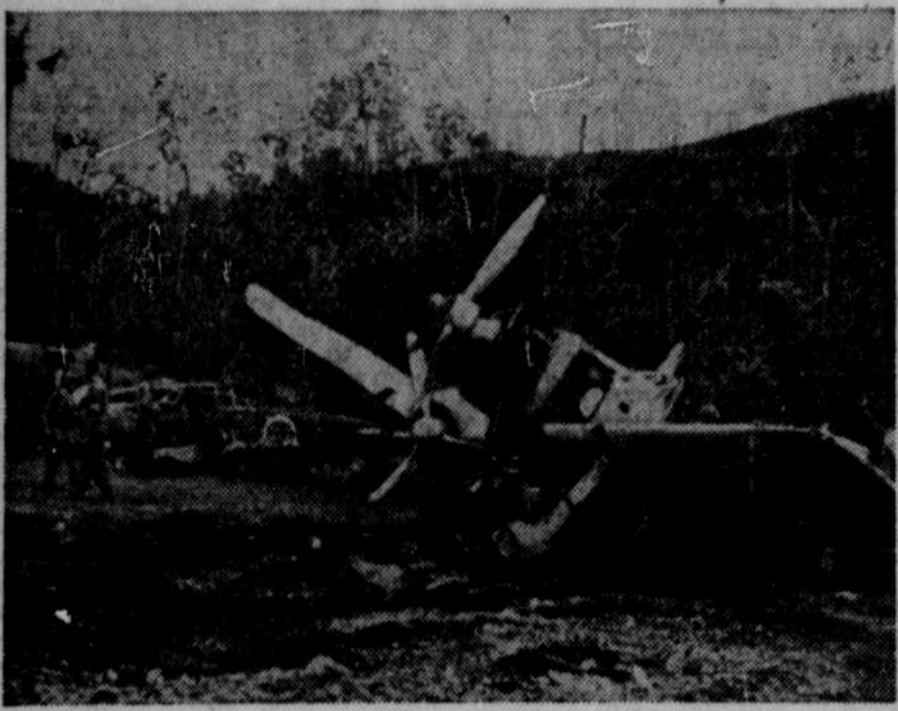


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Essential Work Only Deferment Basis; Allied Fliers Pour More Block Busters On Berlin and Italian Defense Targets; Nation Ponders Possible Labor Draft

(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.



When American troops captured Munda airfield on New Georgia Island in the central Solomons after a bitter struggle, they found these Japanese fighter and bomber planes wrecked by the Yanks' heavy aerial bombardment.

EUROPE: 'Scarred and Burned'

Prime Minister Churchill's vow to "sear, scar and burn" Hitler's European fortress was drawn in sharp focus with the RAF's 700 plane raid on Berlin and the bombardment of Italian communication and industrial centers.

Poised at three different points, Allied armies awaited the command to spill over into Europe. One million men stood in the Near East; another million were concentrated in Sicily and North Africa, and approximately 2 1/2 million were ready for action in England.

But as they waited, Allied bombers poured block-busters on the Axis industries turning out armaments for the enemy forces. Assaults continued on the railroads over which the Axis could rush reinforcements to meet the Allied invasion. And airfields from which Axis armies could rise to challenge the Allies' air cover for the oncoming troops were ripped up.

Hitler First

Concentration on the defeat of Hitler, but consideration of means of speeding up the war in the Pacific, were the principal military topics of the Quebec conference between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

In the political field, plans were laid to return friendly reconquered countries over to the provisional governments in exile. Enemy countries would remain subject to military government.

Declaring that unification was needed to co-ordinate the services of the combined Allied armies, navies and air forces, the conferees said that additional meetings would be necessary, and probably would be called at shorter intervals. A tri-partite conference with Russia concerning the future disposition of Europe will be sought, it was stated.

PACIFIC: At Japs' Back Door

While the little "sons of heaven" fell back before the advancing Allied armies in the Southwest Pacific, American forces under Vice-Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid stole through the misty, swirling Aleutian fog to retake Kiska island and plant their battle standards within 600 miles of the Japanese empire.



Vice-Admiral Thomas Kinkaid

On this northern point at Paramushiro stands the great military base guarding the back door to Tokyo. Already, American heavy bombers have made two raids on Paramushiro, but since the fog which shrouded the north Pacific assembly here and then move eastward toward the Aleutians, the Japs still possess an advantage in weather.

In the Southwest, Allied troops bore down on Salamaua, New Guinea, as the Japs fell back for a last stand before the town. In the central Solomons, the enemy were penned in their last holding on Kolombangara island.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

PRIVATE DEBT: People owe much less than they did two years ago, according to a report by United Business Service. At the end of 1941 total consumer debt outstanding, mostly on installment sales, amounted to \$9,800,000,000. Now it is about five billion dollars. Higher incomes and restricted opportunities to buy goods have acted to pare down the outstanding debt.

MANPOWER: 446,000 Dads to Go

To meet the armed services' call for 1,873,000 men during the last half of 1943, it will be necessary to induct about 446,000 fathers, Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey declared. Out of every 100 dads, 7 will be drafted, and perhaps 13 rejected.



Lewis B. Hershey

According to Hershey, 738,000 of the 1,566,000 1-A men of record July 1, will be called to the colors before the end of the year. Another 644,000 will be obtained from re-examination of the physically unfit in 4-F and those hitherto deferred because of essential occupation. Exhaustion of this pool will result in the induction of fathers to meet the armed services' goals.

Fathers employed in essential war work may obtain deferment, Hershey said, particularly if they are employed in areas with labor shortages. Of the 1,449,000 exempt because of agricultural activities, none are expected to be called, to prevent interference with food output.

Labor Draft?
Director Hershey's statement followed reports that the government was shaping a national labor draft to meet a need for 2,600,000 new workers for essential industry.

War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt declared that the WMC would continue to resort to voluntary efforts to obtain the necessary help. Recently, the WMC made essential occupation the sole basis for draft deferment, even for fathers after October 1.

With most of the 18-year-olds scheduled for the services; with many workers loath to switch to war work from non-essential occupations, and with the supply of working women about drained, attention was focused on a labor draft for solution of the manpower problem.

INCOME TAX: Estimate Returns

Fifteen million taxpayers will be required to file estimates of their 1943 income taxes September 15, but the nation's farmers will have the choice of making their declarations on that date or December 15.

All married men with gross incomes of \$3,500 or more, and single persons earning \$2,700 or over, must file figures showing how much they owe the government in excess of the 20 per cent being deducted from the wages through the current withholding tax. At the same time, a 50 per cent payment of the estimated excess liability must be made.

If farmers file a return of their estimated tax September 15, they also must make a 50 per cent payment. If they choose to file December 15, they must make full payment.

In the case of the average taxpayer, he will be allowed a 20 per cent error in margin. Farmers are granted a 33 per cent margin. All taxpayers will have to file a final return on their tax liability next March 15, at which time any balances will be settled.

RUSSIA: Seeks Iron

The coal and iron of the Donetz basin lay before the massed might of the Russian armies as they surged forward on the southern front. In one sector, where the Nazis claimed more than 150,000 Reds were concentrated, their lines were slowly pushed back under the heavy Russian artillery and tank fire, and rolling waves of infantry.

Farther to the north, the Reds pressed westward after retaking the blackened ruin of Kharkov, the great industrial city whose foundries and mills shaped the Donetz' iron into steel. Here, the Russians threw out a column that bore down on the big railroad line running into the far southeastern corner of the Donetz basin, where the Nazis were fighting the latest Red break.

As fighting mounted in the south, it was reported that a Finnish labor leader had met a British union representative in Sweden and given him proposals for settling the Russo-Finnish war. These called for respect for traditional Finnish territory and Allied economic assistance.

TIRES: To Release 17,000,000

Seventeen million automobile tires will be released for essential civilian use in 1943, and plans are being made for the distribution of 30 million more next year, Rubber Director William Jeffers reported.

Distribution of 30 million tires next year, however, will depend upon the War Production board's approval of an expansion in the synthetic rubber manufacturing facilities. Since most of the tires would be synthetic and more time is required for their fabrication, additional equipment will be needed to meet the distribution goal.

Declaring that only holders of "B" and "C" gas ration cards could be expected to obtain new tires, Jeffers said that the rubber on the wheels of America's automobiles remained the greatest assurance for future driving. Every effort should be made to retain these tires in use by recapping, Jeffers declared.

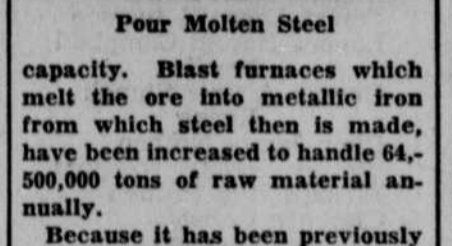
World's Steel Center

Two giant battleships and more than 1,000 four-motored bombers can be built every 24 hours with the daily output of the American steel mills.

Annual capacity of the industry now totals 90,881,000 tons, about 10,000,000 more tons than in 1940. By 1944, capacity is expected to reach 96,000,000 tons.

Record ore shipments and scrap supplies have enabled the mills to operate at close to 100 per cent of capacity. Blast furnaces which melt the ore into molten iron from which steel then is made, have been increased to handle 64-500,000 tons of raw material annually.

Because it has been previously refined, scrap can be mixed with the molten iron from the blast furnaces for production of steel, thus conserving the need for additional ore and speeding the manufacturing process.



Four Molten Steel

FOOD PRICES: Blames Middlemen

Charging the existence of an ever-widening gap between prices received by farmers and those paid by consumers, Rep. Hampton P. Fulmer (S. C.) declared "money-mad middlemen making war profits up to 500 per cent" are responsible for shortages and price increases of foodstuffs. Fulmer is leader of the house's farm bloc.

Office of Price Administration figures show that a majority of large wholesalers made at least 100 per cent greater profits in 1942 than in 1939, Fulmer said, while one-fifth of all wholesalers received profits of 500 per cent.

To remedy the alleged profiteering, Fulmer said he would press for establishment of set prices for basic farm commodities, with percentage markups allowed for distributors and retailers.

PAY CHECKS

Longer hours, authorized wage increases, and "upgrading" of workers into higher-paid classifications, have combined to keep the pay checks of millions of urban workers climbing faster than living costs so far in 1943; these three factors are having a greater effect in raising the average wage level than most persons realize, and they operate without breaking existing wage-freeze regulations, according to the Northwestern National Life Insurance Co. of Minneapolis.

Washington Digest

Peace Planners Emphasize Need for Orderly 'D' Day

Planning Board Report Envisions Reintegration of Men Into Services Where Skill, Ability Are Recognized.



By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

Next week's release of "Washington Digest" will be written from Quebec, where H. R. Baukhage covered the history-making Roosevelt-Churchill conference for Western Newspaper Union and its affiliated newspapers.

5. Veterans credit for old age and survivors' insurance on the basis of service in the armed forces.

6. Opportunities for agricultural employment and settlement for a limited number of well qualified men. But no dumping of men on farms simply because industrial employment is not immediately available.

Re-Training Program

Similar provisions must be made for war workers as war industries close or change over. Meanwhile, the government will maintain centers where assistance and retraining for civilian jobs can be arranged. In order to prevent a too rapid attempt at change-over of industry, a moderate policy of continuation of war contracts some of which can be continued in the national good.

Of course, nothing can be done permanently to stabilize the labor situation without a rapid expansion of peace-time industry toward a goal of full employment. It is well understood even by the most fervent of government planners that private industry and not the government must eventually furnish the employment.

Already industry is offering plans of its own but it cannot be expected to do the whole job. One suggestion is that government loans be made to industries turning to peace-time production in proportion to the number of men such industries employ.

Plan Needed Now

The board points out that victims of the war are already coming back and the time is ripe. Only the other day, I went through Walter Reed hospital here and saw some of those victims. Saw photographs of the conditions in which they come back and others showing what medical skill has done for them. I also saw the workshops where wounded men are being rehabilitated, fitted to take up work which, in spite of their handicaps, they could learn to do.

This plan emphasizes the need for an orderly demobilization. It is important to get every man who can be spared from the armed forces, the moment he can be spared without threatening the nation's security, back into civilian life. I know how glad I was when I got out of uniform into civvies after the last war.

But the report emphasizes that still more important than speed is order in demobilization. "We not only want the men out of the armed services; we want to get them into peace services where skills and abilities can be fully recognized, utilized and rewarded." That is the thesis of the planning board.

Responsibility for the placement of veterans in industry is acknowledged by the re-employment division of the selective service system under the selective service act. The selective service system is not perfect but considering the job it had to do, it has worked out in a manner that is a triumph of the democratic method. Draft boards are groups of "neighbors" who pass upon each registrant, and on that basis, select or reject him. The same system will put the soldier back into his old job—if his old job is there, and if he can fill it. But many had no jobs. Others for one reason or another will be unable to fill the ones they had before the war. These cases must be taken care of.

Diary of a Broadcaster

Over the land, the Victory gardens are bringing in their rich yields to many a person who probably never worked as hard—physically—for his supper before. And probably never had more fresh, sweet and luscious vegetables.

But I wandered over a farm recently that was crying for rain. I couldn't help thinking, as I pushed through a wood lot beside a shrunken stream, stained brown from the yellow leaves that carpeted it, how all the living things were anguishing with thirst. Twigs snapped under one's feet like dry bones, there was an ugly growl instead of a happy hum from the insects—it seemed that only the tough blue-bottles could survive. Not far from the stream where the earth in the bed of a spring was still damp, one cricket was singing gratefully but there were few of his fellows about. Leaves on tall weeds hung to the stem like a flag at half-staff on a day when no breeze stirs, one yellow-headed flower stood out in a spot of color, it looked like a very sleepy little girl, her damp locks glued to her face almost concealing her tired smile.

I thought: "I wish I could stay here until the rain comes singing through the leaves, wetting cracked lips of the peeling furrows—I believe I would hear a real hymn of rejoicing go up."

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

In Britain, about 150,000 tons of timber, salvaged from bombed buildings, have been refinished and made into crates and boxes for important war uses.

With German war nerves somewhat frayed at the edges, the Nazis are conducting a politeness campaign to ease the irritation and get Germans to be nicer to each other.

The French Academy of Arts and Sciences has decided not to nominate any new members for membership until the war is over.

A private citizen recently was paid \$400 when she brought a triple damage suit against a retailer for overcharging her two cents on each of four dozen eggs. The settlement was made out of court.



FIRST-AID to the AILING HOUSE

By ROGER B. WHITMAN

Roger B. Whitman—WNU Features.

FENCE POST

Question: In building a fence, the posts were driven into the ground and a concrete walk and pavement were then laid around them. The posts have rotted and must now be renewed. How can the new posts be made tight in the holes in the concrete, so that they cannot be moved up and down? How can the underground part of the posts be treated to prevent decay?

Answer: The inside of the holes through the concrete should be gouged and dug with a cold chisel or a pointed hammer, so that the new concrete will have rough surfaces with which to bond. Give the underground parts of each post a heavy treatment of tar or creosote, return to position, and then pour fresh concrete into the holes.

Single Flue Chimney

Question: I would like to replace a side-arm gas water heater with a coal-fired heater. Could I connect this to the single flue in my chimney that serves the furnace? If so, should the connection be close to the furnace connection at the chimney?

Answer: As a general thing, two fires should not be connected to a single flue, because each fire will interfere with the draft of the other. However, with a tall chimney, and one connection much smaller than the other, as it would be in your case, there is a good chance of success. Connect the new smoke-pipe close to the old one at the chimney.

Loose Cement Coating

Question: Last year I knocked off the loose cement coating of my basement foundation wall and put on a new quarter-inch cement coating. I find that in several places the new coating will not stay on, but bulges and falls off. How can I treat these so the new coating will adhere?

Answer: Cement is not adhesive and holds on a surface by hardening around the surface roughness. Clean off the bad places and then roughen them by gouging with a cold chisel or a pointed hammer. At the time the new cement goes on the old walls should be thoroughly soaked with water.

Dusty Path

Question: A path that was formerly hard surfaced is now dry and dusty. I am now wondering if it would be advisable to put oil on it. If so, what kind and how much?

Answer: I should not advise using oil, for it would inevitably get into the house and make trouble with floors and floor coverings. You can get a good dust-laying effect with calcium chloride, which is low priced and on common sale. Scatter it on the path in the proportion of a pound to the square yard. Even on a dry day it will absorb enough moisture from the air to become liquified, and will then combine with the dust on the path to form a crust.

Paint Remover

Question: I have bought a can of paint and varnish remover for use on furniture, but find that it works slowly. It is also expensive. I am thinking of using the remover that you have recommended; three pounds of trisodium phosphate dissolved in a gallon of water. I should first like to know if this is likely to bleach the wood.

Answer: No; it has no bleaching effect. Put it on boiling hot with a dishmop or brush; the paint or varnish will quickly soften, and can be wiped and scraped off. Finish by rinsing with clear water to take off all traces of the remover.

Attic Insulation

Question: Some time ago I insulated my attic with rock wool in batt form. I placed the insulation against the roof boards, with the paper on the outside, that is, facing me. Is this the proper way to place the batts? I have heard that if not placed correctly there is a possibility of condensation. Is the paper on the batts sufficient to prevent condensation.

Answer: You have installed the batts correctly and no more covering is needed.

White Lead

Question: What kind of white lead is used to give wood a pickled pine finish?

Answer: Ordinary white lead paste, thinned with turpentine to the consistency of a thick paint is used.

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Lawyer Met His Match In Tinsmith, On and Off

A lawyer, noted for his success in cross-examination, asked a witness how long he had worked at his business of tin-roofing.

"I have worked at it off and on for some time."
"How long off and on?"
"Sixty-five years."
"How old are you?"
"Sixty-five."
"Then you have been a tin-roofer from birth?"
"No, sir; of course I haven't."
"Then why do you say you have worked at your trade 65 years?"
"Because you asked how long off and on I had worked at it. I have worked at the trade 65 years—20 years on and 45 off."
Here there was a roar in the courtroom, but not at the expense of the witness, and the lawyer hurriedly finished his examination in great confusion.

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