

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Germany Admits 'Grave Situation' As Allies Continue to Advance; Study World Oil Marketing

Released by Western Newspaper Union. (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.)



France—Surprised by sniper while on patrol, U. S. Doughboys make for ditch and prepare to return enemy's fire.

SECOND FRONT: Hedgerow Battle

Beautiful in peace, treacherous in war, the hedgerow fields checker-boarding Normandy's picturesque countryside were the scene of some of the bitterest fighting of World War II, with desperate Nazis using them to conceal their rifles, machine guns and artillery to impede the relentless advance of the American doughboys.

Farther to the east, Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery's British and Canadian forces girded for a large-scale assault against strong concentrations.

Shortly after he had told his son, Capt. Quentin Roosevelt, that "the old machine is pretty well worn out," 56-year-old Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., quietly succumbed to a heart attack in an army tent on the Normandy battlefield, where he had been assistant commanding general of the 4th infantry division.

ions of German armor in the plains below Caen, while enemy units continued to jab into their flanks to unsettle their positions.

As the Allies edged forward in northern France and received a continuing stream of reinforcements, some allegedly direct from the U. S., American and British aviators were swooping down on German communications lines in efforts to disrupt the flow of enemy reserves and supplies to the flaming front.

German Soil

No longer able to maneuver freely on the vast spaces of Russia, and with its back to its own homeland, the German army on the northern sector of the eastern front found itself confronted with the problem of being forced to stand up and fight or allow the Reds to carry the war into their own country.

As the Russian army became the first Allied force to approach the threshold of Germany, bitter fighting continued to rage before the enemy's "Gothic line" in northern Italy, where the Nazis again took advantage of the high mountain country to slow up the Fifth and Eighth armies advance to the rich agricultural and industrial regions beyond.

As the Germans fell back toward their East Prussian border in the north, German propagandists made no bones about the critical situation, declaring that the time had come for the complete industrial and military mobilization of every man in the Reich capable of working or bearing arms.

PACIFIC:

Spotlight Shifts

The spotlight in the ever widening Pacific warfare shifted back to northern New Guinea, where 45,000 desperate Japanese sandwiched between U. S. beachheads all along the coast, repeatedly attempted to break through the iron ring being forged around them.

In the islands farther to the north, U. S. warships and planes continued to pepper the important stepping stones to the Japanese mainland, with Guam below captured Saipan the major target.

Despite the ferocity of their attacks in New Guinea, the position of the Japanese forces was hopeless, with Yanks occupying large patches all along the 600 miles of coastline to their west, and other Allied forces firmly entrenched to their east.

AGRICULTURE:

Bumper Crops

Overcoming machinery and manpower difficulties, U. S. farmers are expected to turn in bumper crops in 1944, the department of agriculture reported, with the wheat harvest anticipated at an all-time high of 1,128,000,000 bushels, 119,000,000 over the former top of 1915.

Prospects were reported good for all grains, with the corn crop expected to approximate 2,960,000,000, the fifth largest in U. S. history. Although near record harvests were predicted for hay, fruits, vegetables and soybeans, and a 20 per cent increase in truck produce for the fresh market is anticipated, the department looks for smaller dry beans and peas, peanuts and potato crops.

Harvested acreage was set at 355,000,000 acres for the 52 principal crops, largest since 1932, and 2 per cent over last year.

Unloading Trouble

Latest problem to arise as a result of the manpower complications resulting from the war, is the unloading of grain cars at wheat markets, with permits needed for shipments from 11 points in the southwest.

With no less than 22,000,000 bushels of wheat standing in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas because of the unloading situation, it was predicted that about six months would be required to move the crops from these states and Colorado instead of the usual 60 to 90 days.

Large crops and insufficient rail cars were said to be contributing factors to the terminal crisis, but, except for bad weather, there is no threat of grain spoiling in the fields.

Rare Twins



In one of the rarest cases in medical annals, Mrs. Frederick D. Smith of East Port Chester, Conn., (in picture) gave birth to twins 11 days apart, with a 4 pound, 12 ounce girl following a 4 pound, 7 1/2 ounce boy.

DRAFT:

Depends on War

Future induction of the over 30 group depends entirely upon the course of the war, Selective Service Director Lewis Hershey declared, in discussing present draft policies calling for the induction of all possible able-bodied men under 26, and all men between 26 and 29 not necessary to an essential industry.

In revealing that there were 4,217,000 4-Fs, selective service officials told a congressional subcommittee that one-third of the U. S. population was physically or mentally unfit, and recommended a program of public clinics tied in with private doctors, to improve civilian health.

In commenting on draft policies, Hershey said that unless the military situation should take unforeseen turns, maintenance of the size of the present army would continue to determine induction calls.

POPULATION:

Big Shifts

As a result of military and civilian migrations in the U. S. between 1940 and 1943, the south and west gained more than 4,000,000 inhabitants while the north-central and north-eastern states lost approximately 2,000,000.

Twenty per cent increases were noted for Arizona, Florida, Nevada and California, with the latter state alone, with its great shipbuilding and aircraft industries, showing a boost of 1,559,135.

Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota lost more than 10 per cent of their populations, but New York showed the greatest numerical decrease, with 620,939.

TURKEYS

So that servicemen will be assured of plenty of turkeys for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's the War Food Administration has ordered that all birds produced and marketed within 24 states and parts of three others, shall be reserved for army and navy purchasing agents until the necessary quantity is obtained. Last year supplies bought 35,000,000 and it is expected that this year they will want even more to satisfy festive, doughboy appetites.

Washington Digest

Cooperation With Mexico Big Boost to Agriculture



Bilateral Exchange of Information, Facilities and Personnel Does Much To Boost Farm Output.

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In a few weeks now, international cooperation will probably be the subject of heated political debate. The opponents of this benevolent concept will, having exhausted other arguments against it, probably end up with the usual statement that "cooperation between nations might be all right in theory but it won't work."

While this controversy is going on up and down the land, a number of scientific gentlemen, who won't lose their jobs if the administration changes here in Washington, and who pester themselves not so much about votes as about pests, will be calmly reading the reports of an international organization which has already proved that it does work.

The Inter-American Conference on Agriculture meeting in Mexico City will have concluded its second session by that time. It is making a lot of progress but preceding it was another meeting: the United States-Mexican commission, reports of whose session have not yet been made to the department of agriculture but interested officials know that when they are made, they will record definite, practical progress.

They know this because they know that this commission has already furthered cooperative projects which have resulted in the saving of many dollars to both the United States and Mexico, to say nothing of promoting good will in each country through mutual assistance. The commission has furnished concrete examples of international cooperation which prove that it is both possible and practical.

Today, more cotton blossoms are unfolding under the Texas sun, more American fruit has the assurance of ripening and fewer cows will perish of tick fever because of Mexican-American cooperation—to mention a few of the many positive achievements attained when wise men sit down together to work toward their common good.

The story of this particular effort really begins in July of 1942 at the first meeting of the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture. At that meeting, energetic Senator Marte Gomez, Mexican minister of agriculture, took Secretary Wickard by the lapel, and said, in effect: "The Americas all have some agricultural interests in common. But Mexico and the United States have many."

New Projects

That started something which was continued by a long correspondence between the two countries furthered by American Ambassador to Mexico Messerschmidt and Secretary Wickard. Plans were laid for merging various projects on which there had already been some cooperation and others which were in the making.

As an illustration, let me mention two projects which are supported by both governments. Carrying out these projects by the department of agriculture has required no extra appropriations from congress. It is merely an extension of already approved programs for getting (gratis) assistance from the Mexicans. In doing it, there has been a bilateral exchange of information, facilities and personnel.

Take the largest project which has to do with the pink boll worm. This story starts in Egypt where the wicked foe of the cotton plant may have been flourishing since the days of the Pharaohs, for all I know. Anyhow, the worm turned up in Mexico in about 1911, having sneaked across the Atlantic from the banks of the Nile in infested seed cotton.

By 1916, the boll-worm family had grown and some of the more ambitious members decided to migrate again. They took wing and flew across the Rio Grande into the United States. Measures were taken against the pest and it never got out of control in the main cotton area. But in the Laguna area in Mexico, it has a firm hold and southern Texas is threatened. Naturally, the United States wants to keep all pests out of the United States and the best thing to do about it is what the Mexicans want most to do—destroy them at the source.

So, American experts from the department of agriculture have taught their Mexican colleagues what we know about eradication: the fall clean up of the infested stalks, the sterilization of seeds before they are shipped out or planted and other measures. We, on the other hand, have had the facilities of an office in Monterey, Mexico, where we are assisted in the study of the life and habits of the pest at first hand and improving our techniques in fighting it.

Another large project is directed against the life, liberty and evil pursuits of the Mexican fruit fly. That insect, flourishing in western Mexico, has not disturbed us as yet but preventive measures are being worked out and the Mexicans have learned to sterilize their own fruit so that it can safely enter the United States.

Mexican Fruit Fly

As a result of the joint efforts and studies, an obliging wasp has been imported from Panama, which likes nothing better (in fact likes nothing else at all) but these fruit flies for breakfast, dinner and supper. The wasp has been introduced into Mexico as a "predator." The meaning of that title, you can figure out for yourself.

Other projects might be mentioned but this is not meant to be a technical article, it is merely the record of one kind of international cooperation which has been made effective with the admixture of a little patience and some wisdom. Great strides have been made in agriculture in Mexico in recent years and side by side with this growing progress and increased efficiency has developed a feeling of mutual confidence on the part of the two nations which have shared their experiences.

Minister Gomez is more than a political appointee. He is a trained agriculturist. Under him are many trained men, a large number who have attended American universities, notably in California. Mexico's department of agriculture employees are far less subject to political whims than formerly.

Mexican agriculture is progressing and turning to the United States for advice and counsel. A veritable parade of Mexican agriculturists passes through the office of P. M. Amlee, of the Latin American division of the bureau of foreign agricultural relations. Most of them speak English. If they can't, they can still pool their experiences, thanks to trained interpreters.

This arrangement is not a war baby. It started before the war and an effort is being made to emphasize the common problems which exist in peace time so that the program will rest on a more permanent foundation. Of course, some of the war time ventures are embraced in the work of the United States-Mexican commission—like the rubber growing projects, but the more profitable, solid and permanent arts of peace are the basis of the whole cooperative program.

War-Time Restrictions

If you think the government's war-time regulations are too severe in this country, look over this list of things you can be prosecuted for in Great Britain these days: Not washing your empty milk bottles (dairies are as short on soap). Trying to cut ahead a line of people waiting for a bus. Throwing a crust of bread into the garbage bin.

Going to the seashore (the south coast of England and sections of the coast elsewhere are military areas). Buying clothes without giving up coupons. (A shopkeeper who tries to sell clothes without coupons is involved in the black market. Soon-er or later, he finds himself in court along with many of his customers.) Being consistently late to work in the morning.

Changing your job (without having the ministry of labor's permission). Driving to work (it is an offense to drive to work along a route served by buses or trains, however crowded they may be).

Throwing away a piece of string (it is needed for salvage). Selling an American lend-leased alarm clock. (Only workers who have to get up between midnight and 5 a. m. are given these permits.)

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

The national tuberculosis control program was set in motion by the new Public Health Service act signed July 3.

The Vichy home radio has broadcast an announcement urgently requesting people who write and speak English very well to apply for positions on the network.

The Japanese Domei agency has informed its clients in occupied East Asia that Germany's air weakness in Europe is truly mysterious. That's putting it mildly.

Five hundred delousing stations are being planned in Romania to combat typhus.

Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

FARM boys seem to get all the breaks, but if you think talent sprouts only amid alfalfa, what about the skipper at Paramount, or the "Beach Boy Who Made Good?" This begins the fourth year for the stocky and genial B. G. De Sylva, better known by his beach monicker "Buddy."

It was a big day for him when the studio gave him a luncheon. As executive producer he also does a bit of producing on his own. He knocked off personally in 1943, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Wake Island," "So Proudly We Hail," "Star Spangled Rhythm," "Dixie,"

"No Time for Love," "Five Graves to Cairo," "True to Life," "The Major and the Minor," "Let's Face It," and "Road to Morocco." He was busy, but he showed up at the luncheon. His speech was brief: "The first three years are the hardest, I hope."

Then he looked worried, and rose. "There's a couple of letters on my desk I've got to answer," he said, and dashed back to the office.

Lets Gable Tell 'Em

That office expresses the De Sylva personality perfectly. It's comfortable, unpretentious, contains two pianos, and is a couple of feet below the floor level.

Over the fireplace is a framed "blow-up" of an excerpt from an interview with Clark Gable, clipped from some newspaper. It goes as follows:

Interviewer—"Glancing down your movie record I note that you have been among the top ten box-office champions for eleven years. That mark is unparalleled in film history. To what do you attribute your amazing record?"

Clark Gable—"Any success I may have achieved is due to M-G-M's wisdom. The studio picks my stories, casts my pictures and selects my directors."

Interviewer—"Without help from you, so help you?"

Clark Gable—"Without help from me."

So when some young upstart walks into Buddy's office all ready to make demands for personal say-so on stories, co-star, director, etc., it's a bit unnerving to have to stand and read that Gable quote.

Nobody knows why De Sylva works so hard, least of all himself. Equally mysterious is why he took the job in the first place. De Sylva was a song-writer, drawing royalties from 500 songs. He had done musical comedies, three running simultaneously on Broadway—"Panama Hattie," "Du Barry Was a Lady," and "Louisiana Purchase."

"I just wanted to see if I could put it over," De Sylva explained.

Likes It That Way

The truth about De Sylva is that he finds film-making an adventure, exciting, and keeps him doing five things at once. It's show business. He ducked into a small neighborhood theater one night and looked at "Oom Paul Kruger," an old German propaganda film that knocked the British. It was interesting, but untrue. He emerged with an idea. Why not do a yarn and tell the truth, tell what was wrong with Germany? The idea crystallized into "The Hitler Gang," well directed by John Farrow.

In making it, De Sylva, the ex-songster, coped with some of the most relentless drama ever filmed. He let himself live for months of agony. The thing had to be true. The scenarioists did the yarn, and turned over the script to five lawyers. Every word, every line, date and incident was checked.

Strides to Main Line

De Sylva was born in New York city, but often forgets it because he has been around Southern California since he was two. He spent a summer at Catalina as a lifeguard. He bought a ukulele, wrote "Avalon," and skidded into a musical career. In a "Vernon Country Club" he sang one of his own pieces, "N'Everything," which Al Jolson sang in "Sinbad." For that song Buddy got \$20,000 and followed it with "I'll Say She Does."

In short, though a comparatively young star, De Sylva has been entertaining America for 28 years. He doesn't want to do anything else.

Now he's about to sign a new contract doing only three pictures a year instead of the 24 he supervised last year. And as he said to me, "It sounds to me like a vacation with pay."

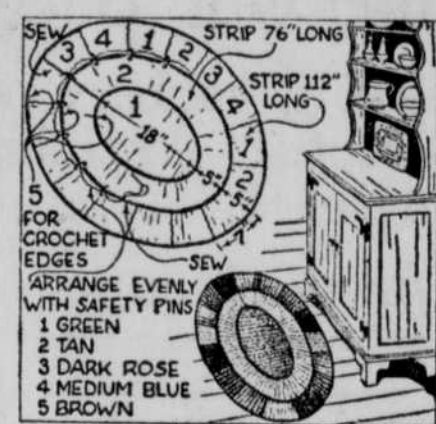
Here's Another Way

When an actor in "Tomorrow the World" said to Director Leslie Fenton, "Look, Fenton, I feel the scene this way—do you mind if I do it that way?" "Sure," said Leslie. "roll 'em." After the take Fenton took the film out of the camera, placed it neatly in a can and gave it to the actor, and said, "Okay, you've had your way. Now let's do it mine."

Marlene Dietrich telling friends she'll go overseas again this summer before making another picture.

ON THE HOME FRONT with RUTH WYETH SPEARS

IF YOU like to knit here is a quick way to turn garments into attractive rugs. Cut or tear the rags into strips three-quarter inch wide. Turn in raw edges and use needles three-eighths inch in diameter. Knit the oval center first. Cast on four stitches and increase one at the end of each row until the depth of the work is four inches, then knit evenly for ten inches. Bind off one stitch at the



end of each row until you have four stitches left. Bind these off.

The diagram gives the dimensions and colors for the bands that are sewn to this center oval. Cast on seven stitches to start each band. For the outside band, start with color three. Knit seven inches, then cut the fabric strip and sew color four to it. Continue. Use a large crochet hook and fabric strips to crochet around the oval and the outside edges of the bands. Sew together with double carpet thread following directions in sketch.

NOTE—This rug is from SEWING Book 4 which also contains complete illustrated directions for a knitted rag rug made in squares, as well as numerous other ways to use odds and ends of things on hand to make home furnishings and gifts. To get a copy of Book 4 send your order and 15 cents to:

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WOMEN IN '40's

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LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S COMPOUND

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

BUSTLES: Something faintly resembling the old-fashioned bustle has made its appearance in the New York fashion shows. It's only a little bulge, it's true, sometimes in the form of a stiff bow, sometimes a series of fishtail ruffles in the center of the back, but it's a legitimate descendant of grandmother's day. So far it has only appeared on afternoon gowns and cocktail suits.

COCOA: The tight situation will soon be relieved by the arrival of 667,000 bags of cocoa beans from Africa. The new Brazilian crop will soon be coming in, dealers say. Recently manufacturers of cocoa products have had to reduce their grand to 70 per cent of the 1941 base quantity for civilian use, but they can now go on a full schedule again because of the new receipts.