The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

COVERING UP DYNAMITE

WASHINGTON.—When cocky ex-champagne salesman Joachim von Ribbentrop summoned diplomats and the press to a gala presentation of the Nazi white paper the other day, it may have been that he was chiefly concerned with covering up some dynamite which the allies had discovered.

At that meeting Ribbentrop claimed that Germany went into Norway because secret allied plans to penetrate Scandinavia first had been discovered. But the real truth, as reported to official sources here, was very different.

What actually happened was that six or seven days before the invasion of Norway, French and British intelligence services got wind of a German plan to launch a whirlwind war about mid-May.

This lightning war was to include the invasion of Norway; the invasion of Holland; the occupation of Greece by Mussolini; and an attack on the Maginot line. Apparently the strategy was hatched at the famous Hitler-Mussolini conference at the Brenner pass, and was calculated to sweep the allies off their feet.

Find Nazi Tieup.

Naturally when allied intelligence agents learned of this, the first thing the British did was check into the situation in Norway. There, thanks to British prodding, the Norwegian government (which is a labor government) uncovered certain high-placed officers who were sympathetic to the Nazis, in some cases ready to go over to them.

So Norway started to clean house. Naturally when the pro-Nazi Norwegians were fired, it tipped off the Germans to the fact that the allies were in on their plot. So they started into Norway almost immediately.

There is no question that before the Norwegian government had time to oust many of the inside plotters, the British had prepared maps of Norway and had figured on the possibility of military operations there. Some of the more forceful in the Chamberlain cabinet even wanted to do what Ribbentrop accused them of planning—going into Norway first. But Chamberlain and a majority of the cabinet were against it.

This was about all the truth there was to the Ribbentrop white paper.

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ROOSEVELT DELEGATES

Several weeks before fast-working Gov. Ed Rivers of Georgia had officially lined up Georgia's delegates for a third term, he made a trip to Washington and reported to Roosevelt that unofficially he had the Georgia Democrats in line.

"I've followed your instructions, Mr. President," reported Rivers, "and I've got all the Georgia delegates bagged for your man at the convention. But you know how cats are when you get 'em in a bag. They're a-scratchin' and a-clawin', and I don't know when they're going to get out."

"That's fine, Ed," replied the President, "just keep hold of that bag."

However, the governor of Georgia was not as enthusiastic as the President. Doubtless, also, he was interested in pinning him down on the third term. He said:

"Well, I can hold 'em all right, Mr. President, if I'm holding them for you. But if I'm holding them for someone else, then they want to know about it so they can each get their cream."

"I'll let you know when the time comes, Ed," replied the President. "Meanwhile, you just hold on to that bag."

Note—The above conversation is particularly significant because it represents the attitude of almost every Democratic state boss, including Mayor Hague of Jersey City and Mayor Kelly of Chicago. They are for a third term for Roosevelt, but they don't guarantee to transfer their delegates to Roosevelt's fair-haired boy—especially if he is a New Dealer.

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JIM FARLEY

Jim Farley used to be one of the bitter targets for left-wing New Dealers.

But today, it is just the opposite. Listen, for instance, to SEC Commissioner Leon Henderson, generally considered a left-winger.

"Over at the Mayflower the other day," says Leon, "the newsmen were taking pictures. Jim Farley and I were there, and they got a picture of us together. Somebody from the sidelines started kidding me about being a candidate. So I turned to Jim and said, 'Let's join forces, Jim.'

"And he said, 'O. K., Leon, which end of the ticket do you want?' . . . Jim Farley is a darn good man."

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JOHNNY MOVES UP

Johnny Roosevelt, youngest and only merchant son of the President, has been promoted.

The Filene department store in Boston, for which he went to work several years ago as a stock boy, has made him manager of a new branch in Winchester, Mass. This is one of the most rock-ribbed Republican strongholds in New England. Out of a population of 16,000 there are only 400 registered Democrats.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY ROGER SHAW

Allied Troops Leave Norway As Spotlight Turns on Italy; Germans Hold Vital Air Bases

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

Released by Western Newspaper Union

THE LONGEST WAY AROUND was the shortest way home for British ships in Italian waters when England, fearing Italy was getting ready to enter the war on the side of Germany, ordered these vessels to head for home ports via the Suez canal and Cape of Good Hope. This route, indicated by the broken line on the above map, is a distance of 15,000 miles. Normal route (indicated by solid line) is only 2,000 miles.

WOTAN WINS:
In Norway

Following Austria, Czecho Slovakia, Poland, came poor Norway. Said one neutral statesman, nervously, "The kiss of England is the kiss of death." Frightened Swedish, Netherlands, and Balkan leaders were inclined to agree. Norse writers and generals denounced John Bull, while the English cabinet was tottering.

The Allied troops debarked from Andalsnes and Namsos, in the strategic Trondheim area, and sailed away, under a terrific hammering from the German bombers. Much of their equipment was abandoned, and the Norwegian troops, poorly armed and trained, as is natural in a small democracy with no imperialist intentions, did not make much of a stand in isolated sectors. The English expeditionaries in Norway had been out-shot, out-flown, and out-generaled. Raw London militia, and half-trained regulars, had to face toughened German veterans of the 18-day Polish war, last fall.

The British marines, too, were not trained for landing operations, to be followed by a land war of maneuver. Good men all, their duties had been aboard ship, and as brass-button garrisons in far-flung colonies. U. S. marines have had exactly the right training for a "Norse" operation, and would have given the Germans a far more telling battle, according to American army and navy men. This was a technical matter of opinion.

Anti-Italics

English and French battleships were concentrated in the faraway eastern Mediterranean, and the British merchant marine was ordered out of the blue Mediterranean waters. The English itinerary to India—the imperial lifeline—was rerouted around the African horn, the Cape of Good Hope, to escape Italian submarines, seaplanes, and sleds. For Italy has the third best air force in Europe, and perhaps the world's best submarine flotilla. And Italian seasled torpedo-carriers are a tested Roman specialty.

Roosevelt's ambassador to Rome, William Phillips, pleaded with Mussolini to keep out of the war, and Moscow accused Rome of blackmail (Finland is so easily forgotten!). The Aegean sea loomed up as a possible location for Italo-Allied warfare, but some observers believed that the badgered French might cede Mussolini their African Tunis (just below Sicily), in order to keep the Iron Duce quiet. There are roughly an equal number of Italians and French living in the predominantly Arabic colony. "France must learn to give," remarked a worried U. S. official.

One minor school of thought held that the English battleships were moved to the eastern Mediterranean, to get them away from "doomed" Scapa Flow, and the pestiferous German flyers.

THAT '40 ELECTION:
Nomination Notes

Tom Dewey, dashing Wunderkind of Manhattan, appeared to talk himself into indigestion out west, and was laid up pro tem. He lost some Republican convention delegates, too. Massachusetts primary voters plumped for an unpledged decision, instead of for Tommy. In Florida, a stop-Dewey campaign began.

Elliott Roosevelt, described as "talkative," said his father might not run for a third term. The father of the son said nothing.

Boss Green of the A. F. of L. accused Boss Lewis of the C. I. O. of presidential aspirations on a third ticket. Third term versus third ticket?

New York's Mayor LaGuardia was rumored to be considering himself either as a Republican, or as a Democratic, vice president!

There was, too, a lot of talk about a Farley-Garner, or Garner-Farley, ticket, and a lot of wishful thinking about Roosevelt's being tired. To his friends, who are many, Roosevelt did not seem tired at all. But Rep. Tinkham of Massachusetts declared that another term of Roosevelt, and Hull, would surely mean war for the United States. Meanwhile, third terms aside, the President's mother became ill from food-poisoning on her way to the World's fair, and had to be treated in a local drugstore for two hours.

Rep. Tinkham

SEEING RED:
'Protection'

Clarence Hathaway, editor of New York's community "Daily Worker," was convicted of criminal libel after a trial of three weeks. He faced a maximum penalty of a year in the concentration camp, like his party chief, Earl Browder, who got into trouble over phoney passports, and the Americo-Nazi chieftain, Fritz Kuhn, whose followers Uncle Sam "protected." Hathaway, 46 years old, is younger than Browder.

NAMES
. . . *in the news*

Alfred Duff Cooper, formerly England's secretary of war, and also her secretary of the navy, called the German governmental leaders a gang of "money-making murderers." Duff Cooper's wife is the beautiful Lady Diana Manners, who starred in America in the "Miracle" long years back. Duff Cooper, himself, has been a special student of that shifty old French statesman, Talleyrand, whose biographer he is.

Declared old Knut Hamsun, great Norwegian novelist and Nobel prize winner in 1920, "England is incapable of helping us, except with small flocks here and there, roving about our valleys, and asking for food."

In Newark, N. J., a man got a divorce. He said he had been compelled to move 27 times in six years. His name was Allan MacFee. He told the judge he never knew which bus to take home at night. "My wife was the moving man's friend," said he. Mrs. MacFee got the divorce, on grounds of desertion. Mr. MacFee did not contest.

CALL THE G-MEN:
Kidnaping Notes

The president of the professionally peaceful Carnegie Institute, Sam Church, showed himself as the war's No. 1 belligerent. He announced that fifty reeking-rich Pittsburghers had offered a million dollar prize for the kidnaping of Adolf Hitler. Hitler must be alive, and he must be taken by the end of May. Pacific New Yorkers appeared to be astonished by Church's boner, and some Allied sympathizers counter-offered rewards for the kidnaping of Churchill or Chamberlain. Apparently, they thought Old England could get along better without the pair. This, however, was debatable. And while a few Americans talked glibly about kidnaping, like bad little boys and girls, another 7,200 Americans were killed in automobile accidents in the first three months of unpleasant 1940.

POTOMAC PICKINGS:
Laboritis

Not only is there a Dies committee. There is also a Smith committee, and its purpose is to investigate the heavily slammed-around National Labor Relations board. The so-called "Smithsonians" went to work with a will and discovered that the well-known Harry Bridges (from Australia)—much debated president of the International Longshoresman's union—ever, apparently, in hot water—had been in the genial habit of consulting with the labor board when he "took steps." It also turned out that certain labor board members helped the C. I. O. organize the steel industry back in 1936.

The Supreme court held that a group of seven "Little Steel" corporations had no standing in the courts. Justice Black wrote the decision, and Justice McReynolds—"that mean old man"—as usual dissented.

U. S. Commerce Chamber

Former Vice President Charlie Dawes (you remember his pipes) told the chamber that our next President would have to fight, not Germans, but a huge army of government spenders, wasters, and patronage-padding politicos, to save America from chaos and ruination. The chamber adopted a program to keep the country out of war, and to arm it faster, on a pay-as-you-go basis. Twenty-two other points were also espoused by the nation-wide, business-minded gathering at its annual meeting.

U. S. Aviation

General Arnold, top-kick of the U. S. army air corps, said in a talk that our flyers had learned several tricks from the European mess. The general listed them: German-type leak-proof gas tanks are essential; military planes must be well armored, like tanks or armored cars; bigger machine guns must be used as anti-aircraft; bigger guns must be installed in aircraft; bombers, for defensive safety, must be equipped with guns in the tail; bombers must go farther at a hop. American Legionnaires listened to the general with rapt attention.

GENERAL ARNOLD
His boys learned a few tricks.

SMALLER FRY:
Yet Notable

The national assembly of the Filipinos slapped down an immigration quota of 500 per nationality, per year, despite howls of rage from the Japanese—who are perhaps, Trojan-horse-minded in the Philippines.

Maj.-Gen. Bernard Paget, redhead son of the late Bishop of Oxford, was especially praised by Prime Minister Chamberlain, for his skillful retreat from Norway. He got troops, wounded, and supplies away by sea, under the very nose of German aircraft. Prior to this feat, he was almost unknown. He has a crippled left arm, a souvenir of the First German war. He gets a No. 1 hero rating.

Giovanni Ansaldo, Italian news writer who is the mouthpiece of Count Ciano, Italian foreign minister, Mussolini's son-in-law, predicted that as a result of its Norse (and other) victories, Germany would successfully invade Great Britain. "1940 is not 1066," replied an English journalist, in haste.

Go west, young man, applies now to staid old Harvard! That university will erect, in the Rocky mountains of Colorado, the world's highest observatory—to study the sun, with exclusive equipment of ultra-scientific value.

GENERAL JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

THE WAR AS ELECTION ISSUE

Washington, D. C.

The rapidly crystalizing policy of this administration to defend America by mixing aggressively in European and Asian power politics, with whatever consequence that may carry, is sure to be an issue this year.

As in 1916, the sentiment against that, west of the Alleghenies, is overwhelming. In 1917, we were at war and, before the end of that year, with complete and even enthusiastic support of the country. Yet immediately after the declaration of war, there was no such sentiment except on the Eastern seaboard.

I know, because I had undertaken the organization of the selective draft in every American community.

Most of the gray hairs I had until recently, I got in the first anxious 30 days of that effort.

Was the ambitious experiment going to flop? In most states, except the East, there was only aloof and skeptical if not sullen acceptance.

By the persuasive power of the eloquence and idealism of Woodrow Wilson, by some arts we used of blatant ballyhoo and hokum national high-pressure selling, that was changed in a few weeks to a war psychosis which approached hysteria.

Woodrow Wilson could do that because he prepared the seed bed by months of patient and long-suffering restraint and, of far more importance, because we were actually in, and not merely flirting with, a bloody war and a sickly season.

Can Franklin Roosevelt do that—which to be elected, he must do, or sincerely change the whole course of his foreign policy? Can he do it when we are not engaged in war, and when no such seed bed is ready?

He has another handicap which Mr. Wilson had not. This country had then never tried a mass adventure in the double-crossing war diplomacy of Europe.

We tried in 1917 and 1918 and we know it to have been the most disastrous gamble this nation ever made.

Apart from the handicap of our dolorous experience, is the simple military question of whether we should scatter our strength over vast areas of this globe, or whether, the obvious course is to retain our interior lines, our concentrated strength, the advantages of our natural barriers and our unquestioned unity.

It is a reversal of every American traditional (if not constitutional) political principle and of every military and naval axiom. Coupled with the reversal of the third term tradition, it will certainly be a massive handicap. It cannot be shushed or even minimized.

Only the persuasive skill of Mr. Roosevelt, his literary ghosts, and the greater pulling power of four billion dollars, coupled with possible Republican campaign blundering could overcome it.

Yet, so great is the power of good or ill of all these elements, that I for one, am not yet ready to say it can't be done.

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OMINOUS WAR MOVE

How can the British abandon the Mediterranean? That would be to abandon France, whose lifeline and link with her African colonies it is. It would be to abandon the great Anglo-French near-eastern army, which is rapidly being assembled as a threat to the totalitarian left flank. That army couldn't be munitioned and supplied by the long route around Africa. It might possibly be fed by supplies coming through the Red sea but not supported by munitions and equipment.

To abandon the Mediterranean to Italy would also be to abandon Turkey and leave the mess in southeastern Europe in Hitler's hands, to the extent that he could divide up the spoils by some kind of trade between the supposed enemies, Mussolini and Stalin. Such a pairing of strange bedfellows would be stronger than the coupling of supposed enemies, Hitler and Stalin, to ravage and divide Poland.

Such results are impossible for England and certainly for France to contemplate. Therefore it seems pretty clear that England is not leaving the Mediterranean with anything except her ordinary commercial traffic usually routed through the Suez canal. She is just getting her rich argosies promptly out of an area of danger from a sudden possible clash of aerial and maritime navies in those waters.

It seems to me that the critical element in this war just now is not what happened in Norway, as what may happen in the Mediterranean.

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If that warfare opens up, the affair in Norway will just be a sideshow and that raises my principal conjecture. Hitler has two choices in grand strategy. He can concentrate on the British empire by striking at its heart in western Europe, or, if he has the armed assistance of Italy, he can attempt to cut it in pieces in detail and strengthen his own economic, if not military, position by operation in southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean. He can do either, but he can't do both at the same time.

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Strange Facts

Early Acoustics Long on Pay Roll Much 'Flour' Gold

¶ An age-old, open-air Greek theater, still standing in Epidaurus, proves that the ancient Greeks possessed an unusual mastery of acoustics. A whisper spoken on its open and uncovered stage is easily heard in every one of its 12,000 seats.

¶ Since 1710, St. Anthony has been on the pay roll of the Brazilian army in recognition of his intercession in a successful battle with the French. First he was created a captain and, later, promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, his pay being given to the church monthly during these 230 years.

¶ When the inhabitants of two harborless islands in the south Pacific recently received several large shipments of equipment and supplies, including radio sets, the cargoes were transported from ship to shore by surfboards.

¶ Although the gravel in the Snake river in Idaho is estimated to contain about $2,000,000,000 worth of gold, much of the metal is in such minute particles, known as "flour," that few of the hundreds of machines made to recover it have been satisfactory. Some of these particles are so small that it would take millions of them to equal one cent in value. —Collier's.

There's a Good Reason You're Constipated!

When there's something wrong with you, the first rule is: *get at the cause.* If you are constipated, don't *endure* it first and *"cure"* it afterward. Find out what's giving you the trouble.

Chances are it's simple if you eat the super-refined foods most people do: meat, white bread, potatoes. It's likely *you don't get enough "bulk."* And "bulk" doesn't mean a lot of food. It's a *kind* of food that isn't consumed in the body, but leaves a soft "bulky" mass in the intestines and helps a bowel movement.

If this is your trouble, you should eat a natural "bulk" producing food—such a one as the crunchy, toasted, ready-to-eat cereal, Kellogg's All-Bran. Eat it *often*, drink plenty of water, and "Join the Regulars." All-Bran is made by Kellogg's in Battle Creek. If your condition is chronic, it is wise to consult a physician.

Bad Associates

Debts and lies are generally mixed together.—Rabelais.

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