

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Invasion of Attu Is Second Step In Drive to Oust Japs From Aleutians; Discount Rumors of Nazi-Italian Rift As Allies Plan Heavy Knockout Blows

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



Pictured are members of the delegation of the United States to the United Nations conference on food and agriculture at Hot Springs, Va. Left to right, seated: Murray D. Lincoln, executive secretary of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation; Miss Josephine Schain; Judge Marvin Jones, conference chairman. Standing: Paul H. Appleby, undersecretary of agriculture; W. L. Clayton, assistant secretary of commerce, and Thomas Farran, M.D., surgeon general, U. S. Public Health Service.

ATTU: Second Step in Aleutians

Firmly established on Attu, westernmost of the Aleutian islands in Japanese hands, strong American forces pushed forward against bitter opposition by the enemy.

First to admit the American landings, the Japs also were first to confess that heavy U. S. aerial and naval bombardments provided an irresistible cover for a continuing stream of reinforcements.

Presaging their defeat on Attu, the Japs made much of the claim that their troops were fighting numerical superiority forces.

In Washington, Col. R. Ernest Dupuy declared that the attack on Attu was the second step in the drive to oust the Japs from the Aleutians. The first, he said, was the American occupation of Amchitka and Adak to establish bases from which to strike not only Attu but also Kiska, 172 miles to the east.

FOOD CONFERENCE: Post-War Agriculture

Reconstruction of agriculture in Europe after the war was the principal subject of discussion among the representatives attending the United Nations food conference in Hot Springs, Va.

According to Marvin H. Jones, chairman of the parley and head of the U. S. delegation, conferees are chiefly concerned with getting the farmlands of reclaimed countries back into production.

Problems connected with such an effort, such as adequate distribution of supplies and materials, and the planning for the production of crops which would furnish local populations with nutritional diets, were brought into study.

The conference, in the nature of a discussion, brings no binding agreements among the nations, Jones said. Representatives will present conclusions of the conference to their respective governments for further action.

ITALY: No Setup

After a sudden welter of rumor, it appeared as though the Allies would have to take Italy the hard way. The Italians and Nazis gave no sign of handing it over on a silver platter.

King Victor Emmanuel answered wild rumors originated by the Free French that he was about to abdicate by appearing at an art exhibition in Rome to receive the applause of his subjects.

Talk that Hitler was preparing to abandon Italy to its fate and draw all Nazi forces into the Brenner pass were immediately counteracted by plentiful assurances in the German press that Der Fuehrer had no such idea.

Allied airmen apparently were the first to take these rumors with a grain of salt. Even as the abdication talk, etc., intrigued the arm chair strategists, bombers were plastering the seaplane base of Lido di Roma, 15 miles from the Italian capital. Hangars, moorings and planes were the targets.

Rome admitted damage in the vicinity, but claimed Axis planes had bombed Algerian harbors "with good results."

RUMI PLAN: In Again, Out Again

Passed by the senate, the Rumi plan was rejected by the house for the third time, in the wake of an open letter from President Roosevelt indicating he would veto such a bill.

As a result of the action, some form of pay-as-you-go legislation was put squarely up to a conference committee of the house and senate.

The committee had two bills as a basis on which to map pay-as-you-go. One was the senate measure modeled after the Rumi plan, forgiving all of either the 1942 or 1943 income tax, whichever is lower, and only assessing incomes in excess of normal. The other was the house bill, only wiping out the regular 6 per cent tax plus the first surtax rate of 13 per cent on 1942 income.

In both cases, a 20 per cent withholding tax would be taken out of all weekly or monthly wages after deductions of lawful exemptions to apply on the 1943 tax. Farmers and professional people would pay on their estimated tax in quarterly installments, making a final settlement on March 15 of the following year.

PRODUCTION: On Schedule

"On all important categories in the President's (war production) program we are up to and ahead of schedule."

With these words, War Production Board Chairman Donald Nelson described the nation's booming industrial effort. Only in the matter of airplanes did he speak with reservation, declaring the situation was one with emphasis now placed on quality rather than quantity.

Changing needs of the services may necessitate some alterations in production plans, Nelson said, echoing reports that revised schedules have slowed the tempo of some plants while increasing it in others.

Tank production has been chopped, Nelson revealed, since Great Britain and Russia have reduced their estimates of their needs.

GERMANY: Ruhr Flooded

Flying at an altitude of 100 feet, four -engine British Lancasters dropped heavy mines in the huge reservoirs of the Eder and Mohne dams in northwestern Germany. Then British airmen watched the mines swirl into the dams' sluices, explode and break open big breaches through which the pent-up waters roared to deluge the Ruhr and Weser valleys below.

Hydro-electric stations throughout the area were crippled by the rising flood waters; traffic on the vital Mittelrand canal, which unites all of Germany's river transportation, was disrupted, and the important industrial city of Kassel and others beyond were inundated.

Reports reaching Switzerland said at least 4,000 people had been killed and 120,000 made homeless by the torrents. The German high command admitted property damage and casualties "were very high as walls of water rushed through populated districts."

Visitor



Dr. Eduard Benes, president of the Czechoslovakian government-in-exile, is shown as he conferred with President Roosevelt during an informal visit at the White House.

U. S. CASUALTIES: 80,000 Lost

In 17 months of warfare, U. S. losses have approximated 80,000 men.

Army casualties include 6,076 killed; 12,277 wounded; 24,345 missing, and 12,244 reported prisoners. Of the wounded, 4,000 have returned to duty or been discharged from hospitalization. The major losses in prisoners or missing were suffered in the Philippines.

In the navy, 7,218 have been killed, 4,683 wounded, and 12,061 missing. Since September, 1941, the merchant marine has reported 4,555 casualties.

COAL TRUCE: Still Friends

Continuing to act in unison, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes and United Mine Workers' chief John Lewis arranged for a 15-day truce in the tangled mine situation.

Once before, the two had agreed to a 15-day breathing spell, as 455,000 bituminous and anthracite miners were preparing to stay away from the pits. Miners were lining up behind Lewis again to strike when extension of the truce was announced.

Washington Digest

Allied Food Conference Envisions World Council

International Group Would Be Empowered to Oversee Production, Distribution of 'Bread And Beef' to Feed Society of Nations.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

Back in the summer of 1940, I sat in a chair under a whispering tree and looked out over a wide and barbed lawn. The mountains were about us. We were resting in a nest carved out of the wilderness and equipped with all the luxuries that a pampered human could demand. Lovely, indolent women in sports dresses sat at tables under colored umbrellas. Handsome, indolent youths in blazers lolled beside them. Negro servants padded about with tall, cooling and expensive drinks.

I call it a "nest," I belonged there just like a cuckoo but I enjoyed it. It was all right. It helped circulate the money (I was a guest at a bankers' convention). But I thought back. Six months before I had ridden in an army transport plane over shuddering Europe. I looked about and saw the easy, harmless but useless life about me, made possible by the easy harvesting of America's riches.

I sighed (a little enviously) and said to myself: "This can't last."

It is a strange coincidence that today, at this very same spot, representatives of the United Nations are gathering to try to write the prescription for the third freedom—freedom from want.

This gathering isn't concerned with summer resorts de luxe although it meets at one. It is concerned with the proposition: We must raise the standard of living all over the globe so that the underfed can produce enough of their handiwork to exchange it for enough to eat—something they just never had before.

It is just too big for me to grasp, but what's a heaven for, asks Browning, if our reach doesn't exceed our grasp?

World Council

This plan envisions an international council at the head of a system of administrative bodies among which would be an agricultural council, supported by an agricultural bank (all this international) which would direct groups studying and applying nutrition standards, directing the supply of products, storing surpluses, shifting crops to balance supply and demand, maintaining ever-normal storeshouses of non-perishable crops, adjusting processing of perishable crops, developing new markets, taking care of relief in devastated or stricken areas, advising and assisting the poorer population groups to increase their efficiency and consumption.

In other words, these people who have spent hours and months and devoted arduous labor to working out this idea are trying to furnish the plan for economic machinery to hold up the hands of the political effort of a league of nations, new style—the bone and sinew, the bread and beef to feed a society of nations joined together under one political umbrella of world co-operation.

Such an idea is laughed out of court in advance by the folk who talk of crazy dreamers, impractical long-hairs and the like. Maybe it is impossible. But a lot of people are saying: "Well, for heaven's sake, let's try it, let's try anything—nothing can cost more in blood, sweat and dollars than war."

The United States proved a lot of things were possible under the sharp lash of war which would have been sneered into oblivion if they had been blueprinted before Pearl Harbor.

Take an egg, for example. Nothing up our sleeves. Just an egg. "Before the war," says Frank Wilson of the department of commerce, "when Biddy, the hen, laid an egg in Cole county, Missouri, her subsequent cackle of satisfaction was based on the anticipation that egg might get as far as Sedalia, St. Louis or, on rare occasions, New York."

Then Hitler dreamed up a world war and somebody dreamed up a thing called lend-lease. Today, Biddy's product goes around the world.

Dehydration

Scientists invented dehydration and the process, as far as eggs are concerned, is only a year and a half old. Before the war, only 10 firms dried eggs to any extent and most of those dried albumen only. Today, according to Mr. Wilson, 130 egg-drying

plants, big ones, mostly scattered through the Middle West, are drying eggs. Wilson predicts that before the war is over, 35 per cent of America's three billion dozens of eggs will be treated for processing annually.

And so the fragile egg, formerly shipped only short distances, can travel anywhere. How great the American market for dehydrated eggs will be depends on to what extent the consumer takes to the idea, undoubtedly world consumption will increase because of the excellent lend-lease sampling and the ease of shipment.

You may not be able to deliver your quart of milk from the Wisconsin milk shed to the Hottentot's front porch but you can get your dried milk or dehydrated eggs there—if you can adjust things so the Hottentot can produce enough to trade for what you have to sell. This applies to many other products. At present, if everybody could buy them, all the shirts made in peacetime wouldn't produce a shirt and a half per back.

It's the old story right down the line—we can invent the machinery to make anything. We are away behind in our inventions to improve the human lot. It's no harder but it takes more imagination. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink, they say. The problem with humans is different. You've got the hungry man and the table and the food, but so far you haven't been able to fix things so you can lead him to it.

Russ-Jap Friendship—And American Ships

On May 7, Washington had the first official explanation of the many bombings of the Jap-held Aleutian island of Kiska. It said: "United States air forces have established military positions, including an airfield on Amchitka and have been in occupation of this island since January."

The same day, the Associated Press sent out a dispatch dated "February 16 (delayed)." I might say, "I'll say it was delayed."

It began this way: "Despite a series of eight Japanese bombing raids, this American airbase, only a few minutes flight from Kiska island went into operation today."

I quote all this to show what a highly confidential war we are running. By the time this sees print—perhaps while I'm writing these lines—Kiska may be in American hands after a land invasion which it is admitted is the only way we can oust the enemy from this spot.

If the Japs have gone by the time you read this, there will be a sigh of at least partial regret in some quarters. The reason is this. As long as the Japs are on an island like Kiska (or Guadalcanal) more Japs have to try to reach them, to bring them supplies and keep them alive. And while that goes on, the Americans have a chance to keep enemy wounds open. Japs themselves are expendable. They are cheap, the sun god has a lot of them and he's generous in spending them. But he hasn't so many ships or so many supplies. So killing Japs doesn't bother the Mikado nearly as much as sinking his ships.

That is one reason the upturning of the last Jap toes on any of their stolen, far-flung bases will be a source of at least partial regret.

There is another reason. Day in and day out, from Vancouver and Seattle, secret ships, loaded with supplies for our Russian ally have been calmly sailing away past the Jap-held Kiska and Attu, under the Japanese guns in the narrow waters that lead to Vladivostok.

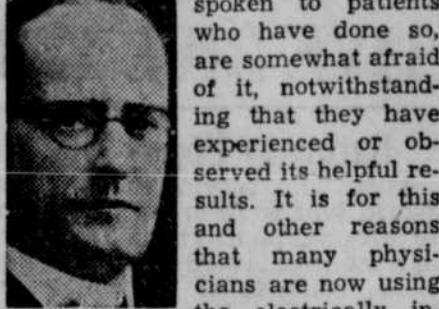
Now that was a little matter approved by Russia and Japan who hate and fear each other privately but officially are "friendly nations." The question arises now: When and if we trounce the little men out of the stronghold they have dug with their fingernails in the rocky Attu and Kiska, will they be as willing to let us keep on shipping supplies to Russia?

Perhaps it doesn't matter. By that time, which may be now, the situation may have changed. The interesting thing is that the situation does change and thanks to the censorship, nobody knows it until the knowledge ceases to be aid and comfort to the enemy.

TO YOUR Good Health
By DR. JAMES W. BARTON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

BEHAVIOR TREATMENT

One of the difficulties about the treatment of behavior symptoms by the use of insulin or metrazol is that some patients who have undergone this method, or have spoken to patients who have done so, are somewhat afraid of it, notwithstanding that they have experienced or observed its helpful results. It is for this and other reasons that many physicians are now using the electrically induced convulsions in cases where the mental symptoms are not due to any true or organic disease of the brain.



Dr. Barton

I have spoken twice before about this method and in the Illinois Medical Journal, Dr. J. V. Edlin, Chicago, reports the use of electric shock treatment in 126 cases.

The length of time the patients suffered with their symptoms ranged from less than six months to 10 years, and included all the functional psychoses such as anxieties, fears, dream states and melancholia.

Of the patients who were ill for less than six months, about 53 per cent recovered; the rate for those ill from six months to one year was about 31 per cent; for those ill from one to five years it was 21 per cent, and for those ill from 6 to 10 years it was 20 per cent.

The best results were obtained by patients suffering from involuntional melancholia (depressed feeling of middle and old age). The next best occurred in patients with catatonias (where dream state passes into melancholia) and then those with hebephrenia (silliness which comes on at puberty) and dementia precox combined with hebephrenic and catatonic features.

Dr. Edlin found that just as with insulin and metrazol the symptoms before receiving electric shock treatment determined the chances of his recovery; the shorter the time, the better the chances. Dr. Edlin prefers electrical to metrazol treatment because of the high percentage of recoveries and the almost total absence of fear. He also advises that the usual treatment of mental cases by questioning the patient and explaining the causes of the symptoms should be used in addition to the electric shock treatment.

X-Ray Treatment of Goiter Beneficial

In examining recruits for the last war we were always on the alert so that cases of early thyroid disease (goiter) were not accepted. When the heartbeat was fast the recruit rested for some time and was given a daily paper to read. If his heartbeat was slower after the rest and he was fit otherwise he was accepted. In some cases where, in addition to the rapid heartbeat, there was trembling of the hands and eyes were bulging he was considered a thyroid case and rejected at once.

The cause of the symptoms is that too much juice or extract is being manufactured by the thyroid gland and this juice increases the rate at which all the body processes work. The amount of increase is measured by a special apparatus and if it is plus 15 or more it is considered a case of early goiter, hyperthyroid as it is called. If test shows minus 15 it shows that the thyroid gland is not manufacturing enough juice.

When too much juice is being manufactured, all or part of the thyroid gland is removed by operation or by the use of X-ray treatments. If not enough juice is being manufactured the physician prescribes daily doses of the juice or thyroid extract.

Before treatment for removal of the thyroid gland is given, Dr. George E. Pfahler, professor of radiology, graduate school of medicine, University of Pennsylvania, in medical clinics of North America, states that the cause or causes of the hyperthyroid condition should be removed insofar as this is possible. Usual causes are focal infection (teeth, tonsils or other organ), domestic difficulties, worry, overwork or some other strain.

As many patients fear operation and delay should be avoided, Dr. Pfahler points out that X-ray treatment gives about as good end results as surgery and these patients will more willingly undergo the X-ray method of treatment. Where, however, the need for the removal of the thyroid gland is urgent surgery is the proper treatment.

HEALTH BRIEFS

Q.—Is low blood pressure a disease?
A.—Low blood pressure is not a disease; it is a sign that something is wrong—thin blood, infection of teeth, etc. The treatment your doctor is giving you should build you up while finding the cause of low blood pressure.
Q.—What is the result of continuation of phenobarbital?
A.—Phenobarbital as prescribed by your physician is safe to use.



Soil Chemists Study Farm Crop Diet Needs

Determine Extent to Which Plants Use Food

If farm crops are provided with a more substantial diet by the addition of nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and calcium to the soil, the plants will do their part by utilizing the increased nutrients and passing them on to their human or livestock consumers in the form of needed minerals.

This was the conclusion of a special study to determine the extent to which crops will use plant food when given the opportunity, conducted by Dr. George D. Scarseth, soil chemist of the Purdue university agricultural experiment station. He was assisted by Dr. H. Sieling, assistant professor of agronomy and R. E. Lucas, graduate assistant.

These soil scientists used test plots on which various fertilizer treatments had been applied and plots which received no treatment whatever. Then they compared the rate of plant food used by the crops grown on these plots.

Three different locations were used for the tests. These included Crosby silt loam plots at Lafayette, Ind., Bedford silt loam at Bedford and Clermont silt loam at North Vernon. The crops studied for three consecutive years included corn, wheat, oats, alsike and red clover, soybeans, timothy and lespedeza.

In general, the tests revealed that crops produced on fertilized plots utilized about twice as much nitrogen, nearly three times as much phosphorus and two and one-half times as much potash per acre as those grown on unfertilized plots.

At Bedford, for example, a corn, wheat, soybean and hay rotation grown on a plot treated with a 3-18-9 analysis, utilized 43 pounds of nitrogen, 12 pounds of phosphorus and 29 pounds of potash per acre. Plant food used by the same crop on an unfertilized plot amounted to only 20 pounds of nitrogen, 4.5 pounds of phosphorus and 12 pounds of potash per acre. On another plot where lime was added to the 3-18-9 analysis, the crops utilized 55 pounds of nitrogen, 15 pounds of phosphorus and 31 pounds of potash. When both lime and manure were added, the plant food utilization increased to 71, 21 and 52 pounds respectively.

On Clermont silt loam soil at North Vernon, a corn, wheat and hay rotation treated with a 3-20-12 fertilizer utilized 39 pounds of nitrogen, 14 pounds of phosphorus and 36 pounds of potash per acre. When lime was added, the utilization increased to 57, 19 and 38 pounds, respectively. The same crops used up only 18 pounds of nitrogen, six pounds of phosphorus and 15 pounds of potash when grown on an unfertilized plot.

Agriculture in Industry

By FLORENCE C. WEED

Pecans

Nuts usually are thought of as delicious additions to pastry, candy and ice cream, but the Georgia school of technology views the pecan as raw material for industry.

Charcoal has been produced from the pecan hulls. When pulverized, it has a great power in decolorizing dyes as do other vegetable charcoals now being used industrially. Oil has been obtained from pecan meats which has a pleasant bland taste and odor. It becomes transparent when refined by the same process used for cotton seed oil. The oil can be used as salad oil or as a substitute for fats in baking. It has been used experimentally as a basis for cold cream which compares well with the finest commercial grades.

Ground nut shells may also have possibilities as abrasives or as a dusting agent for cleaning certain kinds of furs. They may also be useful for combining with dusting powders to kill insects.

Pecans are native to the southern states where the output is annually 20,000 to 50,000 tons. Improved varieties have been developed by selection and propagated by budding, but more than 50 per cent of the amount marketed are wild and seedling pecans which are native to the warm climate. Texas produces the greatest crop followed by Oklahoma, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas.

Crop Protectors

Manufacturers of materials used to combat plant diseases and insects claim there will be adequate supplies of most insecticides and fungicides to protect field and fruit crops in 1943. They also say that there is a better supply of containers than last year, but dealers and farmers are asked to return to factories all usable empty containers.

A substantial increase in production of calcium arsenate has been requested by the government.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

CASUALTIES: British losses in the Middle East and Africa have totaled 220,000 since Italy entered the war.

GOOD REASON: Love-sickness was accepted as a reason for allowing an essential woman employee to leave her job in the States and take another in Pearl Harbor—beside her sweetheart.

OPA: President Roosevelt has asked for an appropriation of \$177,000,000 to operate the Office of Price Administration during the fiscal year 1944.

BOOKS: Some 35 million pocket-size editions of popular books will be published on order for the army, navy and marine corps for service men.