

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

FAR EAST POKER GAME

For perspective on the present South Pacific tug-of-war between Japan and Britain, it is well to remember that for years Thailand, then known as Siam, was a pawn in the power game of the bigger nations of the Pacific.

In this game the United States had a hand. For years, American financial advisers have been attached to the Thailand throne, one of them having been Francis Sayre, son-in-law of Woodrow Wilson, now high commissioner of the Philippines.

He wooed Thailand on many occasions, including the ornate reception given the former king of Siam, who as "Supreme Arbitrator of the Ebb and Flow of the Tide, Brother of the Moon, Half Brother of the Sun and Keeper of the Twenty-four Golden Umbrellas," came to Washington in the days of Herbert Hoover and was regally entertained.

The British were even more interested in the Siamese. British advisers for a time ran the kingdom's government, trained its army, supplied the one or two ships for its navy.

But half a dozen years ago the Japanese began preaching the doctrine of Asia for the yellow man, and Siam for the Siamese. That was how the name came to be changed to Thailand, a nationalistic token of home rule.

Reason for Japan's interest in this small country was not nationalism, but the fact that a slender finger of land, about as wide as the Isthmus of Kra, is controlled by Thailand. A canal through this isthmus, connecting the Indian ocean and the Gulf of Siam, would give a new short route from the Pacific to India, render Singapore impotent, and cut three days from the trip between Indo-China and Burma.

Such a canal would leave Singapore's giant guns and expensive naval bases guarding an out-of-date sea highway, almost as unimportant as the Straits of Magellan after the Panama canal was built.

That is one reason the British are ready to fight to keep the Japanese out of Thailand.

BRITISH INVASION PLANS

First British plan for an invasion of the continent (since the start of the Russian-Nazi conflict) was a landing in Holland. This, it was figured, would get sympathetic support from the Dutch; would create a second front requiring Hitler to divert part of his troops and airplanes from the Russian front.

The original British idea was to have the United States co-operate in a landing force. This, however, scarcely got beyond the informal suggestion stage. It was immediately and emphatically vetoed, first, for political reasons; second, because Roosevelt did not have the power to send troops abroad; third, because of the scarcity of shipping to transport and supply an American army overseas.

Since then, none of the proposals for creating a second European front has contemplated any American participation.

The second idea discussed was a British attempt through Spain and Portugal. This also scarcely got beyond the discussion stage, because it was figured, first, that the German army probably could take over Spain by the time British troops began to land; second, that even if a foothold could be obtained, a march across the Pyrenees to France would be too difficult.

The only part which the United States might have played in such a plan was to send food ships with which to help win over the Spanish population.

Norway Heavily Fortified.

Since then another plan for possible British invasion of Norway has been discussed. However, this also is difficult. The Nazis now have 10 divisions in Norway; more important, they have been working feverishly with characteristic German thoroughness to fortify Norwegian ports and possible invasion points.

The chief factor holding back the British, however, has been their lack of armored equipment. Although the British army is about 2,000,000 strong, only about 750,000 men are fully armed with modern equipment. And the most serious defect in their equipment is the lack of tanks.

Vast numbers of tanks were lost by the British at Dunquerque, a loss which has not yet been replenished. And no invasion of the continent could be successful without a powerful tank force.

Also, despite the strength of the Nazi army on the Russian front, a total of 47 well-equipped German divisions are stationed in western Europe. This is approximately 700,000 men.

Recent discussion of British aid to Russia has turned to the Near East and a British move from the Gulf of Persia, through Iran to the Russian oil fields of the Caucasus. These oil fields are one of the chief goals of the Nazi army, and once Hitler succeeds in taking the Ukraine, it would be relatively easy for him to cut off this supply.

The Once Over

by H.I. Phillips

THE PAPERS OF PRIVATE PURKEY

Dear Ma—

Well, I guess maybe I will be tossed into the guard house again or shot or put peeling more potatoes (and I don't know witch is worse). I got one of them post cards from the Sen. Wheeler First Committee and what I read in the newspapers about all the fuss being made about it makes me awful nervous. Only some good luck will save me. I wrote a note to the President like the Senator asked me to saying I was against getting into the European war. (I did not say positively though.) And I explained while I was against it I would go peacefully if ordered.

But even this was wrong and only a letter I just got from Nellie Petersen keeps me from a nervous breakdown. It seems I wrote a letter to Nellie the same time I wrote to Washington, and by mistake I put the letter about not getting into the war in Nellie's envelope and sent to Mr. Roosevelt the letter I meant for Nellie.

This wood seem a good break I guess but I am not two sure becuz how will the President know? The letter he got just began "My Darling Nellie" and what will he think of a private calling his superior a name like that? In the very first sentence of the letter witch he has it says "Remember all your promises to me my dear," and what is to keep him from thinking I am talking about the very promises mentioned on that Wheeler post card? He will not know I am just talking about the promises Nellie Petersen made to me about not dancing with Sergeant Mooney no more and about marrying me if I ever get through kitchen police duties.

I think that the letter witch I sent to President Roosevelt by mistake also says I am holding him to every promise he made last year witch means Nellie's promises about always being true to me and not the President's campaign promises but he will not know this I am afraid. I think I closed this letter with a line like "I am very serious about this, honey bunch, and if you go back on your word and try to two-time me in any way I will take no nonsense." You can see what a fix I am in, ma. Every time I see an officer coming my way I think General Marshall has sent for me.

I am in bad with Nellie two on account of she does not know what to make of the letter witch she got from me and witch was meant for the President. She says that I am a louse for ever writing it in the first place. Every time I have seen Nellie I have told her I was every inch a fighting man and that war held no terrors for me, no matter whether it was on home grounds or where, so I look pretty foolish to her writing a letter to the President that I am against any war that takes me far away from home.

Come what may, ma, I am in a tough spot and I feel two worried to write more now except to close saying I love you like always.

Your loving son,
Oscar.

Ima Dodo wants to do her part in the "V" campaign, so she is wearing a V-neck sweater.

TWEET! TWEET!

The St. George hotel at Bermuda is now occupied by the U. S. engineers corps, the picturesque Inverurie is occupied by the British contraband control, the Bermudian and Princess have been taken over by the censorship bureau and the Elbow Beach hotel will soon be occupied by U. S. navy officials. A good regulation honeymoon in that country seems pretty difficult just now.

THE HONEYMOON IS OVER

The two lovebirds
Are having words;
No more you see 'em kissing;
She tried to cook
Meals from a book
And Page 14 was missing!
—Merrill Chilcote.

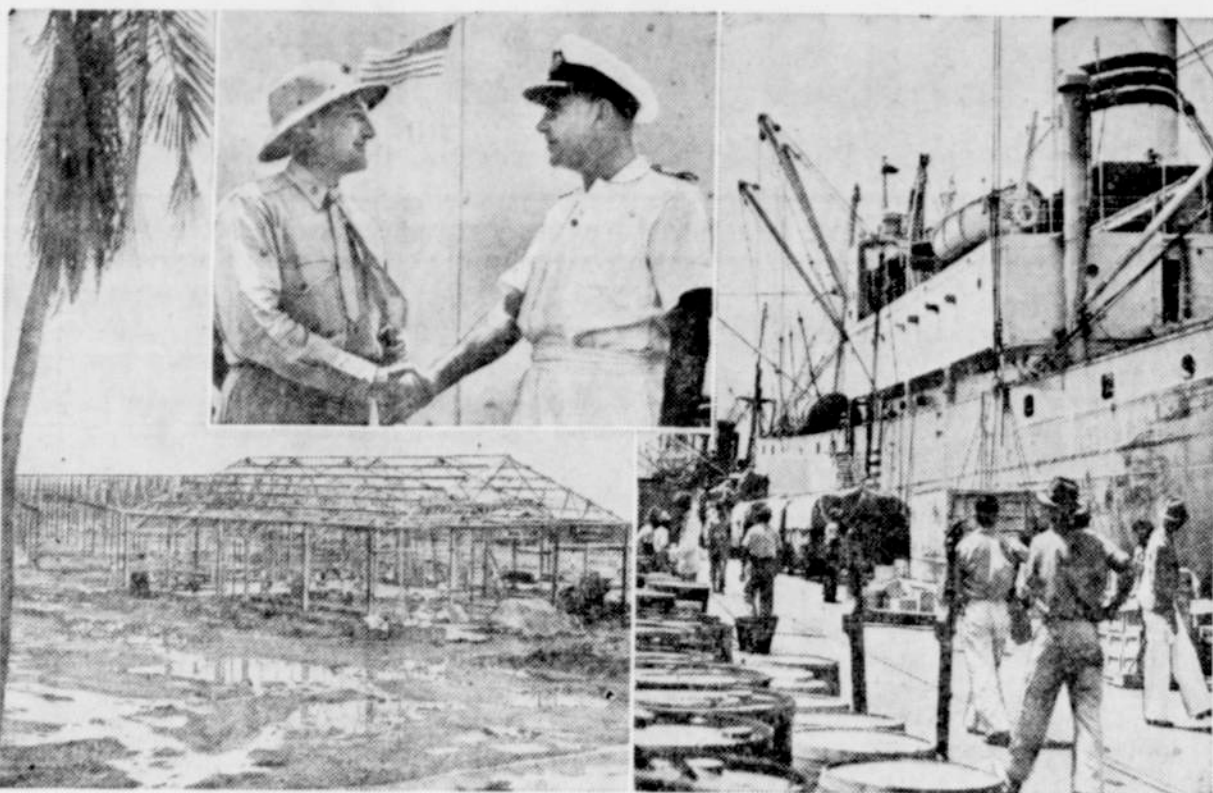
LUCK

Luck and pluck go hand in hand.
Pluck is Luck's big brother;
Luck will never come along
Unless you bring the other.
—Gordon R. Higham.

Smile by R. Roelofs Jr.—As patient as a chairman of a chess tournament.

Jumpy Julia, the most nervous guest at Ye Seaside Inn, hopes the gasoline economy drive begins with the outboard motor fanatics.

Where New U. S. Base Is Taking Shape



In the lower left is a view of part of the construction work on the U. S. base site at the British island of Trinidad, where the government is spending millions to make more secure the approaches to the Panama canal. Above is shown Major Stafford, commander of the marines at Trinidad, shaking hands with Commander St. George Lindsay of Britain's royal navy. Right: American ships unloading cargoes of material at Port of Spain.

A 'Mixed' Artillery Battery in Britain



The present World war is an experimental ground for many things that "were never done before." Typical of the never-nevers was the fetish that men and women could not work or fight together in the same regiment. At an artillery practice camp in England these taboos are ousted. Left, we see men and women of the battery parading together, and on the right they are receiving gun instruction together. The test is successful.

American Base in Greenland



A scene at the American base in Greenland, showing two patrol ships tied to an oil tanker, with a coast guard tug beside them. In far background is a U. S. army transport, while in the foreground can be seen soldiers aboard the transport from which this was taken. This picture is from the first shipment of photos of the American forces in Greenland.

New Senator



Roger C. Peace, the new senator from South Carolina, publisher of the News-Piedmont, Greenville, S. C., who was appointed by Governor Maybank to fill out unexpired term of late Sen. Alva Lumpkin, who died after serving less than two weeks in the senate.

Fighting Photographer



For the first time since the World war, fighting photographers are being trained by the U. S. army. The photographers are taught to crawl up into the front lines and get pictures of real action. Here one of the front lines lens lads at Ft. Benning, Ga., leaps a trench, camera in hand. Behind him comes his assistant with film and other equipment.

Adviser to Stimson



Maj. Gen. John F. O'Ryan of New York, veteran commander of the New York National Guard, who has been appointed senior adviser to Henry Stimson, secretary of war.

Two-Thirds Loaf
"How many people work in the government office?"
"About one-third of them."

DRESSING



"Maude looks good enough to eat."
"Be careful! They say she employs artificial coloring matter."

WE FOUND A BETTER WAY



THE BETTER WAY TO TREAT CONSTIPATION DUE TO LACK OF PROPER "BULK" IN THE DIET IS TO CORRECT THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE WITH A DELICIOUS CEREAL, KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN... EAT IT EVERY DAY AND DRINK PLenty OF WATER.

Establish a Standard
Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God.—George Washington.

INDIGESTION

Doctors know that gas trapped in the stomach or gullet may set like a hair-trigger on the heart. They set gas free with the fastest-acting medicine known—the fastest, act like the medicines in Bellamy Tablets. Try Bellamy today. If the FIRST DOSE doesn't prove Bellamy better, return bottle to us and receive DOUBLE money back. 50c. at all drug stores.

Life a Gift
Whatever a man has, is in reality only a gift.—Wieland.

Nervous Restless Girls!

Cranky? Restless? Can't sleep? Tired easily? Because of distress of monthly functional disturbances? Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Pinkham's Compound is famous for relieving pain of irregular periods and cranky nervousness due to such disturbances. One of the most effective medicines you can buy today for this purpose—made especially for women. WORTH TRYING!

Doing of Revenge
Revenge converts a little right into a great wrong.

DIARRHEA

DUE to dietary indiscretions, change of drinking water or sudden changes in weather can be quickly relieved by Wakefield's Blackberry Balsam. For 94 years a household remedy. Sold at all drug stores. Be sure to ask for genuine

Wakefield's BLACKBERRY BALSAM Compound

Custom a Habit
Custom is almost a second nature.—Plutarch.

Pain of Stomach Ulcers

FREE BOOKLET
DUE TO GASTRIC-HYPERACIDITY
RELIEF
obtained by thousands through use of Van's Pink Tablets—without rigid liquid diet! Simple home treatment. Learn all about it. Write today—no obligation. 500,000 users. Written Guarantee as to Money Back. Send our guarantee, sent with free booklet. Write to—
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