

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

by DREW PEARSON and ROBERT ALLEN

DONOVAN'S REAL GOAL IS GREECE

Inside fact regarding the present mystery trip of Col. William Donovan to Europe is that his real destination is Greece.

En route, however, he will stop in North Africa where he will see his old World War friend, Marshal Weygand, now controlling the large French army in Africa.

If this powerful force took the field on the side of the British, the Italians, already in a precarious position as a result of their defeats in Greece, would be finished. This would release British naval forces for desperately needed convoy work in the Atlantic.

Also it would have repercussions in the Far East, where the Japanese military have been greedily eyeing the rich Dutch East Indies and Indo-China. With the British supreme in the Mediterranean and their big fleet available for operations elsewhere, Japan would think twice before attempting any new grabs.

On the Greek front, Donovan will make a survey similar to that which he made in England last spring.

In England last spring, Donovan made a thorough survey of invasion defenses, military intelligence and the royal air force. He spent a week in the field with the British army and made several flights with the R.A.F. Various U. S. army, air corps and navy observers are now attached to the British forces as the result of Donovan's trip; also he established close intelligence ties on Axis espionage and fifth column operations.

On his previous British mission, Donovan traveled as the personal representative of Navy Secretary Knox.

PRE-ADJOURNMENT JUNKET

On November 19, when the house defeated a motion to adjourn until January, members righteously declared that congress should remain on the job in these grave days of emergency.

But today a dozen members of the house are enjoying a cushy junket to Panama, at the expense of the government. And with one exception, everyone of the group voted to stay on the job.

On December 5, a fortnight after so voting, they quietly sailed from New York on the S. S. Panama, which is owned by the government. They will spend two weeks cruising and three days in Panama.

Several are members of the military affairs committee and might have some legitimate reason for making a "defense inspection," but the war department says it knows nothing about the junket.

LONGEST SPEECH

Tom Dewey got a thrill and a chuckle from his luncheon at the Capitol with Floor Leader Joe Martin and other house Republicans. The thrill was an invitation to be the principal speaker at the G. O. P. Lincoln day dinner, which the ambitious district attorney accepted.

The chuckle was evoked by a story about the "longest political speech on record" which gangling, curly-haired Rep. John M. Robison of Kentucky, a member of the Lincoln day committee, said he made when he first ran for congress in 1918.

One hot July night during the campaign Robison addressed a big crowd in a county courthouse and was amazed by the enthusiastic reception. Cheers rent the air with every sentence and there was a vociferous "more, more" when he tried to conclude after an hour.

As he was leaving with the local sheriff, Robison boasted: "These people sure were enthusiastic. It looks like this county is in the bag."

"Don't set too much store by the way they felled carried on, Jack," confided the sheriff. "Nobody there (thic) was sober but you."

WHAT BRITONS READ

WPA's library service made an interesting discovery in a survey to ascertain what the people of war-stricken Britain are reading these days.

One fact uncovered was that the long, dreary hours of blackout, with no outside recreation, have greatly revived interest in household arts and handicraft. Books on these subjects are at a premium. Also, the classics are in heavy demand, with Shakespeare, Chaucer, Dickens and Kipling as the favorites.

But the one subject in which Britons are most interested is the author of their affliction. The most widely read book in England, according to the WPA survey, is Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Every ship in the U. S. navy is being equipped with a DeGaussing cable, the anti-magnetic mine device used so successfully by the British. The installation job is tremendous and will require more than 40,000,000 feet of cable.

Nels Anderson, WPA labor relations director, received a letter from a wartime buddy addressed, "Nels Anderson, White House, Washington, D. C., care of Secretary of Commerce." Notwithstanding this, the letter was delivered promptly.

Walter Winchell

Memos of a Girl Friday

Dear Mr. W.: Admiral Leahy is sore and disgruntled over the lack of instructions given him for his new job as Amb. to France. He is even talking of not going; though probably will, anyway. FDR and Mr. Hull both talk in vague generalities about what he is to do there. . . . Senators Wheeler and Norris are getting another blast ready under the guise of probing foreign connections with American industry. The FBI will come in for another heckling, and you, too. You will be called a warmonger, etc. . . . Remember way back when the Fascist armies used to throw up one hand—instead of two?

Camille Williams' CBS vice prexy heart went to So. America on Gov't. business. Gave her a giant-sized ruby and diamond ring with which to console herself during his absence. . . . Do you think Amb. Kennedy may chief for RKO as buzzed?

Adela Rogers St. John's boy, Bill, and his bride have parted. . . . A women's radio group is plotting a nation-wide boycott of all radio programs, if the big music row isn't ironed out by New Year's. . . . Francisca Sims of the Jolson show will wed a doctor in Feb. . . . The Nazis have just opened their eighth movie house in New York. Before the war not even four could make money. But in the U. S. movie theaters are part of Goebbels' scheme. Two others recently opened in Chicago. . . . FDR's next book will be called: "The Next Four."

Quentin Reynolds will not return to London after his holiday here. . . . Stanley High, the ex-Brain Trustster, has become one of the editors at Reader's Digest. . . . Mr. Dies will connect a Columbia prof. (no longer there) with his "amazing mass of Italian propaganda data in the U. S." . . . Eddie Pola says the new head of the Italian army is the right man. He's an old campaigner, been in three major retreats.

The German propaganda machine is utilizing American radio commentators and columnists (without their knowledge) in spreading reports that King Leopold of the Belgians is a traitor to his people and is working for the Nazi cause. Actually, he is still a closely guarded prisoner in his palace at Laeken, Belgium, and has not been to see Hitler and will not see the Pope in Hitler's behalf. . . . Don't worry about the source. . . . Amazing the way Greece is "fighting for Freedom and Democracy." Greece, you know, is a Dictatorship!

Henry Wallace told a Q. T. story that Harold Ickes means what he says and will quit if the Forest Service isn't handed to him from Wallace's old Agriculture Dep't. They have tiffed for a long time, but Mrs. Ickes is trying to patch up matters. She consults Wallace regarding the 2,500 chickens which she raises in Maryland. . . . The lowdown on the quarrel between Ickes and Gov. Cramer of the Virgin Islands is an old "Graphic" honey. . . . Capt. J. Cary Jones (Navy recruiting here) acknowledges the numerous broadcast mentions for recruits. Says since first mention there's been a gratifying increase in accepted applicants—not only in the Northeastern Division, but throughout the nation.

—Your Girl Friday.

Man About Town

New Yorkers Are Talking About: Jimmy Roosevelt's new pulse-taker. She is lovely Roma Aldrich, the blonde photog's model, succeeding nurse Romelle Schneider. . . . The blazing of Franchot Tone and Alice Faye. . . . Alfred G. Vanderbilt's first choice for his next bride—Dolly De Milo, who is better known in Hollywood. . . . The new looks on the hoods of all FDR's motor cars to guard against saboteurs and assassins. Only Secret Service agents can open them. . . . The way Joan Crawford thrilled the chorines in "Louisiana Purchase" by coming backstage to chat with them after curtain. . . . The several rendezvous of the divided Hal Roachs. Reconciliation? . . . The Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, who have "adopted" the three children of Gilbert Murray, the British author, for "the duration". . . . Fred Allen's fury with his agency. Because they sent out a yappy story saying Fred would pay \$20 each for any 1898 penny. They came in bunches, so Allen wants the agency to make good.

They're Also Chatting About:

Tallulah Bankhead's understanding. John Emery, her husband, is tawing with Tamara Geva, with Tallulah's permish. . . . George Price, who is not divorcing his Stock Exchange chair for the risky night club business as rumored. . . . Elmer Davis, the commentator, who is convalescing after an operation at Snydenham hosp. . . . The press-agent "marriage" of Bonnie Baker and Orrin Tucker. Her heart belongs to Jules Stern, the music pub's boy.

Spotlight on Grantland Rice

CHARLES SOCKER COE, the first and best of the gangster novelists, is now an eminent Florida attorney. Before that Socker was



a navy ring champion and also one of the closest students of ring form. He is still a keen student of the modern art of self-defense, which is largely "100 yards in 10 seconds."

Socker happened to be on hand when Conn fought Savold. "Conn," he said, "as everybody knows, is a fine boxer and he is also dead game. That ought to be enough for a 175-pound fighter. But apparently it isn't today, when almost everyone is looking for a puncher."

"Conn simply doesn't know how to punch—I mean the art of punching. He relies only on his wrists and arms. There is no shoulder or body support back of his blows. "To be a good puncher," Socker said, "a fighter must know how to get in those shoulder and body muscles. I've talked about this with Bobby Jones in hitting a golf ball. As you know, Bobby in his prime was as long as anybody. He was far past Hagen and Sarazen off the tee, 10 or 12 years ago—when they were all at the top. Bobby relied a lot on shoulder and body and hip power to get this distance. The same thing is true of boxing when it comes to the punching side."

Dempsey and Tunney

"When Jack Dempsey nailed you with a left hook," Socker added, "he wasn't just flipping you with a wrist and arm motion. He had those big shoulder muscles, under the shoulder, working with the punch. He had his whole left side in that wallop. The same, to a lesser degree, is true of Gene Tunney. Tunney never had the explosive force that belonged to Dempsey—that belongs to Joe Louis—but he was a much better puncher than most ring followers know about. Tunney wasn't a natural athlete, but a great student of ring science and form. He was also a fine student of the details that produce force. Gene knew how to get shoulder and body back of his punches."

"Carnera was six feet seven and he weighed 270 pounds. He was a professional strong man. But he wasn't big enough or strong enough to hurt or even jar anybody with this wrist and arm swing that had no other support. You can't flick at somebody and do any damage—unless, of course, you use a thumb, as quite a few have done. But I'm not speaking of gougers. I'm speaking of real punchers."

About Billy Conn

"Billy Conn isn't big enough for a Joe Louis," Socker rambled on. "Louis can hit too hard with either hand. But Conn should be a better puncher than he is today. The kid is a fine boxer, he is fast, and he is dead game. But apparently no one has ever taught him how to hit. No one has shown him what true balance means when you deliver a punch. No one has told him the value of shoulder and back muscles, working with hands and arms."

"If they have, Billy simply hasn't learned his lesson. He was able to measure Savold and hit him at will—at any spot, at any time. Yet he couldn't even rock him. If Joe Louis had delivered any one of those 50 or 60 punches to the chin Savold would still be dreaming of the hour. They would have found his body somewhere in the upper stands."

"Conn is still just a kid. He still has a lot to learn. Not about boxing, but about punching. He should punch the heavy bag oftener, and learn how to get in those shoulder and back muscles. Otherwise he is just going to be another good light heavyweight. I doubt that he will ever get much bigger. His thin legs show that. He may reach 180. But he has enough boxing skill to get his opponent ready for the kill—if he only could get that kill into his right or left hand. You can't get that with a flick."

"What about another Pittsburgher, Harry Greb?" I asked. "I still think Greb in his prime could beat any heavyweight I ever saw, and Harry was no great puncher."

"Greb was different," Socker said. "Greb, a little Hercules, was a stick of dynamite. He was even faster than Conn. I'd say much faster. And he'd hit you with everything from the laces on his glove to the stool he used between rounds. Greb knew no rules—except to win."

"He was one of the greatest fighters we've ever seen. If Greb, in his prime, had been fighting Savold the other night, Savold would have died by drowning—in his own blood. His face would have looked a horrible sight. It wouldn't have been a face."

"Greb came into the ring with everything but a hand grenade and a machine gun. And yet I never saw him hit a low punch. He belonged to that old school that knew all the tricks and how to use them. And, believe me, they had plenty in the way of tricks."

Moving Against Italians in Egypt



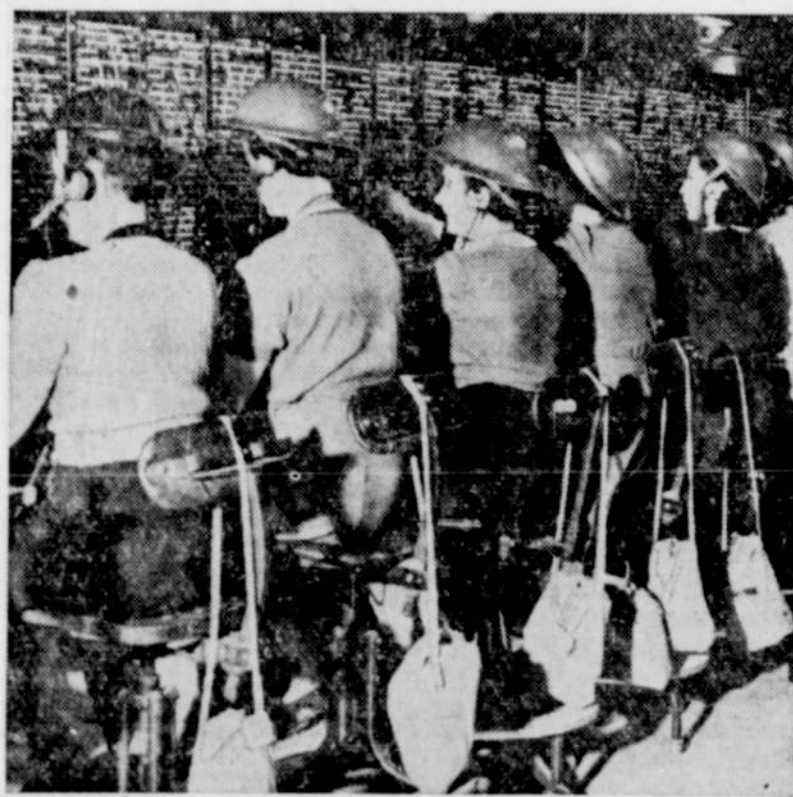
Newly arrived British reinforcements in Egypt leave camp in Cairo for a route march, part of the training they receive to accustom themselves to conditions of desert warfare. After a long quiet on the front in western Egypt, the British have retaken Sidi Barrani, which they lost in October.

Canadian Warship Torpedoed by 'Sub'



At the right is the 1,337-ton Canadian destroyer, Saguenay, at Ottawa, Canada, which was damaged by a torpedo in an encounter with a submarine in the eastern Atlantic. Twenty-one seamen were lost and 13 wounded. The Saguenay made port, and is being repaired. At the left is the warship's commanding officer, C. R. Miles. The Saguenay is the first Canadian fighting ship to be directly damaged by an enemy vessel.

London's 'Hello Gals' Take It in Day's Work



When the air-raid sirens scream in London the only difference it makes to the heroines in the big city's telephone exchanges is that they must don their steel hats. They stick to their boards through what they call "the unpleasant periods." Often they must vary their stock phrases with "Sorry sir, that number was bombed last night."

Akron 'Blackout'



A fire at the Lowenthal Rubber company in Akron, Ohio, caused a blackout of the city. The firm is in the reclaimed rubber business. Damage was estimated at \$50,000.

Off to Chile on a 'Flying Fortress'



Mme. Carlos Davila, wife of the former president of Chile, being helped from the ambulance that took her to Mitchell field, New York, where she boarded a mighty U. S. "Flying fortress" to be flown to Santiago, Chile. President Roosevelt put the great bomber at her disposal, as another gesture of good neighborliness. Mme. Davila recently underwent an operation in New York.

Football Hero



Tom Harmon, Michigan U.'s All-American football hero, with the Heisman memorial trophy given by the Downtown Athletic club, of New York city, to the outstanding college player of the year.