

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazi Counter Drive in Kharkov Area Wins Back Part of Russ Winter Gains; Wallace Warns of Future War Menace; Allies Tighten Ring on Rommel Armies

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.

NORTH AFRICA:

Rommel Rages

Like a wild animal in a cage, Marshal Rommel had struck out at the forces hemming in his 250,000 army in Tunisia. His principal offensive had been a heavy thrust at Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth army before the strategic Mareth line in Southern Tunisia.

But the wary Englishman had anticipated the German move and his deadly artillery fire had repelled repeated Nazi attacks with "very heavy losses."

Rommel, a master of tank warfare, had attempted to break through the British lines with his heavy mechanized equipment, but when he was forced to withdraw wrecked German tanks were strewn over the battlefield.

In the north the British First army had regained the initiative and was pressing the enemy, while on the central front the American forces were moving steadily to hem the Axis in.

DRAFT:

Plan to Save Farmers

Plans of the administration to take the pressure of the draft off the nation's shortage of farm labor apparently contemplate the induction of unmarried men over 38 or those in that age group without dependents. This, at least, was the interpretation of Washington observers concerning orders by the War Manpower commission to the selective service to reclassify such men IA beginning May 1.

The Manpower commission's action followed the announcement of a four-point plan for the deferment of essential farm labor. It came at a moment, too, when the congressional farm bloc had launched a drive to clarify the farm labor confusion.

Local draft boards were under orders hereafter to place no more men in Class 4-H and to reclassify out of 4-H into 1-A all such men now deferred because over the military age limit. At the same time draft boards were ordered to begin reclassification immediately of all men over 38 who may become eligible for class 2-C or 3-C because connected with farm work.

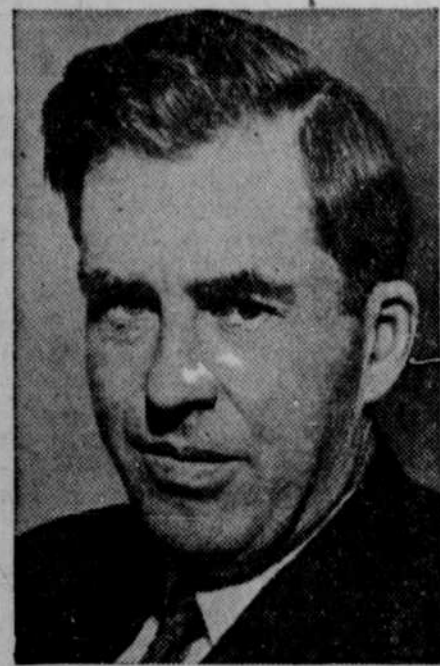
U. S.-RUSSIA:

Need More 'Trust'

Although the storm over Ambassador-Admiral William H. Standley's complaint concerning Russia's failure to inform its people fully about the great extent of American aid had subsided and future lend-lease shipments on an ever-bigger scale were assured, the need for greater mutual confidence between the two Allies continued.

This need was stressed by Vice President Henry A. Wallace in a speech which coincidentally enough was delivered at the time Standley's statement was made public. Mr. Wallace had stressed the fact that a third World war might result unless the western democracies and Russia reach a satisfactory understanding.

"War will be probable in case we doublecross Russia," Wallace said.



VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE . . . beware World War III.

"Such a war would be inevitable if Russia should again embrace the Trotskyist idea of fomenting world revolution, or if British interests should again be sympathetic to anti-Russian activity in Germany and other countries."

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

CHICAGO: With an abundance of billing and cooing, 5,605 fast-flying doves were drafted in Chicago for the army, reducing the city's peace-time pigeon population by one-sixth. The war first drafted a big group of racing pigeons from the city a year ago. These traditional symbols of peace were reported in action from Bataan to Britain, according to a report received here.

RUSSIA:

Nazis Uncoil

Three reasons were cited by military observers for the initial success of the sudden German counter-offensive west of Rostov and south of Kharkov which in its early stages had swept forward 100 miles and resulted in the capture of eight key cities in the Donetz basin which had been taken earlier by the Soviets in their great winter drive.

One reason was the use by the Nazis of 25 fresh divisions. Twelve of these had been rushed from western Europe and the others replenished after previous action. A second reason was the draining of troops from this southern sector by the Russians to supply momentum to their drive on Orel and Vyazma to the north. The third was the superiority of Axis supply lines and communications in the Donetz area.

The serious extent of these early German successes was evident in the fact that Russian official communiques had admitted the loss of the cities the Germans had claimed. Russ reports disclosed that the German move had actually started late in February.

The setback in the south had not prevented the Russians from continuing their drive on Vyazma. Red communiques had reported the capture of Tiomkino.

FOOD SUPPLY:

Nutrition Level Dips

That the food situation in the United States is rapidly bringing the American people down to the Canadian and British level of nutrition was the opinion voiced by Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard.

Mr. Wickard likewise disclosed that the amount of food available for civilians "is going to be something less than it is at the present time," in testimony before the senate appropriations committee.

Because of the increasing demand for proteins and fats—including meat, dairy products and some oil crops—from our military forces and our Allies, Mr. Wickard said the American people will probably have to live more on vegetable fats and proteins than they formerly did. "We have about reached the place now where we cannot expand our meat production any more," he said, "because we are not going to have enough of the basic element—feed—to support much more increase."

LABOR MANHUNT:

French Fight Nazis

Adolf Hitler's desperate need for manpower had caused the Nazi to put more than usual pressure on the collaborative Laval regime for more French workers. The German demand had been for 400,000 men. When Nazi soldiers abetted by the Vichy government set out to meet this goal, the street fighting, guerrilla tactics and sabotage were the French Patriots' answer to this effort to bolster Germany's waning manpower resources. Reports received by the Fighting French in London indicated that in a single 72-hour uprising, more than 350 German soldiers had been killed.

Swift and cruel were the reprisals taken for this insubordination. But the repressive measures only served to fan the flames of French hatred against the German conquerors.

ANTI-VICHY:

Action in No. Africa

Increasing evidence that Gen. Henri Giraud's North Africa regime will move steadily further away from Vichy influences and ever closer to the democratic methods of the United Nations was seen in the high commissioner's summary action in repudiating all Petain decrees relating to African colonial affairs and liquidating the entire government bureau concerned with restrictions on Jews. "A decree signed in Vichy has no effect in North Africa," was Giraud's terse explanation. "The German occupation interrupted the free exercise of national sovereignty."

General Giraud's action followed that of Governor General Nogues of French Morocco reinstating government workers dismissed under Vichy's orders and repealing the ban on listening to certain foreign broadcasts. In repealing the Vichy anti-Semitic decrees, High Commissioner Giraud ordered General Bounty, who dealt with Jewish problems, to be removed from office.

CHINA:

Destiny's Crossroads

A 10-year reconstruction program for China, including the building of 20,000 transport planes, was proposed by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in his book, "China's Destiny." While his wife, Madame Chiang, was busy winning friends for China on her visit to the United States, the Generalissimo disclosed plans calling for 2,460,000 graduates from various grades of technical schools to aid in developing postwar China.

WHO is fighting whom?

Table showing countries at war categorized into United Nations and Axis, with a grid indicating participation of various nations like Germany, Italy, Japan, etc.

THE FOLLOWING STATES HAVE SEVERED RELATIONS WITH THE AXIS: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Chile.

The above chart shows at a glance which nations of the world have declared war against the others. Of all the United Nations only three—Britain, Czechoslovakia and China—have declared war on the entire Axis tribe. The United States excepts Finland which yet may be induced to quit the Axis.

PACIFIC FRONT:

Jap Power Wanes

In the Far Eastern war theater, reports from China disclosed that the main Japanese offensive in Western Yunnan province along the old Burma road had been halted on the west bank of the Salween river. Waning enemy air power in the Burma-China area was indicated by Allied reports that repeated attacks by American and British fliers on Jap objectives had failed to lure any Nipponese planes into battle.

On the Solomon Islands battlefield, American planes roved to the northward raiding Kahili, Buin and Ballale in the Shortland Islands area and Viru Harbor in New Georgia. The Japs retaliated with a raid on Tulagi close to Guadalcanal.

Summarizing the situation in the Pacific, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said that American forces are stronger than ever before in the Solomon Islands sector while throughout the South Pacific, the Japs are having increasing difficulty in supplying their island bases.

Without adequate shipping, the secretary explained, the Japs cannot maintain their South Pacific bases and face further retirement.

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Washington Digest

Hitler in Mental Decline? Close Observers Say Yes



Reliable Reports Indicate Fuehrer Subject to Uncontrolled Emotions; German Physician Believes He Will Have Mental 'Explosion.'

By BAUKHAGE, News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Where is Hitler?

That question can't be answered with any certainty at this writing and nobody seems to care. For more than a month, the communications from the German High Command have not borne the Fuehrer's signature. The anniversaries of two of the great events in Nazi history have come and gone, the celebrations were held with very little display in comparison with other years and entirely without appearance of the No. 1 Nazi himself. Hitler has made no public appearance for months.

It is true that communications supposedly from the Fuehrer have been made public but always through a second party, notably the speech on the anniversary of the founding of the National Socialist party. The set excuse is that Hitler is with his troops in the Russian front. But at the rate that front is moving these days, it is doubtful if he is very near it. It is quite possible that he is elsewhere or even nowhere but the interesting thing is that this man, who has managed to turn the world upside down, does not seem at all essential to the great political and military machine he has built up. It may be functioning without him and this would seem to indicate that if he is not dead, but should suddenly die, it wouldn't make much difference.

Some time ago, a report received from underground sources was received in London. It said that "Hitler either has been given an ultimatum by his generals, who pointed out his military blunders, or he is suffering from one of his hysterical fits and is in ill health as a result of his Russian reverses."

Recent Developments What about these fits? They are no fiction but well-authenticated events. Before several witnesses he has frequently burst into tears, and in other ways given vent to utterly uncontrolled emotions. But these fits are of less importance than certain other likewise well-substantiated but not widely known developments which have taken place within the last year or two.

There are several stories which I heard from the lips of a man who has closely watched Hitler's career from its earliest beginning. The man is Fred Oechsner, a former colleague of mine. In fact, I was instrumental in having him sent to Berlin as correspondent for the Consolidated Press just about the time Hitler was beginning his political career.

Long before anybody else took Hitler seriously, Oechsner wrote to me: "This man is some day going to be the bull in Europe's china shop." Oechsner, who is now in Washington, told me the following story which he also repeats in his excellent book, "This Is the Enemy." As you know, Hitler was always a teetotaler. He never drank anything but some very weak beer especially brewed for him and he only took sips of this pale beverage.

Recently his habits changed. "Persons who visited him at his headquarters early in the winter told me," Oechsner says, "that he was becoming grave and irritable and that it was not uncommon for him on a cold night to drink three or four glasses of grog. He also took occasional drinks of a Bavarian liquor called Enzian which is not unlike gin."

Now Oechsner is an exceedingly reliable reporter and when he says the Fuehrer finished three grogs in an evening, I believe it—also I believe that a man unused to taking alcohol must have been higher than Berchtesgaden when he went to bed. Oechsner also said: "There is a German physician of international repute who believes that some day Hitler will have a brain disturbance of a serious nature. This physician has treated Hitler since 1921 and knows his physical condition as well as his personal life. It is his opinion that Hitler is an outstanding example of a half-trained, half-educated person with a phenomenal talent for absorbing and co-ordinating information and detail gleaned from other sources. This attention to detail and pattern, he says, is obvious in Hitler's drawings, in his speeches, his military campaigns. It is a phe-

nominal mental power but some day it is going to explode."

Suicide the End? Without revealing the source, I have heard the opinion expressed by a man who has seen and met with Hitler many times and is exceedingly familiar with his life, that it is quite possible that a mental decline has started which, he believes, may end in suicide.

On my own score, I may say that when I heard Hitler deliver his famous speech at the start of the war in 1939 in which he said that he was going to the front and would lead Germany to victory, that he would not take off his uniform until this had been achieved, and in the next breath named his successors, I thought he was preparing for suicide. I doubt if he is now dead. He may not even be ill but the thing is, there has been no report of any public appearance for a long time.

That, of course, is hearsay evidence—or long-distance diagnosis but what Oechsner reports comes from first-hand authority.

So Hitler may already be in a padded cell—and nobody seems to care!

Fourth Term—Does FDR Want It? Will the President run for a Fourth Term? A number of cross currents are definitely in motion, some directly moving toward an attempt to draft Mr. Roosevelt as candidate in '44; some which at present seem to be carrying him in the opposite direction.

One thing that many people fail to realize is the fact that when the precedent against a man serving in the White House for more than two terms was broken, the first olive was out of the bottle and the chief obstacle to a fourth term was removed. As has been pointed out, the American people never before wanted a man for a third term candidate, although twice before candidates would have made the attempt—Grant and Theodore Roosevelt.

When the first whispers for a possible third term for Franklin Roosevelt were heard, I talked to a seasoned political observer. He said: "The President doesn't want to run again but he will be persuaded by his friends."

I make bold to state at this juncture that exactly the same statement can be made today with one modification: The President doesn't want to run for a fourth term but his friends are trying to persuade him to.

I feel sure that the President does not want to run again. I do believe he passionately desires to preside at the peace table. But some of his friends have a different view. As Joseph Tumulty, secretary to President Wilson, once remarked about the White House: "It's a nice boarding house, you hate like the dickens to move out."

Friends' Demands Two things are acting in favor of persuading the President: One, his earnest and insistent demand of his "friends" who don't want "to move out" and some of whom honestly believe that it would be for the general good if the President stayed on. Their arguments are many.

TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SPEECH DEFECTS

A pupil at public school was a member of a special group preparing for scholarships. This class, of which I was a member, remained in the classroom until 5 p. m. and attended Saturday morning 9 to 12. When the results were announced this girl stood first despite the fact that she stammered so badly that she was unable to read in front of the class. As she was very brilliant I was not surprised at her beating the rest of us, but I figured she would lose so many marks in her reading that some of us might overtake her. The explanation was that when she took her reading examination she read before the teacher only and read clearly and distinctly without stammering in the slightest.

Despite the fact that school teachers did not stammer amid home or familiar surroundings it is only within recent years that the general public and stammerers themselves are learning that while some speech defects are due to some disturbance of the structures that control speech, most cases of stammering are due to nervousness and self-consciousness.

I am writing about stammering at this time as I have at hand a handbook of the Chicago Speech Correction society. The society was organized by a group of speech correctionists in the Chicago area, its purposes and qualifications being in accordance with the standards and ethical codes of the American Speech Correction association. The purposes of the society are to foster ethical principles and practices in the field of speech correction. To this end the qualifications demanded for membership are very high.

"The speech correctionist or therapist is one whose technical training has been such as to enable him to conduct the examination, make the diagnosis (find the cause of the defect) and direct re-education of (1) individuals whose voice or speech problems call unfavorable and embarrassing attention to themselves and constitute an educational, social, or business handicap; and (2) individuals who suffer from voice or speech conditions that are abnormal to such a degree that they are able to converse with others to a very limited extent."

My thought is that as the stammerer or a sufferer with other speech defects can now be helped, he should look well to the qualifications of the speech correctionist he consults.

Why Overweights Dislike Exercise

It is estimated that about nine of every ten cases of overweight are due directly to overeating, another 5 per cent to inactivity of certain glands, and the other 5 per cent to overeating combined with lack of gland activity. This means that 95 of every 100 overweights should follow a reducing diet containing an insufficient number of calories, the extra calories really needed to do the body's work being made up from the excess fat in and on the body.

What about exercise? If overweights realized the benefits derived from exercise, they would be more willing to take it regularly. All that most of them find is that exercise increases their appetite and so little or no weight is lost.

Why do overweights so greatly dislike exercise? Exercise means effort and there is less than the normal desire for effort in overweights. Every movement they make—walking, jogging, bending—means the lifting or carrying of much more weight than for one of normal weight. So, rather than use this severe effort, they are willing to do without some of their daily intake of food. They simply choose the lesser of two evils.

If, however, they are willing to take the exercise instead of doing without the food, they will not only use up the excess fat and so bring their figure back or nearly back to normal, but will get rid of their dislike for exercise and be more willing to take it regularly. As they grow lighter and more "limber," they may actually develop a desire for exercise.

Remember, exercise is useful in reducing weight before middle age. After middle age, cutting down on food is the safest method.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Do nerves cause shortness of breath; if not, what is the cause? A.—"Nerves" can cause shortness of breath. Other causes are: Blocked nose, too much acid food; heart muscle getting weak.

Q.—What type drug is hyoscyamus and what are its uses? A.—Hyoscyamus belongs to the belladonna group. It is used as a "quieting" drug and to relax tight nerves and muscles. Used in bronchitis also.

HOUSEHOLD TINTS

Grease can be removed from an iron by rubbing it with corn meal. Do not mix new milk with old, except when it is to be used immediately. An occasional application of oil will keep leather in chairs and suitcases from cracking. It will help keep your shoes if you put them on shoe trees or stuff the toes with paper when they are not being worn. Always wipe them dry of moisture and dirt after exposure.

Rub over the inside of a cushion with hard soap before you fill it. Then the points of the feathers will not come through. Children's Shoes should be plenty large when bought—but not large enough to slip around and rub the feet. When they get too small, they should be passed on to some one else, if they are not worn out, for wearing too-small shoes when a child may cause serious foot trouble all through later life.

COLDS' MISERIES PENETRO

For colds' coughs, nasal congestion, muscle aches get Penetro—modern medication in a mutton suet base, 25¢, double supply 55¢.

Admirals may be admirable, but that isn't where the word comes from. It comes from an old Arabic word "amir-al" meaning "commander of." That's what the Admiral is, the top-ranking officer in the Navy. Top-ranking cigarette with our Navy men is Camel—the favorite, too, with men in the Army, Marines and Coast Guard, according to actual sales records from their service stores. Camels are their favorite gift, too. Local dealers are featuring Camel cartons to send anywhere to any member of our armed forces. Today is a good time to send "him" a carton of Camels.—Adv.

Pull the Trigger on Constipation, with Ease for Stomach, too

When constipation brings on discomfort after meals, stomach upset, bloating, dizzy spells, gas, coated tongue, and bad breath, your stomach is probably "crying the blues" because your bowels don't move. It calls for Laxative-Senna to pull the trigger on those lazy bowels, combined with Syrup Pepsin for perfect ease to your stomach in taking. For years, many Doctors have given pepsin preparations in their prescriptions to make medicine more agreeable to a touchy stomach. So be sure your laxative contains Syrup Pepsin. Insist on Dr. Caldwell's Laxative-Senna combined with Syrup Pepsin. See how wonderfully the Laxative-Senna wakes up lazy nerves and muscles in your intestines to bring welcome relief from constipation. And the good old Syrup Pepsin makes this laxative so comfortable and easy on your stomach. Even finicky children love the taste of this pleasant family laxative. Take Dr. Caldwell's Laxative-Senna combined with Syrup Pepsin, as directed on label or as your doctor advises, and feel world's better. Get genuine Dr. Caldwell's!

Aunt Louise says: PAZO for Simple PILES Relieves pain and soreness

Millions of people suffering from simple Piles, have found prompt relief with PAZO ointment. Here's why: First, PAZO ointment soothes inflamed areas—relieves pain and itching. Second, PAZO ointment lubricates hardened, dried parts—helps prevent cracking and soreness. Third, PAZO ointment tends to reduce swelling and check bleeding. Fourth, it's easy to use. PAZO ointment's perforated Pile Pipe makes application simple, thorough. Your doctor can tell you about PAZO ointment. Get PAZO Now! At Your Druggists!

Terror Deafens

The man who is roused neither by glory nor by danger it is vain to exhort; terror closes the ears of the mind.—Sallust.

GROWING CHILDREN NEED

VITAL ELEMENTS* TO HELP BUILD RESISTANCE TO COLDS...

Good-tasting Scott's Emulsion contains the natural A and D Vitamins* often needed to help build stamina and resistance! Helps build strong bones, sound teeth too! Mothers—give Scott's Emulsion daily.

