

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Mediterranean Victories Prepare Way For New Allied Campaign Against Axis; Essential Production to Be Increased By Simplification of Consumer Items

(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.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.



Under the watchful eyes of U. S. guards, Axis prisoners march in internment camp in Camp Attterbury, Ind. Since fighting in North Africa, many of these camps have sprung up throughout the country, the average concentration holding 2,000 prisoners and 500 American troops. Prisoners of war are treated under rules of an international convention.

MEDITERRANEAN: Eyes Turn to Sicily

With Allied shipping reported massed in the Sicilian straits, all Italy awaited invasion.

Preparatory to the expected blow at the "underbelly of Europe," Allied armies ranged over the Italian islands of Sardinia and Sicily, the Axis' remaining bastions in the Mediterranean following the fall of Pantelleria, Lampedusa, Lampione and Linosa.

Airfields at Catania and Gerbini in Sicily were attacked. At Catania, enemy fighters rose in force to challenge the Allied assault.

Although Allied headquarters remained silent on their military movements in the Mediterranean, the Nazis reported that their airmen were engaging in running fights with large convoys off North Africa. The Axis also stated that the Allies had massed invasion barges at Bizerte.

Meanwhile, the Allies kept the Axis guessing about their next move. Strong aerial formations attacked Axis shipping in the Aegean sea, where the Nazis have fortified the islands leading to the Grecian mainland.

SIMPLIFY GOODS: From Cradle to Grave

In an effort to increase production of necessary essentials, the government has ordered the simplification of more than 1,000 manufactured items. Elimination of frills and variety of sizes is expected to result in enough conservation of material to add to production.

The simplification order will affect Americans from the cradle-to-the-grave. Metal will be restricted in baby's cribs, and the length, width and depth of coffins will be limited. Cast iron kitchen utensils will be confined to 12 items, and 40 styles of enamelware have been eliminated.

Wood furniture will be reduced to 24 basic patterns. Whereas 1,150 types of tools formerly were made, only 357 now will be permitted. Production of electric bulbs will be cut from 3,500 types to 1,700. Feminine apparel will be simplified along with children's sportswear and rayon dresses.

AIR OFFENSIVE: Cities in Flames

Bremen's big Atlas shipyards were rocked by a dozen bomb hits as American airmen continued their joint attacks with the RAF over German industrial centers. Results of the U. S. raid on the submarine base of Kiel were unobserved, as swarms of Nazi fighter planes arose to the defense.

While the Americans hammered the Atlas works, strong British units, bolstered by huge four-engine bombers, ripped Duesseldorf and Bochum in the Ruhr.

Blockbusters caused heavy damage in both cities, sweeping fires adding to the havoc. Mass evacuations were reported, and the German radio asked people in other districts to make room for the refugees.

Size of the raiding fleets can be gleaned from the Nazi claim of having shot down 46 planes, 29 of which were supposed to be the four-engine machines. German aerial activity meanwhile was limited to a short, sharp sally over a London suburb, where bombs were dropped.

RUSSIA:

Action in the Center

Official announcements pertaining to the Russian front continued to be as confusing as the fighting.

While the Reds claimed to have thrown back German counterattacks in the Orel region in the center of the line, the Nazis reported the continuation of the strong Russian offensive in the Caucasus.

In neither sector, however, did either side claim any major advance. In relation to renewed Russian activity in the center, the Nazis said the Reds were massing huge forces there, apparently to press the initial attacks of a week ago when big holes were punched in the German line.

Bolstered by the addition of American planes arriving under lend-lease, Russian airmen continued sweeping attacks over the German rear. Military installations and transport were bombed.

OIL:

'Situation Worse'

"We are rapidly passing from an exporting to an importing nation in oil."

With these words Petroleum Administrator Harold Ickes forecast an increasing shortage of crude oil. Such a shortage, Ickes said, would not develop because of a lack of natural resources but rather because of a scarcity of labor, transportation and other factors.

While stating that imports of oil would have to be increased from Venezuela, the Caribbean and Mexico, he declared that California will not be producing sufficient crude by the end of the year to take care of the Pacific war theater and her own needs.

Ickes also blasted the Office of Price Administration for its handling of the gasoline rationing, declaring the OPA was too lenient in its allotments. He said home owners could expect fuel oil rationing next winter.

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Naturally the members of the War Labor board were concerned. The board's existence was threatened.

CORN:

Plan Call on Loans

Aiming at loosening the tight situation in corn for processors and feeders, it was reported Commodity Credit corporation planned to call its loans on 57 million bushels of 1942 corn.

Under the proposal, farmers would be allowed 30 days to liquidate their loans. The call would not interfere with the agency's previous move to redeem 35 million bushels of corn on the 1938-'41 crops, effective July 1.

Decision to call the 1942 loans was reported reached after the War Food administration, headed by Chester Davis, turned down proposals for requisitioning the corn. The WFA said requisitioning only would increase farmers and leave the government with the problem of shelling, grading and hauling the corn off the premises.

FOOD CZAR:

Wanted by Congress

Shortly after a bi-partisan group of legislators conferred with President Roosevelt and suggested that he appoint a single czar to handle the food situation, the War Food administration prepared issuance of a report dealing with unfavorable crop and meat prospects.

Led by Senator Walter George, the five senators and four representatives urged that a single authority be delegated to co-ordinate production, distribution, preservation, rationing and pricing agricultural commodities.

It was reported the President suggested an appropriation from 1½ to 2 billion dollars for subsidies to be used in "rolling back" the prices of foods. Many legislators oppose the subsidies, contending the money used only will have to be repaid in taxes.

In commenting on crop prospects, the War Food administration declared floods in the Midwest and dry weather over the great plains have caused considerable damage. Meat slaughter and dairy production have failed to approach expectations.

Although the action will reduce meat prices, consumers will be compelled to eat even less beef. The War Food administration announced that federally inspected slaughterers had been ordered to reserve 45 per cent of their steer and heifer production for the army.

Flat price ceilings on meat have been drawn by the OPA for four classes of stores, starting with the small independent doing less than \$50,000 worth of business a year, and ending with the large operator with an annual volume over \$250,000.

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MEAT PRICES: Down 10%

Answering to President Roosevelt's "hold-the-line" order, retail prices of meat have been "rolled back" 10 per cent, a move that will save housewives an average of three cents per pound.

The "roll-back" will be accomplished by government payment of subsidies to meat slaughterers to cover their costs of livestock.

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Washington Digest

History Will Write Details Of Lewis-Roosevelt Feud

Story Begins During 'Roaring Thirties' as The Forgotten Man Is Remembered By New Deal and CIO.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

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

Today there came to my desk a mimeographed sheet from the Office of War Information. It was headed "The Nazi Slave Labor Society."

As I read that title, my mind shot back to a very few days before this writing, one of the days when your capital was tense over the coal strike from one end of Constitution avenue to the other, and on both sides of the Potomac. I say "Constitution" avenue instead of "Pennsylvania" (which you and I have come to feel is the main street of Washington) because this coal strike struck deep into a lot of offices and bureaus beside the White House at one end of this historic thoroughfare and the Capitol at the other.

Naturally, Harold Ickes, in his offices looking down the mail from that strange modernistic pile that is the new Interior building, was concerned. He was, at that moment, responsible head of the soft coal mining industry and the industry wasn't functioning.

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FIRST-AID to the AILING HOUSE

by Roger B. Whitman

Roger B. Whitman—WNU Features.

You may not be able to replace worn or broken household equipment. This is war. Government priorities come first. So take care of what you have, as well as you possibly can. This column by the home-owner's friend tells you how.

CARE OF FLAT ROOF

Question: The guarantee on the flat roof of my bungalow has expired. I will have to repair the roof at my own expense. Will you advise me just how to go about it? That is, what to buy and how to apply it?

Answer: When the roofing begins to show signs of drying and hardening, the surface should be given a mopping coat of liquid tar or asphalt roof coating. This will prolong the life of the roof. You should find out just which type of roofing you now have, and be sure to use the same type of material for the coating. Do not mix the two.

Flagstone Terrace

Question: I am planning to lay flagstones on a dirt terrace. Is it necessary to lay a concrete foundation, or will cement between the stones be enough? I don't want frost and ice to ruin the job. How should I go about it?

Answer: If the joints are to be made watertight, there should be a concrete foundation laid on a six-inch bed of cinders. Water must be prevented from collecting underneath. In a similar case I laid flagstones on the earth and packed the joints with dirt, sown with grass seed. The soil being sandy this has worked very well; there has been no heaving.

Leaky Pail

Question: I have a galvanized pail in excellent condition, except that the bottom is rusty and has two pin holes. It is too good to throw away, considering the scarcity of metal things in country places. How can the bottom be made tight?

Answer: Coat the bottom of the pail with roofing cement, which can be liquefied either by heating or with turpentine. Cut a piece of building felt to fit, lay it on the bottom, and put a coat of roofing cement on top.



Summer is the most convenient time to paint radiators. The metal should be cleaned with a wire brush, and then washed with turpentine. Two or three coats of flat wall paint, thinned with turpentine, should then be applied. Wall paint seems to be more resistant to blistering than other finishes, but any paint or enamel may be used.

Sweating Windows

Question: Our contractor told us that the sweating of our windows was due to not having heat in the house. But the house having been heated for the month that we have been living in it, our steel windows are still sweating. What will stop it?

Answer: The air in any new house is damp from the drying out of plaster and concrete. The sweating should stop when the house is thoroughly dried out.

Washing Machine Cover

Question: My washing machine cover is starting to chip on the inside. Can you tell me what to put on to prevent further chipping?

Answer: Nothing but careful handling of the cover will prevent further chipping. The chipped spots can be touched up with a touch-up enamel made especially for the purpose. It comes in small bottles and is sold at most hardware and paint stores.

Leaking Slate Roof

Question: My slate roof looks in good condition, but wind-driven rain sifts in. Can I paint anything on the inside?

Answer: The slates are apparently nailed to roofing lath instead of to solid boarding. Under that condition about the best that you can do is to raise the lower edge of each slate so that you can put a dab of roofing cement underneath.

TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SHOCK TREATMENT

Some mental patients receive home care, as the family do not want it known that such a thing as "insanity" is in the family. Fortunately, in most cases the family physician is able to persuade the family that mental illness is the same as any illness of the body and can be due to the same causes — infection, anxiety, shock, injury and others.

Further, at the mental hospital today treatment to remove any cause of the symptoms is given; dentists, throat specialists, women's specialists are on the staff or make regular visits.

One of the most effective methods of treating certain types of mental illness is by producing shock in the patient by insulin, metrazol and, more recently, by electricity. Because of accidents that occasionally occur during shock this form of treatment has heretofore been given in mental hospitals and sometimes in the ordinary municipal hospitals.

What should mean much to a patient and family is a recent report by Dr. A. Myerson, Boston, in the New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Myerson reports the results obtained by the electric-shock method in the treatment of 123 patients, 74 by the outpatient method. The patients reported at a place fitted out in hospital fashion with nurses and a physician in attendance. They were given the shock treatment and usually went home within one or two hours. In cases where the patient was too upset after the treatment he received further shock treatment at a mental hospital.

Compared to the risk of other methods of treatment of the same kind of mental ailments, the electric-shock treatment is much safer as to mental or physical injury.

The big point about being able to go to other than