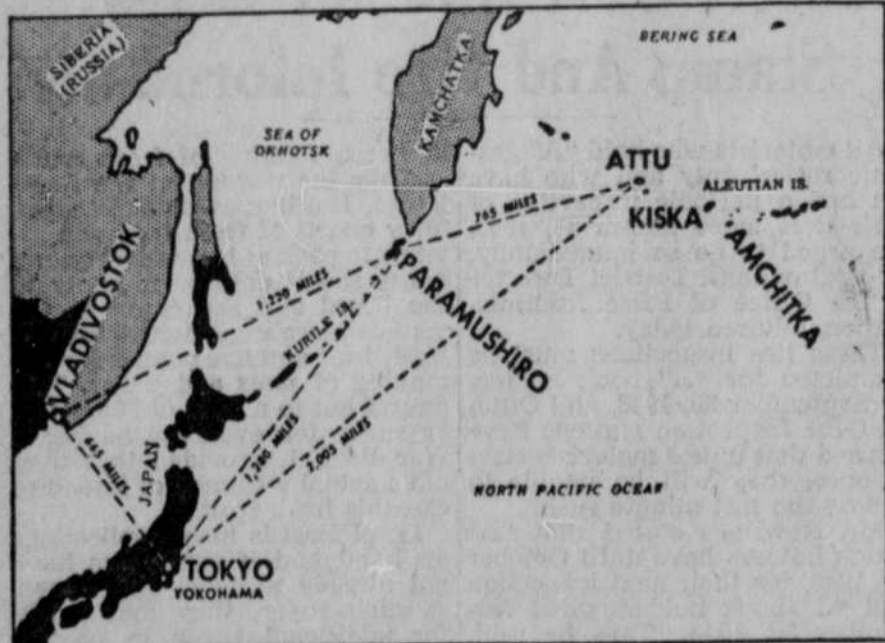


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Capture of Palermo Pockets Axis Army in Sicily's Northeastern Corner; Allied Activity in Pacific Is Intensified; Nation's Employment Tops 38 Million

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



American fliers moved closer to the Japanese mainland when they bombed Paramushiro, which lies below the Kamchatka peninsula of Siberia, 1,200 miles from Tokyo. Hits and near misses were reported on Jap ships lying in the harbor.

SICILY: Pocket Axis

The second stage of fighting in Sicily found the Axis forces retreating from the western reaches of the island as the Seventh American Army of Gen. George S. Patton moved into rapid occupation of the territory.

The Yanks' seizure of Palermo sealed off the Axis troops in the northeastern corner of Sicily. As Patton's army hemmed the remaining Axis forces of approximately 100,000 men in from the west, Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth Army pounded at the enemy's line on the southern extremity of the trap, at Catania.

Units of the celebrated Herman Goering division put up a stiff fight on the outskirts of Catania. In this section, the broad Catania plain is criss-crossed by several rivers, making tank and motorized operations difficult; and many shallow creek beds and thick grain fields gave German machine-gunners good cover for defensive fire.

While the fight raged in Sicily, British naval and air units bombarded the sole of the Italian boot at Crotone.

CIVILIAN GOODS: Increase Possible

The government's effort to get a more effective production for the war might result in a reduction of certain programs and free materials for civilian goods, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes said. That, however, is a hope and not a prediction, Byrnes cautioned.

Byrnes' statement came on the heels of a revelation that the munitions program was being cut down in some lines because our growing air power was amply protecting Allied industries abroad from destruction from bombing, and thus reducing their demands on U. S. plants for material.

EMPLOYMENT: 38 Million at Work

As the labor department announced that over 38 million people were currently employed in non-agricultural establishments, the war department revealed that it had authorized the release of 4,500 men from the army for work in copper, zinc and molybdenum mines.

According to the labor department, current employment was 1,663,000 over that for the same period a year ago. Despite the fact that the manufacturing and public utilities and transportation industries put on 162,000 workers recently, total employment was only 66,000 more than in May of this year. Since May, the construction industry has laid off 89,000 men.

The war department said failure of the metal mines to secure the necessary amount of workers left only the army as a reservoir of men with the requisite skills for the pits.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Range to Dutch Indies

Ranging 1,200 miles to the west, American heavy bomber formations struck at the Japanese naval base of Surabaya in the Dutch East Indies.

Tumbling down on an oil refinery, docks, warehouses and railway installations, 500 pound bombs caused heavy damage, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique said. The action marked the first air raid on Surabaya since that former Dutch base was pounded by the Japanese early in the war.

The raid on Surabaya was part of intensive Allied activity in the South Pacific area. As American troops worked closer through heavy jungle to the Japanese air base of Munda on New Georgia islands in the Solomons, medium and dive bombers and fighter planes kept up a rain of explosives on the embattled enemy troops guarding that stronghold. In one day alone, American airmen made 250 raids on the Japanese positions.

ROME: 'Priceless Treasures'

Declaring "... Despite the precautions that may be taken it is almost impossible to avoid, on this sacred soil of Rome, the destruction of venerated edifices," Pope Pius XII deemed it "... our duty once more to raise our voice in defense of the priceless treasures that constitute the ornament of Christian and human endeavor," following the Allied bombing of the Eternal City.

In citing the historical, cultural and religious importance of Rome, the pope said "... All that we put before competent authorities on several occasions in clear terms, recommending to them in the name of human dignity and of Christian civilization the inviolability of Rome." Then stating that he had hoped the papal authority would have proved sufficient in addressing a plea for the immunity of Rome, the pope said "... But alas, this so reasonable hope of ours has been disappointed."

RUSSIA: Reds Whittle Bulge

Throwing the full weight of their might into the drive, the Russians bore down on Orel from three sides, while embattled German troops fought desperately to prevent being cut from the rear.

While the battle of Orel raged, the "Anti-Nazi German National Committee" in Moscow appealed to the German high command to overthrow Hitler and negotiate a peace with the Russian government. Although presumably composed of former German army officers, the "national committee" bears a liberal sprinkling of former leaders of the Communist party of the old reichstag.

At Orel, the Nazis were holding a big bulge eastward, from which they could strike out against the rear of the Reds' northern or southern armies. Russian troops made notable progress cutting across much of the bulge in the north, but the Germans were offering stiff resistance on the southern fringe.

For their part, the Germans made no effort to minimize the power of the Russian drive. They contended their strategy called for a continuation of the struggle so as to wear down the Reds' strength.

FARMS: 1.3 Per Cent Idle

A total of 76,704 farms with an acreage of 6,484,292 lay idle in the United States when the decennial census was taken in 1940. The number represented 1.3 per cent of all farms in the country.

New England and the Middle Atlantic states showed the greatest percentage of abandonments, with one out of every 20 farms idle. This compared with Iowa's report of one out of every 2,000.

Abandoned farms averaged 85 acres against the 174 acres for operating tracts. Depleted soil and crop failures accounted for one-third of the vacancies, and there were many departures for employment in industry.

Almost 57 million acres of land lay idle on producing farms, census figures also showed.

CASUALTIES: Light, So Far

War and navy department casualty lists issued for the first year and half of the war totaled 16,556 men killed in action or from wounds, and 31,343 missing. The missing, it was explained, may either be dead or prisoners, but final tabulation must await the war's end.

Casualties were almost equally divided between the services. Of the known dead, 8,412 are navy, marine and coastguardsmen, while 8,144 are army men. However, the army's record of 21,076 missing doubled the navy, marine and coast guard's figure of 10,267.

As the services' casualties were announced, word was received of the death of Maj. Gen. William P. Uphur of the marines and Capt. Charles Paddock in the crash of a naval plane near Sitka, Alaska. General Uphur was commanding general of the marines for the department of the Pacific, while Paddock, who had served on General Pershing's staff in the First World War at the age of 18, was world famous as a sprinter, having set 94 records from 1920 to 1929.

POULTRY: Army Takes Over

Under the second war powers act, the Office of Price Administration ordered the detention of poultry trucks on eastern highways and the requisitioning of their stock for the army.

OPA took the action, it said, after black market operations had interfered with the army's purchase of poultry in the Delaware, Maryland and Virginia area, largest fowl producing section in the East. According to OPA, much of this meat was being sold to dealers over the price ceiling.

Dealers from whom the poultry was requisitioned, were paid the prevailing ceiling price.

MINERS: Seek Contract Approval

With the War Labor board rested the task of determining the fate of the new wage contract entered into between Illinois' United Mine Workers and bituminous coal operators, providing for a daily payment of \$1.25 for time spent traveling underground. Differences over such compensation was the chief cause of three walkouts, leading to government seizure of the pits.

In addition to providing portal-to-portal pay, the new two-year contract outlays strikes and lengthens the 35-hour week to 48 hours. Under present conditions, the miners now receive \$7 daily for a seven-hour shift, but the new pact would award them time-and-a-half for the eighth hour each day and for the full eight hours on the sixth day.

Besides WLB approval, the agreement is dependent upon the Office of Price Administration's authorization of an increase in coal prices to offset the wage settlements.

LABOR: Demands Roll-Back

Meeting in the White House, organized labor served notice on President Roosevelt that it would not continue support of his anti-inflation program unless prices were rolled back to the September 15, 1942, level.

Charging Price Administrator Prentiss Brown with having failed to execute the government's roll-back program, labor representatives declared they would open a pressure campaign for his removal from office unless plans were set in motion to push current prices back.

The labor leaders said further dalliance on roll-backs would lead them to repudiate the wage stabilization program, in which wage increases have been limited to 15 per cent over the January, 1941, levels. Living costs have jumped approximately 21 per cent since that time, they said, outstripping income by at least 6 per cent.

WAR BONDS

With 23 billion dollars already raised from non-banking investors since last December, the government announced plans for a new 15 billion dollar war bond drive to start in September. Individuals, corporations, insurance companies and other non-banking sources will be eligible for the purchase of the various denominations of savings bonds, notes and certificates.

In the two previous drives, banks bought over 10 billion dollars of securities.

Washington Digest

Fear of Farm Land Boom Adds to Inflation Worry



Official Figures Show Agricultural Unit Values Have Increased 20 to 24 Per Cent in Year.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

TELEFACT

Table titled 'WAR RAISES VALUE OF FARM REAL ESTATE' showing percentage increases in farm real estate values from 1912-14 to 1942. Each year is represented by a row of dollar signs (\$).

Each symbol represents 5% of 1912-14 value

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

For many months now, government offices and conference rooms, no matter how they might echo with glowing reports from the home or the battle front, have never been quite free from a ghost. It hovers in the corner and sends chills down every spine—it is the ghost of Old Man Inflation, trying to come back to the scene of his crimes in the roaring twenties.

The Office of War Information has just issued a warning that this specter may appear in his most frightful form if we are not careful. The fat pay envelope is the inflation danger you hear most about. But there is a worse one, namely, a farm land boom. So far, there has been no spectacular rise in farm land prices but a dangerous trend has been discovered in some states and the bureau of agricultural economics is decidedly worried. Here are some figures.

Up 20 Per Cent

As of March 1 of this year, increases in farm land values over those of the previous year were 20 to 24 per cent.

In September, 1941, I wrote in these columns:

"Money to burn! "And the burning question is how to stop the conflagration before it starts. The chief danger is another prairie fire of farm land speculation such as started in Iowa in World War I. . . . Today, two years after the present war started, farm land prices are up 1 per cent. . . ."

Remember, that was written in September, 1941. Well, steps were taken to prevent speculation then and they met with success. However, as we have seen by comparing figures, land prices in some states have now increased considerably. That is natural for much has happened since 1941. In 1942, as the Office of War Information points out, "for the first time in 20 years, the annual average of farm prices reached parity with other prices." Since the outbreak of the war, the average of farm prices has risen more than 90 per cent, and farm income by about 80 per cent while the average prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, has increased about 25 per cent.

Farm income was around 19 billion dollars in 1941—it will be about 22 billion for 1943.

That means, of course, that the farmer has money to spend and it is natural that land values would rise to some degree. As I said, they have gone up as high as 24 per cent in some states and less than 6 per cent in only six states. Those figures, says the bureau of agricultural economics "bear watching"! It is also reported that bankers in some parts of the Middle West believe that in some cases, the land values have risen beyond their real worth based on the long-time earning capacity of the land. That, if it is true, of course means that right now some farmers are buying land that won't pay for itself.

It is reasonable to suppose that they are not members of that unhappy group of 85,000 farm owners who met Old Man Inflation before and who lost their property under foreclosure in the decade that ended in 1939. If they are, they deserve to suffer again. But the unfortunate thing is that when the farmer

loses, the rest of the country does, too. We have struggled through minor industrial panics, as we used to call them, but when the farm goes, it means that things are in such a way that there is no stopping until everybody touches bottom.

Campaign Worked in '41

The article which I wrote in 1941 reported a meeting here in Washington of mortgage bankers, insurance people, farm organization representatives and others who were urged by the Farm Credit administration to make normal appraisals of land. Apparently they did a pretty good job. Meanwhile, an educational campaign was started urging the farmer, instead of rushing out and buying land with the first money he got as income increased, to pay off his debts. It was gratifying to see the results. In the next year (1942) the net reduction of mortgages was 360 million dollars as against an average of 120 million reduction over the three preceding years. Of course, there is nothing Old Man Inflation hates worse than seeing debts paid up.

Another thing which has helped the present situation is the fact that the farmers who are buying land now usually put up a large initial cash payment. In other words, they are avoiding future debts and that is another thing, of course, which is equally unpleasant to Old Man Inflation.

There is nothing to stop the farmer from speculating in land if he wants to, buying on a margin the way the gamblers used to do on the stock exchange. Now such transactions are considerably limited by law but there is no law to keep a farmer from gambling if he doesn't know any better.

'Psychology for The Fighting Man'

I have just been reading a little booklet called "Psychology for the Fighting Man." It is one of those books published primarily for the soldiers, and every soldier able to read, ought to have it. It has 20 chapters, each written by a well-known psychologist or expert in his line. Any chapter can be read separately and they are all highly interesting. Familiarity with them will make any man a better soldier and a better leader. The chapter on mobs is only one. It tells how and why mobs form, what starts a panic and how to stop one.

But here are a few of the other topics I found exceedingly interesting:

Psychology and combat Seeing in the dark Color and camouflage Food and sex as military problems Differences among races and peoples and many others.

Simply-told psychology.

In this war, a man needs all the helps of that kind that he can get for the contrast between army life and civilian life is greater than ever. This book, "Psychology for the Fighting Man," is put out by a non-profit corporation—the Infantry Journal, here in Washington. It costs only a quarter. It is for the soldier, sailor, private or general, ensign or admiral. And it would be a good idea for a lot of next of kin to read this book, too. It might help them to understand what the soldier is up against.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

In addition to the two pairs of shoes issued every American soldier on entering the service, three extra pairs must be available in reserve, and two more pairs in process of manufacture.

Almost 1 1/2 billion rounds of small arms ammunition is being turned out each month. That is seven times as much as the 1918 peak.

The Japanese Domei agency disclosed that Emperor Hirohito had sent a message of "congratulations" to Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, Vichy chief of state, "on the occasion of Bastille day."

Under wartime operation, railroad freight cars must travel about 16 per cent farther on the average haul.

Star Dust STAGE SCREEN RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE Released by Western Newspaper Union.

THE first picture which Katharine Hepburn will make for M-G-M under her new long-term contract will be "Without Love," in which she starred on Broadway last season; it's by Philip Barry, who wrote "The Philadelphia Story." It's one more version of the old, old tale about the young woman who marries with the understanding that the marriage is to be purely one of convenience, and then discovers that she loves the man, after all.

Until about two months ago Dick Haymes was just a chap who sang with a band—Harry James', Benny Goodman's and Tommy Dorsey's, in that order. As vocalist with Dorsey, he'd had a share in "DuBarry Was a Lady," when it was made at Metro last spring. Recently his star began to rise; he had a successful



DICK HAYMES

night club engagement, cut two tremendously successful records, was given stellar billing in the air's "Here's to Romance." He'll probably sign with a major studio before you read this. Somebody at Metro realized that the lad was hot stuff, and ran "DuBarry" for a look at him. Every scene he appeared in had gone to oblivion on the cutting room floor!

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" still heads the list of what New Yorkers are talking about—with the war excepted, of course. The general opinion seems to be that it is by far the best picture that has come along in 1943, worth sitting for nearly three hours to see. You'll enjoy it more if you've read the book, since it had to be changed a bit to conform to the Hays code. But on the whole it is remarkably true to the story. The cast is excellent; it was nothing short of inspiration to give Katina Paxinou the role of "Pilar." The photography, in technicolor, is some of the best that we have seen.

The 350 soldier actors of "This Is the Army" were forbidden by the war department to talk to actresses on the Warner lot while making the picture. Joan Leslie, the leading lady, couldn't understand their indifference to her. They sent a second lieutenant in her dressing room, finally, to say "My men want you to know that by unanimous vote they have chosen you as the motion picture star they'd most like to meet." After that Joan felt better.

RKO Radio announces that stage, radio, night clubs and little theaters have been combed to provide the studio with new film talent having possibilities of stardom. Edward Small, whose pictures are released by United Artists, announces that he has signed Tony Devlin, 16-year-old student of a Los Angeles high school, the first of a list which he hopes to recruit from high schools and colleges for possible motion picture careers. The talent search is on!

A complete file of the London Times for the period of the great blitz of 1940 was received by Warner Bros. for source material for the Ida Lupino-Paul Henreid picture, "In Our Time." One of the issues included an account of the death of Stanley Lupino, Ida's father, who was killed in the blitz. The famous actor was serving as a defense volunteer. Incidentally, you'll hear Ida humming one of her own songs in the picture; paid \$25 for it, she sent the money to the Hollywood Canteen.

About a year ago Russell Wade was picked right out of a group of extras by RKO and given a term contract. He'll be featured in "Ghost Ship."

ODDS AND ENDS—Good standing in a Barry Wood fan club requires the regular purchase of war bonds and stamps. . . . Wallace Beery and Marjorie Main will again be teamed, in a Metro comedy called "Rationing" . . . Johnny Carl's recipe for writing a song hit—"Take a number composed by one of the old masters and decompose it" . . . Despite his Montana background Gary Cooper's no shark at poker; playing it for two days for scenes in "Saratooga Trunk," he tried vainly to draw an inside straight. . . . The War Shipping board's taken "Action in the North Atlantic" for use as a training film.

THINGS for You to Make. Includes an illustration of a rabbit and a squirrel.

TRANSPLANT a bit of the forest to your garden—wood cut-outs of this trio do the trick. The shy baby deer and his friends, the rabbit and squirrel, all come on pattern Z3884. They are to be cut from plywood, wall board or thin lumber with jig, coping or key-hole saw, painted according to directions and placed outdoors to add their bit to the surroundings of your home.

The price of the pattern is 15 cents. Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers. Send your order to:

Order form for AUNT MARTHA patterns, 207W Westport Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Includes fields for Name and Address.

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AGENTS

Men and Women: We want a representative in your community immediately, full or part time. Experience unnecessary. Full time men earning \$50 to \$100 weekly. This is your opportunity for permanent position, where pay is good and work is pleasant and healthful. Write for full particulars, Harrison Nursery Company, York, Neb.

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MISCELLANEOUS

I Make a Liquid Powder for the face that you can't see but it makes you as white as a lily and your skin as soft as a baby's. Will send recipe for making tonic and stamped envelope. MRS. CHANDOS DREW, 1300 No. 26th St., Lincoln, Neb.

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WNU-U 31-43

Kidneys Must Work Well - For You To Feel Well

24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at nights, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended by the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

DOAN'S PILLS

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

NEWSPRINT: The price of newspaper on which newspapers are printed, will be raised \$4 a ton, on September 1 by order of the Office of Price Administration.

BABY CARRIAGES: Baby carriages ("prams") are scarce in England. Women are advised to use them only for airing the baby.

"INVASION" MONEY: Government printing presses are turning out specially designed paper money for use of American servicemen in countries they occupy.

FIGHTING FRENCH: Allied victory will bring about dissolution of the "Fighting French," Gen. Charles de Gaulle stated recently. A liberated France will mean the end of the mission of his organization.