

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

U. S. navy's scouting Nazi raiders of great aid to Britain . . . Washington analyzes 'basic' commodities with view to reducing non-defense spending.
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—War with binoculars, instead of guns, is one way that appeals to President Roosevelt in describing the 2,000-mile patrol—the fact that American warcraft will patrol the Atlantic to a distance of 2,000 miles from the American shore and report the presence of any Nazi planes, submarines or raiders they may see.

Its tremendous importance is appreciated by the British. One prominent figure here pointed out that examining the detailed figures of shipping losses discloses that most of the sinkings by submarines and aircraft have occurred on the British side of an imaginary line down the Atlantic halfway between the two shores, whereas most of the sinkings by raiders were on the American side of that line. He also pointed out that location of raiders presents a much more difficult problem than location of submarines.

News of raiders' sinkings does not usually reach the admiralty until days or weeks after the event, sometimes longer than that. Most of the raiders are fast, and quite capable of being thousands of miles from some scene of any given operation before the British hear of it.

But with American patrols telling the world by wireless every time they see a raider, a comparatively small number of British warships would obviously be much more effective. They would know instantly that a German raider, for example, was at a precise spot. The probable course of the raider in flight from the American patrol could be calculated, and her exact strength would be known. So that if it was a pocket battleship, as in the case of the Graf Spee, a battle cruiser could start in pursuit, whereas if it was a converted merchantman a small cruiser would be ample.

But it might and probably will go further than that. Not only might the American patrol give the location of the raider as of that first moment of sighting it, but it might easily follow the German raider, continuing to give its position.

This task is not as spectacular as it seems to some headline writers, yet it is tremendously important, for there is no doubt that the number of U. S. craft in this "patrol" will be increased constantly so long as any Nazi raiders remain in the Atlantic.

Farm Payments May Be Reduced

It's too soon to begin worrying, if you are a farmer growing wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco or rice, but there is a school of thought which should it happen to appeal strongly to congress at some stage of this war, may cost all of you, collectively, around a billion dollars a year.

The point is that under the present agricultural policy, about that amount is paid each year to the farmers who grow—or have stopped growing—those "basic" commodities. Actually the word "basic," sound as it may seem to the average citizen, is a bit humorous if one considers money values.

For example, total receipts from cash sales of tobacco were \$241,000,000; cotton, \$677,000,000; all grains, including wheat, corn, rice, soybeans, rye, barley and oats, only \$995,000,000.

But meat animals, not a "basic" agricultural commodity within the meaning of the law, reached nearly \$2,500,000,000—more than all the "basic" commodities put together.

Of course, it will occur to any critic that much of this huge sum realized from meat animals was corn and oats and other grains consumed by those animals, and NOT included in the cash sales of the grains. Even with this in mind, however, the figures are rather startling.

Dairy Products Important. Then there is the fact that dairy products brought in cash sales of more than \$1,500,000,000—more than 50 per cent in excess of all grains. Here again, obviously, the cows ate a lot of grain, part of which did not figure in the cash sales.

The fact that cash sale figures are being talked around Washington in an effort to show that the "basic" agricultural products are a joke, is all the more interesting because of this curious lack of consideration given to the value of grain fed to animals to produce meat or dairy products.

All of which has a bearing on the present tax situation, because sooner or later there is going to be a terrific outcry from the country for non-defense spending to be cut. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. has already made some suggestions to congress with respect to the wisdom of cutting some farm payments. Nobody has taken it seriously, so far, but the germ is there, and agitation is at work for a big cut.

Infantrymen Continue to Hold Vital Place In America's Modern Streamlined Army

By **RALPH D. G. NEWMAN**
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

NEW YORK.—Despite the current military vogue for Panzer columns, dive-bombers, and fifth-columnists, the heart and backbone of every modern army is still that man of many battles—the infantryman.

The fifth-column can demoralize, the dive-bomber can terrorize, the Panzer column can knock out, but only the infantry can hold on to dear mother earth.

Now it's a new kind of infantry—streamlined, modernized, motorized, flexible, and specialized; and what I saw in my recent 6,000-mile tour of U. S. army posts indicates that the stress on infantry cannot be minimized without injuring an army's force.

The old familiar pattern of infantry is simple: a closed column of troops shouldering rifles and marching behind the commander, with a few horse-drawn guns and supply wagons bringing up the rear. But today a mere list of units and specialists in a typical U. S. infantry division would fill a newspaper column. A catalog of division equipment would fill another column. And that does not take into consideration that in actual combat the infantry co-ordinates with the air force, the armored force, and other specialized units.

Three Combat Teams.

After studies and field tests, U. S. infantry officers ordained the new-type "triangular" division, divided into three combat teams. Each team consists of an infantry regiment supported by its own artillery, engineer, medical, ordnance, and communications units. The combat teams function independently or in concert.

At Fort Sam Houston, Texas, I witnessed alongside high officers of the army, a review of the famous Second division whose field work since 1937 provided the war department with data on which to base the pattern of a triangular division.

Tanned and toughened by outdoor life, the division's 13,500 men and 560 officers marched and rode before Gen. John J. Pershing and Gen. H. J. Brees, commander of the Third army, with 1,300 trucks, 267 trailers, 175 motorcycles, 16 scout cars, besides 36 105-mm howitzers, 12 155-mm howitzers, eight anti-tank guns, and numerous mortars. The full division carried 7,199 .45-caliber pistols, 8,942 .30-caliber rifles, 375 Browning automatics, 35 sub-machine guns, 292 light and heavy machine guns, etc.

This fighting Second, which won more decorations than any other American division in World War I, is now the model for other triangular divisions.

2,600 Motor Vehicles.

But the U. S. infantry has already gone beyond the triangular division described above. At Fort Benning, Ga., Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendall commands the streamlined, motorized triangular Fourth division, which sets a new high for infantry fire-power and mobility. The Fourth "rolls on rubber," and in field maneuvers it covers 200 to 300 miles per day in 2,600 motor vehicles of all kinds, giving this fighting force the greatest speed, mobility, and fire-power of any infantry division in existence; and by virtue of this fact it is like the new First armored division, the model around which other divisions are being patterned. Field tests show that a motorized infantry division arrives at a front-line position much fresher than



Perfect co-ordination is the "secret" of our modernized army's tremendous striking power. Despite the rapid development of aviation and tanks, the infantryman is still the "backbone" of the army. Motorized, and armed with the Garand rifle, he is far more potent than ever before.

troops who have marched for miles, and they can, therefore, hold tenaciously to gains made by the rapid-advancing armored forces.

In order to get a bird's-eye view of how a motorized division "rolls on rubber," I flew over a bit of terrain near Fort Benning in an army three-place observation plane piloted by Lieut. J. D. Motyl, of the Ninety-seventh observation squadron.

Sitting on a parachute, in the rear gunner's seat, and facing the plane rudder, with my back to the pilot, we flew over patches of Georgia's red earth and green forest to a point about 30 miles from Benning where Pilot Motyl called my attention to what seemed an endless column of trucks, motorcycles, reconnaissance cars, command cars, armored cars, and guns—all motorized, all rolling on rubber. This particular combat team of the Fourth division stretched for 50 miles along a sinuous highway; hence, in closed single column, a full division of motorized infantry would occupy about 150 miles of roadway. The average daily gasoline consumption for such a force on a 200-mile march is about 50,000 gallons.

The infantry also receives support from all types of aircraft, and if necessary, from the chemical warfare service.

Use Parachute Troops.

The newest addition to the U. S. infantry is a rapidly expanding parachute force of highly-trained and resourceful "blitzers" who can unlimber a machine gun or mortar in a trice and who can harass an enemy behind the lines.

At Fort Sam Houston I watched the army's interesting experiments with air transports for rapid transit of guns and fully-equipped troops. In less than 10 minutes, a dozen men loaded a 37-mm anti-tank gun, weighing more than 900 pounds, and necessary ammunition.

In a matter of weeks, sufficient "blitz-buggies," compact but high-powered "bantam" cars, will be available for all infantry divisions. On four cylinders, these 2,000-pound four-man vehicles travel as fast as

a mile per minute, if you can hold on. They climb steep slopes, leap ravines, and if they get mired, the soldiers can lift one end clear.

The standard weapons of a U. S. infantry division give it the best potential fire-power in the world today. The Springfield rifle, which in past battles gave a good account of itself, is rapidly yielding to the superior Garand rifle whose fire-power surpasses that of any similar weapon in Europe today. Trained soldiers fire up to 35 rounds per minute as against 15 rounds with the Springfield.

Another U. S. infantry weapon, the Browning automatic rifle, fires up to 150 rounds per minute.

The 37-mm anti-tank gun fires a high explosive 1.5-pound shell at the rate of 25 rounds per minute.

The 81-mm mortar hurls an 11-pound shell up to 7,500 feet at a rate of 18 rounds per minute.

The Browning 30-caliber machine gun delivers up to 430 rounds per minute.

All in all, there are, besides the rifle and pistol, 11 different medium and small fire weapons in the U. S. infantryman's arsenal, and individually, or together, they give unsurpassed fire-power.

Ancient Disease Still Threatens Men, Livestock

CHICAGO.—The same disease which killed the cave man, and which prompted Moses to lay down the first known laws on meat inspection, is still a serious threat to both animals and man, and a cause of severe losses to livestock producers on American farms today.

This disease—anthrax—is one of the oldest germ-borne plagues in existence. The cave man contracted it from the skins of animals which he wore for clothing. It devastated livestock herds in the Holy Land more than 2,000 years ago. For centuries it has taken its toll of livestock, ranging from reindeer in Siberia to sheep and cattle in South Africa.

Live Many Years.

The germs of anthrax are very large compared to other bacteria. In the blood of animals and man they exist in the "vegetative" form—rod-shaped single germs with square ends. Outside the body or after death, the germs form long chains with a central spore. In this form, hardy anthrax bacteria live for years in contaminated soil.

Livestock generally contract the disease from infected soil, from sewage of tanneries, or from the bites of flies that have bitten anthrax-sick animals.

Man ordinarily becomes infected through skinning animals dead of the disease or from handling hides. Human anthrax usually shows up as a malignant carbuncle or huge black boil. The germs may migrate through the blood and lymph streams and produce systemic blood poisoning or "septicemia." Luckily, most cases can be saved if diagnosed early.

In America there are a number of severe anthrax "infection" areas, where farmers and veterinarians are making a valiant fight to overcome the disease and to protect livestock and man from its ravages. According to a survey by the American Foundation for Animal Health, these areas extend from the Mississippi delta country to the Dakotas, and from California to the Southeastern Atlantic states. Nor is the disease confined to these sections alone. Like all serious plagues, it sometimes appears unexpectedly in areas far removed from its source.

Farm Income Continues Rise



The agricultural situation for the month of May is graphically revealed by the above map prepared by the bureau of agricultural economics, U. S. department of agriculture.

U. S. Scientists Develop Automatic Weather Stations

WASHINGTON.—Modern developments in the field of radio transmission have made it possible to devise an automatic weather station capable of unattended operation for periods up to one month—and possibly three months in the future—at isolated locations, such as mountains and islands, according to the U. S. department of commerce.

The aerological division of the bureau of aeronautics, navy department, pioneered in this field. To meet the requirements of the navy aerologists, the national bureau of standards, department of commerce, developed an ingenious but simple transmitting apparatus for use in such stations.

An automatic weather station may be equipped to make and transmit measurements of barometric pressure, ambient temperature and relative humidity, wind velocity and direction, rainfall, and probably other factors.

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D-Daily S-Sunday

Good Are Few
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