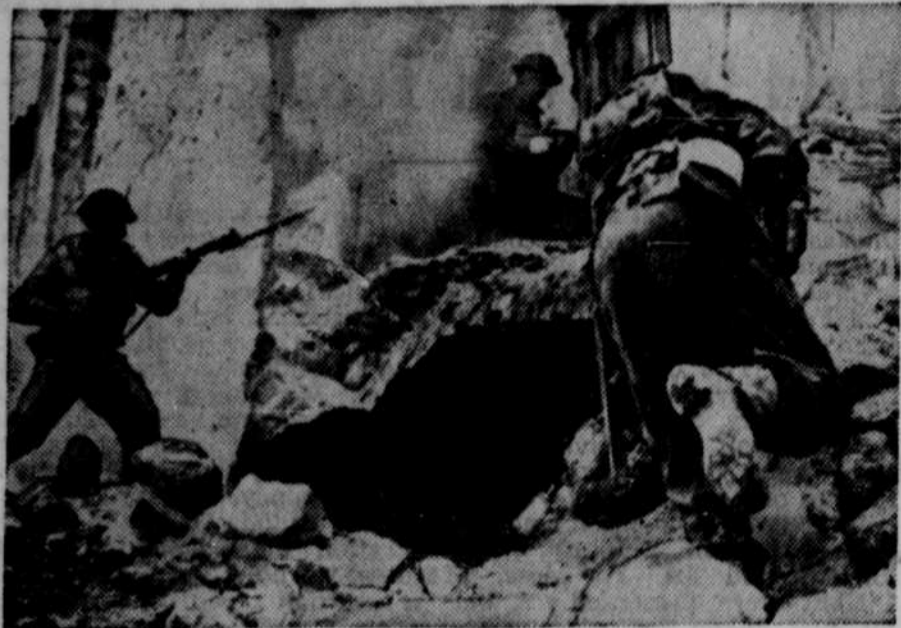


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Russian Blitz Clears Crimea Path as Allied Bombers Pound Western Europe; 'Stop Aiding Nazis' Neutrals Warned; Japs Press 3-Pronged Drive in India

(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.)  
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Italy—New Zealand troops close on German sniper in Cassino ruins.

EUROPE: Invasion Path

While Russia's land armies carried the war into the Balkans, Allied bombers continued pounding Axis military and industrial installations throughout Fortress Europe, concentrating on the invasion path in the west.

As the Russians stormed into Rumania, other Red forces drove ahead in the Crimea, huge chunks of land thrust into the Black sea and guarding the water route to the eastern Balkans. As the Russians approached the Rumanian rail junction of Jassi, they encountered stiffening resistance from native troops, fighting by the side of German soldiers, strengthened by shorter defense lines.

In continuing their whirlwind assaults to smoothen an invasion path, Allied bombers struck at airfields, railroad junctions and military defenses throughout the French and Belgium area. Far to the southeast, U. S. bombers based in Italy hammered Nazi airplane factories in the Vienna and Budapest regions. In ground fighting below Rome, both sides were reported making extensive troop movements in preparation for a resumption of bitter fighting.

Warn Neutrals

Having suspended oil shipments to Spain and announced restriction of steamship service to Ireland, Great Britain and the U. S. next demanded termination of Sweden's ball-bearing trade with Germany in a determined campaign to halt the neutral countries' commerce with Axis Europe.

At the same time, it was announced that the Allies would look into Turkey's increased chrome shipments to Germany during the last three months, with a view toward limiting the traffic through a curtailment of our own trade with the Turks, whose lend-lease aid already has been cut down.

In hearing the Allies' demands, the Swedes said they were in no position to comply without breaking their formal agreement with Germany, which, they said, the Allies approved last September. Although there was objection to the ball-bearing shipments, Sweden's iron ore deliveries to the Nazis were not emphasized.

WOOL: Big Stocks

With an all-high stock of foreign and U. S. wool, the Commodity Credit Corporation was directed to go into the market to support the 1944 domestic clip estimated at 450,000,000 pounds.

Whereas U. S. stocks stand at record levels today, there were prospects of serious shortages when the Japs launched their South Pacific drive, threatening the Australian and New Zealand producing areas. Approximately 400,000,000 pounds of foreign wool is now owned by this country, with the Defense Supplies Corporation holding 330,000,000 pounds and dealers and manufacturers the rest. At the same time, 550,000,000 pounds, is being held in this country for British account.

Because the U. S. clip sells about 18 cents a pound above foreign wool, the CCC has encountered difficulty disposing of the domestic stock, although the army now specifies its use in purchases and about 10 per cent of navy orders are expected to call for it.

PACIFIC: India Threatened

With their backs against the rugged slopes of the Naga hills in central India, British and Indian troops fought desperately against persistent Japanese attempts to cut off their supply lines and entrap them in a huge pocket.

While the British and Indians were locked in their death struggle, U. S. bombers operated over a wide range in the Pacific, blasting Japanese installations in the Kurile Islands, strung out to the north of Nippon, and plastering enemy bases on New Guinea, as part of the grand strategy to wipe out their strongholds on this flank of the Philippines.

In India, the Japs' continuing three-pronged drive pressed against British and Indian supply routes running both north and south and also to the west to the Assam-Bengal railroad, used to feed Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell's American and Chinese troops clearing a communications highway in northern Burma to China.

INDUSTRY: Postwar Reserves

Looking forward toward the problems of postwar readjustment, U. S. industry has set aside hundreds of millions of dollars out of profits for switching back to civilian production, rebuilding plants or providing lay-off payments to workers during the period of change.

To meet the emergency, United States Steel company has established a nest egg of \$104,153,557; General Motors, \$76,051,805; General Electric, \$73,562,337; E. I. Du Pont, \$31,613,430; Sears, Roebuck, \$28,500,000; United Aircraft, \$28,004,464; International Harvester, \$20,000,000; Goodyear Tire and Rubber company, \$15,462,912; Borden company, \$11,305,185; National Dairy Products, \$10,000,000, and General Foods, \$4,492,712.

Since such reserves cannot be taken out of income before taxes like deductions for depreciation, debt retirement and depletion, they must be put aside out of industry's profits.

Economic Protection

To prevent a repetition of the widespread bankruptcies and foreclosures which followed World War I, the Commodity Credit Corporation is empowered to make loans at 90 per cent of parity on basic crops for two years after the end of hostilities, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes declared.

While outlining the protection for farmers, Byrnes also proposed to help labor laid off from slackening war industries, through a system of federal unemployment benefits to be paid in addition to regular state payments. To relieve the problem of future unemployment, Byrnes suggested that workers be shifted from lagging war plants to busier ones now while jobs were available.

Byrnes advocated legislation for quick settlement of cancelled war contracts to aid industry in the re-conversion to civilian production, and he also called for congressional action to facilitate the orderly disposal of surplus war goods without disruption of regular markets.

WHEAT: Good Prospects

Because of improved prospects as a result of a recent rainfall, the U. S. Department of Agriculture predicted a winter wheat crop of 601,759,000 bushels for 1944, 72,153,000 more than 1943 production.

Based on official returns, the domestic supplies of wheat for 1944-'45 were estimated at 1,130,000,000 bushels, compared with last year's 1,440,000,000 bushels.

Although moisture deficiency in western Kansas and the adjoining wheat sections in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado was offset by rainfall, Nebraska was reported in need of precipitation.

U. S. ACES: 'Rick' Topped

To army air force Captains Richard I. Bong of Poplar, Wis., and Don S. Gentile of Piqua, Ohio, went the honor of breaking Capt. Eddie Rick-enbacker's famed record of shooting down 26 enemy aircraft, established in World War I.

Operating in the South Pacific in a Lightning fighter with the portrait of his fiancée, Marjorie Vattendahl of Superior, Wis., painted on the nose, Captain Bong was credited with destroying his 27th enemy craft in the air on April 12.

Previously, Captain Gentile had been credited with bagging 30 enemy planes in Europe, but seven of them were shot up on the ground. During World War I, Captain Rick-enbacker's total of 26 included five observation balloons, so that Captain Bong paced the field in the number actually knocked out in sky fights.

Of all of war's experiences, few were as harrowing as Sgt. James A. Raley's, who was trapped in the tail section of a Flying Fortress when it broke off from the rest of the plane during a bombing mission and fell 19,000 feet down to earth.



Sgt. Raley.

When the tail section finally landed miraculously on a tree top, the 27-year-old sergeant from Henderson, Ky., emerged with only a slight cut on the chin.

POLITICS: FDR, Dewey Lead

With the Democratic and Republican conventions still two months off, the candidacies of President Roosevelt and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, N. Y., have picked up steam as a result of the popular favor shown them in the selection of nominating delegates.

As of April 12, 46 delegates were openly pledged for the President and 157 others claimed for him, for a total of 203 out of 236 already picked. At the same date, 25 delegates stood pledged to Dewey and 123 others were claimed for him, for a total of 148 out of 356 selected.

While the President polled a large vote in the Nebraska preferential primary, big highlight was the heavy write-in vote Dewey obtained.

U. S. NAVY: Plan Bigger Growth

To provide for the heavy fighting ahead, congress was asked to pass a naval appropriations bill of \$32,647,000,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

By July of 1945, the navy will have 10,244 self-propelled ships, 74,925 other craft, including landing vessels, and 37,735 airplanes.

Also by July of 1945, naval personnel is expected to reach 3,657,000 officers and men, including women. Biggest planned expansion is for the marine corps to a total of 478,000.

LABOR: Hit Power Politics

Asserting that territorial and frontier problems of Europe should be settled by popular vote of the affected people, the American Federation of Labor's Vice President, Matthew Woll, assailed Soviet Russia's alleged alteration of the continent in defiance of principles of the United Nations.

Taking his place beside Woll, David Dubinsky, president of the AFL's International Garment Workers Union, deplored the development of policies designed to divide the world up into spheres of influences, in which the big nations would dominate militarily and politically.

Decrying the proposal to compensate Poland for the loss of territory to Russia by giving her part of eastern Germany, Dubinsky declared: "... This means that Poland, or what remains of her, will remain a center of bitter and constant struggle — a football for the powers."

BLACK MARKET GAS

So extensive has the black market in gasoline become that it is imperiling the whole civilian motor fuel program, Petroleum Administrator Ickes warned. He said that more than 2,500,000 gallons a day is sold through illicit channels, with counterfeit coupons one of the most widely used means of evasion.

The most hopeful possibility for an increase in the allowance to civilian drivers is through the crushing of the nationwide illegal traffic in gasoline, Mr. Ickes declared.

Washington Digest

Egg Glut Calls Attention To School-Lunch Question

House of Representatives Decides Against Spending Taxpayers' Money on Food for School Children After July 1.

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

You have often heard the lament when guests came and the larder was bare: "If we only had some ham and had some eggs, we could have ham and eggs."

If we had the man power and the machinery, equipment and distribution, we could step up American food production until, by 1954, we could feed 380 million people. That is what the Department of Agriculture says. Last year, we raised enough to feed 170 million.

Today, Washington is worrying over two problems brought into focus by that little "if."

This time we have over-production of one food product: eggs. Government agents are hurrying around trying to find a means of absorbing them. America has more eggs than were ever laid on these fair shores in our history, enough to have rolled some on the White House lawn on Easter Monday if the President had permitted such a wastage, which he wouldn't.

The government is buying eggs right and left (600 thousand cases of shell eggs, 13 million pounds of powdered eggs since January 1) to support the farmer's price, and giving some away — and here is where problem number two, which I said Washington was worrying about, comes in. We are giving away eggs to state and federal institutions and also for school lunches. After July 1, school lunches, supported by the federal government, will be no more if the senate follows the action of the house and refuses the appropriation for that purpose. And regardless of eggs, there is developing the other situation over which certain people in Washington are worried. I'll go into that later, but first, let us look at the egg glut.

We are told that we could feed a lot more people if we had the man power, equipment and machinery to produce the food. In the case of eggs, we could consume far more if we had the man power to run the drying equipment to produce the powdered eggs for the military forces and lend-lease although those institutions now consume 400 million pounds of egg-powder a year, and eggs run about three dozen to one pound of powder.

About Hen Power

In this case, the man power doesn't match the hen power. A contraption called a cyclone drier dries eggs. All you have to do is to crack the egg and drop it into a container and let the artificial breeze blow, but it's hard to get crackers. One Kansas City drier who has a wage ceiling of 50 cents an hour for his crackers, has to compete with an airplane plant in the neighborhood which has a 50 cents an hour ceiling, for work no less attractive to young ladies than breaking eggs.

Right now, the country boasts the biggest hen population it ever had and egg production is 80 per cent higher than it was just before the war. Ever since March, something has gotten into the hens that has made them step up their production — feed was supposed to be hard to get so it couldn't have been something they ate. Maybe it's just patriotism. Anyhow, the War Food Administration is buying all the eggs it can, and now it is giving eggs to schools for school lunches and to state and federal institutions, not entirely because it has a generous heart but because it wants to support the price to the farmer who (as usual) hasn't been getting the benefit of the retail prices which, in many places, have stayed up even in the face of the greater supply.

Washington, however, was able to buy eggs for the Easter rabbit this year, 18 cents a dozen cheaper than they were in March.

This egg glut has brought into sharp focus the school-lunch question which is of considerable concern to the Office of Education as well as the War Food Administration.

The present laying spree of the hens will not last forever, and there will be no eggs to throw around later on. And anyhow, the house of representatives has decided that even if there were a surplus of eggs and other food products, it does not approve of spending the taxpayers' money on school lunches even if

the four or five million school children won't get hot lunches after July 1 of this year.

Not all the parents of all of the four or five millions of school children are taxpayers. In fact, the truth is that many of them are too poor to buy a decent, or in some cases any, lunch for their children. The richer ones who can afford a lunch will have to be satisfied with a cold one and the chances are they won't get nearly as healthy a one as if it were provided by a school where parent-teacher and other groups have seen to it that a balanced diet is provided.

Educators Worried

This worries the Office of Education which is still working on congress to get an appropriation through to continue the school lunch idea.

School lunches started as "made work" back in the days of depression and the WPA. The original idea was to provide employment for women. But as the idea developed, it was discovered that here was an opportunity to do two things; to improve the health of school children and to absorb farm surpluses.

So the WPA furnished the woman power and some equipment and the Department of Agriculture furnished the food. For awhile, the department took the actual responsibility of buying the food and delivering it. Later, when the WPA went out of business, and in many cases local sponsors took care of the service, the Department of Agriculture merely contributed a certain amount of money (nine cents per child, matched by nine cents from the local community). This came out of funds provided for the purchase of surplus commodities and the school bought the food itself.

The proponents of the school lunch point out that on the principle that as a twig is bent the tree is inclined, furnishing a balanced lunch to school children will build good eating habits which will affect the whole community. It also points out that now that so many schools, especially in rural areas, have been consolidated with one school and bus service drawing children from many distant places, children can't go home to get a good hot lunch. Many can't afford to bring food with them.

Of course, the community ought to look after this question itself and in most communities great interest has been shown and local authorities have cooperated. But in the poorer communities which have the greatest need, it is impossible, and even in the richer locations it isn't easy, to get money for things pertaining to the schools — as school teachers' salaries all over the country testify.

News From London

The London Daily Mail sets up a little special edition for the United States—a digest. It is photographed in London on microfilm, flown over to this country, enlarged to a four to six page brochure, about the size of ordinary typewritten sheets.

I do not know how large a circulation it has obtained so far or whether it is achieving its purpose of mutual understanding but it often contains some rather interesting items. For instance:

John Henry Jones, a 40-year-old steel smelter, came to America with other British trade unionists to visit our war factories. The Daily Mail quotes his reply to one of his wife's questions when he got back: "How about wages? Is the American worker really better off than the British worker?" And this is what Mr. Jones replied:

"Taking a chap with the same size house, same number of children, doing the same job as his counterpart over here — No. Our house here would cost \$18 a month clear, in rent. A similar house in the States would run away with \$30 a month."

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Gasoline needs in this war are 80 times greater than in the last one, according to the U. S. Petroleum Administration for War.

Since Dunkirk, more than 14,000,000 food packages have been sent by or through the British Red Cross to British prisoners of war in Europe, the British Information services report.

Fifty per cent of the outdoor advertising space in the city of Madrid must be reserved for the use of Spain's totalitarian party to present messages of the Falangists.

One million fewer work accidents in the next 12 months is the goal set by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins for attainment by American labor and management.



Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

DAME MAY WHITTY'S like a spring tonic. She should be "taken" regularly three times a day by all the women in the world. If by so doing they could capture even a part of her vitality and great courage it would be more than worth their while to make a textbook of her life.

A definite threat to Hollywood's glamour girls ever since she arrived, the gay little actress, who has chalked up some 70-odd years of living, is the center of attraction wherever she goes. Her background deals not only with folk of the stage and screen but with brilliant political figures as well. Some day it will be told in a book written by her daughter, the well known stage director and Shakespearean authority, Margaret Webster, who is carrying on the family tradition as established by her actress mother and actor father, Ben Webster.

Dame May has brushed shoulders and opinions with newsworthy headlines, from princes to presidents, for the past decades. Her "political career," if you can call it that, dates back to a London party given by Mabel Terry, niece of the famous stage star Ellen Terry. Women's suffrage was just beginning to take form, and the conversation began drifting toward the suffragets.

Goodness Gracious!

"How," went the general trend of talk, "could women lose their self-respect to such an extent? Where was their pride? Of what were they thinking?"

It was at this point that Dame May Whitty began to think, deeply and sanely. The more she thought the more she agreed with the movement. Suddenly she found herself defending the group.

"Why, I actually think you are a suffraget," Mabel Terry remarked with surprise.

"I believe I am," answered Dame May.

This marked a turning point in her life. From that moment she began coupling her make-believe life on the stage with the real business of fighting for a cause. She doesn't regret this decision, either. She feels woman's suffrage was prompted by courage and idealism and quotes H. W. Nevinson, who said, "It was the greatest spiritual movement I ever saw."

Miss Debutante's Career

Shirley Temple has had more of hers since "Since You Went Away," but she's being kept right on her own home lot and will co-star with Ginger Rogers and Joe Cotten in "Double Furlough," in which she'll have her first love scenes. At least first on the screen. . . .



Shirley Temple George Murphy, Pat O'Brien and Carole Landis will do "Having Wonderful Crime," at RKO with Eddie Sutherland. Yes, they'll have a wonderful time, too. Eddie's that kind of a director. This is the third straight picture Murphy's done at RKO.

Green Light for Movies

Comdr. William Chambliss of the United States navy has written "Boomerang" — fiction based on facts. The facts will not be known until the story comes out in the S. E. P. after which it will be done as a picture by 20th, with Louis De Rochemont producing, and probably Dana Andrews in the star part. . . . Alexander Knox, who's just finished "Woodrow Wilson," leaves for his native land, Canada, and its army camps. Knox doesn't depend upon our writers; he's whipped up his own material. . . . Ethel Barrymore's play for the Theater Guild come fall is Franz Werfel's "Embezzled Heaven."

Still at It

Fanny Brice and Jimmy Durante do an act together for "Ziegfeld Follies." Maybe to teach youngsters how it's done, or bring back memories to oldsters who've been watching them do it for years. . . . Columbia's working on "Glamour for Sale," with Hugh Herbert in charge of beauty. It's to be a musical. Already Ina Ray Hutton and her band have been signed for it. It isn't star glamour in the studio, but concerns a lady on the street.

As She Wrote It

Preston Sturges telling about time his mother wrote a daily beauty column for a London paper. She got \$25 weekly. It supported three of them. Preston didn't think her grammar was good enough, and suggested rewriting it, but her husband screamed, "Hey! We've gotta eat, haven't we? If they like it, why shouldn't we?" . . . Which reminds me, that rugged individualist Lloyd Lewis once wrote about beauty, too. But Lillian Russell's name was signed to it.



If you know a Navy man, don't ever call him a "gob"—sailors consider the name an insult. You can get on the right side of him though if you offer him a Camel—or better yet, send him a carton. Camels are the favorite cigarette with men in the Navy (Army, Marines, Coast Guard, too, for that matter) based on actual sales records from the service men's stores. And though there are Post Office restrictions on packages to overseas Army men, you can still send Camels to soldiers in the U. S., and to men in the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard wherever they are.—Adv.

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HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

**EGGS:** Another record in egg production was turned in by America's hard-working hens during March, the third consecutive month of all-time highs. There were 6,763,000,000 eggs laid last month, 4 per cent above March last year and 49 per cent over the ten-year average, 1933-42. Number of laying hens increased 5 per cent from March, 1943, to 433,985,000.

**MIDGET FURNACE:** A tiny furnace, weighing only 21 pounds, may be sufficient to heat a 20-room house, if a new type of heating unit now used only in military aircraft can be applied to homes. The little furnaces would be only about the size of a waste basket and would cost about \$50. Demonstration models have given encouraging results it was said.