

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

BIG DAY FOR NEWS MEN

Twenty newspaper men leaned forward around the long blue baize table in the ante-room of the secretary of state. At the extreme end stood tall, austere acting secretary, Sumner Welles. On his face was an expression of grim-lipped intensity. In his hand was a typewritten statement. He read it aloud. It was a scathing, carefully worded blast against Japan.

At the opposite end of the table stood three Japanese news men, short, affable, eager. For months and years they had been attending press conferences, given the same privileges as any American news men. For months also they had waited for some such bombshell. Now it came.

One split second after Welles finished reading his statement, the Japanese were out the door, pattering down the marble corridor to the press room telephones. It was a big day for Japanese news men.

Finally Ickes Wins.

It was also a big day for certain members of the Roosevelt cabinet. For months and years they also had been waiting. For months and years also they had been urging Roosevelt to embargo oil shipments to Japan.

At a cabinet meeting just before Japan moved, Secretary Ickes, as new oil administrator, raised the embargo question again. He proposed to stop oil shipments to Japan. But the acting secretary of state said no. Japan, he said, was going to make a move toward Indo-China and it would be wiser to wait.

Once before, Ickes had stopped a shipment of oil to Japan and aroused the wrath of the state department. Last June a Philadelphia manufacturer complained to him that a Japanese ship was loading 240,000 gallons of lubricating oil.

"I can't get oil myself to speed up my own defense orders," wrote the manufacturer, "and yet I see in front of my nose this shipment of oil going to Japan. To hell with defense, if the government is as screwy as that."

So Ickes called the coast guard and asked them to act before the oil was loaded. They did.

Then things began to boil. It did not leak out at the time, but the state department complained to the White House that Ickes' action had interfered with the policy of appeasing Japan so she would not go south to the Dutch East Indies.

However, Ickes held his ground. He insisted that he was not meddling in foreign policy, but that it was nonsense to ration oil and gas on the Atlantic seaboard and at the same time let Japan ship oil away from the Atlantic seaboard.

Bombard Tokyo.

Naval strategists make no secret as to what they would do to curb Japan. They consider it foolhardy and suicide to send a lot of U. S. warships across the vast expanse of ocean to Singapore or the Dutch East Indies.

They figure we are going to get into the war anyway, and it is good strategy to deal knockout blows in the very first round. They favor sending waves of U. S. bombers from the Philippines to raze the paper and bamboo cities of Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Osaka. They also favor sending the fleet, plus airplane carriers to the coast of Japan.

They favor doing this immediately. There is no use, say the navy men, of punching at a man's legs when you can strike for his heart.

CLOSING PANAMA TO JAPAN

Secretary Stimson was telling the absolute truth when he denied that the discovery of a time-bomb was responsible for keeping 10 Japanese ships out of the Panama canal. For this was not the reason.

Real reason why the canal was barred to the Japanese was the discovery that two of their ships were floating bazars being rushed to the east coast of South America to grab off the trade which Axis operators were forced to abandon as a result of the U. S. blacklist.

Apparently the Japs had a tip that the blacklist was going to be issued, because the two ships hastily left the west coast and were waiting to go through the canal, when suddenly the blacklist was published. Equipped with elaborate merchandizing displays, and carrying high-powered, Spanish-speaking salesmen, the ships were literal arsenals of economic warfare. With them, the Japanese would have invaded the most lucrative markets in Latin America before either the U. S. or the Latin Americans could have moved to block them.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

U. S. authorities are quietly keeping an eye on Andre Maurois, well-known French writer, who has departed on a mysterious "private mission" to South America. Maurois is strongly pro-Vichy and is suspected of going south for the purpose of plugging the Nazi-controlled French regime.

The army's new heavy tank is equipped not only with machine guns and a 75-mm. gun, but also with a nice shiny horn to keep soldiers themselves from getting in the way.



THE PAPERS OF PRIVATE PURKEY

Dear Oscar:
I have not slept hardly a wink since reading about American forces being in Iceland and I wish you would not say like you did in your last letter that the boys sent there are lucky because it is so hot in American draft camps in summer. I would not like it if you were in Iceland of all places and how can you say Iceland is not so bad when all you know is what you have seen in the travelogues at the movie houses.

It is all very well to say that the climate is not so terrible and that it is not at all like the North Pole but when you are in the Arctic zone you are in the Arctic zone and your father says that Iceland is awful and is the place where Peary and Dr. Cook had all that trouble and where Admiral Byrd is always getting stuck in the ice floes.

Our groceryman who used to be a sailor says your father is wrong and has got his geography all mixed up. He says he was in Iceland and that he has seen it a lot colder in this country but if it is so good why did he only make short stops there?

I looked it up in a book at the free public library which was quite a job as every book on Iceland was either out or was being read in the reference room and I had to wait all day in line with a lot of America mothers who are as worried as I am about the place.

It is even farther away than I suspected. I never paid much attention to Iceland but I always had an idea it was just off the North American coast near Labrador. Why, Oscar, it is even farther away than Greenland which is so far away it is not on any map we ever had in our house.

It looks so close to the British Isles on the map that it almost seems like it got accidentally detached in a storm, and a yellow line with the words Arctic Circle printed in red letters goes right through the top of it in case anybody is in any doubt.

The atlas says it is a volcanic plateau covered by glaciers in the northern part and pastures and meadows in the south but it would be just your luck to get sent to the northern part and it must be terrible to be where there are volcanoes and glaciers all mixed in together. You would never know what underwear to put on.

Your father and I hope you stay right where you are so please do not talk about wanting to go to Iceland any more. I am sending you the things you asked for and will write more soon.

With all my love,
Mother.

Dear ma—Just a line to let you know I dropped the idea of trying to get switched to a Iceland division on account it is too hot in this country just now. Do not worry. You are wrong about Iceland and so is pop. This time of year it has flowers and farm crops and even heat waves and before Americans have been there much it will have Miss America contests.

Even should I ever get sent there I have just read that its principal export is cod liver oil which you half been telling me was good for me all my life. The camp atlas says its best crop is potatoes which is alone enough to keep me from wanting to go there. I never seen so many potatoes since I got into the army and I have personally peeled all but two or three parts of 'em. I wood want no part in saving any country which had more of them.

So do not worry. Tell pop he must of slept all through his geography classes at school. Lots of love,
Oscar.

A draftee contributor who is stationed at one of the hottest camps in the country, heard of the occupation of Iceland with envy. "The lucky stiff!" he cried when told U. S. troops were there. "They must of had infloence!"

"Iceland?" he was heard to remark later. "That's the place that used to be on the gingerale hour."

To casual visitors to America who listen to the radio it must seem that America is a land which has but three major worries: Scalp irritation, intestinal irregularities and diet.

THE EXPLANATION

("Natur and Kultur, a German publication, quotes 10 scientists as saying Hitler and other splendid Aryans could not conceivably have developed from apes.")—News Item.)

There you have
The big solution:
Those boys had
No evolution.

What the Nazi patience needs is a smaller exhaust pipe, if you

Hopkins' Arrival in Moscow



Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt's personal representative, is shown (left) being greeted on his arrival in the Soviet capital after a secret airplane flight from Britain. Shaking hands with Hopkins is Lieutenant General MacFarlane, head of the British military mission to Moscow. Between the two men is Laurence Steinhardt, U. S. ambassador to Moscow, and (right) Sir Stafford Cripps, British ambassador to Moscow.

U. S. Gunboat Bombed by Japs

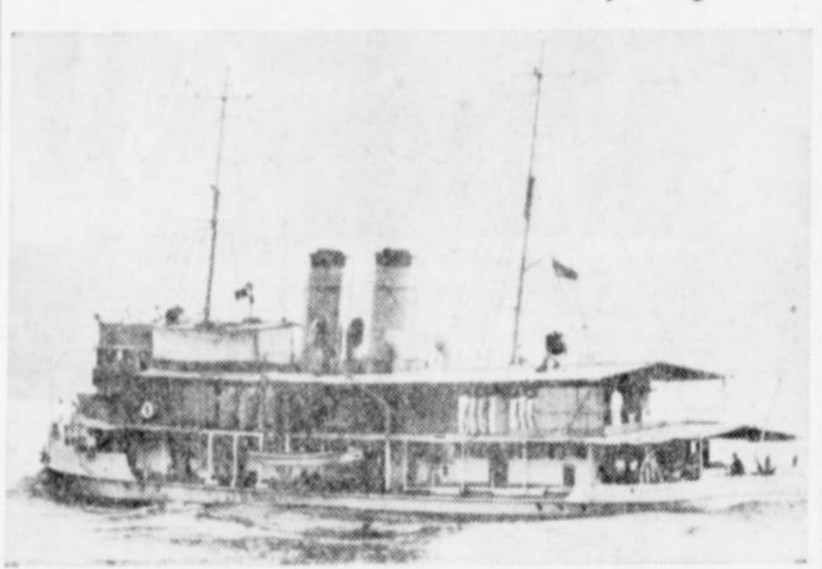
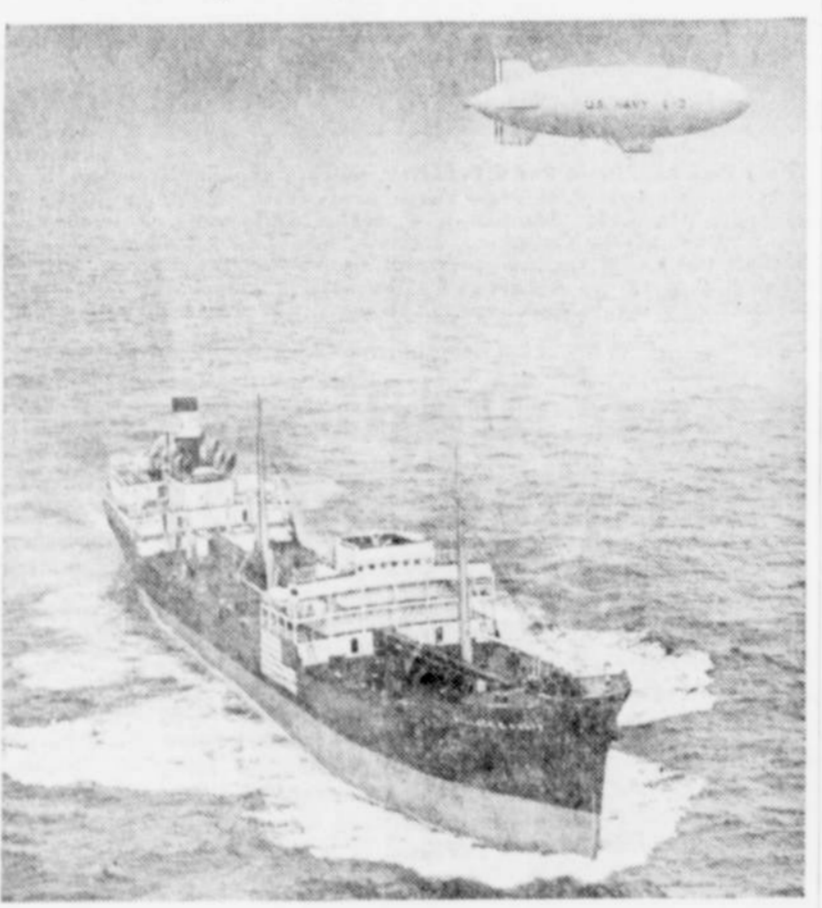


Photo of the 370-ton U. S. gunboat "Tutuila," which was struck by bombs during a Japanese raid on Chungking, China. It is reported the boat was in the so-called "safety zone" when she was hit. There were no casualties. Japan has promised the U. S. government a complete investigation and full indemnities. The "Tutuila" was built in 1927.

Blimp Helps Patrol Atlantic



A U. S. navy airship from the naval base at Lakehurst, N. J., hovers over an American freighter while on patrol over the Atlantic. Airships are coming back into their own and the base at Lakehurst is another of our defense posts which is feeling growing pains. Officers and crews are being trained for the new blimps ordered by the navy.

Safe After 12 Days Adrift in Atlantic



Their ship torpedoed about 400 miles off Greenland while en route to Britain, four Red Cross nurses (shown seated) were landed at Norfolk, Va., after spending 12 days adrift in an open boat in the North Atlantic. Picked up by an American destroyer, they were taken to Iceland for treatment before being returned to the States.

Flies to Canada



The duke of Kent, brother of King George, being interviewed at Ottawa shortly after his arrival from England. The duke flew to Canada on a bombing plane that brought back bomber ferry pilots. He will tour Canadian training camps.

Teatime in Iceland



The first photo to come out of Iceland of an American marine of the occupation force shows a "leatherneck" (above) at a counter of a Y.M.C.A. tea car in Reykjavik.

'There She Goes'



The U. S. S. Ellyson slides down the ways at Federal ship yards, Kearny, N. J. It took the water a short time after the U. S. S. Bristol, which was first out in the twin launching. Both ships were built in record time.

'V' Girl and 'V' Flag



Marie Kiley, selected as "V" Girl in New York, sitting on huge "V" flag, which bears Britain's victory symbols, letter V and Morse code equivalent, dot dot dot dash.

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