

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY ROGER SHAW

Fighting Shifts From Flanders
As Nazi Air Force Bombs Paris;
Malta Looms as Trouble Spot

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
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If Italy should move against Great Britain in the Mediterranean she might very likely direct an attack at the great British naval base at Malta. Malta has been on a war footing since the beginning of the European crises. Map at the right shows the relationship of Malta to Italy. Vulnerable perhaps to bombing attacks it would be a tough nut for Mussolini to crack by sea. Top left is a view of the harbor at Valetta with British man o' war at anchor. Below, one of the big coastal guns that ring Malta is blazing away during gunnery practice.

(SEE ITALIC NOTES.)

II GERMAN WAR:
Flanders Battle

The Dutch-Belgian-Flanders-Artois battle came virtually to an end, save for up-moppings and kitty-corner operations here and there. The Dutch and Belgian armies had been surrendered or finished, and the First, Seventh, and Ninth French armies were destroyed. Nobody came out of it with any laurels save the British navy, which somehow succeeded in ferrying perhaps two-thirds of the British army out of Dunkirk by means of warships, transports, yachts, barges, and lifeboats—and under heavy aerial fire.

It seemed that the German air force fell down on this debarkation operation, for British losses, in retreat, were smaller than might have been expected. Somehow, the allies secured a temporary air supremacy in the Dunkirk sector, and the British Spitfire machines showed a slight superiority to the German Messerschmitt combat craft. British morale, strangely enough, was reported as excellent, but French morale did not appear in quite so favorable a light. The German general headquarters was strangely restrained in its moment of triumph. Lille, fourth city of France and its "Pittsburgh," was in German hands, along with Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Brussels, Antwerp, Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, The Hague, Liege, etc. Would refugee-choked, hysterical Paris be next, wondered the railbirds?

Even as these railbirds wondered, Hitler's warbirds came out of the skies and rained showers of bombs upon southern France and later upon Paris itself. In the first attacks about 150 German bombers swept over the city, dropping their cargoes of high explosives, setting many fires, inflicting huge property losses and killing at least 45 persons in Paris and its suburbs. The allies promised to repay Germany bomb for bomb in the new air offensive they were launching.

NAMES

... in the news

Former French Generalissimo Gamelin was said to have committed suicide, while General Corap, chief of the French Ninth army defeated at Sedan, was reported as executed. General Bodet of the French Medical corps got six months in jail for abandoning his post in the ill-fated Sedan sector. Thus did la Republique crack down.

General Robert Lee Bullard, distinguished U. S. army officer and patriot, was re-elected president of the National Security league, which favors increased preparedness and is strongly "anti-subversive" in its hawklike activities.

Proving that American isolation sentiment was by no means dead, some 7,000 earnest Catholics prayed for peace, assembled at St. Patrick's cathedral in New York. With the Catholics, members of other faiths—peace-minded, despite war propaganda—participated. Here were 7,000 anonymous but highly important names in the news.

Jean Batten, well-known and well-favored young aviatrix, was exhibited as an ambulance driver in the Anglo-French corps, hooked up with the Gallic army. She looked wonderful in uniform.

Italic Notes

All private motoring stopped in Italy, due to government conservation of gas and oil. Italy has no native petroleum, iron or coal.

Pro-Italians were jailed in England's Mediterranean naval base, Malta. Possession of this strategic island is a leading Italian objective. The English suspended Italian papers read by the Italian-speaking Maltese. A minority of Maltese talk the ancient Carthaginian tongue of Hannibal and his elephants.

Mussolini said he was too busy to see U. S. Ambassador Phillips, who was toting a message from Roosevelt. Mussolini also broke off a shipping deal with the English, in the matter of illegal contraband control, which put the shivers in London.

Italian journalists left Paris.

D. of C. AND—
White Housings

President Roosevelt made another request for money. This time it was for more than a billion, for the army, navy and civilian training program, coupled with a fear that all continents may become involved in the II German war (he did not mention Germany by name). Roosevelt asked for specific authority to call up the national guard and army reservists—if and when needed to "safeguard" and "defend." And Roosevelt asked for a corps of dollar-a-year men, to expedite national defense preparations. Also, there came a request for a million dollars, to expand the navy department and munitions buildings in the capital. Talkative young Elliott Roosevelt assailed so-called fifth columns in Mexico. Elliott is a radio executive.

War department plans called for immediate orders to get 2,800 planes, 1,700 tanks, 500 heavy artillery units, and big consignments of anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns.

The senate voted, 55-4, for a new alien control resolution, already passed by the house.

The immigration-naturalization bureau would be transferred from the department of justice. Senators Norris and Wheeler, liberals opposed to the transfer, assailed J. Edgar Hoover and the G-men, while Wheeler censured the current American "hysteria."

Archibald Macleash, "radical" librarian of the Congressional library at Washington, said that the II German war was not a revolt of the masses. He said that, instead, it was the revolt of a gang.

\$65,000,000:

Battleship

The \$65,000,000 battleship, Washington, was launched at the Philadelphia navy yard. It is a 35,000-tonner—1,600 tons bigger than any American battleship now in operation. The Washington is our first new capital ship in 19 years. It is 750 feet long. Fifteen-year-old Virginia Marshall of Spokane, great-great-granddaughter of Chief Justice John Marshall, was the Washingtonian christener. The boat was named after her home state.

'Sixth Column'



It just had to happen! With all the news of "fifth column" activities working in other lands to aid the German cause, somebody had to come through with news of a sixth column. And, it was Dr. Herbert Gezork, (pictured above) professor of social ethics at Andover-Newton theological school in Boston who reported that within Germany herself there is a group of persons seeking to bring about Hitler's downfall. He bases his news of this "sixth column" activity on connections with the anti-Hitler movement in Germany.

U. S. REDS:
Don't Love Nazis

The American Communist party, in the last six months, has sent \$5,000 to German reds, to help them in their underground struggle against Hitler. This fact was announced at the C. P.'s national convention in New York, which gathering appeared to be unabashed by the Russo-German pact of last August. (This anti-Hitlerism, however, did not make things any easier for the Finns early in the year.) There were visiting reds at New York from Mexico, Chile, Haiti, Iceland, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. A Mexican delegate condemned Congressman Martin Dies and his committee. The convention opposed participation in the national advisory defense commission "and any subordinate boards."

ANTI-ROOSEVELT:
On Campaign

Wendell Willkie said, out in Denver, "I'd love to go to the people against that fellow." "That fellow" meant Roosevelt. To get rid of Roosevelt, Willkie felt, was the only way to unite the nation against the totalitarian threat. Willkie was equally hard on Hitler. He called the Fuehrer a "mad man." Planes and guns, said Willkie, are not built by emotional appeals over the radio. "We have confused liberty with license," added the Republicans' dusky equine.

But Candidate Dewey, in New York, characterized certain of Roosevelt's defense measures as "progress in the right direction." He added, in sorrow, that much remained to be done. Dewey had not yet selected a nominator (for himself), to boost him at the Republicans' Philadelphia convention this month. Dewey, on the whole, tends to be more kid-glove and velvetine than the rugged quipster, Willkie. Liberals, for some reason, much prefer western Wendell to the "O. A."

ART DEPT.:

On P. P. Rubens

Hitler's Vienna paper, on the 300th anniversary of Rubens' death, said that Flemish artist was a "Germanic pagan" who painted Christian sagas with a fleshly relish. This seemed fairly obvious to art critics, some of whom call him the Falstaff of the Palette. Rubens liked to depict "mountains of flesh," said the Vienna journal. Rubens, too, added the paper, was fond of "Christian Venuses" and "Nazarene wretches." He was "without the blinds of churchly virtue, and fearless in the face of nature." It will be remembered that many of Rubens' themes were religious.

BILLY PHELPS:

And the 1,400

Prof. Billy Phelps of Yale, bookman of renown, said he'd rather lose the war with the allies than win with Hitler. Billy said Hitler had changed "Athens into Sparta." But some 1,400 Yale students thought otherwise. They signed a petition asking that America's isolation continue. They were of draft age!

COUP IN CANADA:

'Mosley of Montreal'

The Canadian mounted police, turning into a local Gestapo or OGPU, seized eight members of the National Unity party in Montreal, the British empire's great French city. Most important of the victims was Adrien Arcand, French Canadian Fascist leader, important in Quebec provincial politics, and opposed to the war. There were simultaneous coups in at least three other Canadian cities including Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor.

Springtime Is Season of Joy
And Zest for Wild Creatures

With Nature in Her Gayest Mood, Animals
Enjoy Their Own Games and Frolics.

SPRINGTIME in the wilds is playtime. The majority of our mammals have their young in the early months of the year, and in April and May it is possible to watch the most delightful games among the puppies of the fields. Badger, fox and other cubs are very playful little creatures. The otter and badger appear to have a certain amount of method in their games, but fox cubs simply romp among themselves in a wild abandon.

On a sloping sand cliff near my home seven fox cubs came out of a large hole; on the ledge just outside they played with a round stone, pushing it with their feet, tossing it in the air and allowing it to run down the slope.

When tired of this they played a game which resembled "Follow the Leader." One would run forward, dodge and leap over all kinds of imaginary obstacles, and the others would follow in its tracks; then all would roll together in a rough and tumble, in which their small teeth would tug at the fur of their companions.

Bouncing Badgers.

Young badgers are among the most amusing cubs to watch at play. With their bold black and white markings they are quaint-

looking little creatures, and rather clumsy, but there is no doubt that they thoroughly enjoy life, and their play is exuberant and strenuous.

First they poke their noses in the ground, searching for hidden grubs; then, without any warning, all stiffen their fur, making it stand upright, and now they look twice their size. With their short legs also stiffened they bounce round one another like footballs, then leap in, grip a mouthful of fur, and roll over and over. They break apart, and again play the bouncing game, and just as suddenly as they started to play they cease, and the next moment all are diligently searching for more food.

Fun in the Water.

Many young otters are born at an awkward time, that is at the beginning of winter, but they are hardy little creatures and appear to be able to stand any amount of cold. Otters, more than any other wild creatures, show us that they thoroughly enjoy life; a plentiful supply of food makes them contented, and both parents and young play the most delightful games.

What appeared to be a large brown ball was floating gently down stream, hardly making a

Wise and Otherwise

THE hardest tumble a man can take is to fall over his own bluff.

Consistency is a jewel which pawnbrokers refuse to recognize. We should be kind to poor old worn-out horses. There are some men who put their shirts on them.

Intelligence test (for girl): Can she refuse a kiss without being deprived of it?

No, a grass widow is not a woman whose husband died of hay fever.

Some girls are called gold diggers, but they are faithful to the last fiver.

ripple as it swept along. Suddenly the ball seemed to burst open with a loud splash, and four excited otters with their bright, eager eyes well above the water, started swimming round one another. One leaped right out of the stream and over its companions to dive on the other side, and as they floated along this acrobat made circles around them, those below trying to grip it as it passed over. Then they all joined up again, and seemed to be having a struggle as to which could pull the others under the surface, a sort of spirited ducking game.

They continue to play until all are tired. Then the parents lead their young off to a well-hidden lair, where they all sleep until hunger and high spirits call again. —Oliver G. Pike in London Tit-Bits.

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