NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by **CARTER FIELD**

Raids on Japan Designed To Weaken Her Attacks . . . More Encouraging War News Due Soon . . .

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON. — Adm. Thomas Hart and other military figures have made it clear that, important as morale may be, it will be necessary, before this war can be ended, to defeat the enemy in battle—on land, on sea and in the air.

The spectacular airplane raid from Australia to the Philippines, followed so quickly by the raids on Tokyo, were NOT merely for purposes of morale, as so many have assumed. As a matter of fact, morale was tremendously important in the Tokyo raid, but it was Chinese, not Japanese morale that was really important even in that. None of the leading figures directing the military moves of the United Nations has any delusions about Japanese morale.

The two raids were designed, first and foremost, to compel Japan to weaken her far-flung attacks by holding planes on the home islands for their defense instead of sending them as replacements to Burma, the Philippines, Java and elsewhere. Even in Burma, where she has been enormously successful in pushing toward her objectives, Japan has been paying a very high price in loss of planes—and aviators. This would make little difference if the lost planes are promptly replaced.

Because of the difficulty in getting supplies—and new planes—to the Flying Tigers, Japan could afford almost any ratio of losses that might be necessary, and be sure of victory in the end.

Japan Now in Danger

But Japan does not yet know how serious is the bombing threat for her home land. If the raids are to continue, and perhaps grow heavier, she cannot afford to risk weakening her home defenses by sending all the air strength called for by her admirals and generals from the Siberian border to the gates of Australia.

So far as air power is concerned, the Japanese have been put at the same disadvantage which the United Nations have suffered since the beginning of the war. They have had to be ready everywhere, not knowing where the Axis powers would strike.

To that extent she is weakened in her continuance of the offensive. Unfortunately this applies only to air attack. She seems to have control of the sea in the entire area in which she is operating. She is known to have more troops than she knows how to use for the present.

But this last is seriously affected by the danger of air attacks in ANY of her operating areas. The question of supply becomes serious in the face of that threat. She will not dare—assuming the threat can be continued—to move troops or supplies by sea except when escorted by ample air power.

This necessity will constitute another element in the pressure to provide ample air defense everywhere, the only sort of pressure, for the time being, that the United Nations can apply.

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Nation Will Be Pleased

Things are being done in this war effort of the United States which will please the people when they know about them. This sounds like whistling in the dark at the moment.

But some extraordinary things are going on—things which would answer a lot of criticism which is being whispered around—things of a character to arouse public enthusiasm when they are revealed, as they will be later on.

The importance of this lies in the contrast between our system of government and the British. Winston Churchill may weather the storm. He is a magnificent orator. But it's likely to be touch and go. It's very hard for even a good orator to avoid the consequences of what his critics think was very bad military judgment.

But the President is in no such danger. The criticism in this country could reach tremendous proportions without jarring him very much. Congress could act up, but it could not deny him money for military purposes, and it could not take over the direction either of the army and navy or international relations.

So it is not politically essential for FDR to force out the good news. If any military reason justifies it, the President can permit the suppression of not only the things being done, to which allusion has already been made, but of other things which might be of even greater importance.

The good news alluded to has come to the writer accidentally. They lead to the conviction that there must be many other things which have received no publicity.

Friendly Neighbors to the South of US . . . .

South America, Led by Vast Republic of Brazil, Now More Closely United With U. S. After Rio Conference

By CHARLES A. SINGLER

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Consider briefly the great continent to the south of us, and see what bearing it may have upon Uncle Sam's all-out victory effort.

Time was, in the early days of the war, when South America was very much like Benito Mussolini. Remember that stocky orator, poised on the fence of power politics, eagerly watching each move in the great struggle to see which way the balance of power was shifting. And then, satisfied that he had made the right decision, jump into the fray with his Italian legions.

South America's attitude was much on this order for a long time. If Germany were to win in Europe, South America stood ready to move in a totalitarian direction. If Germany lost, she would be content with what Pan-Americanism might have to offer her.

The United States was regarded as "the Colossus of the North" and viewed with both suspicion and concern. The Latin-Americans resented Uncle Sam; they distrusted him; they thought he was meddling. Shirt organizations, cut to the measure of Adolf Hitler's military tailors who were cutting up Europe on a pattern of their own, were flourishing everywhere throughout South America.

Here was a picture that needed changing—a pattern which could only spell trouble and plenty of it. Confronted with this picture, Uncle Sam evolved his "good neighbor policy" which already has gone a long way towards banishing distrust and bringing about that hemisphere solidarity so urgently needed to present a solid front against the Axis powers.

No attempt will be made in this limited space to cover all the potentials in natural resources, or in men, munitions and ships, which South America represents to the United Nations. And it is well that we bear in mind that we are bound to South America by much more than a thin neck of land through which the Panama canal has cut its way.

Spirit of Freedom Kin.

We are bound to South America by cultural, traditional and economic ties. We are kin to it by the spirit of freedom. For the very same love of freedom which caused the Pilgrim Fathers to break away from Europe's feudal ties caused Brazil to break away from Portugal. Rio de Janeiro, with its magnificent backdrop of 365 mountain peaks—a mountain peak for every day in the year—was founded 55 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

The conference in Rio de Janeiro was charged with significance, and the outcome of that conference, while it was not a total success, was so full of good import that every citizen of the United States can take heart from the results achieved.

After the conference in Rio, in which Under - Secretary Sumner Welles and Foreign Minister Oswaldo Aranha of Brazil, former ambassador to Washington, were the principal figures, Brazil moved into top position among the ten South American republics—a position which Argentina had enjoyed over a long period of years, and the Western hemisphere began to turn hopeful eyes to the great republic of Brazil for new leadership in the solidifying of South America against the wiles and tricks of Axis propagandists.

At least three countries which had been satellites of Argentina—Paraguay, Bolivia and Uruguay—switched allegiances, and began looking hopefully to Brazil for guidance.

As for Chile, she demonstrated at her last election how she felt about the Hitler-Hirohito-Mussolini combination of international brigands, for at that time Juan A. Rios, prodemocratic candidate for the presidency, was elected by a landslide vote. And while these two countries have not gone all the way, the steps they have taken indicate a definite trend away from the Axis, which is reassuring to say the least. They have pledged to cut business relations with the Axis, to bar war materials from going to the enemies of the democracies, and to combat totalitarian influences within their borders.

Argentina's and Chile's failure to give full co-operation at the Rio conference, however, has not been without its price.

That price is the cutting off of special economic military and naval aid under lend-lease, the theory being that the countries that have either severed relations or declared war have exposed themselves to Axis attack and possible invasion. Lend-lease commitments will, therefore, preferentially be extended to those nations which have already made the breach. Chile, however, because of her long coastline and her small navy, will get modified treatment in regard to military and naval supplies.

The smallest of the South American republics is Uruguay, with 72,153 square miles. Brazil, the largest, has 3,285,319 square miles within its borders, an area larger than the United States proper. **Into these great spaces of mountain and valley jungle and plain the whole of Europe — omitting Russia — could easily be enclosed.**

While Brazil with its 43,000,000 inhabitants and boundless natural resources represents a vast potential of power, it also represents a military liability because of that dangerous land-bulge towards Vichy-controlled Dakar, on the bulge of Africa. It will be recalled that the British and Free French forces battled to wrest Dakar from Vichy early in the war, but found the job too big and too costly. Dakar is 1,600 air miles from Natal, Brazil.

World War I Ally.

America has not forgotten that in World War I Brazil went to battle on the side of the Allies. With its big coastline and its big reserve of vital war materials, such as rubber and manganese, and its leadership in the Pan-American movement against the Axis, it is quite natural that Brazil should come in for the most aid from the United States.

Brazil has an army of 100,000 men, the largest army in South America, and most of these men under arms are in the zone where her coastline bulges to within attacking range of the base of Dakar, Africa. The republic has about 300,000 reserves, and an untrained manpower of 1,000,000. Brazil not only controls the shortest invasion route across the ocean, but guards the southern shores of the Caribbean gateway. In northern Brazil air defense drills are held almost every day. The wild and uninhabited coastline offers many an ideal site for enemy submarine refueling operations, within but a few hours' flying time from the Panama canal. In realization of this threat, air forces patrol the coastline.

Brazil has two battleships, seven destroyers, two cruisers, and four submarines. Its air force consists of a sizeable armada of U. S.-built planes. Happily for all concerned, it is rapidly expanding its army, navy and air force. Happily, also, is the fact that Getulio Vargas, president of Brazil, is a great aviation enthusiast, who has a plane and a pilot of his own, and who knows what it's all about. Another item on the happy side of the ledger: Brazil has a sizeable merchant fleet, the second largest in the hemisphere.

Warplanes and munitions are being made in Brazil's factories on a large scale; iron is being mined from the hills and rubber is being tapped from her rubber trees. America's desperate rubber situation may find at least a partial answer in Brazil.

Importance of Colombia.

Among other vital raw materials which come from Brazil are bauxite, which is vital to the manufacture of war planes; quartz, graphite and mica, also castor oil, which is used in the lubrication of high-speed engines.

Colombia's position on the map makes her full co-operation with the U. S. a matter of vital importance. Colombia was among the first of the Latin-American nations to declare war on the Axis. She has some 15,000 men under arms, and more than 250,000 trained reserves guarding areas close to the Panama canal. Colombia's principal exports are coffee, oil and gold.

Bolivia, shivering on her cold and barren mountain plateau, is more important in our war effort than most of us imagine. Since the fall of Malaya into the hostile hands of the Japs, the tin center of the world, at least for the U. S., has become Bolivia. Tin furnishes 70 per cent of her exports.

Venezuela's vast oil fields are of strategic importance in the all-out war effort of the United Nations. The great bulk of this crude oil is refined at the huge plants on the Dutch islands of Curacao and Aruba.

Here are just a few of the Brazilian "Good Neighbor" anti-aircraft guns, and their crews. In addition to many more guns such as these, not only in Brazil but other South American nations, Brazil's good neighbor air-defense program calls for a largely increased fleet of planes and pilots to fly them. This South American nation, working with the United States against the Axis, has received many "mass deliveries" of bombers from the U. S.

At Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sumner Welles, under secretary of state and head of the U. S. delegation to the Rio conference of American republics, is pictured with a Brazilian naval man during a visit to the navy yard at Rio. A Brazilian warship is pictured in the background.

The Vastness of South America

The estimated population is 91,300,000.

The Amazon river there is the longest in the world—3,900 miles.

The Andes mountain system, extending 4,400 miles from Panama to Tierra del Fuego, is the longest and highest mountain range in the world. It averages nearly 13,000 feet—a dozen peaks exceeding 21,000 feet.

Brazil, alone, is more than 260,000 square miles larger than the United States. That South American nation territory covers 3,285,319 square miles.

Paraguay with 61,847 square miles is the smallest nation in South America, excluding, of course, the three Guiana nations in the north.

Natal, in northern Brazil, is the nearest American point to Africa.

The wild, and hardy tribe of Patagonians live at the very end of South America, along the Magellan strait.

Some of its most important products are gold, diamonds, coffee, nitrates, manganese, tin, copper, cattle, cotton, cacao and rubber.

Wood Successfully Replacing Metal for Many Purposes

Though historians skipped it, a wood age must have preceded the Stone, Bronze, and Iron ages, but that oversight is now to be remedied—A Wood age is going to follow them. We are now in the first phases of this new wood age. It is ushering in new businesses and reviving old arts was revealed in a survey of displayed consumer goods items at a large merchandising center in Chicago, Ill.

More on the artistic side are displayed scores of new woodenware products that come under a gift classification. Among these is a table piece carved in the form of a lobster with a well in its back for salads or snacks. Then there is a variety of carved trays, and platters. Some of the latter have grooved outlines to fit the shape of turkeys, ducks, etc.

Here are more items being made out of wood instead of metal:

GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

MEANING OF UNITY IN WAR EFFORT

THERE IS NO DOUBT about America being collectively a unit back of the government in the world contest in which we are engaged. We are all of that unit. Every man, woman and child wants the government to win.

But there is a difficulty. We must be more than collectively supporting the war. It must be more than a government war. It must be individually our war. We must think of what losing it would do to each individual and what stake each of us has in the defeat of the Huns and Japs.

We had that individual interest in the First World war. We had it largely because each individual had a definite part or place in it. We had Liberty bond sales, with a quota set up for each community, each county, ward, township and block. It was Joe Brown's job to see that Frank Mills bought one or more bonds, and it was Frank Mills' job to see that George Smith came across.

When it was not bond sales, it was Red Cross, YMCA, Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, or some other drive for war funds. In all these, quotas were set and it was up to the individual to meet those quotas in the field allotted to him or her. Such efforts included the school children. They brought their pennies and nickels and dimes, and made sacrifices to do so.

That war was the individual's war, with something definite for each of us to do, and over which we could, and did, enthuse. Through doing each individual job, we, individually, hated the Germans. The kaiser was the enemy, not only of our government, but of each one of us.

To arouse the full force of America, to make this an "all-out" war, we must each have a definite job to do, and we will do it. Civilian defense is only a part of what we need. With that must be civilian offense—doing something on the part of the individual that will hit the enemy. We need brass bands, flags flying and parades, of which we, as individuals, will be a part.

When each of us has been assigned a job to do, this will be an individual as well as a national war. When it is that, there will be no doubt of its being an "all-out" war.

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RELIGIOUS REVIVAL . . . AND AMERICA

ABOUT A YEAR AGO Daniel J. Schuyler, a Chicago attorney, said to me:

"What America needs most is a great religious revival. It would arouse our sense of responsibility as nothing else could."

At the time I wrote a piece about that statement which appeared in this column.

In something of the same vein, 37 citizens of Dinwiddie county, Virginia, addressed a statement to the general public through the columns of the Southside Virginia News at Petersburg, Va.

That statement calls for a prayerful appeal by the people for Divine guidance and spiritual support that will enable us, as a people, to carry on in these days of conflict with the forces of evil.

That appeal represents the Christian virtues for which we are fighting. Its 37 signatures are of all types of citizens—teachers, farmers, merchants, doctors, workmen, public officials, lawyers, bankers and others. It is truly representative, not alone of the people of Dinwiddie county, Virginia, but of the people of every county in every state. We are a Christian nation, and it is well that we make public acknowledgement of our dependence upon Divine guidance.

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YOUR NEWSPAPER A BULWARK OF UNITY

THE COUNTRY NEWSPAPERS of America, those published in communities of a few hundred to a few thousand people, constitute one of America's important institutions. Their editors of an earlier day pioneered from ocean to ocean. They aided materially in building communities and in developing those communities into market places and cultural centers. They were, and are, the spokesmen for rural America. Protection for the town and farm home is their province. They are listened to, and their views are respected in the legislative assemblies of the land. **In these days of national peril, they, collectively, are a bulwark for national unity, maintaining the courage and patriotism of rural America. They are safe, sane and sensible, and stand four square for the America of yesterday, today and tomorrow.**

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THE YOUNG WOMAN STENOGRAPHER in Cleveland whose $25 a week salary was augmented to the extent of $40,000 by a bonus, must feel exceptionally patriotic. That bonus was paid out of profits the company that employs her made out of war contracts. Who gave them a contract that would permit of such profits?

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER and sailor's idea of what they are fighting for is the preservation of our form of government and our way of life and standard of living.

Shorthand Skill Can Be Acquired at Home

THE war means more and more jobs for women; the government particularly needs stenographers. If you've ever thought of teaching yourself shorthand, now's the time!

It won't take you long to learn. You can teach yourself the fundamentals of Pitman shorthand—practicing regularly each day.

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WNU—4 19—42

Sentinels of Health

Don't Neglect Them!

Nature designed the kidneys to do a marvelous job. Their task is to keep the flowing blood stream free of an excess of toxic impurities. The act of living—*it's itself*—is constantly producing waste matter the kidneys must remove from the blood if good heath is to endure.

When the kidneys fail to function as Nature intended, there is retention of waste that may cause body-wide distress. One may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel tired, nervous, all worn out.

Frequent, scanty or burning passages are sometimes further evidence of kidney or bladder disturbance.

The recognized and proper treatment is a diuretic medicine to help the kidneys get rid of excess poisonous body waste. Use *Doan's Pills*. They have had more than forty years of public approval. Are endorsed the country over. Insist on *Doan's*. Sold at all drug stores.

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