

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

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

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.



Battle-weary, sixth division marines recline behind protective 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 out. 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 Oasis

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

to 60 to teach simple reading or writing to one illiterate, or to teach collectively, has teeth in it. Citizens not complying with the decree will be forced to do so.

No haphazard project, Mexico's department of education keeps a close check on each student according to age, occupation and sex. So far, 12,000,000 free readers have been issued.

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 hied 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.

In addition, WPB said, the military will take 60 per cent of the supply of wool woven goods during the same period, and virtually all worsteds, along with substantial stocks of knit goods. As a result, it may be necessary to restrict civilian sales of heavy underwear to such outdoor workers as loggers and farmers.

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 200 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 83.2 per cent in 1918.

Free Ticket To The Ritz for Kiddies!

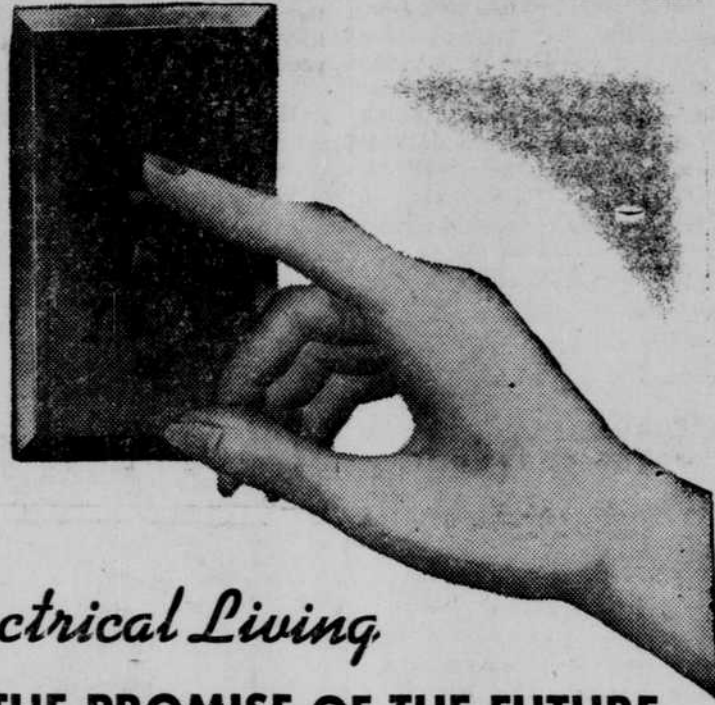
ATTENTION:

Anyone who has anything such as poems, stories, jokes or reports or if you happen to have any other things which you think would be interesting to little children, bring to Valeria Joan McCaw, 2866 Ohio street, Omaha, Nebraska or call WE-9156 Editor of the "Children's Column". Remember we must have them by published in "The Greater Omaha Guide of the Children's Column" if OK for the

the news in the office before 6 pm each Monday.

The little boy or girl under 12 years of age who brings into the "Children's Column" editor, the best joke, poem or the most interesting short stories each week, will be given a ticket to the Ritz Theatre for the Sunday afternoon show.

The Children's editor will be the judge as to who is the winner of the prize. Remember that all jokes, short stories and poems will be the property of the judge Valeria Joan McCaw, Editor.



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Nebraska Power Company Storz Named Vice President Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Robert H. Storz, prominent civic leader and vice-president of the Storz Brewing Company, this week was elected vice-president and chairman of the executive board of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce.



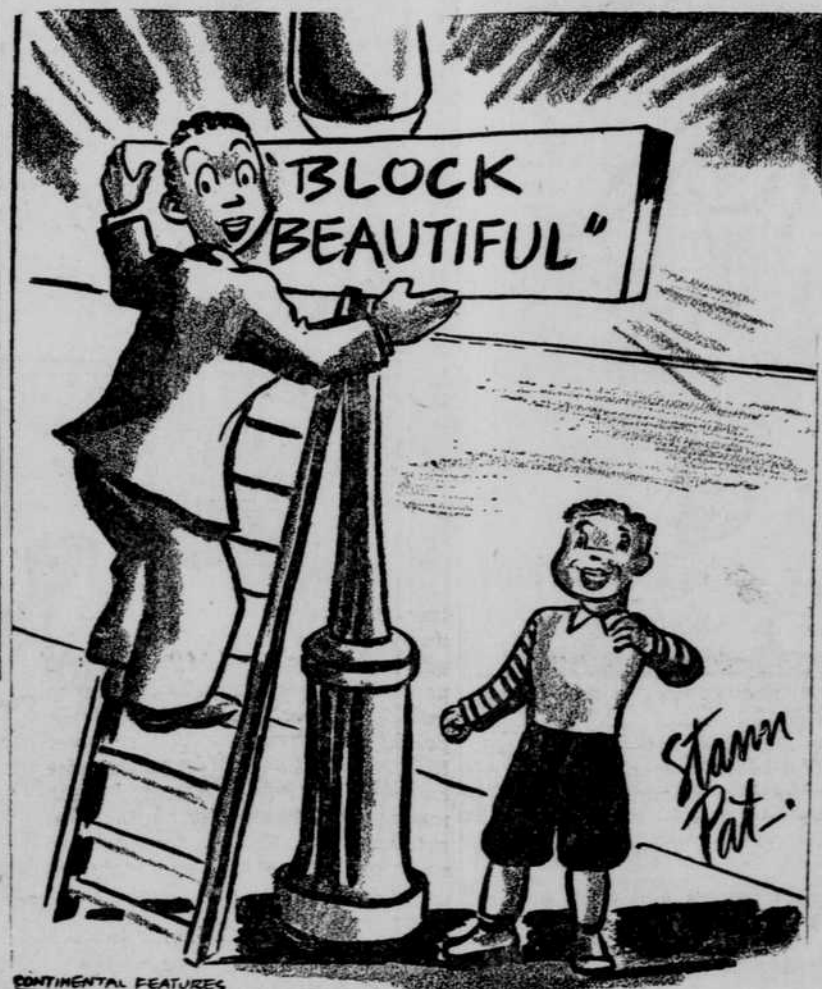
Robert H. Storz, newly-elected Vice-President of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

Storz, who has served the Chamber as chairman of the Industrial Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors for three years, was elected June 12 for the 1945-1946 term. It is customary for the vice-president to assume the office of Chamber President the following year.

A former president of the Omaha Manufacturers' Association, Storz is a Past Commander of Omaha Post No. 1, American Legion, and is the president of Omaha's World War II Memorial Park Association.

"I really welcome the opportunity to serve Omaha in this important Chamber capacity," Storz said, "especially during what we hope will be the post-war years."

"Every city in the state will have to be on its toes during these critical times to avail itself of each opportunity toward getting new business and expanding the old; providing jobs for returning servicemen and women, and seeing that its products are marketed around the world," Storz said.



CONTINENTAL FEATURES



TAN TOPICS

By CHARLES ALLEN



How Germans Treat U.S. Prisoners



GERMANY—(Soundphoto)—One of the most emaciated of the Americans freed at this German prisoner of war camp, lies dazed on his wooden bed. He is one of the prisoners captured in the Ardennes salient. His daily rations consisted of a slice of bread, a bowl of dried peas and unpeeled potatoes.



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