

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Bombers Concentrate Attacks On Enemy Airfields, Communications; Japs Continue Retreat in New Guinea; Civilians to Get 75% of Food Supply

(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.



Killed in action against the Japanese, an American soldier is being borne back from the front lines by these New Guinea natives. Chaplain Owen Monahan of the 41st division follows the body. Natives are serving U. S. forces as stretcher bearers and supply carriers.

EUROPE: Hell on High

As Allied troops poised for the leap into southern Europe, waves of American and British bombers whirled over the foot of the Italian boot, smashing at enemy airfields and communication lines in the effort to paralyze Axis troop movements to invasion points.

Principal concentration has been on Foggia, 80 miles northeast of the once-colorful, now heavily bombed, Neopolitan port of Naples. Besides the main airfield at Foggia, 10 smaller auxiliary airfields were the targets for low level bombing and machine gunning attacks spearheaded by fast, U. S. Lockheed Lightnings.

Throughout the Foggia area, railroads, over which trains were carrying enemy troops, were shot up.

As a result of heavy, concentrated RAF raids on Berlin, it was reported that 12,000 people might have been killed, 50,000 wounded, and 500,000 made homeless.

LEND-LEASE: 'Repaid With Victory'

"Victory and a secure peace are the only coin in which we can be repaid" for lend-lease assistance thus far amounting to 14 billion dollars, President Roosevelt reported to Congress.

Of the total in armament and food distributed through lend-lease, Great Britain received 4 1/2 billion dollars; Russia, 2 1/2 billion dollars, and Africa, the Middle East and Mediterranean countries, one billion, 300 million dollars. China, India, Australia and New Zealand have obtained lend-lease also to the amount of one billion 300 million dollars.

"The congress in passing and extending the lend-lease act made it plain that the United States wants no new war debts to jeopardize the coming peace," the President said.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Smash Supplies

Using the airplane as an instrument for weakening the enemy by disrupting his supply, Gen. Douglas MacArthur sent scores of bombers along the northeastern New Guinea coast to blast at the small bases with which the Japanese have been replenishing their beleaguered forces in the Salamaua area.

As the Allied airmen swooped low to bomb and machine gun the tiny craft darting through the coastal shoals, or streaking for cover in the many coves along the shore, U. S. and Australian forces fought up to the gates of Salamaua itself. Having fallen back through the jungle under pressure of Allied infiltration tactics, the enemy girded for a last stand at his big New Guinea base.

In a Tokyo broadcast, the Japanese claimed to have sunk nine American cruisers and 11 destroyers and knocked out 836 planes since June 30. In addition, the broadcast declared, four cruisers and eight destroyers were damaged. The Japanese claims were without confirmation in Allied circles.

NAZI SPIES: Trapped by FBI

After four years of investigation, the long arm of the FBI reached out to arrest four persons on charges of wartime espionage and smash a Nazi spy ring operating in principal war industry centers.

Alleged pivot in the ring was Grace Buchanan Dineen, wealthy 34-year-old French-Canadian, who was reportedly taught espionage in Germany before coming to this country in October, 1941.

FOOD: Less Than 1942-'43

Americans will have less to eat during the next 10 months than in 1942-'43, but on the average they will get as much food as they did from 1935-'39, the government declared.

Of the total food supply, civilians will receive 75 per cent, it was reported. The army will be allotted 13 per cent, lend-lease 10 per cent, and United States territories and special needs 2 per cent.

In commenting on the army allocation, the government pointed out that a serviceman eats about 5 1/2 pounds of food daily, to the civilian's 3 1/2 pounds. This is equivalent to adding approximately 4 1/2 million people to the population, it was said.

WHEAT: Feed Sales High

Since the initiation of the government's program for the sale of wheat for feed at the start of July, the Commodity Credit corporation has disposed of more than 69,000,000 bushels, or an average of 50,000,000 monthly.

At the same time, government purchases to replenish stocks approximate only 14,000,000 bushels per month, it was reported. Much of the new grain has been coming in by rail from Canada through the Dakotas, and arrangements have been made for shipment through the Pacific Northwest.

Should the demand for feed wheat continue and sales outstrip purchases, the government can draw on the 200,000,000 bushels of the 1942 crop held on farms under loans which could be called before maturity.

MINERS: No Travel Pay

Eight public and employer members of the War Labor board joined in voting against approval of a wage contract between Illinois coal operators and the United Mine Workers granting the latter \$1.25 daily for time spent traveling underground to and from their work. Headed by Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, the four labor members of the WLB opposed the decision.

Although voting against underground travel compensation, the WLB agreed to payment of time-and-a-half to miners for all work over 35 hours a week. WLB also approved increased vacation payments and provision for certain free equipment and services amounting to 25 cents daily.

The WLB declared the miners would have to go to court to collect any claims they hold against the coal companies for underground payment under the wages and hour law.

MISCELLANY:

JEW: Jewish population in Axis-controlled Europe has diminished from 8,300,000 to about 3,300,000, a statement by the American Jewish Congress reveals. Of the five million people who have disappeared, some three million are dead, 1,800,000 have been moved deep into Soviet Russia, and 180,000 have emigrated to various places, the report continues.

FIGHTING FRENCH: Made Administrators

Until the people of France are able to choose a government, the French Committee of National Liberation, operating from Algiers, North Africa, will be recognized merely as an administrative agency of those parts of the French empire over which it has succeeded in obtaining control.

This recognition was made by the United States, Great Britain and Russia. It followed months of wrangling between the factions of Gen. Charles De Gaulle, who has had strong British backing, and Gen. Henri Giraud, who represented the pro-Vichy Darlan group which arranged for American landings in North Africa with Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. Recently these factions combined, with De Gaulle securing political leadership and Giraud military direction.

The Liberation committee's administrative authority, however, will be subject to the requirements of the Allied military command in such zones of operation as North Africa and the Near East.

RUSSIA: Drive for Coal, Iron

With Kharkov, the "Pittsburgh" of Russia, again in their hands, Red forces hurled their might against the Nazis farther to the south in the Donetz basin, source of much coal and iron.

Giving way under the full weight of massed Russian artillery, tank and infantry attack, the Germans fell back slowly, in severe defensive fighting. But with the Reds driving forward frontally instead of slicing to the Nazis' rear, the Germans retained their freedom to move back and evade being surrounded.

To the north of Kharkov, Russian troops surged into Zenkov, thus passing the farthest point they reached during their winter offensive. But in front of Bryansk, stiff Nazi defenses had slowed the Russian advance to a crawl.

WORLD PROGRESS: Seen by FDR

Declaring that the war was proving what could be accomplished through the co-operative action of nations, President Roosevelt told 30,000 Canadians at Ottawa that "great councils (were) held on the free and honored soil of Canada . . . which . . . look to building a new progress for mankind."

Woodside had learned, quite by accident, that a little while before the representative of Tass, the official Russian news agency, who had been an active participant in the press conferences, had suddenly departed from our midst—severing the last shadowy link with the Kremlin. A few days before, just as a rumor was circulating that the conference had agreed upon the division of Germany into separate states as one of the post-war steps, the text of a broadcast from Moscow was printed in an American paper. It was made by the so-called Free Germany committee, and of course could not have voiced any views contrary to the will of Stalin. It urged that the German army be kept intact after the war!



Prime Minister Mackenzie King (left) and President Roosevelt at Ottawa.

longing to go back to what they call "the good old days" . . . Surely we can make strides toward a greater freedom from want than the world has yet enjoyed . . .

"I am everlastingly angry only at those who assert vociferously that the four freedoms and the Atlantic Charter are nonsense because they are unattainable," the President said. " . . . But I would rather be a builder than a wrecker, hoping always that the structure of life is growing—not dying."

ARMY RULE: Judge, General Clash

Demanding respect for the full dignity of the judicial branch of the federal government, a U. S. judge clashed with the military governor of Hawaii over the release of two naturalized citizens of German ancestry.

Picked up shortly after Pearl Harbor when army rule was established over Hawaii, the two citizens have been held without hearings. Certain court functions were restored by proclamation in March, 1942, and then the citizens attempted to obtain their release from custody by securing a writ of habeas corpus.

When the military governor, Lieut. Gen. Robert Richardson Jr., failed to produce the two citizens after Judge Delbert Metzger had issued writs for them, the judge summoned him on contempt charges and then fined him \$5,000 for ignoring the order. General Richardson countered by forbidding further habeas corpus proceedings, either by a court or applicants, on grounds of military security.

The general said the March, 1942, proclamation excluded issuance of habeas corpus writs, but Judge Metzger said that the Constitution required the full and free and not just the partial operation of the courts.

JAPS

Calling for an end to what he called unfair criticism of the War Relocation Authority, Representative Herman P. Eberharter (Pa.) declared that none of the 16,000 Japanese released from detention centers have been charged with disloyalty to the government.

In answer to charges that Japs at the relocation centers were eating better than the average American, Eberharter said food costs in the centers amounted to 40 cents a day.

Washington Digest

History Written at Quebec; Only Time Will Reveal It

Military Experts Satisfied With Results of Roosevelt - Churchill Conference; Political Angle an Enigma.



By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

Mr. Baukhage has written today's column from Quebec, site of the Roosevelt-Churchill conference, which he covered for newspapers affiliated with Western Newspaper Union.

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

Now that some of the deep secrets which surrounded the most important conference so far held by the firm of Roosevelt & Churchill, purveyors of victory, are beginning to be revealed in action, one can lean back, gaze at this remarkable adventure in history in the making—and wonder . . .

I cannot help recalling the evening of Sunday, August 22, nearly a month after the actual preparations for the conference began, the purpose of which was then unguessed even by the people whose job was to do the spade work. I was sitting with Edgar Mowrer, the well-known newspaper man, Michael Barkway, representative of the British Broadcasting company, and Wilson Woodside, commentator for the Canadian Broadcasting system. That morning the news had broken that Ambassador Litvinov would not return to Washington. It was learned that a virtually unknown member of the Soviet diplomatic corps, who had been their representative in Ottawa, was to replace the adroit Mr. Maisky, Stalin's expert lieutenant in London.

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Stalin's Absence

Of course Stalin's absence from the conference had been widely discussed in Quebec. To say the least we were four very confused members of press and radio, and I think our feelings were typical—two of us had covered international conferences before. Was Russia running a competition show to the one staged on the heights of America's Gibraltar? The shudder we shuddered and which spread out over the telegraph lines and airwaves bounced back to the walls of the Citadel where the top-men were conferring. At an eight o'clock conference that evening presidential secretary Stephen Early announced that the recall of Litvinov had been known to the conferees long before it happened and had no influence or effect on the conference.

Meanwhile all sorts of speculation about the effect of the absence of the Russians, the ominous "empty chair," had been pouring out of Quebec, perhaps comforting if not aiding the enemy and probably making no one happy, even Stalin.

Could this and the other unfortunate things which were written have been avoided; were we, in spite of ourselves, evil muses? I said to one of the willing but rather futile and frustrated men who were supposed to provide us with facts: if we could have just had a little guidance wouldn't it have been better?

He admitted that was true, but he added, "When an information man asks the higher ups for information they are so afraid they will say more than they ought to that we get nothing."

More than 200 press, radio and news photographers were here. We filled to bursting the little old Clarendon hotel, with its narrow corridors, its lobby turned into a telegraph office, and its modest bedrooms made into press room and broadcasting studios. Two blocks away was the spacious Chateau Frontenac, a Normandie palace with

750 bedrooms, where some 300 military and technical experts were immolated. Canadian Mounted police, tough British marines and hefty Canadian veterans of Dieppe guarded its portals. The inmates, like us, were virtually incommunicado. When they dared take a one-day's river trip one officer said, "it was to prevent an outbreak of claustrophobia."

Invisible Ink

There is much we did not know when we arrived. There is more we still do not know of what occurred after the conferees met. History was written but it was written in invisible ink.

Now some things can be told. In the first place the event was, perhaps purposely, perhaps unwittingly, played down in Washington in advance. Before I left the capital I was assured the conference would probably end about the Wednesday a week before it did. I had hoped for a quiet half-week's vacation. But no sooner had I arrived on the Sunday preceding Roosevelt's arrival the next Tuesday, than I saw we were all wrong. I felt sure something had happened when the President and the prime minister had their preliminary talk at Hyde Park. Something did, for I am sure there had been no intention of producing the parade of cabinet officers and other brass hats who kept dropping in from the skies and elsewhere one after another. But I learned that the length of the conference was planned to a "4" by the President long before it began. He knew it would last precisely as long as it did for he timed his Ottawa trip in advance so he would be back in Washington on August 26. He knew what was coming and that is why he slipped off for that fishing trip, which was just that and nothing more, ahead of the conference—it was a health measure pure and simple. Churchill and his midnight cigars are something to prepare for, the wee sma' hours are the big moments for this human dynamo.

Then the "something" yet to be revealed, happened. Churchill hailed his foreign minister from London and with him came not only Information Minister Bracken, who played no part as an informer but nevertheless was of cabinet rank, but also the permanent head of the British foreign office, Sir Alexander Cadogan with the accent on the "dog" pronounced (though Secretary Early could never quite master it) "dug."

Of course Hull had to appear to match Eden; then another cabinet member, Secretary of War Stimson to match Bracken and then Secretary of the Navy Knox for good measure, perhaps to give verisimilitude to the talk that the Pacific was not being neglected. Then just before Stalin made public his gesture of withdrawal (recalling Litvinov), T. V. Soong, Chinese foreign minister more or less permanently installed in Washington for some time past, appeared. Then there was the excuse that a big drive on Burma was in the wind.

The Big Drive

Meanwhile the press had blown very hot and then very cold on an immediate invasion of Europe from Britain. I don't know whether the reports that the big smash was coming was a part of the Allied war of nerves, but I am sure that the folks who threw cold water on it were sincere in their belief it just couldn't be started before spring.

I sat with a general whom I have known for a long time, a real soldier in World War I as well as in this one. Here's what he had to say:

"We haven't got the men yet. We must drop bombs upon bombs. There is a lot more softening up to do."

This man was on the periphery—not on the inside. I am sure that the technical experts, the officers—and we had them all, probably the greatest aggregation of military brains and real experience, too, ever assembled anywhere—they were sure. They were certain. And when the conference was over they were satisfied. As to the political side, that is an enigma and will be one as long as Russia remains one. And that she is.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

The British colony of Fiji, once noted for cannibalism among the natives, is granting reciprocal aid to U. S. forces stationed there to the value of almost three million dollars annually.

Women have been found to be men's equals or better in making diamond dies, the WPB has revealed.

A heavy bomber, cruising at 250 miles an hour, burns 3 1/2 gallons of gasoline every minute.

To continue the standard of the U. S. army as the healthiest army in the world, 7,500 additional physicians and surgeons will be needed during the coming three months, and an additional 2,500 by January 1, 1944.



Fertilizer Boosts Sugar Beet Yield

Test Shows Increase Of 3.7 Tons Per Acre

Farmers growing sugar beets to help fill America's war-time needs have found that by following a few simple soil improving practices, they can increase the tonnage of beets harvested per acre.

The value of such a procedure was illustrated by a series of practical farm tests conducted over a nine-year period by members of the soil science department of Michigan State college.

Based on average results obtained from 18 different experiments on various farms throughout the state's sugar beet area in the nine years span, it was found that sugar beet yields were increased 3.7 tons per acre by the use of 300 pounds of 2-16-8 fertilizer. The results of the tests were described by J. F. Davis, assistant in soils at Michigan State college.

"Calculated at the estimated price farmers will receive for their 1943 crop of beets," said Mr. Davis, "this average increase would mean \$42.33 more per acre for every grower following such practices. The cost of the fertilizer is reckoned at \$5.20 per acre. Thus a return of \$3.14 would be realized for every dollar spent for fertilizer."

"With the limited acreage of sugar beets each individual farmer can handle in view of the present labor situation, the use of as much fertilizer as possible to secure maximum production per acre should be of special significance during the present war emergency. Growers often ask: 'How much fertilizer can be applied that will still result in a profitably increased yield?' The answer is that while the return per dollar spent for plant food may diminish as the rate of application per acre increase, fertilizer can still be a good investment as long as the profits per acre increase."

"One important factor revealed by the studies is the necessity of having experiments continued for a long period of time in order to provide reliable information. For example, if the nine-year average is taken, 300 pounds of fertilizer increased the yield of sugar beets on the average, 3.7 tons per acre. On the other hand, if the results are based on a four-year period only, the fertilizer response was considerably less. It is logical to assume that the reliability of results increases with the length of time the experiments are conducted, and therefore, actually larger returns than shown by the data presented for the four-year period could be expected."

"Additional advantages from adequate fertilization of sugar beets will be found in the form of a residual effect that carries over from two to three years. The increased yields from this residual effect have been great enough to pay a considerable portion of the fertilizer applied to the preceding crop. In many cases this residual effect has been more than enough to pay the entire fertilizer bill. All things considered, the residual effect of the fertilizer will greatly exceed the extra expense involved in handling the larger crop. Now, when great quantities of beets are needed for cattle feed, every raiser should try to increase production in every way."



This New York city girl, who is taking a special course at Converse college, Spartanburg, S. C., found cotton picking a novel experience. She quickly adopted the southern method of using both hands.

Agricultural Notes

It is expected that 1943 will see the total production of chicken meat in the United States nearing four billion pounds.

"North Carolina Echo," Helstein-Friesian cow at North Carolina State college, has produced 672 pounds of butterfat and 18,181 pounds of milk in 361 days. This is 3 1/2 times what the average dairy cow produces.



By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

LT. BURGESS MEREDITH certainly didn't expect, when he went overseas, that he'd find himself in a Midlands market town in England that has no cinema, no railroad station, and only two streets, during part of his spare time. But there he was; if you heard "Transatlantic Call," the British Broadcasting corporation-CBS program, you heard him, introducing local inhabitants who told the story of how the war has changed their town. Its contribution



LT. BURGESS MEREDITH

to the war is so vast that its name can't be mentioned. Incidentally, we hear that Meredith, Clark Gable and James Stewart may get leaves in order to make army pictures.

Jean Pierre Aumont's been having name trouble. After his first American picture, "Assignment in Brittany," was released, he got so many fan letters asking how to pronounce his first name that it was decided to drop it. Then along came more letters saying that the writers liked the triple name—so it's as Jean Pierre Aumont that he'll be listed in "The Cross of Lorraine."

Robert Walker, the sensational sailor in "Bataan" who was so good in that picture that he was cast for the second male lead in "Madame Curie" even before "Bataan" was finished, nearly missed his big chance. In his first test for the "Bataan" role, he played the sailor as a man of 24; Director Tay Garnett had a heart; instead of tossing out the test he explained to Bob that the sailor was a lad in his teens. Another test was shot, he got the part, and before "Madame Curie" was finished he had the lead in "See Here, Private Hargrove."

Robert Benchley's given up air travel for the duration. "I'm tired of sleeping in airports," says he. Recently he had to rush from New York to Hollywood for RKO's "The Sky's the Limit." In Kansas City they gave his seat to a ferry pilot. Five hours later he got another plane; in Dallas he was put off; reason, another ferry pilot. He spent six hours there; sat out another five in Tucson.

Walt Disney and Major Alexander Seversky are making a special broadcast for British Broadcasting company's Home Service in England on September 20. Rehearsing for it at the New York studios, Disney explained that Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and the other pet Disney characters can't just be funny any more; they must work to help win the war.

Metro feels that linking up Marlene Dietrich for the feminine co-starring lead opposite Ronald Colman in "Kismet" is one of the most important casting assignments of the year. She'll play Zuleika, harem queen, sweetheart of Haji, beggar.

"The Uninvited" is laid in Devonshire, so English accents are required of the players. Ruth Hussey, born in Providence, does fine. So does Gail Russell, who hails from Santa Monica. Ray Milland's having a bad time; he was born in Wales and went to Kings college, but he's been exposed to Hollywood for seven years.

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OF MILK SAVERS
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