

# The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

# My Week

by Eleanor Roosevelt

### WASHINGTON, D. C. NAZIS SHY OF MAGNESIUM

Examination by U. S. experts of the captured Messerschmitt sent here by the British has uncovered one highly significant fact: The Nazis are now using only 1 to 200 pounds of magnesium in the construction of these famous fighter planes.

This low Nazi magnesium content is compared to the 400-500 pounds used in similar U. S. planes made of this featherweight metal, one-third lighter than aluminum. Our big bombers use as much as 1,000 pounds of magnesium. The more magnesium used, the lighter the over-all weight of the planes.

This is considered evidence that German magnesium production is not keeping pace with Luftwaffe requirements. If it were, the Nazis would certainly be using more magnesium in their planes, because of its extreme lightness and strength. Heavier metals increase the dead weight, reducing the ship's lifting power, speed and cruising range, all vital factors in aerial combat.

If, as the experts believe, German magnesium production is falling behind war needs, it is highly important. Under the Nazis, Germany took the world lead in the output of this strategic metal.

For years the United States lagged behind because of cartel agreements between magnesium and aluminum manufacturers, which kept down production. In 1939, U. S. magnesium production barely totaled 7,000,000 pounds. By 1940, as a result of frantic defense efforts, this was stepped up to 12,500,000 pounds, still far short of army, navy and aid-Britain requirements.

Large scale output of certain types of aircraft is being held up until several new magnesium plants get into operation. OPM plans call for an output of 75,000,000 pounds in 1942. If no hitches develop, the 50,000,000-pound mark may be reached by the end of this year.

### TEXTILE PROFITS

When OPM Purchasing Chief Donald Nelson remarked at his press conference that textile prices were under scrutiny, his words went unnoticed in the press. But to textile insiders they sent cold shivers up the spine.

What Nelson did not reveal, but which they knew, was that his associate, Leon Henderson, defense price regulator, had quietly completed a survey showing that the mill margins (profits) are the highest in history. Henderson's figures show a jump in mill margins from 10.68 in June, 1940, to 16 in February, 1941, and still going up.

If the price paid growers for cotton had kept pace with that of textiles, it would be selling today at around 20 cents a pound instead of 10.71—its present figure. Informally, Henderson has warned textile leaders to watch their step, indicating willingness to allow them to put on the brakes themselves.

### TB PROTECTION

At cost of less than a penny apiece, the navy is taking pictures of the lungs of all new recruits, to weed out the unfit before they become government charges for life. Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, surgeon general of the navy, estimates that the pennies will save taxpayers many millions. Veterans' hospitals are full of TB cases from the last war—many of whom probably had the disease before they entered the service.

The new device takes a photograph on a 35-mm. film of a fluoroscope, replacing the larger and far more expensive X-ray picture. So revolutionary is the change that manufacturers of X-ray equipment opposed it for fear of losing business.

The navy did the pioneering in "mass chest surveys," but gives credit as the original pioneer to a Brazilian named D'Abreu.

### NO GLITTER

No phase of modern defensive warfare, in which attacking planes must be checked, is considered more vital than the art of camouflage. The British long ago learned that one effective protection against daytime bombing of an army in the field was to make sure no equipment reflects the sun. The U. S. army is following this same sound rule.

All glitter has been ordered removed from military equipment. Even bayonets are being dipped in a special blue finish to prevent shine. The dull olive surface of staff cars, troop transport trucks and other vehicles was designed to this end. It blends with the landscape and is a safeguard against air attacks.

### MERRY-GO-ROUND

Three years ago Hans Karl-Heinz Sennhenn, young German immigrant, declared his intention to become a U. S. citizen and received his first naturalization papers. Under the Selective Service act that makes him a "declarant alien" and subject to draft. But now a clerk at the German embassy, Sennhenn is fighting being drafted on the ground that he is not a U. S. citizen and does not want to be one. Mrs. Roosevelt's morning mail consists of 900 to 1,000 letters.

### Rural Electrification

I have been doing so many things the last few days, that I keep remembering happenings which I forgot to tell you.

One recent afternoon, in Washington, there was a meeting of the workers in the rural electrification program from all over the country. I had the pleasure of being with them for a few minutes and I mention it here because, from the beginning, this program has seemed to me to be of such general importance to the rural people of our nation.

Every time electricity is taken to some remote spot, it brings new opportunity to the farmer to lighten his labors. It allows him to accomplish more and, therefore, increases his buying power.

To the woman of the house it brings relief from back-breaking toil, a better standard in home life, more time to spend with the children, and less weariness at the end of the day. The men and women working in this program are fundamentally changing our life for the better.

### 'COVERING GROUND'

It seems as though I were covering a good deal of ground these days. One day I had the pleasure of meeting for a few minutes Mr. Darrell Brown, the young artist who won a prize offered by Mr. Isaac Liberman, president of Arnold Constable company, for painting a portrait of me in the dress I wore on Inauguration night. I thought I had never seen him and, since I am not particularly interested in portraits myself, I think I must have seemed a rather unsatisfactory subject. This, however, is a portrait of the dress. I was interested to learn that I had met Mr. Brown some years ago in Iowa, and was glad to be able to show him the Lincoln portrait in the State dining room, which he liked as much as we do.

We had a number of friends with us for lunch in the afternoon. I received Senora Najera, wife of the Mexican ambassador, and Senora Avila Camacho, whose husband is brother of the president of Mexico. After that, I received the high school senior class from Staatsburgh, N. Y. which is the village next to Hyde Park. They have been very fortunate in having such good weather and I am sure enjoyed their trip.

The crowds in Washington are great. I do not remember seeing so much traffic. I am particularly glad that the cherry blossoms are out, so that no one who came hoping to see them will go away disappointed.

The White House has been filled to capacity with sight-seers during the visiting hours, and I am sure this is so with all the public buildings. Our own young people went out to Mt. Vernon one day and could not even get inside the house.

### SPRINGTIME

Starting for a speaking engagement in Charlotte, N. C., we arrived in Greensboro, N. C., on time. A plane sent over by the Charlotte News Publishing company, which was sponsoring my lecture, was waiting on the field. The College for Women at Greensboro had sent a few representatives to greet me with a box of flowers, and the local radio man was also there with a microphone so I could say a few words of greeting before starting on the other plane for Charlotte.

All this was done very rapidly, and then we climbed into the smaller plane with a delightful young pilot and reporter from the News, who acted as one of our hostesses during the day. We were soon looking down on the fields and woods of North Carolina.

It seemed more like summer than spring. The flowers were all out and the dogwood was in full bloom. Somehow or other, this "little" trip to southern California and then to North Carolina, seems to have robbed me of that first feeling of spring creeping over the landscape.

There was no sign of spring the last time I was in Hyde Park and suddenly, when I was back in Washington, everything was out—magnolias, forsythias, daffodils; everything seemed in full bloom overnight! Perhaps, when I get back to Hyde Park in early May, I shall get that first sense of life awakening again in the trees, fields and marshes.

As we came through Virginia in the morning, one hillside seemed to me particularly beautiful. The leaves on the trees were pale green and a soft reddish brown. In between, some kind of white blossom glistened and the purple of the Judas tree was everywhere in sight.

### CURRENT READING

In the past few days I have had so much time on planes and trains that I actually finished reading everything I took with me. I may have mentioned to you before "War By Revolution," by a young Englishman, Francis Williams, who has been in politics for a number of years. I was much interested in it because I feel that his contention is correct, that really to win the fight against Hitlerism, the people in all the countries under Hitler's control must want freedom and a better life brought by their own action.

## Hearing on 3 1/2 Billion Tax Bill



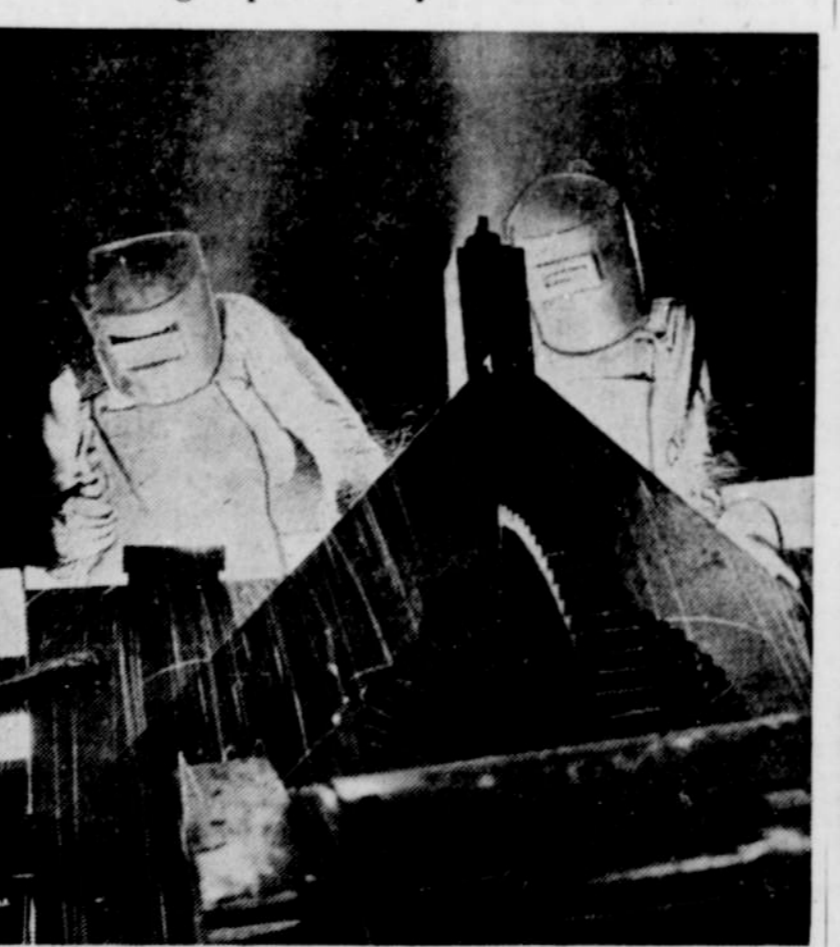
Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. (indicated by arrow) appearing before the house ways and means committee regarding the treasury's \$3,500,000,000 revenue program, said: "We face a greater challenge than at any time in the history of the republic." He warned that all classes "shall bear their fair share of the burden."

## Nazi Prisoners Recaptured After Break



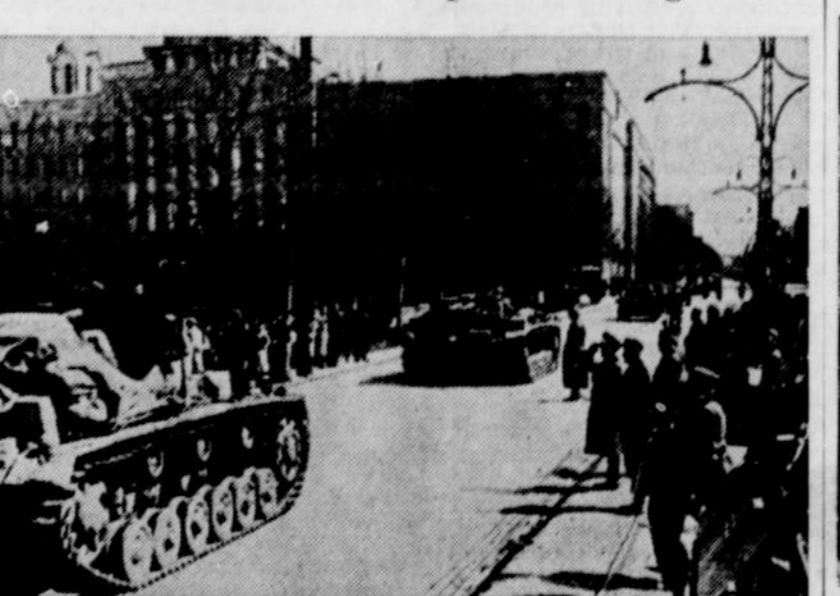
Under guard of Constable T. J. Johnston (left) of the Royal Canadian mounted police and Lance Corporal Henderson of the Canadian army, two of the 28 German prisoners of war who fled from an internment camp at Peninsula, Ontario, are shown on the railroad car in which they were returned. Twenty of the fugitives have been rounded up.

## Making Sparks Fly at Tank Plant



This picture is typical of the way the national defense program is progressing. Here two hooded welders at the plant of the American Car and Foundry company in Berwick, Pa., are shown at work on some of the armor plate that goes on the fighting tanks being turned out by the hundred. Tanks roll off the assembly line at a rapid rate.

## Panzer Parade in Captured Belgrade



Radio-photo of German panzer units parading down one of the main thoroughfares in Belgrade in review before General Von Kleist, after the occupation of the Yugoslav capital. Part of Parliament square is shown in background. After 11 days of fighting the Yugoslavs capitulated.

## Warriors Meet



Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell (left), commander of the British expeditionary force in North Africa, pictured with Gen. Jan Smuts, premier of the Union of South Africa, in Cairo, Egypt. In South Africa, every European resident-citizen between 17 and 60 is eligible for military duty.

## Makes Report



Brig. Gen. Brehon Somervell, army construction division chief, before Truman senate committee. He said that almost over night his division was required to produce living facilities for a population half again as big as the city of St. Louis.

## Visits F. D. R.



Premier W. L. Mackenzie King, of Canada, stepping out of his car to confer with the President at the White House. Aid for Canada on a lend-lease basis was said to have been the chief topic of discussion at the meeting.

## Still Holds Floor



Wendell Willkie addressing the "Americans of Polish Origin" at their dinner in New York. At left is Gen. W. Sikorski, premier of the Polish government in London.

## U. S. Civil Service Jobs Offer Chances for Many



HAVE you been thinking about the United States Civil Service, wondering if there's a spot you can fill, an opportunity for you?

There may be, for Uncle Sam needs clerks, typists, nurses, doctors, border patrolmen, machinists, guards and many others to carry on his work all over the country.

How to apply for a job, what rules you must follow are explained in our new 32-page booklet. Lists many U. S. Civil Service positions, stating requirements and salaries. Explains different types of examinations and how to apply. Send order for booklet to:

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635 Sixth Ave. New York City  
Enclose 10 cents in coin for your copy of GETTING A JOB WITH THE U. S. GOVERNMENT.

## Restaurateur Believed Himself Well Supplied

The couple had enjoyed a meal in the restaurant. When the bill was presented the husband was horrified to discover he had come out without money.

Calling the proprietor, he explained the situation, ending up with: "It won't take me long to slip home, and my wife will remain here as security."

"Pardon me," said the proprietor, "haven't you anything else?"

"Sir," snapped the customer angrily, "are you insinuating that my wife is not worth the \$1.50?"

"Not at all," the proprietor protested, "but I already have a wife!"

## Neighborly Duty

One person I have to make good; myself. But my duty to my neighbor is much more nearly expressed by saying that I have to make him happy—if I may.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

### Black Leaf 40

KILLS APHIS

One ounce of "Black Leaf 40" makes six gallons of effective aphid spray. Use Black Leaf 40 on aphids, leafhoppers, leaf miners, young sucking bugs, weevils, beetles, mealy bugs and most thrips, where found on trees, shrubs, plants or garden crops.

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Unfortunate One  
There is no one more unfortunate than the man who has never been unfortunate, for it has never been in his power to try himself.—Seneca.

### DON'T BE BOSSSED

BY YOUR LAXATIVE—RELIEVE CONSTIPATION THIS MODERN WAY

When you feel gassy, headachy, lousy due to clogged-up bowels, do as millions do—take Feen-A-Mint at bedtime. Next morning—thorough, comfortable relief, helping you start the day full of your normal energy and pep, feeling like a million! Feen-A-Mint doesn't disturb your night's rest or interfere with work the next day. Try Feen-A-Mint, the chewing gum laxative, yourself. It tastes good, it's handy and economical... a family supply costs only

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### Facts of ADVERTISING

• ADVERTISING represents the leadership of a nation. It points the way. We merely follow—follow to new heights of comfort, of convenience, of happiness.

As time goes on advertising is used more and more, and as it is used more we all profit more. It's the way advertising has—

of bringing a profit to everybody concerned, the consumer included