

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C. F. D. R. RESISTS PRESSURE TO SEND NAVY VESSELS WITH SUPPLIES

The most important question discussed in inner administration circles before the President made his recent defense speech was that of using American warships to convey supplies across the Atlantic to Irish or British waters. This question probably was in the President's mind also when he wrote the speech.

The problem has been debated among some of Roosevelt's close advisers ever since British emissaries brought word that while England could withstand airplane bombardment it could not withstand the continued sinking of its merchant vessels. The British also made it clear that more over-age U. S. destroyers would not do the trick, because the royal navy was running short of trained crews.

So far, the President has shied away from any such drastic step as using American naval vessels to guard supply ships across the Atlantic. Some of his advisers have leaned toward the idea, but Roosevelt has argued against it. He maintains, first, that it would be in violation of the Neutrality act and could not be done without an act of congress; second, that if an American naval vessel were sunk it would mean war.

Some of Roosevelt's advisers contend that the last thing Hitler wants is to bring the United States into the war; that the effect on the German people (who remember how the United States tipped the scales in the last war) would be devastating. However, the President hasn't fallen for the idea yet, though he is watching carefully the effect of his speech on public opinion.

PANAMA CANAL TROUBLE

Although the Roosevelt Good Neighbor program has been about 99 per cent successful in Latin America, there is one contrary spot which is causing army and navy officials genuine worry. That spot is the most strategic of all countries below the Rio Grande—Panama.

Panama is now governed by a president who has all the earmarks of leaning toward the Axis and who is holding back on the granting of important emergency landing fields, anti-aircraft and searchlight positions on Panamanian territory to the U. S.

The president, Arnulfo Arias, served for six years as Panamanian minister in continental Europe, and now fetes Italian and German consuls in Panama while ignoring the British and Americans.

He has also chosen as his secretary a near-albino named Antonio Isaza, who served as consul in Hamburg and whose fair hair and blue eyes have caused him to be a great rooter for the Nazi theory of supremacy of the Aryan race. Isaza seems firmly convinced that Hitler is sure to dominate the world and has had great influence with his chief in the presidential palace.

It is important to remember that in order to defend the Panama canal, army operations outside the actual Canal Zone, on territory of the Panama Republic, are necessary. This was provided for by the first treaty negotiated by Secretary of War William Howard Taft, and gave the U. S. army the right to use Panamanian soil during emergencies.

However, the Panamanian government under President Arnulfo Arias is now talking about ousting U. S. forces from the vital U. S. army air field at Rio Hato, which is on Panama soil, and is holding back on granting various emergency airports and anti-aircraft gun placements.

So pronounced are the Nazi leanings of the president that his brother, Harmodio Arias, most influential newspaper publisher in Panama, has quarreled with him. Harmodio Arias gave Panama four years of excellent government as president from 1932 to 1936 and is one of the chief boosters of Panama-American co-operation. His opposition, however, has brought threats that his paper, the Panama-American, would be closed by the government.

Meanwhile, the state department, worried over the situation, soon will shake up its embassy staff in Panama, put one of its skilled trouble-shooters on the job.

AIR CORPS FICTION

Few people know that in his private life the man who stands at the head of the expanding army air corps is an author of books for boys. Maj. Gen. Harold H. ("Hap") Arnold, chief of the air corps, has written six books that read like the Rover Boys and bear such titles as "Bill Bruce and the Pioneer Aviators," "Bill Bruce Becomes an Ace," and "Bill Bruce on Border Patrol." The father of three boys, General Arnold used to write aviation stories for them as a fireside hobby.

Washington, D. C. DEFENSE PRIORITIES

There is about to issue in Washington an executive order recreating something very close, in form at least, to the War Industries board of 1918.

While it will not disturb the recent quadrumvirate of Stimson for the army, Knox for the navy, Knudsen for industry and Hillman for organized labor; Knudsen will be the actual working member and the show will center around him. Like the 1918 organization, there will be departments for priorities, commanding and price control. Some of the latter will not be the central organization. Neither were they all there in World War I.

The price-fixing commission was then a separate organization, housed with the War Industries board, the chairman of which was a member. The commanding section was composed of officials of the various purchasing departments and, while its orders had all to be signed by the chairman of the big board, its organization was separate.

Of these three key departments, only the priorities commission was an integral part of the big board. In practice it made no difference. They all worked in perfect harmony.

This is the general pattern of the new proposal with Mr. Stettinius probably at the head of the priorities division, Mr. Sidney Hillman conducting labor relations and Leon Henderson presiding over prices. If this happens, priorities and price control will both be outside the production office of the four-man control and in the advisory commission.

If there is a disagreement between these two, the army and navy secretaries will have the deciding votes.

This is unfortunate. These gentlemen want ever-increasing production and are bound to be impatient with delay. The most obvious delays will be labor strikes and disputes. If the army and navy side with industry (Mr. Knudsen) the welkin will ring with complaints not only from labor but from every radical element in Washington, none of which like this arrangement anyway, and all of whom think business men should not be in it.

So the armed services will come in for a hail of epithets—reactionary, Tory brass hat, martinets, dictatorial and even Nazis or Fascists.

This is too bad. Neither the army nor the navy should be put in a position of having to decide such disputes. Some wholly impartial agency should do that and this organization does not provide such a tribunal. The split in the ranks of organized labor makes Mr. Hillman's position doubly difficult.

A NEW ORDER?

Early in this new year, there is a lot of talk about bringing a new order. This new order seems to be some kind of regimented society—socialism.

In England, Mr. Winston Churchill tells his people, there will be something new—that more people will have more privileges. Far be it from this column to depreciate the prime minister.

We might not agree with Churchill but we must admit that, whether it is his American blood or the British blood of one of the greatest of soldiers, the duke of Marlborough, Mr. Churchill is a force in the world.

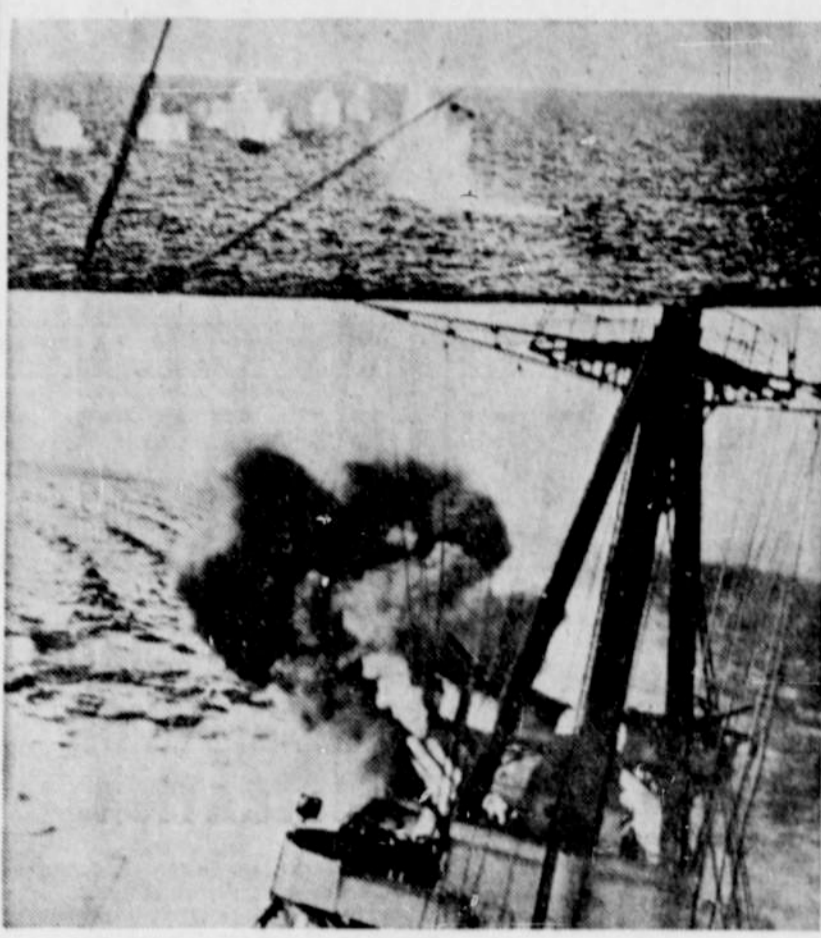
This is not intended to be a critique of war strategy. It is a criticism of economic strategy. Do we have to remake our world on some sort of regimented pattern of human effort? The idea on which America was built was half Thomas Jefferson and half Adam Smith.

Their greatest works came out in the same year—1776. We don't hear so much about Mr. Smith. We hear a lot about Mr. Jefferson. Both said the same thing in different ways. They said that if we release the energies of millions of people to invent their own fortune and future in their own way the human race will progress much faster than if we try to tell people from some central fort of knowledge and goodness how to prosper, free and happy.

It is doubtless true that, in our more crowded communities, more regulation is necessary. But there is still no man sufficiently smart to be smart enough for all men. There has been no man since Jesus good enough for all men. What we need is to continue our trust in the mass of us. After all, what went before democracy was effort regimented by some king or tyrant. There is nothing new in these new ideas. The question is simply whether regimented effort is better than free effort. What we have done in this country by free effort speaks for our system.

The American formula of democracy—of leaving every man not only free but dependent on nothing but his own efforts—is what our fathers thought would produce a maximum result for all people. "Shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves in three generations," means nothing more. Whether men are dependent on what their fathers have saved or whether they are dependent on a beneficent government—which means on the rest of us—the result is the same. They simply are not any good.

Italians Claim Victory in Naval Battle



According to the Rome caption on these photos, they were made during a recent naval engagement between the British and Italian fleets south of Sardinia. Top is a view of the British salvo falling wide of its mark. Below, the Italian warship zigzagging (see wake) as it fires at enemy. British claim Italians ran away. Italians claim vice-versa.

Survives Bomb



Despite the fact that the interior of this infants' home in London was badly charred, this hobby horse is carried out seemingly intact by the volunteer firefighter. The building was struck by a bomb.

Three Killed in West Coast Train Wreck



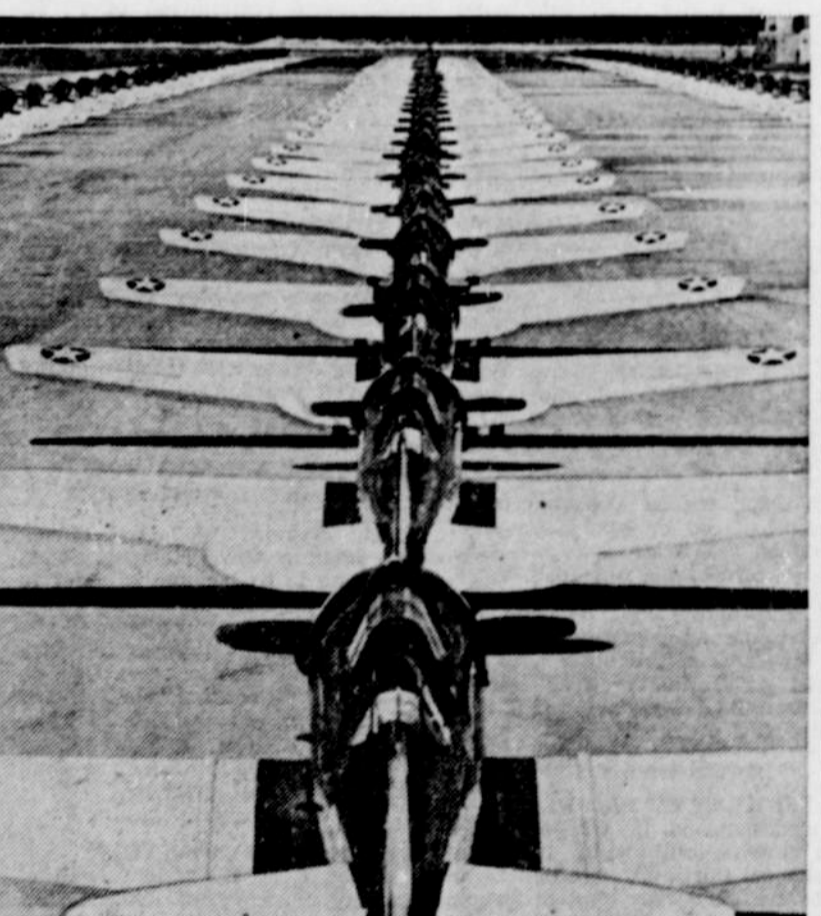
This picture shows the wreckage of the engine and three freight cars after a northbound Santa Fe freight train struck a "mushy" spot in the rain-soaked roadbed and crashed off the ledge into a sand bed, at Del Mar, Calif. Three of the train crew were killed.

Held by Japs



Corp. Francis Barber, of Dorchester, Mass., one of five U. S. marines held 17 hours by Jap police at Peking, China. Four of the five were beaten up before release.

Lesson in Perspective for Prospective Pilots



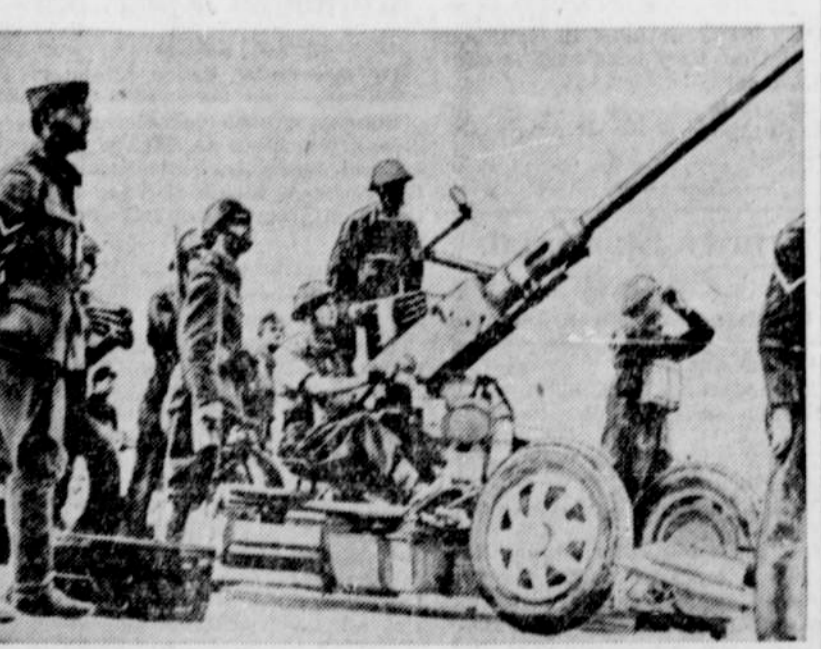
Remember how the railroad tracks seemed to meet in the distance? Well, nowadays a string of airplanes has the same effect. The imaginary line of the wing tips is drawing towards a point in the distance. These are some of the training craft at the "West Point of the Air," Randolph Field, Texas. The planes will be used for training the 500 flying cadets.

Electoral Votes



Here is Col. Edwin Halsey, senate secretary, receiving the presidential electoral votes of all states, just before the new Seventy-seventh congress convened. Election is not "official" until congress actually opens and reads these votes.

First Picture on Greek War



The first picture of Greek and British soldiers together in the war against Italy. This picture was made on the strategic island of Crete. Greek soldiers watch English soldiers man an anti-aircraft gun. The British use the island of Crete as a base for air raids on Italy.

Close Harmony



German Ambassador Von Stohrer (right) with Ramon Serrano Suner, brother-in-law of General Franco, on a tour of Madrid. Suner is said to be very Axis-minded.

Things to do



2693

WILL the little tots be proud of these warm slippers! They come in three sizes. You can use angora or another wool for the dots that are embroidered on.

Pattern 2693 contains directions for making slippers in 2, 4 and 6-year size; illustrations of them and stitches; materials required; photo of pattern stitch. Send orders to:

Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept. 82 Eighth Ave. New York Enclose 15 cents in coins for Pattern No. Name Address

Flag Display

According to the United States Flag association there are three known places where the flag flies both day and night. They are: The World War memorial in Worcester, Mass.; the Grave of Francis Scott Key, Frederick, Md.; the east and west entrances of the United States Capitol.

The only written statute or rule concerning the 24-hour display was set forth in the report of the capitol architect for 1938, which stated that the flag was to fly in all weather, all times over the Capitol.

INDIGESTION

Gas trapped in the stomach or gullet may act like a hair trigger on the heart. At the first sign of distress smart men and women depend on Doan's Tablets to get gas free. No laxative but made of the fattening, medicine known for acid indigestion. If the FIRST DOSE doesn't prove Doan's better, return bottle to us and receive DOUBLE MONEY BACK, J.M.

Without religion, genius is only a lamp on the outer gate of a palace. It may serve to cast a gleam of light on those without, while the inhabitant sits in darkness.

TO RELIEVE MISERY OF COLDS quickly use 666 LIQUID TABLETS SALINE NOSE DROPS COUGH DROPS

Past Is Gone Look not mournfully into the past; it comes not back again—Longfellow.

THE TRUTH SIMPLY TOLD Today's popularity of Doan's Pills, after many years of world-wide use, surely must be accepted as evidence of satisfactory use. And favorable public opinion supports that of the able physicians who test the value of Doan's under exacting laboratory conditions.

These physicians, too, approve every word of advertising you read, the objective of which is only to recommend Doan's Pills as a good diuretic treatment for disorder of the kidney function and for relief of the pain and worry it causes. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove waste that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole body suffers when kidneys lag, and diuretic medication would be more often employed. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warn of disturbed kidney function. You may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel weak, nervous, all played out. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won world-wide acclaim than on something less favorably known. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS

CREATING NEW WEALTH TO ORDER

Advertising creates new wealth by showing people new and better ways of living, and as it creates new wealth it contributes to the prosperity of everyone touched by the flow of money which is set up. In this way, don't you see, advertising is a social force which is working in the interest of every one of us every day of the year, bringing us new wealth to use and enjoy.