conant is head of a special new mission to England to collect defense information.

Australian Troops Arrive in Singapore



"Berlin or Bust" was the chant of these crack Australian troops as they arrived in Singapore to strengthen the British defenses. They were equipped with great numbers of fighting planes and bombers.

Defense Expediter



Averell Harriman, New York financier, whom President Roosevelt named as aide to Ambassador Winant, as a step in aid to British under lend-lease bill program.