

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Rommel's Southern Front Stronghold Captured in British Eighth Army Drive; FDR, Camacho Join in 'Neighbor' Plea; American Fliers Pound Japs in Pacific

(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.



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U. S. A., head of the Allied forces in Africa, takes the salute of a sentry as he inspects front lines in Tunisia. Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., commander of American ground forces driving through Tunisia, follows him. The colonel commanding the unit being inspected returns the sentry's salute.

TUNISIA: Nazis Run Gauntlet

Axis efforts to reinforce their embattled armies in Tunisia met strong Allied resistance as Gen. Bernard Montgomery's 8th army opened a successful assault on the Enfidaville passes on the southern front. Enfidaville, Rommel's coastal anchor, fell after furious fighting.

While British naval units charged an Italian convoy in the narrow channel separating Sicily from Tunisia, American and British fighter planes fell upon huge German Junkers transports and cargo planes crossing the straits.

While British Spitfires held off Axis fighter escorts, American Warhawks (P-40) dived to attack the giant Junkers, flying almost at water level.

Fifty-eight of the Junkers and 16 of the fighters were claimed shot down. That brought to 142 the number of Axis aircraft destroyed in a three-day period.

Gen. Montgomery's hardened infantry stormed initial Axis positions in the mountains after artillery had laid down a heavy barrage.

FARM MEASURE: House Economy

In one of its sharpest economy moves to date, the house passed by a voice vote and sent to the senate an agriculture department appropriation bill allotting \$715,093,622 for the fiscal year 1944 but abolishing the Farm Security administration and banning incentive payments to farmers.

In its budget request the department had asked for \$947,134,491. The measure lopped \$240,093,647 off the original request. The revised total was reached by adding \$20,000,000 for the Rural Electrification administration and striking \$12,000,000 sought by the FSA for rural rehabilitation loans.

In its final form the house bill abolishes the FSA, abolishes the federal crop insurance program for wheat and cotton, stipulates that none of the funds may be used for incentive payments to farmers producing war crops, sets aside \$300,000,000 for the AAA conservation program, prohibits payment of more than \$500 to any one person for soil conservation purposes, prevents restoration of the Regional Credit Agricultural corporation and allows \$20,000,000 for REA.

RUSSIA: Scramble for Base

Portending possible large scale action in the Caucasus, German troops continued their pressure in the Novorossisk region.

While the Russians claimed to have beaten back Nazi efforts to prevent their forces from tightening their vise around Novorossisk, the Germans said the Luftwaffe pounded Red positions and supply bases on the Black sea coast.

Novorossisk stands as the Germans' lone important base in the Caucasus. Situated across from the Crimea, it was the only major position retained by the Nazis during their retreat this winter. It is a relatively short distance to Novorossisk from the Russian mainland connecting with the Crimea.

FOOD SUPPLY: Another Pull on Belt

Following a statement of the Office of War Information that there would be a reduction of 6 per cent in the food supply for this year, the department of agriculture revised its previous production estimates downward.

The department said there would be about 12 pounds less meat, a pound less poultry and fish, 2½ pounds less lard, margarine and cooking compounds, and about 10½ pounds less citrus fruits per person than anticipated earlier. Fractional increases were reported for canned fruits, potatoes and rice.

Despite the cut, the department said that the food supply per capita would equal the 1935-'39 total, but that rationing would spread the amount more equitably. The department also revealed that food production in 1943 will be 3 per cent above last year, if favorable weather prevails, and 31 per cent above the 1935-'39 average.

Of the total supply of food available this year, however, the army, lend-lease and world relief will obtain 25 per cent. Army requirements are based on a force of 8,200,000 men, who eat twice as much as civilians.

In its report, the OWI declared that food shortages will bring "inconveniences" and "exasperations" to consumers, but will not affect their life or health.

TOKYO: Stung From Hornet

Equipped with a 20-cent bomb-sight, 16 North American B-25 medium bombers used the flight deck of the aircraft carrier Hornet to take off for the historic raid on Tokyo.

The Hornet was 800 miles from Tokyo when the B-25s rose in the air and headed for the Japanese coast line. As they approached, the airmen flew in at low level to avoid detection, and then raised their planes to 1,500 feet as they plastered factories, railways and refineries in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe.

The original plan was to alight at certain points in unoccupied China, but storms arose, exhausting the planes' ebbing fuel supplies. Of the 16 craft, 15 made crash landings or were lost as their crews bailed out. Major General Doolittle, who led the raid, was among those who parachuted to safety.

Of the 80 pilots, eight fell into Japanese hands. One was killed and two are still missing. Sixty-four survived, many of them landing in occupied China, but working their way to the unoccupied zone with the help of friendly natives.

Weak fighter opposition was encountered and anti-aircraft fire was inaccurate as the Japs were caught completely by surprise.

GOEBBELS: No End of Sufferings

"The war is in its fourth year and has reached its hardest stage so far, and the end or a way out of its burdens and sufferings is at present nowhere in sight."

Thus spoke Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels on the eve of Adolf Hitler's 54th birthday. Goebbels said the fuhrer would spend the day at field headquarters.

While Goebbels spoke, Marshal Herman Goering issued an order of the day to the German army, stressing the same foreboding note.

Said he: "We will follow the glorious German flag in accordance with our oaths as brave soldiers—in any hours and in any fight on land and sea in any area with the greatest readiness to sacrifice."

Eulogizing Hitler as the "liberator of the fatherland," Goering also called him the "savior of western civilization from the Bolshevik menace."

SUBMARINES: Planes vs. Wolves

Allied airplanes have joined in the battle of the Atlantic.

Manning American Flying Fortresses and Liberators and British Sunderlands, Allied airmen are ranging far into the North Atlantic to strike against packs of Nazi U-boats, attacking the east-bound convoys.

Attached to the British coastal command, these long-range heavy bombers are meeting the harassed convoys on the last leg of their journey. They are dumping thousands of depth charges on the wolf-packs they can spot from aloft.

In recent action, the bombers delivered 19 attacks in four days. Seeking to avoid the concussion of the depth charges, U-boats climbed to the surface and then engaged the airplanes with anti-aircraft fire from their decks. The British air ministry claimed no kills, but said there was evidence of at least five submarines destroyed.

The Allied planes were manned by British, Canadian, Rhodesian, Australian, New Zealand and Belgian aviators.

FOOD CONFERENCE: U. S. Has No Scheme

Representatives of United Nations will crowd Hot Springs, Va., May 18 for the Allied food conference sponsored by the United States.

According to Sen. Alben Barkley, the conference will be chiefly exploratory, with the various delegates specifying the needs of conquered peoples, the means required to restore production in occupied countries and the mutual distribution of foodstuffs.

Washington Digest

Terrible Hatreds Kindled By 'Blood Revenge' Spirit



Rumors From Embattled Nations Hint of Plans for Organized Extermination Of Enemy Peoples.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

It was a soft, Washington spring afternoon. The late shifts of government workers were hurrying home. The two guardian magnolias that stand on the White House lawn were tipped with the rays of the setting sun. My thoughts were neither on this blissful scene nor on the latest news of the battlefield which I had just finished broadcasting. Frankly, I was concerned chiefly with dinner.

The announcer was just finishing the "commercial" and I was picking my hat up from the sofa in the studio when I saw the engineer beckoning to me from behind the glass wall of his goldfish bowl. He held up a paper on which was printed "Stop in News Room—Important!"

I did. The atmosphere was tense as it is frequently these days. A notice had just appeared on the news ticker to the effect that the White House was about to release an important statement.

It is possible, but not probable, that the thing we were all thinking that statement was going to announce but didn't, will happen before these lines reach print—the invasion of Europe. Until it does, we shall continue to expect it and while the busy home front keeps our nose pretty well to the grindstone, one hint from overseas and an atmosphere of suspense envelops the Capitol.

Secrecy's Curtain

Meanwhile, there is the feeling that tremendous things are happening under a heavy curtain of secrecy in Europe even the hint of which does not reach the press or the public.

Russia, of course, is a mystery. What is happening there? Is the remarkable Red army, which in the past has seemed to be able to draw endless men and supplies from nowhere after each crushing defeat, finally exhausted? Spring came early to the steppes this year and the Germans, if they are able, will launch their annual summer offensive a month earlier. They hope to be able to break the Red army this time and then hold back the remnants with a sparsely manned but intricate line of defense while they turn their attention to the Allies in the West.

No one knows what the strength of Russia is today. One does know that a terrible hate has been kindled in the whole race against the Germans and it is reported that the Red army has threatened that if Soviet forces ever do reach German soil, they will leave no human being living. One story has been spread through Switzerland that if an Allies' army is on the continent when Russia breaks Germany's eastern frontiers—if she does—that the Germans will open their western front to the Allies and let them in rather than expose themselves to the Russians.

Plans for Prisoners Another report has seeped out of Russia. It is continuously repeated that simply because of the inconvenience of caring for prisoners, both the Germans and Russians have been shooting men who are captured or who surrender. On the other hand, the Russians are said to be carefully preserving some of the men they take. Russian propaganda, dropped over the German lines, is very alluring. Some of the pamphlets instruct the German soldiers to surrender and bring with them the leaflet which acts as a passport.

Then, according to a report which has come in from a neutral country, the prisoners are carefully examined and a small percentage weeded out for Soviet indoctrination. They go through a long course of instruction so careful that it is said finally only 10 per cent are accepted as satisfactory. These elite are then trained to be used as the spearhead of a political invasion of Germany.

Hated, like that in Russia, has poisoned all Europe. There is a belief now on the part of many of the conquered countries that the Germans, having given up hope of victory, intend to go forward with a systematic extermination of other races within their reach, as they have in Poland and with the Jews, so that regardless of what happens, the Teutonic stock will dominate numerically when the war is over. To meet this, the other nations are talking about turning the tables and beginning organized mass murder of Germans everywhere the moment the Nazi armies lay down their arms.

Only the other day, I talked with a widely traveled Russian newspaper man, who said frankly that he believed this was the proper course. How powerful this spirit of blood revenge really is and whether it will be carried out, one can only guess.

Another mystery of which there are only tiny hints is the power and scope of the underground movements in the occupied countries and the extent to which Allied agents are now working hand-in-hand with the saboteurs in France and Belgium and particularly Holland. Hints leak out.

A secret German report which reached Allied hands stated the following: "Sometime ago, English paratroopers landed near Prague. When they were held up by the local police, they obeyed the order, 'hands up.' But they carried a special device on their belts with a pistol from which cords ran to their hands. The latter fired the pistol. Thus they succeeded by a quick and appropriate movement in accounting for the policemen."

Here is a part of another enemy report, revealing the activities behind the lines. It came through Italian military channels: "During the attack on the Fuka Aerodrome (Africa) the enemy Allied troops put up distress signals. They succeeded in enticing the sentries away from their posts for a time and successfully carried out their sabotage." Reports have come of British saboteurs gaining entrance to factories in the daytime, planting time bombs and leaving. A device has been perfected which can be carried concealed in the hand—I have held one—attached by a clever means to a tank car or a locomotive, it would blow it to pieces. That is only one of hundreds of ingenious gadgets which have been perfected for this strange work of secret destruction that is going on everywhere. Even more ingenious are the methods which the underground organizations in France and Italy are using to obtain arms and supplies for the insurrection when the moment comes.

Some day, "an important statement from the White House" will come, heralding events many of which we have not even dreamed.

While the airplane factories turn out bombers and fighters, the air-minded leaders continue to make their air plans for peace. The latest scheme which has come to my attention is an announcement from the Northeast Airlines company which says this company has made application for a helicopter service to carry air mail and air express in New England.

These little planes that can rise straight up and hover, can land on a parlor rug. They would, in this proposed service, land on the roofs of post office buildings—provided, I take it, that the buildings are not of the rococo vintage with peaked and pointed and turreted roofs.

The service would carry first-class as well as air mail, according to the application filed with the Civil Aeronautics board. Four hundred points would be included. The little "flying automobiles" would not only fly between towns and cities but would carry mail from urban centers to the large airports where the mail would be transferred to the air liners.

A national labor service act still hovers just beyond the horizon. The chief purpose of Manpower Commissioner McNutt's intricate plans, including shifts of men from non-deferrable industry to war work is to build the machinery so that when the act is passed it can be put into effect at once.

Now that the farm labor problem has been taken off McNutt's doorstep, and with the definite "back-to-the-farm" trend, congress may ease up on McNutt and give him the money he needs to build his pre-natal service machinery.

In the recent battle between the White House and the press over excluding newspaper men from the hotels where the United Nations Food conference delegates are to be housed, Elmer Davis, OWI head, was strictly on the side of the press.

Some of our soldiers in American camps during the meat shortage learned to eat goat and like it.

TO YOUR Good Health

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

LIGHT EXERCISE

It is unfortunate that a couple of outstanding physicians should advise that exercise should not be taken by those past 40 years of age.

They were so opposed to exercise that they suggested that lifting the little finger unnecessarily might cause harm.

Now these physicians had but the one thought in mind and that was to discourage those middle-aged individuals from taking exercise who thought that "strenuous" exercise was needed just as much, if not more, at middle age than for those under 40.

The advice was given to prevent strain on heart and blood vessels. These physicians are aware that in the treatment of the middle aged or elderly of average health the last thing they would want them to do is to rest all the time, that is become bedridden. This is because the body needs to move itself to keep heart, blood vessels, lungs, appetite, digestion and bowel movement normal. To rest all the time would lower the health mentally and physically.

I have in mind particularly those who are overweight and among the methods of getting rid of excess fat are already taking exercise or have been planning to take some exercise. As a matter of fact exercise is the "natural" way to reduce weight because it creates extra heat thus melting away the fat tissue which is inactive and developing muscle tissue which is active and heat creating when it is active.

Exercise improves the circulation, sweeps away the stagnant waste materials which collect in the body, creates a sense of well-being which lasts for a long time afterward and burns fat."

The overweight individual because he is overweight does not like exercise as every movement of his body means that he must do much more work than one of normal weight. But as he gradually removes the stored fat on his body and increases his muscular strength he gets a three-fold benefit—(a) removes excess fat, (b) increases his muscular strength and (c) because of this increased muscular strength loses his dislike for exercise. The fact that exercise is now easier to take, that he can feel himself becoming lighter and more "limber" makes exercise actually "inviting" to him.

Dr. Barton

Menjou, a role from which Menjou's real wife, Veree Teasdale, retired because of illness. Martha Scott has the leading role. Animated sequences by Leon Schlesinger, the film cartoon creator, will begin and end the picture.

Nine-year-old John Donat, son of Robert Donat, makes his film debut in "This Land Is Mine," starring Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara. John breezed through his lines, and between takes sat high on a stepladder, reading a comic strip magazine—stayed there until Director Jean Renoir called him down from his perch to go to work again.

David Niven returns to the screen after a two-year absence in "Spitfire," the British-made Goldwyn production which will be released by RKO Radio. A major in the British army, he was given leave to co-star with Leslie Howard in this picture.

Dried Foods Aid To Victory Effort

One of the things learned during the war, which will mean health and happiness to many more thousands than before the war, is that water can be removed from food on one side of the ocean, the food shipped in a space many times smaller to the other side of the ocean, where by adding water to the amount previously removed makes the food as nourishing as when it was fresh.

The London correspondent of the Journal of the American Medical Association states that research work carried on at the Low Temperature Research station, Cambridge, in co-operation with other institutions in Britain, and in the United States and dominions, has made possible the following beneficial results.

"It is estimated that removing the water from foods, while maintaining their food value, has saved shipping to the extent of 3,000,000 tons of water annually. A quart of milk has a volume of 69 cubic inches and weighs 41 ounces. Condensed, it has a volume of 27 cubic inches and weighs 16½ ounces. Reduced to a powder, it has a volume of 15½ cubic inches and weighs 5½ ounces. With the powder compressed into a block the volume is reduced to about 7½ inches from 15½. The discovery that fresh milk can be reduced to such a small space makes the rich spring and summer milk available for use in the winter, when there is less sunshine for cows and for human beings. This is of considerable importance.

Great Britain will import 100,000 tons of dried eggs in 1943. If this amount of eggs were shipped in the usual way with water and shells it would weigh 500,000 tons and take six times the amount of shipping space. A similar saving is made by importation of dried meat. Another advantage is that dried eggs and meat do not require refrigeration for transport or storing.

QUESTION BOX Q.—Are the internal organs of pork and beef considered safe for consumption? A.—The organs are a valuable food. Should be well cooked. Q.—Would it be safe for a person subject to sharp, stabbing pains in the right side of the chest to drive a car? A.—While these symptoms point to a muscular pain, one visit to your doctor will show whether it is more serious.

ODDS AND ENDS—Lesley Woods, "Bright Horizon" actress, has said goodbye to her dog, Bouncer; he's joined the army as a buck private. Fred Allen will return to motion pictures this summer. They've found another road for Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. "Road to Utopia" to be made this summer, but probably without Dorothy Lamour. After five years, Phil Baker will return to the movies in "20th Century-Fox's 'The Girls He Left Behind'." Ginny Simms, star of "Johnny Presents," has begun a tour of desert army camps within a day's distance of Hollywood; she offers a one-woman show and pays all expenses.

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO By VIRGINIA VALE Released by Western Newspaper Union.

THE Hollywood telephone repairman was phoning his report. "Yeah, I fixed it; cord was chewed." Pause. "Yeah, chewed. No, not a dog—a lion." Pause. "Sure I said lion." Pause. "Look, I haven't had a drink all day, and I said a lion chewed it. I'm at Jinx Falkenberg's house." He grinned. "Yeah, I knew you'd understand." The cub, a present to Jinx from her brother, Bob, has since then taken to sharpening his teeth on the piano legs. The Columbia star of "She Has What It Takes" says that's perfectly all right, if he sticks to piano legs.

Pola Negri, who years ago was one of the head glamour girls of the silent movies, is returning to the screen in the United Artists film, "Hi Diddle Diddle"; she'll play an operatic star, the wife of Adolphe



POLA NEGRI

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After testing Hollywood stars by the dozen King Vidor has selected an unknown for the important role of Brian Donlevy's wife in Metro's "America." She's Ann Richards, who arrived here from Australia on the last boat to leave after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Little Margaret O'Brien, who stole the honors in "Journey for Margaret" and did the same thing when the "Screen Guild Players" did a dramatized version of it on the air, won Jack Benny's heart when, asking him for an autograph, she said she'd seen him fall into a lake in a picture. "That was with Bob Hope," said he. And Margaret replied "Bob Hope? Is he a comedian, too?"

Red Skelton's been having a swell time, working at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn on "Whistling in Brooklyn"; every member of the famous Dodgers, including Manager Durocher, appears in the picture. Five hundred rabid Dodger fans sat in the bleachers for some sequences—and what's more, got paid for it!

The quickest way to become a star on your own program is to do a guest show on Rudy Vallee's Thursday show. During the past year he's presented Groucho Marx, Billie Burke and Ransom Sherman, among others. Now Marx stars on his own Saturday night program, Sherman recently launched a new series, and Billie Burke will have two air shows going during the summer.

That new "Salute to Youth" program has just about everything radio fans can want. There's William L. White, war correspondent; Raymond Paige and an all-youth orchestra; Nadine Conner, Metropolitan Opera star; Berry Kroeger as narrator, and a guest war worker. With most of the cast in their 'teens or early twenties, the program—on NBC Tuesdays—is a salute to youth, by youth.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Emperor Hirohito on the occasion of the Japanese diet adjournment "granted Premier Tojo, in recognition of his services, one package of chrysanthemum-crested cigarettes and one box of soaps." The Tokyo radio told the Japanese people.

The Nazis and Italian Fascists and the Japanese refer to their propaganda as "thought warfare."

In the recent battle between the White House and the press over excluding newspaper men from the hotels where the United Nations Food conference delegates are to be housed, Elmer Davis, OWI head, was strictly on the side of the press.

Some of our soldiers in American camps during the meat shortage learned to eat goat and like it.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

LEND-LEASE: Lend-lease shipments to North Africa during the first four months of Allied occupation reached \$26,250,000. Shipments included flour, sugar, clothing, seed.

HONEST STEEL: In a special report, the Truman war investigating committee called upon steel producers to overhaul their inspection systems so as to assure the government of the highest grades.

FOUR FREEDOMS: Speaking in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Henry Wallace said that unless the four freedoms were instituted after the war, democracy will have failed.

PRAYERS: Prayers for peace were asked as the Vatican inaugurated weekly broadcasts to Russia. The broadcast told the people not to give up hope for a peace despite the continuance of the war.