NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

British bombers' damage to German war production greater than reported . . . Irish refuse to aid Britain, emphasize necessity of strict neutrality.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—The two most encouraging phases of the war, from the standpoint of hoping that Britain holds out, are that Germany is suffering a great deal more in damage to her own war production than any dispatches have indicated, and that the Italian fiasco in Greece has postponed a successful attack on Egypt and Suez until next winter.

British production of airplanes has been badly hurt by the German air raids, but imports from the United States now amount to slightly above 300 fighters and bombers a month. This is behind schedule, incidentally. United States production of all classes of planes is about 200 a month behind schedule.

But the number of combat planes is now actually above 300 each month, and this number is being slowly increased each month. Sometime in early summer, assuming Britain holds out, there will be a sharp increase in production. A little later, depending entirely on how rapidly the Detroit group of automobile people get into actual production, there will be another sharp rise.

OUTLOOK IS ENCOURAGING

It is all a question of whether Britain can take it until quantity deliveries begin. Information in diplomatic circles here now is more encouraging on that than at any time in the last six months, and this despite the bad news about the damage to plants in Britain.

While President Roosevelt talks about our own national defense needing one-half of our production of planes, actually practically all the fighting planes are being sent to Britain. This is not as one-sided as it sounds. Our army and navy want training planes for student pilots far more than they want fighting planes. This situation is likely to continue for some time to come.

But while Germany's production of planes has been cut down as a result of British bombing, according to confidential reports received here, the Nazi losses have not been heavy in the last couple of months. Had they continued the mass raids they began in early September, according to at least one observer, they would have won the war in a month. But there is another side of that picture. Had their losses continued at the rate of 200 a day, they might have lost their air superiority before they won the war.

• • •

SUBMARINE BASE UNLIKELY

The government of Eire is very inquisitive about the source of the information of one of the military experts who writes a newspaper column, and who recently asserted that he "knew" the Germans were using Galway as a base for submarine operations.

The Dublin government contends that the Germans could not possibly use any Irish base without everybody knowing about it. In particular, officials of the Irish government insist, the topography around Galway is such that a canoe could not enter and leave the harbor without a lot of people seeing it and wondering whose canoe it was.

Incidentally, it is represented that the Irish living in Ireland, or Eire as they insist upon calling it, are much more friendly to the British today than the third and fourth generations of Irish living in the United States.

There has been no such mellowing of feeling on the part of the American Irish as has transformed the Irish back in the home country since Eire has been a separate nation. Britain is Eire's best customer, particularly for the huge supplies of foodstuffs that the Irish produce.

DENY BASES TO BRITAIN

In fact the only thorn among the roses, until quite recently, was the fact that the South Irish still wanted to take over Ulster. Lately there has been concern about Winston Churchill's statement indicating that Britain needed Irish ports for bases.

On this, the position of the Dublin government is as the ancient law of the Medes and Persians. Nothing doing. The Irish would fight "anybody," it is asserted, who attempted to occupy any of their soil. As they see it, the moment Britain occupied any of their ports or bases their entire country would be subject to German bombing. They point out that they do not have adequate defenses against bombing. Even Britain, which has lots of defenses, is not able to prevent the bombers doing a great deal of damage, they insist, whereas Eire has virtually no defenses.

There is a very keen realization in Eire of their defenseless condition against an attack in force by either of the belligerents. All they could hope to do, they think, is to resort to guerilla warfare.

History-Making Events of 1940 Pass in Review

Nine Nations Fall Before Conquering Forces as U. S. Arms.

By ROGER SHAW
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Of the many significant events in the ill-starred year, 1940, the sudden and generally unexpected collapse of liberal France was perhaps the outstanding disaster. Other significant happenings were the re-election of Mr. Roosevelt to a third term as President of the United States, and the triumph of Churchill over Chamberlain in British imperial circles. Another phase, not to be overlooked by any manner or means, was the surprising success of the 1940 U-boat campaign against the British isles, and the comparative lack of success in the matter of German air raids, the destruction of Coventry notwithstanding. Still another upset was the silly double collapse of Italian armies in Albania-Greece and in Libya-Egypt, with savage repercussions at home in the Italic peninsula, where there appeared to be something rotten in—Rome.

RUSSO-FINNISH WAR

The year 1940 opened with the continuation of one lesser war, in addition to the two major Anglo-German and Sino-Japanese conflicts. This was the Russo-Finnish war, which lasted a little more than three full months. It began at the end of November, 1939, and ran on through a little more than the first two months of 1940 before Finland finally gave up.

The Finns were virtually disarmed, the Russians took over the Mannerheim line, and the second city of Finland, Viborg or Viipuri, as well as certain highly strategic points in the Finnish gulf. The Finnish war president, Kallio, resigned. Following the Finnish war, the other three little Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, "voted" themselves into the Soviet Union.

Early in April the Germans pulled their No. 1 surprise of the No. 2 World war. Like a streak of lightning, they occupied Copenhagen, the capital of little Denmark, and Oslo, the capital of Norway.

The Norwegian war was a brisk affair.

The port of Narvik, way up north, changed hands between the British and Germans, and was the scene of bitterest fighting. It was chiefly important because it was an embarkation point for the Swedish iron, en route for Germany. The British eventually evacuated Narvik, in the light of the subsequent British defeats in Flanders. Norway was placed under the local dictatorship of Major Quisling, a German sympathizer.

FALL OF FRANCE

People were surprised by Norway, early in April. They were even more surprised by Flanders, in May, 1940. Suddenly the hammer of Thor came down on the western European anvil. Manfred von Brauchitsch, the German field commander, and William Keitel, who ran the Berlin war office, sent the field-grays over the Dutch, Belgian, and Luxembourg lines like a sudden whirlwind. Luxembourg, like Denmark, did not resist. The famed Belgian forts collapsed (as they had in 1914) quite promptly, and the Dutch held out for less than a week. In Holland, German parachute troops, dropped from the ubiquitous Junkers transports, showed a remarkable military example.

British and French troops poured up into Flanders, to help the Dutch and Belgians. The Germans took on all four of them. King Leopold of the Belgians suddenly made an armistice, and thereby saved his army, and retained his tottering throne. The British made an epic retreat via the Flemish channel port of Dunkirk, an operation in which the royal navy and royal air force covered themselves with glory. They lost most of their motorized and mechanized equipment, but a good part of the B. E. F. got back to England, somehow.

The Germans went ahead and captured Paris. Premier Reynaud, who had taken the place of Premier Daladier, made defiant speeches, then ran away. France surrendered, and a semi-military government of Marshal Petain, General Weygand, and Admiral Darlan, took control. These men founded the Vichy government. The Germans divided France into two portions, two-thirds occupied by German troops, and a third "independent" and directly under Marshal Petain, who was much under the influence of a politician who always wore white neckties—swarthy Pierre Laval. Alsace-Lorraine was annexed directly to Germany, who had lost it in 1918. Bits of the French navy clashed with the British navy twice: once at Oran in Algeria, and a second time at Dakar, in West Africa.

Meanwhile, a minor French general named De Gaulle—a tank expert—escaped to England, and organized a group known as Free Frenchmen, to carry on the war by pestering the Germans and the allegedly "pro-German" Vichy government. De Gaulle had the special ear of Churchill. De Gaulle planned the unsuccessful Dakar operation, and his agents were active in various other French colonies.

French Premier Henri Petain in a surprise move ousted Pierre Laval from his cabinet and appointed in his place Pierre-Etienne Flandin. Anxious to know what the conquered enemy was doing, Germany immediately sent Ambassador Abetz to investigate.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Following the British defeats at Narvik, Norway; Dunkirk, Flanders; and Dakar, West Africa, the British isles took an increased hammering from the German air force, nicknamed the Goering flying circus, or G. F. C. The following ports took special aerial delugings: Liverpool, Bristol, London, Southampton, Plymouth, for the Germans wished to disrupt the war-supply traffic with America, which entered these harbors.

The Germans also attacked the two English "Detroits" of Birmingham and Coventry. The courage of the British proletariat, particularly in the miserable east end of London, was astonishing. Something like 15 per cent of London was hit, and British industrial production dropped (according to British figures) by 40 per cent.

More dangerous than the Goering flying circus were the German submarines, still known as U-boats. In the closing months of 1940, these under-sea monsters hunted in packs against the British merchant convoys from America. The British ship losses began to sky-rocket, and Churchill said openly that he feared the subs more than the planes. German surface raiders and seaplanes aided the U-boats, and sinkings began to approach the top-figure of hectic April, 1917. In the midst of this crisis in December, Lord Lothian died—the British ambassador to the United States.

U. S. DEFENSE

Following the French collapse of June, a veritable fever swept over the United States. It was called, by some, a needful awakening. It was called, by others, a contagious hysteria. It affected high and low, and reached to every corner of the country. "God Bless America" resounded everywhere, and the local interventionists were especially loud in their linking of the British. William Allen White, of Kansas, a veteran liberal journalist, headed an extremely influential committee "to defend America by aiding the allies." It succeeded, behind the scenes, in helping to engineer the exchange of 50 "over-age" American destroyers, for a row of American naval and aerial bases on British New world possessions. The bases were to be held by the U. S. on 99-year leases, and they included: Newfoundland, Bermuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad, and British Guiana in South America. Our army and navy at once set about the fortification of the newly acquired bases.

This was not all: it was decided that the U. S. possess two navies—Atlantic and Pacific—instead of one. We had 15 battleships, for example, and 37 cruisers; but we were to have no less than 32 battleships and 85 cruisers, before we got done. Also, the first peacetime conscription in American history was passed in congress. The new conscripts were already being called up, at the close of 1940. Close to 17,000,000 lads, between the ages of 21 and 36, were registered.

At Washington, a national defense board was called into being, including military experts, labor leaders, and capitalists. The nation's war industries were speeded up to top pitch, and congress voted billions for armaments. The President declared that the British would get a rough 50 per cent of our production.

Franklin Roosevelt defeated Wendell Willkie in the 1940 election. The total score was roughly 26,000,000 votes, to 22,000,000. The electoral vote, however, was overwhelmingly for the third term, although an estimated three-quarters of the nation's press campaigned for the Indiana utilities lawyer. Willkie stood for the draft, and for "aid to Britain," but he received most of the isolation vote, and carried the outstandingly isolation-minded states in the Midwest.

POOR ITALY

Italy entered the war just in time to look in on the collapse of France, a la jackal. The Italian troops captured one French "city" of 6,000, and another of 3,000 inhabitants.

After the battle of France, Italy skirmished with England's Mediterranean fleet, while a few Italian fliers appeared over London, and the royal air force bombed Turin and Milan, Italian industrial centers for Fiat and Isotta-Fraschini. In September, under General Graziani, the Italian Libyan army invaded the British protectorate of Egypt, and bogged down 80 miles up the coast, in a feeble effort to take the distant Suez canal.

Late in October, under Marshal Badoglio's staff work, the Italians abruptly invaded little Greece, from the Italian foothold of Albania. The inoffensive Greeks turned around, and counter-attacked with the greatest success. The British navy, air force, and Australian units came to their aid. The Italians were chased out of Greece, and the Greeks occupied close to a quarter of Italy's restless Albanian colony. Badoglio resigned, as chaos reigned at home.

On top of this, the Italian Libyan army took a bad beating in Egypt, and went into retreat, with the British in pursuit. The royal navy and the Australians co-operated, and 30,000 Italians were captured by mid-December.

RUMANIA PARTITIONED

Rumania was another major victim of the year 1940. It was subdivided between Russia (Bessarabia and the Bukovina); Hungary (northern Transylvania); and Bulgaria (the southern Dubrudja). What was left, underwent an Iron Guard revolution, which ousted King Carol and his friend, red-headed Magda Lupescu. Carol's son, Michael, became monarch. The German army moved in, to police the Balkans, establish air bases, and control the Rumanian oil wells.

The new Rumanian puppet government, under dictator John Antonescu, joined the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis, so-called. So did Hungary, and the little Slovak puppet state which is the rump of what used to be Czechoslovakia. Meanwhile, Russia was still on the make, and held the balance of power in Europe—something that England had held for centuries. Within a year, Stalin had acquired a third of Poland, parts of Finland, the three little Baltic states, and a piece of Rumania, all of which Russia had lost after the first World war.

Serving Time

Science May Soon End Fog Menace at Airports

Controlled artificial dissipation of fog, the greatest enemy of airplanes, is foreshadowed by recent scientific discoveries in the United States, according to Dr. Sverre Petterssen, Norwegian meteorologist.

It is entirely possible, Dr. Petterssen said, that at a not-too-distant date, pilots coming into an airport where ceiling zero conditions prevail because of fog may see the fog dissolve to reveal the runways.

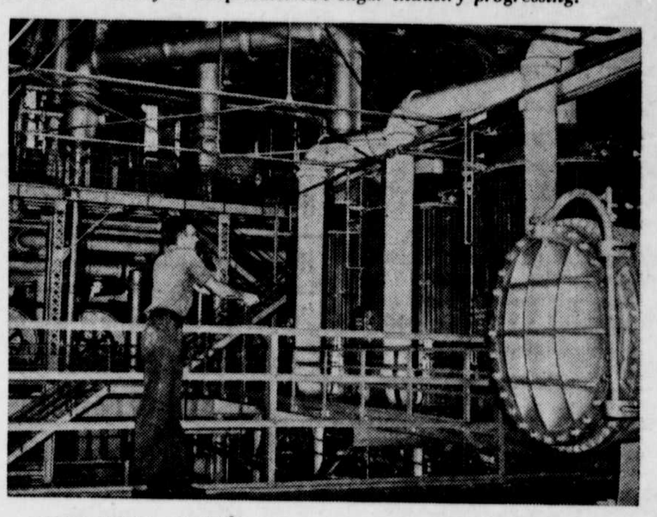
He explained that one method developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was shown to be entirely practical in a large-scale experiment. It consists of spraying the air with a liquid solution of sulphur chloride.

It was found that by spraying 85 gallons of the solution a minute, a slice could be cut out of the fog 30 feet high, 150 feet wide and 1,500 feet long in the direction of the prevailing wind, Dr. Petterssen said.

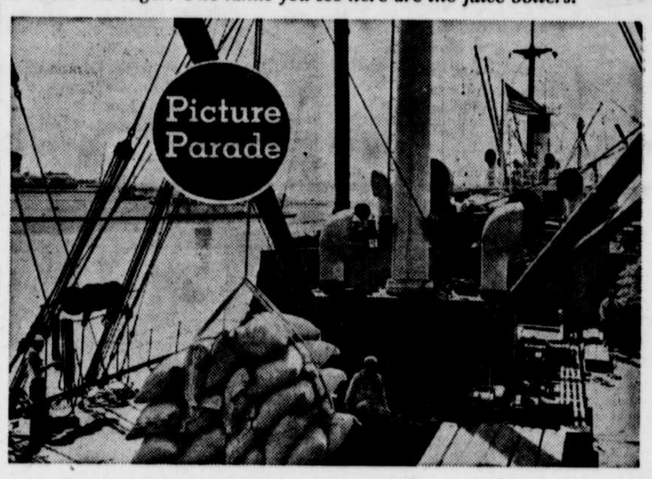
Hawaii . . . Land of Plenty Which Sweetens Your Coffee

When you think of Hawaii you are more than likely to think of Hula girls and guitars and to forget that Hawaii is responsible for a large quantity of the sugar with which America sweetens its coffee. The sugar industry helps create a $200,000,000 commerce between Hawaii and the rest of the nation. These photos give you a better idea of the commercial side of our island possession in the Pacific.

SUGAR DADDY . . . J. P. Martin, scientist at the Hawaiian sugar planters' experimental station in Honolulu, shown injecting liquid food into sugar cane to test growth, and develop new high-juice content types of cane. The experimental station has a large staff which helps spend $500,000 annually to keep America's sugar industry progressing.



SWEETNESS IN THE RAW . . . Scene at one of the Hawaiian plants where juice is extracted from sugar cane, boiled and evaporated to make raw sugar. The tanks you see here are the juice boilers.



SHIPPING "WHITE GOLD" . . . A California freighter is being loaded with raw sugar at Honolulu for shipment to the mainland. The sugar is processed in U. S. refineries and thereafter appears on the tables of Mr. and Mrs. America.

SUGAR HARVEST FESTIVAL . . . After the sugar crop has been gathered in Hawaii, plantation families celebrate with native feasts and reunions. Here the Souza family of Waialua plantation is celebrating the end of a successful harvest. Note the modern home supplied rent-free to plantation workers.

The beautiful black sand beach at Katapana, one of America's most startling scenic wonders. The black grains of sand are as clean as coral.