

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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## War Casualties in Spain Reach 750,000 in Year

Armies Deadlocked Along Ebro and Segre Since July—Franco Masters Two-thirds of Spain.

PARIS (UP)—Another year of hostilities, which has added 750,000 civil and military casualties to the total, draws to a close with three armies aggregating more than 800,000 men deadlocked in civil war.

Generalissimo Francisco Franco is master of two-thirds of Spain, but since late July the armies have been deadlocked along the Ebro and Segre rivers. Fighting in these sectors has added 100,000 to the death toll without either force striking a decisive blow.

This year has seen a legally constituted civil cabinet take over the government of the nationalist provinces from the military junta which began the insurrection against the Madrid republican government.

### Ernie Picture of War

At the close of 1938, the situation may be charted:

The war has cost Spain 55,000,000,000 pre-war pesetas.

A total of 1,250,000 casualties, with nearly 1,000,000 dead, including civilians.

Franco holds 34 of the continental provincial capitals; the republican government holds 13, divided into two zones.

Franco holds outright 30 of these 47 provinces; the government nine, while eight others—Lerida, Terragona, Castellon, Madrid, Guadalajara, Toledo, Granada and Jaen—form the present "no-man's-land."

Of Spain's 1,470 miles of coastline, Franco controls 935 miles, and the republic 535 miles.

Sixty-one per cent of the continental population is under Franco's red and gold flag; 39 per cent under the republican flag.

### Two Significant Campaigns

From a military point of view, the year was marked by two outstanding campaigns in which glory was shared equally by the two sides: Franco's successful march to the sea from the Belchite line, and Gen. Vicente Rojo's successful 113 day stand in a small loop of the Ebro river facing Gandesa, where for nearly four months he obliged Franco to concentrate all his reserves and in that way successfully halted the drive on Valencia—Madrid's last gateway to the outer world.

Of only slightly less importance were the fall and recapture of Teruel, in January; the unsuccessful drive by Generals Saliquet and Queipo de Liano to within striking distance of the Almaden mercury mines, and during the last part of the year Franco's "oatitarian" air offensive against republican war factories, ports and other military objectives contained in a "black list" of 108 towns and villages which the nationalist caudillo warned he would raid.

### Loyalist Division Trapped

Those operations, and the purely local trapping in a Pyrenees pocket and eventual retreat to France of the 43rd Loyalist division, provided the whole of the military operations of the year. Rojo's timely Ebro maneuver localized fighting to a small sector for five months of the year but the cost in men and munitions was so severe that the loyalist army of Catalonia was unable to recuperate for another offensive before the year end.

Technically, the year's military operations resulted in nationalist victories exclusively, for the loyalists were forced to abandon Teruel six weeks after its capture, they were forced to retreat from the Aragon heights to the shores of the Mediterranean and after crossing the Ebro river and holding the west bank for 113 days, they were forced back across that river.

At the year end, the rivers of Spain virtually mark the division between Nationalist Spain and the two republican zones, for the front generally follows the Noguera-Pallares river and the Segre and Ebro rivers from Pyrenees to Amposta in the

Catalan sector, and the Palancia river, Manzanares river, Tage river and Guadiana river to form the looping front around Madrid.

### Fronts Total 962 Miles

The Catalan front now measures 162 miles and is held by 240,000 loyalist troops—chiefly Catalans, Navarrese and Basque exiles—and four nationalist army corps of about 225,000 men, chiefly Basques, Navarrese, Galicians, Aragonese, Moroccans and the Foreign Legion, as well as the remnants of the Italian divisions.

The Southern sector has a continuous front line 800 miles long and is held by about 180,000 loyalists under Gen. Jose Miaja and 160,000 Nationalists, chiefly Falangists, Castellians and the conscript levies from Estremadura, Asturia and Andalusia. About 90 per cent of the physically fit Spanish males from 18 to 35 are under arms or employed in war factories or on fortifications as volunteers, conscripts, hostages or prisoners of war.

### FAN MAIL COSTS DAVEY O'BRIEN

FORT WORTH, Tex. (UP)—Davey O'Brien, Texas Christian University football star, is ready to believe that national recognition ought to carry a stipend for postage.

O'Brien is the 152-pound quarterback who was chosen virtually unanimously on all-America teams and voted the outstanding player of the year. His fan mail comes so large that Miss Frances Buster, whom Davey describes as "that certain girl," was commissioned to handle it for him.

Miss Buster, a T.C.U. co-ed and former band "sweetheart," has become an unofficial secretary. But the couple hasn't decided yet how they can buy stamps to reply to more than 2,500 letters that came to O'Brien from persons living from Honolulu to New York City.

A \$75 stamp bill would put a crimp in O'Brien's budget for several months. He is, however, answering as many as his time and money permit.

Eastern fans seem to have "adopted" O'Brien. Most of the letters are from small boys, and the "Dead End Kids" of Hollywood cinema fame sent in their praise. A sophomore in the University of Honolulu sent in a letter.

The most consistent O'Brien fans, however, were three nurses in a Kentucky hospital. They wrote to him before every game, and telegraphed congratulations before the game with Southern Methodist University, which secured the Southwest conference championship.

### APPORTIONS HIGHWAY FUNDS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (UP)—Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace today apportioned \$135,000,000 to states for highway improvement and grade crossing elimination.

Wallace assigned \$25,000,000 of the federal funds for extension of the federal program for elimination of hazards at grade crossings.

With the exception of the grade elimination allocations, the states must match the highway funds on a dollar for dollar basis. The allotments will be available to the states July 1, 1939.

The funds were authorized by the federal aid highway act of 1938, a further development of the long range federal program of federal assistance in building truck highway and secondary roads. Nebraska was allotted a total of \$2,698,614 including \$2,044,283 for truck highways, \$306,642 for secondary roads and \$347,689 for grade crossing elimination.

### RIVAL OIL COMPANIES POOL FIRE EQUIPMENT

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (UP)—Oil companies with storage tank plants near here have pooled their firefighting equipment to prevent repetition of the disastrous fire which swept a Pure Oil company storage plant here in July, 1937.

William F. Richartz, division operating manager of Socony-Vacuum Oil company, said the companies would join in maintaining supplies of foamite, a frothy chemical used to blanket and smother oil fires.

## Appeal by the President for U. S. Nat. Defense

Repudiation of Dictatorship Fore-shadowed in the Annual Message to Congress.

By LYLE C. WILSON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (UP)—Preview reports of President Roosevelt's annual message to congress foretold today a pulse-stirring call for national defense and a blistering repudiation of dictatorship.

Mr. Roosevelt's associates believe it will be his most vigorous speech of his career. The message will be delivered shortly after noon Wednesday before a joint session of house and senate.

The new 76th congress will meet at noon Tuesday. It would be a perfunctory gathering but for decision of the senate campaign expenditures committee to release at that moment its report concerning Works Progress Administration political activity in the fall election campaigns in some of 15 states covered by the inquiry. Some persons describe the report as a "blast" at the WPA system.

Former WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins was appointed to the cabinet as secretary of commerce last week and Aubrey Williams, his chief assistant, was put in charge of the National Youth Administration.

But WPA and other domestic issues will be subordinated in the president's message if it is presented in the form in which his close associates assert they most recently saw it. National defense and continental solidarity of the western hemisphere against armed or ideological invasion by dictator nations has become the new deal theme.

The message, therefore, is expected to reverse the Roosevelt precedent of making domestic problems the framework and substance of the annual address with only limited—if consistently pessimistic—reference to world affairs. The urgent problems of federal finance, deficits and relief costs which keep the treasury in the red will be discussed later in the week when the president presents his annual budget message. Another deficit budget is assured unless Mr. Roosevelt adopts new bookkeeping methods such as have been suggested by some friends of the new deal. These include establishing a new category of federal credits to supplant accounts now carried as debts. A self-liquidating project, for instance, might be carried as a capital asset instead of its cost appearing on the debit side as a part of the federal expenditure and of the deficit.

Tuesday's strictures on WPA political activity will start the new congress off on an anti-new deal zig but it is likely to zag back in the president's favor when he raises the banner of democracy against dictatorship the following day. Thenceforward, the congress promises to pursue an uneven course which, in the aggregate, probably will be more adverse than favorable to the administration.

An anti-third term resolution already assured of almost uniform republican support and of some democratic votes is ready for presentation in the senate. Hopkins, the baby cabinet member, must be confirmed, and probably will be, but only after a searching and unfriendly review of his WPA career by several members of the senate commerce committee.

Chairman Josiah W. Bailey, a democrat, likewise is an anti-new deal. But the critical campaign expenditures committee report is aimed at Hopkins scarcely at all. It is directed, rather, at the WPA system and the potentiality of political activity in the relief organization. It has become evident now that the administration is aware that WPA is in bad and that Mr. Roosevelt will go along with a remedial program.

There is no convincing evidence, however, that the president regards the November election as a major new deal reverse although republicans made substantial congressional and state gains. The president's congressional visitors come away talking of a chart on which he has analyzed the returns and upon the basis of which he comes to the conclusion that most of the democratic reverses were attributable to local issues. With that interpretation the conservative democrats, including Vice President Garner, do not agree.

If the president holds to his interpretation of the election returns, there is small chance of major compromise at this session between conservative and new deal democrats. There will be rather, a spectacular collision and contest for control of the party looking toward the showdown battle over a presidential nominee in 1940.



Spice Mince-meat Shortcake with Foamy Sauce is tender, spicy and altogether delicious.

## For Gay Days Let Us Have GAY DESSERTS

says Dorothy Greig

"A FINE dessert sends everyone from the table feeling happy," mother used to declare. And it's true. All is sweetness and light in the average family after a meal climaxed by a glorious dessert.

This is the time of year, too, when fine desserts really come into their own. Parties and gay doings are in the very air. So let us serve our most toothsome desserts. There is no better time.

1 Give you two of my cherished successes. One is a pudding and the other is a shortcake. They are light, spicy and delicious.

**Spice Mince-meat Shortcake with Foamy Sauce**  
1 1/2 cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon cloves  
3 tablespoons shortening (1/2 butter)  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 can condensed tomato soup

Sift flour, then measure, add the baking powder, soda and spices and sift again. Cream the shortening, add the sugar gradually and cream well. Then add the beaten egg. At the last add the flour mixture alternately with the condensed tomato soup. Pour into a well-buttered 9 inch square baking pan. Bake in a moderate oven (350° F.) for 30-40 minutes.

**Mince-meat for Filling**  
Heat 1 1/2 cups mince-meat until the suet or fat has melted.  
To serve—Cut spice pudding into approximately nine pieces. Split each piece and fill center with one spoonful hot mince-meat. Replace the top half of cake and serve foamy sauce over the top.

**Foamy Sauce**  
1 egg, separated  
3/4 cup powdered sugar  
1/2 cup whipped cream  
1 teaspoon lemon juice

Beat the egg white until stiff, then beat in the sugar gradually. Add the egg yolk and continue beating. Fold in the whipped cream at the last and then add the lemon juice.

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### RECITATION WINS SUSPENSION

NAPPANEE, Ind., Dec. 31 (UP)—"... but only God can make a tree." Thus did Gerald Banghart, 17, high school basketball star, conclude his recitation of Joyce Kilmer's "Trees" and look up hopefully at City Judge Frank Trecklo.

"Well done," said Judge Trecklo, "I suspend your fine."

The judge had fined Gerald \$13 for cutting down a tree which overhung the tennis court on town park, but offered to suspend the penalty if Gerald could give a perfect recitation of "Trees" within a week.

## Senator Reed to Seek Repeal of Two State Laws

Cream Grading Law and Compulsory Motor Vehicle Testing Laws Face Attack.

LINCOLN, Dec. 31 (UP)—State Senator-elect James E. Reed of Lincoln announced today two bills will be drafted at his request proposed elimination of compulsory motor vehicle testing and repeal of the cream grading law.

He said the measures will be introduced in the 1939 legislative session which convenes Tuesday. Reed described both laws, enacted by the 1937 legislature, as "having proved ineffective and a distinct burden to the public."

"I think all the discussion about the car testing law thus far has shown it to be unfair, particularly to farmers who can't afford high priced automobiles and who have difficulty in getting them approved. I know of one farmer who had to drive 80 miles to have his car tested."

Concerning the cream grading law, Reed asserted "it has been a severe blow to independent stations, especially with respect to the stiff license fees (\$25). As an example of how ineffective the law is, the agriculture department tells me only 65 out of a possible 300 independent cream stations have complied with the license fee provision."

### LACKED COURAGE TO FACE LIFE, BUT NOT TO DIE

CHICAGO, Dec. 31 (UP)—Princess Trowbridge, 21, daughter of a Baptist minister, couldn't face life, but she had the courage to face death.

She penned a farewell note to her mother last night then walked to the Rock Island railroad right of way and threw herself in front of a train. Police took her body to an undertaker. There they found the note pinned to her dress.

"Dear mother," it said, "do not make yourself too unhappy over this. Think that I am happier this way. I was not made for this world."

"I am afraid of people and all competition. This is a callous thing to do but though I do not have the courage to face life, I will have the courage to face death."

She was one of four children of the Rev. L. B. Trowbridge, secretary of the Chicago Tract Society. She was a junior at the National College of Education in suburban Evanston.

Friends were unable to explain the cause of her unhappiness.

### LOYALIST OFFENSIVE

HENDAYE, Franco Spanish Frontier, Dec. 31 (UP)—Spanish loyalists struck at the nationalists today with a counter offensive which they asserted had thrown back the Italian fascist divisions and temporarily stopped the incursions on the lower Segre river.

The loyalists sent crack shock troops into their counter drive, under three of their most brilliant leaders—General Sarraibia, General Lister and Colonel Modesto.

Dispatches from Barcelona, the loyalist emergency capital were careful to point out that the counter offensive was "unimportant" and was only a diversionary one to relieve pressure on other sectors.

However, dispatches from the nationalist as well as the loyalist side indicated strongly that the loyalists now believed themselves in possession after withstanding the greatest nationalist drive of the civil war for eight days, to start a series of counter moves.

### WASP STING NEARLY FATAL

SIMSBURY, Conn. (UP)—James P. Curtiss is allergic to wasps and when one stung him he almost died. Doctors worked over him for five hours and administered adrenalin before they could restore him to consciousness.

## United States Rejects New Order in China

Offers to Join in International Conference to Decide on Future Policy in the Orient.

TOKYO, Dec. 31 (UP)—The United States today rejected Japan's program for a Japanese-dictated "new order" in China and at the same time offered to join in an international conference to discuss China's future.

American Ambassador Joseph Clark Grew delivered the note in which the United States state department emphatically expressed the views of the American government on the present diplomatic situation.

The note was a rejection of the "new order" program which Japan outlined Nov. 18 in reply to a United States demand for an "open door" policy in China.

It came at particularly unwelcome moment immediately after the revelation that Wang Ching-wei, who until the start of the Chinese-Japanese war was premier of China, had broken with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and was negotiating with Japanese agents for peace.

Japan's "new order" program was based on the assertion that:

"... In the face of the new situation fast developing in east Asia any attempt to apply to conditions of today and tomorrow inapplicable ideas of the past would neither contribute toward the establishment of real peace in east Asia or solve immediate issues."

The American note:

1—Re-stated the traditional support by the United States of the sanctity of treaties.

2—Reminded Japan of the international covenants covering the far east.

3—Asserted that the United States was cognizant of changed conditions but was unsympathetic toward unilateral settlement of Chinese problems, that is, settlement by direct action of one nation without regard to others.

4—Reminded Japan that in the past situations such as that which has arisen in China were settled through consultation.

5—Asserted the readiness of the United States to join in an international conference to consider the Chinese problems.

Grew delivered the note to Renzo Sawada, vice foreign minister, in the absence of Foreign Minister Hachiro Arita, who had left town for a New Year holiday.

As Grew visited the foreign office, Japanese newspapers were displaying the sensational news that Former Premier Wang of China, in a statement issued through his agents in Hong Kong, had urged peace negotiations with Japan.

The same newspaper published new year statements in which Foreign Minister Arita said that Japan was going to end the idea that the Orient was a colony for occidental capitalist countries and Admiral Mitsuomasa Yonai, navy minister said it was imperative that Japan insure command of the Western Pacific.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (UP)—The United States flatly rejected Japan's "new order" in China but tacitly invited Japan and other powers concerned to enter negotiations regarding possible revision of foreign rights and interests in the far east.

Details of the note, made public here disclosed that this government charged Japan with unfair discrimination against American trade and commerce with China and with assuming the powers of sovereignty in China by the use of armed force in violation of existing treaties, it said, guaranteed the territorial indemnity of China and equal rights for all powers, are not subject to unilateral nullification. However, it admitted, possible desirability of change and left the door open to international conversation on the subject.

"Meanwhile" it said "this government reserves all rights of the United States as they exist and does not give assent to impairment of any of those rights."

The note was the latest in a long series of exchanges by the United States and Japan regarding alleged violation of the open door policy and unfair treatment of Americans and their interests by the Japanese military.

### RESIGNATION OF CUMMINGS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (UP)—Attorney General Homer S. Cummings' resignation from the cabinet will become effective at noon on Monday, January 2, the White House announced today.