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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 analysts 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 Kami-kaze (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 civilians 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 Reds' 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, 80,000 Czechs, 10,000 Greeks, 10,000 Danes, 10,000 Norwegians and 10,000 from Luxembourg.

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. 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 husky, white-haired 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.

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 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.



Tales of the Town

Producer John "Memphis Bound" Wildberg was turning about an indolent girl usher at one of the Broadway show-shops.

"Take it easy," his Missus admonished. "For all we know, this girl may be the next Lauren Bacall."

"By the time she seats us," grunted Wildberg, "she'll be too old."

Red Kann relays the one about radio announcer Ken Roberts, who told of a commentator that rounded out a broadcast by declaring: "Adolf Hitler—that swine—that pig!" . . . Roberts had to follow saying: "The commentator's views were his own and do not represent the viewpoint of his sponsor, the Universal Meat Packing Co."

Some of the boys were discussing how Goering should be punished. They all agreed the Allies should be particularly severe with him because of his failure to keep any of his numerous promises. One of the fellows summed up: "If for nothing else, Goering should be punished because he broke every promise he ever made." . . . A little refugee, who was listening, interrupted. "I don't know what you men are talking about," he said. "Goering kept all of his promises to the Jews!"

He's a hotel executive, and they've been married for six years. Last week she celebrated her 27th birthday, and as was the custom in the past he sent roses—one rose for each year. The clerk who filled the order, however, thought that the flowers in stock were rather small and so for the same price tossed in 6 more—making a total of 33. . . . When he got home that night and expected some remark about the flowers, he was embraced—by the vase and all.

Mr. Georges Jomier forwards the following: "We just came back from two weeks in Germany and you have no idea how happy we were to leave that country. Berlin has been a great disappointment—a lot of activity but no warmth or color or spirit."

"We travelled in a car from Berlin to Frankfurt, and we have seen with our own eyes that one should not believe in the complaints of distress by the Germans. The factory chimneys are smoking and the people are working everywhere. The crops are very good—everyone seems to be very well-fed and well-dressed."

"And what is difficult to understand is that the Germans do not believe that the Allies have won the war."

"Of course, their money has no value or very little value, but the bankers are blaming the Allies for that state of affairs and are pretending that it is the fault of the Allies. Therefore, they are trying by every means possible to stop France from accomplishing her program of reparation."

"Thus, Germany remains a menace, and France should fear a new war." — From Le Courrier Du Pacifique, July 4, 1921.

Low Parker understands some correspondents were interviewing the unit that captured Hermann Goering.

"How'd you find him?" they asked.

"Just pushed back his medals," was the answer, "and there he was."

Recently on a newly won island the all-clear signal blew after a Jap raid—but none of the boys left their fox-holes. . . . The siren blew again, and nothing happened. . . . Finally, in a last desperate move to get the men out of their fox-holes, the officers played a phonograph record over the PA system. . . . A few moments later the soldiers streamed from their shelters. . . . The selection was the Frank Sinatra recording of "Come out, come out, wherever you are."

T. E. Brown, now stationed at Groton, is an unassuming lad. . . . At the battle of Midway he left a flying formation that had destroyed a Jap battleship. . . . Then he "alone it" for another target and slipped a big egg right into the funnel of a Jap destroyer—sending it to the hark-kari trail. . . . Lt. Brown rejoined his group on the way home—and after two days (and threatened discipline by his CO) he admitted that he knocked off the Jap destroyer. . . . He was afraid, he said, of being yelled at "for breaking the formation!"

Returning Servicemen to Civilian Life Has Been Organized on Army Version of Assembly Line Plan

Typical G.I. Joe Goes Through Ropes at Separation Center

S/Sgt. Arthur Freund, 25-year-old overseas veteran, is typical of the thousands of soldiers who will be given discharge under the point plan, on account of age, or due to dependencies. Like many others, Sergeant Freund would like to have stayed in service until his job was done. He will continue to contribute to war effort on the home front. His war experience will aid him.

His wife, Bertha, who lives in Brooklyn, N. Y., was made an invalid by an automobile crash. Arthur is needed at home to take care of her. He had no choice, and the army, realizing that his greater duty was to his wife, sent him, along with hundreds of others, to Fort Dix, N. J. Separation center areas have been established throughout the United States to take care of the 343,000 Yanks who will be discharged in next 30 days. The one at Fort Dix was selected for Sergeant Freund, being the nearest to his home.

Property Is Checked



All records and property is checked upon arrival. When the discharged soldier leaves the center he is given one complete outfit.

Goes Through Mill



The big moment he has been waiting for arrives. Sergeant Freund, top, is shown with his final papers, which he must sign. They include his discharge certificate and separation qualification record, which he will find need for in years to come. Center, another big moment. Final payday has arrived. He receives his discharge button, service and honor medals and ribbons and all pay due him from the army, including the first \$100 of his mustering out pay. Having served overseas he will receive \$300 mustering out pay in all. Lower, the Honorable Discharge is presented by separation center commander, along with congratulations on Sergeant Freund's excellent service record.

Receives Final Instructions



Along with other men Sergeant Freund hears an orientation talk by camp officer. Insert shows him during an interview, during which he is given expert counseling and assistance for his transition to civilian life. He is explained the G.I. Bill of Rights, benefits of insurance and given employment assistance when desired.

His Last Physical Examination



Sergeant Freund reports to the medical branch for a complete final physical examination. X-rays, dental inspection and complete check-up are part of the regular routine. Each veteran must inform the medical officer of any illness or injury incurred since entry into service. Disability claims are prepared at this time.

Given Special Meal



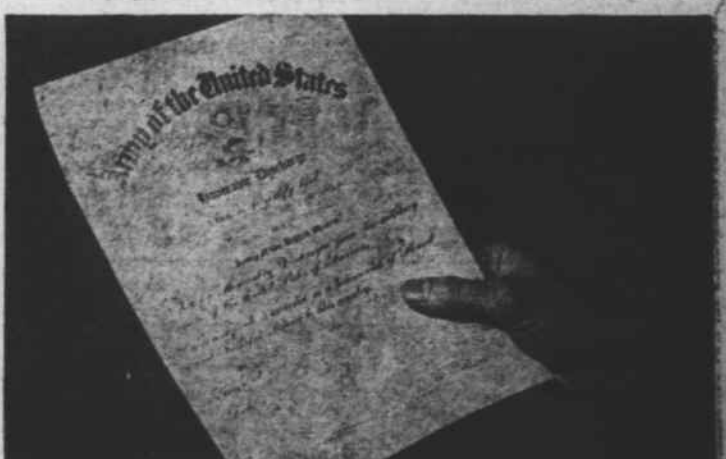
Like many others who arrive in camp at odd hours of the day and night, Sergeant Freund missed regular army chow, but he doesn't go hungry, because the separation centers provide a special mess for those who arrive late.

A Civilian Is Born



Proof that he is a citizen—above the right pocket of Sergeant Freund's olive drab blouse, has been placed the honorable discharge emblem that certifies honorable and faithful service to his country. He will be given a discharge button.

Sheet of Paper and a Signature



It may be only a single sheet of white paper, a few printed words, and a signature in blue ink, but it represents 25 months of faithful service to the army and an honorable discharge for Sergeant Freund. It's his entry back into the civilian life of the nation for which he offered his life.