



Those Golden Years

WHEN Whirlaway added the hide of Midland to his Derby and Preakness wins, when Bob Feller picked up his eighth win in ten starts and Joe Louis went ambling along, someone brought up this point—

"How many stars have we around today who can compare with the Golden Age of 1919 and 1920? How many now on top could fit into the picture from 20 years ago?"

In the Golden Age of sport we had Man o' War representing the turf. We had Jack Dempsey on top in the ring. We had Babe Ruth ruling baseball. We had Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen for golf, not overlooking Gene Sarazen. And there was Bill Tilden starting a brilliant sweep against the best in the world.

Man o' War — Babe Ruth — Jack Dempsey — Bobby Jones — Walter Hagen — Bill Tilden — I'm afraid 1941 can't quite equal that cluster.

The current year can give you Whirlaway—Joe Louis—Bob Feller—Don Budge—with no outstanding golfer among so many good ones.

The Drop in Color

The big drop from the Golden Age to 1941 comes in the matter of color. Those stars of the Golden Age not only had unusual ability, but they had a fire and a flame that traveled around the world. They caught and held the public eye. They drew crowds that had no interest in the sport they featured.

Thousands, who had no interest in a horse race, came out to see Man o' War run. More thousands, who had only a lean interest in baseball or the fight game, came to see Babe Ruth swing his 52-ounce bat and Jack Dempsey throw his left hook. The same thing happened to Bobby Jones in golf. The same was true of Bill Tilden in tennis.

All these I've mentioned caught the imagination of millions. Of many millions. In this machine age there is almost no touch of colorful tinting. They knew all about Man o' War, Jack Dempsey, Babe Ruth and Bobby Jones on the other side of the world. Also Hagen and Tilden. The most colorful champion we have in sport today is Whirlaway, a horse. He wins and he loses—he may be a trifle on the goofy side, but he has caught the attention of the country.

He can run like the wind and he can run any distance. His main qualities are speed and stamina. What else can you ask for? Once he started to move he was 20 lengths better than anything in the Derby field. Under the same conditions he was able to pick up and add 25 lengths on King Cole in the Preakness.

Since Man o' War quit as a three-year-old, a short career, there is a chance that Whirlaway may go on to be the top horse of all time. And few horses have carried as much human interest color, no matter what their careers. The long, wide-spreading Whirlaway tail alone is something to look at and talk about.

Some of the Others As great a pitcher as Bob Feller is, the first citizen of Van Meter, Iowa, has nothing like the color of a Babe Ruth or a Dizzy Dean. This is too much to ask.

Don Budge is a star tennis player, but in the matter of color he isn't a Bill Tilden. Joe Louis lacks the flare of Jack Dempsey when the Manassa Mauler was at his peak.

There are many more fine golfers today than there were 20 years ago. They are playing better golf. But in looking through the list not even a Lick telescope could discover another Bobby Jones or another Walter Hagen on the colorful side.

All this doesn't mean that sport, along the road of skill and high-class performance, has taken any flop in the last two decades. Practically every performance that can be timed or measured has been broken more than a few times in recent years. There has been a general average improvement. But the crowd appeal on the human side isn't the same.

What Is Color? Some deep bass voice may be heard booming these words at this spot. "Just what is color?" It is a difficult word to explain. It is a combination of high-class ability, plus certain other qualities that cause talk—qualities that catch and hold the attention of the crowds.

The color exuded by Babe Ruth and Bobby Jones was of different brands—entirely different—but both had it in copious quantities. The same was true of Jack Dempsey and Bill Tilden.

Washington, D. C. NEW TYPE CONVOYS

Behind all the guessing and speculation over convoys aroused by the President's fireside chat is this one basic fact. The old-fashioned form of convoy already is outmoded, and, as Roosevelt indicated at a recent press conference, it will not be used. But the new-fashioned form of convoy already is in use and will be intensified.

This is convoy by airplane patrol, using airplane carriers and nearby islands for bases. The destruction of the Bismarck showed how effective this airplane convoy could be.

Airplanes flying above the water can sight the submarine below the water miles away, whereas a surface vessel cannot sight a submarine more than a mile or so away. Therefore you can expect to see a network of United States airplanes criss-crossing back and forth across the north Atlantic, assisted in part by surface warships, but extending all the way to Ireland.

The Pacific Fleet. With this settled, the most important strategic problem being discussed in backstage navy circles is that of bringing the mighty Pacific fleet from that ocean into the Atlantic to prevent Nazi seizure of the mid-Atlantic islands and to be ready for other major eventualities.

Every detail in connection with such a shift has been discussed. And while there have been some hot behind-the-scenes arguments, the one thing upon which the admirals all agree is that the fleet must be kept together. To split it into small units and send some of them to the Atlantic, in their opinion, would be disastrous. Battleships must have their accompanying cruisers, destroyers, etc., and they cannot be divided.

Naturally, the idea of the fleet withdrawing from the Pacific is enough to raise the hair on the heads of most people on the West coast. However, the navy has worked out a plan whereby it is confident that the West coast would be in no real danger.

The plan is extremely important, because it illustrates the new type of warfare made possible by the long distance bomber. Also it gives the key to Roosevelt's convoy plans. Finally it illustrates what the Nazis could do to the United States if the plan were reversed in the Atlantic.

Key to the plan is Hawaii and the Aleutian islands. The admirals are reasonably confident that long distance patrol planes ranging out from Hawaii in the mid-Pacific and from the Aleutians in the north Pacific would be sufficient to spot any Japanese ship approaching American waters. And air torpedoes of the type which crippled the Bismarck could do the rest. In fact, the entire Bismarck incident has been a striking demonstration that long-distance bombers plus island bases have revolutionized warfare in both oceans.

Azores and Canaries. Now if you transpose the map of the Pacific onto the map of the Atlantic, you will also get an idea of why Roosevelt bore down so heavily on the importance of the Azores, the Canary and Cape Verde islands in his fireside chat. For the Azores are the Hawaii of the mid-Atlantic, while the Canaries and Cape Verde might be compared to the Aleutians—in reverse position.

Whoever holds these stepping-stones across the Atlantic can sweep that ocean with naval patrol planes and bombers, just as the U. S. fleet can sweep the Pacific from Hawaii and the Aleutians.

If we hold these Atlantic islands, then we hold the gateway to the Atlantic. If Hitler holds them, he controls the first step toward Brazil—and the rest of the way is easy. These were some of the things Roosevelt studied on the large-scale maps of the navy department before he made his broadcast.

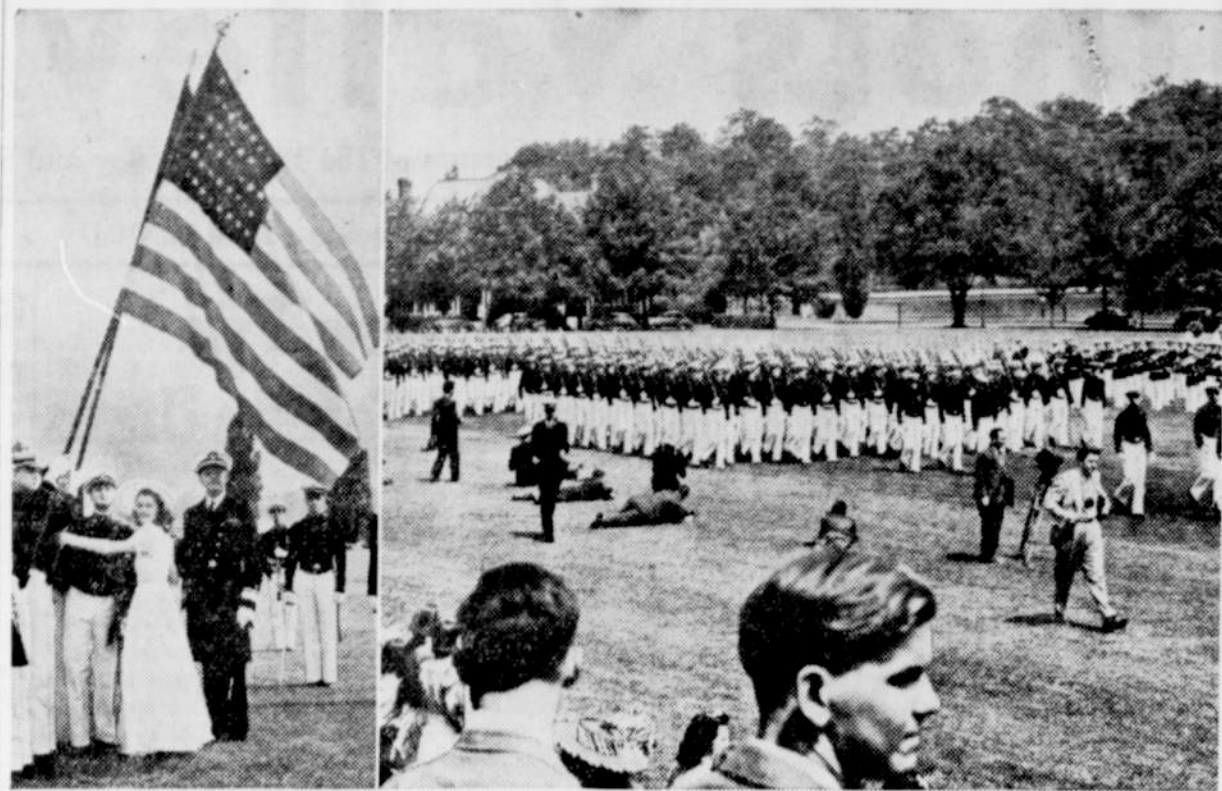
Another vital point he studied was not mentioned in his broadcast; because no one is talking publicly about the fact that the British may have to withdraw from Gibraltar, even from the Mediterranean altogether. But in case of such a withdrawal, a glance at the map will show that these three sets of islands—the Azores, Canaries and Cape Verde—could help to replace Gibraltar.

They sit astride the entrance to the Mediterranean, and long-range bombing planes based on those islands could make it hot for any expeditionary force heading out of the Mediterranean for the Americas.

All of these are reasons why you can expect vital action regarding the Atlantic islands.

CAPITAL CHAFF Every year Homer Cummings holds "The Attorney General's Golf Tournament" at Pinehurst, N. C., an event started when he was running the justice department. Chief rule is: "If any man brings his wife, he's never invited again."

For Freedom of the Seven Seas



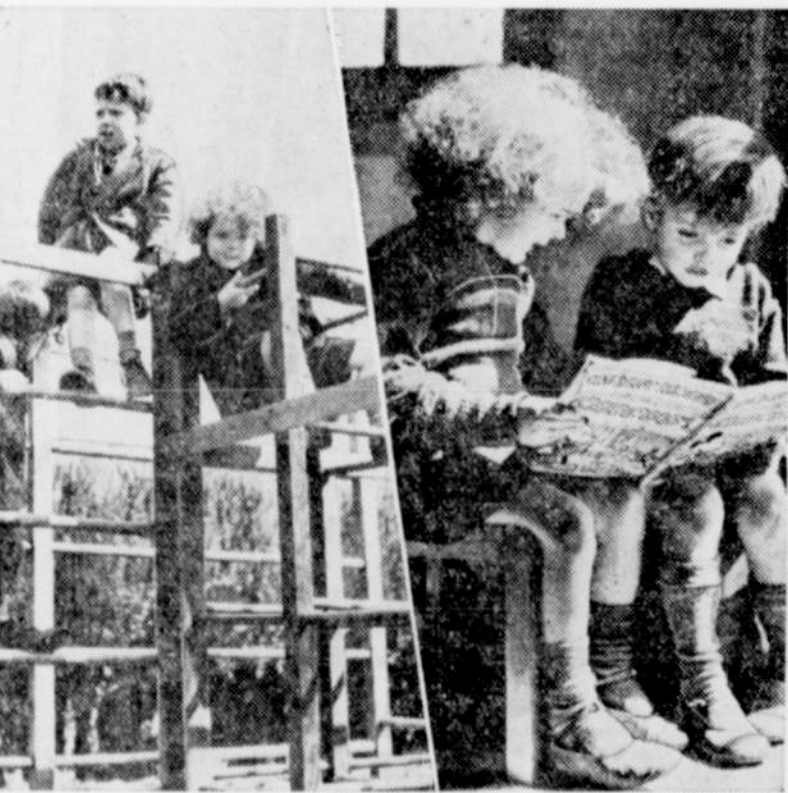
Midshipmen of the United States Naval academy, Annapolis, Md., pass in review (right) during presentation of the colors ceremony. Graduation time takes on added significance with the expansion of our navy. Inset: Miss Fay Ann Albrecht of Columbus, Wis., presents colors to Midshipman William Heronemus, of Madison, Wis. At right, beside girl, is Rear Admiral Russell Wilson, commandant of the naval academy.

Haile Selassie Stages 'Comeback'



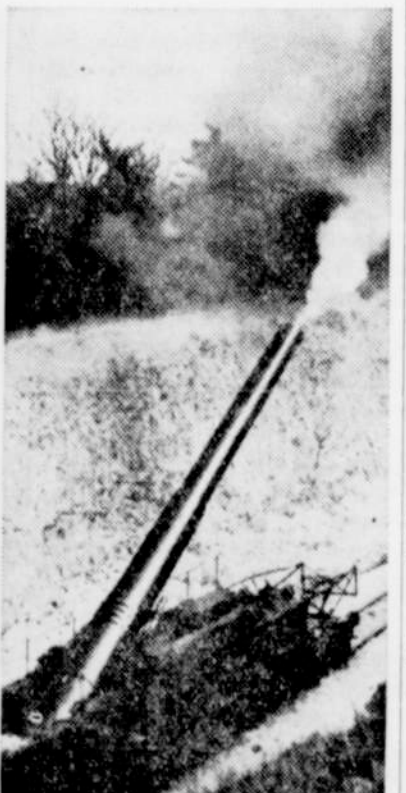
Officers and Ethiopian patriots are shown above listening to a speech by Haile Selassie, emperor of Ethiopia, who, with British co-operation, has once more entered Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, from which he was chased five years ago by the Italians. Inset: This road sign is also a sign of victory, for it shows British imperial troops in Addis Ababa.

Play Is Curing Bomb-Shocked Children



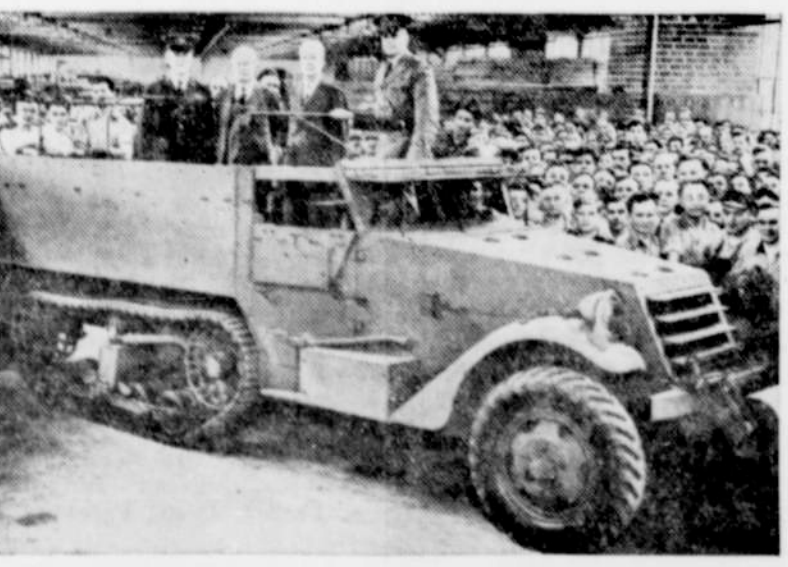
The power of play is credited with helping these children recover from the effects of bomb shock. At left, children are climbing in the "jungle gym" at the Anna Freud nursery center in Hempstead, England, maintained by the foster parents plan for war children. Right: British children enjoying the adventures of Mickey Mouse.

'Boche-Buster'



England is proud of its biggest gun, pictured here, said to be the largest caliber gun in the world. This is the first picture showing the huge railway gun being fired.

New Type Army Troop Carrier



First new personnel carrier built for the army by the Diamond T Motor Car company in Chicago. The truck, which will carry 13 men, is shown as it was inspected by company and army officials. L. to R., in vehicle, Brig. Gen. N. F. Ramsay, Fred A. Preston, C. A. Tilt, president of Diamond T, and Col. Donald Armstrong.

Army's Latest



Lieut. R. O. Norton, public relations officer at Edgewood, Md., arsenal, wearing army's newest type of gas mask which offers many advantages over the older type.

Exercise Ends Bulges That Give an Old Look



Middle Age Starts at Middle. THAT discouraging matronly bulge at the waist! You push it in, girdle it in, but out it pops—unless you exercise it away! Or is your special problem fatty hips or heavy legs or a drooping bust?

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Blind Impulse Unhappily, in the scales of human judgment the clear dictates of reason are too often outweighed by the blind impulse of the passions.—Sir James Frazer.

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Reasonable Facts It is not necessary to retain facts that may reason concerning them.—Beaumarcais.

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Time of Life A long life may not be good enough, but a good life is long enough.—Benjamin Franklin.

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