

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

British See Far East 'Squeeze Play' In Japan's Attitude Toward Thailand; Nazis Claim Big Victories Over Reds; Mussolini's Son Killed in Air Crash

(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.)



Here's a striking contrast in the modes of fighting equipment. According to the Berlin caption the picture shows a German horse-drawn artillery piece racing past a burning Soviet tank somewhere along the Russ-Nazi battle lines of the eastern front.

CONGRESS: Big Work

Three bills of huge importance were before congress, and although passage for all was predicted, the importance laid as much in what their final form would be as it did in whether or not they would become law.

These were the tax bill, the draft-extension bill, and the price-fixing bill, the latter linked inseparably with the "draft-industry" bill.

The tax bill, it was apparent, would be voted into existence minus the requirement that all married couples file joint income tax returns. Roughly, this will cut \$25,000,000 off the yield of the law, which will then have a ceiling of about \$3,200,000,000.

This is to be divided, roughly, into a billion for income taxes; a billion for miscellaneous and special taxes; and a billion and a third for corporation income taxes, a small balance coming from gift taxes.

The draft extension bill showed the opposition to the administration losing one battle after another, but reforming their lines with more support after each defeat.

When the administration's resolution calling for an extension of present draft terms by 18 months was brought to a vote, the senate passed the measure by a vote of 45 to 30. This meant that total term of draftees, National Guardsmen and reserve officers would all serve a total of 2½ years. The bill went from the senate to the house following the vote.

The price-fixing and draft-industry bills were chartered along a more difficult course. The latter passed the house, but immediately there started in the opposition press a battle, claiming that there was a threat to the freedom of the press and freedom of speech through radio—as these businesses, too, might be seized by the government.

As to price-fixing, Leon Henderson seemed the center of this fight, and many in congress declared they would feel more kindly toward the bill if they felt more confidence in Henderson's ability to carry it out. Indeed, the house appointed a special committee to oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

JAPAN:

Warned Again

London warned Japan that if she moved against Thailand in any way, she would find that Britain would consider such a move as a definite threat to Singapore, and would act accordingly.

This was seen as a sort of confirmation that the British are sending expeditionary forces of occupation into Siamese territory, and that any Japanese effort to cut the Burma road will bring the world war to the Far East.

The statement came from Foreign Secretary Eden, making it in the house of commons. It had been rumored that 10,000 British troops would be sent to Thailand from eastern bases, and that a considerable British fleet already was in those waters.

And it also was believed that Japan was committed to move against Thailand by its agreement with the other Axis powers. This was visioned as part of a squeeze play against India.

Eden said: "Every fresh move on the part of Japan naturally has the result of bringing China and ourselves closer and closer together."

"That friendship and that collaboration with China will continue and I pray that it will grow."

"Men and materials are pouring out to strengthen our forces in the Middle East for their next forward plunge, and these will strike their blows for the independence of the countries in the Middle East as much as for our own independence."

DEATH:

To a Youth

From Rome came the report that Bruno, the second son of Benito Mussolini, had been killed in an air crash while on a plane testing flight near Pisa. He was 22 years of age and ranked as a "Captain of Aviation." He had seen action in three wars. In Ethiopia, in the Spanish war and in the present war he had engaged in what Italian sources described as "daring" and "risky" actions.

GERMANY: Makes Claims

The Germans, who had been pictured fairly hopelessly stalled on the Eastern front, with the Reds growing in strength and in some points taking the offensive, came out finally with a statement in which they made the largest claims thus far.

They claimed 895,000 prisoners taken, and "many times more" in killed and wounded; the entire Russian resistance shattered; no semblance of order in the Red army; and pictured Moscow as without any clear picture at all of the situation, blindly believing its army still fighting.

When it came to giving details of places, the communiqué, while a lengthy one, was not very communicative.

But from it one could picture the front through the German eyes, with Smolensk, in the center, a sort of island of doomed Russian battalions, still holding out, although surrounded.

Leningrad, on the north, was a hopeless city, menaced from the south and the north, with another small "island" of surrounded Red troops still holding out in the vicinity of Tallinn, Estonia.

Kiev, on the south, was shown in this document as partially surrounded, with two huge pincers having pierced the Stalin line north and south of the city itself, which is an integral part of that line.

The claims were contained in four special communiques from the headquarters of Adolf Hitler himself, and were broadcast throughout the German nation.

RUSSIANS:

Their Version

Completely ignoring the claims of the Germans, the Reds, admitting Nazi pressure on the south, say that they are counter-attacking and were using the same tactics "which threw the Germans back in the central front."

In fact, the Russian reports considered the front from Smolensk to Bel-Tserkov, a distance of 350 miles, as a single unit, rather than a definite pincer movement, and said that there was mobile fighting going on all along this front.

In fact, the Reds asserted they were holding the Germans in two other sectors, that of Kholm, 180 miles south of Leningrad, and on the Estonian front—where the Germans had claimed important advances.

The Russians also reported taking many prisoners, and revealed that many of them are either 17 years old or the older type reservists, showing that the Nazis are drawing heavily on their reserves.

BRAZIL:

In Azores

The United States is secretly urging that Brazil take over the Azores islands, Portuguese possession, in the interests of Western hemisphere defense, Berlin had charged.

Although this was promptly denied in Washington, considerable prominence was given the dispatch, in that the question of the Azores was prominent in Washington's long range plan for defense of the Western hemisphere.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

FOOD FOR BRITAIN

In the headlines, lend-lease aid to Britain is chiefly a story of planes, tanks, ships, guns and munitions. But these dramatic war supplies are only one part of the picture.

An equally vital, though little known, phase of this gigantic program is food.

Today, practically every ship leaving U. S. shores for embattled England carries stocks of food as part of its cargo. Also significant is the fact that this steady flow of food shipments differs markedly from those of World war days.

Then the foodstuffs were in bulk form—boatloads of grain and fresh meats. But now, with British and Allied shipping suffering terrible destruction, there aren't enough bottoms to transport both bulky armaments and bulky food across the hazardous Atlantic.

Since the cargo space for bulky armaments cannot be reduced, and with the British food situation becoming acute, food is being shipped in concentrated and dehydrated form. Thus it is carried in the same ships with arms and munitions, taking up relatively little space.

The extent of these shipments and what they meant to the American farmer is shown graphically by the following list of lend-lease food purchases in a very recent seven-week period:

American cheese,	20,483,175 pounds;
corn starch,	35,820,000 pounds;
frozen eggs,	36,648,630 pounds;
dried eggs,	4,458,650 pounds;
canned fish,	1,083,052 cases;
dehydrated soup,	4,400,000 pounds;
soy beans,	9,070,000 pounds;
dried beans,	40,770,000 pounds;
corn sugar,	5,096,000 pounds;
enzymes,	3,360 pounds;
dried apricots,	9,988,000 pounds;
honey,	3,557,300 pounds;
enriched flour,	399,000 pounds;
concentrated orange juice,	92,302 gallons;
vitamin A,	2,547,183 units;
vitamin B1,	3,965 kilograms;
peanut butter,	1,762,000 pounds;
lard,	28,662,720 pounds.

Note—Management of the lend-lease food program is under the Surplus Marketing administration, aided by the U. S. public health service, the British ministry of health and the Anglo-American food purchasing committee.

FREEZING CHINESE FUNDS
There was one unwritten chapter in the story of American freezing of funds of those two Oriental neighbors, Japan and China.

It was published that the funds of friendly China were frozen as well as the funds of unfriendly Japan. But unpublished was the fact that China for four months had been asking the state department to freeze its funds, but the state department had refused.

China's request was quite unusual, for most nations object strenuously to having their funds frozen. For instance, Switzerland, hearing that she would be included with Germany when Hitler's funds were frozen, argued for weeks.

But in the case of China, many of her funds are in the hands of big Chinese merchants and bankers in Shanghai, who for business reasons are playing with the Japanese. And they have been draining Chinese currency from the country.

So Roosevelt's special Chinese emissary, Lauchlin Currie, was requested by Chiang Kai-shek to ask Secretary of State Hull to freeze Chinese funds. This would have hamstrung the pro-Japanese Chinese.

However, Secretary Hull refused. Twice Chiang Kai-shek made the request, but both times it was refused. In fact the state department even denied that such a request was made, presumably on the ground that it came not through diplomatic channels, but through Mr. Currie who is only a White House secretary.

Finally, however, when Japanese funds were frozen, Chiang Kai-shek got his request fulfilled. But it took Japanese aggression in the South Pacific to do it.

BOOTLEG GASOLINE

The days of bootlegging from Canada may be coming back again. In this case, however, the bootlegging will be gasoline, not alcohol.

Canada has imposed a ban on sale of gasoline between 7 p. m. and 7 a. m. on weekdays, and all day Sunday. But this restriction does not apply to Americans.

Now comes the proposal of Oil Administrator Ickes to impose a similar ban on gasoline sales in eastern states. Result would be that a motorist would be unable to buy gasoline in Buffalo or Detroit, but could cross the river and buy it in Canada.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Administrationites are quietly throwing their weight behind the candidacy of Francis Miller, militant New Dealer, for the Virginia legislature. Miller is being opposed by the Old Guard machine led by Sen. Harry Byrd.

To out-of-town friends who call on him, President Roosevelt is presenting copies of "America," absorbing booklet written by David Cushman Doyle. The President says he considers the booklet the best summation of the American creed he has ever read.

Spotlight

BY GRANTLAND RICE

THE bard, who almost wrote "the despot's heel is on thy neck—Maryland, my Maryland," evidently was not referring to any set of pitchers. For Maryland's home-run hitters on the big time have spent most of their careers on the sun-blistered necks of various wrecked and battered pitching staffs.

It was Maryland that gave the game Home-Run Baker. It was

Maryland that sent Babe Ruth into action. It was Sudlersville, Md., that presented Jimmy Foxx. And it is Middletown, Md., that follows through with Charles Ernest Keller, known to his mates as King Kong Keller, who may be the fourth Maryland entry to lead the league in home runs before the season ends.

The fame of Baker, Ruth and Foxx in order has been plastered in printer's ink all over the map. But Keller is practicing quick starts in the general direction of his three famous predecessors and he deserves far more polite mention than he has received to date.

More About Keller

I'd like to tell you more about Charlie ("King Kong") Keller. He was born in Middletown, Md., September 12, 1916, which means he is still shy of 25 years. He is five feet ten in height, weighs 195 pounds and every pound is either raw steel or rawhide.

He is close to being the strongest man in baseball, and one of the fastest. He has the arms of a Gargantua and a pair of hands that



CHARLIE KELLER

could palm a watermelon. As Langdon Smith once wrote, he is "thewed like the aurochs bull."

Another Angle

When the Yankees won their fourth straight pennant and their fourth straight world series in 1939, the season rookie Keller had batted .334 through the season and .438 in the big series, we decided during the train celebration that followed to leave the baleful influence of Bill Dickey and Joe Gordon and to look up Strong Man Keller.

Keller finally compromised on a bottle of cold milk. He admitted milk was about the strongest drink he had ever taken.

As a ball player at Maryland university, I learned from others, Keller had been the hardest worker on the squad—one of those willing to get up early to run three miles to build up his legs, to use a rubber ball to build up the grip in his two hands—a fellow Ty Cobb would have taken to his heart. He was the type of athlete willing to sacrifice everything else for his profession. Almost "the forgotten man of sport."

I found Keller to be pleasant, intelligent, courteous, and extremely quiet. He doesn't believe in wasting words, which proves again he is another "vanishing American."

An Outside Entry

This last spring at St. Petersburg we had a feud golf match—Bill Dickey and Rice against Joe Gordon and Twinkletones Selkirk. Keller just came along, playing for the exercise. He hadn't played much or any golf.

He sprayed the Florida landscape. But he asked questions and listened to advice. At a 340-yard hole he was seven feet from the cup with a drive and a number four iron. He sank the putt.

"That's an eagle," I said. "What's an eagle?" Keller asked. He finished with three pars.

The greatest pair of hands I ever saw in baseball belonged to Honus Wagner, the Flying Dutchman—the greatest infielder that ever lived. Honus had scoops for hands. Keller's are even bigger.

"Where did you ever pick up a pair of mitts like this?" I asked. Keller could take one hand and cover the two hands of Dempsey and Tunney.

"Well," he finally said, "when you start milking 14 cows when you are only nine years old, you've got to have hands."

Keller has a perfect backer along this line. His name is Gene Sarazen.

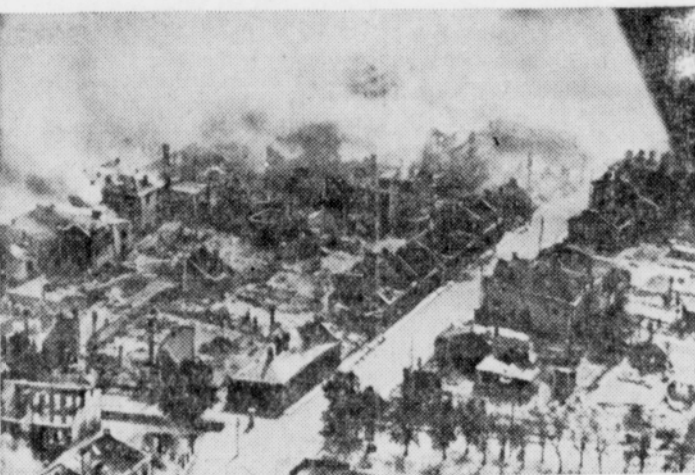
"Cow milking," Sarazen told me, "is the greatest finger and hand development method ever known. It means strength, touch and skill."

'Holding Up the Works' at Shipyards



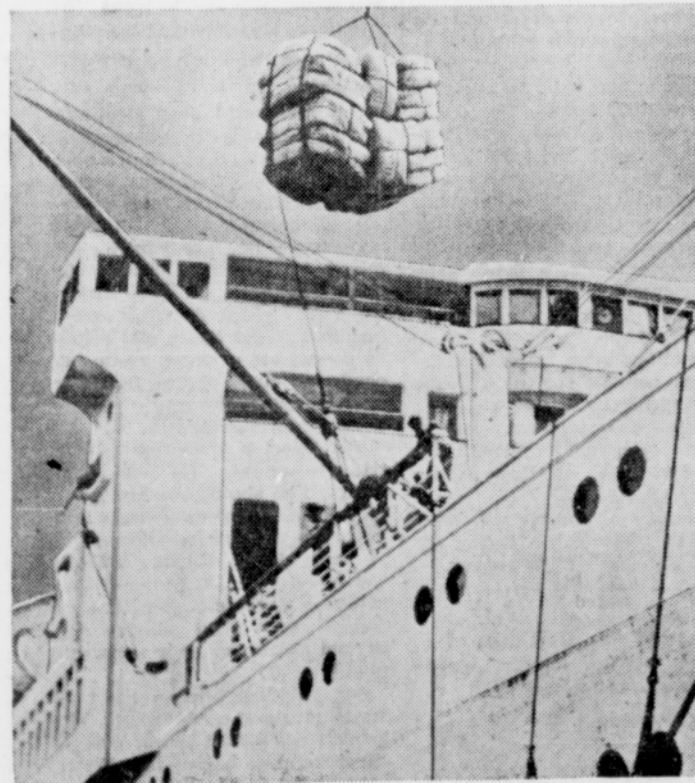
Part of the 14,000 shipyard workers of the Federal shipbuilding plant are shown here standing idle outside the plant at Kearney, N. J., after having been called out by the C.I.O. In the meantime \$373,000,000 in defense shipbuilding work came to a standstill. Two cruisers, six destroyers, three tankers and two cargo boats are on the ways at this plant.

Russian City Aflame After Bombardment



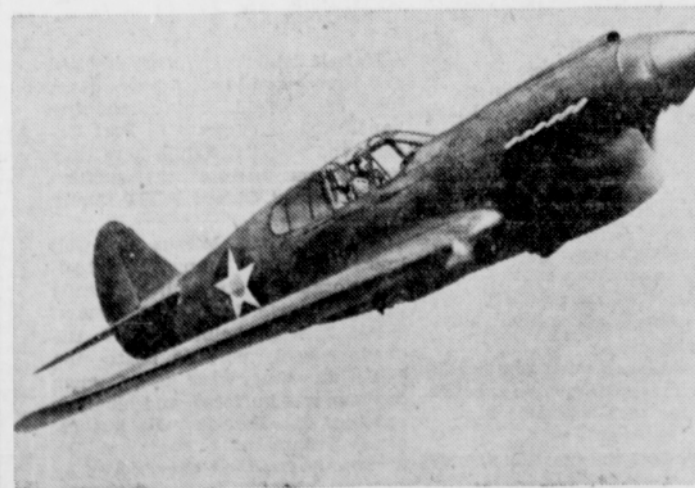
The German caption merely calls this spectacular picture of a city in flames "the burning of Dunaburg." Dunaburg is the Russian city of Dvinsk in White Russia. It was once a great artillery center for the Russian army. "Nothing but the complete annihilation of the Soviet forces will end the Russo-German war" is the conclusion reached in military circles in Berlin.

Unloading Silk From Japanese Ship



In this soundphoto longshoremen are shown unloading silk from the Tatuta Maru, Japanese merchantman, at San Francisco, Calif. The cargo, valued at \$2,500,000, is being shipped by rail to New Jersey, where it will be stored pending the outcome of libel suits filed against NYK Lines, owners of the Tatuta.

New U. S. Fighter in Flight



Shown here in flight for the first time is the newly developed Curtiss Hawk P-40D pursuit plane, now being produced in quantity at the Buffalo plant of the Curtiss-Wright corporation. The new ship is more streamlined than the original Curtiss Hawk P-40 model. Details concerning design are withheld.

Il Duce Son Killed



One of the most recent photos of Bruno Mussolini, 23-year-old son of Premier Benito Mussolini, who was killed in an air accident at Pisa, Italy. An officer in the Italian air force, young Mussolini flew in the Ethiopian campaign, and with the Italian "volunteers" in the Spanish civil war. No details of the air accident were given.

Winners



Happy in victory is Lee Smith, who drove "Bill Gallon" to victory in the classic Hambletonian trotting stake at Good Time park, Goshen, N. Y., winning the Hambletonian cup. Both are shown above.

A Fast One



Streamlined San Diego, one of the speediest cruisers ever built for the navy, launched at the Bethlehem Steel company's Fore river plant, Quincy, Mass. Bearing some resemblance to a destroyer, the new light cruiser has no raised forecastle.

Red Leader



Marshal Semeon Budenny, commander of Russian armies operating on the southwestern front, who led the Red counter-attack against the assaults of the German army