

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Smashing Blows Against Axis Mapped By Highest Allied Military Strategists; Wheat Subsidy Payments Established; 4-H Club Congress Marks Record Year

(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.



Left to right: Stalin, FDR and Churchill.

Never had the rumor mills been so busy grinding out stories as in those days preceding the official announcement of the meeting of the heads of state of United States, Russia, Great Britain and China. First semi-official clearance on the announcement came through a story released by Reuters (British news agency) which indicated that these leaders were meeting in the Near East.

Political problems of the final phase of the war in Europe and the subsequent peace were the main topics of discussion. A story out of Stockholm, Sweden, reported that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and President Chiang Kai-shek of China conferred first in the shadows of Egypt's pyramids before proceeding to the discussions with Premier Stalin.

In the first conference the relationship of the three nations to the war in the Far East kept the leaders busy. But when Stalin and his staff entered the picture the more immediate questions concerning Germany's status occupied the spotlight.

COAL: Raised Prices

While southern operators balked at signing the new contract calling for a nine-hour day, with pay for 45 minutes travel time, Stabilization Director Fred Vinson authorized average increases of 17 cents a ton for bituminous and 62 cents a ton for anthracite coal to cover the extra wage costs.

Formulated by Interior Secretary Harold Ickes and United Mine Worker Chieftain John L. Lewis, the new pact was attacked by the southern operators as falling to provide eight hours of production in cases where more than 45 minutes are required for travel. Repeating Ickes said announcement of the new contract was followed by a record output of 12,700,000 tons in one week, tops for 16 years.

Although the price increase on soft coal averages 17 cents a ton, actual costs vary from 10 cents in Alabama, parts of Georgia and Tennessee, and Utah and Montana, to 50 cents in Michigan and California and part of New Mexico.

WHEAT SUBSIDIES: Payments Set

To hold down the price of bread, government agencies moved in two directions, with the Defense Supplies corporation announcing wheat subsidy payments to millers and the OPA establishing flour ceilings.

For all wheat ground in the Pacific coast area, the DFS will pay 14 cents a bushel. Outside of the Pacific region, 16 cents per bushel will be paid on hard wheat, 5 1/2 cents a bushel on soft wheat, and 6 cents a bushel on durum wheat.

As a basis for payment, DFS announced that millers must subtract the current market prices for wheat from the price used by OPA in figuring flour ceilings. Payments will be made to millers each month, with disbursements based on the rate in effect at the time the flour is sold.

Flour Ceilings

Under new OPA regulation, maximum prices were established for all kinds of wheat flour on the millers' level, with the family product ranging from \$3.70 a hundred pounds in western Colorado to \$5.23 in North Carolina.

Prices on hard wheat flour are highest in the Middle West producing section, with Iowa's ceilings on low and high protein output \$3.31 and \$3.38 per hundred pounds; Illinois, Wisconsin and northern Michigan, \$3.34 and \$3.54, plus a proportional rail rate from Minneapolis.

Delivered prices on cake flour and other soft wheat bakery flour milled in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin or Iowa were set at \$3.67 and \$3.77 a hundred pounds, plus the rail rate from Spokane.

In other states, prices vary from \$4 to \$4.90 for cake flour, and \$3.10 and \$4.31 for soft wheat bakery flour.

RUSSIA:

Keep Ukrainian Grip

Holding their grip on the western Ukraine, German forces struck back at the Russians to retake the vital rail hub of Korosten in their slow drive on Kiev.

Capture of Korosten gave the Germans their second important communications point in the region, the rail center of Zhitomir having previously fallen. Both centers are situated on Russia's last north-south rail line, and also command lines running west into prewar Poland.

As the Germans increased their pressure on the rich rural province of Kiev which they have always fancied, they pulled their lines in to the north, approximately 300,000 Nazis reportedly retiring from Gomel. As they fell back, the Red: tried futilely to seal off their escape corridor.

In the Crimea which commands the Black Sea, the Axis were reported withdrawing Rumanian troops, thousands already having been evacuated.

CIVILIAN SUPPLIES: Picture Brightening

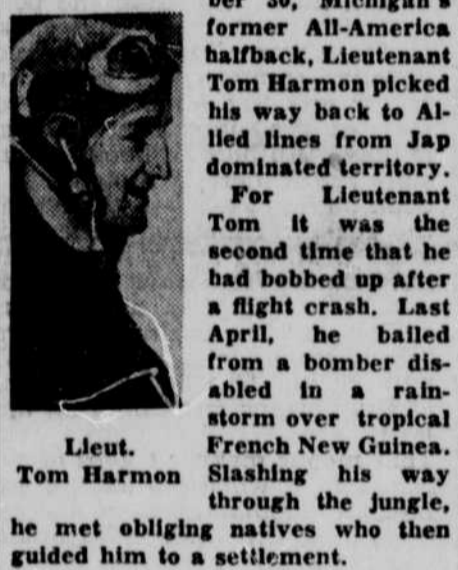
In a move which is deemed as protection against shortages of materials essential to the prosecution of the war, the army put huge stocks of surplus materials on sale, while the office of civilian requirements granted repair men larger allocations of metals.

Issuance of catalogs to guide manufacturers in bidding for the goods reveals that sales will include a variety of items ranging from hammers to buckles.

From the 830th army air force specialized depot in Memphis, Tenn., catalogs listed such salable material as fuel pumps, refueling funnels, drain cans, lubricators, manual and hydraulic jacks, and precision tools for carpenters, plumbers and machinists.

Under the office of civilian requirements ruling, electricians, plumbers, blacksmiths, radio, upholstery and farm machinery repair shops are permitted to buy up to 20 tons of carbon and alloy steel, 500 pounds of copper and brass products, and 200 pounds of aluminum in certain forms. Once scarcer than a hen's tooth, copper wire will be available for limited use.

Lost on a dive-bombing attack on a Yangtze river port in China October 30, Michigan's former All-American halfback, Lieutenant Tom Harmon picked his way back to Allied lines from Jap dominated territory.



Leut. Tom Harmon

For Lieutenant Tom it was the second time that he had bobbed up after a flight crash. Last April, he bailed from a bomber disabled in a rain-storm over tropical French New Guinea. Slashing his way through the jungle, he met obliging natives who then guided him to a settlement.

CANADA: To Resettle Vets

To give its returning soldiers the opportunity to get into productive enterprise after the war, the Canadian government will spend upwards of 400 million dollars to buy land and chattels to resell to vets at 53 per cent of total cost.

Under the Canadian Land Veterans act, maximum cost of land and buildings is \$4,800 and of chattels \$1,200. Of the \$6,000 outlay, the vet will subscribe a minimum of \$480, or 10 per cent of the cost of land and buildings, then pays off the balance of \$3,200, or two-thirds of the cost of land and buildings, at 3 1/2 per cent interest.

Designed to accommodate 100,000 vets, plans call for confining full time farm operations to experienced hands, with other kinds of tradesmen allowed to purchase small homes with acreage outside of urban areas at a cost of \$2,500 to \$4,000.

WORLD RELIEF: U. S. Takes Lead

To the U. S. will go the lion's share of providing funds for the 2 1/2 billion dollar United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation administration program adopted in meetings at Atlantic City, N. J.

Aim of the UNRRA under General Director Herbert Lehman of the U. S., is to feed and clothe the impoverished masses in countries wrested from the Axis; resettle people shifted to other localities by the Axis in their native lands, and to offer means for reconstructing farms and industry.

With unoccupied countries figured to contribute 1 per cent of their national income for the UNRRA work, the U. S. will advance approximately 1 1/2 billion dollars; the United Kingdom, about \$20 million dollars; and Canada 90 million dollars.

LEND-LEASE

Up to August 31, 1943, Australia has contributed goods and services valued at over a quarter billion dollars in reverse lend-lease to the United States. Much of this repayment is in form of food for U. S. soldiers stationed in and around Australia. A total of 146,298 tons of food and eight million clothing items were provided.

Other lend-lease goods included technical equipment, trucks, aircraft supplies, and communications supplies.

Washington Digest

Today's Battlefield Victims Get Speedy, Effective Care



Blood Plasma, Sulfonamides and Organization of Medical Services Insure Prompt Treatment of Wounded Men.

By BAUKHAGE
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A young reserve officer friend of mine came up to say goodbye to me a year and a half ago. He flattered me by asking for my advice before he went into active service.

I knew he wanted to see action. He had refused a desk job in Washington. I knew he wanted to do the job and get home to his wife and babies.

So I said: "Hope for a light wound and you'll hope for the best." Of course, nobody would try to follow such advice but my friend got the wound (and a medal for bravery too) and now he's back in civvies again.

He doesn't like what the Jap bullet did to his leg for he'll play no more tennis or handball but his wife has a live, if lame, husband and his children have something beside a picture and a piece of ribbon to call "daddy."

When I gave that sage advice, I didn't know how smart I was.

"The wounded soldier in this global war, though he is exposed to almost every health hazard known to man, still has a better chance of surviving and returning safely home than ever before," says Maj. Gen. Norman Kirk, surgeon-general of the army.

The general gave three reasons: first, the use of blood plasma to avoid shock and hemorrhage; second, the use of sulfonamides to combat infection; and third, the mobility and organization of the medical services which insure prompt and efficient medical and surgical treatment.

The Reasons

I heard of widespread use of blood plasma first in the Spanish Civil war and imagine much valuable experience was gained from that conflict. We know it was a proving ground for Nazi and Fascist killing and undoubtedly the Allies profited by the efforts in life-saving as well.

The use of sulfa drugs is one of the great blessings which modern chemistry has given us. Recently I stood in one of the plants of the Monsanto Chemical company in St. Louis, Mo., letting the soft, healing powder drip through my fingers. Before me, in a space hardly 25 feet square, was a collection of small kegs containing this wonderful anti-septic. There was enough within my easy reach to serve the whole Sicilian campaign, they told me. Each soldier has his packet and fills his wound with it. It stymies the germs until natural processes annihilate them.

The mobility of the medical units has been described in many dispatches and you have all seen photographs of the flying hospitals, the great air transports with their equipment and nurses. The wounded are rapidly returned to bases where they get the best of care. Treatment on naval vessels is equally effective.

It must be understood that the drugs and the plasma in themselves are not cure-alls. They are not even cures in many cases. They are preventatives. They are what you "do with" until the doctor comes—more accurately, until you come to the doctor. Surgery is necessary in the cases of most wounds.

Capt. W. M. Craig, chief of surgery at the Naval Medical center, Bethesda, Md., just outside of Washington, puts it succinctly:

"In the last war, when a man's head was cut open by a shell fragment," says Captain Craig, "the surgeon had to operate at once, even though the patient was in such a weakened condition that he hadn't one chance in a hundred to survive the operation. The surgeon had no other choice; he knew if he waited, infection would set in and that would be the end. In this war it is different; the patient is given blood plasma treatment to build him up, sulfa to check infection, and if his condition permits, he is flown to a hospital in the rear where the operation is performed under ideal conditions."

Short Time Lag

In the last war, all wounded had to have a powerful injection, a most painful thing to endure, and nowhere

near as effective as modern treatment.

The army estimates that 80 to 90 per cent of the wounded get first-aid treatment within an hour of being wounded. Ships are well equipped, the larger ones as well as a hospital. The man with a not too serious wound, and that is by far the majority of cases (amputations are included), has a splendid chance for recovery and a resumption of his natural existence in civil life when he is discharged.

In two categories this war has been harsher than any preceding. There is a greater proportion of killed in action to wounded. Also the mental casualties are higher in the present war.

Careful efforts have been made to screen out those showing characteristics indicating they are unable to stand up under the mental strain of modern warfare. More might have been held out of service if the psychiatrists had been able to carry out their plans. They would have been able to do so if there had been as thorough an understanding of that branch of medical science as there will be after the war. And because of that fact, more of the mental cases will be restored to normal.

The reason for the increased number of mental cases is variously explained: our troops have endured longer periods of offensive action than in the last war; the increased fury of modern warfare; the domination of the machine, and also, to some degree, the complications of civilian life which encourage neurotic conditions.

The science of warfare has moved forward with seven-league boots. Killing has become a mass production affair. But along with the chariot of Mars, Mercury has advanced on winged feet and the healing arts have progressed to the point where for those who escape the scythe of the grim reaper there is a strong, helping hand along the road back.

Crowned Heads Prove Headaches

After the last war, some poetically minded writer penned an editorial which had wide circulation entitled: "The Twilight of the Kings." Many a throne had tumbled as a result of that last conflict, names that were written large in history, faded until they were less than memories—Hohenzollern, Hapsburg, Romanoff, not to mention a host of lesser majesties.

But some who survived are today problems of the United Nations, lend-lease, famine, frontiers, land-lease, airways and a thousand other annoying questions that must be settled when peace comes. Of course, kings are not to be shrugged away lightly. Some of America's best friends are kings. But there are crowned heads who are bound to be headaches for the uncrowned brows of the statesmen who have to put the world together again.

There is the House of Savoy, for instance. The king of Italy has been a problem. So are Balkan potentates in exile or in cahoots with Hitler.

About King Carol

One most romantic monarch who is likewise exceedingly dynamic is ex-King Carol of Rumania. Recently, I received a communication from him. It looked like a telegram but it was not that intimate—it was mimeographed. It contained a statement of some kind, I have forgotten the exact nature of it.

But the other day, its source was revealed when a certain publicity organization registered with the department of justice as all organizations representing foreign elements must. It developed that Carol had arranged to try to encourage the good will of Americans by hiring this agent for \$35,000 (ten grand down, the rest in easy payments) to express Carol's views, all to be democratic and pro-Ally.

But the interesting implication is that one of the jobs of the press agent is to remove the "ex" from the title "ex-king" which seems to have attached itself to Madame Lupescu's husband.

And there is a roll-back which only the temerity of an American press agent would grapple with!

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

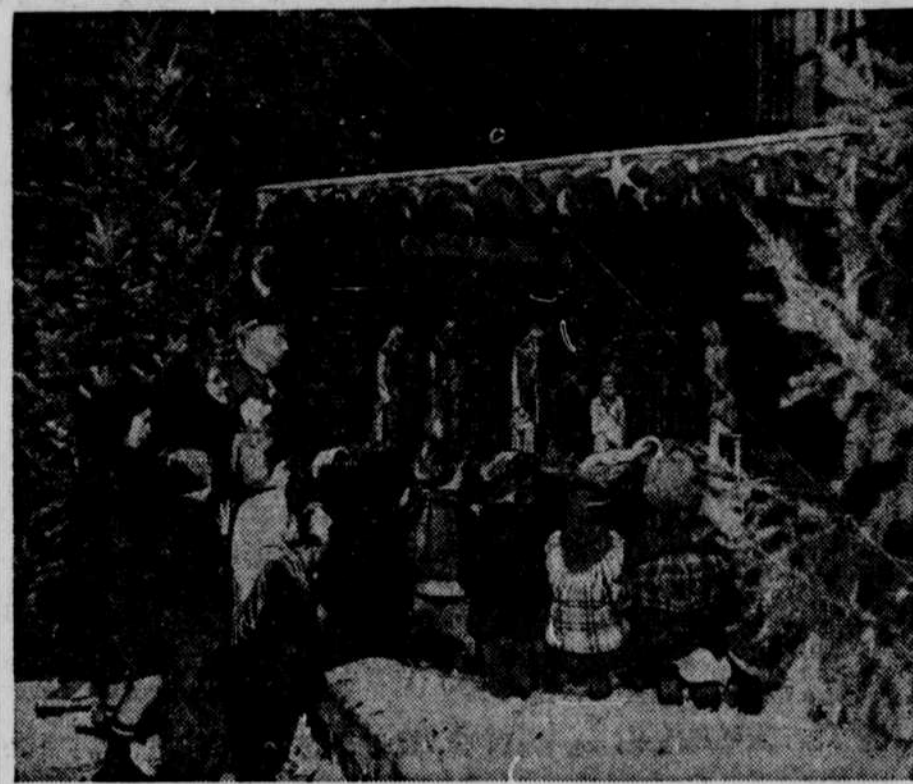
Season's Greetings, accompanied by a check, have been mailed by the Santa Fe railway to its more than 8,000 employees, who are stationed in this country or throughout the world.

The national income produced in the United States in September was the highest monthly figure on record. It amounted to \$12,536,000,000.

Black market operations in occupied France have reached the point where color shades are being used to distinguish reasonable from unreasonable illegal trade.

The American people have been asked by the Office of War Utilities to confine Christmas lighting decorations to Christmas trees inside private homes.

Crib Traditional Christmas Mark in Southern Europe



The Christmas Crib is as traditionally a part of Christmas in southern Europe as is the Christmas tree in the northern countries. In France, it is the Creche—or Cradle; in Italy, the Praesepe—or Manger; in Germany, Krippe or Crib; in Czechoslovakia, Jeslicky; and in Spain, the Nacimiento—or Nativity Scene.

From the earliest years of Christianity priests and religious leaders interpreted the Bible by literal representation of plays, tableaux, etc., because of the lack of books and widespread inability to read. However, the first Crib was set up in 1223 by St. Francis Assisi.

St. Francis received special permission from the Pope to erect his "Praesepe" in the village of Greccio, near Assisi. This first Crib was an immediate sensation. Set up in a stable, it was complete with live animals, etc. Greccio became famous for its Crib and miraculous cures were attributed to the provender of the animals.

One of the most famous Crib in the world was built by the Capuchin monks, the shrine of the Madonna delle Grazie, situated in a grotto and surrounded by galleries of Sardinian cork giving a mountainous effect. Wooden figures, carved by the noted artists Gaggini and Magragni, were arranged to move in procession to the Manger. Other celebrated Crib include the one at Caserta, Italy, where the most famous

amous Bambino in the world is annually laid in the Manger amid traditional pomp and solemnity, and the Krippe at Oberammergau, where the figure of the Christ-Child has been a possession of the Lange family for many generations.

During the Renaissance the presentation of the Crib became increasingly elaborate. The figures were more realistic and richly dressed, the devotional shrines and processions becoming highly ornate pageants.

Later, Naples was famed as the city of Crib. Every church had its "Praesepe" and families erected evergreen shrines on the flat rooftops of their dwellings, the background being dominated by Vesuvius and the beautiful starlit Neapolitan sky.

Charming Yule Legend Tells Story Of Village's First Christmas Candle

At Christmas, millions of little candles suddenly spring into being all over it seems—on Christmas trees, on so many of our Christmas cards, in the shop windows and in our homes. In these days of fluorescent and neon lighting the candles often take on the form of a 25-watt bulb—nevertheless, they definitely contribute just the right touch of reverence and gaiety to the holiday season.

True, the custom of lighting candles in remembrance of the Star of Bethlehem claims deep religious significance. But Christmas has also come to be a children's festival, and wherever there are children there is legend weaving.

And there is a charming legend that long, long ago in Austria, there lived an old shoemaker in a little cottage on the edge of a village. Although this humble man had very little, whether for himself or to share with others, his goodness of heart was such that each evening he placed in his window a lighted candle as a sign of welcome to weary travelers who might be asking shelter.

War came to the village and famine, yet the little light never wavered. Each night it took its place to send forth its beam as a message of cheer to forlorn wayfarers.

It was wintertime and the suffering was acute. Great hardships came. Sons died in battle. Animals starved for want of grain. Yet always, somehow the old shoemaker suffered less than others. It was almost as though there were a splendid charm upon him. At last the peasants gathered together and said: "Surely there is something different about him that he is spared. What does he do that we do not do? Perhaps it is his little candle. Let us, too, place lights in our windows."

And the day the peasants took counsel was the day before Christmas, and the first night the candles were set to burn in all the windows was Christmas Eve.

When morning came it was as though a miracle had happened. A soft mantle of snow covered the village like a gentle blessing, but there was something more—a new air of peace and hope. And before the sun had cast its first bright gleam on the spire of the village church there came a messenger riding to bring the great, glad news of peace. The church bells chimed and the people knelt in prayer and there was a feeling of Christmas glory such as there had not been in many years.

The peasants were awed. "It was the candles," they whispered. "They have guided the Christ Child to our doorsteps. We must never again fail to light candles on His Birthday."

From such a long ago beginning this beautiful custom has become very dear to our hearts. So dear in fact that year after year we light our candles on Christmas Eve, and year after year, the holiday greeting cards we exchange with our friends and loved ones carry the proud motif of the Christmas candle. And this year the candles will still burn bright, their light sending forth hope and cheer for the peaceful world that soon must come.

There are scores of other legends surrounding the widespread use of candles at Christmas time—and all of them have a simple beauty which appeals to children and adults alike. The stories are told in every language.

'Yule' Is Ancient Word

Yule, as another name for the Christmas season, is of great antiquity and its actual derivation is still a matter of dispute. Some philologists hold to the theory that the term is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "hweol" (wheel). They believe the wheel is related to the erroneous primitive conception of the circular path described by the sun during its annual journey around the earth.

Irish Light Candle to Guide Christ Child

An old Irish legend tells that sometimes on Christmas Eve Mary and the Christ Child wander abroad seeking shelter. Fearful lest they might seek in vain, as they did in Bethlehem long ago, a lighted candle is placed in every window to guide them to a place of refuge. These are left burning through the night, gleaming into the darkness, guiding any wanderer.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

JEEPS: The first used jeeps have been purchased by a Chicago second-hand truck dealer. He obtained 16 of the sturdy little cars by putting in his order early. He intends to resell them, asking that customers pledge to buy at least a thousand dollars' worth of war bonds per jeep. Seven have already been sold, involving pledges to purchase some \$50,000 worth of bonds.

WHISKY: Liquor commissions of Oregon and Washington—two states that sell spirituous liquors through state-operated stores—have been unable to purchase a stock of whisky lately. The two commissions decided to buy two Kentucky distilleries. The whisky will be bottled in Kentucky. Each state will obtain about 500,000 cases during the next 18 months.