

PATHFINDER

MARCH 6, 1937: p. 3

ARMS RACE

The World Takes Part In Costly Competition



*More Planes and More Carriers Like "Courageous"
Are Planned By Britain*

TO EASE the strain on Nazi military necks by a total of about 300 tons, German soldiers are now discarding old-style helmets for new ones half a pound lighter.

To make more men eligible for army service, Japanese authorities have just reduced the minimum height for their soldiery to four feet, 10½ inches.

To match the dun hues of masonry walls made shapeless and earth made treeless by constant gun fire, French military units are gradually having their uniforms changed from horizon blue to dull khaki.

MILITARY REVIVAL: Stirred by Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and by subsequent German scrap-ping of the Versailles treaty, military experts of every nation thus have been altering the smallest details of army life to make their forces bigger, faster and more deadly than those of their neighbors.

In 1933 Nazi troops threw away the gunless dummies that had served them since 1918 and began to use real tanks in military drills. In 1935 Hitler, weary of waiting for the promised disarmament of Versailles treaty signatories, instituted compulsory army training. His forces were increased five-fold, then 10-fold.

Russia answered with an army which jumped from 900,000 men to 1,300,000. France added 140,000 men to her forces last summer. Mussolini, magnifying an Ethiopian border incident into an African war, had already nearly doubled both his army and navy.

COST: Last week European nations were viewing a new but not altogether unexpected arrival in the world arms race—Great Britain. By approv-

OldMagazineArticles.com

ARMS RACE



Leahy Wants the U. S. Navy Supreme

ing an expenditure of \$7,500,000,000 to be spent in the next five years, the House of Commons had squarely put the island kingdom into the international competition of men, equipment and money.

By its sheer size, British armament theoretically was designed to overawe all competitors and put a stop to the arms race. Actually its first result was to emphasize the prodigious sums which will be spent for military purposes next year. With the British estimate added to budget announcements which began in Paris last fall, it was possible to total armament expenditures for major nations in the single 1937-38 fiscal year as follows:

Russia	\$4,000,000,000
Germany	3,000,000,000
Great Britain	1,500,000,000
U. S. A.	1,000,000,000
Italy	900,000,000
France	700,000,000
Japan	400,000,000
TOTAL	\$12,000,000,000†

This sum is nearly five times what the world spent for arms in 1935 (\$2,500,000,000). It is more than double what the world spent for arms three years ago (\$5,000,000,000), and about seven times what it spent in 1914 (\$1,706,000,000). If levied uniformly in all nations, taxes and loans to meet it would call for five dollars from every man, woman and child on the face of the earth.

ARMAMENTS: The term "armaments" is commonly misunderstood to mean munitions, rifles and other steel and powder instruments of war. Ac-

† PATHFINDER'S tabulations, gathered from both official and semi-official sources, are intended to serve only as fairly close indications of actual figures which in many cases have not been fully revealed by the governments under consideration here.

ARMS RACE

tually it includes many other components.

In all countries, armament expenditures go to pay the expenses of enrolling, training and maintaining men as well as purchasing planes, battleships and torpedoes. In every major nation of the world except the United States it includes the purchase price of arms factories bought up for government control. In Great Britain it includes the present cost of manufacture and distribution of 40,000,000 gas masks to the civilian population.†

ON LAND: Because land armies antedate air fleets and navies and still provide the surest means of defense and attack, most European nations have chosen to follow the Napoleonic adage: "Providence marches with the big battalions."

Two years of furious expansion following Hitler's military liberation of Germany by the end of 1937 will have increased the land forces of major nations to these dimensions:

Russia		1,300,000	men
Germany		1,300,000	"
Italy		1,200,000	"
France		600,000	"
Japan		250,000	"
Great Britain	...	225,000	"
U. S. A.		165,000	"

In time of war, this table could be immediately increased by National Guard units in all countries and by reserves now recalled each year for short training periods. With such reserves, the total number of effectives would stand at 34,000,000 men.

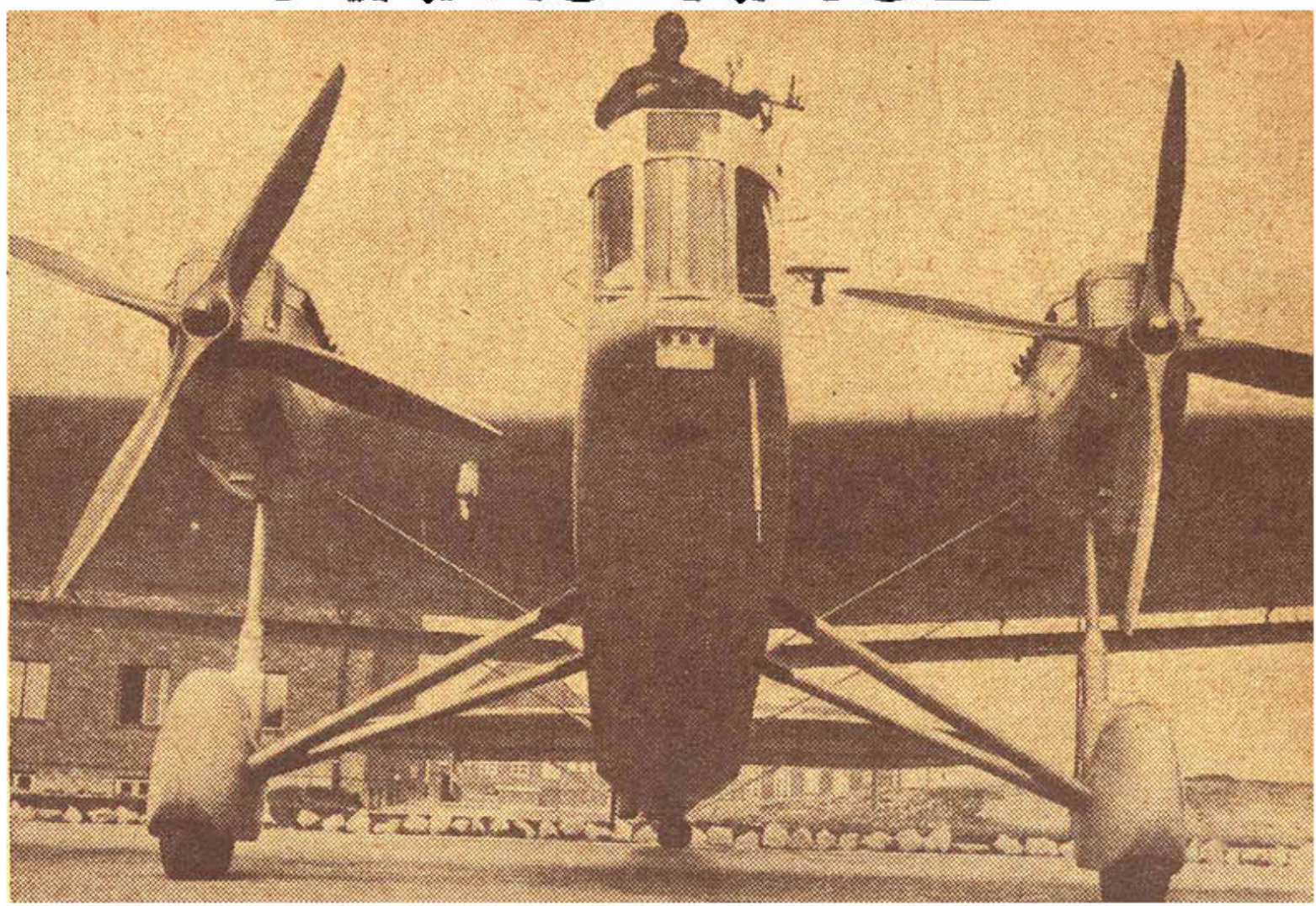
ON SEA: Because most European nations are still dependent on sea traffic for vital supplies, navies play a hardly less important role than armies. Great Britain, whose population would starve to death in six weeks if her sea lanes were blocked, maintains the greatest navy in the world.

The present naval race dates from last winter. At that time, the London conference was a complete failure, and provisions of the Washington treaty to limit ship building were allowed to lapse on the first of January. Immediately, world naval appropriations took a wide swing upward. The total tonnages now built, building and appropriated for are shown below. Also shown is the percentage increase over the number of tons actually completed on July 1, 1936:

Gr. Br.	...	1,600,000	tons...	30%
U. S. A.	...	1,450,000	tons...	34%
Japan		865,000	tons...	12%
France	...	750,000	tons...	37%
Italy		520,000	tons...	27%
Germany	.	265,000	tons...	120%

† Britain's "two bob" gas masks, manufactured at a cost of two shillings (50 cents) each, will enable British citizens to breathe comfortably for six hours under ordinary concentrations of gas, but will hold up for only 15 minutes against heavy concentrations.

ARMS RACE



Gunner in Front, Bombs in Back: One of Germany's New Fighting Planes

Great Britain's scheduled addition of five new battleships to her fleet, along with roughly 75,000 tons of cruisers and airplane carriers will probably have a specific effect in the United States. Already Admiral W. D. Leahy, chief of Naval Operations, has declared that this country will maintain the principle of "a navy second to none."

To follow this principle, the U. S. will have to add to the two capital ships already scheduled for building in 1937, three more, at a probable cost of about \$150,000,000.

IN THE AIR: Air forces, as the newest of military weapons, have grown faster and will probably continue to grow faster than any other branch of defense and attack.

According to present figures, major nations could blacken the skies with more than 12,000 first-line fighting planes. Reserve forces would bring this total to at least 32,000. Air totals:

Russia	4,000
France	1,800
Germany	1,800
U. S. A.	1,650
Italy	1,500
Great Britain	1,400

It is known further that Russia contemplates bringing her first-line forces to 7,000 planes as soon as possible. Great Britain is expected to triple her present supply with the addition of 3,000 more crack planes. Germany, with no planes more than four years old, will continue to turn out winged fighters at a rate estimated as between 600 and 2,600 a year. For their own safety, France and Italy can do no less.

THE PACE INCREASES: Of all the great Powers, the United States alone is not feeling a substantial strain caused by armaments. Britons, already heavily taxed, will have to submit to even higher levies.

Germans are becoming increasingly familiar with the Nazi slogan "Cannon before Butter!" One dollar out of every two of the Japanese budget is going to war preparations. In Poland the ratio is one to three.

ARMS RACE

Great Britain, by throwing her tremendous resources into the international arms race, is ostensibly bent on checkmating other nations which cannot possibly cope with the size and cost of British armaments.

Presumably, her statesmen expect to see those of other nations throw up their hands in despair. Actually, through Admiral Leahy, the United States has given a stiff reply to the British naval challenge. Within a week after the move of the British Parliament, Polish leaders asked their people to "organize the national wealth under a single leadership and in the name of a national defense." Nowhere was there any indication that the pace of armaments might slacken. No nation gave any sign of dropping out of the race.

WINNERS: Great Britain's arming designed for peace, made the chances at least equal that the arms race would be provoked to an even greater speed.

The experience of 1914-18 showed that no nation could hope to win a modern war. Tactical victories there could be, but none great enough to compensate for the loss in lives, property and economic dislocation. Similarly, no one nation can hope to win an arms race—the cost is too great, the budgetary strain too severe.

There is, however, at least one type of winner—the munitions firm which trades with anybody regardless of national sentiments or political alliances. With 17 affiliates or partly dependent trusts, the British company of Vickers-Armstrong, for instance, is today selling not only to Great Britain but also to the potential-enemy states of Germany and Italy.

In France, the firm of Schneider-Creusot heads a combine of 182 manufacturing companies. Owning more than half of the great Skoda works in Czechoslovakia, it is conveniently located for its present sales to Germany and Italy as well as to France, Czechoslovakia, Poland and other countries.

At Essen and other cities in Germany, the great Krupp works are booming. While Germany prepared for the last war in 1914, the Krupp works employed 80,000 men. By the end of last year, their payrolls carried the names of 100,000 men and women.

PEACE OR WAR? Last week the British Foreign Office studied the possibilities of a new Locarno pact to establish peace in western Europe. Armed with the new military program, Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin had high hopes. He said: "Were there a pact . . . for mutual assistance against aggression between the nations of Western Europe, I . . . believe that such a pact could maintain peace."

That was one view of what British armaments might help to accomplish.

ARMS RACE

The other was stated by Sir Stafford Cripps, a staunch Laborite. In the Parliament debate on the British program, he snorted: "We're witnessing the most magnificent subscription to a world suicide pact yet made public in any country in the world."

PATHFINDER

OldMagazineArticles.com