

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

See-Saw Offensives Rage on Red Front As Nazis Hurl New Divisions Into Drive; Battle Lines Drawn for Skip-Year Tax; Aerial Action Paces Activity in Tunisia

(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.)
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With snow underfoot, these muffled, car-muffled members of the New York Giant pitching staff are going through their paces in one of the most unusual spring training seasons in baseball history. Their camp is located at Lakewood, N. J. Left to right: Cliff Melton, Van Mungo and Carl Hubbell. Southernmost of all major league training camps is that of the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals, at Cairo, Ill.

GIVE AND TAKE: In Russia

Kharkov had fallen once more to the Nazis and still they pushed eastward. This was the story from the Ukraine sector of the broad Russian front. In another important sector, further to the north, the Russians were having the better of it as their four-pronged offensive swept swiftly through the area around Smolensk.

This and the fighting around the anchor point of Orel were more immediately important to the Russian cause than what happened at Kharkov. For Orel serves as the turning point between the southern and central fronts. Hitler could ill afford to lose this base.

While Russian sources admitted that Kharkov was important they also pointed out that a strong defense line had been established beyond the city and further claiming that Hitler's troops found nothing but dead Germans on the city's streets when they took it. Military experts reasoned that Hitler had thrust about 25 fresh divisions into his drive for that point. Moscow said that the reason Germany wanted the city was to atone for the great losses suffered by the Nazis at Stalingrad in midwinter.

TUNISIA: Aerial Action

Bad weather which has slowed ground activity in Tunisia has been no barrier to the growing Allied Air force.

As a prelude to General Montgomery's expected push against Marshal Rommel, Allied planes have been pounding the Mareth line. An elaborate system of fortifications hewed into the mountains, this line stands between the bulk of the opposing armies.

After a month of offensive operations against the American and British lines in central and north Tunisia, Rommel has pulled in his wings. Although the Allies restored much of their original position, they have concentrated their effort on softening up the enemy from the air.

Allied air operations have been particularly extensive over Sicily. American and British bombers have been pounding the great Axis base at Palermo. Prosinone and Pozzallo were the latest Sicilian centers hit.

MORE TIRES: On April 1

Liberalizing tire rationing for the second time, Price Administrator Prentiss Brown expressed the belief that all motorists would be able to keep their cars on the road as the result of the release of additional tires by Rubber Administrator William Jeffers.

Effective April 1, grade 2 tires will be available to drivers with gasoline mileage allowances exceeding 240 miles a month. This includes most B, C and T card holders. Motorists eligible for 560 or more miles will be allowed a limited number of grade 1 tires, the highest grade casing. However, all must be obtained with certificates issued by local ration boards.

These changes do not affect A card holders, who are eligible for used or recapped casings. Most of the rationing formalities on recapped tires have been removed by Brown.

FLARE-UP: In France

Hopeful eyes turned for several days on the high mountain passes near the French-Swiss frontier, where large numbers of French guerrilla warfare against Italian and German troops. For the most these forces consisted of young Frenchmen who were being recruited for forced labor inside Germany.

First reports from Zurich and Berne, Switzerland, indicated that British RAF planes were dropping guns and ammunition to the men waiting in the Alps. German sources soon claimed that many of the men were deserting because of the lack of such supplies. This claim was substantiated by neutral reports.

Much support and advice to the movement was given by the Algiers radio. This source claimed that Italian troops in the area were refusing to help pry the patriots loose from their positions.

An ultimatum had been issued by the Germans before the fighting began but the French declined it saying that they were ready to fight through to the end.

While non-Axis nations were cheered by the news of the resistance there was little hope that the uprising could spread far.

DINNER TABLE: And Points

While American housewives were studying what the effects of the rationing of meat, canned fish, butter, cheese and edible fats would be on their family diets, the Office of Price Administration announced that April points for processed foods would be same as in March—a total of 48 per person. These would be the points on the blue stamps let-

RATION DATES

March 29—First day for rationing of meats, canned fish, butter, cheese, edible fats and oils.

March 31—Final date for first inspection of passenger car tires for "A" card holders and motorcycles; last day on which A, B and C stamps in war ration book 2 may be used. (Stamps of second ration period may be used from March 25.)

April 12—Expiration date for Period 4 fuel-oil coupons.

May 31—Last day for use of stamp No. 12, good for five pounds of sugar.

June 15—Last valid date for stamp No. 17, good for one pair of shoes.

September 30—Expiration date for Period 5 fuel-oil coupons.

tered D, E and F in war ration book No. 2.

In announcing the meat rationing, government officials were careful to point out that while the total amount to be consumed by the nation would be cut 12 to 15 per cent, there would still be enough meat to allow healthy diets for U. S. citizens.

Meanwhile the department of labor reported that the average increase in food costs throughout the nation during the past month had been 0.5 per cent.

SECRET AIRFIELDS: Held Dutch Harbor

The story behind Japan's failure to seize Dutch Harbor, the navy's Alaskan stronghold, is due largely to the "existence" of two imaginary salmon packing companies. The facts have just been revealed.

The two packing firms were no more than covers for one of the Alaska defense command's most remarkable jobs—the secret construction of two airfields to guard Dutch Harbor. When the Japs approached the naval base last June 3 (with two carriers, three cruisers, eight destroyers and four transports—perhaps as strong as the forces which struck at Pearl Harbor) they understood there was no airfield within 800 miles of Dutch Harbor.

In the midst of their assault the Japs found themselves hit from behind by land based planes and bombed and torpedoed by land based planes. Their spy work—so successful at Pearl Harbor—had failed.

LITTLE STEEL: Formula Fades

A source of comfort to almost every labor union official is the fact that the Little Steel formula is fast disappearing as a factor in wage increases approved by the War Labor Board. The bulk of wage adjustments now is based on "inequalities."

Reason for the disappearance of the much-debated formula is that a majority of employees already have received the 15 per cent general increase permitted by the formula as a cost-of-living adjustment. WLB officials state that scarcely any important branches of industry have not raised wages at least that much since January 1, 1941.

JAP FORCES: Above Australia

Word from Allied headquarters in the South Pacific indicated that Japan's invasion forces appeared shifting to the ring of islands north of Australia.

This new menace was emphasized when 49 enemy planes—25 bombers and 24 fighters—attacked Port Darwin in Australia. It was one of the heaviest raids in months, although the Japs were driven off with only slight damage and casualties.

Washington Digest

Wickard Is Made Target Of Farm Policy Critics

Attack on Agriculture Chief Seen as a Continuation of Farm Bureau Assault On Farm Security Administration.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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You will read in your favorite newspaper that congress is out to "get" Secretary of Agriculture Wickard. The reason being offered is: "There's going to be a food shortage and he's responsible." That isn't the half of it.

In the first place, the folks who have been leaning back with their feet on the Washington cracker-barrel and watching administrations, wars and panics come and go, aren't taking these fiery debates, these charges and counter-charges too seriously.

The fight in congress today on the surface is the farm bureau, the big farmer (who isn't so big in many cases) versus Wickard. One layer below the surface, you'll hear it called the fight of the extension services against the Farm Security Administration. Back in the cracker-barrel corner it's just the fight against the administration and what's left of the New Deal.

Criticism 'Political'

One of these old timers shifted his stogie, took down his feet and said to me: "This is just politics. The idea is that 1944 is coming up and if you are an honest 'out' you've got to do all you can to discredit the 'ins.' I think Wickard will weather the storm. The Farm bureau people have nothing against him except as a symbol of the administration. He's an old farm bureau man himself."

"But," I interjected, "what about the war effort, what about hiking up the farm prices and smashing the price ceilings? You can't give the farmers higher prices without having to boost wages."

My friend caressed his stogie and smiled. "Don't worry," he said, "nobody is going to do anything in the long run that will interfere with war plans. But in a political fight, everybody leans as far out of the tree as he can without falling. Everybody says the other fellow is playing politics—but everybody plays the game just the same."

What is this "extension service" versus Farm Security fight? Well, it goes back a long way. In the old days, the extension service, the idea of the "county agents" was started by commercial organizations which wanted to improve farm prosperity so they could sell more city goods. Later, the system was financed by the states with the help of federal grants. But the states dominated. Then the American Farm Bureau federation was formed, officially in 1920.

The organization pushed certain ideas for attacking surpluses not very different from what the AAA developed later. As the farm problem grew worse, a farm conference was called in Washington in 1932. This group prepared a bill containing many features similar to those finally incorporated into the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Then came the first friction between the farm bureau and the administration. There was a good deal of politics in that, too. It was a struggle between the AAA representatives in the field and the state set-ups.

Farmers' Union Formed

Later, the Farmers Union came into the picture. It was started among the low income farmers in Texas. It was the left wing of Agriculture and to the other farm groups, it was "pink." It had the strong backing of Mrs. Roosevelt; its policies were reflected by the Farm Security Administration, a rival of the more conservative Farm Credit Administration which ministered to the financial ills of the bigger farmers. The friction has never ceased.

A blow-up came when Wickard started his food administration. As an old farm bureau man, he always leaned over backward in an effort not to be prejudiced against Farm Security. Also, as a cabinet member, he couldn't stray too far from White House precepts. So he named Parisius, a Farm Security man, to head up his food conservation machinery and immediately a nest of hornets was loose. There was no choice. It was a question of making a left turn against traffic. Parisius had to go.

Wickard was accused of turning

right by one group but that didn't save him from the wrath of those opposed to the administration. Nor did his incentive payment policy which would not help the Democrat cotton raisers in the South nor the Republican wheat raisers in the north since what we don't need to raise America today is more wheat or more cotton.

So the storm rages. Farm Security will probably be the burnt offering as anything with even a faintly pink complexion is a red flag to congress.

Gardens Nothing New; They Were Old Treat

You've heard the expression: "he ain't what he usta be and what's more, he never wuz."

In a number of ways, these United States of ours ain't what they used to be—but they WUZ!

Take these victory gardens. My goodness! It was long after we moved into town (population 20,000) that I had my real private gardening experience. Back on Spruce street, of course, there was a whole orchard and the garden was so big, it was ploughed. But big or little, the backyard could produce plenty for mother to "put up" (we never called it "canning"), everything from tomatoes and corn and those cucumbers—what memories the name conjures up—to those wonderful watermelon pickles.

I was talking with another old-timer, and he isn't so old either, about his little Kansas town. He said he couldn't remember anybody who didn't have a garden; or had milk delivered to the doorstep either.

When the onions and the radishes stuck their sprouts up, I used to watch them with an eagle eye hoping I would be able to deliver a luscious bunch of them before the corner grocer had his somewhat wilted product to display. Of course, I never could beat him by much and by the time the fat tomatoes were asking for a piece of lath to keep their chins out of the dirt, all the neighbors had them too. But that didn't matter. Came the day when the kitchen was redolent with entrancing odors and the womenfolk's aprons were stained red as a victorious banner, and when evening fell, the mason jars were cooling in the pantry before they were stored in the cool cellar.

In those days, about the only time a can opener was used was when somebody broached a Sunday evening can of sardines as a special treat to go along with the fudge (made in a chafing dish if you were a little doggy) and flavored with songs around the piano to mandolin obligato.

And what about the dry throats? No ice cubes. No cocktail shakers. Perhaps a bottle of raspberry shrub from the top shelf from the preserves closet—a rich purple liquid which had been squeezed through a cheese cloth bag with strong and loving hands, the fat berries inside plucked from those sprawling bushes along the back fence.

What good things came out of the backyard garden by way of the fruit jars and the jelly glasses? Can you forget the quinces, smooth and shiny and hard that hung on the gnarled tree, harsh fruit that mysteriously turned into a delightful pink delicacy, which spread over a crisp cracker like a benediction.

Drill Congressmen

On Tuesday, March 2, 1943, there appeared for the first time in the history of America, the following item in the Congressional Record, the journal of day to day happenings of congress:

RECESS

THE SPEAKER. Pursuant to the inherent power lodged in the Presiding Officer in case of emergency, the Chair declares this House in recess subject to the call of the Chair for the purpose of participating in a practice air-raid drill. The alarm has sounded. Members will leave the Chamber as rapidly as possible, and the galleries will be cleared.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p. m.) the House stood in recess, subject to the call of the Speaker.

AFTER RECESS

At 3 o'clock and 4 minutes p. m., the House was called to order by the Speaker.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Japanese officials have decided to establish six more training centers to meet present demands for 80,000 brides for Jap colonists in occupied Manchuria. As recorded by the foreign broadcast intelligence service of the United States, the Tokyo radio said current plans call for 250,000 "colonists" and that "about 80,000 brides to go to the continent are desired."

The treasury's cache of gold now amounts to \$22,743,000,000.

The German people, who are getting about an ounce of fats a day on their present ration cards, began to get less butter and more margarine during the present ration period which began March 8, according to a D.N.B. dispatch transmitted from Berlin.

TO YOUR Good Health

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

TUBERCULOSIS

Some years ago while visiting a tuberculosis sanitarium, I came across a patient, an amateur heavy-weight boxer, who calmly informed me that he expected

to stay two years in order to allow his lung to become completely healed. At that time the pneumothorax method, in which gas pressure is used to cause the infected lung to rest, was used mostly in advanced cases.

More recently, other methods of resting the lung by causing it to collapse have come into use, such as cutting the nerve that controls the lung and removing a portion of several ribs.

As many patients are naturally anxious to get "cured" quickly, the question naturally arises as to why shouldn't these short methods of resting the lung be always used instead of the long months and years of bed rest only.

In order to answer this question satisfactorily, Drs. A. L. Kruger, B. P. Potter and A. E. Jaffin, Jersey City, N. J., analyzed 185 cases of early tuberculosis seen in the Hudson County Tuberculosis hospital and clinics between 1930 and 1939.

From their findings, these physicians agree with those physicians who advise early collapse treatment with "advanced" tuberculosis.

What about the use of collapse treatment in the beginning or early cases. In early tuberculosis they believe that rest, rest in bed, is the treatment most needed to bring about recovery. The disease was stopped or arrested in 78 per cent of these early cases by bed rest.

Treatment by collapse—gas pressure, nerve cutting, removal of ribs—should be used in cases only when the disease gets worse, tubercle germs are found in the sputum, where there is no improvement after a long period of bed rest, or when hemorrhages occur.

As there are many patients who think bed rest treatment is too slow, and perhaps members of the family who think that treatment at home or the outdoor clinic is as effective as hospital or sanitarium treatment, I think the findings of these research physicians should be made known.

Treatment for Ringing of Ears

A few years ago when an individual had tinnitus—ringing in the ears—it was felt that, as there was often some deafness present, the deafness was the cause of the tinnitus. Accordingly, the ear specialist treated the ear for any condition that might be causing the deafness, and when improvement in hearing resulted there was often some decrease in the tinnitus.

Among the causes of tinnitus and partial loss of hearing are (a) wax or cerumen in the outer ear lying against the eardrum, (b) partial blocking of the eustachian tube which carries the air from the back of the throat to the middle ear against inner side of eardrum, and (c) too much liquid in the tissues adjoining the balancing canals of the ears. This latter condition also causes dizziness, nausea and vomiting, and partial loss of hearing; it is called Meniere's disease.

The treatment for these three conditions causing tinnitus is:

1. The removal of the wax by placing olive oil or half strength hydrogen peroxide in the ear, allowing it to remain for a few minutes, and then driving out the softened wax with a hot baking soda solution, using a powerful syringe.

2. The eustachian tube is opened by means of an air syringe which not only blows the tube open but removes to some extent the moisture which is sticking the lining surfaces of the tube together.

3. The treatment of Meniere's disease is by cutting down on all liquids and table salt and avoiding or cutting down on salty foods. Foods to be avoided are bread, salted butter, crackers, eggs, all corned, pickled, smoked or salted foods. Foods that are low in salt and can be eaten are apples, asparagus, cabbage, lettuce, grapes, lemons, oranges, honey, jelly, unsalted bread and butter.

That eyestrain could cause tinnitus will come as a surprise to many of us, but Dr. J. R. Noyes, Brockton, Mass., in "Laryngoscope" states that he has relieved several patients of annoying symptoms by correcting eyestrain due to short-sightedness, and astigmatism.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Is there any cure for osteoarthritis?

A.—The process—arthritis—is sometimes stopped by use of a diet low in starches.

Q.—Can you recommend a cure for Pott's disease?

A.—Your physician can refer you to an orthopedic specialist who will give usual treatment. Pott's disease is usually due to tuberculosis and is cured by rest, plaster cast, sometimes surgery.



Farm Topics

Soil Management Aid To Increasing Yields

Farmers Co-operating in Test Get Good Results

Larger yields of grain and better stands of hay are becoming increasingly important these days when the demand for cereal, meat and dairy products for war and civilian needs has reached such record peaks. Whether the output of these crops is large or small on a particular farm depends largely on the condition of the soil that produces them, according to Prof. C. J. Chapman of the college of agriculture, University of Wisconsin.

That such crops respond to soil management is evident from tests carried on in a number of Wisconsin counties in which fertilizers containing phosphorus and potash were applied to small grains and seedlings of clover and alfalfa.

Farmers co-operating in the tests laid out demonstration plots on their land, leaving one area unfertilized. The results in the form of grain yields and hay crops that followed them in the rotation were checked and compared. The harvests showed that not only was the output of the small grains boosted, but the production of hay that followed in the rotation was greatly increased. The tests showed, too, that the soil improving treatment had a valuable carry-over benefit.

Typical of the results obtained were tests on farms in Portage coun-



Allen G. Hunsaker of Afton, Wyo., whose four sons are now in the armed forces, installed a milking machine to help out. He is now carrying on with the aid of his wife and 12-year-old daughter. He now milks 20 high grade Holsteins which produce 15,000 pounds of milk per month, in comparison with the 16 cows he milked last year which averaged 10,000 pounds per month.

ty on silt loam and sandy loam soil types of varying fertility levels. On one silt loam plot where 300 pounds of an 0-20-20 fertilizer were applied per acre in 1941, the grain yield was 51.9 bushels compared with 31.1 bushels per acre on the unfertilized field. The 1942 hay crop on the fertilized field was 5,493 pounds, as against 1,186 pounds—or an increase of 4,307 pounds per acre.

A sandy loam plot treated likewise with 300 pounds per acre of an 0-20-20 yielded 25.2 bushels, compared with 19.2 on the untreated plot.

Eliminate Hazards!

Unless soldiers on the farm front are careful, an army of nearly 4,500 farm workers will be killed this year by mechanized equipment and livestock.

"That's why we say that heroism isn't confined to the front battle lines in this war," farm families were told by E. W. Lehmann, head of the agricultural engineering department, University of Illinois college of agriculture.

The shortage of labor, inexperienced machine operators and use of older machinery will aggravate the situation for the duration.

In Illinois alone, nearly 300 farmers lost their lives in producing and delivering food to market in 1941. Thousands were crippled for life; more thousands were crippled temporarily.

Accidents during wartime are not merely family and community tragedies. Many times they are the result of criminal negligence. Accidents that kill and injure American food-for-freedom producers aid the enemies.

Agricultural Notes

Sudden changes of temperature in dairy barns or in poultry houses reduce production of eggs and milk. Cows and hens do not work over time to replace shortages from the day before.

WPB has assigned top priority rating of AA-1 to assure delivery of critical material necessary for manufacture of farm machinery included in the current program.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

RATION: Food ration points on blue stamps in April will remain at 48.

DEEP WATER: Representative William Rowan of Chicago has prepared a resolution asking for the deepening of the Illinois waterway and Mississippi river to 12 feet to permit major navigation from the Great Lakes to the Gulf.

LOOK PRETTY: To cut absenteeism among women workers employed seven days a week and eight hours a day, the N. A. Woodworth company of Detroit has installed a beauty shop in the plant. Furnished in the modern manner, the shop has all of the latest beauty equipment and charges the regular prices. Woodworth employs approximately 3,000 women.