

# NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

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## RUSSIA WILL BE POSTWAR POWER

WASHINGTON. — The censorious air of the Dumbarton Oaks peace conference is filled with light tales of efforts to be charming to the Russians.

In the matter of seating for pictures, for instance, it was arranged so the Russian delegates would be on the right hand of the Americans. For many generations past, the British always have sat there or at the head of European peace conference tables.

Protocol practitioners of our state department sank into a dither when one newspaper caption on the picture erroneously identified the British as occupying the position of the Russians.

Indeed, one business analyst-reporter here was officially advised that his comments on the meeting were "not helpful to American-Soviet relations," as if the official attitude should control the press accounts.

Some may think a little realism might help relations a lot more, or make them more solid for the long run.

Investigation indicates the extreme deference to Russia, however, is not necessarily being carried to the extent of accepting entirely her wishes in the peace. The Moscow idea of an international air force, for one instance, appears to have been rejected.

The attitude seems due rather to a prevailing diplomatic impression that the Russians are sensitive and easily offended, which should put them in a good bargaining position. I wish all the people with whom I do business would consider me sensitive.

Behind it also is the unannounced conviction high in Washington and London that there will be war with Russia within 15 years unless a mutually acceptable postwar peace understanding is reached now.

The British are especially afraid of Russia. They see her not only sitting at their usual place at this conference but in the Balkans as well, and indeed likely to sit there over all Europe.

For instance, there were four French underground movements, all separate, but the strongest of these was the Russian. In the temporary DeGaulle cabinet, these elements are acquiring posts of power.

## The Balkan Policy.

The Balkan nations, formerly guided by British financial and political policy, are at least unsettled, and the same problem in Italy has reached the point of a clash, despite our efforts to postpone meeting the issue as long as possible.

This is an unavoidable, apparent and dominant matter of the peace and to try to hold the public head in the sand will not solve the situation. The truth is, Russia is establishing a new place for herself in the world, and any concrete agreement for postwar stabilization means stabilization protecting her new position as well as our own.

Formerly she was a revolutionary minority in the world, and therefore naturally antagonistic to the world status, but now she has acquired a status of great power and therefore needs a conservative world order. The Russians seem to me to be ultra-realists.

On the other hand, it is equally true that much of our peace proposal talk is following obsolete thought guided by past history instead of coming history. We think mainly of putting the screws upon Germany and Japan so they never can rise again, but they can easily be put down to minor military powers, and kept there as long as the world is alert.

The major military forces existing after this war will be divided between the United States and Russia, and the mutual relations between these two alone are apt to have more to do with the future peace of the world than whatever we do to Germany and Japan.

But this is not the only invisible electricity in the air at Dumbarton Oaks. South Dakota's Senator Bushfield was right in his contention in the senate that the American security plan would give the President the power to declare war.

While the administration does not wish to admit this now, fearing the point may become involved in the campaign, it does not intend to change that recommendation.

By unanimous vote of the Big Four nations on the proposed executive council (United States, Britain, Russia and China), military action could be taken.

Thus the President, who naturally would dominate the American council, could send troops anywhere in the world without consent of congress.

The true administration position on this is hardly along the line Senator Connally offered to Bushfield. It truly feels speed is essential to throttle military aggression.

# The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON

Washington, D. C.

## CONGRESSMEN TO LONDON

Without any publicity, the British government has quietly moved to improve British good will by arranging air transportation for six congressmen to London. They will inspect the damage done by the robot blitz and take side trips into France.

The British embassy did not actually invite the congressmen to come to England, but made a point of letting three Republicans and three Democrats know that seats on British planes leaving New York for London were available.

First pair to go were Representatives James Richards, South Carolina Democrat, and Karl Mundt, South Dakota Republican. They were followed by Democratic Congressman Brooks Hays of Arkansas and Republican Walter Judd of Minnesota. The latter trip may be significant since it occurred only a few days after these two had introduced their resolution calling for bi-partisan consideration of the peace terms by this country.

The last pair includes Republican Walt Horan of Washington and Democrat Chet Holifield of California. Holifield, incidentally, was planning a quick trip overseas in order to check on some lend-lease matters for the house Democratic leadership. Each pair consists of one Republican and one Democrat, with the British determined to do all they can to prevent inter-party strife in the U.S.A. from interfering with the peace conference.

The congressmen were told by the British: "We have already been host to several American scientists and educators for brief trips across, and we don't like to discriminate against congressmen."

## ALLIED SKI TROOPS

For the first time in the war, Canadian and American ski troops are due to see the sort of action they were trained for.

The first special service force, trained in mountain warfare at Helena, Mont., and in Alaska and the Aleutians, is now in southern France with the forces of General Patch. A thrust across the Maritime Alps into northern Italy will give them their first actual skiing action. This special service force includes both Canadians and Americans, and will probably come up against German rear-guard units as the Allied armies chase the Nazis toward the Brenner pass.

## ELECTION IN BRITAIN

British government leaders aren't saying anything about it, but Roosevelt has been tipped off by Churchill that immediately after the fall of Germany a general election will be held in England.

In fact, Churchill's Conservative party leaders have already sent instructions down to their borough leaders to begin organizing for a national election.

Churchill's party strategists have already had conferences with leaders of the Labor party and have sought their support for a continuation of a future coalition government. The Labor leaders of the Churchill cabinet, however, have said no. They believe that after the war, Labor should go on its own.

Conservative leaders, however, figure that the rank and file of the Labor party will not follow their leaders but, instead, will follow Churchill.

Churchill's move in calling the general election immediately after the armistice is considered very shrewd timing. Today he is popular in England. A few months from now he may not be. The British prime minister will stand on his war record, and his cooperation with Roosevelt will not be played down as one reason why he should be returned to power. It is expected that the Conservative party will win without too much difficulty.

## NAZIS IN SPAIN

Once again Nazi troops are making for Spanish soil. Members of the army which got its first taste of war seven years ago by putting Franco in Madrid, today are stealing through the French countryside below Bordeaux to be interned in Spain rather than be captured by the Fighting French. This was why the Spanish ambassador in Washington last week issued his statement barring Nazi exiles.

However, a real test of U. S.-Spanish policy is in the making. Some Nazi military men are already in Spain, plus French collaborationists who will later be charged with war crimes against France. It will be up to U. S. Ambassador Carlton Hayes, apologist for the Franco government, to deal with them.

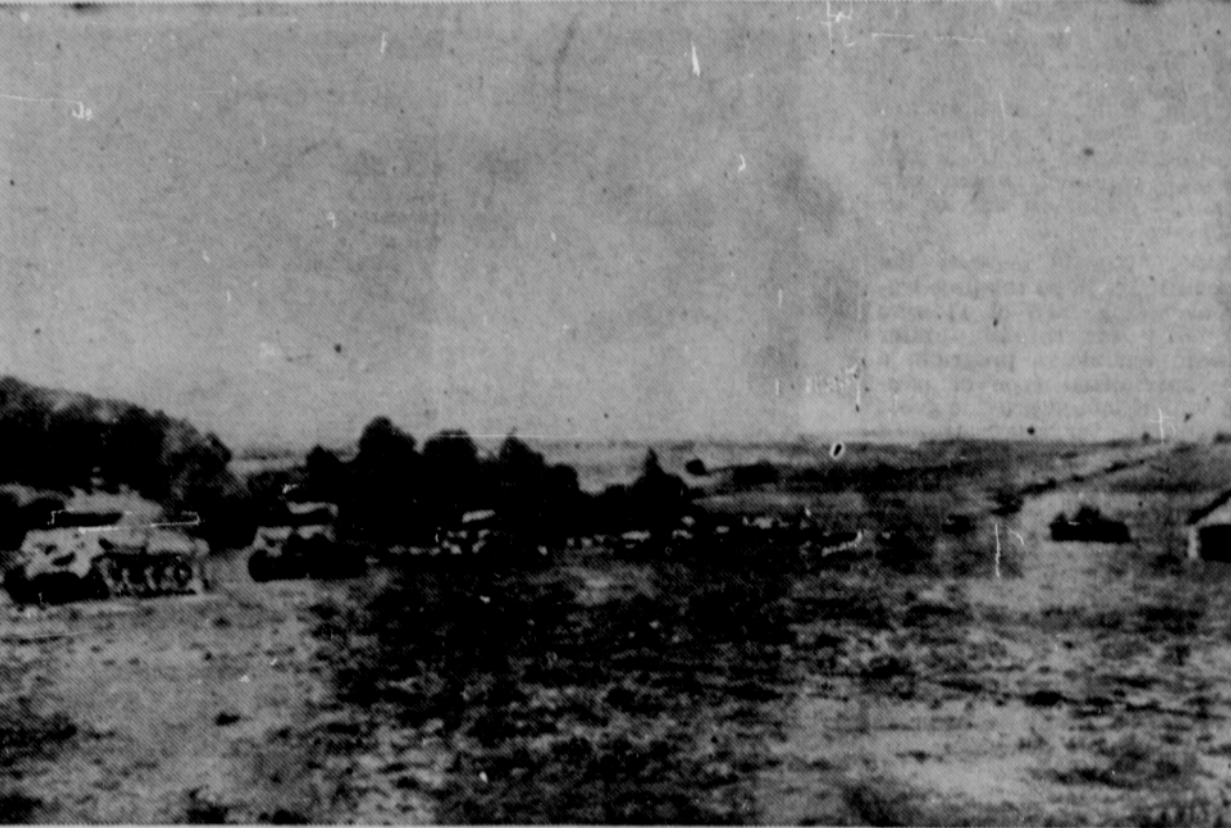
## CAPITAL CHAFF

GI Joes are plenty peeved over the army's mustering-out pay program. Canada gives its discharged men \$100 for clothing, plus \$9 for each month's service.

GI Joes are writing the war department that most men will need an entirely new wardrobe costing their total mustering-out pay.

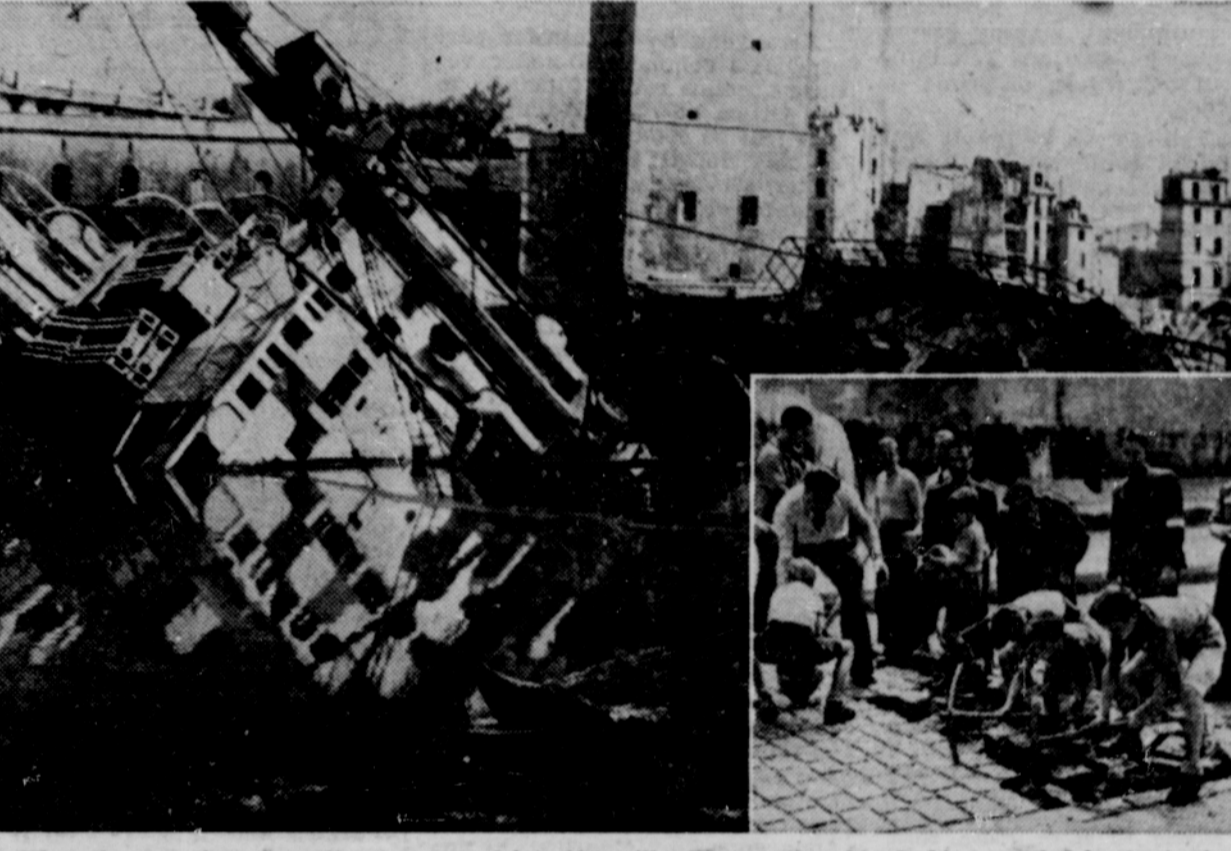
Officers receive extra pay for all the time-off they are entitled to when they leave the service. . . . GIs want to draw their furlough pay when they leave the army too.

# Yanks Enter Germany as Siegfried Fort Falls



Two spearheads of the U. S. First army, under Lieut. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, enter Germany south of Aachen and beyond Trier, as Siegfried fort falls to the Allies. Photo shows the spearhead of tanks stretching out into the horizon across Flanders field as they enter German territory. In the first push they reached the outskirts of Aachen, meeting with opposition within the Siegfried line.

# France Wrecked as German Troops Retreat



When the American Seventh army moved into Marseille, France, they found ships scuttled in the harbor as well as the city looted and buildings, bridges and rail terminals destroyed. In Paris the women and children had ripped up the paving blocks from the streets to build barricades behind which they fought for liberation of their capital before Allied forces entered the city to help them.

# Italian Waffle-Like Trenches



The slit trenches that cut up an area "some place in Italy" in a waffle-like pattern are being used by the Air WACs stationed near the headquarters of the 12th air force in Italy. This new type of trench is said to offer considerably more protection, and is harder to hit from air.

# Liberators Who Came Home



Among the British forces that liberated Brussels, capital of Belgium, was a brigade of Belgians, members of which are being given an enthusiastic welcome home here by the populace of Brussels as they drove into the city. They had escaped to England, and there had been organized and trained under their own colors.

# First in Germany



Lieut. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, commander of the American First army, which had the honor to be the first of the Allied forces to make a permanent penetration into Germany. General Hodges' troops were also the first Yanks to enter Paris after the French underground and fought off the Nazis.

# A Mechanical 'Whiz'

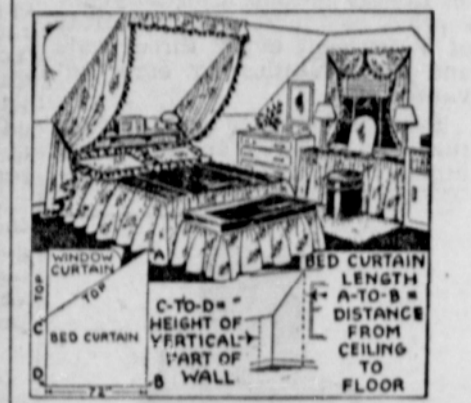


Jack Butler, 11, of Chicago, assembled a carburetor of several hundred parts in one hour—a record for an expert. In a demonstration at the Bendix Aviation corporation plant he used only a new "exploded view" diagram guide.

# It's Simple Furniture With Frills, Ruffles

IF YOU have been wondering if quaintness, frills and ruffles were going into the decorating ash can after the war, the answer is—no. There will be many strictly modern rooms but there will be rooms also in which all the war years' pent-up longing will burst forth in the most romantic versions of the traditional Home, sweet Home with variations according to taste.

Period themes and quaintness will be stepped up to have a dramatic quality. Modern ideas will



creep in and add to this effect. Simple furniture will be built in and fabrics will be cut and sewn especially to fit the spaces they are to fill. The bed curtains are an example—and the triangular shaped window curtains to give extra fullness. Frills will be even fuller than those of our dreams.

NOTE—Why not start your dream room now with a skirted blanket chest like the one in this sketch? It is grand to have extra covers handy on chilly nights and the padded top makes a comfortable seat. Pattern 259 gives complete and fully illustrated directions with detailed list of materials needed for making the chest, full skirt and top cushion. Enclose 15 cents with name and address to get pattern 259. Address:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
Bedford Hills New York  
Drawer 10  
Enclose 15 cents for Pattern No. 259.  
Name .....  
Address .....

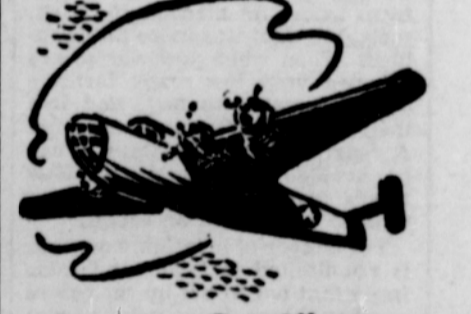
**That's Life**  
Harry—So you've moved to the city, now. Why?  
Jerry—We moved to the city so we could make enough to live in the country!

**Hiking Skill**  
Eagle Scout—Why are you stopping?  
Cub—The guide says to turn north and follow the trolley. We'll have to wait till one comes along.

**Vicious Circle**  
So—Can you spell "wrong"?  
And So—Sure. R-O-N-G.  
So—That's wrong!  
And So—Well, isn't that what you asked me to spell?

**No Danger**  
Small Girl—I wish I had a baby brother to wheel in my carriage.  
Old Lady—Why?  
Small Girl—My dolls are always getting broken when it tips over.

**Some Fun**  
Convalescent — And I have a trained nurse, too.  
Friend—What kind of tricks can she do?



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NONE FASTER

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