WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS-

U.S. Navy Blasts Japan's Fleet But Enemy Refuses Showdown; Allies Push Forward in Europe

(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.)



Pacific-Circle indicates scene of big naval battle in which U. S Teet clashed with strong Jap forces.

EUROPE: Last Stand

As U. S. Doughboys closed on the

big French port of Cherbourg at the tip of the Cotentin peninsula about 75 miles from Britain, desperate German defenders acting on Field Marshal von Rundstedt's orders to resist to the last man, put up a bloody last-ditch fight, demolishing the harbor facilities to prevent their immediate use when the town fell. As the Yanks pressed in on Cher-

bourg, other Allied forces along the 100-mile-wide beachhead continued to probe deeper inland, meeting up with stiff Nazi counterattacks designed to curtail their advances.

Fleets of Allied bombers roared over the battle area, hitting at Nazi strong points and aiming at enemy reenforcements moving up to the front. Ramps in the Calais region | Saipan island in the inner ring of from which the Germans were the Japs' defense system, the Fifth launching their rocket bombs for at- naval force under command of London, remained under heavy fire | brave challenge to the enemy fleet | Conflicting Plans

Other Fronts

Russians reportedly launched a tinuing action. large-scale offensive against the Germans' big bulge on the north end positions guarding the northern tor of the island.

forces, the Reds reportedly struck at German forces massed to retain the Nazis' last great foothold on Russian territory, even while they were continuing their drive through tiny. tottering Finland from the southwest and east. Not only would the direction of the new big offensive point Red armies toward Warsaw and Berlin, but it would also serve to whittle down a potential Nazi springboard for an encirclement attack against Russian forces to the south.

In Italy, Allied forces moved ahead after eliminating pockets of stubborn German rear guards, putting up a desperate delaying action to permit the bulk of the Nazi forces to retire behind the new defense

BILL OF RIGHTS: For Gls

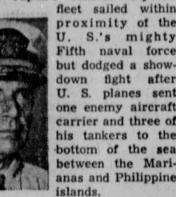
Estimated to cost from 3 to 6 billion dollars, congress passed and the President signed the so-called "bill of rights" for vets of World War II, designed to avoid the hardships suffered by soldiers of World War I upon their demobilization.

Under the "bill of rights," vets will be entitled to an unemployment compensation of \$20 a week for 52 weeks during the first two years after the war, if unable to find suitable work. Also available will be at least one year of schooling for vets whose education was interrupted by the war, with the government providing \$500 for tuition and \$50 monthly for subsistence, plus \$25 for

For vets seeking to buy or repair farms or homes or establish small | ties are scarce, Marshall said. businesses, the government will guarantee 50 per cent of the loan in Europe and the shipments of food up to a maximum of \$2,000, with overseas, there will be no need for interest at 4 per cent and the the stockpiling of commodities. Maramount repayable in 20 years. The veterans' administration also is serves, present food stocks should authorized to spend one-half billion | provide a large part of the needs of to provide hospital facilities for the liberated people, who will have to care of returning servicemen.

PACIFIC: Japs Run Out

Venturing forth from its home waters, Japan's boasted imperial fleet sailed within



U. S.'s mighty Fifth naval force but dodged a showdown fight after U. S. planes sent one enemy aircraft carrier and three of his tankers to the bottom of the sea between the Marianas and Philippine Plowing boldly

into the foe's home waters to support U. S. marine and ground troops in their assault on Adm. Raymond Spruance offered close to its major bases, but the Nips broke off the engagement after suffering loss of 373 planes besides On other European fronts, the the four ships in two days of con-

Meanwhile, U. S. ground forces met bitter opposition on Saipan, of the 1,200-mile eastern battle line, about 1,500 miles from the Japawhile Allied troops chased the Nazis | nese homeland, as they fought to exup the Italian peninsula to prepared | tend their hold on the central sec-

Using strong tank and infantry | OPA:

Vote Extension

By agreeing to allow revisions in ceilings of major textile items to reflect parity prices on cotton, senate and house conferences paved the way for extension of OPA to June, 1945. The nation's farm bloc scored another victory in the act's provision that the President take all lawful action to assure parity on cotton, corn, wheat, rice and tobacco.

Whittling down a maze of amendments to the act, the conferees did provide for some changes in OPA, including:

1. Filing of protests against OPA regulations:

2. Adjustment of rent ceilings where they are higher or lewer than the prevailing standards, or if landlords' costs or taxes have increased substantially;

3. Permission for retailers to carry higher priced goods in certain lines than they did in the prewar

FOOD:

Postwar Stocks

In order to avoid the glut of 1919, the government's surplus stocks of foods will be released through normal trade channels after the war. M. Lee Marshall, War Food administration director of distribution,

Although original vendors would be given the opportunity to repurchase food stocks, WFA will only accept fair bids and sell in areas where particular types of commodi-

With the termination of the war shall said. Coupled with military reeat while being rehabilitated.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

P.O.W. STRIKE: German war | prisoners have refused to work in because their pay basis has been beginning of the year, the departchanged. Formerly they received ment of commerce reports. While volving a canning company. 80 cents a day flat rate. This has in sections shortages of manpower been changed to a piece work rate exist, the overall picture of the naof 80 cents for each quarter acre | tion is a downward movement in thinned. Lieut. Col. Clyde Dempster | factory employment, the report |

EMPLOYMENT: A decline of 100,000 workers per month in war beet fields near Scotts Bluff, Neb., plants has been the trend since the said disciplinary action would be went on. In nonwar jobs, employtaken if the men continued on strike. | ment will remain the same.

CONGRESS: Spends Less

For the first time since the war broke out, congressional appropriations will fall below the 100 billion dollar mark for the fiscal year starting July 1.

Because of the completion of capital outlays and the large stockpile of war materials, Chairman Cannon (Mo.) of the house appropriations committee estimated provision of 66 months, including approximately 51/2 billion dollars for such items as financing the national debt.

Following Pearl Harbor, congress appropriated 147 billion dollars, and then supplied 114 billion dollars for the next year. Declaring congressional appropriations "definitely have passed the hump," Chairman Cannon said they would continue on the down-grade, regardless of war developments.

AGRICULTURE:

Release Trucks

To help in the harvest of this year's big wheat crop, surplus used army trucks will be made available to farmers and haulers through the medium of county AAA offices.

Because of the limited supply of trucks, however, only a small percentage in proportion to actual demand will be available, and the vehicles will be allotted only on the basis of the most critical need.

After certification of an application by the AAA, dealers will then purchase the trucks from the U.S. treasury's regional procurement office at an appraised price, and sell to the farmer or hauler at or below

SURPLUS GOODS:

Overseas Disposal

Treated as a valuable national asset, U. S. surplus goods overseas should be disposed of in foreign countries with the aim of realizing the highest possible profit, a business advisory committee established by the government said.

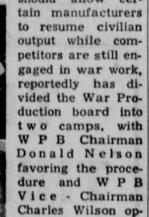
Although keeping one eye cocked on postwar trade, the committee advocated the disposal of surplus industrial equipment, observing that the sooner the devastated countries can be restored to production, the sooner they will cease to be candidates for relief.

In cases of low bids for surplus materials, sales might be made on the condition that the foreign purchasers will buy other new equipment from this country, the committee counselled.

RECONVERSION:

The question of whether policy

on the reconversion of industry from a war to a peacetime basis should allow cer-



posing it.

ing restrictions on use of materials for civilian production in areas with Donald Nelson labor surpluses. Charles Wilson Nelson declared that the withholding

In recently relax-

of civilian production until all companies might return to such work would result in regimentation of industry for a prolonged period.

On the other hand, Wilson reportedly contends that manufacturers allowed to resume civilian production before others would enjoy a jump in the market on war contractors, who would virtually be penalized for their efficiency in fulfilling government orders.

WHISKY:

May Ban Corn

Although distillers' facilities have been released from the production of industrial alcohol for war purposes during August, the prospect arose that they would be unable to use corn in the manufacture of whisky during the month because of the War Food administration's opposition in view of the tight feed

Because of this opposition, distillers may be compelled to use wheat, rye and possibly Carribean molasses, it was reported, with restrictions even on wheat.

With farmers already having turned in close to 65,000,000 bushels of corn to the government for processing uses despite the tight feed situation existing, the WFA promised that none of the grain would be diverted to alcohol.

PATENTS

"Distinct patent rights should not be granted for the sole purpose of handicapping future inventors whose discoveries would not otherwise infringe the complete patent," ruled the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in a case in-

A concurring judge stated that the decision will "require considerable reexamination-if not readjustment -of patent office practices and procedures, especially with respect to subcombination claims."

Washington Digest

Allied Show of Power Affects Enemy Morale

billion dollars for the impending 12 Robot Plane Attacks Used to Bolster Home-Front Spirits Following First Invasion Landings.

> By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

> > friends; perhaps he is even

quiet-faced fellow wearing

swastika, heiling Hitler with

"overhears all conversations."

"He learns," says a nervous

Nazi warning, which I cannot

identify further, translation of

a week ago, that there is only

one German soldier to every

500 meters along the eastern

front (I have been told by a

Colonel) that the Americans

will attack with a hundred thou-

sand aircraft steered by remote

control methods (yes, certainly,

our charwoman's nephew who

works in the secret department

in the Reich air ministry says

so). . . ." and so the trans-

lation runs, revealing the state

No wonder that when the Ger-

man "secret weapons," the

pilotless bombers, were sent

over London the German propa-

ganda fairly shrieked its tri-

umph from every housetop in

an effort to off-set the grim news

for Herr Goebbels, at almost

that very moment the most

powerful air weapon ever

created, the B-29, was making

the longest flight on record to

strike at the heart of Japan's

chief war industry. That, un-

doubtedly, had its repercussions

What is the state of nerves in Ber-

lin, where, according to a corre-

the invasion. Unfortunately

of Nazi nerves.

in Germany.

ruins. . . ."

No Complaints, Please

revelation of what they are doing be

made which might reveal some-

"Talk about how well we are fed,"

the writer begs, "say that the Ger-

man people get more bread, butter

and milk than ever before, that

everybody still gets fresh white

bread and even occasionally eggs

Obviously this is directed to a

people utterly discouraged by minds

equally desperate. From another

source, which I cannot identify, is

revealed a message said to come

the Russian front, which it freely

admits has become a "psychologi-

The many members of the Na-

tional Geographic society have re-

ceived the remarkable new map of

Japan and adjacent regions put out

This is the first time that a de-

tailed map has been computed with

the geographic heart of Tokio as its

Marunouchi building, one of the

The map has been compiled of

city's largest official structures.

feathers worth about 15 cents.

places with the others.

its preparation.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

recently by that organization.

and some lovely apples."

A Remarkable Map

cal burden."

thing to the enemy.

WNU Services, Union Trust Building | he is a garrulous workman drinking Washington, D. C.

In the last days of June when the papers were full of stories of Germany's "secret weapon," the robot plane, a scene which I witnessed some three decades ago returned to haunt me. I stood in a large tent with a crowd of people, oh-ing and ah-ing at a mechanical miracle we were witnessing. It was in Germany. Before us stood a pompous gentleman in evening clothes with ferocious mustachios. He had a wand in his hand and with it directed the movement of a beautiful little dirigible about three feet long, a perfect replica of the zeppelins which were just beginning to be talked about.

It did look rather startling. The impressario moved his wand to the right and the miniature dirigible started off around the top of the tent, its tiny propellers whirring. He dipped his wand and the little ship nosed down and began to descend. He traced a graceful circle upward and the ship ascended and reproduced his movement in the air. Finally, after performing all sorts of such feats it gracefully descended and landed on a table.

It was an impressive sight but afterwards an American engineer who had witnessed the display explained to me that it was all "perfectly simple." He said the wand was merely a signal to a man concealed from the audience who sat before an electric switchboard and controlled the ship by radio. Since then many experiments have been carried on by this type of remote control but so far as I know it has not been used in any engines of war.

Naturally, when I first read the news of the robots, the picture of the little zeppelin floated into my mind. Experts admit that the German pilotless planes are nothing but rockets and they can be sent in only the general direction of their targets. But the same experts freely admit that there could be radio-controlled pilotless planes.

I mention the rocket attacks not so much to emphasize the last hysterical gesture of the writhing Teuton, but because they mark an important milestone in the psychological battle whose frenzy has mounted in these weeks since the invasion. The robot attack was not nearly as much of an offensive as a defensive stroke. Reports reaching Washington in the last days indicate that there is a defeatist psychosis mounting in Germany. That this bit of Buck Rogers fantasy was to be an antidote, is clear from the tremendous play it received in German propaganda.

The tension in enemy countries is understandable to any of us in Washington who have gone through the strain of that morning when the first hint came over the air that D-day was dawning. Like many other newsmen, writers and broadcasters, I was routed out of my bed shortly after midnight after being on the alert for weeks, and from then on for many hours that bed was a stranger to me.

How Did the Enemy Feel? Temperatures rose and fell for many days thereafter but the peaks and valleys of emotion in this country could have been nothing compared with those of our enemies. As yet we cannot know exactly what the German pulse beat was when our forces reached their shores after all the boasting about Hitler's "West Wall"; or how kimonos fluttered when the Japanese homeland was ruthlessly hammered by an engine of war more terrible than any they expected existed-or when American naval guns roared in the Kuriles and the Bonins, almost in Hirohito's back yard.

It takes some time to assay the morale in enemy lands, but thanks to certain reports which have already reached the Allied capitals we can gauge the mental state of the population in Germany.

Some of the information comes from secret sources which may not be disclosed lest they give a hint to the gestapo as to whom or where the sources are. One such report speaks of that spectre "the third man" who is haunting the Nazi minions everywhere they go. Perhaps he is a bent old derelict sweep- simultaneous action with the move- ripened. ing the street crossing. Perhaps ments of the armies in Europe.

Nazi slave-labor recruitment

among women in occupied northern

Italy now applies only to unmar-

and 30, resulting in a desperate

receded that much.

vatrimonial rush.



Soil Conservation Steps Up Yield 21%

Big Advance Was

Made in Last Decade Looming large among factors conributing to the American farmers' record production job on food and fiber for war is the notable increase

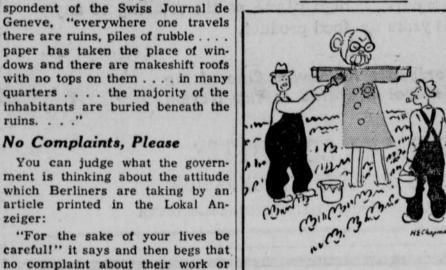
shown in acre yields of vital crops.

Per acre yields of major crops during the years 1934-43 were 11.8 his thin beer with a group of per cent greater than yields in the pre-conservation practices decade of 1923-32, according to government figures. In the period 1937-43, the seven rest. Anyhow, he is described in the years during which conservation document I quote as the "third practices have been carried out man" who, like a dark shadow, as a part of the Agricultural Adjustment agency's program, crop yields per acre averaged 21.2 per cent above the 1923-32 figure. Yields in 1943 were higher than in any year which I am quoting literally, since 1923, except for the phenome-"that the enemy took a village nal 1942 acre yield which was 36 per cent above the average for the earlier decade.

Comparison of acreage and total production figures shows that while total acreage in 1937-43 was about 8 per cent smaller than the 1923-32 average, total agricultural output increased 14.5 per cent. The increased yields since 1937, due primarily to the employment of conservation practices, have been responsible for this high output figure from a smaller acreage.

The 1944 AAA conservation program, emphasizing practices that will immediately increase yields, seeks expansion of the use of lime, phosphate and other fertilizers, promotion of legume, hay and grass seed harvest, continuance of erosion control and water conservation measures and expansion of range and pasture practices. With increased needs for food and

fiber expected in 1945, when most of this year's crop will be consumed, U. S. farmers are looking to the Agricultural Conservation program to maintain the land's productivity for the current crop while protecting its fertility for future plantings.



"It also keeps reminding me to meet my production goals."

Fertilizing Tomatoes Nearly Doubles Crop

partment at the University of Wis- grams. consin, found that tomatoes need a lot of fertilizer and pay a big profit on it, even on land that already is ing patrons of opera, according to quite fertile. They report that compared with

unfertilized tomatoes the best treat- rector. "It started after the first ment increased yields enough to net Italian campaigns were successdirectly from the High Command it-\$244 extra to the acre above ferself, calling for "strong hearts" to tilizer cost. This was on the basis of bounds, Italian films had no Engmeet the news of the retreats on of the 1943 cannery price; actually lish titles, and the USO entertainers these tomatoes were sold on the hadn't arrived yet. The boys were Milwaukee market at a higher price and greater return for the fertilizer. they went to opera, and liked it." Most profitable of the fertilizer

programs tested was a broadcast application of 500 pounds 6-6-20 to the acre 500 pounds 3-12-12 at the side of the row. At a fertilizer cost of \$20.80 to the acre, this treatment increased yields by 69 per cent.

Row applications alone were not able to bring out top yields and were HUSKING ROLLERS less profitable on the acre basis.

center. The National Geographic The 6-6-20 fertilizer which was Bulletin states that the exact spot broadcast gave just as good results is Tokio's central railway station. about which cluster the imperial pal- as more expensive formulas conace, the central post office and the taining larger amounts of either nitrogen or phosphorus.

These results were secured on a Miami silt loam soil which contains entirely new base material and is medium to high amounts of phosbeing used by the general staff and | phorus, a fair amount of potassium, other government departments plenty of boron and has a reaction which opened their files to the Na- ranging from just below neutral to tional Geographic researchers for slightly alkaline.

The variety of tomatoes grown Just because we have our eyes on was a rather late one named J. T. D. western Europe at the moment is no Berger and Truog think it is possible reason why we should forget what is that an earlier variety would have going on in the Pacific. Fortunately, paid off even better on fertilizer, our forces have been built up there since about one-third of this crop to the point where we can carry on was caught by frost before it FOR FORD DEALER in Columbus, Nebr.

Rural Briefs

When the average U. S. civilian gets into the army he consumes three times as much cotton per year Julius Caesar would have had | Pillow feathers are so scarce in in terms of cotton goods as he did as more water to cross today in invad- Hungary and the Balkan countries a civilian-75 pounds. In combat he ing Britain-the cliffs of Dover have that Nazis are offering a bribe of uses several times this 75 pounds. one gallon of gas for a quantity of

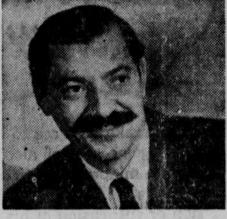
per cent since 1941, according to War Food administration statistics. A "seat changing" signal is given at regular intervals in the crowded About 78 per cent of the national ried women between the ages of 18 trains in Japan, and people who soybean crop is grown in the North have been sitting stand up to change | Central states.



By VIRGINIA VALE

'IME was when Franchot ■ Tone was a prominent member of Hollywood's stayup-late set. But no more. He's now a leader of the proud parents association. On the set of Benedict Bogeaus' "Dark Waters," Papa Tone exhibits snapshots of Pascal Franchot, age nine months, to Merle Oberon, Thomas Mitchell and Fay Bainter till they cry for help. It was hot news when Pascal grabbed the edge of his crib and stood up-and then wouldn't sit down again. Mrs. Tone is Jean Wallace, a beautiful blonde, under contract to Paramount. The Tones bought Robert Montgomery's house when he went into the navy; Mrs. Tone's sister lives with them, and when servants aren't to be had, Tone buckles down and washes

Jerry Colonna, of the black walrus mustache, will accompany Bob Hope on a tour of Pacific fighting fronts when he finishes work in Re-



JERRY COLONNA

public's "Atlantic City." He's a man of many faces in this one-even appears as an oversized infant with blond curls!

Handsome Bill Johnson, Metro's new white-haired boy, was taken to the coast to act as master of ceremonies for their "Screen Test," on the Mutual network. He won the assignment on the strength of his singing ability, but in Hollywood he was promptly given a major role in Wallace Beery's "Airship Squadron 4." The radio show will serve as a build up for Bill.

Elizabeth Taylor, the 12-year-old actress who made her screen debut in "Lassie Come Home" and has the lead opposite Mickey Rooney in "National Velvet," will be starred by Metro in "Hold High the Torch." It's the story of a child and a war dog, the third of the Lassie pictures. The role was originally meant for Margaret O'Brien, but Elizabeth has proved talented enough to inherit it.

Following more than 40 tests for the part-some by well-known film stars-Jack L. Warner chose Joan Lorring for the coveted role of "Bessie" in "The Corn Is Green." She's 18, was born in Hongkong, and has been in this country only five years. Two research men of the soils de- She's acted on numerous radio pro-

> Yank soldiers in Italy are becomreports received by Dr. Frank Black, NBC's general music diful," he said. "Many cafes were out desperate for entertainment - so

> Within 24 hours of the production of his radio theater, "Action in the North Atlantic," Cecil B. DeMille's plea for recruits for the merchant marine brought about an enlistment of 86 men from the listening

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