

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

(Continued From Page One)

Smith (R. O.) will charge next week that international stabilization is British plot to grab U. S. gold.

LOOK FOR SENATE to approve permanent promotion of Gen. Patton and other high-ranking army officers. Military affairs committee, which had buried promotions, has decided to dispose of them next week. Public indignation at Patton was less than most military men anticipated.

Discontinue Subsidy Fight

HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERS, after much wrangling, have decided not to back any further fights against food-subsidy payments. Decision was made at a party conference, was not announced. Holdout for carrying on the subsidy fight was its leader, Rep. Jesse P. Wolcott of Michigan.

SENATOR MCKELLAR'S anti-TVA amendments may pass the senate but will be checkmated in house. McKellar will not get a vote from his fellow Tennesseans in house. Boss Crump, Memphis Democratic leader, has condemned the amendments, and Rep. John Jennings, Knoxville Republican, is rallying other G. O. P. congressmen against them.

McKellar war against TVA and its chairman, David E. Lilienthal, is particularly unpopular in Knoxville because it might cause moving TVA headquarters from that city to Muscle Shoals, Ala. Alabama's Senator Bankhead is already seeking this.

LOOK FOR STEAMSHIP COMPANIES to win their fight for a share of post-war air routes. Their cause has gained recruits steadily; only the procedure remains to be agreed on.

THREE-BILLION-DOLLAR post-war highway bill will get congressional O. K., but not until members wrangle over (1) formula for distributing money to states, and (2) amount to be allocated to city streets and highways. Proposed new formula is: One-half on population, one-fourth on area, one-fourth on road mileage. Proposed allocation to cities is 20.9 per cent. Rural members will protest that cities' cut is too high; city members want more.

Study State Cemeteries

MOVE IS UNDER WAY in congress to establish a national cemetery in every state. It's proposed as alternative to war department plan to enlarge Arlington national cemetery for war dead. Department has opposed state cemetery plan in past but has promised to study it again.

REPUBLICANS who supported federal-ballot method for service men's voting are resentful over G. O. P. national committee's release of blast placing party on record against it. Complainants say committee members didn't approve statements and that it expressed view of Chairman Spangler's headquarters only. Seventeen Republican house members and 10 Republican senators voted for federal ballot on first roll calls.

SENATE COMMITTEE investigating liquor shortage will reopen hearings shortly, promising to fix responsibility. Results of committee agents' labors have pacified Republican committee members who had threatened to quit because inquiry had bogged down.

NAVY is experimenting with new dive torpedo bomber, said to be big improvement over the Helldiver, which distinguished itself in first trial raid on Rabaul in November. Japs meanwhile have improved performance of their fighter planes.

NOTE TO HOME CANNERS: Zinc tops will reappear on the market this year, but in limited quantities.

Fight Among Themselves

ADD HOME-FRONT WARS: (1) Between American Legion and five other veteran organizations over ways to benefit new veterans and war members. Legion's winning with its "G.I. bill of rights" scheduled for quick congressional approval. (2) Between A. F. of L. and C. I. O. leaders for glory of smashing little steel formula. So far they're neck and neck.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT displeased at premature publicity that it would o. k. C. I. O.'s political action committee, put its report on ice. It's still forthcoming; may be along about the time Dies committee blasts the Hillman organization.

Despite their many clashes, justice department has leaned heavily on Dies for evidence in sediment cases about to go on trial.

SUPPORTERS of Arabian pipe line say military men will tell senate oil policy committee—if asked—that pipe line is a defense necessity. Vice Adm. Horne's among those who will so testify, the say.

FAST-SPREADING loan-shark business, long under investigation by justice department, probably will face indictments soon. They're expected to come from San Antonio grand jury.

Yank Gliders Land English Far Behind Japs in Burma

(Continued From Page One) respondent John Nicholson, who went with them, described as "Britain's Burma bus service."

Jap Advance May Nullify Advantage

By A. T. STEELE
Times Foreign Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 17 (Delayed).—Today's dramatic announcement of a successful landing of airborne allied forces behind the Japanese lines in northern Burma is counterbalanced by the threat of a new Japanese offensive toward India's eastern frontier.

The aerial descent into the midst of the Japanese northern Burma stronghold will be of great and immediate help to Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's Chinese-American effort to drive an overland corridor to China.

But its effect may be reduced or nullified unless the Japanese advance on the central sector of the Indo-Burma frontier is halted.

150-Mile Front

Today's communiqué from the Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters shows that the Japanese are striking west at several points along a front roughly 150 miles long toward the important British base of Imphal, situated inside India, roughly midway between the northern and southern ends of the Indo-Burma frontier.

Homolom, where small enemy parties have made a crossing of the Chindwin river, is some 60 miles northeast of Imphal, but the more serious situation is at Tiddim, some 100 miles south of Imphal, over good highway, where a strong British and Indian garrison is in danger of encirclement.

It is apparent that the enemy has reinforced his striking power in this area and that he is capable of throwing in even greater strength than he deployed in last month's unsuccessful but damaging counter-attacks on the Arakan sector to the south.

Local Sergeant Leader in Prison Camp in Germany

(Continued From Page One)

a new man after not shaving for two months.

He asked his mother to send through the Red Cross corn starch (which the censor sent back because it wasn't on the food list); peanut butter, dehydrated soups and soda crackers.

At another time he wrote, "We have a theater, a library, a band and chapel and we put out two editions of a camp paper. I was No. 2 printer."

A local boy who was with the sergeant an hour before he was captured over a year ago in North Africa is Pfc. Jack E. Lown, 21, N. Dearborn st. He wrote that the group, of which Calhoun was the leader, was making maps of the North African area and Sicily prior to the invasion of the island when Germans captured him.

And Mrs. Calhoun is sure that the reason Mussolini moved key men out of Sicily.

GERMANS SEEK 'GOOD OLD DAYS'

Reflect General Yearning For Peace by Dwelling On the Past.

(Continued From Page One)

hare shibboleths are the order of the day. What is new is that when they openly discuss the future, the people now postulate a German defeat.

Horrors of aerial warfare has led Germans to think that it must be better than their present conditions. A small illegal pamphlet now being circulated in Germany, entitled, "I Have Had Enough," declares:

"We have lost 11 years. Much of what was dear to us has been taken away. But we can make up for lost time once peace has come. Let us finish so that we can begin at the beginning. Things cannot be worse than at present."

Play Up 'Good Old Days'

German propaganda, fully aware of this collective yearning, seeks to satisfy it by taking the people back in time. It is not for nothing that one of the most popular films today is "Voyage Into the Past," and it is not by chance that Prof. Frölich has produced a film called, "The Buckholz Family," which recalls the brilliant Berlin epoch after 1930.

"The good old days" have become an obsession and many conversations turn on the question, "How would things have turned out if in 1933 . . . we chose a different path?"

These daydreams have become so prevalent that despite censorship they creep into the press, camouflaged under dialect. In Munich the Münchner Neueste Nachrichten has published a sketch called, "Within My Four Walls," which describes the weariness and bewilderment of Germans today:

I Talk to My Walls

"I talk to my walls since I cannot escape my thoughts—they haunt me. Often I seek to flee them but they pursue me. It is not only of myself that I think—the whole weight of human misery weighs on my soul."

"To sleep with such a burden I would have to have a heart of stone. I have put my forehead to my wall, but it is cold and utterly indifferent. But what did I want from the wall? Comfort? Ah, well, it is better thus: Now I know I am completely alone, with no help anywhere, no security, nowhere a resting place for my head, nothingness."

This state of mind induces many soldiers to risk desertion. The number of those failing to return to the front, after leave, has so increased that military police have had to be reinforced.

Many Service Men Hide

In large towns, there are agencies which procure clothing, false papers and railroad tickets for deserters. Many servicemen succeed in hiding; others eventually rejoin their regiments, urged by their families for fear of reprisals. They invent fantastic excuses and as punishment are simply transferred to other units and given severer duties.

However, only a comparatively limited number find courage to desert. Daydreams and hopes are less dangerous. Many had centered all their hopes on a "miraculous secret weapon"; today, this dream is shattered and if the miraculous arm really did appear, nobody would have enough confidence in it to believe it could change in Germany's favor the difficult military situation.

A Chip on Their Soldiers

This nostalgia also influences the outlook of soldiers from the eastern front, though their moods naturally are more bellicose.

They carry a chip on the shoulder and people avoid discussions that might lead into arguments with them.

Skeptics may say: "So, soldiers from the eastern front are already cocks-of-the-walk; what about the Gestapo and the S. S.?"

The reply is that the Nazi party has enough sense not to cut off its nose to spite its face.

Must Humor Combatants

In other words, combatants must be humored; in them lies the hopes of the country's salvation.

Discipline in the wehrmacht is as severe as ever, but it is the soldier himself who has changed. He has thrown off the chrysalis of mysticism with which he started out to fight and now calls a spade a spade and sees it as such.

In Germany today the most discussed question is not, "will we win the war?" but "when will all this end?"

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ARSONIST'S HUSBAND FACES FRAUD CHARGE

LOGANSPORT, Ind., March 18 (U. P.)—Sheriff Joseph Salb of Dubois county was scheduled to arrive today to take custody of James Ott, 46, former attendant at the Logansport state hospital, on a charge of defrauding insurance underwriters.

Ott, whose wife, Maude, 41, also a former attendant, was sentenced to one to 10 years imprisonment this week for igniting a building at the state institution, was accused of complicity in the burning of his home at Birdseye, Ind., April 11, 1943, and collecting \$100 in insurance.

Lynn O'Neill, Ott's attorney, said that the man would plead innocence to the fraud charge at Jasper, Ind., arraignment Monday.

Hugh McGowan, deputy state fire marshal, said that the insurance check was made out to Ott and that Ott cashed it.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

2 Satellites Prepare for Allied Blow

By UNITED PRESS

The growing allied air offensive and the approach of the Russian army brought repercussions in Rumania and Estonia today.

A Bucharest broadcast reported by the OWI warned the Rumanian people that allied air raids on their capital may come "sooner than we anticipated" and urged a speed-up in the building of shelters.

The government of Rumania's Bucovina province on the Russian frontier ordered restaurants and public houses to close at 8 p. m. and to open on Saturday for only one hour at noon, a Budapest broadcast recorded by CBS said.

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QUICK ACTION ON TAXES SEEN

(Continued From Page One)

New 'Simple Form' Would Become Effective

Next Jan. 1.

(Continued From Page One)

to 91 per cent and substitute for the present victory tax a new 3 per cent normal tax.

The plan provides for a "presumptive" deduction of 10 per cent of gross income up to \$5000, to cover such present deductions as interest, taxes and contributions. Thus, the maximum presumptive deduction would be \$500. Persons claiming more than that sum would be required to list them.

Plans for advertisements provided the basis of my chart and during four months I charted 6400 death notices which provided a fair cross section for analysis.

I found that death notices doubled from November to December. The families are notified with considerable delay so that the deaths announced in those months actually occurred in the fighting on the east bank of the Dnieper during August and September.

They continued to increase steadily during January and February to such an extent that by late February the total that month was more than four times the number of death notices published in November. The toll on the Russian and Italian fronts hit a peak during October, providing the increase in the number of paid notices.

Individual Deductions

In computing surtaxes, the individual would find his taxable income by deducting the 10 per cent presumptive deduction and \$500 for himself and each dependent. Thus a single person would have only a \$500 exemption.

Since the advertisements are comparatively expensive, about 250 marks for a single insertion, only a small proportion of the casualties are announced.

A higher proportion of deaths of officers than deaths of enlisted men is a natural