

# NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON.—Mr. Churchill's estimate of six months for the end of the war in Europe is generally accepted here, although no official has said anything about it, having grown tired of guessing.

The weather has been of a kind thus far which would discourage even an optimist. It is what the British, with characteristic understatement, call wretched.

True the Patton drive is meeting with success, but the nature of it, as so far developed, plainly indicates its limited objectives which are the Metz forts. With good fortune, it will merely approach the Siegfried line at that point and still be a long way from the Saar valley, which is the source of coal and iron for the war industries.

With the weather likely to become steadily worse through the winter, Mr. Churchill seems to be counting mainly on a spring drive.

Also the estimate of "Assistant President" Byrnes that Antwerp would be restored and ready this week leaned too heavily toward wishfulness. There is much dredging and mine clearing to be done before this supply base which is essential for fullest operations is ready for use.

You can take your pick of the rumors about Hitler being in the bug-house, hospital, in hiding, at his supposedly favorite phobia, chewing rugs, or any of the other second hand stories out of Germany except the official explanation handed out by the German news agency as an excuse for the Himmler special broadcast—the one that Hitler was too busy to speak. None of the real authorities here had anything they would call valid information at the time Himmler spoke, although much circumstantial inside evidence was available to support doubt about the official Nazi explanation.

**ROCKET GUN WARNING**  
In case anyone is cuddled up under the bed in fear of the German rocket gun, which the war department officially announced just before election might soon hit these shores, he can come out now.

The statement was in the nature of a warning, just to get officialdom on record in case anything along that line did occur, but actually the possibility of any real damage to us from that source is remote.

It is true enough the V-2 now has a radius of about 300 miles and there is no known scientific impediment to prevent the expansion of this radius up to 3,000 miles eventually. But this ordinarily would require years of development, and anyway the war department was not speaking of this vague future possibility, years distant, maybe never.

The official statement relates to present day rocket radius possibilities and said the bombs would have to be launched from submarines or ships. Germany has a few submarines left, but most of the docks for them are gone and a submarine could hardly carry more than one or two of these large type bombs. A large scale attack from these is impossible.

As for an attack by surface ships, the United Nations control the ocean and it would be difficult if not impossible for a surface vessel to get out of a German harbor and approach these shores without detection. Certainly no large scale fleet attack is within the realm of any current imagination.

**DELAY IN PEACE**  
The peace, for instance, cannot take final form before spring. State Undersecretary Stettinius already has said nothing much can be done about new negotiations until after the first of the year. He was speaking of another meeting at the undersecretary level.

Since then there has been talk of the top men getting together, and some news on that matter is likely to develop shortly. But the schedule seems to provide negotiations through the winter and announcement of final agreement in the spring—either just before or after the time Mr. Churchill told the British he expected the war to be over.

The "one-tenth" of disagreement at Dumbarton Oaks, by the very delay in reaching a settlement, is assuming larger proportions, which verifies the observation carried in this column at the time that the proportion of "nine-tenths agreement," as officially announced, must have been measured by a yardstick on the words of the text.

It is apparent that the peace of the supposedly new world into which we are coming will depend mainly upon the practices and relations of the victorious nations, the ones which have the arms.

## The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON

### SIXTY MILLION JOBS

One of the most significant discussions affecting the postwar world and the 60,000,000 jobs promised by Roosevelt is now taking place behind the scenes among top administrationites. It involves the price which manufacturers can charge for peacetime consumer goods when they begin making them, as some companies will shortly.

A certain amount of peacetime production already has been authorized by the War Production board, and to prevent inflation, the OPA will set the price of these goods. This is where the backstage debate has waxed hot and vehement.

On one side have been Economic Stabilizer Judge Vinson, War Mobilizer Jimmy Byrnes and for a while, OPA Administrator Chester Bowles, all arguing that prices of civilian articles produced now must not rise above the prices paid for the same articles in 1942.

On the other side are industry members of OPA, led by James Brownlee, formerly of Frankfort Distilleries, who argue that prices must be above 1942 in order to allow for increased wages and the higher cost of raw materials. They have worked out a substitute formula based upon 1941 prices plus wage increases, plus the increased cost of raw materials, and they have now sold this formula to Bowles, despite his former speeches for the 1942 price base.

Judge Vinson, however, points out that increased wage and raw material costs in many cases have been nullified by labor-saving devices. Most striking example of this was in the OPA study of the steel industry, showing that, despite increased wages, the cost of producing steel had decreased 9 per cent per unit since 1942.

Another factor influencing Economic Stabilizer Vinson is the fact that 85 per cent of the goods involved are produced by only 18 companies.

Incidentally, Vinson is supported by General Electric's Charley Wilson, formerly of the War Production board, who says that GE will sell its refrigerators and washing machines at pre-war prices. To do otherwise, he says, is "shallow, passive thinking."

Finally, Vinson, Byrnes and other administration leaders are beginning to lay the economic groundwork for the 60,000,000 jobs which Roosevelt promised after the war. And they are absolutely convinced that, in order to have a big consumer demand, there must be low prices, which in turn will keep factory wheels turning and men employed. The principle of high prices and scarcity, they argue, will mean fewer jobs and depression.

### GOP PLANS FOR '48

Despite discouragement over Dewey's defeat, GOP leaders already are laying plans for 1948. First step will be further revitalization of Republican headquarters, enlistment of a cracker-jack staff to pep up party machinery.

Republican Chairman Herbert Brownell, who has been resting in Arizona, wants to resign, will call a national committee meeting shortly after the first of the year which promises to be turbulent. Several factions will be gunning for Dewey, may try to seize control of the party machinery, set the stage for "Stassen in '48."

One key man in the post-election GOP set-up is shrewd, popular publicist Lee Chesley, who joined the campaign late, is now in charge of national committee publicity. Chesley, one of the brightest press agents on the Washington scene, is anxious to slug it out toe to toe with Democratic publicist Paul Porter. Chesley's Washington predecessor, Carlisle Bargeron, handled publicity for the powerful Pennsylvania GOP machine during the campaign, and plans to continue working for Boss Joe Pew now that the balloting is over.

### CAPITAL CHAFF

☛ The treasury department had two war films ready to show the public in the war bond drive, calculated to bring the war really home to the American people. One showed a sailor on a stricken vessel, his clothes aflame, desperately trying to put the flames out. The other was a close-up film of a soldier on the battlefield—dying. When the films were shown to OWI, it not only ordered that they not be shown to the public, but that the films be destroyed.

☛ Newly elected Sen. "Cowboy" Glen Taylor of Idaho is first cousin to sphinxlike Harold Dixon Young, who steers Vice President Wallace's political fortunes.

☛ The White House got a terrific barrage from the senate when word leaked out that two Jesse Jones henchmen, plus one disciple of Democratic treasurer Ed Pauley, were to be appointed to the three-man Surplus War Property board. Senator Murray of Montana wired the President that he was shocked at the proposed appointments and would do his best to block them.

☛ Biggest crowds in the halls of the Pentagon building these days are officers hanging around vending machines, waiting for them to be filled with cigarettes.

## Chinese Evacuate as Japanese Armies Advance



Refugee trains are filled and covered (lower), with Chinese civilians being evacuated from the theater of war in eastern China. Hungry, disease-ridden Chinese fill the inside of the train. Upper left—Entire family riding the rods, shoeless, ill and homeless. Upper right—the stoic Chinese drape themselves inside, on top and even on the very front of the engines as they flee from the Japs.

## Japan Training Young Boys for New Wars



While still in the grade school, Japanese youngsters are being trained in the rudiments of flying. Each boy is given tests and training on the manipulation of controls. The blindfolded boy has been whirled about in a spinning chair. When the chair stops revolving the boy is supposed to place his pointer on a specified spot on a chart. The accuracy he displays indicates his coordination, powers of recuperation and sense of balance—his fitness to become part of the future air force of Japan.

## First German Snow of Campaign



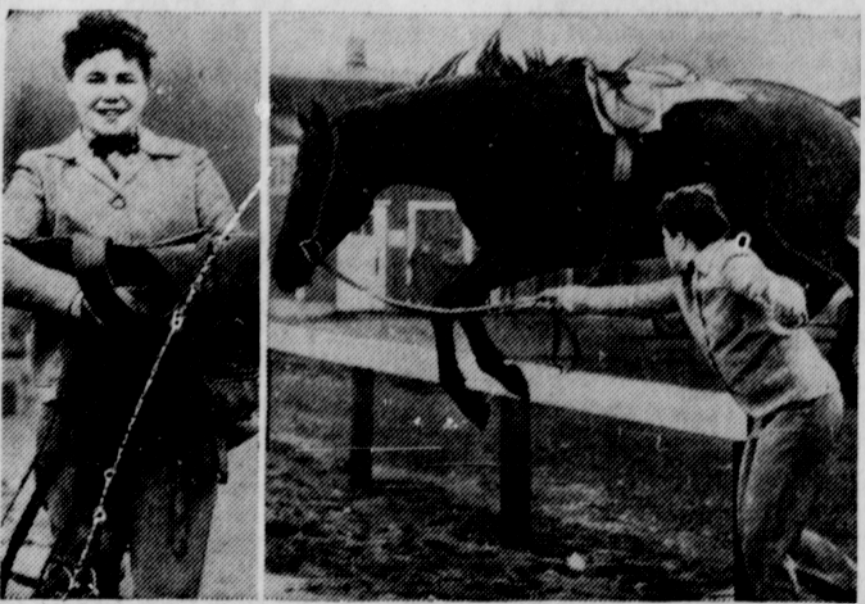
Snow falling on the Siegfried line for the first time this winter has not prevented the Allied armies from making rapid advances into German territory. Insert—Sgt. Sam C. McNeely, Morgantown, N. C., stands watch by his machine gun during the first snowfall to visit the First Army at Monschau, Germany.

## Greek Boy Veteran



Born in Cleveland, Ohio, 15-year-old Louis Petropoulos went to Greece in 1936. Louis has participated in 14 battles and conducted himself as a seasoned veteran.

## Exercise Girl to Be Trainer



Her mind full of horses and the ambition to become a licensed race horse trainer, Shirleye Stanley, Baltimore, Md., is an exercise "boy" at the track. She spends her days putting thoroughbreds through their paces to put them in top shape for their racing engagements. Right—She makes "Steel Ship" take a low hurdle.

## Heroine Has Faith



Seven-year-old Judith Ann Koch of Cleveland, lost her sight when she ran into a street to save a dog imperiled by an oncoming auto. She believes she will see again. She is shown with her new pet dog.

## JUST

Supercolossal  
Joan—Isn't the sky lovely? It's just like a picture this evening.  
Jasper—Yeah, with an all-star cast, too!

Heavy Adversary  
Tim—Look, Daddy, I pulled this cornstalk up all by myself.  
Daddy—My, what a strong boy!  
Tim—Sure. The whole world had hold of the other end.

A man received a notice to move from his landlord. Believing it could not be enforced, he replied: "Dear Sir, I remain, Yours truly."

The Objective  
Joan—Here's a woman writing in for advice on where to take her three daughters for a Christmas vacation. What'll I tell her?  
Jasper—I should think Sulphur Springs would be a good place to make matches.

Good Alibi  
An American air force colonel stationed in England was explaining with satisfaction how he had shot three pheasants on his airfield.

"Good heavens!" exclaimed an English listener. "You can't do that—that's poaching. You'll get fined or jailed for that in England."

The American hesitated a fraction of a second. "Well," he drawled, "I guess I shot them for pecking at my aircraft."

Like Tastes  
An attractive girl and a plain, middle-aged spinster were waiting for a bus. "Have a cigarette?" asked the girl, opening her case. "What! Smoke in public?" exclaimed the woman, shocked to her depths. "Why, I'd sooner kiss the first man who came down the street!" "So would I," retorted the girl. "But have a cigarette while you're waiting!"

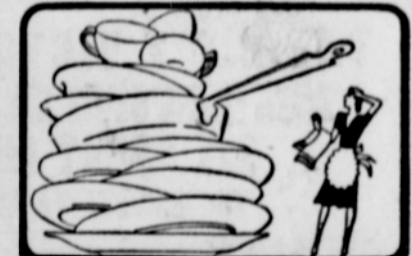
Surprise  
"That man," said Smith, "came to this town 20 years ago, bought a wheelbarrow, and began collecting rags. What do you think he's worth today?" "I couldn't guess," confessed Jones. "Nothing," said Smith. "And he still owes for the barrow."

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