

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U-Boat Warfare Takes Turn for Worse; New Wedge Driven Into Rommel Lines As Allies Continue Furious Air Attack; Outline International Currency Plan

(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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Map shows Allied progress in the campaign to oust Axis forces from North Africa. Hard on the heels of Marshal Rommel, "The Fox," was the British Eighth army, under Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery. After a week's pause, during which Montgomery brought up troops and supplies, the Eighth army stormed Rommel's improvised defenses at the Wadi el Akarit. The chief passes to the coast, where the Americans fought hot engagements, are in the areas of El Guettar, Maknassy and Fondouk.

TUNISIA: Fight to Meet

Action in Tunisia continued with Lieut. Gen. George Patton's Second American Army corps fighting for a junction with British forces at Gabes.

Thousands of mines blocked the American advance. Sappers kept busy clearing the fields and later American tanks rumbled into action.

In their bid to prevent an American and British junction, the Axis tanks thrust at the American armored columns. Americans brought up artillery to heavily shell Axis troop and motor concentrations.

Slowly but surely Patton's men advanced along the Gafsa road. Awaiting them at Gabes were the British, who brought up their heavy guns to shell Marshal Rommel's entrenched Afrika Korps along a narrow line in the El Akarit gulch, 15 miles north of Gabes.

At Akarit, "The Fox" was expected to put up another short, stiff fight before falling back toward Sfax. His strategy calls for a series of delaying actions while the Axis completes coastal defenses in Italy.

Fighting Before Talk

Gen. Charles DeGaulle's scheduled meeting with Gen. Henri Giraud in North Africa for the purpose of consolidating all anti-Axis French in the war has been postponed by request of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower.

General Eisenhower felt that political discussion in the midst of critical fighting in Tunisia could only have a disturbing effect. Prime Minister Churchill is supposed to have persuaded DeGaulle to await Anthony Eden's report of American reaction to the complicated North African problem.

U-BOAT WARFARE:

Turn for the Worse

Indications that the battle of the Atlantic has taken a turn for the worse were made evident when Secretary of the Navy Knox announced that Allied ship losses were considerably worse during the past month.

Although the secretary gave no estimate of the total number of U-boats the Nazis have used in their spring offensive, he said that "just as we expected and as I said it would be, there are more German subs out there."

The subs are concentrating in the middle Atlantic, along the shipping routes from the United States to England and the Mediterranean. It is predicted that the submarine campaign will become worse before it gets better. Naval experts estimate the Axis will have 700 submarines operating in packs along supply routes this spring.

To counter the U-boat offensive the United States is rushing construction of a fleet of destroyer-escort vessels, smaller than destroyers.

PROMISE:

More Farm Tools

Following a review of the legislative situation with Democratic congressional leaders, President Roosevelt has indicated that, in view of the improved war outlook, he will give more attention to domestic problems. Speaker Rayburn, following the conference, said the "President is going to give his personal attention to the question of having more iron and steel allotted to the manufacture of farm machinery."

BANKHEAD BILL:

And Parity

After President Roosevelt had vetoed the Bankhead farm bill (because he believed it "inflationary") supporters of the measure attempted to override this action by a two-thirds vote in congress. First scene of action in this connection was the senate floor where a day-long lively debate resulted in farm bloc members realizing that they could not muster sufficient support to bring this to pass.

These senators then became content to force the bill back to the agricultural committee from whence it could be resurrected whenever the farm bloc felt it had enough votes handy to defeat the President's action.

White House opposition to the measure on the grounds of inflation presented itself because it would prohibit deductions of benefit payments from parity in setting farm price ceilings.

FLYING FORTRESSES:

New Offensive

The American air offensive in Europe has gotten under way.

Fleets of powerful Flying Fortresses have pounded the Renault motor works near Paris, with heavy hits causing great damage among the main buildings and auxiliary plants.

Coming right back, Flying Fortresses flew over Antwerp, bombing the Eria airplane works. These works have been repairing engines for the Nazi luftwaffe. Buildings were shattered and large fires started.

Swinging at Europe's underbelly, 100 Flying Fortresses dumped their bombs on Naples, splattering 24 ships in the harbor. RAF bombers followed up the attack with another heavy raid. Wharves and the industrial area were left flaming.

Eight bombers and eight fighter planes were lost in the operations.

RUBBER:

Self Sufficiency

Self sufficiency in rubber production for the United States was predicted by William M. Jeffers, rubber director, who expressed belief that the nation will develop a synthetic rubber industry that will free the country from dependency on outside sources in the future.

"There is one very definite forecast I want to make—we'll never again be caught the way we were at the outbreak of war," Jeffers said.

He added that he envisioned a postwar rubber economy independent of any sources outside the United States. He said he viewed the huge natural rubber development in South America as "insurance" against possible shortcomings of synthetic rubber plants in this country.

LOADED DICE:

In Axis' Favor?

In the opinion of Adm. William James, British chief of naval information, the "dice are loaded heavily" in favor of the Axis in any Allied attempt to land on the continent of Europe. But, said Admiral James, ways and means could be found "when the time comes."

"We saw at Dieppe, which was a most carefully planned enterprise, how a few well-situated guns on shore can wreck an amphibious operation."

Predicting that there will be no new startling invention to deal with the U-boat problem, he said the submarine menace eventually would be beaten "by the hard unremitting work of all those engaged in protecting our trade."

NATIONAL APATHY:

General Speaks

Army day this year was passed over with little official celebration for the nation's fighting men were too hard at work to stop for festivities. However, one commanding general—Ben Lear of the Second army—took the occasion to score national apathy and lack of aggressiveness in many phases of American life.

He called for the end of internal bickering and urged that Americans apply themselves to crushing the enemy. Speaking of the popular dislike of "absenteeism" General Lear declared that this situation is not confined to industry. By this he meant that unless every citizen did his or her part, whatever the job, they were defeating the war effort and were therefore—absentees.

BRIEFS

CUBAN DRAFT: Eight thousand Cubans between the ages of 20 and 25 will shortly be drafted for army service.

TRADE COMPROMISE: Bi-partisan support was seen for a compromise reciprocal trade treaty act which would allow American producers the right to seek modification of any agreement with a foreign country.

AIR LINER: Henry J. Kaiser, the shipbuilding wizard, proposes to build a metal plane that will fly 17,000 miles without stopping.

DAD'S DRAFT: Drafting of dads might be delayed if public opinion forces unmarried youths between 18 and 25 years out of deferred war jobs. Selective Service Director Hershey says.

FIRE OIL: Allied bombers hit the Japanese oil refinery below Rangoon in continuing attacks upon enemy installations in Burma. The Myingye bridge area of the Burma Road also was raided.

Washington Digest

Army Clarifies Policies Regarding Farm Labor

Military Units May Be Employed on Crops During 'Emergency Situations'; Individual Furloughs Not Contemplated.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

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"Home on a furlough."

I wonder how many of my readers remember that very popular print of two (or maybe more) generations ago. Well, never mind if you don't (though I would appreciate a letter from any who do); "home on a furlough" is going to mean something quite different now.

I remember the original picture only vaguely. I didn't know what the word "furlough" meant. But I know there was a tousle-headed blond boy in the middle of an admiring farm family, telling his adventures.

Today, the farm boy with a conscience, and the farm family with a farm, are looking forward to the "furlough" that will bring the boy home for work, not the telling of his tales of adventure.

It isn't going to be quite that way. The President, when the farm bloc was riding the administration's hardest last month, went into considerable detail as to what was to be done to solve the farm labor question. Since then some concrete steps have been taken but not the ones the farmers, or some of them, would have liked. They would have liked their own sons, or their own hands, who enlisted because they simply couldn't stay "out of the show," back doing the old chores they used to do. But this is what the army said:

"The army does not contemplate furloughing individual soldiers to work on farms," the war department announced in a statement clarifying policies and procedures by which soldiers may be used to alleviate the farm labor shortage.

"World War I experience demonstrated that such temporary releases of individual soldiers were of little assistance to the agriculture industry and disrupted the organization and training of the army. If furloughs were granted for this purpose, neither agriculture nor the army could be assured that the soldiers thus furloughed actually would be engaged in agricultural activities."

"Certain emergency situations may develop in which vital crops may be endangered because of critical shortages in local agricultural labor. In such cases, military units may be employed under command of their own officers to supplement the local farm labor until the crisis is over."

"Troops so employed will be housed and fed by the army and will be subject to military control at all times."

"Requests for use of military units for emergency farm duty must be transmitted to the war department by the chairman of the War Manpower commission."

Another Loophole

However, there is another loophole which all of the farmers or the farm men in service may not know about. A soldier over 38 years of age who is on active duty in the continental United States can get his discharge right now if he can get a statement from his local farm agent to the effect that he is needed.

But the application has to get in by May 1. The same thing applies to men overseas and they have until June. (Better tell them by V-Mail.)

The President explained to us twice, why a batch of young men couldn't be pulled out of a division and sent home.

You can take 10 or 20 soldiers out of an outfit that has just started training and it doesn't make much difference. But you can't take that many men out of an outfit already trained and booked for overseas. Not without crippling the outfit so badly that it really interferes with battle plans.

That's his explanation and he made it to us the other day, leaning back in his chair and obviously trying hard to get over an idea that he believes is right.

There is going to be a "land army." He said he didn't like the term because it made the farmers think they were going to have a lot of green city folks descend on them. He knows what the farmers think about folks who will scare the horses, sprain their ankles, try to milk a cow and when she doesn't give, say: "The valves are stuck."

One farmer wrote me he'd rather have grasshoppers than city folks on his place.

England's Method

The President said to us that in England they have increased food production 60 per cent. And they did it with the help of a land army, mostly women with no previous training. They got the training. A lot depends on the training.

I talked with a farmer near here who took on a city boy, green as grass. The boy probably thought shorts were something you wore and probably would have looked in the toolbox for a boar.

Maybe you heard him talk on the Farm and Home Hour. Well, I met him and the farmer, too. The kid is crazy to get back this summer and the farmer told me he was sick when he had to let him go back to school. City folks are dumb in a lot of ways. But so are farmers. It's true you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. Also, a lot of horses have got the sense to drink if you've got sense to lead them to the water.

In spite of dumb help or none at all, in spite of lack of machines and a lot of red tape, the farmers of the country have signed up to raise a bigger crop than they've ever raised. I believe with a little horse sense and patience, they are going to pull through.

No team pulled together until they were in harness.

If they don't, God help us and the army at meal time.

The Weather—

A Dead Topic

As you know, mention of the weather on the radio these days is forbidden. The newspapers can describe a snow storm or a hot spell but the radio commentators cannot.

There is a good reason for this. A lurking submarine could pick up a newscast, and if enough facts concerning the weather were revealed by stations in enough widely separated localities, even an amateur meteorologist—and the Germans are no amateurs—could make a pretty good weather forecast by putting two and two together.

But being unable to describe the manifestations of nature that I see on my way to work in the morning is a terrible handicap to me. Recently I've gotten around the difficulty by talking about last week's weather, and before going on the air, reading what I was going to say to the censorship officials, and getting their O. K. In no case did they restrict me. The other day, however, I forgot to call up the Censorship office but the Blue Network didn't forget. I got this message:

"Censorship says you have to cut out all references to weather from now on. They say that there was nothing actually censorable in what you have said or what you have written today but so many complaints have come in from other stations that you were violating the regulations and so many other stations have been using your comments on the weather as an excuse for violating the rule, that we will have to ask you to stop discussing the subject entirely."

The following is what censorship didn't let me say but what it has no objection to my printing:

It was pretty hard the past week not to mention the swiftly changing scene which nature provided Washingtonians—one day, not so long ago a top coat was far too heavy for comfort and in the park, the dark patches were beginning to be studded with jeweled buds and the sunlight seemed to turn into solid gold on the bursting forsythia. On that balmy day I remarked—"Well, we must be due for a blizzard."

"Twenty-four hours later the fine snow began to fall and late that afternoon and the following morning, the tree limbs and trunks were wrapped in great soft blankets of down—even the high branches were wide bands of white—but when we went home from work in the evening, the streets were dry and clean again and only here and there in the shadow of a hedge or in the sheltering cups of the brown ivy leaves was a dust of snow—like a meager sprinkling of precious sugar on the rim of a doughnut."

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia has joined the ranks of Victory Gardeners, planning an extensive garden on the grounds of the executive mansion. An old barn, once used to house cows, will be razed to provide additional garden space. The governor indicated that his wife and son would be the "boss gardeners" and predicted a bumper crop of vegetables.

Cotton fabrics for women's work clothing have been cut from 14 types to five.

Government purchase orders, specifying that canners pack fruits, vegetables and juices in large No. 10 size cans, instead of smaller ones, may save as much as 57,000 tons of steel, 1,000 tons of tin, 43 tons of rubber and 5,500,000 man-hours of cannery labor in 1943.

TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

GOITER

Perhaps you or one of your family has been found to have the severe type of goiter or Grave's disease, in which there is rapid heart beat, trembling of limbs, failure of eyelids to move together with the eyeball, lack of appetite, and sleeplessness. Your physician may advise operation whereas in a case of the same type of goiter in another patient you know that he has advised X-ray treatment and in another rest and medical treatment.



Dr. Barton

Why should there be three methods of treatment for the same ailment?

One reason is that for the average individual surgery is considered best because the patient can withstand the operation and can be back at his work sometimes within three weeks after operation. I have spoken of a physician friend who before operation had a pulse rate of 110 to the minute, who walked into my office three weeks after operation and I found his pulse rate 72.

Why, then, should treatment by X-ray be given which may take months to get the results obtained by surgery?

There are two reasons. First, some patients naturally object to surgical operations, and second, some patients would not likely withstand operation well.

Treatment by rest and medicine is used in early or mild cases only.

It is not many years ago that patients with Grave's disease traveled hundreds of miles to have a noted surgeon operate for removal of thyroid gland-goiter. Today practically every hospital has one or several surgeons who perform this operation.

Thus the Lahey Clinic, Boston, in Annals of Surgery, reports 19,700 thyroid operations with a death rate less than one in every 100 operations. When we remember that the great majority of these cases are of the severe type of goiter and many may enter hospital in late stages of this disease, it can be seen how "safe" this operation has become.

Dr. Lahey does not advise operation on cases that can be treated by rest and medicine even though operation would bring about a cure in much less time. He points out that as there is no fear of death in the patient's present condition, awaiting the result of rest and medical treatment involves no danger.

Treatment of Stomach Ulcers

Ulcer of the stomach (gastric ulcer) is due to the same causes as duodenal ulcer which is ulcer of the first part of small intestine into which stomach empties the food after the stomach has done its part of digestion. In fact, a duodenal ulcer can be located just a fraction of an inch from the stomach. Both the stomach ulcer and the intestinal ulcer are called peptic ulcer and are treated in about the same manner by diet, medicine and surgery.

It so happens, however, that while stomach ulcer is not so common as duodenal or intestinal ulcer, unfortunately stomach ulcer turns into cancer more often; about 10 to 20 per cent of stomach ulcers develop into cancers.

In the Post Medical Journal Dr. Rodney Maingot, London, England, states that as far as symptoms are concerned the stomach ulcer cannot be distinguished from an early stomach cancer, therefore, the chances taken with a patient with ulcer of duodenum cannot be taken with a patient with a stomach ulcer. For this reason he suggests that patients with chronic stomach ulcer should enter hospital instead of undergoing home treatment. If by special diet and medical treatment in hospital the ulcer does not heal they should undergo surgical treatment, because early operation saves lives.

The medical treatment of stomach ulcer in hospital is bed rest, test meal examinations, tests for "hidden" blood in stools, complete examination of the blood, examination of stomach by gastroscope which by means of a mirror enables the physician to see the lining of the stomach, the barium X-ray examination. In addition to removing any infection (teeth, tonsils, gall bladder) present, the size, shape and position of the stomach are drawn on a special chart.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Is drilling of the teeth necessarily painful?

A.—Drilling is not painful in most cases. In cases where it is necessary dentists can anesthetize the jaw and no pain is felt. Your dentist will explain this to you.

Q.—Are pork and oysters healthful food?

A.—Pork is a good food, rich in fat. Too much can upset liver and gall bladder. Oysters are a good food, also rich in fat.



Pasturing Cows for First Time in Spring

Sudden Change in Diet May Lower Milk Output

Although luscious, green grass is one of the best dairy feeds, milk production may drop when cows are first turned out to pasture unless special care is taken to prevent it, says W. B. Nevins, professor of dairy cattle feeding, University of Illinois college of agriculture.

It is best not to turn cows to pasture for the first day until after they have been well fed in the barn, and then to limit the number of hours at pasture for the first two or three days. A sudden change from the feeding of hay, silage and grain mixture to pasture feeding only may cause a sudden drop in milk flow and digestive disturbances.

Fresh, green grass is so palatable in early spring that cows will fill up on it if given the opportunity, but, because of the high water content of the grass, they fail to receive enough nutrients from grass alone to maintain high milk production.

A grain mixture should be fed to higher-producing cows throughout the pasture season, Nevins points out. Holsteins, Swiss and Ayrshires need about one pound of grain mixture for each three pounds of milk produced over and above 30 pounds daily, while Jerseys and Guernseys need about one pound of grain mixture for each 2.5 pounds of milk a day over and above 20 pounds daily.

If cows do not care for grain mixture when pastures are luxuriant, it may prove advantageous to take them from pasture one or two hours before feeding time so that they will consume the mixture more readily. The use of 1½ to 2 per cent of salt in the grain mixture is also helpful. As soon as pasture grasses begin to ripen or become scanty in amount, the rate of feeding may need to be increased.



It may not be a zoot suit but it's the style for smart high school students this season.

Agriculture in Industry

By FLORENCE C. WEED

SHEEP

One industry where there is never a surplus is wool-growing. The United States has 472,000 wool producers and 46,000,000 sheep, yet 40 per cent of the nation's requirements must be imported. Two-thirds of our output comes from the Rocky mountain and West coast states. Chief producers are Texas, California, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and Ohio. We also produce each year, about 350,000,000 pounds of shorn wool and 60,000,000 pounds of pulled wool from slaughtered sheep.

After the fleece is removed from slaughtered sheep, the slat goes into glove leather, lining for shoes, sweat bands for hats, and college diplomas. The wool grease or lanolin is used as a basis for medicinal ointments.

Sheep fat has wide uses in tallow, soap, stearine or oleo oil. As glycerine, it goes into anti-freeze liquids and finds uses in paints, cellophane, cosmetics and bases for polish. Blood is used in serums, medicines, weather-proof glue and animal feed and as a retardant for plaster.

It requires the glands of 100,000 lambs to make one pound of adrenaline, the powerful heart stimulant which has been known to cause a heart once stopped to resume its beating. Sheep intestines become strings for violins, cellos, harps and ukuleles and many other musical instruments. They are much used for surgical ligatures to tie blood vessels and sew wounds during operations. They are much favored because nature absorbs them while the wound is healing. The best quality of casings can be used for strings for tennis rackets.

Farm Notes

Agricultural insecticides and fungicides will be available in sufficient quantities this year for all farm and urban victory gardens.

The churning of sour cream is easier than the churning of sweet cream. You can sour, or ripen cream by keeping it at a temperature of about 70 degrees the day before churning.