

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Fire Bombs Raze Jap Cities; Unemployment Expected to Rise Soon as War Production Tapers

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(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.)



Battle-weary, sixth division marines recline behind protecting wall near Naha after bitter fight for city on Okinawa.

PACIFIC: Cities Burn

One by one, Japan's great industrial centers are being razed by huge fleets of Flying Superfortresses, with the firing of Osaka and Yokohama cutting further into the enemy's potential to produce weapons needed for the expanding Pacific front.

Considered the Orient's greatest industrial center, Osaka smoldered after heavy Super-Fort strikes at its iron, steel, copper, cotton, hemp and wire plants.

Japan's second biggest port, Yokohama was left in flames by hundreds of B-29s, with strong winds helping to spread the destruction block by block. Approximately 60,000 houses were said to have been wiped out after the first assault, leaving 250,000 homeless, and communication and transportation lines disrupted.

In explaining strategy in laying down the greatest number of bombs in the shortest time over Japanese targets, 21st Bomber Commander Curtis Le May declared: "If you lay them down like that the city burns down. If you don't, they put it out."

With B-29s raising havoc with Japanese industrial centers, the enemy continued to chiefly center his aerial opposition against American naval vessels in the Ryukyus, with Kamikaze (suicide) pilots continuing to score hits on light units. Indicative of the ferocity of the Japanese attacks, the navy reported the greatest casualty toll in all the Pacific fighting off of Okinawa.

On land, U. S. forces herded the enemy onto the southern corner of Okinawa following the collapse of his Shuri line after some of the bitterest ground fighting in the war, with troops compelled to dig the Japs from deep cave positions in rugged terrain.

UNEMPLOYMENT: To Rise

With another large "stepdown" in military orders anticipated, War Production Board Chairman J. A. Krug predicted 4,800,000 persons will no longer be needed for war production six months from now and unemployment can be expected to reach 1,300,000 by then.

During the next three months alone, Krug said, an estimated 2,900,000 war workers will be released, with unemployment jumping 1,100,000 from the present level of 800,000 to 1,900,000. Because of withdrawals from the labor force and the reemployment of 4,100,000 persons by the rapidly expanding civilian economy, however, the total of unemployed will drop about 600,000 a half year from now.

Though unemployment promises to mount in comparison with present conditions, such low-paying industries as lumber and textiles may experience difficulty obtaining workers, Krug said. Wage increases within the bounds of stabilization policy would probably help remedy such a situation, Krug indicated.

Shipyard Problem

In the face of rising layoffs in war production industries, West coast shipyards are experiencing a shortage of help at a time when the demand for repairs is increasing as a result of the damage to U. S. vessels in the quickened Pacific naval warfare.

Twenty thousand workers below their labor ceilings, three West coast shipyards lost an average of 600 employees last month. In an effort to solve the problem, selective service announced blanket deferments

for such skilled help as electricians, sheet metal workers and machinists, and the War Manpower commission gave the yards No. 1 priority in hiring. Transportation and housing also were guaranteed East coast workers desiring to shift to the west.

As an example of the critical labor shortage in the West coast yards, the famed aircraft carrier Franklin had to be hauled all the way to the Brooklyn navy yard for repairs.

NEAR EAST: Oil Oases

Behind all the trouble in the Near East lies the specter of oil—the great natural resource indispensable to a modern machine economy.

While fighting flared in Syria, the French charged that what appeared to be a mixup between them and the natives really was an incident cooked up by British agents to jeopardize the French pipeline carrying oil across the embattled country from the Mosul fields in Iraq.

At the same time, French commentators sharply pointed out that any Arab uprising in Syria could very well lead to similar disturbances throughout the whole Arabic bloc of states, where both Britain and the U. S. have substantial oil concessions.

Oddly located nearby the Suez canal, providing Britain with a convenient gateway to her oriental empire, the Arabic states are said to possess oil deposits the equal of those in the U. S., with the English holding 40 per cent of all concessions in the area and America 60 per cent.

U. S. interest in the near eastern oil situation was pointed up by the government's proposal to erect a \$150,000,000 pipeline across Arabia and join in a partnership with the Arabian-American Oil company and Gulf Exploration company for its operation. Shelved in the face of bitter opposition, the plan called for the private companies creation of a billion barrel petroleum pool for the army and navy, and repayment for the pipeline over a 25-year period.

Oil also prominently figures in relations between the U. S. and Britain and Russia, what with the Arabic states situated virtually at the Red's back door and Moscow having already put in a bid for development of the Persian fields, monopolized by the English.

EUROPE: Displaced Persons

One of the most difficult of post-war problems in Europe, the return of displaced nationals to their homeland has become even harder with the reluctance of many to leave the Anglo-American occupied zone of Germany, it was revealed.

Though some 600,000 Poles are showing the greatest antipathy to being sent east, Latvians and Lithuanians also are not eager to return. Even substantial numbers of the 1,500,000 Russians in the Anglo-American zone do not wish to be repatriated, but though the other nationals cannot be forced to go against their wishes, an agreement reached at Yalta makes the return of the Russians compulsory.

Besides the nationals mentioned above, there still are 1,200,000 French in the U. S.-British area along with 350,000 Italians, 200,000 Belgians, 200,000 Dutch, 100,000 Yugoslavs, 60,000 Czechs, 10,000 Greeks, 10,000 Danes, 10,000 Norwegians and 10,000 from Luxembourg.

Mexico Now One Big Schoolhouse

In compliance with the second phase of Mexico's program for the eradication of illiteracy, teaching of illiterates to read and write has gotten well underway, with both individual as well as collective instruction throughout the country.

Part of President Avila Camacho's progressive program for the modernization of Mexican life, the decree requiring educated adults 18

SUGAR: Press Conservation

Declaring that the present sugar shortage had been aggravated by illegal use of supplies originally obtained for home canning, the OPA took steps to tighten allocations for such purposes and prevent further drainage of shrinking stocks.

In addition to having special investigators check into the diversion of home canning sugar into bootleg liquor or illicit bottling, OPA announced that pledges must now be signed assuring that use of home canning rations will not be used for other purposes and reports made later as to food put up; district offices will suspend allocations until fruits and vegetables become available for preservation, and review all applications so as to spread supplies over coming months.

Partly because of over-issuance of sugar for food preservation last year, OPA said, average table rations have been cut 37 per cent and housewives' allocations for home canning have been trimmed 40 per cent. In addition, the short sugar stocks have resulted in a squeeze on bakers and industrial users, with further reductions in their allotments threatening to seriously hamper continued operations.

CONGRESS: Fistic Debate

Well in the tradition of the good old days when the U. S. took its politics hot and heavy,



Reps. John Taber (N. Y.) and Clarence Cannon (Mo.) engaged in the second fistic engagement of the present session following heated debate over the proposed tax free \$2,500 a year expense account for congressmen in addition to their \$10,000 salaries.

Previously, Reps. John Rankin (Miss.) and Frank Hook (Mich.) went to it hammers and tongs on the floor of the house after Hook had called Rankin a "liar."

According to Taber's story, he had called upon Cannon at the latter's request, only to move to leave the room when the latter became abusive over remarks he had made during the course of debate on the proposed expense account. Returning when Cannon asked him if he was running away, Taber said he stopped a left or a right to the upper lip, and then pinned his opponent to a couch until he cooled down.

Claiming on his own account that Taber had hid it to his office when the going got hot, the slight-of-build Cannon declared that the fracas resulted from Taber's insulting remarks on the floor of the house.

APPAREL: Pinch to Persist

With military requirements at a high level and labor short because of the attraction of workers to higher paying industries, textiles will remain in tight supply through 1945, the War Production board revealed.

Declaring that a substantial amount of clothing materials will be needed to provide a continuous flow of apparel for adaptability to the varying climatic conditions of the Pacific, WPB said the military will take 85 per cent of the cotton duck supply in July-August-September, along with 20 per cent of carded and 50 per cent of combed goods.

CATTLE: For Europe

In a program designed to replace 1 per cent of the 5,000,000 animals destroyed during the war in Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland, UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation administration) will ship about 50,000 dairy and draft animals to those countries in the next 18 months.

With funds for the project to come from UNRRA, about half of the stock will come from the U. S. and the remainder from other nations in the Western hemisphere. The U. S. subscribes to two-thirds of UNRRA's cost.

Because of her extreme need, Greece will receive the first shipment of 300 dairy heifers and 900 draft animals, it was announced. In addition, another 300 bred heifers and 300 mares are scheduled for early delivery to Yugoslavia.

FOOD PRICES

In World Wars I and II wholesale food prices showed less of a rise than prices received by farmers while retail food prices showed the smallest rise of all, surveys revealed.

As compared with the respective prewar levels, wholesale food prices in 1944 showed an increase of 42.5 per cent as against an increase of 85.5 per cent in 1918; retail food prices in 1944 were up 39.2 per cent as against 68.2 per cent in 1918.

Washington Digest Bible Enjoys Postwar Revival of Interest

World Is Reawakening to Spiritual Values; Scriptures Source of Inspiration For Millions of Disconsolate.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

"America," put only one major idea in his verses. "It is God that is the 'author of liberty,'" this article continues. "Liberty does not have its origin in man. God has implanted it in man's breast. Perhaps this is the reason that, more than all others in the oppressed lands, the churches have stood up before tyranny and rebuked it . . . perhaps this is the reason urgent requests are coming from the liberated lands for the Book of which they have been deprived. . . . Christians all over Europe are again studying the Bible to learn afresh its lessons. . . ."

Whether for these or still other reasons of which we are unaware, we know that a tremendous renaissance of interest in the Bible is sweeping the world.

And so it is the good fortune of the Bible lover, whether he be an erudite scholar or a simple and devoted reader spelling out the texts as he goes along, that George Stimson completed his helpful, interesting, searching and authentic "Book About the Bible" in this particular year of our Lord.

"The purpose of the author in writing this book," says Stimson in his brief introduction, "is to supply reliable and adequate answers to a great number of popular questions asked about the Bible."

And that is what he does. Take the first one: when was Jesus born? and the last one: does "mile" occur in the Bible? Or, how old are the oldest Bible manuscripts?

And that brings us to the inquiry, who is this man Stimson, anyhow? He is a man of about fifty, born on an Iowa farm and is still a keen lover of the soil. He worked on his college (Valparaiso, Ind.) paper and then on small town papers, came to Washington to help edit the "Pathfinder" and was on its staff for 10 years. He is the author of four successful volumes of popular information, and still syndicates a unique and colorful column called "You'd Be Surprised."

I wish I could take you into George Stimson's little office in the National Press building in Washington and see him toiling at his old-fashioned roll-top desk.

You will probably find him poking at his ancient typewriter with two fingers or running them through his healthy mane of brown hair while he cogitates. You might find as a caller the speaker of the house of representatives, some foreign diplomat, a distracted correspondent or some poor, ambitious girl or boy seeking advice on a career. In any case you would be welcomed with a smile and the chances are you would not leave without some aid and comfort, moral or material.

Intrigued by Bible Through Life

Of course I asked George how he happened to write "A Book About the Bible." "Because," he said with no hesitation, "I wanted answers to those questions myself." The first Bible Stimson ever owned he got from a mail order house when he was 15. It was his second "own" book. The first was "Pilgrim's Progress." He read them both, by a kerosene lamp, stretched out on his stomach on the kitchen table. Then he began to ask questions—questions—questions—of his Sunday school teacher, of the preacher, of anyone who would listen. How did Paul look? What about Jesus' brothers? What became of the lost tribes of Israel? and many others which thousands of readers of the Bible have asked before and since. The answers weren't so satisfactory to the young inquirer and so he kept on asking. And reading, and clipping and searching and re-searching.

Nor did he cease to examine the source of his curiosity. He has read the Bible from cover to cover at least 10 times. He has read it countless times if you added up his browings. He has read it twice aloud to himself.

And now, he gives the world the answers to the questions he himself began asking back there in the little country church, giving them to the world simply, authoritatively and completely, at a moment when the Book which is more widely read than any other ever printed, is being read more widely than ever, by a yearning, asking world.

The author states that Samuel Smith, author of our patriotic hymn

Many new faces are appearing in the White House these days but the Old Gray Squirrel on the White House lawn has made no changes in his competent staff. "Farmers are assured equal opportunity to supply their needs out of surplus property. . . ." says OWL. Did you ever hear of a farmer who believed there was such a thing as "surplus" property?

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The Japs said that Germany's surrender "had not been entirely unanticipated."

Russian soldiers in their avid admiration of American canned food ate a number of cans of delousing powder and died.

They are now transporting fresh vegetables from Guam to Iwo Jima. Also race horses and dogs to race tracks in the United States.



Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

WHAT a heritage for Rita Hayworth's baby! Everybody knows, of course, that little Rebecca's mother is one of the most successful and most popular of all our feminine stars, and that her father, Orson Welles, is a remarkable young man (too remarkable sometimes!) in many fields—writing, acting, producing. But Rebecca's heritage is a matter of generations famous in the theater.

That baby's great-grandfather on the distaff side is the great Antonio Cansino, one of the famous dancers of all time. The story of his life and of the 16 children he begot, and of his grandchildren, is one of the fascinating sagas of the theater.

Nearly 70 years ago a 12-year-old boy was left an orphan in a little Spanish village. His father had been a well-to-do land owner; but there were crooked lawyers in Spain even then, as everywhere else, and the boy found himself done out of his inheritance and left penniless to face the world. That boy was Antonio Cansino.

Out on His Own Antonio set out for Seville, and there he found himself a job as helper to a blacksmith. Little Antonio liked to dance, and to play the guitar. When night came Antonio struck out for the water front cafes, and there he danced again—for pennies.

At that time the famous Imperia and her rival, La Companera, were having their heyday, and there was a popular male dancer, Fernando Felix. Young Antonio sneaked into the wings to watch their performances and in time made their acquaintance. He had an ingratiating manner, and before long he was having lessons from all three of them.

Starting Up the Ladder So at 15 Antonio said goodbye to his forge. A theater manager had seen him dance and had recognized a rising star. Within a year Antonio was famous throughout Spain. He had a house of his own, servants and a carriage. At 17 he married. At 18 he was a father.

A London producer happened to be visiting Spain and watched Antonio Cansino at a performance in Madrid. He offered a contract for a month's engagement in London at a figure that couldn't be turned down. The month was extended to a year, and by that time Antonio was reaping a fortune. Paris followed and then tours of Europe and South America.

As the Cansino fortune grew, the family was growing, too. At the age of 35 Antonio had no less than 10 children. He was rich and his wife and children wanted him at home. To the chagrin of theatrical managers, he announced his retirement from the stage.

Never Too Young All of the Cansino children were taught to dance by their father almost as soon as they could walk. Young dancers begged Cansino for instruction, so he opened a school in Madrid. When Diaghilev took the Ballet Russe to the Spanish capital several of the stars took lessons from Cansino, among them Leonide Massine.

The Cansino children all enjoyed great success. They toured Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia. Edouardo, Rita Hayworth's father, took Latin America by storm. Antonio II was a sensation in Europe and Australia. Jose, Angel, Paco, Elisasa, and the others all had their share of triumphs.

California, Here We Come

When Rita was 16 she came to California with her parents, the Edouardo Cansinos. The movie bug got her, but good. She danced and played bit parts in dozens of pictures, and then came her big chance in "Blood and Sand," opposite Tyrone Power. You know the rest of that story. Her father and mother have been retired from the stage for some years, and Rita's father is now working at Douglas because he has two sons at the front.

And now the first Antonio, the patriarch of them all, is here. He lost house and fortune during the Spanish revolution.

And do you know what he's looking forward to? You guessed it—it's the day when little Rebecca is big enough to take her first dancing lesson from her great-granddaddy.

Did I say that baby has a heritage?

And did I say there's a movie in the histoire Cansino? All right, I leave it to you — and to the first smart producer that gets the same idea.

And Why Not?

When Joe E. Brown was decorated in Manila by General MacArthur with the Philippine service ribbon, the general said that it was the first time the honor had been given a civilian. Immediately after receiving it, Brown left for Okinawa and Iwo Jima. This is his fourth trip overseas. . . . Ida Lupino gets what she wants—Ray Milland in "Lady 17," with Lewis J. Diesel directing at Paramount. . . . Joan Fontaine didn't want to do comedy, but "The Affairs of Susan" is one of her best.

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WNU—U 23—45

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