The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON

Washington, D. C.

NOT ONLY A FIGHTER, BUT ALSO A DIPLOMAT

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower has a lot of tough jobs in Africa, and one of them, which doesn't get into the headlines, is to be the diplomatic negotiator among high French officials.

Among other things, he has been very adroit in handling General Giraud, who escaped from France dressed as an old woman and who now is in command of French forces in North Africa.

Actually, General Giraud expected to be commander of all forces in North Africa, both French and American. He is one of the highest generals in the French army, and before France fell, would have replaced General Gamelin as chief of staff had he not been taken prisoner. Therefore, since he outranks Eisenhower and has had much more varied experience, it is not unnatural that Giraud should aspire to be commander-in-chief of the entire North African operation, including the U. S. army.

Eisenhower, however, has a charming personality, a broad grin, a smattering of French, and had little trouble in handling General Giraud.

Another complication was the fact that Giraud hates Admiral Darlan. Yet Darlan, as a member of the cabinet, outranks him. In addition, there is General Nogues, another top-ranking officer. So it has been worked out that Nogues commands the French civil population, Giraud the French army, and Darlan the French fleet.

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SIDETRACKED PLANES

When Wendell Willkie conferred with Stalin in Moscow, the Russian leader was critical of the British for sidetracking American lend - lease goods in Scotland and substituting for them inferior British war supplies.

The inside story of this can now be told.

Last summer, a shipment of Airacobras was en route to Russia from the United States and the convoy stopped to refuel in the British Isles. At that time, General Eisenhower, preparing for the second front in Africa, asked that these fast fighting planes be given to him instead of being sent on to Russia.

General Eisenhower was so insistent that he finally went to Prime Minister Churchill personally, who finally agreed that the Airacobras be sidetracked for use on the forthcoming African front.

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OVERRULING ROOSEVELT

More and more it looks as if Ferdinand Eberstadt, the Wall Street broker, is becoming the most powerful man in the War Production board and one of the most powerful in the government. It hasn't leaked out yet, but recently he managed to overrule the vice president of the United States, the undersecretary of state, and Lend-Lease Administrator Ed Stettinius.

Some time ago, Eberstadt appointed as chief of WPB export priorities, Major Tom Armstrong, of Standard Oil of New Jersey, who had operated in various Latin American countries. Armstrong had been vigorous in bucking the development of Latin American government-owned oil companies, and the Latin Americans don't like him. Therefore, they squawked when they heard he would now sit in their all-important priorities position where he could decide whether they could, or could not, receive oil equipment to develop their government-owned industries in competition with Standard and private companies.

Undersecretary of State Welles agreed with the Latin Americans, and protested to the President. So did Vice President Wallace of the BEW, and also Stettinius, who buys lend-lease oil equipment for Latin American governments.

As a result of these protests, Roosevelt ordered Donald Nelson to dismiss Major Armstrong. However, Eberstadt in effect has overruled the President. He insisted that Armstrong remain. And he is still on the job.

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CAPITAL CHAFF

¶ Mrs. Roosevelt, looking from an airplane on the new marble structure known as the Jefferson Memorial, remarked, "I doubt if Jefferson would have liked to see money spent that way."

¶ There are already 225,000 applications on file for commissions from civilian life.

¶ Except for a few rare specialists, the only route to a commission nowadays is to get into the army as a private, then attend an officer candidates school.

¶ Not to be stalled by lack of gasoline, one sightseeing company in Washington has hired and repainted an old two-horse ten-passenger wagon, which drives around the capital as "Victory Sightseeing."

¶ Warning that the war department will dispense no more "cellophane commissions," Secretary Stimson says it does no good for applicants to write appealing letters to him, which open with the catch phrase, "I know what a busy man you are, but—" . . . Some people write to Stimson at his home, expecting personal attention.

French Fascists Inspect Troops

This photo, published in a German propaganda magazine, shows Pierre Laval with Marshal Petain, aged chief of state of France, as they inspected troops at Vichy before the Nazis took over what was left of France. Petain solemnly named Laval fascist dictator and Petain's presumptive heir to replace Admiral Darlan who "sold out" to Allies.

Would Change Our Small Change

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, director of the U. S. mint, chats with Sen. Robert Wagner of New York, chairman of the senate banking and currency committee, when Mrs. Ross appeared before that committee to testify. The group is considering a request for authorization to substitute other materials for the strategic metals now used in minor coinage.

Fighting French Heroes Honored

General Alexander, commander in chief of the British Middle Eastern forces, recently decorated a number of Free French officers and men who distinguished themselves at Bir Hacheim. At top Free French infantrymen are shown as they were reviewed by the C-in-C. Lower photo shows General Alexander inspecting speedy Bren gun carriers and crews.

Inspect Jap Tanks in New Guinea

Australian and American soldiers inspect Jap war tanks knocked out in the New Guinea jungle, where the brown invader is being pushed back to his beach-heads, after advancing almost to Port Moresby. These tanks are lightly armed and very vulnerable.

'Woman of Year'

Mrs. Nellie Mistele, who founded pie-of-the-month club for the USO club in Milwaukee, is shown with some of her pies. Mrs. Mistele and her aids produce pies at rate of 300 a month. We nominate her for title of "woman of the year."

Opens Seal Drive

President Roosevelt buys the first sheet of stamps to open the 36th annual Christmas seal campaign of the National Tuberculosis association from Lieut. Col. E. R. Long of the medical corps. Colonel Long is chief of the tuberculosis section, office of surgeon general.

Mine Detector

Mines, which take the place of barbed wire, are playing an important role in the war on the African front. The British mine detector is the best bet to counteract these hidden monsters. When the device detects a mine, certain sounds reach the earphones of the sappers, and they go and render the mine useless. Their work requires an unusually high degree of skill and courage. The detector, until now a little mentioned weapon, played an important part in the recent Allied victory in Egypt. Picture shows a sapper holding a mine detector.

A Sailor's Sailor

Vice Admiral William F. Halsey, whose smashing victory in Round 2 of the Solomon Islands battle eliminated many Jap warships. Halsey is a sailor's sailor and doesn't follow any of the rules.

Dead Letters from Germany

By Maurice Hindus

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with American Magazine)

These letters, an armful of them, fell in my lap with a rustle like windblown leaves. "Fresh from the front," said my host, a widely known Russian writer. I am in Moscow, hunting for news.

These letters had been gathered from German dead on Don battlefields. The paper was ragged, but the decorative envelopes were of various colors, white, blue, and pink. All were written in Gothic script, many in pencil.

On top of the heap lay a postal card, shiny with two large drops of blood. It was from mother to son. The writing was scarcely legible, but from the few words I could make out, the soldier and his mother loved each other deeply. The blood indicated that the soldier had carried it close to his body.

There was something spectral about this postal card, about all the letters. They seemed like voices from the dead. But they weren't. They were voices from the living—inside Germany.

Russians Collect Letters From Dead

The Russians have collected hundreds of thousands of such letters, and also diaries, from the German dead. These have been read, digested, put away. In the absence of direct relations between the United Nations and Germany, they are the only authentic source of information about Germany and the German people that we now have.

The letters are intimate and personal—from parents to son, from brides to grooms, sisters to brothers, wives to husbands. They are as good a mirror as we have today of Germany, of the conditions of life and state of mind of civilians and soldiers.

85 Per Cent of Letters Ignore Politics

The outstanding feature of this correspondence is that 85 per cent of all the letters completely ignore politics, rarely mentioning the fuehrer or other Nazi chiefs, or referring to Nazi doctrines or practice.

Perhaps this is why military censorship is so lenient. Seldom are there any deletions, even when the writers speak frankly of hardship and sorrow, or of such delicate subjects as the deterioration of the morals of German women.

An Italian named Giovanni Volpi, working in Kufstein, Germany, writes to an Italian soldier at the Russian front: "I'll tell you frankly, German women have lost all control of themselves. They have gone out of their minds."

German Women 'Loose.'

So while Germans by the thousands die daily for the supremacy of their race and the purity of their blood, their women at home, despite Nazi ideology and Gestapo vigilance, indulge in no small amount of race defilement. That's one reason, no doubt, why German mothers and fathers show increasing anxiety and bewilderment at the "foreignization" of Germany through the presence of millions of alien laborers and war prisoners.

"You ask me," writes a father to his son, "how Berlin looks these days. Dear Fritz, Berlin has become an international city—you can hear every language in this street."

Vienna is no better. Bettie Schummer writes her husband: "Life is hard in Vienna. The city is crowded with foreigners . . . In the trolleys you hear only Italians, Spaniards, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Greeks, Bulgarians. Viennese are hardly seen."

Religious Folk Air Complaints.

Most of the letters are filled with complaints. Religious people feel hurt because the church bells have been melted into cannons. Now and then there's a letter about the treatment of elderly people which tells most by what it leaves unsaid. There are endless complaints of hardships.

The information in letters found on the German dead, intimate and personal as it is, leads to some striking deductions. The people inside Germany hate the war and want it to end. They are tired of hardships, sick of sacrifice. They lament the moral disintegration of their young women; they shudder at air raids; they weep over their dead.

But nowhere do they betray the least suggestion of German guilt or regret for horrors which the German armies perpetrate.

Hard as is their life, they know neither starvation nor desperation. Nor do they expect Germany to lose the war. To expect them at this time to revolt against Hitler is as futile and puerile as to expect the fuehrer to live up to his promises or the treaties he signs.

The Allies airman has made himself very unpopular in Germany. He is to Germans the "supreme villain" of today. They hate him.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

RAZOR BLADES

KENT BLADES Single or Double Edge The Outstanding Blade Value

Gems of Thought

LET us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it.—A. Lincoln.

Applause is the spur of noble minds, the end and aim of weak ones.—C. C. Colton.

This man is free of servile bands,
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall:
Lord of himself, though not of lands,
And, having nothing, yet hath all.
—HENRY WOTTON.

Be strong, and quit yourselves like men.—Old Testament.

A fine genius in his own country, is like gold in the mine.—Benjamin Franklin.

How To Relieve Bronchitis

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

Mother of Misery

Employment, which Galen calls "nature's physician," is so essential to human happiness that indolence is justly considered the mother of misery.—Robert Burton.

Uncle Bill says: PAZO for Simple PILES Relieves pain and soreness

Millions of people suffering from simple Piles, have found prompt relief with PAZO ointment. Here's why: First, PAZO ointment soothes inflamed areas—relieves pain and itching. Second, PAZO ointment lubricates hardened, dried parts—helps prevent cracking and soreness. Third, PAZO ointment tends to reduce swelling and check bleeding. Fourth, it's easy to use. PAZO ointment's perforated Pile Pipe makes application simple, thorough. Your doctor can tell you about PAZO ointment.

Get PAZO Today! At Drugstores!

Needed Solitude

Solitude is as needful to the imagination as society is wholesome for the character.—James Russell Lowell.

YOU WOMEN WHO SUFFER FROM HOT FLASHES

If you suffer from hot flashes, dizziness, distress of "irregularities", are weak, nervous, irritable, blue at times—due to the functional "middle-age" period in a woman's life—try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—the best-known medicine you can buy today that's made *especially for women*.

Pinkham's Compound has helped thousands upon thousands of women to relieve such annoying symptoms. Follow label directions. Pinkham's Compound is *worth trying!*

Find the Scrap to Eliminate the Jap

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Until restrictions were placed on gasoline consumption, tires were wearing out eight times faster than they were being replaced.

We've all heard of wooden tires, but tires made of concrete have been, at least in one instance, substituted for the conventional rubber. A Parker Dam engineer had cast reinforced concrete tires on the rims of a portable welding machine. They worked.

As the temperature inside a tire increases, the pressure goes up, but it is poor rubber economy to "bleed" or let the air out of the tire when it is hot. To do so means under-inflation—and rubber waste—when the casing cools.

In 1911 a tire for the then popular make of car cost the motorist $25.30 and gave about 2500 miles. A comparable tire for the present day popular makes of cars can be had (with ration certificate) for about $15. Properly handled it will return close to 25,000 miles of service.

Jerry Shaw

In war or peace B.F.Goodrich FIRST IN RUBBER