

WASHINGTON Calling

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

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Nippon, and it's up to Jap fleet to prevent the break-through at any cost—if it can.

One of the greatest sea battles in all history is in the making.

Robot Bomb Threat Still Exists

BUT DON'T expect any letdown in Europe. The true significance of the robot bomb is too well understood in Washington and London to warrant taking it easy.

Had the buzzbombs been ready three months earlier, it might have doomed the European invasion.

The V-2 is no mere Nazi bugaboo. It exists. Its destructive power is terrific.

Our only comfort is that the Nazis haven't yet got it under control. Its operation is erratic.

But time can cure that. If Hitler can prolong the war—even until next spring or summer—he may be able to perfect the new engine of destruction, and he counts on it to give him a negotiated peace. Nobody in the know is laughing off this possibility.

Dewey's Camp in High Spirits

GOVERNOR DEWEY'S camp is in top spirits over two campaign developments of last 48 hours: first, what Dewey advisers call the strongly defensive tone of F. D. R.'s Thursday night speech, and second, obvious confusion on Democratic side as to whether F. D. R. is to make any more public campaign appearances.

Some G. O. P. campaigners thought the President's speech started out well but sagged sharply after the first few minutes, that it lacked the fire of the teamsters' speech of two weeks ago.

Whether it's time was due to bad reaction to the "Fala speech" or to something else, they counted it an omen favorable to Republican side.

Dewey is sure to take advantage of every opening left by Democrats from here on, to return blow for blow. Some advisers have urged him to swing hard in Cleveland speech tonight.

Meanwhile, if Roosevelt makes more speeches, one of them will be devoted to answering Dewey's charge of unpreparedness for war. Presidential aides are digging out Republican voting records on air-force expansion, selective service, lend-lease.

Industry and Politics

PARTY CAMPAIGNERS sizing up presidential prospects have discovered that war industry have changed many things. Plants established in hitherto rural areas brought in large numbers of unionized workers and these now threaten to overturn established political performances and swing some farm sections for F. D. R.

At the same time, Democrats complain that worker migration and turnover, as in shipyards, have lost the vote for thousands of Roosevelt supporters.

Population losses in depressed hard-coal areas for instance, may effect Democratic totals.

FOR THE first time, politicians pay respectful attention this year to their women's auxiliaries, hitherto kept powerless. Reason: A League of Women Voters estimate that women will cast 60 per cent of the vote in states like Pennsylvania.

Byrnes and FDR Phft?

FRIENDS OF WAR Mobilizer James F. Byrnes say he has not seen F. D. R. since the Democratic convention, despite the fact that his office is in the White House, his job often labeled "assistant president." Harry Hopkins has been the go-between in handling Byrnes-Roosevelt matters.

Reason is Byrnes' feeling about the treatment accorded his vice presidential candidacy. He was given to understand he was the President's choice, then slapped down hard.

When Byrnes quits next month as OWB director to enter private law practice, Ben Cohen, his general counsel, will leave to. Estimates say they'll be law partners.

TIBET TO THE U. S.: IRON LUNG EPIC ENDS

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make a runway so the plane could take off.

But the sick man was six feet four, weighed 200 pounds, and the plane was so tiny there was room only for the patient and the pilot. The pilot, Maj. Fred G. Welsh, West Englewood, N. J., threw all the equipment out of the plane, including parachutes, and shakily took off.

Over the "Hump"

Over the dangerous Himalayan "hump" where U. S. planes daily fly supplies into and out of China, Maj. Welsh piloted his little aircraft with his right hand while with the left he pumped a canvas bellows that kept Wesselhoeft breathing.

Then for two and a half months Wesselhoeft lay in a British "lung" in Calcutta while 1st Lt. David D. Conrad of Memphis and Sgt. Frederick Beechard of New Brunswick, N. J., improvised an artificial respirator out of old airplane and jeep parts to enable their countryman to be flown back to America.

KWEILIN SEA OF FLAMES

KWEILIN, Kwangsi Province, China, Oct. 7 (U. P.)—This ancient imperial city, known as the Paris of China, has been turned into a sea of flame in the past 24 hours as Japanese forces draw near.

City-Wide BRANCHES

Fletcher Trust Co.

YANKS SMASH TOWARD RHINE

Major Break-Through Is Scored North of Aachen.

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some 10 to 12 miles to the north scored the break-through.

Gain at Ft. Driant

Doughboys of the American 3d army under Lt. Gen. George S. Patton extended their hold on the southwest corner of embattled Ft. Driant in the suburbs of Metz to within 100 yards of the main fortifications, where they could hear the Germans shouting to one another.

The Americans also had a toehold on the northwest corner of the fortress.

South of Metz, the 3d army yielded some ground to an enemy counter-attack near Sivry, nine miles north of Nancy, but advanced more than half-way through the Parroy forest east of Luneville against stubborn resistance and captured Anglemont, six miles southwest of Baccarat.

Supreme headquarters reported the Germans had sent substantial reinforcements of good troops, including "fight-to-the-death" fanatics, into the heavily-wooded areas northeast of the Epinal-Montebello line protecting the Belfort gap into Germany north of the Swiss border.

Far to the north, the Canadian 1st army linked up its several bridgeheads across the Leopold canal in northwest Belgium for a solid front nearly three and a half miles long and a mile deep.

The Canadians were meeting stiff opposition from German forces clinging to their positions on the south bank of the Schelde estuary, seeking to deprive the allies of the use of the big port of Antwerp as long as possible.

Opposition Lighter

Farther east, the opposition was lighter and the Canadians advanced to Sainvill, three and a half miles north of Lillo and just south of the Dutch border and also gained three miles north of Putte, well inside the border.

British and Polish columns on the Canadian flank advanced two miles along parallel roads to within a few thousand yards of Tilburg, hinge of the German salient.

The daily headquarters communiqué reported "heavy local fighting" northwest of Nijmegen at the tip of the British bridgehead in Holland across the Rhine river, but an official spokesman declined comment on a German report that the British had made a new crossing of the lower Rhine.

Hitler Arnhem Entered

London morning newspapers carried an unconfirmed Stockholm report that British tanks, striking out from the new bridgehead, had broken into Arnhem.

Fighting continued on the perimeter of besieged Dunkerque, last German-held port on the French channel coast, but there was no confirmation that the British and Canadians yet had launched their final assault against the stronghold.

On the 3d army front, American Thunderbird fighter-bombers were credited with effectively sealing a huge German railway gun in a tunnel from which it had been firing Thursday. They also were believed to have dive-bombed successfully the turntable of a heavy field gun.

Farther south, the American-French 7th army threw a siege across three quarters of the way around Thillot, in the Vosges foothills 17 miles north of Belfort. Further progress was reported in the woods of Belfort.

Exodus from war production centers is under way and mounting weekly through the Midwest. Hundreds of war workers and their families have quietly gone back to the farm and smaller towns. WMC reports show plant requirements spotty, with need still great in some areas.

Mathews Foresees A DEWEY VICTORY

FORTLAND, Ind., Oct. 7 (U. P.)—Jerry A. Mathews, editor of the Young Republican, national Republican weekly and veteran long-time election forecaster, yesterday predicted that Thomas Dewey would be elected President with a minimum of 298 electoral votes and possibly more than 300.

Dewey will carry New York with a "tremendous up-state majority" and all the New England states with the possible exception of Rhode Island, Mathews said.

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With a member of the Smith family, they knelt and prayed.

Reconversion Bill

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