

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

**Congressional Neutrality Act Revision Permits Armed U. S. Merchant Ships To Sail Through Belligerent Zones; U. S. Faces Serious Labor Situation**

(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.)



Everyone in Soviet Russia is learning the soldier's trade these days. Even the students in school. Here an instructor is shown teaching secondary school students methods of bayonet fighting. Note that girls as well as boys are present for instruction in this class.

**NEUTRALITY: Revision Complete**

When the house voted 212 to 194 to permit the arming of U. S. merchant ships and allow them to sail through war zones into ports of nations at war it amounted to a repeal of the neutrality act's main provisions. For as the senate had already adopted the same measure, the administration's battle on this vital issue was over.

As a vote neared on the measure a warning came from President Roosevelt that its defeat would be evidence to Hitler that "the United States is disunited." For a while there were strong indications of a Democratic revolt in the house, as many members were reported to be demanding a firmer presidential stand on defense strikes in return for "going along" with the Roosevelt foreign policy.

When the President's warning, in the form of a letter to Speaker Sam Rayburn, was read before the house, it was inferred that assurances were being given that the strike situation would be dealt with and many members were reported to have then fallen in behind the White House revision plans.

Marked by a hectic battle on the issue, the principal fight centered repeal of the combat zone and belligerent port provisions. For shipping arming had already been approved by the house and senate tacked on the controversial provision when it passed the broader bill and returned it to the house for concurrence.

**GERMANS: Fighting Front**

Frank admissions from Berlin that the attack on Russia was entirely stalled no longer had been withheld as the Germans were finding it necessary to explain to the people the failure of their armies to capture Leningrad, Moscow or the defenses in the Donetz basin.

German press announcements blamed entirely the weather. It also was claimed that the Russian defenses, especially around Moscow, were based on the knowledge that the German mechanized army could not operate over fields and through woods on a terrain covered with snow and rain.

One communique said: "This has forced us to use roads instead of traveling cross-country, and these roads are literally minefields, especially the shoulders."

The defenses around Moscow were described as extremely powerful and intricate, including subterranean tank garages from which Red tanks would dash directly into battle and then circle and re-enter their "bunkers" after firing a few shots, and before the German attacking forces could organize their defense.

This system really gave the Russians movable fortifications. The German communique also said they were encountering flame throwers so concealed in the ground that only the nozzles were showing, and which could be operated from a considerable distance with devastating effect. The Russians thus have been able to hold back the Nazi attack, Berlin frankly admitted, though it was claimed that at one point the assault had reached within 31 miles of the borders of Moscow.

Nothing was said about Russian claims that her troops were actually taking the offensive at many points.

**FINNS: To Continue**

Finland, in a lengthy reply to Secretary Hull's message urging withdrawal from the war against Russia, had politely rejected the plea of the United States, and, in effect, said that her objectives were not yet accomplished.

Thus the pressure from the hard-fighting and winter-acclimated Finns had continued on Russia's northern front, keeping a big portion of the Reds' planes and armies in action, and complicating her defense.

**BRITISH: Loss**

Loss of the aircraft carrier Ark Royal was admitted by the British who said that the craft (claimed many times as being sunk by the Nazis) had been torpedoed in the Mediterranean east of Gibraltar. The 22,000 ton floating airfield was sunk while in tow after a submarine torpedo had struck her.

**STRIKES: Galore**

Highlighting the news of a troubled labor situation in the United States was the strike called for December 7, by 350,000 operating employees of the nation's railway systems.

The American Federation of Labor trades in San Diego, 2,000 members of which had walked out, crippling navy and marine defense projects, went back to work.

At the same time the C.I.O. chieftains in the coal dispute in the captive mines walked out of the conference, and it began to look as though the army would have to take over and operate the mines.

In the steel-coal-mine strike, however, after a quadruple plea by President Roosevelt to John L. Lewis had temporarily halted the threatened walkout of 53,000 workers and had sent them back to work pending negotiations before the national mediation board, trouble developed as soon as the board decided adversely to the closed shop demand.

Lewis had set his deadline, and only three days before that time the board, on which Philip Murray and other C.I.O. chieftains were sitting, declined to vote the closed shop. Murray and his aides had announced that they were quitting.

**WAR: And Mr. Welles**

Administration forces saw the approach of America's entry into actual hostilities as closer, not because of repeal of the neutrality act's main restrictive paragraphs, but as a result of increased pressure on this country by Japan and Germany.

Sumner Welles, undersecretary of state, and President Roosevelt himself, in their Armistice day addresses, had issued most solemn warnings.

Mr. Welles, in particular, said: "Another war may be forced on the United States at any moment by Japan or Germany."

"The tides are running fast. The heart-searching question every American citizen must ask himself is whether the world in which we have to live would have come to this desperate pass had the United States been willing in those years which followed 1919 to play its full part in striving to bring about a new world order based on justice and on a steadfast concert for peace."

He said that President Wilson, dying five years after he had laid the groundwork of such co-operative effort, "was laid to rest amid the apathy and the sneers of those of his opponents who had, through appeal to ignorance, to passion and to prejudice, temporarily persuaded the people to reject Wilson's plea that the influence, the resources and the power of the United States be exercised for their own security and their own advantage, through our participation in an association of nations for peace."

And Secretary Knox told a Providence audience that "the hour of decision is here," and that the nation should maintain itself in "instant readiness for defense." Of the Japanese situation, he said:

"We have co-operated with every liberal and peace-loving element in Japan and we are still ready to co-operate."

"We have been patient while our rights have been violated. We are moved and actuated in the Pacific, no less than in the Atlantic, solely by considerations of self-defense."

**Queen's Job**



LONDON, ENGLAND.—A queen's job includes many things and here the camera-man pictures Queen Elizabeth of England having her shoes "fitted" upon visiting a shell factory. In order to prevent accidents when entering the "danger zone" of the factory special attention must be given to fit and type of shoes worn.

**ROME: And Hostages**

Italy, by arresting 150 hostages in Yugoslavia as an aftermath of a Serbian uprising in which a large number of Italian soldiers and civilians were slain and wounded, had placed herself in position to go into the hostage-execution business in a similar manner to that of the Nazis in France and other occupied countries.

In the official casualty list in Greece and Yugoslavia issued by the Italians since their armies occupied those countries 179 Italian soldiers had been reported killed, and 128 wounded.

It was the first time since the outbreak of the war that the Italian command had resorted to the "hostage method" of control or reprisal.

**MEDITERRANEAN: Battle Report**

British warships, under the guns of a highly superior Italian naval force, had engaged a convoy in the Mediterranean, and had sunk several freighters, also three destroyers.

The British admiralty announced in a later communique that four more Axis troops had been sunk, two sailing vessels sent to the bottom, and four other vessels damaged.

All of this was accomplished by submarine action, the British asserted. It was considered possible that the action might have been a prelude to activity by the British in North Africa.

**MARSHALL: On Morale**

Gen. George C. Marshall, head of the army, declared there was in progress a "sudden and widespread" attempt on the part of the Nazis to "sabotage United States munitions, utility and transportation industries—also the army's morale."

Already, the general revealed, there has been uncovered an Axis propaganda attack designed to disrupt army morale. This campaign, using "clever methods" has succeeded already in upsetting the families of soldiers and has also misled some members of congress.

The general's daily mail, he said, reflects "German scheming through letters from families who are worrying about their boys in the army, who have been led to believe, for instance, that the soldiers lack food, proper shelter or medical attention."

"They come from members of congress who have been similarly misled."

He cited the various events indicative of disrupted morale which occurred during the summer.

**ELEPHANTS: Circus Tragedy**

The sudden death of 10 elephants in the Barnum Bailey circus at Atlanta was followed by a statement from the management that it was clearly a case of "elephant murder."

Autopsies determined what the poison was, and that it was an "inside job." Arrests had been promised.

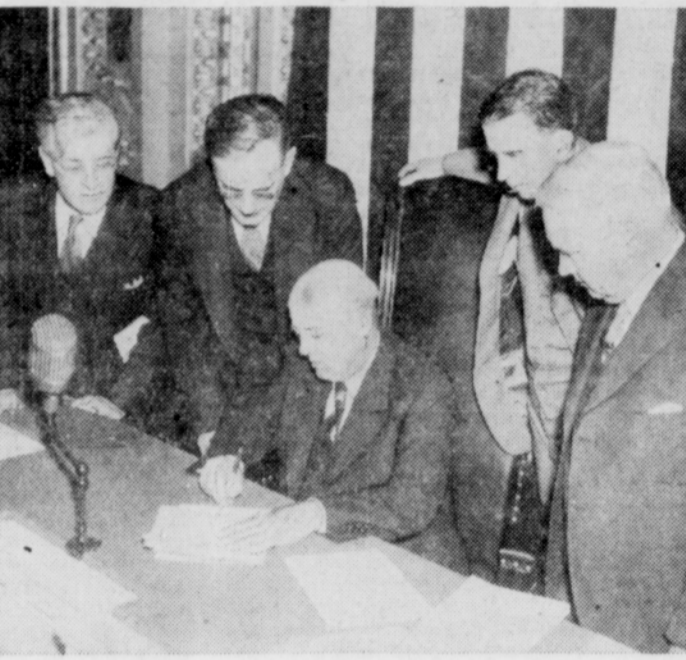
The story had much "human interest," and it was expected that it would blossom out into detective fiction. Most of the animals that died were young for elephants, 30 to 35 years old.

**MISCELLANY:**

**Berlin:** The Germans claim that the British, since they took the air offensive on the west front had lost 1,744 planes from May to October, inclusive, while the German losses were only 376.

**Philadelphia:** Temple university students are planning to adopt a British university, and to provide moral and financial support to its students. The Temple organization will be called the Collegiate V. (for victory).

**Speaker Rayburn Signs War-Zone Act**



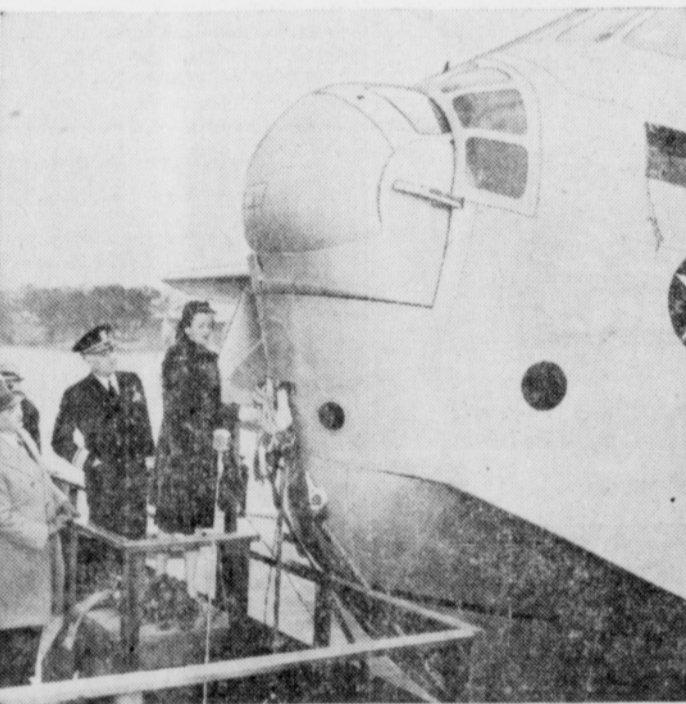
Speaker of the house, Sam Rayburn, is shown signing neutrality act revision measure shortly after it had passed the house with the amendment allowing armed U. S. merchant ships to enter war zones. The bill passed by a vote of 212 to 194, after one of the fiercest undercurrent battles for votes ever waged in congress. Those who were for and against the bill got together at the signing. Photo shows, left to right: Patrick J. Boland of Pennsylvania, house Democratic Whip (for); Rep. John W. McCormack, majority leader of the house (for); Speaker Sam Rayburn (for); Rep. Howard W. Smith of Virginia (against) and Rep. Lansdale G. Sasser of Maryland (against).

**Ambassador Meets Yanks in Britain**



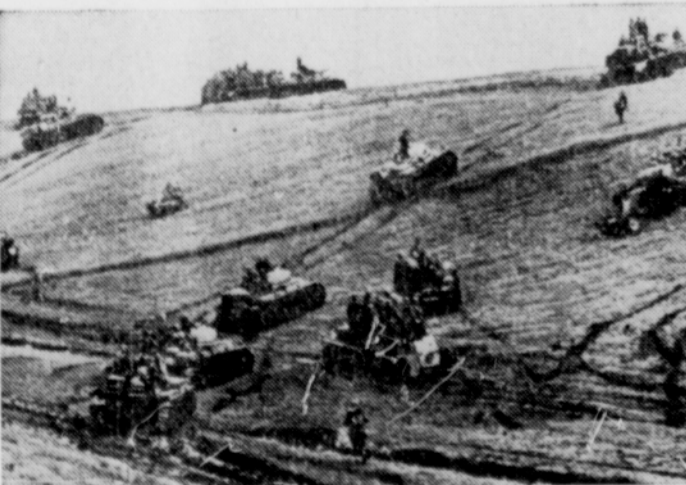
On a recent visit to the camp of the Sixtieth Rifles (King's royal rifles) of the British army, John G. Winant, American ambassador to Great Britain, met five Americans who had enlisted in the regiment. Ambassador Winant is shown here (right) chatting with the Yankee volunteers who have cast their lot with Britain.

**Biggest Naval Bomber Launched**



The world's largest flying boat, the navy's new 67-ton four-engine patrol bomber, slipped down the ways at the Glenn L. Martin plane plant at Baltimore, Md., in colorful ceremonies heretofore reserved for surface vessels. The ship is capable of carrying a bomb load to Europe and return, non-stop. Mrs. Ariemus L. Gates, wife of the assistant secretary of the navy for air, was sponsor of the ship which was christened "Mars." Many notable personages, including Rear Admiral John H. Towers, chief, Bureau of Aeronautics, U. S. navy, were present at the ceremony. Photo shows the huge aerial battleship after the launching.

**Over the Hill Lie Russian Troops**



In the lee of a hill a motorized division is awaiting the command to attack the Russian positions on the other side, somewhere in the U.S.S.R. Infantrymen, not shown, were used in collaboration with the panzers in this attack on Russia's mighty mechanized army which has been making a heroic effort to stop the onrushing Nazi war machine.

**Jail Campaign**



Former Mayor Andrew J. "Bossy" Gillis, serving a nine-month sentence for criminal libel at Newburyport, Mass., bested a five-man field in Newburyport's mayoralty campaign. The jailed candidate, whose campaign was conducted by his wife, Louise, polled 1,850 votes. He is shown here at the Middleton county jail coal pile.

**Red Ace and His Prey**



Kamenshchikov, who is known as the "hero of the Soviet Union," is shown examining the shattered Nazi plane which he downed in a fight somewhere over the U.S.S.R.

**To Enroll 500,000**



Miss Olivia Peterson, director of Minnesota public health nursing, named by the American Red Cross to direct its program to train 500,000 U. S. women in home nursing as a defense measure. She served as Red Cross nurse in France during World war.

**Torpedoed**



Commander H. F. Cope, captain of the U.S.S. Salinas, the 16,000 ton oil tanker which was torpedoed while on convoy duty near Iceland. The tanker made port without loss of life or serious injury to its crew.

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Affectation is an awkward and forced imitation of what should be genuine and easy, wanting the beauty that accompanies what is natural.—Locke.

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**Country in Heart**  
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