



WAR'S GRIM IRONY

"New York Times", January, 1942.

(Continued from previous page)

Roosevelt's "Retirement"

CIRCLES close to the White House assert that even if Franklin Roosevelt is re-elected for a third term, he will retire within six months. He will nominate as his successor Henry A. Wallace, candidate for the Vice-Presidency and at present Agriculture Secretary. — "News Review," Sept. 12, 1940.

Laval's "Downfall"

MUSSOLINI'S downfall was Laval's death-knell. All the oily ex-Communist's subtle, sinister plans for playing off the Italians against the Germans collapsed when the Duce's prestige began to flag. Baffled, Laval attempted an alternative scheme of undermining the Petain administration so as to ingratiate himself with the Fuhrer. Petain found him out, and gave him the sack. — "News Review," Dec. 26, 1940.

Wavell and Graziani

AT one fell swoop he has flung the Italian army out of Egypt and delivered the Nile Valley from the shadow of invasion. Instead, Wavell, and his empire-army are invading Libya, and they look likely to strike deep after the necessary pause for complete re-organisation and replenished supply. — "Observer," Jan. 5, 1941.

The Turning Point?

IT is too soon to say that the Axis Powers are losing, but it is not too soon to predict that the turning-point has been seen. Britain's successes in Egypt and Libya, and Greece's in Albania, have heartened the Turks and have very greatly impressed the Kremlin. Now that the myth of Axis invincibility has been shattered, old Marshal Petain of Vichy is beginning to feel in his bones that he had better not surrender completely to the Nazis. — "News Review," Jan. 30, 1941.

Russia's Strength

SOME Military attachés at Moscow put Russia's air strength at about 20,000 and the number of its medium tanks at 15,000. In any case, most experts are agreed that they are poor in quality and could not stand up to a gruelling fast-fought war. — "News Review," Feb. 20, 1941.

Hitler's "Nightmare"

FOR a frontal challenge is not lightly to be addressed to Belgrade. At present the Yugoslav army is in a very formidable position. In combination with

the Greeks it could crush the Italians in Albania and sweep them out of the Balkans. Yugoslav resistance to the Axis would bring Turkey into the field. Hitler would be involved in the war on two fronts that he has used all his scheming to avoid. — "Observer," Mar. 30, 1941.

Russia's Chances

HOW long would the Russians last? Almost no one except the Russians was convinced that they could trounce the Germans. But if the Russians could . . . prolong the war into one more winter, then they might give the Battle of Russia a glory commensurate with its size.

What were the chances of their doing this? The Russian chances of holding out indefinitely were conditioned by timing, by geography, by the quantity and quality of the opposing armies, by the quality of the opposing leaders. On these grounds their chances were not too bright. — "Time," June 30, 1941.

"Beginning to Crack"

IT begins to look as though the mechanical monster of Nazi aggression is going to betray its masters. Indicative of a crack in the Hitler organisation itself were Rudolf Hess's flight to Scotland and Goering's clash with the Fuhrer. Last week these portents were followed by dramatic whippers that Hermann Goering had been displaced as head of the Luftwaffe by a "more reliable Nazi"—Field-Marshal Erhardt Milch, who has Jewish blood. — "News Review," Aug. 7, 1941.

Moonshine Over Burma

LAST week General Wavell took over his extraordinary command. His own imperturbable ability and courage create confidence and inspire men. He has his headquarters in the Netherlands Indies. With him are his American colleagues, General Brett and Admiral Hart. What are his assets? The Dutch, like the Australians, are a tower of strength, Java, with forty million people and powerful bases, is a citadel and arsenal as well as a treasure house of natural wealth. In Burma the well-equipped Chinese auxiliaries are a tough addition to still growing military resources which are formidable already both for defence and attack. — "Observer," Jan. 18, 1942.

More About Russia

TODAY those visions are extinguished. For nearly two months now we have watched the prodigious revival of Russia

and the destruction of Nazi hopes. Premier Stalin has emerged as a mightier man of brain and action than Hitler. His belief that Russia will shatter Germany by the end of this year is not out of proportion to the marvels of recovery and advance that have been achieved from end to end of Russia under Stalin's inspiration and direction. — "Observer," Feb. 1, 1942.

Spring "Drive" Doubts

WITH the remorseless Russian victories smashing, biting, worrying the supposedly impregnable German fortified lines all the way from south of Leninograd to south of Kharkov, the chiefs of Anglo-American strategy were asking themselves in Washington last week whether it was now certain that Hitler would be able to stage his spring drive for the Caucasus—and through Iran towards the Indian border.

Because of Russia's victories, betting has begun to move slightly in favour of the possibility that he may try to make the attempt not through Russia at all, but farther south — perhaps through Turkey, perhaps with his gliders performing a huge feat of air transport by direct attack upon Egypt. — "News Review," Mar. 5, 1942.

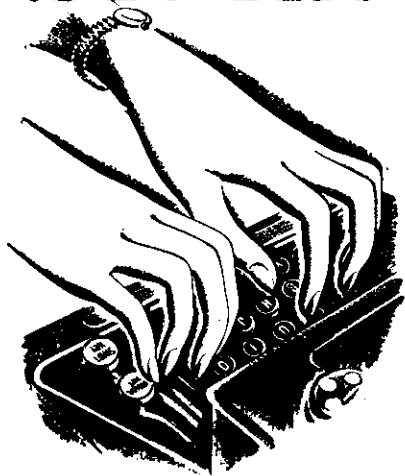
In India

IN the history of India a year or even a generation is a very short lapse of time. But in such days as those through which we are passing, in the midst of such calamities as those which have fallen on other parts of our Asiatic Empire, a year may be long enough to show Hindu and Moslem alike the need for unity as the price of salvation, and for victory as the ground of freedom—the freedom which we have offered, and the victory which we have invited them to share. — "Observer," April 19, 1942.

"Cheerful Confidence"

AFTER a period of continuous reverses which caused much searching of heart, the country is once more floating on a wave of cheerful confidence about the progress of the war. There is some ground to justify this mood. The battles of Kharkov and of Libya seem to prove that at last the German Army is meeting an equipment and a trained fighting power equal to its own. The Japanese have shown no sign of pushing farther outward, though they are using the isolation of China to drive their tentacles still farther into her long-enduring frame. — "Observer," June 7, 1942.

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