



Washington, D. C. SHIP PREMIUMS TO JAPAN It is hard to believe, but the government of the United States actually is paying war risk insurance to the Japanese for helping to insure the S.S. America, pride of the U. S. merchant marine.

This is just part of the revelations over re-insurance which are breaking this week at the justice department. These probes also show that when a vessel is injured, Axis insurance companies get all the data regarding its cargo, time of departure, destination, and the interior plan of the ship.

Thus, despite all the censorship of Secretary of the Navy Knox, Germany has had an easy means of knowing all about every ship that leaves the United States.

This is accomplished when American insurance companies, because of the heavy risk involved in insuring a cargo in wartime, reinsure with various foreign companies. In other words, they sell part of the policy abroad, thus distribute the risk. That is how Japan makes a lush profit on insuring American vessels, even vessels owned by the U. S. A.

Last year congress passed a law providing war risk insurance for U. S. shipping, but the maritime commission, for reasons best known to itself, has declined to take advantage of the law. Commission members state quite frankly that they wanted to throw the business to private insurance concerns—as long as private insurance was available.

DEBATE FREEZING AXIS FUNDS

One of the most vigorous inner cabinet debates in a long time concerned the question of freezing German-Italian funds on deposit in the United States. In a heated discussion, Secretary of State Hull and Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones were the only cabinet members who stood out for letting the two Axis powers continue to spend money as they wished in this country.

Many people may not realize it, but whereas the government has frozen the funds of all the conquered nations—France, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Greece, etc.—it continues to permit the conquering nations to use their money in the U. S. A. in any manner they wish.

For instance, Germany gets more than a million dollars monthly from the lease of patents to American companies. This is paid in American dollars and can be spent for anti-American propaganda or anything else, or shipped back to Germany. Italian diplomatic attaches, for instance, were found carrying \$2,000,000 in U. S. currency in a suitcase from New Orleans to Mexico for propaganda purposes.

Meanwhile, France, for example, no longer sells perfume, etc., to the United States, but sells to Germany, which in turn ships the perfume through Vladivostok to the United States. Reason is that French funds are frozen, so the French can get no money from the U. S. A. But German funds are not frozen, so French trade to the United States now increases Nazi profits and helps build up trade channels for the future.

STREAMLINED FOODS

Because of the acute shipping shortage, food items for shipment to Britain are being selected for high vitamin and calorie content, also for minimum bulk and weight.

In general, preference will be given to concentrated and dried foods, rather than bulky canned goods such as fruits, which contain a considerable amount of water. Tomatoes are an exception because the juice they are packed in is high in vitamins.

One item urgently desired by the British is dehydrated vegetable soup, 12 tons of which will make 700,000 bowls.

A plan is under consideration to transport some of this concentrated food in the big bombers being ferried across the Atlantic, which can easily carry a 12-ton load.

The \$400,000,000 that has been allocated for the food-aid program will be used to buy 15,000,000 cases of canned tomatoes, 20,000,000 cases of evaporated milk, 50,000,000 pounds of lard, 250,000,000 pounds of cheese, several million pounds of powdered eggs, and thousands of tons of dehydrated vegetable soup, dried raisins and prunes.

While gigantic in itself, the program is only about 3 per cent of the U. S. food bill, which in 1940 was \$12,000,000,000.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

The Nelson Rockefeller committee for cultural relations with South America wasn't at all keen about the Douglas Fairbanks good-will pilgrimage. They resented Franklin Roosevelt Jr., close friend of Fairbanks, putting this one over with his father while they weren't looking.

Mayor LaGuardia declined with thanks FDR's request that he head the new Civil Defense Commission, indicating to the Boss that he wants a cabinet job or nothing.



FOR the best all-around athlete this nation has produced we'll still string with Jim Thorpe. This angle came back to us as we ran into the Big Indian a few days ago, just after he had finished a series of lectures to kids around the country on the matter of competition and physical development.

"I'm still all for the Indians," Jim said, "but I'm only part Indian. I'm five-eighths Indian, two-eighths Irish and one-eighth French, if you want to go into details. Maybe that just makes me an American airedale."

Over 30 years have passed since Pop Warner saw a skinny young Indian playing games around Carlisle.

"At that time," Pop says, "I never figured him for any coming star. He was a kid who weighed around 140 pounds. They told me he was fast, but he looked too thin."

How Good Was Thorpe?

As a starter, Jim Thorpe was the best all-around football player I ever saw.

- 1. He was one of the best of all the running backs.
2. He was one of the best of all the kickers—punting, place-kicking, and drop-kicking.
3. He was a high-class blocker.
4. He was a fine forward passer for those early days and a good pass receiver.
5. He was a terrific defensive man—tackling in the open or backing up a line.
6. He was the most durable of the entire lot.

As I recall it, Jim never took out a second's time in many years. I once asked him if he had ever been hurt in a game. I still recall his answer, "How can anybody get hurt playing football?"

Track and Field

Big Jim won the decathlon, the all-around championship in track and field, back in the 1912 Olympics. He was a high jumper, a broad jumper, a sprinter, a weight man—anything you might ask for. And I don't believe he trained 10 hours for the big show—and they took away all his medals, because he had played a game or two of semi-pro baseball.

This was completely unjust, for Thorpe was never a field or track professional. At that time he was not even listed as a pro ball player. On the boat taking the team to Sweden, Thorpe was seen one night sitting and looking along the deck. Someone asked him what he was thinking about.

"I'm just measuring the broad jump," he said. "This is my training for that event. I figure I can do 23 feet, 8 inches."

Which is just about what he did. Thorpe as a ball player was at least good enough to crash into the big leagues with the New York Giants.

"This fellow would be a great ball player," McGraw once told me, "except for one thing. He can't learn to hit a curve ball. And that's something no one can teach another."

All Around Stars

There have been others who could do more things well than Thorpe could do—or ever had the chance to do. But not on the big time.

For example, Harry Fisher of Williams was a star in at least eight sports—football, baseball, basketball, tennis, hockey, squash, swimming, and one or two more. Elmer Oliphant of Purdue and West Point was another all-around brilliant at many games. So was Neil Snow of Michigan, one of the best. So was Roy Mercer of Pennsylvania. Vic Hanson of Syracuse was another.

But none of these quite reached the heights in three major sports that Big Jim gained in the palmy days of his career—a career that extended over 15 years.

What gave Thorpe these winning qualities?

In the first place, he was amazingly quick and amazingly strong. In the second place, he was as durable as iron. You couldn't hurt him with a crowbar.

In the third place, he had a keen, quick competitive brain. In the fourth place, he was completely fearless. In the fifth place, he was at his peak under pressure. He reveled in the tougher going. There was nothing that could make him tighten up.

Here's one example—in one of the hardest of all the West Point-Carlisle games, played at The Point, Thorpe was standing on his own goal line. The signal had been given for a kick and his team was expecting it.

Thorpe turned to the referee (Bill Langford, as I recall it) with this remark, "They think I'm going to kick, but I am not." He faked a kick and ran the ball 85 yards down the field.

Maybe there have been greater all-around stars with greater natural qualities than the American airedale. I doubt it.



Man About Town

New Yorkers Are Talking About: The 400 per cent law biz tilt for Willkie after his Collier's piece (answering Lindbergh) . . . The trouble Haile Selassie's daughter is having getting a visa to come here . . . Adolf Hitler's nephew, Wm. Patrick Hitler, being summoned by the N. Y. draft board, and his plans to enlist in Canada, instead . . . The muffled groans over at the Statepost because one year ago it paid St. Ethical McKelway a big advance fee (for a series of South American pieces) and not one word has been submitted yet.

Pegler's terrific mad-on with Liberty mag. He sold it a yarn on unions, guilds, etc., but it'll run side by side with a yarn debunking his piece. The debunking smarticle is bylined by J. Woll, of the American Fed. of Labor . . . Shep Fields' definition of an isolationist: A guy who sits on a fence long after a normal man feels splinters.

FDR being fed up with the Axis propaganda and his belief that a counter-offensive of free ideas should be sent abroad. He thinks it is Hitler's weak point—because in Europe—any man who believes what he sees—is a Fifth Columnist against Hitler! . . . The "beat" of the week: That the administration has been sounded out by influential Italian exiles for permission to set up in N. Y. the government of the Republic of Italy!!!!!!

The Gov't is actively considering the best location in the U. S. where foreign agents can do themselves the most—and the Axis the least—good . . . Naval conferences in London have reached the point of a discussion of joint command of all democratic vessels—Atlantic (British), Pacific (U. S.)

Notes of a Newspaperman

The Story Tellers: Raymond Leslie Buell, a Fortune editor, warns FDR is "in danger of becoming the American Chamberlain." That takes the President all the way around the block. He's been called "dictator," "warmonger" and now "appeaser." The name-callers invent the name to fit their special angle . . . There are six kinds of escort who are practically a guarantee of spinstership, an anonymous model reports in "Beauty Is My Career" in Cosmopolitan. The half dozen will spend plenty on a gal's face, but nothing on the third finger of the left hand

An editorial in the SEP states: "If the country is unable or unwilling for the duration of the war to freeze its economic disputes, to forget its class jealousies, to put out of its mind such a thought of equity of sacrifice, then its life is in danger" . . . Them's fine words. We hope the Statepost will set an example . . . Page 122 of the SEP has a cartoon about a silly ostrich with its head buried in the sand. It's good to know they can laugh at themselves . . . Read Stanley High's piece: "Hitler Ersatz Religion" in Reader's Digest. He says Germany is their God, Hitler is their Christ and Mein Kampf is their bible.

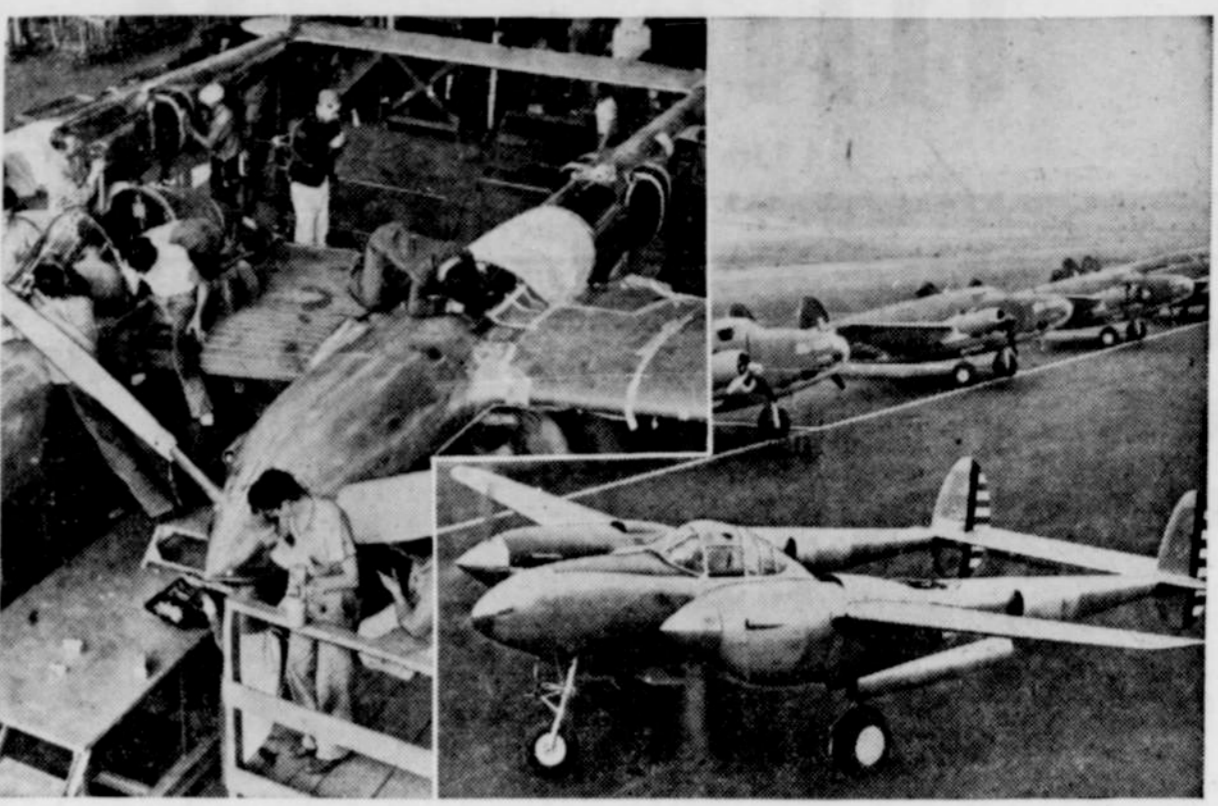
The Front Pages: The Associated Press contributed great space and ink to a group's selections. They honored outstanding American women—who "made the greatest strides in the last 50 years" . . . In the field of aviation the honored were Ruth Nichols, a South American lady named Mrs. Miguel Otero, and Anne Lindbergh . . . Amelia Earhart, in short, is not only Gone—but Forgotten . . . The Pulitzer Prize Committee's award to the Pulitzer paper in St. Louis (for getting rid of a smoke nuisance) was like seeing a man pin a medal on himself.

This column's orchids for the best editorial cartoon of the month go to Rollin Kirby of the N. Y. Post . . . The caption was "The Capital of the World of Tomorrow Will Be Either Berlin or Washington" (which Willkie said in a speech) . . . In a sofa chair is "Isolationist" with his newspaper (featuring Lindbergh's opposition to British aid) on the floor . . . "Average American" (that's you and me and Kirby) is pushing a finger in The Old Man's direction and saying: "I don't want war any more than you do, but I don't propose to let this guy Hitler take ME over. And don't you call me a warmonger!"

In Daladier's new book, "France Speaking," there is a good tip-off on why France fell . . . Daladier once said sadly: "What can I do about it? Gamelin doesn't LIKE tanks!"

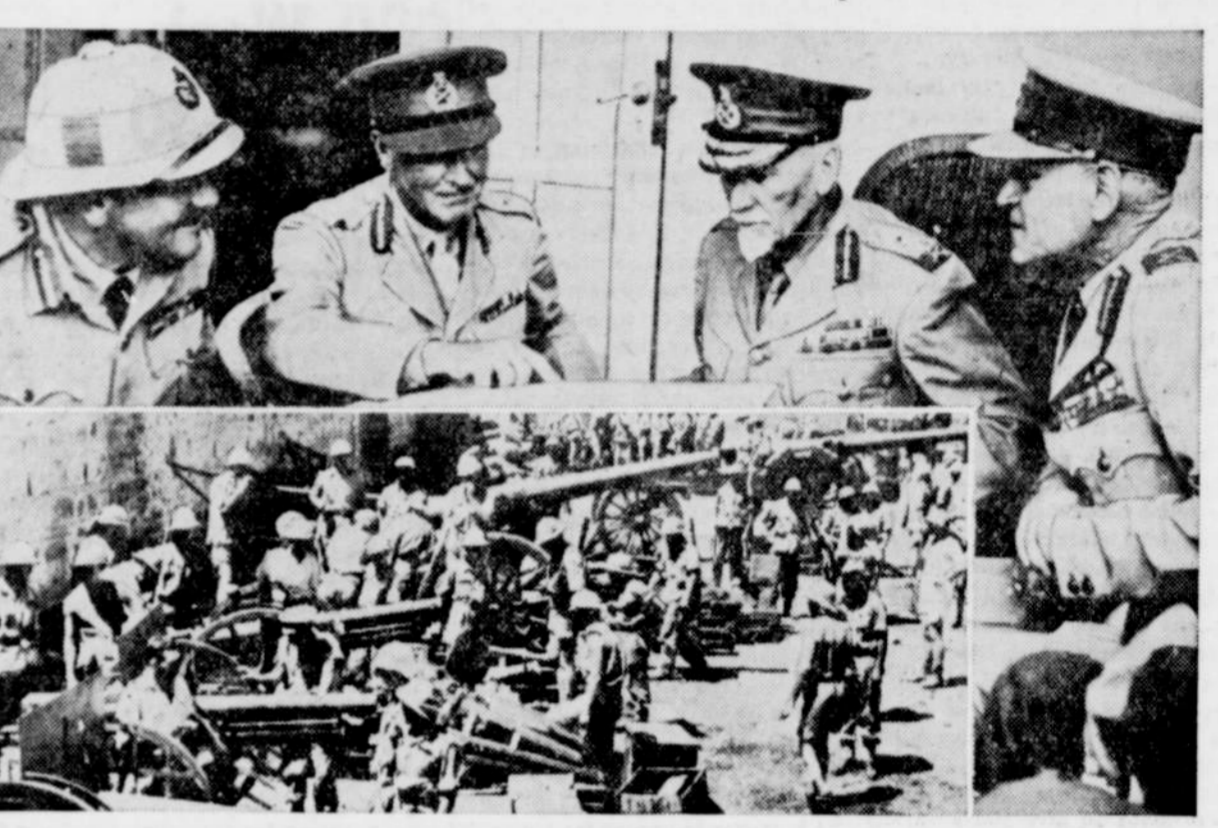
Typewriter Ribbons: Benjamin Franklin's: Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God . . . Anon's: Often the man the public tars and feathers today has a feather in his cap tomorrow . . . G. B. Evans': The way to beat convicts is with convicts . . . Jack Warwick's: Few Americans want war. They hate it—but hatred is not peace . . . Akron Beacon-Journal's: Just what are the inalienable rights of a man who is doing nothing for his country and is trying to keep others from doing anything?

Making America's Speediest Plane



Workmen are shown swarming over Lockheed P-38 interceptors on the production line (left) in the Lockheed plant at Burbank, Calif. After a P-38 was clocked at 458 miles an hour in its first public performance, army officials acclaimed it "America's fastest plane." Right: One of the first P-38s to come off the production line. In the background are several Lockheed-Hudson bombers waiting to be flown to Britain.

Defenders of Africa Carry On



Gen. Jan Smuts (second from right), prime minister of South Africa, poring over maps of Africa with Lieut. Gen. Allan Cunningham (second from left), governor of Kenya Colony. They are shown with their aids planning the defense of Africa. Inset: South African troops who are fighting in behalf of the British empire in East Africa, with captured Italian guns and material in front of the Fort of Mega.

German Blitz Warfare—on Two Fronts



These pictures show German blitzkrieg machines at rest after victories in Greece and North Africa. At top, Stuka dive-bombing planes being serviced at a Greek airport with gas, oil and bombs. Below: Some of the huge German tanks are shown in the North African desert at El Brega, after rushing the British back into Egypt.

Last Time Out



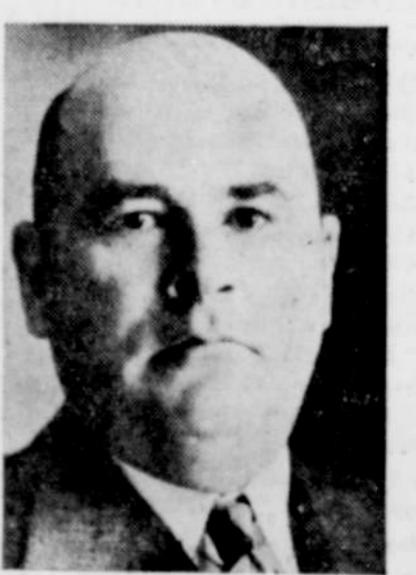
Big Hank Greenberg, (right) the most valuable man in the American league, looks wistfully out towards the diamond before starting his last game prior to his induction in the army. Several hundred friends came to say good-by.

Secretary of Navy at Army Review



Secretary of Navy Frank Knox shown on reviewing stand at Fort Dix, N. J., during the first all-out review of the Forty-fourth Division. The review, staged in the navy secretary's honor, was part of a Seventy-eighth division reunion. (L. to R.) Secretary Knox, Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews and Major Gen. Clifford Powell.

First Venezuelan



Gen. I. M. Angarita, elected president of Venezuela, succeeding General Contreras. General Angarita said he was in full accord with western hemisphere defense.