NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Experts Talk About Russia's New 'Secret' Weapon . . . Wooden Sailing Vessels to Be Used Soon . . .

Bell Syndicate—WNU Features.

WASHINGTON.—Russia will still be fighting when winter comes again. That is the assurance high government officials are giving.

What is more, some of them are predicting that the Nazis are in for some very unpleasant surprises before another month of fighting on the Russian front.

So much has been said about Adolf Hitler's various secret weapons, from time to time, that it is a relief to be able to state, on absolute knowledge, that the Russians will be trying out a secret weapon against Hitler.

More than this cannot be said, nor can any inkling of the nature of the "surprise" be given, but men who know their military tactics and their weapons, and know as much about German weapons and technique as anyone outside Germany itself, predict confidently that Hitler's generals will have to revise their entire strategy as a result.

This secret weapon, they think, is apt to prove as revolutionary in this war as the Merrimac and Monitor proved in the Civil war, though of course the new weapon applies to land fighting.

At first blush it might seem a great deal more encouraging if the new weapon were a sure cure for the submarine, for it is the battle of the Atlantic that is so all important.

Some experts point out, however, that while the submarine menace to shipping is the vital factor right now, so far as the news is concerned, the new weapon, which, by the time it gets into wholesale operation, will not only hold the Germans, but drive them back, may prove to be more timely than if it were what now seems so much more immediately necessary—a submarine cure.

Harmful to the Nazis

The theory of the experts on this is that for the present, and for perhaps another year, the submarine in the Pacific is more important to us than to Japan. So that if a perfect cure for the submarine were devised, and the Japs were able to imitate it, the result might be to impede our mopping up of Japan rather than to aid it.

Experts believe that once the new weapon which is so confidently expected to aid Russia becomes known—as soon as it is used half a dozen times—the Germans will know precisely what it is, they will be able to imitate it without much trouble.

But this factor is not as important as it sounds. The net result, if BOTH SIDES had the weapon in quantity today, would be enormously harmful to Germany. It would neutralize what at present is a very real superiority on the part of the German armies.

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Old Timers Eager To Man Sailing Ships

The suggestion that a big fleet of amateur motor boatmen maintain a chain of protection along the coast against submarines has started a lot of thinking in Washington on an entirely different tack.

There are now some enthusiastic advocates of small sailing vessels—not to chase submarines; they would be useless for that—but to carry cargoes from near-by ports.

Now obviously an old-fashioned schooner, or smaller sailing craft, has passed into the discard so far as freight carrying is concerned simply and solely because it was cheaper to haul by power.

Why was it cheaper to use power than to use wind, which cost nothing? Because the sailing vessel required so much longer to make any given round trip. In the old days, at the rate of pay then in existence for sailors, this made little difference.

But with modern requirements both as to wages and as to living conditions aboard ship a condition was produced where if the little vessel were becalmed a week the total profit on the voyage would be lost.

But, as in the case of spending the additional money to get oil and gas to the Northeast, it may NOW be profitable, aside from any necessity, to use sailing vessels.

There is another important advantage, in view of present conditions, in using sail, if only small vessels are used. No one of them would be worth a submarine's time, shells, and, least of all a torpedo.

An old-fashioned Chesapeake Bay "bugeye," a type of sailboat pointed at both ends, having a large forward mast and a short mast behind, operated with a centerboard so as to make the fullest use of contrary winds, with only two men aboard and some 60 to 100 tons of sugar, would present little temptation to a submarine captain unless he were running short of sweets.

With U. S. Troops in Libyan Desert

Refreshed by a night's sleep punctured by the roar of nearby guns, members of the crew of a U. S.-built "General Grant" tank (left) go through the morning routine, somewhere in the Libyan desert. Right: A German ammunition truck is shown afire after a direct hit during a skirmish.

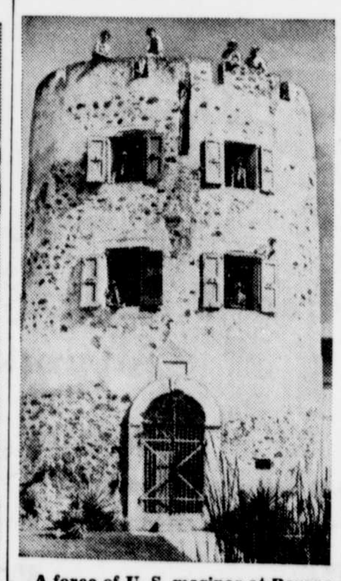
Feminine 'Chute Packers See Work Tested

Feminine navy league aides, students in the first parachute rigging class for women in the country, at Philadelphia, see the 'chutes which they packed taken aloft for test jump (right) with dummies attached. Pilot Robert Bitner, pilot of the testing ship, receives the 'chutes. Picture at left shows the completion of a successful test jump. The students struggle to deflate the billowing silk so as to pack it again.

Greetings to Leader of 'Fighting French'

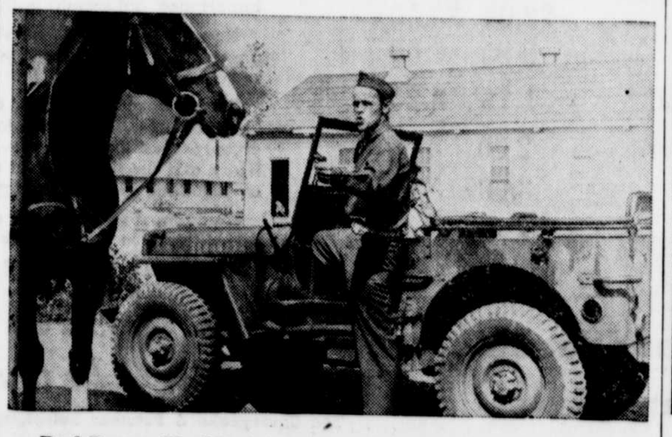
Gen. Charles De Gaulle, left, leader of the "Fighting French" (formerly the Free French) shakes the hand of Lieut. Gen. D. D. Eisenhower, U. S. commander for the European theater on the celebration of Bastille day in London. Adm. H. R. Stark, commander of the U. S. naval forces in European waters (center) looks on.

'Bluebeard Tower'



A force of U. S. marines at Bourne Field, U. S. marine air station, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, looks down on the sunny Caribbean from "Bluebeard's Tower." The turret is all that remains of a fortress which legend says was the retreat of the fabled character.

Paul Revere Rides Again



Paul Revere, 25, of Braintree, Mass., lineal descendant of the famous patriot of the same name, is now a buck private in Uncle Sam's army, having been sworn in recently in the presence of cheering troops. He then toured the camp on Duffy, 101st cavalry horse, before donning his uniform. Above, Paul bids adieu to Duffy and takes over with a jeep.

Colombians

Arriving at Miami to join President-elect Alfonso Lopez of Colombia, who was in the U. S. as guest of President Roosevelt, Senora De Lopez is shown (right) with her daughter.

Star Dust
STAGE SCREEN RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SEEMS as if a doffing of hats to Gene Autrey, who enlisted in the Army Air Corps, is indicated. "He will not receive a commission," announces the report. He'll get one, of course, eventually—he's bound to, because he's the stuff that officers are made of. But when so many men of the motion picture industry are stepping right out as officers at the start, isn't it swell of Gene to begin at the bottom? Reminds me of one movie executive who told me that he had applied for a commission as lieutenant colonel in the army; if he didn't get it, he'd stay out! P.S.—He didn't get it!

You really ought to see "Mrs. Miniver," if only to find out why the world's largest theater, the Radio City Music Hall, booked it for six weeks running, with 772,983 people seeing it during the first five weeks—a figure equalling the population of Boston, Mass.

The film version of Irving Berlin's "This Is the Army," the army show which delighted New York

IRVING BERLIN

from the moment it opened, will be photographed in color, luckily. Irving Berlin will supervise the production, in Hollywood.

Robert Donat's first screen appearance since "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" will be made in "Sabotage Agent." It will be directed by Harold Bucquet, who has just finished "The War Against Mrs. Hadley," and will be made in London.

Five years ago the Maine Development association sent Walt Disney the two young deer who served as models for the hero and heroine of his "Bambi." So a special premiere of "Bambi" was booked for Augusta, Maine, following the first showing of the picture in New York.

Daisy, who won fame in the "Blondie" series, recently whelped five pups, all of which are now the property of Penny Singleton because she has a large ranch. She named them, naturally, for the characters in the pictures. By the way, this is the only film series in which the original actors have worked as a unit throughout — Penny, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms ("Baby Dumpling"), and Daisy.

Maybe Esther Williams started something when, wanting a souvenir that she could show friends who weren't in the movies, she bought a white satin bathing suit and had it autographed in black waterproof ink by every star on the Metro lot. Incidentally, though she's a swimming star, Esther really swims in "Andy Hardy's Last Fling"—usually Hollywood doesn't let an expert do what he or she is expert at.

The biggest stride of any regional radio network show has been made by "Grand Ole Opry," the Saturday night folk music program heard over NBC. It was the first of the in-person shows to make regular army camp appearances last fall, under the name of "Caravan." Now there are four road units touring the camps. One master of ceremonies has landed a network contract on the new CBS Caravan Hour.

To prove that Uncle Sam uses radio talent to the best advantage, take the story of Detroit's Frank Telford, director of the "This Is Our Enemy" series heard over Mutual Sunday nights. A former script writer for the Detroit board of education, Telford went to Washington without network experience, but with a briefcase full of ideas. Now he's made a niche for himself as a radio executive.

ODDS AND ENDS . . . All in one week Frank Morgan celebrated his 52nd birthday, began his 52nd feature picture, "White Cargo," and celebrated the completion of 25 years as a motion picture actor . . . Red Skelton says that he has played so many camp shows that every time he sees a soldier he goes into his monologue . . . Jack Benny won't star in "The Meanest Man in the World"; it's said that after he read the final script he pursuaded the studio to abandon plans for it . . . Instead of giving his annual party for members of the "Big Town" cast at the end of the season, Edward G. Robinson gave them all war bonds this year.

JUST JESTING

That's Pointed

Mother—Sometimes there are rude boys in Sunday school who giggle and smile at little girls, and sometimes little girls smile back at them, but I hope my little girl does not behave like that.

Small Daughter—No, indeed, mama; I always put out my tongue at 'em.

To Save Argument

Professor—Can you prove that the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the two sides of this triangle?

Student—No, sir. But I'm willing to admit it.

Same Result

"Are you a college man?"

"No; a horse stepped on my hat."

Brussels sprouts prove that the best part of cabbage can come in small packages, but can still spread as violent a smell.

True to Form

"If I refuse you, will you commit suicide, Cecil?"

"Well, that's been my usual custom."

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

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Hermit Monks

In Tibet, many Buddhist monks spend their entire adult life sealed up in little stone huts with only a small opening for the passing of air and food, says Collier's. A few years ago one of these men was dragged out of his hut after being shut in for 69 years and was found to be blind and shrunken to half his former size. Contact with daylight killed him within an hour.

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Kidneys Must Work Well-
For You To Feel Well
24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.
If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of *why* the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.
Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at nights, swelling.
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