

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

by DREW PEARSON and ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

INDO-CHINESE BASES

Public attention has been so closely riveted on the war in Europe and upon the Lease-Lend debate that alarming developments in the Far East have escaped almost unnoticed.

This is the fact that the Japanese are now within definite striking distance of Singapore and the Dutch East Indies; and that Berlin has been urging Japan to become the aggressor in the south Pacific in order to divert American attention away from Europe.

No one knows better than the German foreign office that the American people are skittish about having two oceans—both Atlantic and Pacific—churned up at once. So German attempts to persuade Japan to focus American attention on the Far East are nothing new.

Absolutely new, however, is the fact that the Japanese are in a much more strategic position to take over the Malays and the Dutch East Indies—two regions vital to the supply of American tin and rubber.

For what the Japanese very quietly have done is to occupy the powerful French naval bases of Saigon and Cap St. Jacques in French Indo-China.

In gauging possible war in the Pacific, one should remember that distance is all-important. A Japanese fleet cannot cross the Pacific to attack the United States without great risk, because of distance. Nor could it have attacked Singapore, previously, without grave risk, because the distance from there to Japan is almost as great as from Japan to Honolulu.

Now, however, with the French Indo-Chinese naval bases in her possession, Japan is in a far better position regarding Singapore and the Dutch East Indies than she would be regarding California if she occupied Hawaii.

It still will not be a walkaway for Japan to take these British and Dutch possessions, because they are well fortified. However, the job is now about 50 per cent easier.

Strategy which U. S. naval experts expect Japan to follow is to begin the attack at the moment Hitler begins his long expected invasion of England.

'MADE IN JAPAN'

Recently, in a test of equipment at an army airfield, four parachute flares were shot from the ground. They opened beautifully, but only three ignited. The fourth was a dud.

Several soldiers dashed out to salvage the parachute. They are seldom recovered, because being made of paper they usually burn up in the flare when they reach the ground. The failure of the dud flare to ignite saved this one.

But on retrieving it, imagine the soldiers' surprise to find on the 'chute the interesting little stamp: 'Made in Japan.'

The salvaged flare was one of a lot of 3,000 purchased several months ago from an Ohio company. Ordnance officials admit they knew the 'chutes of the flares were imported from Japan, but assert they were forced to use them because at that time no U. S. firm made the articles. They say they have now stopped the use of Japanese 'chutes in new flares.

QUARTERMASTER CAMPS

Here is good news for some lucky draftees!

Within a few weeks, the army will announce the establishment of two placement camps to train likely selectees for the Quartermaster corps. First of their kind since the last war, they will be located at Camp Lee, Virginia, and Fort Frances E. Warren, Wyoming.

Selectees with experience as auto mechanics, electricians, blacksmiths, truckers, machinists, painters, radiator repairmen, sheet metal workers, storage battery experts, tire repairers, tool makers, upholsterers, and welders will stand the best chance of getting assigned to these camps for a three-month course in army buying, maintenance and transportation methods.

CRACKING PEACE FRONT

Meanwhile, the isolationist front of the strongly pacifistic Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is cracking.

Miss Emily Balch, one of the revered founders of the organization, has tendered her resignation from the executive board because she disapproves of the anti-British aid stand of Miss Dorothy Detzer, secretary of the league and one of the most effective lobbyists in Washington. Miss Balch strongly favors "all-out" aid to Britain.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Able young assistant to the attorney general Matt McGuire is headed for a judicial appointment, probably the vacancy created by the recent retirement of Justice Peyton Gordon of the U. S. district court for the District of Columbia.

Presidential Secretary Steve Early has on his desk a brown bottle of vitamin pills, a gift of Joe Tumulty, former secretary to Woodrow Wilson. Says Tumulty: "I wish they made vitamin pills when I had your job."

Walter Winchell

Notes of a Reporter to His Editors

When "Old Acquaintance" troupe played command performance at White House, understand Peggy Wood left FDR practically speechless when she burst forth with: "Please, Mr. Roosevelt, dear Mr. President, don't send our dear boys over there to fight. I have two arms. I have two legs, take me—but not our dear boys!" etc. . . . Leon Henderson may ease out of defense board—tired, ill . . . I hear Nelson (Sears-Roebuck exec on same board) will eventually inherit Knudsen's post.

Intimates of Camacho believe he would follow any war policy adopted by U. S. within 24 hours . . . Jolson not stalling, really ill . . . Peem's short-wave story about new British superplane (The Tornado) as reported by BBC from London appeared in last "Things I Never Knew 'Til Now" col'm month before BBC confirmation.

Appeasers who claim England can't win should read what Hitler wrote on that subject in Chapter XII of his book, viz: "The British nation can be counted upon to carry through to victory any struggle that it once enters upon, no matter how long such a struggle may last or however great the sacrifice that may be necessary, or whatever the means that have to be employed; and all this even though the actual military equipment at hand may be utterly inadequate when compared with that of other nations." Long-winded soundso, isn't he?

Hear an afternoon N. Y. paper is readying a new columnist, not a professional writer "but a famous personality" as a circ builder. Starts in March. Understand it is not D. Thompson, who starts same time.

Radio key men have been conferring secretly in Washington on the part radio will play in maintaining public contact—in case we are actively involved in a war. Even during possible bombardments . . . The Nazis have a neat method of trying to win favor with U. S. radio commentators abroad. They classify them as heavy laborers—for ration card reasons. This entitles them to two pounds of meat instead of one. P. S. It doesn't work.

There is talk of increasing the draft period to two years. . . . Ye ed salutes Homer Price for this form of criticism . . . People, he says, who claim the home town paper doesn't print all the news should be glad it doesn't!—W. W.

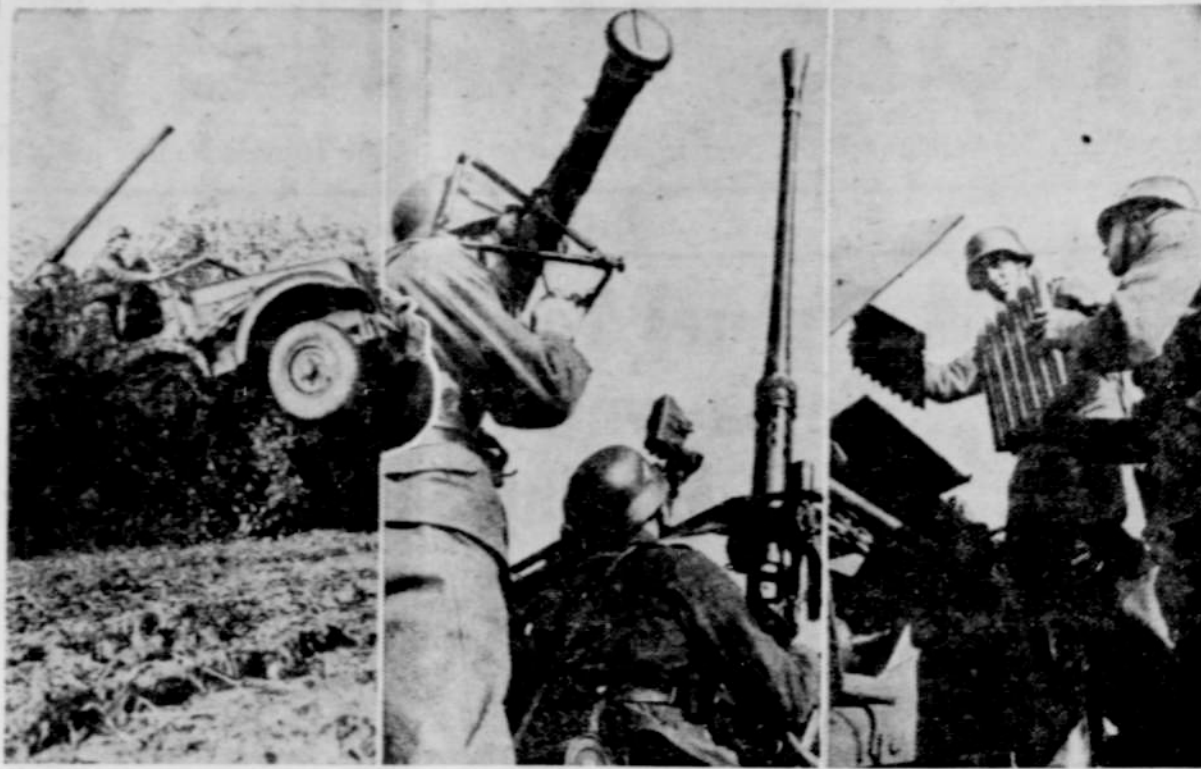
Notes of an Innocent Bystander

The Wireless: P'raps they don't settle many problems on the American Forum, but they get them out in the air and provide a lot of listenable bawling. The back alley tangle between Morris Ernst and Cong. Starnes a recent Sunday could be a sell-out at the Garden. The way to handle 5th Columnists was the temper trigger . . . Raymond G. Swing asked why, if Hitler has 36,000 planes, he didn't pour them at Britain when the conditions for it were good. We are, he hints, eating too many Nazi figures without salt . . . It was hard to get worked up over "Rebecca," even with R. Colman, I. Lupino and Judith Anderson in excellent jobs. England has taken too much lately for anybody to care about one man's love storms. The tear jerks were too pro-bitz . . . Jas. Thurber makes a discovery about quizzes. They reveal how much the contestants don't know, which is colossal.

The Front Pages: Lots of the anti-FDR dailies are making it tough for future historians. The same journals that exalted Willkie up to Nov. 5 are calling him A Thing now. Because he doesn't care if licking Hitler is a party matter or a matter for humanity . . . The Berlin journals are easier on him than some of his old supporters . . . Ray Clapper says events are not consistent, "therefore why should I be consistent? Some people once they adopt an idea, bury it in the ground and go on the rest of their lives defending it, without ever re-examining it to see whether time and the elements have caused it to decay into a worthless handful of dust. In that way you can always be consistent—and often wrong." . . . A columnist in Hawaii observed: "I have written many lines that have been stolen. By numerous radio gag writers, lobbyists in Washington. Miss Balch strongly favors 'all-out' aid to Britain."

The Story Tellers: Sen. Sheridan Downey found himself labeled "Morton Downey" in New Horizons. His squawk ought to convince the editors he's no tenor . . . Leland Stowe, by-lining "I Saw Mussolini Humbled" (in Look), said: "The Greeks have very little respect for the Fascists' fighting qualities because the Fascists almost never fight hard when the terms are even" . . . "The Reader's Digest Reader" is must reading. It is a collection of that miniature mag's choice selections over an 18-year period.

Germany Prepares for British Air Attack



There have been many pictures of British preparations to ward off Nazi invasion attempts, but very few showing Nazi preparations against British effort. These pictures show the preparations being made by the Germans on the coast of occupied France, to withstand the daily batterings of the RAF. At left, an anti-aircraft gun is placed in position. Center: The observer mans his instrument as the "trigger man" sits ready to blast the invading British. Right: Gun loaders insert clips of 37 mm. shells.

Gas Mask Drill and 'Dipsy Doodle Dip'



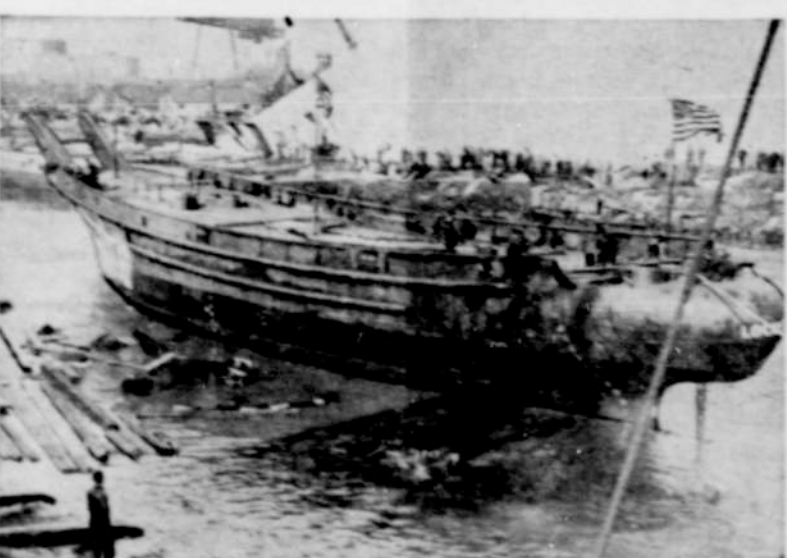
Soldiers of the Forty-fourth division (left) racing through a smoke screen, to which a little tear gas has been added, during a gas mask drill at Fort Dix, N. J. The gas was sprung on the boys by surprise to test their powers of detection. Right: Members of Company "E," 191st Infantry, try out a new march relief step called the "Dipsy Doodle Dip" at Camp Edwards, Falmouth, Mass. The boys take a dip on every tenth step.

Mighty Mites to Haul Giant Planes



Tugs are usually associated with harbors and shipping, but their modern counterparts are found at Randolph field, Texas, where tiny 'plane tugs are used to tow the sky giants to and from their hangars. Picture shows Sgt. R. R. Arnold checking in a shipment of the "mighty mites" at the "West Point of the Air."

Another Launching for U. S. Defense



The 158-foot anti-submarine net tender Locust is launched Great Lakes fashion (sidewise) at Cleveland, Ohio. It is the first of 12 such craft under construction by the American Shipbuilding company. As in building American submarines, special attention is given to constructional strength of net tenders against depth charge attack.

Football Czar



Elmer Layden, football coach at Notre Dame and one of the "Four Horsemen," who has accepted the post of commissioner of professional football—a post comparable to that of Judge Landis, czar of baseball. Layden will draw \$20,000 a year.

Pair of Queens

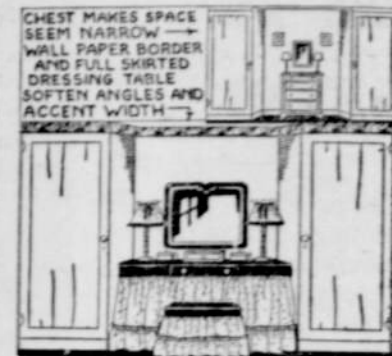


Winter and summer queens of Twin Cities at opening of St. Paul's winter carnival. Betty McDonald, (right) queen of St. Paul's winter carnival, and Joyce Moyer, Minneapolis' summer queen.

That Space Between The Built-In Closets

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

WHAT could be a greater luxury than two extra closets in your bedroom! That is exactly what a young friend of mine thought. But, when they were built in, she was painfully conscious of their angles and the room seemed much narrower. This sketch shows you how the feeling of width was restored and the angles were made to melt away. A wallpaper border all the way around the room helped to soften down the angles of the closets also.



added an exciting color note to the plain painted walls. The chest of drawers in the upper sketch was moved to another part of the room, and the long spacious dressing table was built into the space between the closets. The top of the table and stool and the frame of the mirror were enameled porcelain blue which was one of the colors in the wallpaper border. Dotted swiss skirts were fastened on the inside of the finishing boards across the front of the table and around the stool with snap fastener tape—one side tacked to the wood and the other sewn to the skirt tops.

NOTE: Directions for making three types of dressing tables are illustrated in booklet No. 1 of the series which Mrs. Spears has prepared for our readers. Details for making the frilled lamp shades illustrated today are in No. 5, which also contains a description of the series. Each booklet illustrates 32 home-making projects and may be ordered direct from Mrs. Spears by sending her your name and address with 10c in coin for each number requested. Send order to:

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Histories make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematics, subtle; natural philosophy, deep; morals, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend.—Bacon.

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This is often a symptom of acid indigestion. Sour stomach and heartburn frequently follow unwise eating and drinking. ADLA Tablets relieve quickly. Get ADLA from your druggist.

As Is Enough

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Beware Coughs from common colds That Hang On

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION
for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

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One science only will one genius fit, so vast is art, so narrow human wit.—Pope.



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