

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U.S. Employment Shows Decline; Nazis Continue Retreat in Italy; Japanese Tighten Grip on China

Released by Western Newspaper Union.
(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.)



Zero Hour—Yanks await signal to attack Jap machine gun nest in Burma.

EMPLOYMENT: On Decline

For the first time since the war began, the nation's manpower appeared in balance with needs, with supply of labor in critical areas the only problem, the National Industrial Conference board said.

Earlier the department of agriculture noted a 4 per cent decline in farm labor, with some of the decrease attributed to the inability to get into the fields because of unfavorable weather. As a result of the delay, many farmers were expected to switch acreage from small grains to row crops, necessitating additional work.

Reflecting the continued drop in manufacturing industries, there were 41,800,000 non-farm workers in March, compared with the peak of 43,600,000 in July, 1943. Only in transportation was there an increase shown over last year.

EUROPE: Foe Reels

With soldiers from six nations fighting shoulder to shoulder in Allied ranks, the Germans fell slowly back in Italy, their retreating columns under heavy fire of the advancing host, drawing closer to the Eternal City of Rome.

As the Allied blow fell in Italy, thousands of U. S. and British planes continued their heavy bombardment of Axis communications and industry in western Europe, their explo-



Mediterranean Commander Sir Henry Maitland Wilson (left) confers with Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark of 5th army (center) and Deputy Mediterranean Commander Jacob L. Devers on Italian front.

sives twisting steel rails into fanciful forms and reducing segments of factories into smoldering pyres. Preparatory to a great offensive from the east, Russian bombers hammered at Nazi supply bases.

With the collapse of their Gustav line in Italy, the Germans fell back slowly toward the Anzio beachhead to the north, where their embattled troops clashed with massed Allied forces slugging for a breakthrough, which would trap the retreating army from the rear.

West Wall

The searching eyes of aerial photography have uncovered what lies ahead of Allied troops massed to storm Germany's formidable west wall.

Under command of icy, 69-year-old Field Marshal von Rundstedt, the west wall shapes up as a series of deeply entrenched steel and concrete fortifications stretching back far inland, and carefully camouflaged to prevent concentration of Allied fire on them.

Dotting the scenic French landscape are innocent-looking, little houses, sheltering the muzzles of big German field pieces whose carriages are sunk into the ground, and poking their noses from the sides of hills, are rocket guns buried in the terrain.

CRYPTOSTEGIA

The government's experimental rubber project in Haiti has been abandoned as a failure and an investment of \$8,000,000 is being written off. It was explained that it was found impossible to recover any appreciable quantity of rubber from the desert vine "cryptostegia" which was grown on the 40,000-acre tract. It had been confidently hoped that this tough plant would become a major source of rubber for this hemisphere and would provide a money crop for the natives.

REHABILITATION: Navy Program

After six months of operation of the rehabilitation program for men and women at the U. S. naval hospital at Great Lakes, exhibits told an interesting story of the success of the project under direction of Lieut. Comdr. R. E. Kinneman.

On display were fancy scarves, purses and belts in yellows, whites and greens. There were such useful articles as ash trays and bill-folds, and such chipper bric-a-bracs as clay turtles and yarn dogs. Pictures caught the charm of the outdoors and depicted naval life.

Created to stimulate the minds of patients as well as restore the mobility of injured limbs, the rehabilitation program also has served to help the convalescents to uncover many talents of which they were never aware.

OIL: New Field

With the discovery of a promising big oil field in Mississippi which already has brought in two large wells, attention was focused on a whole tier of southeastern states.

According to oil authorities, approximately 155,000 miles of territory at the roots of the Appalachian mountains in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi are underlain by sedimentary rocks, which might bear much petroleum.

Although a 130,000 mile territory in Texas and Louisiana has already given up 14 billion barrels of oil, authorities' enthusiasm for the prospective southeastern field has been tempered by reports that its zones for accumulation of petroleum are fewer in number and the thickness of the sedimentary rocks are less than in the Texas and Louisiana regions.

LABOR: Foremen Back

Three thousand five hundred members of the Independent Foremen's association of America trooped back to their jobs in Detroit, Mich., plants after the chief of the army air forces, Gen. H. H. Arnold, declared their strike had already cost production of 250 long-range P-51 fighter planes and could affect invasion operations.

As a result of the foremen's walkout over demands for union recognition which industry opposed on its traditional grounds that foremen are a part of management, nearly 50,000 workers had been laid off because of the lack of adequate supervision of production.

Following General Arnold's testimony, the association's national president, Robert H. Keyes, issued instructions for ending the strike, charging the government with delaying settlement of the case.

Thus, the effort was made to preserve the myth of security up to the last moment. As to the possibility of revolution before desperation seizes the Germans, that is slight. It is probable that the Germans might oust the Nazis now if they dared; but it is doubtful if anything short of the sheer desperation following defeat will turn them against the guns of the black shirts.

A Swiss who returned from Berlin just before the day and night bombing of Germany began, said: "There can be no thought of revolution. The Gestapo and the SS are too powerful."

He recited this incident: "An Italian worker who was passing through the Friederichstrasse was just about to pick up (after the bombing of a cigarette factory) one of the many boxes of cigarettes lying around on the ground. Nearby was a young SS man armed with an automatic pistol . . . without any previous warning, he took aim and shot the Italian down."

This is said to be a typical incident and the Swiss declared that a German woman who drops her pocketbook does not dare to stoop over and pick it up.

The military aspects are a very different matter. The great strength of German strategy built on "interior lines" has been turned to a weakness. A nation on the offensive which can strike overpowering blows at any point it chooses along the perimeter of the territory it controls has a great advantage.

Its lines are short, they are protected, they move from the center outward like the radii of a circle. The opposing power must laboriously follow the circumference—witness the supply lines from the Allies to Russia which have to sweep around

the different branches of the services into a single command, so strongly favored by the army, drew the support of President Woodrow Wilson's secretary of the navy, Josephus Daniels.

Mincing no words, Daniels declared that the disaster at Pearl Harbor resulted from a divided command, and asserted: "History is replete with the squabbles between the army and navy which prolong wars, showing the necessity of combination."

When he was working for unification of the services during World War I, Daniels said, Secretary of War Lindley Harrison told him: "Joe, I don't care a damn about the navy and you don't care a damn about the army. You run your machine and I will run mine."

DISEASE

The campaign against social diseases scored a victory on one front and lost ground on another last year. In the second half of 1943 there was a decline of 16 per cent in new cases of syphilis among civilians but gonorrhoea cases jumped 11 per cent. The number of new syphilis cases for the six months term was 245,000, compared with 290,000 in the second half of 1942. Gonorrhoea cases were set at 158,000, compared with 137,000 in the latter part of the preceding year.

The rice produced in China's Japanese-occupied Kiansu and Chekiang districts can be bought only by the Japanese at a fixed price, to be sent to Japan for military use.

Washington Digest

Allies, Holding Offensive, Have Invasion Advantage

'Veritas,' Famed British Military Expert, Sees Nazis Handicapped by Being Pinned Inside Defense Circle.

By BAUKHAGE
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What happens when "the coiled springs of action" are released in the cataclysm of invasion?

Europe is enveloped in the smoke and confusion of battle and only occasionally does this fog lift "showing the swaying forms of vast armies amid the screaming clatter of mechanized combat." It descends again "blotting out the view and leaving us uncertain as to the shape of the plan."

That is the observation of one of the keenest British military experts, "Veritas," whose privately circulated analyses are cable to this country and eagerly scanned by persons most interested in the conflict now going on.

And Veritas reminds us that we can only maintain our sense of perspective and proportion if we keep carefully in mind certain fundamental aspects of the military situation from the German standpoint. This, likewise, applies to the political aspects.

A well-known psychologist, Dr. Norman Maier of the University of Michigan who predicted the failure of the Munich appeasement program by demonstrating in advance that according to psychological principles, it could not succeed, recently made some interesting observations.

He said that Hitler would be liquidated and a revolution would take place in Germany as soon as the last of the "myths" created by the German propagandists for the purpose of lulling the Germans into a false sense of security were exploded. The Germans, he explains, belong to a "frustrated society." Hitler cured their frustration with aggression, when aggression is frustrated, nothing else will be left.

Through the fog of the battle, the occasional glimpse we catch must be interpreted in the light of these fundamentals.

Training for Farmers

Recently, the Office of Defense Transportation announced that public vocational training schools in 190 cities throughout the country were turning over to the automotive industry a "constantly increasing number of workers trained in one or more phases of automotive industry."

The United States Office of Education is sponsoring the automotive maintenance training program. They are trying to help fill the gap in automotive maintenance personnel caused by the war.

But what many people do not realize is that it is also conducting courses that directly touch the farm. Congress appropriated \$12,500,000 for the food production war training program which the Office of Education administers.

The minimum age limits for both out-of-school and in-school persons have now been removed and all courses are now offered to urban as well as rural persons.

Twenty-two courses are being offered in which the farmer is interested, and they run all the way from the operation, care and repair of tractors, trucks and automobiles to soil and water conservation. And besides the various handiworks in the mechanical line around the farm such as machinery repair, wood-working, elementary electricity and construction of farm machinery and equipment, there are special courses in milk production, poultry production, eggs, pork, beef, mutton, lamb, wool, soybeans, peanuts and various commercial vegetable production.

There is general training for farm workers, production of fruit and nuts, vegetable gardening and pretty nearly everything that one has to know how to do around a farm.

These courses are conducted through the cooperation of the public schools and are responsible to the state board for vocational education.

William T. Spanton, chief of the division for vocational agriculture, says he believes that on a dollar-for-dollar basis, no appropriations made by congress to stimulate increased food production have contributed more to this end than has been true of the appropriations already made to the U. S. Office of Education for these specific vocational training programs.

"Practically all of our 8,000 local departments of vocational agriculture, scattered widely throughout the entire country," says Mr. Spanton, "have available on the local school ground a well-equipped farm shop building where courses in farm machinery repair are given to farmers and where, at the same time, their much-needed farm machinery and equipment can and is being actually overhauled and repaired."

The Tokio government has organized home guard corps in 13 key centers of Japan in preparation for Allied air raids.

British and American airmen have been dropping copies of a Dutch-language weekly newspaper and a monthly magazine over occupied Holland since last May, it was disclosed in London recently.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Of the 20,000 Australian civilians now employed by the U. S. army in the Southwest Pacific, about 30 per cent are women, as reported by a Melbourne broadcast to the U. S.

The rice produced in China's Japanese-occupied Kiansu and Chekiang districts can be bought only by the Japanese at a fixed price, to be sent to Japan for military use.



Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

THE other day when I was at the M-G-M studio I decided to call on my old friend Sidney Franklin. He's their top producer now, and the only one who has proved himself worthy of stepping into Irving Thalberg's shoes. If you challenge this I'd like to remind you that it was Sidney who directed such films as "The Good Earth," "Barretts of Wimpole Street," "Smilin' Through," and "The Guardsman."

And he has produced "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," "Mrs. Miniver," "Madame Curie," "Random Harvest," and "White Cliffs." How's that for a record? Guess there can be no protest about whose shoes Sidney Franklin is standing in!

We've been friends for so many years I don't like to count them. Let's settle for a quarter of a century! So when I breezed up to his office I knew I'd be welcome. However, I knocked politely and waited. A barking dog answered me, so I opened the door and walked in. What met my startled glance? Four solemn men were seated in a semi-circle looking intently at Sidney, who was crawling on his hands and knees from behind the couch, barking!

"What gives?" says I. Sidney rose, blushed a little, and extended his hand. "I haven't gone to the demnition bowwows," says he, "I was just acting out the pup's scene!"

There's Teamwork

And there you have the answer to his success; there isn't even the smallest role in any of his pictures that doesn't come alive in Sidney's office before the scenario is handed over to the director and actors. These men with him were writers, director, and art director. They filed out soberly, as we all do when we have just been impressed by some one's knowledge and integrity, leaving Sid and me to talk about the old days; about those years of struggle and all they entail. Sidney likes to talk about the past. So do I.

Sidney came here from San Francisco 30 years ago. He was then a school boy on a summer vacation, hanging around the gates of the old Selig studio and trying to catch a glimpse of the mysteries beyond. One day a husky guy was unloading equipment from a big van. He saw this shy kid looking up at him with eager eyes. "Wanta lug this camera into the studio for me?"

Gadgets to Grease Paint

Sidney sprang into action, and once inside those gates, they couldn't get rid of him. There was drive and determination in that kid. By the time he took a job in the old Hobart Bosworth studio, about a year later, he had schooled himself to do so many chores, and to do them well, that he was nicknamed Sid Detail. Then came that memorable day when an actor didn't show up. He was scheduled to play opposite a growling grizzly bear! Several actors refused the role. At last driven to desperation, the director yelled, "Where's Sid Detail?"

Around the corner came little Sid—so thin he could sit on a dime and show the edges. He looked at the bear. The bear looked at him. But Sid Detail was used to taking orders, and the director was telling him what he was to do in the scene. An hour later, when the cameras stopped grinding, a comedian was born. He could have taken his place beside Harold Lloyd or the others.

Brawn and Brain

All of us urged him to go on acting. But he lacked the self-exploitation actors need. Direction interested him more. In that capacity he could express himself behind the camera, pulling the strings, a shadowy figure on the sidelines. But, having the potentialities of a fine actor, he helps his writers to visualize scenes, always acting out every role until they themselves can detect any false situations or actions. A hard taskmaster—all perfectionists are. But his writers love him, even when he wears them to the bone. One of them said: "Hedda, that guy works from the heart as well as the brain. In story conferences he's inspirational and untiring."

I smiled. I'd listened to the same story for years, but in spite of this grueling work in the Franklin unit there isn't a writer who doesn't plead for the opportunity.

Impressive Christening

I've done nothing to deserve the honor that was bestowed on me recently, when I christened one of Douglas' C-47 ambulance planes which the company is naming Hedda Hopper. Having one of those giant birds of mercy bearing your name is something to have lived for.

When Asta, "Thin Man's" dog, hears his name he barks, so a line in "Thin Man Comes Home" about Astor hotel had to be changed to Sherry-Netherlands hotel. Whenever they said "Astor," the dog barked.

ON THE HOME FRONT with RUTH WYETH SPEARS

HERE is a cookie jar that may be made at home from odds and ends of wood stenciled with gay peasant figures and quaint lettering. But that is not all. This jar or box sits on an old fashioned brightly painted corner shelf



which may be cut out of thin wood and put together quickly with glue and brads.

Even if you do not have a jig saw or a coping saw to cut out the graceful curves of the shelf pieces, you may mark the design on a piece of plywood or other thin wood and have it cut at your nearest woodworking shop. As for the cookie box, it is all straight cuts.

NOTE—Mrs. Spears has prepared an actual size pattern for this corner shelf and cookie box; also a stencil pattern with complete color guide for the lettering and peasant figures; all on one large sheet which will be mailed for 15 cents which includes cost and postage. Ask for Pattern 266 and write direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills New York
Drawer 10
Enclose 15 cents for Pattern No. 266.
Name _____
Address _____

One May Take Sun Bath While Watching Movie

A new installment for theaters has been announced to avoid the embarrassing experience of unintentionally sitting on a stranger's lap in finding a seat in the dark. Entire theater is flooded with ultraviolet radiation at low intensity.

Fluorescent material is used as seat upholstery and floor coverings. Seats glow unmistakably when empty. Incidental benefit: Ultraviolet sunbath while watching your favorite movie.

RELIEVE To ease irritation, form medicated coat of protection between skin and chafing bedclothes, apply Mexsana, soothing medicated powder.

BEAUTY SCHOOL

DON'T BE A SLACKER
Be independent while the men folk are in the service. Enroll in Nebraska's oldest beauty school. Graduates now earning from \$25 to \$75 weekly. Write CALIFORNIA BEAUTY SCHOOL Omaha, Nebraska



HELP for Your Victory Garden

WOMEN IN '40's

Do You Hate HOT FLASHES?
If you suffer from hot flashes, feel weak, nervous, a bit blue at times—all due to the functional "middle-aged" period peculiar to women—Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Taken regularly—Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such annoying symptoms. Pinkham's Compound is made especially for women—it helps nature and that's the kind of medicine to buy! Follow label directions. LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S COMPOUND

Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well
24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.
Burning, itchy or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended by the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

DOAN'S PILLS