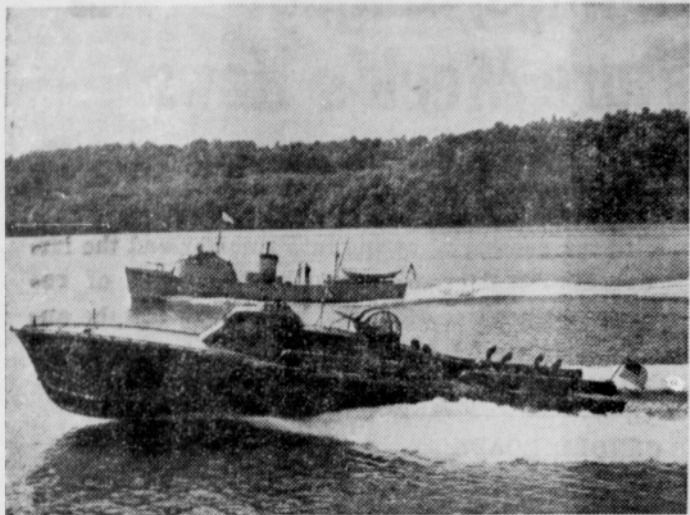


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

German Air Blitz on Island of Crete Results in 'Defense to Death' Fighting; U. S. Attitude Toward France Changes As Vichy-Berlin Strengthen Relations

(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.)



NEW YORK.—One of the U. S. navy's new torpedo boats (foreground) and a coast guard cutter are shown cutting through the water of the Hudson river during recent maneuvers. These 55-mile-per-hour craft are equipped with torpedo tubes and depth bombs to battle larger destroyers and submarines.

CRETE: An Air Test

The big island of Crete, which Prime Minister Churchill said would be defended "to the death" by an army composed of General Freyberg and New Zealand, British and Greek troops under his command suddenly became the center of the war when a dramatic and unexpected invasion of the island was made by air-borne Nazi troops.

There were some early reports that the Germans were coming also in normal transports, but there was little doubt that the air test was premeditated, and that the world was witnessing the first large-scale such endeavor since the days of the invasion of Norway, and of the Low Countries, particularly Holland.

Britain reported that the first 1,500 soldiers who landed in chutes were wearing the New Zealand uniform, and coldly announced that "they could expect to be shot." All of them, it was quickly reported, were either killed or rounded up rapidly.

Germany as promptly retorted that if any of the parachutists were treated as spies and shot, Germany would reply "ten to one" in kind. But the British and Greeks didn't have long to wait or long to contemplate what to do with the first 1,500.

By the second morning of the invasion the British radio was reporting that the Nazi invasion force was 7,000, and on the second afternoon hiked this figure to 11,500.

This brought the German force to at least one full division, and a good way into the second division. And the British quickly estimated that this figure meant that the Germans had from 2,000 to 3,000 airplanes on duty in southern Greece.

The usual silence and mystery as to what actually was transpiring immediately was clamped down by the British ministry of information, which contented itself with issuing such generalities as "the situation is in hand," leaving it up to the Germans to give the world what information could be gleaned.

The German claims, as usual, were broad, the Nazis asserting that many important points had been captured, and that many British planes had been destroyed "on the ground."

British sources seemed willing to admit that the Germans had utter mastery of the air, but General Freyberg said that every hilltop had its sentinel in Crete, that an elaborate method of signaling had been worked out, and that even those parachutists who arrived at night were promptly spotted, reported and given action from the ground forces.

Neutral observers, however, pointed out that in order to effect large-scale landing of troops who were not parachutists, the Germans must have obtained at least temporary control of landing fields, or must be using emergency fields.

British reports told of many transport planes shot down with their cargoes of men, both on the island and into the waters surrounding it. However, they also told of huge, unwieldy transport planes towing numbers of gliders loaded with men and munitions, a mode of transportation not reported in wide-scale use before.

How large the force on Crete was remained a military secret of the Greeks and the British, though there was considerable figuring done by

MISCELLANY:

LONDON: The first direct plea for the United States to enter the war as an active participant came from the News-Chronicle, which said:

"We want you in this war fighting on our side, not to save us from defeat but to help us to victory—quickly."

PHILADELPHIA: The Academy of Music refused the rental of its hall for the purpose of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh to make a speech.

Big Job



This is General B. C. Freyberg, a New Zealander, who was in charge of the Greek-British defense of the island of Crete when the Nazi forces first loosed their air blitz against that stronghold. When the British were forced to withdraw their air force his duty became a gigantic task.

PLANES: And Months

Statistical proof that thousands of planes, like Rome, can't be built in a day was given by Admiral Towers, who reported to Secretary of Navy Knox that in the past 10 months the navy has gained 1,304 planes of all types.

The navy now has 3,476 planes of all types, including trainers, and this compared with the British estimate that Germany was operating about 2,000 to 3,000 planes in the Battle of Crete alone, not counting those in use in other theaters of the war.

It also was significant that Admiral Towers' report to Mr. Knox was that the navy already is experiencing a shortage of pilots, which compared with Germany's reported 100,000 pilots trained before the war started. In fact, it was this pilot training program which first called the attention of the world to Germany's rebirth as a military power in spite of the restrictive efforts of the Treaty of Versailles.

Of the 1,304 planes which the navy has added to her force, only about 600 of them are combat types, Admiral Towers revealed.

The goal of 50,000 fighting planes for the American army and navy combined was, therefore, envisioned as far in the future, Admiral Towers revealing that not until January, 1942, will the existing shortage of pilots be relieved. Not until then will the number of pilots begin to catch up with the number of planes.

DRAFT: A New Plan

Pennsylvania called out in excess of 18,000 young men in the draft, trying out what was called a "new plan" aimed to "give the selectee a break."

The plan was this. The 18,000 were to be called out, and immediately given a searching examination along all lines, including their final medical examination by the army doctors.

Then they were to be returned to their homes and jobs, those who were eligible to army life being placed on call in from 10 to 30 days, and the rest of them to return to their normal jobs, secure in the knowledge that they would not be called.

This was aimed to remove much of the uncertainty which grew out of the previous method of selective service picking. Dr. William Mather Lewis, selective service director of Pennsylvania, said he was advised that if the experiment proved a success there, it would be applied to the entire nation.

At the same time President Roosevelt put into being the OCD, or Office of Civilian Defense, with Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia of New York its head, working without salary, as will all of his intermediaries.

Also plans for the home guard were worked out at Washington, this group to function entirely separately from the OCD, which would ostensibly have a membership of millions of American men, women and even children.

One of the first tests of the United States against possible war was an entirely complete blackout of the Hawaiian islands, where even the isolated hamlets were darkened, and planes of the American army and navy flew overhead to inspect the situation and to see how complete it was.

LABOR:

The general handling of the strike situation rapidly by the Defense Mediation board continued, though widely criticized in certain quarters as being achieved at a price which eventually would make this nation a prey to inflation and rapidly soaring prices.

However, there was a shipyard strike on the West coast which seemed for a time to defy settlement, although the much larger coal and motors strikes were well in hand.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

WASHINGTON, D. C.
BOMBER OUTPUT

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 hadn'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 entertainment 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.

Marines Crack Picket Lines



Navy trucks, guarded by marines, carried 800 A. F. of L. workers through C.I.O. picket lines to work at the Moore Drydock company, Oakland, Calif., one of the 11 defense plants affected by a strike of C.I.O.-A. F. of L. machinists for higher wages. There was no violence. This soundphoto shows navy trucks passing through picket line formed by the striking machinists' union.

Nation's Civilian Defense Chief



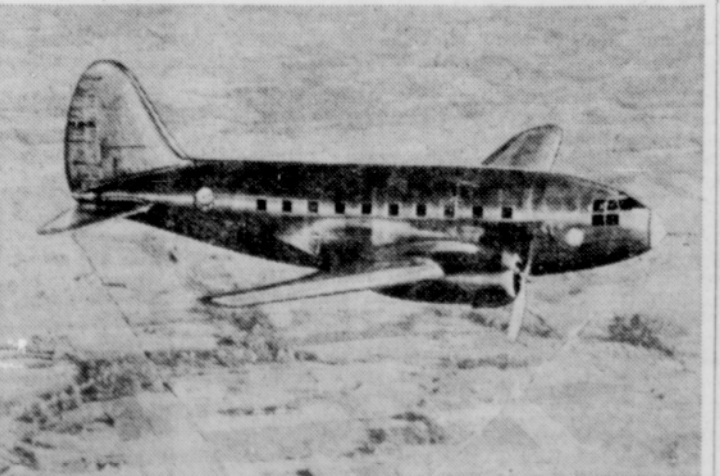
Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York city, who has been appointed by President Roosevelt to head the office of civilian defense, is shown here as he received his commission from the Chief Executive in Washington.

Draft Objectors Put to Work



A group of conscientious draft objectors being signed into Camp Patapsco, Elkridge, 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. Under terms of the arrangement the federal government is not obligated to pay camp expenses.

Largest Transport of Its Kind



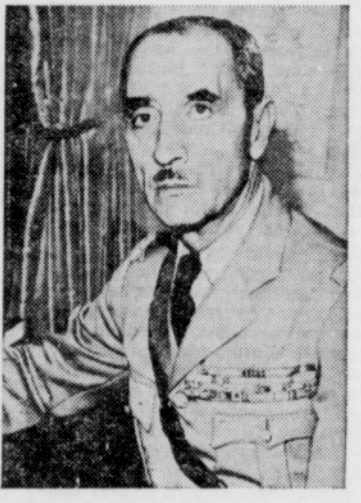
The world's largest twin-motored airliner, the new 36-passenger Curtiss-Wright transport plane. The plane, designed for army troop transport, arrived in New York after a non-stop flight from St. Louis. It can accommodate 40 soldiers. Cruising at 60 per cent of full speed, it averaged better than 215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

Peace Comes to Coal



John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers of America, who, with Maj. W. W. Inglis, chairman of joint board of miners and operators, signed the coal peace pact officially ending the wage dispute in the coal industry. He is shown here addressing wage conference in New York just before pact was signed.

Leads Free French



Gen. Georges Catroux, former governor of Damascus, who, according to reports from Cairo, Egypt, led Free French forces in invasion of Syria from Palestine.

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. Croatia's new queen is Princess Irene of Greece.

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 Hess has fled Germany.