

### Merry-Go-Round

**By DREW PEARSON**

Washington—If Congress is really interested in investigating military efficiency rather than in political retribution, it will probe the disastrous Battle of the Bulge at Pearl Harbor.

General Eisenhower's Pearl Harbor was only 2,000. But casualties in the Battle of the Bulge totaled around 60,000.

General Eisenhower set his back in the Pacific to the battle of the Bulge. He had just won the victory in Europe. General Eisenhower had hoped to finish Germany in the winter, possibly by Christmas, but disastrous over-whelming losses during the first two weeks of the Ardennes offensive helped drag out the war.

How many extra American lives were lost as a result of the start given to German hopes is not known. But what is known is that the U. S. supply officers immediately placed huge orders for more tanks, happy to see the heavy tanks in one reason why acres and acres of supplies are scattered over the country today.

That is why the tanks that were lost in the Battle of the Bulge were not available in Europe. It was the longest air-transported force in history.

Also it never leaked out that certain U. S. Intelligence officers in Washington warned that the sudden attack was coming and that preparation was done to prepare for it. These are a few of the things Congress could investigate with profit to future military efficiency. Here are some more.

**Nazi Captive Talk**

Congress doesn't know it, though the Army does, that captured German officers have now thrown significant light on the Belgian debacle.

They have testified that the huge operation was planned as early as November (though it didn't get started until Dec. 16). It was planned by Hitler himself. German generals and staff officers were sent to Belgium and France, where they were searched for and placed in chains for their part in the operation.

Remembering how one colonel brought in a bomb concealed in his belt case at the last last meeting Hitler took no chances. His German staff was wanted to be able to see both sides of the chain in which each general was placed. It was not the general's job to know exactly where Hitler's headquarters were.

Hitler then unfolded his plan. The German general debated whether the German Army could acquire enough supplies and supplies from other sources to sustain the other attack. Most of the generals were opposed. They thought the force was small. But Hitler's mad fanaticism decreed that this was the last attempt must be made to break the American line and get through to Brussels.

It nearly succeeded.

**Nazi Unsettled "Nuts"**

Lieut. Gen. Kurt von Meusefeldt was among those who left the meeting heartily. Before beginning the offensive he went to see the chief of staff and to tell him he never expected to see them again. Later he was to surprise himself by meeting as far as Belgium where he does not meet the message to Brig. Gen. C. McAuliffe to surrender. Meusefeldt's now famous reply was, "Nuts" and General Meusefeldt has met since told U. S. interviewers that he understood quite well what "nuts" meant (Gen. Maxwell Taylor, top commander of the 101st Airborne, has been in Washington with the German. He has now been promoted to be chief of West Point).

Another German opposed to the 101st Airborne's plan was the man generally credited with master-ful planning in Field Marshal Kurt von Rundstedt. Last December American newspapers carried accounts of a secret meeting between Meusefeldt and von Rundstedt. But when interviewed about his about the Belgian battle, he greatly surprised. "Do not connect me with that operation. That was Model."

von Rundstedt was referring to Field Marshal General Weibler von Meusefeldt, his colleague on the Western Front, who had been strong for Hitler's plan to catch the American Army off-guard.

General Meusefeldt's opposition of regular German Army officers. Hitler had the general abruptly in picking the time to live place for his attack. Traps in the field fact, however, is that U. S. forces would not have been caught in the surprise if the advice of two War Department colonels in Washington had been taken; also the advice of it in 1919.

**Washington Gave No Advice**

Mr. McCoy, looking at the map of the Western Front several days before the Germans launched their surprise attack and seeing the timely spread American forces in the Ardennes, pointed out that he thought this was taking a chance.

Members of the General Staff, however, reminded him that General Eisenhower knew what he was doing.

General Marshall made it a point never to give orders or suggestions to commanders in the field, so as to keep them from being able to get out of their own heads.

The warning of the two colonels, however, was not heeded. They were Col. Truman Smith and Col. Percy Smith. Truman Smith was in Brussels a week before the battle started and advised him what they feared was coming. They urged that the send a message to General Eisenhower. Meusefeldt, however, felt that it was not Washington's job to interfere with commanders.

Col. Truman Smith is probably the most outstanding expert on Germany in the American Army. Having spent several years as Military Attaché in Berlin, he knows many German Army commanders personally. How they think and how they operate. Just before the war, however, he got in difficulty because his friendship for Charles Lindbergh and his support of the Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter urged Roosevelt to have him court-martialed.

General Meusefeldt, head of Intelligence, is an air commander who spent a large part of this war in India. When he ignored the oral advice of Col. Truman Smith and Col. Percy Smith and Hitler, the two officers ignored the oral advice of Col. Truman Smith and Col. Percy Smith. They have themselves on record that there was a message sent to the Ardennes and that General Eisenhower should be apprised of that fact.

**Green 106th Division**

However, even this written warning was not passed on to Eisenhower. As at Pearl Harbor, War Department routine required that each commander be on his own.

On Dec. 15, a new and relatively green division, the 106th, was moved into the Ardennes Forest opposite the German lines. It had arrived in France less than a month before. Never before had it been under fire.

Exactly the next morning, Dec. 16, the 106th Division was hit by a long-planned attack. His Intelligence must have been excellent.

Last year, this column's comments on the Belgian battle were taken up and interpreted by commanders of the 106th Division as a reflection on their courage. The sign reflection, they thought, was one of cowardice. But the sign reflection was not intended. On the contrary, their resistance was one of the most heroic in the entire war.

But what I did report last year, and what still is true, is that before the 106th Division called, its senior field commanders were replaced with younger colonels and lieutenant colonels who had never been under fire. And while every man and officer fought valiantly and to the last ditch against overwhelming odds, the entire 106th-division's inferior intelligence support and no time to prepare was virtually wiped out.

There are some of the things which should be probed in one of the war's worst tragedies, if we are to improve military efficiency in the future.

### What Do You Want to Know

**By THE HASKIN SERVICE**

A reader can get the answer to the following questions by writing Bureau 310 Box 26, N. E. Washington, D. C. Please enclose three D.C. cents for postage.

**Q.** Can a bear swim faster than a seal? C. I. W.

**A.** The polar bear is a good swimmer for endurance but not for speed. We cannot maintain a seal.

**Q.** Is the American robin the same as the English robin?—S.H.R.

**A.** The bird we commonly call robin is a true thrush. The robin of England is a small bird about one-third the size of ours. The two are superficially alike only in having a red breast.

**Q.** How often are new names added to those inscribed in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans?—J.O.R.

**A.** Names to be inscribed are chosen every five years. New ones will be selected in Oct. 1945.

**Q.** Who holds the all-time record for hitting in consecutive games?—W.C.

**A.** The Sporting News says that the record is held by the all-time major league record for hitting in consecutive games. In 1941 with the New York Yankees, Dom DiMaggio hit 56 consecutive games. Joe Judge (without bonus) the minor league record is 56 consecutive games for which had been taken; also the advice of it in 1919.

# 1945-09-22 Drew Pearson and the 106th

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