Army Divisions Face Reduction For Efficiency

Mobility and Speed Sought In Latest Reorganization Drive.

WASHINGTON. — Immediate reorganization of the regular army into units designed for the highest efficiency and mobility was announced by the war department.

The first step will be the reduction from 20,000 to 10,000 men, the department stated. With that accomplished, each division will be actually manned at full strength. Now, while the army theoretically has a large number of divisions, many of them are far below normal strength.

The reorganization will be carried out simultaneously with an increase in personnel from 210,000 to 227,000, as ordered by President Roosevelt when he declared a state of limited emergency.

Increase National Guard.

At the same time the national guard will be increased from 190,000 to 235,000.

The increase in the regular army will be accomplished on a "voluntary" basis, the war department emphasized, through voluntary enlistments. None of the 23,000 men in the reserve will be recalled.

An official explanation of the step read:

"The expansion of the regular army and the national guard, recently authorized by the President in his executive order of September 8, 1939, is being carried out entirely on a voluntary basis; that is, not only are enlistments in the regular army voluntary, but also the increase of the national guard remains within the discretion of the governors of the respective states.

"The war department does not intend calling into service the 23,000 men now on the rolls of the regular army reserve, authorized by the seventy-fifth congress. This force is composed of men who have served in the ranks of the regular army and who at the present time presumably are settled in civil life, but who have voluntarily enrolled in the regular army reserve.

Ready for Quick Call.

"It is the policy to hold this trained personnel available for quick call when it is evident that their services are actually needed to meet a critical emergency.

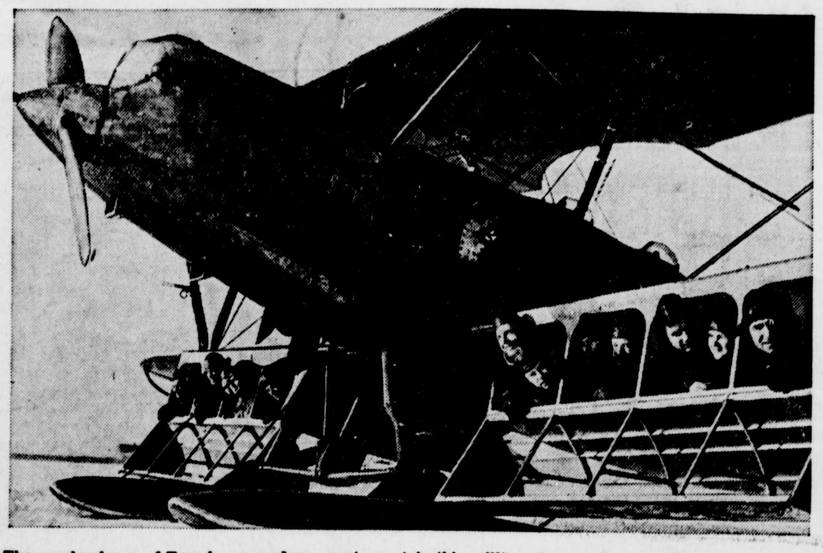
"The war department now plans to reorganize the divisions of the regular army within the next few weeks, based on the results of the test recently completed by the experimental division at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This reorganization is considered highly desirable."

Here's How to Serve 500 at a Clambake

EAST GREENWICH, R. I.—Housewives might be interested to know what it took to feed 500 persons at the annual Frenchtown clambake.

They consumed a chowder made of 11 gallons of finely chopped quahogs to which were added corresponding amounts of potatoes and onions, 16 bushels of steamed clams, 175 pounds of mackerel, 50 dozen ears of corn and a dozen bushels of white and sweet potatoes.

Winged 'Wooden Horse' Carries Soviet Gunners



The wooden horse of Troy has a modern counterpart in this military transport plane of the mighty red army of Soviet Russia. Carrying 16 men armed with machine guns in wing compartments, these planes fly to a point behind enemy lines, where the gunners are dropped by parachute. A fleet of these planes can land a sizable army in a very short time.

REAL OLD-TIMER

Joseph Santos, aged at least 113, came forward to claim the title of "America's oldest living man," after reading in a newspaper that some man, 112 years old, had claimed the title. Santos, a native of Portugal, has lived in Oakland, Calif., for 60 years.

City Surprised to Learn Nude Bathing Is Legal

CADILLAC, MICH.—City Clerk H. L. Worden thinks the nation's nudists should know that Cadillac is a very advanced city. No municipal law forbids nude bathing between 8 p. m. and 5 a. m.

Worden discovered Cadillac's failure to restrict nude bathing when he was asked to prepare a list of city ordinances relating to approved apparel for local beaches.

The only one he found was passed August 10, 1891, and said:

"No person shall bathe in any of the public waters within said city in a nude condition between the hours of 5 o'clock in the morning and 8 o'clock in the evening."

Uncle Billy and Jimmy Skunk Tell Entirely Different Stories

By THORNTON BURGESS

THE little people of the Green Meadows and the Green Forest didn't know what to believe. First came Peter Rabbit with the strangest kind of a story about being chased by a terrible creature without legs, head or tail. He said that it had come down the hill where Prickly Porky the Porcupine lives in the Green Forest. Jimmy Skunk, who, you know, is not afraid of anybody or anything, had been sent to call on Prickly Porky and ask him if he had seen any strange creature such as Peter Rabbit had told about. He had said that he hadn't seen any stranger in that part of the Green Forest, and Jimmy had straightway returned to the Green Meadows and told all his friends there that Peter Rabbit must have had something the matter with his eyes or else was crazy, for Prickly Porky hadn't been away from home and yet had seen nothing unusual.

"You don't dare to go there yourself at daybreak, tomorrow," retorted Unc' Billy.

At the same time Unc' Billy Possum was going about in the Green Forest telling everybody he met that he had called on Prickly Porky and that Prickly Porky had told him that Peter Rabbit undoubtedly had seen something strange. Of course Jimmy Skunk's story soon spread through the Green Forest and Unc' Billy Possum's story soon spread over the Green Meadows, and so nobody knew what to believe or think. If Jimmy Skunk was right, why, Peter Rabbit's queer story wasn't to be believed at all. If Unc' Billy was right, why, Peter's story wasn't as crazy as it sounded.

Of course all this aroused a great deal of talk and curiosity, and those who had the most courage began to make visits to the hill where Prickly Porky lives to see if they could see for themselves anything out of the usual. But they always found that part of the Green Forest just as usual, and always, if they saw Prickly Porky at all, he seemed to be fast asleep, and no one liked to wake him to ask questions. Little by little they began to think that Jimmy Skunk was right and that Peter Rabbit's terrible creature existed only in Peter's imagination. About this time Unc' Billy Possum told of having just such an experience as Peter had. It happened just as it did with Peter, very early in the morning, just as he was passing the foot of the hill where Prickly Porky lives.

"Ah was just passing along mind-in mah own business, when Ah heard a noise up on the hill behind me," said Unc' Billy, "and when Ah looked up there was something coming straight down at me and Ah couldn't see any legs or head or tail."

What did you do, Unc' Billy?" asked Bobby Coon.

"What did Ah do? Ah did just what yo'alls would have done—Ah ran!" replied Unc' Billy, looking around the little circle of forest and meadow people listening with round eyes and open mouths.

"Yes, sah, Ah done run, and Ah didn't turn round until Ah was safe in mah holler tree."

"Pooh!" sneered Reddy Fox, who had been listening. "You're a coward. I wouldn't have run! I would have waited and found out what it was. You and Peter Rabbit would run away from your own shadows."

"You don't dare go there yourself at daybreak tomorrow!" retorted Unc' Billy.

"I do, too!" declared Reddy, angrily, though he didn't have the least intention of going.

"All right. Ah'm going to be up in a tree where Ah can watch tomorrow mo'ning and see if yo' are as brave as yo' talk," declared Unc' Billy.

Then Reddy knew that he would have to go or else be called a coward.

"I'll be there," he snarled angrily, as he slunk away.

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Briefness Is Proper In Condolence Reply

By PHYLLIS BELMONT

HOW soon after a death should letters of condolence be answered, and should cards or notes be sent? I will appreciate a few suggestions on how these notes should be worded. MRS. D. D. M.

Answer—There is no certain time to acknowledge letters of condolence, but as soon as one feels able to express appreciation for the thoughtfulness of friends some member of the immediate family should write a personal note. Engraved cards are used where many acknowledgments must be made. Otherwise, just a hand-written note of a sentence or two is the proper way of expressing gratitude and appreciation. Your notes may follow these suggestions: "I can't tell you how much your flowers and note meant to me in my grief and unhappiness." Or, "Your very kind expression of sympathy and your offer to be of service were a great comfort to us all."

Phyllis Belmont.—WNU Service.

MUSTN'T SAY IT!

Radio, Weary of Public's Complaints, Hires John Q. and Makes Him Censor

By GORDON GREENWOOD

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

NEW YORK.—The "fickle" public, which everybody tries so hard to understand, positively knows what it wants on the radio.

If there was some doubt on this point 20 years ago, in broadcasting's infancy, the fog is now completely dispelled. Not only do listeners register their reactions and complaints immediately, but they take the most direct approach—and talk straight from the shoulder.

A radio network's telephone switchboard works like a sounding board of public opinion, bouncing back the public reaction even before the program in question is off the air.

Words spoken in absolute innocence may precipitate minor chaos. For instance, a newscaster once told his listeners a certain situation was "like having the gas turned off on Thanksgiving day with your house full of guests." Within a few minutes irate telephoners were calling the National Broadcasting company to know why their gas would be turned off! (It *was* near Thanksgiving.)

Censor Rule Enforced.

After analyzing letters and protests from over the country, NBC has established a "you-can't-broadcast-that" rule for what appears to be slander, unverified reports, invasion of privacy and vulgarity. The entire radio industry generally follows the same rule.

Thus radio officials believe they have avoided censorship, not invoked it. As between strict government censorship and voluntary control from within, the industry much prefers the latter.

Behind every policy hangs a story. One day A. A. Schechter, NBC's special events director, received a "flash" that a passenger plane flying the Atlantic had not been heard from for several hours.

"Don't broadcast that," he told the news editor. His wisdom of self-restraint was clear 30 minutes later when a second bulletin announced that all was well aboard the plane.

Try to Avoid Confusion.

Suppose the first bulletin had been broadcast. The sudden and emphatic reaction would have been sorrow for some people. The second bulletin would have confused the situation, in addition to causing doubt about the veracity of broadcast reports. Nor was there assurance that everyone who heard the first bulletin would also hear the second.

The wide panic following the famous Orson Welles "Mars" broadcast was an error of listening. Had the alarmists listened 15 minutes or more they would have heard the announcement that Welles was broadcasting a dramatization, not live hot news.

Schechter's wariness over tragedy reports dates back to the time a newscaster "flashed" an announcement from Hanover, N. H., saying nine Dartmouth college students had been killed by carbon monoxide gas in a fraternity house. This was certainly news. NBC's telephones handled hundreds of calls from distressed parents who wanted to know names. But none were available, and with 1,500 students enrolled at Dartmouth there was a lot of reassuring to do.

Guided by Experience.

That's the behind-scenes part of radio policy, and it's why broadcasters may withhold important news for hours while details are awaited. Experience, not mere theory, dictates procedure.

MAN WITH BLUE PENCIL—A. A. Schechter, director of NBC's special events department. It's his job to look for potential dynamite as part of radio's program of self-censorship.

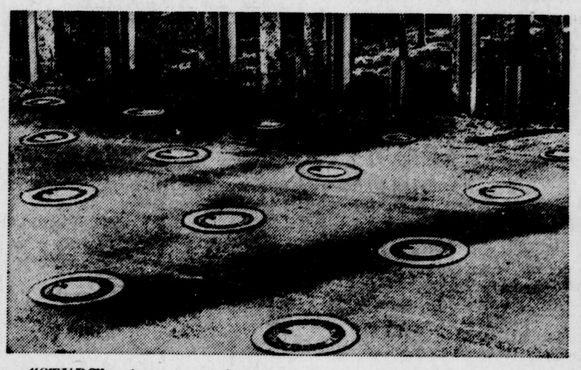
An analysis of protests show the Midwest shows stronger distaste for off-color humor and anti-religious dogmas than any other part of the country. The South demands high regard for womanhood and male chivalry. The Northwest sounds the praises of rugged individualism. North central states ask a progressive social outlook and New York city examines everything with the mind of an Old world critic.

Radio men are convinced we receive different sensations from reading and listening. You may, for instance, read war atrocity stories without feeling bitter about them, but when you hear a word-of-mouth description backed by the emotional stimulus of the human voice, you may become exercised, even moved to positive action.

A three-hour time-zone difference between east and west coasts always finds somebody sitting down to a meal, and, generally speaking, people are pretty sensitive about what they hear at mealtimes.

So it's the listeners, not the government or the broadcasters, who lay down radio's program policies.

Swiss Watch Ramparts Again, Ready to Ward Off Attacks Against 142-Year Neutrality



"STUDS"—At a moment's notice, steel barricades can shoot up from these innocent-looking round spots on the Swiss highway, controlled by a concealed electric button.

BERNE.—Little Switzerland, whose neutrality has been preserved and respected 124 years in the face of repeated warfare on all its frontiers, is once more watching its ramparts.

On every frontier well-armed troops stand guard to ward off belligerent planes or stop a sudden attack.

Though aged and peaceful, Switzerland is not missing any bets. Her defenses are up-to-the-minute, giving protection against any modern weapon a foeman may send against her. Typical is the fortress system surrounding her entire frontier, the novel automatic tank barriers which shoot out from Swiss highways at the press of a button, and her keen-eyed anti-aircraft battalions which are rated among the world's best.

New Border Threats.

Time was when Switzerland worried only about her northern and southern frontiers, bordering on Germany and Switzerland. But the Nazi juggernaut captured Austria, so the resourceful Swiss fortified on the east. Then, just for good measure, they arranged protection against any possible threat from France.

Swiss army organization is at once the world's most unique and most efficient. Voluntary frontier troops, organized in independent companies and highly mobile with their horses, bicycles and trucks, are assigned to ward off surprise attacks until regular army units can reach their positions.

At the moment of invasion, every man belongs to the army. Youngsters climb into alpine positions and oldsters take easier jobs in keeping with their individual capabilities.

Men Fully Equipped.

Mobilization is lightning fast. Only in a democracy like this can every soldier keep his complete outfit at home, ammunition excepted. Cavalrymen have their horses and cyclists their bicycles. Equipment is checked periodically under a severe control system.

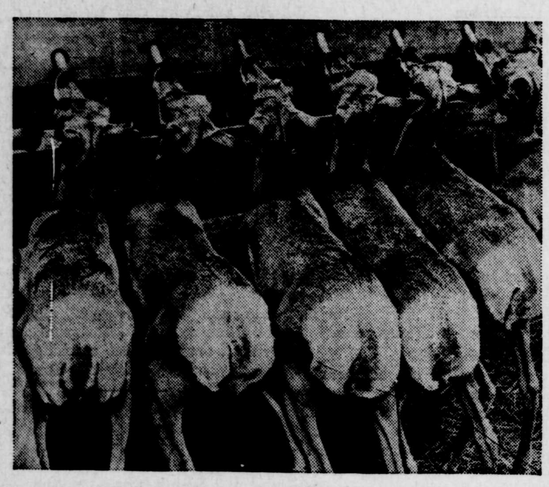
When mobilization is called, it can thus be made an actuality within a few days, or even a few hours if necessary. "Light brigades," which consist of cavalry, cyclists, light artillery on trucks and machine guns on motors, form the vanguard of the army and may be thrown into a defense post at a moment's notice.

One thing worries the Swiss—their electrified railroads, which could be decommissioned in a few hours with well-placed bombs. Hence the army's infantry units and their arsenals are widely decentralized to be within reach of a majority of men within a few hours.

Generals Are Scarce.

Only three times in its history has Switzerland had a military commander-in-chief. Under its constitution a supreme commander with powers over military and civil resources can be appointed only in times of general mobilization, and then only by election. Such a commander was General Dufour, who was commander-in-chief during the interior war in 1847; General Herzog, in power during the Franco-German war of 1870, and General Wille, commander from 1914 to 1918. There have been no others.

Bottle Babies Thrive on Milk Diet



These bottle-fed babies are perfectly content with a diet of milk, rolled oats and corn syrup. Captured in their Nevada homeland four months ago, the antelopes were turned over to the Washington state game department and are being kept on a secluded ranch near Portland. The black spots on their heads are the beginning of antlers.

FRENCH HAIL ANDRE MAGINOT AS A NATIONAL HERO

PARIS.—The European war already has supplied the French with a new national hero—huge, limping, rough-spoken Andre Maginot, who died seven years ago.

For it was "Sergeant" Maginot, 6-foot 3-inch survivor of Verdun, who conceived what generally is believed to be the strongest line of fortifications in the world—the line that protects France's eastern frontiers.

M. Maginot planned the line in the tradition of Sebastien le Prestre de Vauban, Seventeenth century marshal of France and renowned military engineer whose practice it was to retain what was good of old methods and to supplement it with improvements.

France's most skilled technicians, working under M. Maginot's inspiration, spent 10 years and between $40,000,000 and $500,000,000 in building the line.

M. Maginot was born in Lorraine in 1877. He entered politics at an early age and became under-secretary of state for war in 1913. When the World war started he resigned, despite the appeal of Aristide Briand, and joined the army.

In two years he rose to the rank of sergeant, a title that stuck for the rest of his life. A serious leg-wound suffered at Verdun left him with a pronounced limp and his experiences as a non-commissioned officer endowed him with a flair for picturesque language.

It was not until 1929 that the government decided to undertake the building of the defense line that M. Maginot proposed. It was his greatest pride that the line was not a uniform stretch of standardized and identical forts, but rather a scientific composition of a great variety of forts.

Rural Postmen Are Called Unsung American Heroes

PORTLAND, ORE.—If you'll take the word of Raymond N. Combs of Churchville, N. Y., president of the National Rural Letter Carriers' association, the men who take the mail along isolated rural routes are the real unsung heroes of America.

The national head disclosed that R. F. D. men walk some 1,377,000 miles per day—enough to circle the globe 51 times a day, or enough to make a coast to coast hike 217 times in the same day.

"Most of the work is done by automobile now, though I imagine there are still some horse routes in the mountains," said Combs when he arrived in Portland for the thirty-sixth annual convention of the letter carriers.

"The 32,170 members of the Rural Letter Carriers' association (300 of them women) are a group not only proud of their long and rich American heritage, but a group willing to do their part in maintaining it."

Georgia Girl Starts Her Career as Lawyer at 18

ATLANTA, GA. — Miss Shirley Motley, 18, has started her legal career—the youngest person ever admitted to the Georgia bar.

The modern Portia is in every sense feminine. Tall, thin and brunette, Miss Motley has her own design for living.

As an attorney, she thinks that women lawyers should try to smooth over family troubles, cement disrupted families, and for herself, she does not intend to defend either of the disillusioned parties if a divorce case comes along.

Upon the shoulders of Miss Motley rests the responsibility of an invalid mother and a family of three children. But she is ambitious.

A high school graduate at 15, she decided to study the law because she liked it. She says she had not intended to take the bar examination until friends urged her to do so. She passed, and is ready to practice.

Siegfried Was Vulnerable After All, So Nazis Renamed 'Line'

PARIS. — Why did Germany change the name of its mighty western fortifications from "Siegfried line" to "Limes line"? This apparently minor incident may have great significance, for it is possible the Germans examined the legend of their great hero Siegfried.

He was supposed to be invulnerable. Siegfried killed a dragon and bathed in his blood, thus making his skin so tough that no weapon could pierce it save in one spot where a linden leaf had fallen as he bathed.

Among other of Siegfried's exploits was his trickery in making Brunhilde marry Gunther. Since Brunhilde was a Valkyrie, she could only marry a man who could best her in three trials of strength. Siegfried made himself invisible and helped his friend outpoint Brunhilde.

German troops entering the Siegfried, or Limes line.

But Siegfried's deception was soon made known to Brunhilde. A henchman wormed Siegfried's secret out of his wife and Brunhilde wounded him mortally.

This may have nothing to do with the Siegfried line except that it, like the legendary hero, probably has a vulnerable spot and the Germans would sooner not advertise the fact.