

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Mediterranean Victories Prepare Way For New Allied Campaign Against Axis; Essential Production to Be Increased By Simplification of Consumer Items

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.



Under the watchful eyes of U. S. guards, Axis prisoners march in internment camp in Camp Aiterbury, Ind. Since fighting in North Africa, many of these camps have sprung up throughout the country, the average concentration holding 2,000 prisoners and 500 American troops. Prisoners of war are treated under rules of an international convention.

MEDITERRANEAN:

Eyes Turn to Sicily

With Allied shipping reported massed in the Sicilian straits, all Italy awaited invasion.

Preparatory to the expected blow at the "underbelly of Europe," Allied air forces ranged over the Italian islands of Sardinia and Sicily, the Axis' remaining bastions in the Mediterranean following the fall of Pantelleria, Lampedusa, Lampione and Linosa.

Airfields at Catania and Gerbini in Sicily were attacked. At Catania, enemy fighters rose in force to challenge the Allied assault.

Although Allied headquarters remained silent on their military movements in the Mediterranean, the Nazis reported that their air forces were engaging in running fights with large convoys off North Africa. The Axis also stated that the Allies had massed invasion barges at Bizerte.

Meanwhile, the Allies kept the Axis guessing about their next move. Strong aerial formations attacked Axis shipping in the Aegean sea, where the Nazis have fortified the islands leading to the Grecian mainland.

SIMPLIFY GOODS:

From Cradle to Grave

In an effort to increase production of necessary essentials, the government has ordered the simplification of more than 1,000 manufactured items. Elimination of frills and variety of sizes is expected to result in enough conservation of material to add to production.

The simplification order will affect Americans from the cradle-to-the-grave. Metal will be restricted in baby's cribs, and the length, width and depth of coffins will be limited. Cast iron kitchen utensils will be confined to 12 items, and 40 styles of enamelware have been eliminated.

Wood furniture will be reduced to 24 basic patterns. Whereas 1,150 types of tools formerly were made, only 357 now will be permitted. Production of electric bulbs will be cut from 3,500 types to 1,700. Feminine apparel will be simplified along with children's sportswear and rayon dresses.

AIR OFFENSIVE:

Cities in Flames

Bremen's big Atlas shipyards were rocked by a dozen bomb hits as American airmen continued their joint attacks with the RAF over German industrial centers. Results of the U. S. raid on the submarine base of Kiel were unobserved, as swarms of Nazi fighter planes arose to the defense.

While the Americans hammered the Atlas works, strong British units, bolstered by huge four-engine bombers, ripped Dusseldorf and Bochum in the Ruhr.

Blockbusters caused heavy damage in both cities, sweeping fires adding to the havoc. Mass evacuations were reported, and the German radio asked people in other districts to make room for the refugees.

Size of the raiding fleets can be gleaned from the Nazi claim of having shot down 46 planes, 29 of which were supposed to be the four-engine machines. German aerial activity meanwhile was limited to a short, sharp sally over a London suburb, where bombs were dropped.

RUSSIA:

Action in the Center

Official announcements pertaining to the Russian front continued to be as confusing as the fighting.

While the Reds claimed to have thrown back German counterattacks in the Orel region in the center of the line, the Nazis reported the continuation of the strong Russian offensive in the Caucasus.

In neither sector, however, did either side claim any major advance. In relation to renewed Russian activity in the center, the Nazis said the Reds were massing huge forces there, apparently to press the initial attacks of a week ago when big holes were punched in the German line.

Bolstered by the addition of American planes arriving under lend-lease, Russian airmen continued sweeping attacks over the German rear. Military installations and transport were bombed.

OIL:

'Situation Worse'

"We are rapidly passing from an exporting to an importing nation in oil."

With these words Petroleum Administrator Harold Ickes forecast an increasing shortage of crude oil. Such a shortage, Ickes said, would not develop because of a lack of natural resources but rather because of a scarcity of labor, transportation and other factors.

While stating that imports of oil would have to be increased from Venezuela, the Caribbean and Mexico, he declared that California will not be producing sufficient crude by the end of the year to take care of the Pacific war theater and her own needs.

Ickes also blasted the Office of Price Administration for its handling of the gasoline rationing, declaring the OPA was too lenient in its allotments. He said home owners could expect fuel oil rationing next winter.

CORN:

Plan Call on Loans

Aiming at loosening the tight situation in corn for processors and feeders, it was reported Commodity Credit corporation planned to call its loans on 57 million bushels of 1942 corn.

Under the proposal, farmers would be allowed 30 days to liquidate their loans. The call would not interfere with the agency's previous move to redeem 35 million bushels of corn on the 1938-'41 crops, effective July 1.

Decision to call the 1942 loans was reported reached after the War Food administration, headed by Chester Davis, turned down proposals for requisitioning the corn. The WFA said requisitioning only would increase farmers and leave the government with the problem of shelling, grading and hauling the corn off the premises.

MEAT PRICES:

Down 10%

Answering to President Roosevelt's "hold-the-line" order, retail prices of meat have been "rolled back" 10 per cent, a move that will save housewives an average of three cents per pound.

The "roll-back" will be accomplished by government payment of subsidies to meat slaughterers to cover their costs of livestock.

Although the action will reduce meat prices, consumers will be compelled to eat even less beef. The War Food administration announced that federally inspected slaughterers had been ordered to reserve 45 per cent of their steer and heifer production for the army.

Flat price ceilings on meat have been drawn by the OPA for four classes of stores, starting with the small independent doing less than \$50,000 worth of business a year, and ending with the large operator with an annual volume over \$250,000.

NAZI SPY:

Intrigue in Hawaii

In November, 1941, Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn offered his services as a spy to the Japanese vice-consul at Honolulu. In a confession to the FBI, he said he volunteered to supply the enemy with information about the national defense of the U. S.

Shortly after, Kuehn worked out a system of signals to transmit intelligence of American fleet positions to the Japs. According to testimony, the signals were developed through a window light in the dormer of Kuehn's home near Pearl Harbor.

Mrs. Kuehn played a prominent role in the intrigue, according to the FBI. In 1939, her daughter operated a beauty parlor designed to attract "navy business," and in 1940 Mrs. Kuehn visited Japan, returning with geographical literature describing American and British islands in the Pacific. Kuehn, first sentenced to death, was later committed to 50 years at hard labor.

SUPREME COURT:

Bans Compulsory Salute

Reversing a previous decision by a 6 to 3 vote, the U. S. Supreme court ruled that the nation's public schools cannot require pupils to salute the flag.

Said the majority: "Compulsory unification of opinion achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard." No official... can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, religion, nationalism or other matters of opinion...

Washington Digest

History Will Write Details Of Lewis-Roosevelt Feud

Story Begins During 'Roaring Thirties' as The Forgotten Man Is Remembered By New Deal and CIO.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

Today there came to my desk a mimeographed sheet from the Office of War Information. It was headed "The Nazi Slave Labor Society."

As I read that title, my mind shot back to a very few days before this writing, one of the days when your capital was tense over the coal strike from one end of Constitution avenue to the other, and on both sides of the Potomac. I say "Constitution" avenue instead of "Pennsylvania" (which you and I have come to feel is the main street of Washington) because this coal strike struck deep into a lot of offices and bureaus beside the White House at one end of this historic thoroughfare and the Capitol at the other.

Naturally, Harold Ickes, in his offices looking down the mall from that strange modernistic pile that is the new Interior building, was concerned. He was, at that moment, responsible head of the soft coal mining industry and the industry wasn't functioning.

Naturally the members of the War Labor board were concerned. The board's existence was threatened.

Two Worries

Over across the Potomac that marvelous architectural achievement, the Pentagon building, where the army is housed, officers paced the floor of their pentagonal offices. They had two worries. One: Will there be a coal shortage that will hold up production of important war supplies? Two: Will we have to go out and push people around with bayonets?

I haven't mentioned what was going on at the Capitol or in the White House. Plenty. Every enemy of the administration, every friend of the administration who was angry at Lewis, everyone who was for 100 per cent prosecution of the war—and they weren't necessarily different people, but people with different ideas—was yelling for Lewis' eyebrows and some of them were threatening the President if he didn't bring them in (on a silver charger) for breakfast.

Inside the White House, there were meetings which, because of the presence and absence of certain persons, I would like to report in greater detail but I can't—that will have to be left to history.

As I write these lines, I cannot predict the aftermath of the action which began late one afternoon on June 3 when, contrary to reports circulated earlier in the day, a statement was issued from the White House ordering the men back to the mines by June 7. But between these lines of that statement was the story of "Franklinstein" and the creature which he created, as dramatic, if not as tragic, as the horror tale by the gentle Mrs. Shelly, written early in the 19th century.

Self-Destroyer

A copy of that book ("Frankenstein") is on my table as I write. On the last page are the lines spoken by this strange being which the hero had created, hoping to raise the standard of humanity but which, alas, had found itself heir to the human weaknesses and turned against his creator. The "being," just before it destroys itself, speaks to its creator:

"... thou didst seek my extinction that I might not cause greater wretchedness; and if yet, in some mode unknown to me, thou hast not ceased to think and feel, thou wouldst not desire against me a vengeance greater than that which I feel. Blasted as thou wert, my agony was still superior to thine..."

(You really ought to read the book—it's far superior to the movie version.)

But why do I bandy with this ancient tale? Because I do believe that all of us build, materially or physically, creatures which come back to haunt us.

Look at the record of John Lewis and Franklin Roosevelt.

John, born to the pms, a man who won to literacy, yes, to scholarship the hard way.

Franklin, born to the purple. Both endowed with that indomitable something that lifted them, in

spite of their respective handicaps, to leadership. Egocentric enough to elbow their way up to the counter; altruistic enough to have something to contribute to the general welfare when they got there. Reader, be fair even if you have your honest prejudices—both these men are gifted.

A Quick Look

Pick up the story in the roaring thirties—the New Deal is beginning to strut its stuff. The "forgotten man" has been remembered and he's grateful to Roosevelt.

The forgotten laborer is being remembered; he's grateful to Lewis. I mean the man who couldn't because of the by-laws of the AFL, get into a labor union any more than he could get into the Union League club. Lewis stepped out of the AFL with his miners. The CIO was formed in 1935.

It looked as if John of the eyebrows and Franklin of the amber cigarette holder had something in common. They did. It began by being an ideal—a better deal for the man who hadn't had such a good deal before. Later, the issues became more complicated but we won't go into that now.

Anyhow, the Wagner act was passed in 1935. (Labor's Magna Charter, they called it.) That gave the poor, heretofore outsider, the workman who couldn't qualify, to join the snooty AFL, a chance to be somebody. If there were more of his group than there were of the AFL's in a plant, shop or factory, his outfit was recognized as the collective bargaining unit.

That was a real step forward in economic democracy.

The CIO thrived. It had the blessing of the administration. It gave its votes in return. It also gave the largest campaign contribution in return. Some of the starry-eyed young men in the New Deal (they have departed, most of them, for Puerto Rico and elsewhere on the fringes) dreamed dreams. They told their dreams to Lewis.

"Why not a real labor party, Jawn," they smiled encouragingly, "with you as the leader? We'll get rid of the democrats without imagination. You'll be vice president next time..."

The Siren's Song

But then Mr. Lewis made a great mistake. He went to Paris. Other men have erred in that once-fair city before this. (I visited it myself.) But John met another siren... he witnessed the sit-down strike.

Now, frankly, this is hearsay but I am told that it was Lewis brought that illegitimate Gallic child of the proletariat, conceived in a strange moment of aberration, back to America. It did not thrive. It needed a more rarified atmosphere than that which blows across the prairies and once flapped the cover of the covered wagon.

Mr. Lewis went to the White House, jerked the previously welcoming Vochsting, and went in. But old man Vox Populi got there before him. Up to then, V. P. had been pretty satisfied with things as they were under the New Deal.

But things had changed.

In a chilly voice V. P. said: "No, Franklin, no John. No dice." Franklin listened. John got mad.

That was the end of a beautiful friendship and the rest is history. Lewis turned against the man who had made his success possible and there is, as we know, no feud like the feud of former friends.

The soldier on the battlefield, utterly unable to comprehend why men strike while he is risking his life for a fraction of the pay the strikers demand, cursed and threatened; the miner, with many just grievances, stood confused, looking for his oracle to speak, but cringing under the sneers at his lack of patriotism. Small-minded bureaucrats, more interested in saving their faces than saving the country, sputtered and strutted. Lewis and Roosevelt, the two men who, working together, might move mountains (of coal and coalition) were forced to square off against each other, the public backed the government and, as usual, decided the issue.

Oh yes! That "Nazi Slave Labor Society"—it can't happen here!

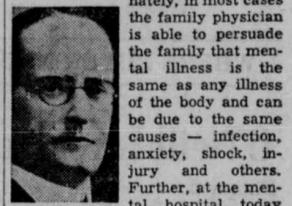


TO YOUR Good Health
by DR. JAMES W. BARTON

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SHOCK TREATMENT

Some mental patients receive home care, as the family do not want it known that such a thing as "insanity" is in the family. Fortunately, in most cases the family physician is able to persuade the family that mental illness is the same as any illness of the body and can be due to the same causes — infection, anxiety, shock, injury and others. Further, at the mental hospital today treatment to remove any cause of the symptoms is given; dentists, throat specialists, women's specialists are on the staff or make regular visits.



Dr. Barton

One of the most effective methods of treating certain types of mental illness is by producing shock in the patient by insulin, metrazol and, more recently, by electricity. Because of accidents that occasionally occur during shock this form of treatment has heretofore been given in mental hospitals and sometimes in the ordinary municipal hospitals.

What should mean much to a patient and family is a recent report by Dr. A. Myerson, Boston, in the New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Myerson reports the results obtained by the electric-shock method in the treatment of 123 patients, 74 by the outpatient method. The patients reported at a place fitted out in hospital fashion with nurses and a physician in attendance. They were given the shock treatment and usually went home within one or two hours. In cases where the patient was too upset after the treatment he received further shock treatment at a mental hospital.

Compared to the risk of other methods of treatment of the same kind of mental ailments, the electric-shock treatment is much safer as to mental or physical injury.

The big point about being able to go to other than a mental or municipal hospital, receive the shock treatment, return home and continue the treatment for the weeks necessary, is that the family and patient have no feeling of shame or humiliation. To get this latest form of treatment so easily is certainly a real change from former days.

Nursing Along 'Heart Condition' by Resting

A few years ago a physician visiting a southern city made the acquaintance of another visitor who appeared to be "resting" all the time. He informed the physician that he had undergone a serious operation three months previously and as he has a "heart condition" he wished to consult a local heart specialist and asked the physician if he knew of one he could recommend. The physician, being a stranger, was unable to refer him to a heart specialist but asked him the nature of his heart condition.

"I have a heart murmur and after having this operation I was told to be careful of my heart."

"But a heart murmur is not serious nor was your operation of a serious nature." Operation for rupture of hernia is just changing the structure of the tissues in this region; there is no pus, no inflammation, and little or no shock. "This should not have taken much out of you."

A short examination by the physician revealed no enlargement of the heart, the murmur likely present when patient was born, no history of rheumatism. The patient walked slowly up and down stairs; the increase in the heart rate was about 10 beats and the heart was back to its normal rate within one minute. He walked slowly up and down stairs twice. The heart rate increased 16 beats and returned to normal within one and a half minutes. He was told that his heart was strong and exercise, not so much rest, was needed.

About 10 minutes later, he took his own pulse, walked up and down stairs twice, took his pulse again, waited the minute and a half and found the figures for the heart rate exactly the same as those found by the physician. He was therefore advised to take his daily rests but to take two walks daily, lengthening the walk one block every two days.

The point here is that while a heart murmur was present and he had undergone an operation three months before, his heart already had had all the rest needed and was ready for work or exercise.

HEALTH BRIEFS

Q.—What causes dizziness in the head?

A.—Dizziness may be caused by (a) liver disturbance, (b) ear disturbance, (c) blood pressure disturbance and other causes.

Q.—Is there anything that can be done for high blood pressure?

A.—Hypertension (high blood pressure) is just a symptom. Have your physician try to find the cause. May be caused by nervousness or by some disturbance of blood vessels.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

SOFTWOOD: Softwood lumber will be made available for essential farm repairs. About half a billion board feet will be released by the War Production board.

TOBACCO: Possibility of a shortage of tobacco, caused by unrestricted buying for export, was voiced when government officials conferred with leaders of the industry recently.

SHIPPING: Shipping losses have been lower in June than in May, in which the smallest losses since Pearl Harbor were sustained, says the OWI.

ARMY: An army of about 2½ million men will be maintained for some time after the war, according to statements to a house subcommittee.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

The Japanese-controlled Bangkok radio has issued more advice on good manners to the people of Thailand. "Since the clothing and manners of those who are in private business are not respectable yet, we request that they observe the following principles: Be well dressed, be clean, be agreeable to customers, do not smoke or be intoxicated, have good manners, be honest."

The United States was producing fighting equipment eight times as fast as Japan in the spring of 1943.

A popular joke in Holland deals with the bicycle shortage. So many men's bicycles have been stolen that it is asked what happens to the ladies' bicycles. "Oh, they're being kept for the Scotch Highlanders when they get here."