

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

MACARTHUR-KIRK DUEL
 WASHINGTON.—In a highly secret session before the senate military affairs committee last Thursday, Gen. George Marshall, army chief of staff, refused to guess when the end of the war with Germany will come. According to all logic, he said, the German resistance should be at an end now, but there is no sign that the army is collapsing. The Gestapo still retains its hold of terror on Germany.

Marshall pointed out that German gasoline stocks are practically dried up, and that the Nazis do not have enough fuel to move their supplies, let alone their armored vehicles and artillery. On the other hand, he said, their supply problem is far simpler than ours because they are fighting at home. Their repair and replacement job for tanks and other vehicles is also comparatively simple. When Allied armor is knocked out, it means that it is lost if the damage is too much for the field repair bases, while a Nazi tank which has suffered far more serious damage can be taken right into a tank factory not so many miles from where it was hit. This is a tremendous advantage, he said.

The chief of staff also told the senators that it is a mistake to figure that the Japs will fold up quickly once Germany is out of the war. Although its losses have been heavy, Japan still has a formidable army and vast stores of supplies. He would not estimate the length of time needed to defeat the island empire. But he insisted it would be extremely tough going.

Marshall said nothing during this session about his plan to take over as supreme commander in the Pacific once Germany falls, but members of the committee now take that for granted.

Explanation?

General MacArthur's army friends in Washington have a unique explanation for his refusal to let Maj. Gen. Norman Kirk, surgeon general of the army, visit Manila on his recent inspection tour. They say privately that no suitable housing was available for General Kirk. One MacArthur supporter, who is familiar with the Kirk incident, added, "When you are a five-star general, you don't have to give an explanation for what you do."

Further details of General MacArthur's refusal to let General Kirk touch foot even on the island of Luzon in order to inspect army hospitals there have now leaked out. Kirk, as head of the army medical corps, arrived in Leyte with a staff of medical experts ready to place them in strategic positions in Luzon where fighting was heavy at that time.

As a courtesy to MacArthur, Kirk radioed him from Leyte island that he was coming. He received in reply a message saying that his presence was not needed.

Scarcely believing his eyes, General Kirk gave MacArthur a chance to change his mind by sending another telegram which said in substance: "Don't understand your message. Do you mean by your telegram number so-and-so that my assistance is not welcome?"

General MacArthur's reply was brief and to the point. It read: "No, repeat no."

Kirk then got in his plane, boiling mad, and came home.

Note—The war department for some time has been split into the pro-MacArthur and the anti-MacArthur schools. Many of the general's own contemporaries don't like him, feel that he has never given sufficient credit to men who bore the brunt of the Pacific fighting such as General Krueger, Eichelberger, Kenney, Arnold and others. They also resent the fact that news dispatches from the Pacific must bear the date-line "General MacArthur's headquarters," and point out that in contrast Eisenhower requires no such date line and has given much credit to Generals Patton, Hodges, Simpson, Patch, and Devers, all of whom are well known to the public, whereas few know the names of the generals commanding MacArthur's armies.

Here is one story as to how American troops managed to capture the important Ludendorf bridge across the Rhine. A group of anti-Nazi students are reported to have been quietly organizing in the Rhine valley, and secretly joined Hitler's Elite guard, the "Schutz staffel" in 1942 where they have been boring from within ever since. It was this group that is reported to have tipped off the American command that the Remagen bridge would be intact.

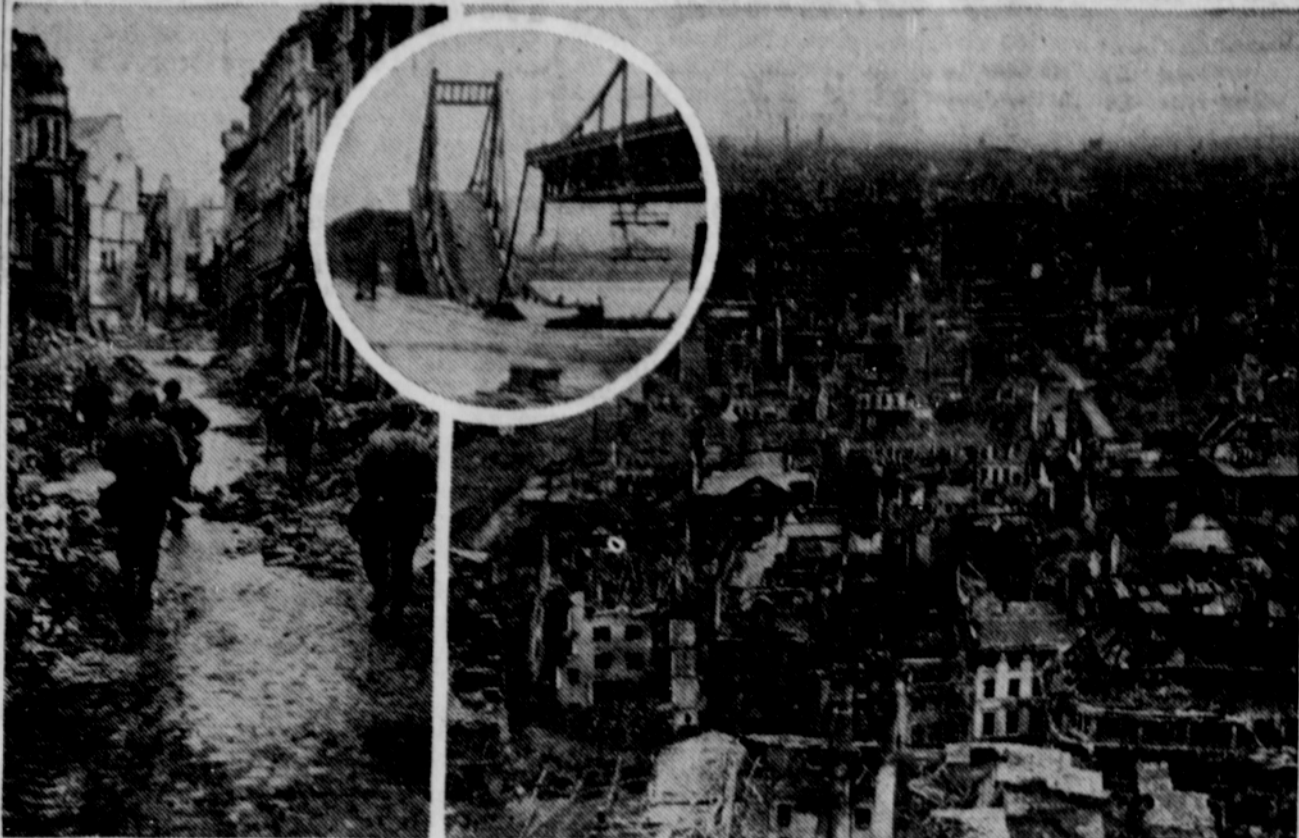
EUROPEAN DEATH TOLL

One thing Joseph Stalin pointed out to Roosevelt and Churchill that greatly impressed them at Yalta was the terrific toll the Nazis had exacted from the people of Europe.

One-seventh of Poland's population has been destroyed by the Nazis, Stalin said a preliminary investigation disclosed.

Stalin also pointed out that Hitler had won a tremendous victory over the Allies by permanently frustrating the birth of some 10,000,000 in conquered countries.

Ruin of War Making Delayed Visit to Germany



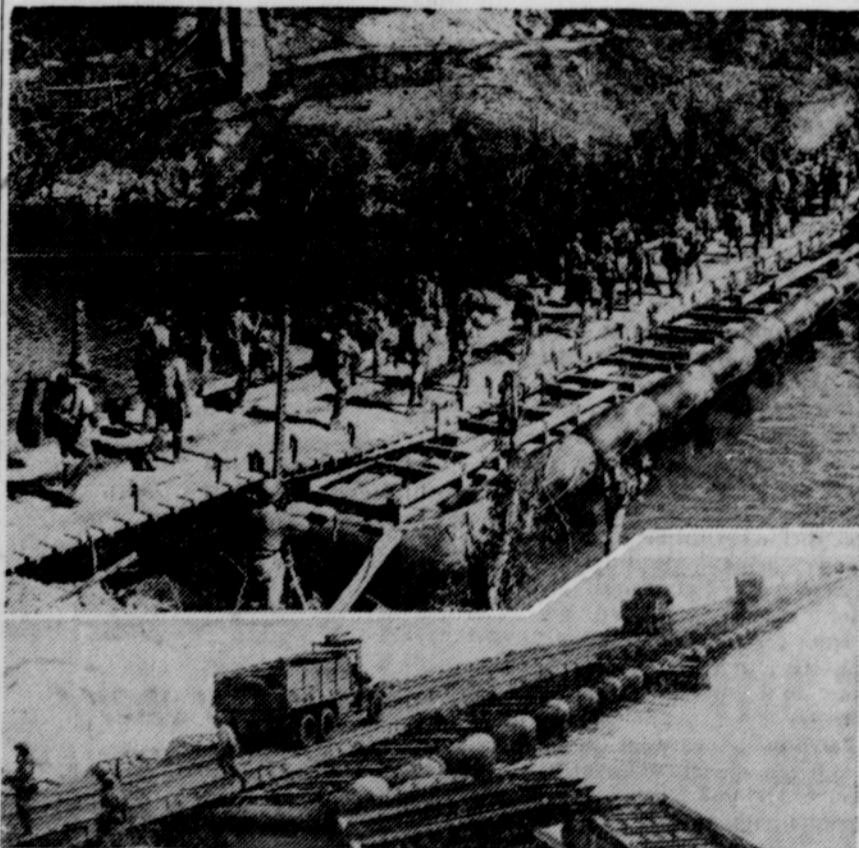
The result of the Allied bombardment of Cologne, Germany, is shown by photograph at right. Bonn, the birthplace of Beethoven, also meets the fate of other German cities, as shown at left, as American troops advance through the city. Inset shows the bombed Adolf Hitler bridge across the Rhine at Uerdingen, Germany. Reports indicate that all cities in path of advancing Allies are in complete ruins.

Policemen Attend School to Become Stork's Aides



The job of protecting the citizens of their communities seems to be an ever-expanding one for members of the police force of Nassau county, New York, who have been indoctrinated as obstetricians by the public health nurses. Now they know just when and how to drop the argyrol into the new-born's eyes, how to keep the infant from strangulation, how to handle the umbilical cord problem.

Army Bridges Around the World



The original bridge shown in upper photograph was demolished by bombers of the U. S. army 10th air force since the Japs captured Burma road in 1942. Pontoon bridge is erected as the Allied offensive nears the key Japanese supply terminus of the road. Lower, shows trucks crossing pontoon bridge spanning Rhine river.

Big Top Will Soon Be in Town



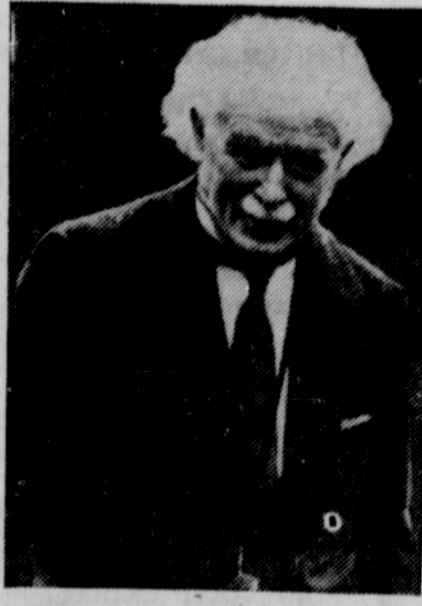
Things are looking up for the big shows as pretty Juanita Deister and Paul Jerome relax for a moment between rehearsals on the flying trapeze. The circus begins its annual springtime engagement at Madison Square Garden, and after May 20, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey make a tour of cities of America.

New Dies' Counsel



Attorney Ernie Adamson of Pittsburgh, who has been named as chief counsel for the house committee on un-American activities. He formerly practiced law in New York City. Adamson will assume his new duties immediately, on part time basis.

Lloyd George Dead



David Lloyd George, 82, Britain's leader in World War I, died recently at his home in Wales. He was former prime minister of England, 54 years in Commons, and recently became an earl.

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Quite Obviously That Was the Wrong Question

Two G.I.s on a day off were strolling along a suburban road outside London when they saw on a hillside a building which said over its archway "Hall of Remembrance"—the British phrase for crematorium. With usual G.I. curiosity, one of them went in to see what it was.

Moments later, he came flying out. To the other's question as to why the haste, the investigating G.I. replied:

"Darned if I know. I walked in and there were a lot of people in black standing around a pit from which flames seemed to be coming. All I said was: 'Hi, folks, what's cooking?'"

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ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Why are dykes used in Holland?
2. From what tribe of Indians did the Dutch purchase the site of New York City?
3. What is a poltroon?
4. Were the army and navy the first to have lieutenants?
5. Military training in peacetime is compulsory in how many major countries?
6. In what country is Sanskrit the language?
7. What is the "jungle jeep" used by our fighting forces in the Pacific area?
8. Can you finish the quotation: "Grow old along with me—"
9. What two Presidents who signed the Declaration of Independence died on July 4?
10. Which is a cipher, aught or naught?

The Answers

1. The land is below sea level.
2. The Manhattan.
3. A coward.
4. No. Lieutenant means anyone who has authority in place of a superior and was used first to mean those serving the government or the church.
5. In 45 major countries, while it is voluntary in only 10, including Great Britain and United States.
6. Sanskrit is the principal literary language of India.
7. The army mule is called a jungle jeep.
8. "The best is yet to be, The last of life, for which the first is made."—Browning.
9. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.
10. Naught.

Tokyo's Unnamed Streets.

In Tokyo, the world's third largest city, hundreds of streets are unnamed and thousands of houses are unnumbered.

Moreover, when used, numbers bear no relation to one another, as they are usually selected for their meaning by the owner. Thus a house numbered 23 might be next door to 118 and across the street from 297.



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