

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

# Netherlands Invasion Foolish, Say Critics of Nazi Strategy; Churchill Blasts Peace Hopes

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

## EUROPE:

### Dutch Episode

"Glück muss der Mensch haben," commented Adolf Hitler when he escaped the Munich beer hall explosion by 20 minutes. But the allies wondered if it was luck. So hysterical were the Nazi cries of British conspiracy that many an observer on the opposite side of the fence called it a cunning plan—like the 1933 Reichstag fire—to weld German opinion. In Britain, where anti-Communist Nazis were blamed for the incident, Hitler's yells served only to unite the empire in its vow to "free Europe."

Any hope for peace went dwindling when Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, made the most vitriolic attack on record: "I will not attempt to prophesy whether the frenzy of a cornered maniac will drive Herr Hitler into the worst of all his crimes but I will say without doubt that the fate of Holland



**DUTCH-BELGIAN FRONTIER**  
Black-outlined areas of the Netherlands could be flooded; arrows show probable routes of invasion. Netherlands would be used for aerial operations bases against Britain; Belgium would furnish new path to France.

and Belgium, like that of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria, will be decided by a victory of the British and the French.

Only an hour earlier all hopes for the Dutch-Belgian mediation offer (made a week before) went glimmering when Britain's King George sent a long and polite message acknowledging the peace move but pointing out that any further proposals must come from Germany.

The Reich, for her part, was silent except for newspaper attacks charging the Netherlands and Belgium were endangering their neutrality by submitting to the British blockade.

Despite a German-Dutch border incident and Nazi flights over Belgium which were repulsed by anti-aircraft guns, the little nations remained cool. After agreeing that an attack on one would be an attack on the other, they took pains to point out that "our mobilization stands as a guarantee to all belligerents that our neutrality will be maintained."

Military experts meanwhile pointed out that a Nazi invasion of the Dutch lowlands would be foolish. Only possible advantage, and that a minor one, would be to bring German air bases 50 miles nearer Britain. But by the same token Britain could also violate defunct Dutch neutrality, flying straight over the lowlands to German industrial strongholds instead of taking a round-about route to avoid Dutch soil.

### Western Front

Twenty-one years to the day after Armistice was signed in the last war, German planes swarmed over northern French territory from the

channel to Switzerland. That night they made raids along the frontier. A week-end of intensified activity was climaxed when air raid signals began screaming in Paris. When it was over, the French admitted Nazi reconnaissance planes had reached within 23 miles of the city before anti-aircraft guns sent them scurrying for home out of formation. Though still spasmodic and unorthodox, western front warfare showed precipitous gains which observers attributed to two blasts, one at Munich and the other from Winston Churchill.

### War at Sea

Most noteworthy maritime news was the reappearance of German merchant vessels in the North sea, defying Britain's blockade. Two such boats were sunk and their crews rescued by a British warship. Off Singapore, in the Far East, 20 were killed when a merchant ship struck a mine, sinking in 15 minutes. Nazidom's only contribution to the warfare was a pointless 1,200-mile bombing flight to the tiny Shetland isles off Scotland, where a few bombs did no damage. Reason: There was nothing to damage.

### RUSSIA:

#### Finnish Sandy Hook

Said Finland's Foreign Minister Eljas Erko to a U. S. newspaper man: "I believe there is a place called Sandy Hook outside New York harbor. How would you like to hand that over to some foreign country?" This, he indicated, was the reason Finland refused Russia's demand for a naval base on Finnish territory at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland. There were also reports that Finnish-Russian conferees meeting in Moscow were having trouble revising the southern border between the two countries on the Karelian isthmus. After several days of this, during which the Soviet press warned that Russia would "find ways and means of obtaining whatever we need," Foreign Minister Erko suddenly announced the negotiations had definitely ended. Europe wondered what would come next for the Russian bear was obviously out of sorts.

### DEFENSE:

#### Army & Navy

From Director John C. Gebhart of the National Economy league, the U. S. got as good a reason as any why it should stay out of war. Whereas our participation in the World war cost 24 billion dollars at the time, Gebhart figured the cost to date was 57 billions. Moreover, any future war would cost at least 30 billions a year and would probably bring "inflation and ruinous taxation (which would) probably mean a lower standard of living for generations to come."

One good way to avoid war is to arm against it, which will be No. 1 on the congressional agenda January 3. Defense is making news these days on both army and navy fronts:

**Army.** Having become an expert by traveling 26,000 miles visiting army establishments, Alabama's



**ALABAMA'S STARNES**  
A 26,000-mile expert.

Rep. Joe Starnes returned to Washington and reported an acute need for coast and anti-aircraft defenses "all along the Atlantic and gulf seaboard." Meanwhile it was announced the war department would ask \$1,300,000,000 next congress, the first "overall" appropriation request in departmental history. Planned reorganization: Creation of four armies made up of mine corps, each army under a lieutenant general; expansion of air force, coast artillery, civilian personnel, GHQ and post properties.

**Navy.** Before asking any appropriation for sea forces, Illinois Rep. Ralph E. Church suggested that the navy department should be reorganized: "Our committee (house naval affairs) has been unable to find out, at times, who's responsible for what. We had a secretary of the navy (Swanson) who was unable to be at his office . . . and then we had an acting but not duly confirmed secretary (Edison)."

## NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? One hundred is perfect score, and deduct 20 for each question you miss. Any score above 60 is good.



1. Less than two weeks before this famous criminal was to be released from prison, his cohorts on the outside made bloody preparations. Who is the criminal and what were the preparations? Hint: They took place in Chicago.
2. True or False: Treasury Secretary Morgenthau will ask congress to raise the statutory debt limit above the \$45,000,000,000 mark, which it will reach next year.
3. Official U. S. corn production estimate for 1939 is 2,591,063,000 bushels. If domestic and export requirements will take 2,575,000,000 of these bushels, why must 1940 corn acreage allotments be reduced about 10 per cent next year? In other words, why is there a corn problem?
4. Choice: Eire's Prime Minister Eamon de Valera made news because: (A) he refused to let Irish soldiers fight with Britain in the war; (B) he refused to release hunger-striking members of the outlawed Irish Republican army; (C) he started a campaign to discredit the Blarney stone.
5. True or False: In his encyclical to the U. S., Pope Pius XII praised American education.

(Answers at bottom of column.)

### DOMESTIC:

#### Neutrality

Disappointing to would-be U. S. profiteers was the reaction to removal of embargo restrictions against belligerents. As expected, orders for motors and aircraft increased, but purchase of war supplies was not large in terms of aggregate export volume. Some quarters expected orders to pick up later, but any hopes for a boom were nipped in the bud. Spectacular trade gains of September and October were no longer apparent. At New York, Federal Works Administrator John Carmody warned that only 500,000 of the 9,000,000 unemployed could expect jobs from the war time business pickup.

A more serious problem was the depression facing at least one branch of commerce—the merchant marine. Since U. S. boats cannot sail in combat areas, New York portsoffs became jammed with jobless sailors and idle boats. Among the first to cry out was C. I. O.'s Joseph Curran, president of the national maritime union.

Within a few days the President began ironing out this mess. Following conferences with Joe Curran, Maritime Commission's Emory Land, and A. F. of L.'s Joseph Ryan and Matthew Dushane, the White House outlined three tentative remedies: (1) Extension of social security to provide seamen with old-age pensions and unemployment insurance; (2) absorption of beached seamen in a maritime training program; (3) absorption of others in vessels conveying strategic materials from non-belligerent ports, under the government's \$10,000,000 program.

### MISCELLANY:

#### Spanish Ouster

In Madrid it was hinted that Spain's Dictator Francisco Franco insists on removing Catholic Cardinal Vical y Barraquer and several bishops because he believes them hostile to his regime.

#### Phantom Radio

In Mexico City the government played hide-and-seek with a mysterious German radio station which reportedly sent information on ship movements from a mountain stronghold, probably located in Chiapas state.

### News Quiz Answers

1. Shortly before Al Capone's release, henchmen in his old Chicago organization assassinated E. J. O'Hare, who had been entrusted with managing the gambling syndicate while Capone was in jail, and who refused to let go of it.
2. False. Morgenthau said neither he nor the President, but congress, must take the initiative. Present debt: Over \$41,000,000,000.
3. Because of the huge carryover from last year, much of it now under seal on farms under government loans, and soon to be dumped in the government's lap.
4. (B) is correct. As a result of his refusal, de Valera was threatened.
5. False. He deplored the lack of religious teaching in U. S. schools, the spread of divorce and birth control.

## Star Dust

- ★ Trick of the Peacock
- ★ It's Micky With Judy
- ★ First Up Gets It!

By Virginia Vale

WHEN an actress who is famous for wearing beautiful clothes beautifully wants to get a bit of extra publicity, it's usually a good trick for her to announce that she'd just love to have a role in which she wore rags. Usually, too, she hasn't the faintest desire to wear rags, or anything faintly approaching them;



Joan Crawford

she really wants to be something more than a modiste's mannequin. In "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep," her new picture in which Clark Gable plays opposite her, she has just one dress. There may have to be replacements, it's true, for she has to do quite a bit of dashing about in a South American jungle, but technically it will be the same frock. That is, according to the present announcements it will be.

As for Gable, he's to be a really tough egg; escapes from a prison colony and all that sort of thing.

With some of these ladies of the screen it's a calamity if the public doesn't see through that ostrich-with-its-head-in-the-sand disguise of dark glasses. Not long ago your correspondent lunched with one, in New York. We just went in, sat down and ordered luncheon. Dismayed, the lady glanced around. "Isn't anybody looking at me?" she asked, in anguished tones.

Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland are going to go with on—and on, and on—as a team, because the public likes them. "Babes in Arms" has decided that; it pairs them musically as well as romantically, finishing the work begun in "Love Finds Andy Hardy" and "Thoroughbreds Don't Cry." Incidentally, people who meet him like the Rooney had a lot better than



Judy Garland

they did for a while, when he was accused of having a swelled head and all the things that go with it. He's grown into a likable chap, modest rather than burly, and he and the pretty Judy make such a nice pair that the people who pay to see them on the screen seem to want them to stick together.

There's a tradition in radio that the first actor to try out for a part is sure not to get it. Dorothy Knox has proved that it isn't so. She competed with 27 other actresses for the role of "Frieda" in "The Life and Loves of Dr. Susan"—was the first to enter the audition room and the last to leave it—and she got the part.

Major Bowes is rapidly becoming a public benefactor. Not long ago he presented St. Patrick's cathedral in New York with 11 Schwedleri maples and four English elms—a gift which cannot be appreciated by anyone who does not know how barren New York is of trees, or how some of its inhabitants long to see one. The trees are magnificent, a living tribute to the Major's thoughtfulness.

Now he has given his estate, Laurel Hill, at Ossining, N. Y., to the Lutheran church for a retreat for the clergy and laity of New York and nearby states. The 10-acre estate is a show place, filled with memories for Major Bowes; he and the late Mrs. Bowes, who was Margaret Illington, the famous actress, bought it in 1927, and through the years they landscaped it, and did everything they could to make it beautiful.

Major Bowes not only gave the estate to the church, but added a substantial gift to help equip it.

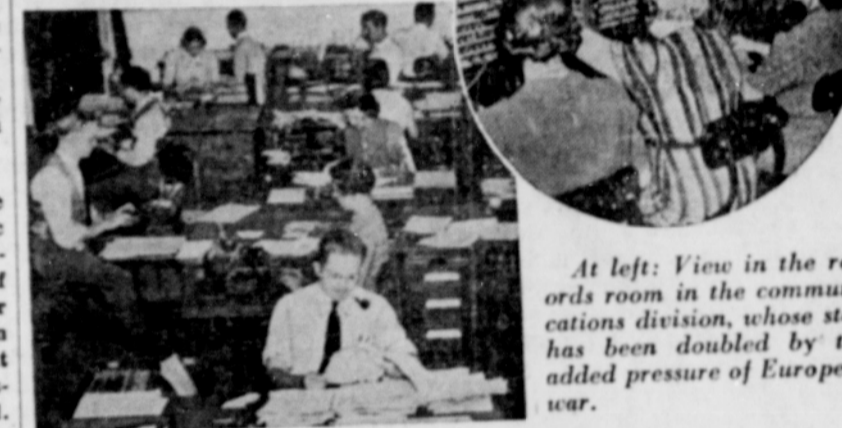
**ODDS AND ENDS**—Charles Boyer is to come to this country on a propaganda mission for the French government . . . Greta Garbo is not only going to be a comedienne in her new picture, "Ninotchka"—she's going to do a scene in which she drinks just a bit too much champagne . . . Andrea Leeds was married recently in Del Monte, Calif., to Robert S. Howard, whose father owns a famous racing stable . . . The British government wouldn't grant Edward Small permission to film some of the scenes of "My Son, My Son!" against the actual backgrounds in Manchester, London, and other cities, so the entire film will be made in Hollywood. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

## CALLING PARIS! U. S. Keeps Its Eye on World Through Vast 'News' Network



Picture Parade

Behind scenes in the U. S. state department is a pulsing communications machine which keeps official Washington informed instantaneously of diplomatic maneuvers throughout the world. Before Secretary of State Cordell Hull gives his news to Washington correspondents (above), a hundred hands have kept flowing the constant stream of information from American diplomats abroad. Here is made the news that determines U. S. Foreign policy, an all-important function now that Europe is at war. At right: The state department switchboard in the division of communications and records, where hundreds of domestic and foreign calls are handled daily.



At left: View in the records room in the communications division, whose staff has been doubled by the added pressure of European war.



The division's cable room on the top floor of the state department building. Here there are two teletype machines operating on a direct circuit from the U. S. embassy in London!



A close up of printer messages being pasted on blanks for the files. Other messages come coded.

A worker passing messages through the grill opening into the coding room. Only employees of the coding department are admitted to the room, where experts "unscramble" vital messages.



Entrance to the state building, home of U. S. foreign policy.

## NAMES

... in the news

In New York, German-American Bund Leader Fritz Kuhn went on trial charged with stealing \$5,641 in Bund funds.

In St. Louis, Federal Reserve Chairman Marriner S. Eccles plumped for more taxes against large corporations and high salaries to defray cost of armament and balance the budget.

In Washington Steelmen Ernest T. Weir and Charles R. Hook insisted before the monopoly investigating committee that their industry is highly competitive.

Also in Washington, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes asked passage of the Cole bill to control oil production.