WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

Germans Claim Deep Gains in Russia With Three Thrusts on 'Stalin' Line; New Japanese War Policy in Offing; British Push 'V' Propaganda Drive

(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.)

An important neighbor of the United States—Cuba, has just installed a new cabinet and its members are shown above. Left to right are Dr. V. Caballo, secretary of government; Dr. Jose Cortina, secretary of state; Dr. Carlos Saladrigas, premier-minister; President Batista; behind him are his adjutants, Major Garcia and Colonel Barking, and Secretary to the President Amadero Castero.

RUSSIA:
Line Pierced

Though claims of Russians and Germans continued to conflict, it was apparent that the Stalin line had been pierced at least three times, once each in the northern, central and southern fronts.

Thus it was evident that despite the huge numbers of troops involved, which lent a confused element to the picture, the Nazi technique of spearheads and pincer movements was working out inexorably, even though more slowly than the Nazis themselves had figured.

Some of the German claims met public denial from the British mission to Moscow, such as the assertion from Berlin that the Russian air fleet had been rendered useless in the face of German air attacks. The British in Moscow informed London that this claim was premature, that Russia still had a large and active air-force, and was dealing important damage to the Nazis.

Though perilous and daring, the spearhead technique which with equal armies might prove a terrible boomerang, especially if defenses as worked out by Weygand should be effectively carried out, was apparently beyond the Russian armies' ability to withstand.

The fall of Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev in many quarters was believed inevitable and perhaps imminent, and whether the Reds could get their armies back of the Moscow-Leningrad-Kiev line and go on fighting rear-guard actions seemed dubious in the extreme.

Still unconfirmed reports had Smolensk, vital city on the road to Moscow, in German hands or surrounded, and there were even reports from Sweden that Moscow was under terrific bombing and that the Kremlin had been "ruined."

This, however, the Germans did not claim, the high command simply stating that the Nazi forces would content themselves with the destruction of the effectiveness of the Russian troops before going on to Moscow.

With regard to Leningrad, the Germans said that their pincers were closing on the city, and that it was sure to fall soon.

As to Kiev, Nazi sources claimed their advance units were to the east of the city, having passed it to the south.

From the Russian viewpoint, all was not so hopeless, for while they admitted German advances on the central front, they claimed that the two pincer-heads attacking Leningrad were not moving through the Russian defenses, and that on the south the German-Rumanian armies were stalled also.

VOICE:
With an Idea

Great Britain, after quietly and without much fanfare experimenting with a radio broadcaster who would give Europe something equal to or surpassing Germany's Lord Haw-Haw, came out boldly with "Colonel Britton," and polished off his opening broadcasts with a "V for Victory" day.

It was to be a campaign to enroll all the disgruntled conquered peoples in a new secret organization whose purpose would be to harass Germany's army of occupation at every possible turn.

Colonel Britton, an anonymous broadcaster but a person who, unlike Lord Haw-Haw did not pretend to be a member of the nation he was talking to, nevertheless, the English said, could converse in French, Italian, German, Dutch, Danish, Belgian, Norwegian or what-have-you, and had been given a station of a wavelength and power which defied all Nazi efforts to "jam" him off the air-waves.

The launching of the V for Victory campaign took place with no less a personage than Winston Churchill delivering a message.

JAPAN:
And Russia

Two things began to emerge out of the formation of a new Japanese government by the old premier, Prince Konoye.

1. The army and navy were to be in the saddle.

2. The attitude toward Russia is to be stiffened, probably including the breaking of the neutrality pact and possibly with some overt move either in Siberia or from Manchukuo toward the Siberian border.

Even the Chinese, apparently well-informed about Japanese intentions, failed to pierce the veil of mystery surrounding the new government's plans.

The Chinese called it a "water-bird" government, which meant that it would be calm on the surface, but that this calmness would mask a terrific activity soon to be launched.

Yet a report in Washington (coming from diplomatic quarters, back of which was that powerful figure Ambassador Grew) tended to indicate that the likeliest Japanese move would be toward the South Pacific, the direction in which Hitler is believed most anxious for Japan to turn.

Washington says that Japan's plan to "send a million men toward the north," ostentatiously "disclosed" from Nipponese sources, is entirely too boldly and obviously displayed, and is intended to mask a move in the exact opposite direction.

The capital's viewpoint probably is most highly influenced by the doubt that Japan, faced by the never-ending war with China, is able to undertake any such major move as would be required to threaten Russia's Far-East armies, and that Nippon is much more apt to take the "soft touch" in the direction of Thailand and Indo-China.

DRAFT:
Men, Business

The drawing for the second draft, that of 750,000 new 21-year-olds, came at a moment when the controversy was at its height over two other drafts—that of whether the older selectees and National Guardsmen should be kept in more than a year, and whether the bill calling for a "draft of business" if necessary, should be passed.

General Marshall had not pulled any punches in letting congress know his stand in the matter, which was to keep both guardsmen and selectees in over the time limit, and he had President Roosevelt apparently vigorously back of him.

On top of this, the senate military affairs committee revealed that it had been informed that a "vital military weapon" which might prove to be of the "utmost importance" had been denied to the army by the fact that the government did not have the power to "draft industry."

No further details as to the nature of the weapon were revealed, but the report was important in that it showed a spirit on the part of the senate body to ask the passage of this bill, which had been under a legislative cloud for some time.

As to the addition of time of service for the guards and selectees, some Washington observers reported sentiment growing for passage of the measure, others seemed to see it doomed to defeat.

TAX:
Stormy Session

That income taxes would be two to three times as high as at present was agreed on by the house ways and means committee, but that body ended a three-hour secret session on the tax bill in a row over whether husbands and wives should be forced to file joint returns.

It was unofficially reported that the husband-wife plan had previously been approved by a 15-10 vote, but in the secret session vigorous opposition is said to have developed.

Saved 'Eagle'

Shot down in a dogfight with Nazi planes over the English channel Pilot Officer N. Maranz (above) of New York, a member of the U. S. "Eagle Squadron" of the British RAF, was feared dead. But now there is joy in the home of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Maranz in New York. For they have a letter from their son, telling of his battle and ultimate rescue by a German rescue boat. He is now a prisoner of war in Germany.

BELTS:
Pulled In

Economists estimated that the United States' population, used to buying and having what it wanted, even if it took 18 months to a couple of years to pay for it, would have to do without about $2,000,000,000 worth of consumers' goods this coming year.

Biggest slices in what America is used to buying came in automobiles and mechanical refrigerators. With these naturally would come reductions in accessories like rubber tires, gasoline and oil and other commodities.

Washing machines were another item ordered cut to conserve the raw materials demands of the defense industries. In all of these items a 50 per cent cut in production for the coming year was ordered. Stocks on hand will fix it so that the public won't feel the difference at once, but before long the belt will have to be pulled in and given a lusty yank at that.

Leon Henderson, man at the helm of this and price-fixing moves, said:

"The program is severe, but the reduction will be partially offset by the increasing participation of these industries in defense work, the auto industry alone having contracted for $2,000,000,000 worth of defense goods.

"The curtailment program calls for no increase of prices at retail."

Mr. Henderson pointed out that the automobile, refrigerator and washing-machine industries were the largest, or close to the largest civilian consumers of common metals where shortages exist.

R. A. F.
Results Noted

Most analysts agreed that if the bomb tonnage reported from R.A.F. sources as being dropped on objectives in occupied territories and in Germany was reasonably accurate, the damage must be terrific.

Perhaps outstanding of the British claims in this regard, however, was the toll of German shipping of a coastwise nature. This claim ran 300,000 tons since the start of the Russo-German war, and all of it sunk by air action.

Also the R.A.F. directly claimed that at least one-third of the cities of Aschen and Muenster were destroyed or seriously damaged; that at least 301 Messerschmitts of two types had been downed; that 118 British fighters had been lost "over a country where an oil leak may mean a fighter has to bail out," but that 17 of the pilots had been saved.

But a New York Times correspondent in Ankara, quoting sources that had recently made it to Turkey from Berlin, painted a picture which covered broader and more important territory.

He cabled a report that Hamburg and Hanover had practically been ruined as ports, that Bremen was seriously damaged, and that rail junctions had been wiped out, forcing the Germans to take to coastwise shipping to replace damaged rail services.

This writer's informants declared that shipping sunk in the port of Hamburg made it necessary that dredging and dynamiting operations be carried out every week to make the waterway passable at all, because of direct bomb hits and vessels sunk by air action and blocking the passage of other vessels.

MISCELLANY:

Chungking: Owen Lattimore, Johns Hopkins professor who was recommended by President Roosevelt to be adviser to Chiang Kai-shek, arrived here.

Eaton, Ohio: Among the new registrants was Noah Harvey Herman Daniel Boone Buster Brown David Longworth—all one man's name, believe it or not.

Berlin: Bela Kun, leader of the 1919 Communist revolt in Hungary, has been taken prisoner, it was reported by a Berlin paper.

GRASSROOTS
by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

CART BEFORE HORSE, MEN WITHOUT MACHINES

AS I READ in a recent issue of Collier's, W. B. Courtney's graphic description of the German Panzer invasion of Greece, I thought of what America has been doing to meet just such an attack.

We have called to the colors close to one and a half million men, at a cost of better than one and a half billion dollars to the government for their food, clothing and pay. We have taught those men to do fours right and fours left, or column right or left, as troops were taught years ago when I knew something of soldiering.

Today the striking force of an army does not consist of men. It consists of machines of terrific destructive power when operated by highly trained specialists. Such is a German Panzer division.

England, France, Poland and Greece learned that men alone, no matter how courageous and well trained, could not stand against fast-moving machines, operated by experts.

We could not train our men in the operation of machines, for we did not, and have not, the machines. That we did not have them is not the fault of the government for it takes some years to provide them.

The most valuable thing men can do now, or could have done during the past year, is to produce the machines with which an army must be equipped if it is to have a chance of success.

In our army of close to one million and a half men, we have two divisions of the regular army reasonably well equipped with modern war machines, and some partial equipment in a small portion of our National Guard. For the million "selectees" called into service we had practically nothing. They pass out of the army with no training that will be of value in the defense of America. The great majority of them know nothing of the machines of modern warfare.

We have let war hysteria put the cart before the horse. We have provided the men without having the machines for them to work with. Why not first use American manpower in the factories producing the machines of war?

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LET US INVITE LETTERS FROM THE BOYS IN CAMP

FATHERS AND MOTHERS, especially those of rural communities, are fearful of what the army may do TO their sons. They would be pleased to know what the army can do, and is doing FOR their sons.

The one place where the army's public relations or publicity is falling down is in connection with that 50 per cent of America which is rural. There is greater interest in such sections in what the army is doing FOR its personnel than is to be found among the masses of the cities.

If the army could encourage the young men to write letters to their home-town newspapers, each telling in his own way of what he does, of the other young men he meets, where they are from, his interest in his daily routine and what it is, much would be accomplished.

People of each rural community are proud of their young men who are in the army. All of the people of the community know each and every one of these young men. They are the boys, not only of Father and Mother Jones, but of every other father and mother. A letter from any one soldier to his home-town newspaper is a letter to all the people of the community.

It is in no way an impossible problem to induce the soldier boys, one or more from each community each week to write such a letter to his home-town paper. Every editor and every reader would welcome such letters. From reading them, all fathers and mothers would soon realize what the army is doing FOR their boys.

Without its being a matter of censorship, company commanders could easily see that such letters did not contain anything detrimental to the interests of the nation.

Our army is entitled to the enthusiastic support of all Americans. It can have that 100 per cent support when those at home realize what their soldier boys are doing for the nation, and what the army is doing FOR the soldier boys. Letters from the boys to the home-town papers will do the job, and every editor of such a paper would welcome them.

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A MILLION MEN in the army means a cost of better than $1,000,000,000 a year. But a billion is small change these days.

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THERE IS ONE BORN EVERY MINUTE

A YOUNG MATRON living in a Los Angeles suburb was telling me recently of her telephone problem.

"We have a two-party line," she said, "and the other party is the chairman of the 'Mothers of America Anti-War' committee. She monopolizes the phone so much that I do not have a fair opportunity to conduct the business of my 'All-out Aid to Britain' committee."

Seems like there is a new organization born every minute.

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Sensibility's Hands

Sensibility would be a good portress if she had but one hand; with her right she opens the door to pleasure, but with her left to pain.—Colton.

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A quiz with answers offering information on various subjects

The Questions

1. How many years is a chiliad?
2. Why do many Orientals remove their spectacles when talking with another person?
3. What peninsula comprises Spain and Portugal?
4. Which is the highest waterfalls in the world?
5. John Brown, the abolitionist, of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, fame, was the father of how many children?
6. What goddess personified youth to the Greeks?
7. What people overran Gaul, Spain, and Northern Africa in the Fourth and Fifth centuries, and sacked Rome in 455?
8. The saying, "All men have their price" is commonly ascribed to whom?
9. In which of the consteliations is the Big Dipper found?
10. Are legal records "adopted" or "approved"?

The Answers

1. One thousand years.
2. The Orientals do this as a mark of respect.
3. Iberian.
4. Angel falls in Venezuela is the world's loftiest cataract. It is about 4,400 feet, or 26 times as high as Niagara falls.
5. Twenty, two of whom were killed in the raid upon the armory and arsenal at Harper's Ferry, October 16, 1859.
6. The Goddess Hebe personified youth to the Greeks.
7. The Vandals.
8. Robert Walpole.
9. Ursa Major.
10. Under parliamentary law, "to adopt," meaning to accept, is the proper term. However, the decision of a court martial is "approved" or officially sanctioned.

My Three Friends

Three men are my friends: He who loves me, he who is my enemy, and he who is indifferent to me. He who loves me teaches me tenderness; he who hates me teaches me caution, and he who is indifferent, self-reliance.—Anon.

STOMACH SUFFERERS

Don't despair—"MAYR'S," formerly known as "Mayr's Wonderful Stomach Remedy," beneficially used by thousands for over 80 years, tends to alleviate the discomforts of temporary constipation with gas in the intestines. "Mayr's" thoroughly flushes and lubricates the intestines, helps to eliminate poisonous waste products. One dose helps to convince that life is worth living. Druggist or send $1.25 to Boresol Products, Rockaway Beach, New York. Mfrs of RIPANS TABULES, used 48 years for indigestion and laxative.

Test of Civilization

The true test of civilization is not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops, but in the kind of men the country turns out.—Emerson.

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