

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Russ Announce Finnish Peace Terms; Jap Defense Posts Crumble in Pacific; Allied Bombers Hit Fortress Europe, Blast Nazi War Plants, Installations

(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.)
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Russia—German troops are shown moving back from eastern front in thick, Russian mud. (See: Russia.)

EUROPE: Pound Plane Plants

Thousands of Allied bombers roared over Hitler's vaunted Fortress Europe striking at Nazi war industries and defense installations while U. S. and British troops slugged it out with the Germans below Rome.

In an effort to cripple Nazi resistance to second-front operations and hammering of European industry, the Allies' big heavies continued to pound at German fighter-plane factories, while squads of lighter bombers darted over the English channel to paste at the enemy's network of defense works in southern France.

At the Anzio beachhead below Rome, Allied troops traded stiff blows with German armored forces punching at the northern and western edges of the U. S. and British positions, while both sides brought up reinforcements for the mountain fighting around Cassino.

SOLDIER VOTE: Consider Compromise

Congressional wrangling over the soldier vote resulted in the offer of a compromise proposal under which men and women in the service could use the blank federal ballot with only the name of the party designated if the governor of their state certifies its use.

Before any service personnel could use the federal ballot, however, they must swear that they tried to obtain an absentee ballot from their state by October 1.

Proposed by Representatives LeCompte (Iowa) and Bonner (N. C.), the compromise sought to reconcile those who insist on the states' rights to supervise election laws and others who declare that because of difficult battle conditions a simple ballot should be provided.

RUSSIA: Finnish Terms

As it was reported that the Finns were prepared to move as many as 1,500,000 people to Sweden if peace negotiations with Russia fail, Moscow publicly announced its terms to Finland.

Terms included: 1. Internment of German troops and ships in Finland; 2. Restoration of boundaries of the 1940 peace; 3. Return of Allied prisoners; 4. Discussion of partial demobilization of Finnish army; 5. Discussion of Finnish reparations for war damages; and 6. Discussion of control over northern Finnish territory.

As Russo-Finnish peace talk stepped in tempo, the Red army continued its drive westward toward the Baltic states of Estonia and Latvia.

U. S. Aid

With its great industrial centers of Stalingrad, Kharkov, and Stalino, etc., laid in rubble and its vast agricultural belts overrun, Russia's dependence upon the U. S. for continuing effective resistance against Germany was glimpsed in figures released on American aid to the Reds.

Since 1941, lend-lease assistance to Russia included: 7,800 planes; 4,700 tanks and tank destroyers; 170,000 trucks; 35,000 jeeps; 25,000 other vehicles, and 177,000 tons of explosives. Other assistance: 2,250,000 tons of food; 6,000,000 pairs of boots; 9,000 tons of seeds; 1,350,000 tons of steel; 384,000 tons of aluminum and other metal; 740,000 tons of oil and gasoline; 145,000 tons of refinery equipment, and tire-making machinery with 1,000,000 ton capacity.

DRAFT: Review Deferments

Because inductions are falling behind schedule and impending offensives require a maximum of men, President Roosevelt called upon the national selective service system to review 5,000,000 agricultural and industrial deferments in its files, with special attention focused on 550,000 childless men under 26 on farms and 380,000 such men in defense plants.

After the President's call upon selective service for a review of deferments, a special medical commission appointed by congressional action reported that the services could not lower physical standards to draw on 4-F's without impairing their combat efficiency, and reexamination of 3,357,000 present 4-F's would make no more than 250,000 available for induction.

Answering the commission's report that selective service would have to turn to family men or other available sources to meet induction quotas, Chairman Andrew J. May of the house military affairs committee said the army "should lower its physical requirements . . . and quit rejecting men because of illiteracy."

PACIFIC: Sever Jap Link

Slowly but surely the Japs' defensive outpost position in the Pacific is crumbling, with U. S. naval and air forces softening enemy island forts under terrific bombardment and ground troops moving in to take over.

Latest move was Gen. Douglas MacArthur's invasion of the Admiralty islands, lying to the northeast of New Britain and the Solomons and described as important Jap stations on their supply route to 100,000 of their embattled troops in these areas, already ringed in from the east, south and west by U. S., Aussie and New Zealand forces.

Reviewing the steady U. S. march westward toward the main Jap bastions, Admiral William Halsey said: "We bomb and strafe their strongholds at will . . . Our surface ships roam through their territory, bombarding and sinking their ships without reprisal . . . We can and are licking them because we are more civilized, have more guns, better soldiers and better equipment . . ."

SOUTH AMERICA: Trouble Brewing

Even as political boss Col. Juan Peron was being sworn in as Argentina's minister of war by President Edelmiro J. Farrell, a Socialist deputy told the Uruguayan parliament that certain elements presumably within Argentina and Brazil "were intensifying alarming preparations for a clash . . ."

Ultra pronominalist, Peron's military party affirmed its intention of promoting relations with all friendly powers, after it had ousted ex-President Pedro Ramirez from office following indications that it might declare war on the Axis.

Pleading for hemispheric unity, the Uruguayan deputy declared: "Without any justification, an atmosphere of war between sister nations is being prepared which may be the origin of an American catastrophe . . ."



Col. Peron

MORE MEAT: Ease Rationing

With production of meat at federally inspected plants reported at 1,665,000,000 pounds for February and with storage plants bulging with meat stocks, civilians' share of the huge supply was increased by OPA's reduction of point values for pork and beef.

Because of the valuation of all stamps at ten points and the use of ration tokens, OPA figured that housewives will be able to buy about 8 per cent more meat in March and April.

As OPA announced the point cuts, the nation's stockyards reported the second lowest cattle receipts since last July, with predictions that the smaller volume will be felt in consumer channels in coming months. Hog receipts went into their usual seasonal decline.

FARM WAGES: Face Stabilization

Because of heavy bidding for available agricultural labor, farm wages may be frozen in many states during 1944, especially for truck gardening, W. T. Ham of the War Food Administration's wage stabilization division declared.

Although wage ceilings only were established in California and Florida during 1943 when citrus and asparagus growers competed frantically for pickers, piece work wages paid in other areas tended to draw employees from canneries to the field.

"This year labor will be scarcer and wages will tend to rise on the farm," Ham said. "Growers will be eager to prevent the wages rising beyond reason, and it will be important to keep the farms from robbing the canneries of their help and also from pirating one another's employees. I think wage limitations will be imposed in many states."

CIO: Red, Lewis Says

Organizer and chief of the CIO before pulling out of it because of differences over political policies, United Mine Worker Boss John L. Lewis declared communists were in control of the CIO's membership.

Said Lewis, whose UMW recently applied for readmittance into the AFL after bolting the CIO: "When I was organizing the CIO we picked up a lot of communists . . . as we grew . . . But I had not left . . ."



Hillman, Lewis and Murray in happier days.

the CIO in 1940 . . . the communists would have been weeded out . . . long before now. Instead . . . Philip Murray (CIO chairman) is today the prisoner of the communists . . . through their seats on his executive committee . . . Sidney Hillman (head of the CIO political action committee) is just as badly off . . ."

Answering big John L.'s charges Murray retorted that he was "neither a prisoner of Lewisism nor communism."

BURMA: Break Trap

Trapped for three weeks by Japanese units attacking from all sides, the fifth and seventh Indian divisions finally were relieved by Allied counterattacks as heavy fighting continued in Burma.

As Admiral Louis Mountbatten's Southeast Asia forces thrust through the dense mountainous jungle along the eastern Burmese border, gains were recorded in the north, where Chinese troops under command of U. S. Gen. Joseph Stilwell fought to open a supply road to Chungking.

By relieving the Indian divisions, the Allies held their footing along the Ngaykedaw pass, gateway to southern Burma from India.

U. S. JAPS: Demand Rights

Restoration of their rights as citizens and equal opportunity for service and advancement in the military forces were demanded by Jap-Americans of the Granada, Colo., internment camp.

Asking that they be accorded their constitutional privileges, the Jap-Americans demanded that they be allowed to travel and live wherever they choose, with any resettlement policy including adequate government protection and financial aid.

The government also was asked to help distinguish the difference between loyal Jap-Americans and the people of the Japanese empire.

TRUCKS

By April or May production of trucks for commercial use should be in high gear, a survey of Detroit companies reveals. More than 2,600 units for commercial use were made in January, and it is estimated that 3,000 were turned out in February.

One big manufacturer stated that he had to produce 12,000 units for a lend-lease contract. Another plant located in Cleveland reported that it built 385 trucks in February for civilian use and that this would be increased to 600 by May.

Washington Digest

Allied Command Aided By French Underground

Quarter of Million Men in France Said to Be Ready, Anxious and Able to Bear Arms Against Germans.



By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

"Arms are what we want, arms, arms, arms!" My companion leaned across the table and pounded it with Gallic fervor, his black eyes flashing.

It was our first meeting for more than a year, and I knew that those eyes fixed on me so earnestly had met the light of the desert sun, for he had fought with the Free French forces under De Gaulle in Africa and had had many an adventure serving his country abroad before he returned for this visit to his temporary home.

"We have a quarter of a million men in the French underground, ready, willing, able and anxious to bear arms—only one out of 20 of those has a single firearm, and that means that while 12 men can harass the German forces, as they are doing every day and every night, despite their inadequate help from the outside, 228 others must sit, twiddling their thumbs. They are getting very tired of waiting but their ennui would leave them if firearms could be put in their hands. If America will provide them, we will guarantee to get them into France, we will guarantee to transport them and distribute them."

It is very difficult to write of that shadowy world, the European underground, for even the few scraps of information which one might piece together make a dangerous pattern which might bring swift enemy reprisal.

There is no question about the efficiency and the effectiveness of this silent army in France, in all the occupied countries for that matter. There is no question about the fact that through it flows a steady stream of information out of the heart of the enemy territory right back to the Allied high commands.

Today two-thirds of the Creusot factories, once the makers of the famous French 75s, long a vital source of the German arms supply, have been put out of commission by a group of loyal Frenchmen, according to a story that is now current in Washington.

Few Involved

They did it at very little expense, few men were involved, and not a single civilian life was lost. They did it by blowing up a key dam and thus cutting off the electric power from the plant. At least three expensive Allied air raids, long and carefully planned, had failed to destroy this dam.

Not long ago, word came to another group of these French guerrillas that a German munition train was about to move over a certain stretch of track. The bolts were removed and the rails spread. Then came the word that ahead of the munition train was a passenger train. Immediately men were sent out to flag the passenger train and order it to slow down while other men worked feverishly to put back the bolts. The passenger train went on safely. Once more, the bolts were withdrawn and before long, the munition train was a wrecked and smoking mass. No French civilian had been injured.

Less dramatic is the thankless and difficult task which the French National Committee of Liberation has before it, attempting to work out with the provisional assembly, the machinery for administering the areas of France as they are liberated by the Allied armies. The committee must labor in an atmosphere of deliberation and enforced delay which the mood of the underground finds it hard to grasp.

The members of the French National Committee of Liberation, with headquarters in Algiers, have gradually achieved more and more authority under the Allies. There have been many obstacles to overcome and the French, of course, feel that they have not been given the free hand which they desired and deserved. However, within recent weeks, it has been evident that the Allies are changing their ultra-conservative policy and it is now taken for granted that representatives of this committee, and later the provisional assembly, which meets in Africa, and which is made up of persons representing various groups in France, will be given the responsibilities of administering the re-

occupied French territory as it is liberated, piece by piece; also of creating the machinery for the final plebiscite which will decide the permanent government.

Great Difficulties

The committee itself works under great difficulties. Many of the members are utterly inexperienced in politics and they have responsibilities much greater than a normal governmental body would have. They must serve as an administrative agency, they must serve as a quasi-legislative body, and they must likewise plan regulations governing procedure in the interim between liberation of France and the time when a free election is held.

The recent meeting of the assembly (February 29) began the long and complicated consideration of the plans for the provisional government. One typical plan suggested can now be described in some detail although, of course, it is likely to be modified as a result of the discussion in the coming weeks and months, and in its application thereafter.

It covers, roughly, two phases. First, is partial liberation.

Just as soon as the Allies have taken over a portion of France and the military organization moves forward, the French committee would be placed in charge under this plan. Immediately municipal officers would be selected, councils for each municipality. When an entire province has been taken over, each municipal council already functioning would select delegates to the assembly now existing in Algiers. There are, at present, about 110 members of this assembly, composed of Frenchmen who have been selected by the underground organizations, by political organizations and by labor and other groups, and have been smuggled into Africa. They would be joined, or perhaps substituted by, the newly elected delegates chosen by the municipal groups of each province. There would be approximately one for each 100,000 inhabitants.

Finally, the day comes when Allied troops march down the Champs Elysees and across the Seine to the Place du Palais Bourbon. Then the ancient building, which housed the chamber of deputies of the Third Republic, will open its doors to the new assembly. By this time, it will probably represent at least two-thirds of France.

Second Step

Now the second step of the plan, now considered, will be taken. The assembly will have reached, depending on the populations liberated, some 400 members.

Then the provisional government (I use the word "government" in the European sense; we would call it the "cabinet" with an executive head) would be chosen by the assembly. The national committee would cease to be the executive body but would assist the assembly, under this chosen government, to work out the plan for the general election which would decide upon the form of government which France would have.

However, this election could not be held at once for the thousands upon thousands of Frenchmen taken from their homes for forced labor in Germany and elsewhere would have to be repatriated first.

Every attempt is now being made to carry out the preliminary plans for procedures in the spirit, if not exactly in accordance with the letter of the French constitution and law. There are, however, many practical difficulties which arise. Take the question of woman suffrage. Under the French constitution, women are not permitted to vote. However, at present, with most of the men away in the army or as deportees in Germany, the women make up the majority of the population. Therefore, it would be desirable for them to cast the ballot in order to get a true representative opinion of any locality.

Meanwhile, the cry of the loyal Frenchman, in and out of his country, is for arms and ammunition, dynamite and the other tools of sabotage and demolition with which they believe they can vitally disrupt communications and assist the invasion.



If Land Needs Boron It Shows in Alfalfa

Yellowing Leaves Is Usual Danger Sign

It is just as important to have a sufficient supply of available boron in the soil as it is to have nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrient elements, although only an extremely small amount of boron is required for normal plant development, according to C. H. Stinson and E. E. DeTurk of the University of Illinois.

Of the common farm crops, legumes require more boron than do grain or grass crops and thus are more sensitive to a deficiency in the soil than are the latter.

Symptoms of boron shortage are more frequently observed in alfalfa than in other legume crops. They include a shortening of the upper internodes and the appearance at the uppermost nodes (joints) of lateral shoots that frequently extend beyond the tip of the central shoot, producing a rosette effect. In advanced stages, the terminal bud may be dead. Yellowing or reddening of the leaves is generally, but not always, present.

Boron is usually applied as borax, which is one of the common water softeners used in the household. It contains 11 per cent boron. Alfalfa growers who have observed symptoms suspected of resulting from boron deficiency may first try fertilizing a small plot in the field with borax for one or more years at the rate of 25 pounds to the acre. A 20-ounce box of borax that can be bought in a grocery store will provide enough boron for an area two rods wide and four rods long. It can be spread conveniently with a hand-horn seeder. If used at rates greater than 25 to 35 pounds an acre borax may injure or even kill the alfalfa.



A dozen dried whole eggs are packed in this little box, 3 1/2 inches by 2 1/2 inches, for export, principally to England. Each package, after being tightly sealed, is dipped in wax to protect the contents from deterioration.

Eleven-Acre 'Hothouse'

Yields 6 Crops a Year

Mr. David Lowe, who lives near Edinburgh, has a gardening project said to be unique in the United Kingdom. To sum it up, Mr. Lowe has 11 acres underlain with steam pipes and covered a foot or so above the surface, with glass panes set in frames. By shooting steam into the ground once a year, he "boils" the soil, killing all weeds. Each acre gets 100 tons of fertilizer and decomposed straw a year. He gets from six to eight crops a year—a fantastic yield of lettuce, turnips, carrots, cauliflower, leek, onions, beans, and a lot of other things. In the short summer the glass is removed and the plants watered with warm water from overhead sprinklers. It is said his crops grow together in "wild joy." It sounds like it. Mr. Lowe appears to have raised the old hothouse and forcing bed to its highest efficiency. It must cost money, but the Lowes of the Edinburgh country have never been in business strictly for fun. His scheme seems likely to stir up almost as much excitement as our own Mr. Ed Faulkner provoked by his recent campaign against the moldboard plow. Maybe Mr. Lowe and Mr. Faulkner could get together on a project to feed tomorrow's world.

Rural Briefs

Before milking, wash udders with warm water containing 200 to 400 parts of chlorine per million.

If a cow develops mastitis, have the infected quarter treated and dried off completely.

One acre of the 1943 wheat crop produced enough flour for 1,054 loaves of white bread.

RUB FOR COLD MISERY
Spread Penetro on throat, chest, back—cover with warm flannel—eases muscular aches, pains, coughs. Breathed-in vapors comfort irritated nasal membranes. Outside, warms like plaster. Modern medication in a base containing old-fashioned mutton suet, only 25c, double supply 35c. Get Penetro.

Effect of Noise
Sound-conditioning studies show that noise causing only a 5 per cent decrease in the output of manual workers will cause a 30 per cent decrease in the efficiency of executives.



PLANT FERRY'S SEEDS

Help the Good Earth produce to its greatest capacity by planting Ferry's Seeds. On display at your local dealers.

FERRY-MORSE SEED CO.
SAN FRANCISCO DETROIT

Solomon's Temple
Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem was reputedly constructed of cedars from Lebanon.

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

More than 25 American automotive companies are making military vehicles for United States soldiers and our Allies—and they have first call on tires and other rubber items.

Forty thousand additional miles have been obtained from individual tires in use at Camp Stoneman because of the tire-saving campaign in force there since rubber became scarce. No tricks—just plain tire care and recapping at the right time.

An 875-pound electric magnet attached to an electric truck "sweeps" the floors of a munitions factory of steel litter and serves the double purpose of salvaging metal and preventing tire punctures.

In war or peace



Italy's Size
Modern Italy has an area only slightly greater than that of the state of Nevada.



AT FIRST SIGN OF A GOLD USE 666
666 TABLETS. SALVE. NOSE DROPS

ADD YOUR BIT!



Turn in your scrap iron, rubber, rags and waste fats to produce that needed part for gun, tank, plane, ship or ammunition!

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

SPEEDBOATS: Speeds of more than 200 miles per hour will be possible for speedboats after the war, Gar Wood, noted boat racer and designer, believes. New and lighter metals, more powerful engines, and streamlining will accomplish these remarkable speeds, Wood said. The present record, which he holds, is 125 miles per hour set in 1932 with Miss America X.

VITAMINS: Because of mounting demands, preparations of vitamin A have been placed under allocation to insure equitable distribution. The present rate of consumption will soon eat into the reserves.

IRON ORE: What is termed the "greatest known mass of hard iron ore in the world" in Caue peak in Brazil, will soon be yielding iron for American and British factories.