

THE WAR TODAY

By DEWITT MACKENZIE

Hitler's hurry-worry conferences with heads of states under his domination have brought him to the puppet Norwegian premier, Vidkun Quisling, whose name smells wherever there are loyal noses. These parleys have been regarded generally as politico-military in nature and designed to serve a double purpose: (1) To advertise the creation of a "New Order" for the European continent, which would offset the allied aims promulgated at the Casablanca conference and at the same time would (2) act as a bribe to obtain greater military assistance for the Reich at this critical juncture.

The Quisling confab is the fifth in line and it's interesting to note that all of them have concerned areas which not only are hot invasion prospects but

are among the weakest links in Hitler's defensive chain. The previous talks have been with Mussolini, King Boris of Bulgaria, Dictator Ion Antonescu of Rumania and Regent Nicholas Horthy of Hungary. Greece is said to be next in order.

Now all these countries are in the doubtful class on the Nazi dictator's list. Italy is shaking like a bowl of custard. There's bitter territorial rivalry among Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, and on top of that both Hungary and Rumania are fed up with the heavy casualties suffered by their troops on the Russian front. Norway, of course, is being kept in order solely by force of arms.

Invasion Main Worry
All in all it would seem that the worried fuehrer is concerned very little with a "New Order" and very much with lightening up his defenses against invasion. His task isn't an easy one because there are many possible invasion-points and he must guard every one of them, from Norway clear round southern Europe to the Balkans.

So far as concerns France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark, Hitler likely feels that his preparations are as good as he can make them.

Hitler's other fronts, however, are his headache. Norway wouldn't listen to any "New Order" and only awaits a chance to hang the German oppressor. Italy as a whole not only has no use for him but is physically smashed already and is being kept going with a Nazi oxygen tank. The Balkans, which Berlin openly recognizes as a convenient invasion road for the allies, present a real problem to Berlin.

The Rumanians are bitter over Hitler's award of part of their Transylvanian territory to Hungary, and his bribery of Bulgaria with Rumanian Dobruja. Bulgaria is fearful of the displeasure of Russia and, while King Boris chose to take his country into the axis fold, many of his people are pro-Russian. Greece and Yugoslavia are being kept in hand by force of arms which the invaders dare not relax and, as already remarked, Rumania and Hungary want their troops withdrawn from the fighting front.

No wonder "our beloved fuehrer" spent his unhappy birthday laying down the law to a cringing Quisling.

Didn't Know He Got Hellman

Calro, April 21 (AP)—Frank Regan, 22, of Vancouver, B.C., the Canadian flying officer who shot down Luftwaffe ace Kurt Hellman, disclosed today that he returned to his base in his bullet-riddled plane unaware that he had downed one of the Nazi air force's top fighters.

Regan scored his first aerial victory when he sent Hellman crashing to earth. Hellman claimed to have destroyed 32 allied planes.

"I was flying near Gabes in company with another aircraft when we tangled with five ME-109s," Regan said. "I attacked their leader. My fire blew part of his wing off and he rolled over and dived straight at the deck. My kite was damaged by his accurate shooting but I got home, all right."

"I was very surprised to hear that it was Hellman I had shot down."

The identity of the German pilot was established by another member of the same Luftwaffe squadron who was shot down and made prisoner the next day.

White Earns Spot With Armstrong

Los Angeles, April 21 (AP)—A Baltimore negro, Luther (Sluggo) White, has earned a spot at Henry Armstrong, and probably will get it here at Wrigley field next month.

White, a human buzz-saw inside the ropes, hammered John Thomas, a topnotch negro boxer of Los Angeles, all around the ring last night in the Olympic stadium while 10,000 partisan spectators applauded Thomas' courageous but losing battle.

Thomas, who had won 30 straight fights until the Gary, Ind., negro, Willie Joyce, shaded him a few weeks ago, came mighty close to suffering the first knockout of his career. The bell saved him that ignominy in the first round.

The prospect of Armstrong, himself a crowd, tangling with the windmill White, looks quite intriguing. Promoter Joe Lynch says he has Armstrong's signature for May 22.

Hollywood Signs Pitcher Pulford

Hollywood, April 21 (AP)—Don Pulford, a righthander who pitched nine victories and 10 losses for Nashville last season, has been signed on a 30-day trial basis by the Hollywood Stars. Business Manager Oscar Reichenow announced last night. He will join the Hollywood club in San Francisco.

Credit Association Elects McCormick

Spokane, April 21 (AP)—Northwest members of the National Retail Credit association yesterday elected Thomas McCormick of Vancouver, Wash., as president and selected Portland for their 1944 convention.

Old forts at Corral, long regarded as among Chile's ancient relics, are to be reconstructed and put into use.

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...to our fellow workers on the Fighting Fronts

MANY OF YOU out there on the fighting fronts once worked side by side with us here at United Air Lines. It's hard for us to visualize what your lives must be like today. For we, like so many millions of Americans, have no enemy hurling bombs and shells at us to remind us that his goal is our total destruction.

For that reason, perhaps it has taken us longer to realize the full meaning of all-out war. Perhaps we've let food rationing, and taxes, and the number of miles we can drive our cars become overly important to us.

And perhaps reading the accounts of bitter sea, air and land battles has made some of us on the home front think of our own jobs as insignificant — unimportant in a world at war.

But deep in our hearts, we who are responsible for the transport by air of vital war personnel and materials realize that we can meet our obligation to you only by giving our jobs the best that's in us.

We cannot all shoot down Zeros. We cannot all sink U-boats. We cannot all blast Nazi pillboxes to powder.

But unless we work harder and better today than yesterday, we delay your return home. And when you do come back to your job here at United, we must be able to look you squarely in the eye in the honest knowledge that we have carried our full share of this war's burden.

Realizing the urgent need for every ounce of energy and courage we can muster, we of United volunteer this pledge!

This is our pledge to you . . .

- * I will do the best job I know how to do.
- * I will fulfill my responsibility as a citizen by buying War Bonds, taking part in Civilian Defense activities, supporting the Red Cross, and performing willingly all other home front duties required of me.

- * I will neither spread rumors nor talk about anything that might help the enemy.
- * I will not complain.
- * I will accept my sacrifices here just as unselfishly as you are accepting your greater sacrifices out there.

The Employees of UNITED AIR LINES

This pledge has been forwarded to each of the 900 United Air Lines employees in the Armed Forces all over the world.