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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Japs Foresee Invasion as Yanks Tighten Noose on Home Islands; Peg Meat Supply at Present Level

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(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.)



Captured on Luzon island in the Philippines, these Jap war prisoners relish each of U. S. army C rations.

PACIFIC:

No Halt

Though fighting on Okinawa was as tough as that on Iwo Jima, results have been the same, with the gradual U. S. conquest of the island pressing home the immediate danger to Japan proper, 325 miles to the north.

With Japan already hard hit by air, the enemy looked for an imminent invasion of the homeland, with propagandists seeking to assure the people of the strength of well-provisioned underground fortifications, long in the making to thwart any landings.

Having fought through the maze of interlocking Jap caves on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, American soldiers viewed any underground fortifications in the enemy homeland as an elaboration of the defensive systems on these outlying islands. Though heavily battered after terrific aerial and artillery bombardment, they were only cleared by steady, concentrated U. S. fire from close-up, plus the gradual exhaustion of supplies.

Even as U. S. ground troops reduced Okinawa with its valuable air fields for raids upon the enemy homeland, U. S. fliers were busy hammering at Jap industrial centers and supply lines to China.

With the American fleet dominant in Pacific waters, U. S. aircraft took off from carriers to plaster enemy shipping plying between Japan and Korea, thus forcing the Nipponese to use a more round-about route farther north to get into China or else try to break the blockade at night or in rough weather.

Harassment of this route came on top of the U. S. sea and air threat to the Japanese overwater supply line from their conquered South Pacific possessions, and the Chinese pressure against the enemy's overland corridor running the length of the east coast of China.

Meanwhile, Superfort bombardments of Jap industrial centers continued apace, with the B-29s extending the devastation of already heavily battered homeland cities.

EUROPE:

Allied Snag

Reworking of the occupational zones in the face of Russian demands for greater territory, and the Reds insistence that U. S. and British forces withdraw from fringes of their proposed holdings, slowed up organization of machinery for coordinated Allied administration of the beaten country.

The snag in plans followed the U. S., British, Russian and French declaration stripping Germany of all Hitlerian conquests and restoring its 1937 borders, and placing all of the material and human resources of the country at the disposal of the Big Four. Severe as the declaration was, it left the door open for further alteration of the German frontier, and imposition of additional regulations for governing the people.

As the U. S. and British representatives at the Big Four meeting in Berlin, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery visited the battered German capital for the first time since its fall, leaving shortly after the signing of the declaration because of the inability of the Russian delegate to proceed on joint control action until settlement of the latest claims of Moscow.

Recognition of Russian demands for additional occupational terri-

tory would give the Reds control of half of Germany and include the cities of Leipzig, Gotha and Erfurt and the whole province of Thuringia presently held by the U. S.

SAN FRANCISCO:

Break Log-Jam

With Russia's agreement to permit the discussion of disputes by the security council of the United Nations' postwar peace organization, the log-jam holding up the conclusion of the San Francisco conference was broken.

In insisting that any of the five major powers have the right to veto the discussion of a dispute, Russia almost stood alone through three weeks of prolonged bickering, finally giving in after consultations between U. S. envoys Hopkins and Harriman with Stalin in Moscow. Though the agreement permits discussion of a dispute without danger of veto, any of the Big Five can veto down proposals for formally investigating the trouble or calling for peaceful settlement.

One of the outstanding issues of the conference, the veto question ranked in importance with the subjects of international trusteeships



Mexico's Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla (left) and U. S. Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius at San Francisco party.

and regional pacts, also resolved after lengthy deliberations. In the matter of the trusteeships, the U. S. was granted unqualified possession of Pacific islands wrested from the Japanese and needed for American defense until congress should decide to turn them over to the peace organization. Under the agreement on regional pacts, groups of nations banded into cooperative units can try to work out their own problems before submitting them to the security council of the postwar peace organization, or resort to self defense if attacked without waiting for league action.

Meanwhile, Superfort bombardments of Jap industrial centers continued apace, with the B-29s extending the devastation of already heavily battered homeland cities.

MEAT:

Peg Supply

In addition to steering more cattle to federally inspected packers to permit greater distribution of meat across state lines and cutting out all lend-lease or relief meat shipments through July-August-September, the government also reduced military allocations to allow a proportionate increase in supplies to civilians.

Even so, the severe meat pinch will endure through the summer months, with prospects for improvement in the fall when increased marketings should not only permit greater supplies for civilians but also resumption of limited shipments overseas.

Though the government chopped military allocations down to 1,213,000,000 pounds for July-August-September, and pegged civilian allotments around present levels of 3,740,000,000 pounds, the amount available for home consumption will remain dependent upon supplies in the quarter. During April-May-June, supplies fell below government goals.

CONGRESS:

Back Bretton Woods

Having voted to extend the reciprocal trade treaty act for three years and grant the President power to cut tariffs 50 per cent under existing levels, the house also approved the Bretton Woods monetary agreements as part of the administration's program for participation in world economic stabilization.

Passed by a large vote against the opposition of a handful of Republicans, the agreements include:
1 An 8,800,000,000 dollar fund of currencies of 44 or more United Nations upon which any member country could draw to obtain foreign exchange at a stable rate for conducting business;

2 A 9,100,000,000 dollar world bank for reconstruction and development, with the various governments either loaning money directly or guaranteeing any private loans made.

As has been the case ever since the announcement of the agreements, chief opposition centered around the 8,800,000,000 dollar currency fund, designed to prevent upward or downward fluctuations in the value of different currencies. According to opponents of the plan, sound currencies would be drawn from the fund, leaving only the unstable money of countries not adequately required to straighten out their economic affairs.

BERLIN:

Dead City

Entering Berlin over a month after its capture, U. S. newspaper correspondents found a city of death, strangely quiet with piles of brick and masonry and steel heaped along the streets; seared and gaunt walls sticking up like jagged teeth amidst the ruins, and all about the sweetly sickening odor of death.

Though the Russians have pressed for the clearance of some streets for motor and pedestrian traffic, and installed emergency surface water piping in some sections, Berlin remains the terrifying example of the fate of present-day cities subjected to the fire of modern warfare.

As Americans motored through this fantasy of destruction, some of the 2,000,000 of surviving Berliners living in cellars or pummeled lower stories of burned-out buildings emerged from their hapless shelters, dazed and unkempt. They are living on meager rations and have no fuel. The only men seen were old and unshaven.

FARM MACHINERY:

Production Problems

Despite easing of manufacturers' restrictions in June and the scheduled removal of all quotas in July, farm machinery companies are running up against a shortage of parts and manpower in producing sorely needed implements.

Of the parts, the most serious shortage is in gray and malleable castings, including cylinder blocks for tractor engines and rear axle housings. Because of the pinch, output of mowers, binders and some types of harrows, plows, hay rakes and manure spreaders may be restricted.

Though the manpower shortage is general in the industry, the scarcity is particularly felt in the foundries producing castings. Throughout the entire war, foundries have experienced difficulties obtaining the necessary amount of employees, leading to wage increases in some instances to attract workers.

Because farm machinery manufacturers continued output during the war, they stand in a favored position in the reconversion period, not only because of the maintenance of their productive facilities but also because of the continuation of their contacts with the thousands of sub-contractors turning out necessary small parts.

U. S. CASUALTIES:

West Front Toll

Topping a million for all branches of service since Pearl Harbor, U. S. casualties in the fighting against Germany alone since D-Day totaled 514,534 or an average of 1,527 a day. Of the 514,534, 89,477 were killed, 367,180 wounded and 57,877 missing.

Against the 514,534 losses sustained by the 60 U. S. combat divisions opposing the Germans, 14 British and Canadian divisions incurred 184,512 casualties, including 39,599 killed, 126,145 wounded and 18,368 missing. Eleven French divisions suffered 11,080 casualties and one Polish division 5,593.

Of the 57,877 U. S. troops reported missing, 15,000 to 20,000 may be prisoners yet to be recovered, it was said. Many may have been taken as such in the closing months of the campaign, when the disorganization of the Nazis prevented the official listings of prisoners.



Notes of a Newspaperman:

Telegram: "Poetic Justice. The dramatic reversal of the Reichstag trial. Goering prosecuted Georgi Dimitroff in the frame-up blaming Dimitroff for starting the Reichstag fire. And today Dimitroff is prosecuting 'Meyer' Goering! Isn't it wonderful? — Ralph Berendt, New York City."

A Russian delegate to the Security Conference was trying to throw some light on the muddled situation in China (for a perplexed journalist) before Chiang "technically" resigned his premiership.

"But why," asked the writer, "is unity so hard to establish in China, if both the Chungking Gov't and Communist guerrilla forces want to destroy the Japanese?"

"Perhaps it is best explained by saying that it is an old custom for Chiang to fight the Communists," replied the delegate, "and he has such love for ancient institutions that he will not look at the new moon, out of respect for the old one."

British soldiers who witnessed the capture of Lord Haw Haw gave him the English equivalent of the Bronx cheer. One yelled derisively: "Boys, take a look at Lord Hee-Haw, the man who brayed like a donkey!" Another Tommy (in the group standing at ease) commented: "That reminds me of the time all the donkey-cart drivers in Britain went on strike. They sent a delegation to 10 Downing street, and the man who was spokesman told Winnie: 'We're going to stay off the job until you do something about that fellow in Berlin, named Lord Haw Haw. Our donkeys have been listening to his broadcasts, and now every jackass thinks he can be a radio commentator!'"

According to the best-informed gossip, Joe Davies' flying trip to see Churchill was for the purpose of soft-pedaling the anti-Soviet hysteria which has been emanating from the London-Washington pipeline in recent weeks. Capitol politicians have dug deep into "the guess-what-for" basket. In a discussion between two Administration Senators, one remarked: "I doubt if Davies will be as successful with Churchill as he has been with 'Uncle Joe.'"

"Don't worry," counseled the other. "Davies is a wise and honest man. Trouble with most of our diplomats is that we appoint them to avert situations which would never occur if they weren't our diplomats in the first place."

When about to bury Himmler, it's said that a British soldier assigned to the job speculated in ironic vein: "Don't you think, sergeant, that we ought to pay some touching tribute to the deceased?"

"Yes, indeed," mused the top-kick. "I will now say a few words," and he began: "Dear Lord, we are now delivering up to you— at which point he was stopped by one of the Tommies, who spat and said: 'Let's get 'im underground, 'e smells awful!'"

To which the sergeant intoned: "What do you expect from a skunk—peffume?"

The Love Letters of a Columnist:
In a broadcast from Tokyo the other day (heard by the FCC) the Mikadomei News Agency heaped praises on Joe Stalin for his "powerful leadership based on Sovietism," which "finally overcame a danger of defeat far greater than the one facing the Japanese at present."

When the item was carried in the Russian press, it was the cause for some ironic comment by the down-to-earth Muscovites. One gray-beard was overheard remarking: "When the fox begins to praise the rooster, and tells him he is a fine bird, the rooster had better be ready to fly for his life."

Out of a long, painful experience, Abraham Lincoln wrote five sentences which all of us would do well to study: "If I tried to read, much less answer, all the criticisms made of me and all the attacks leveled against me, this office would have to be closed for all other business. I do the best I know how, the very best I can. I mean to keep on doing this, down to the very end. If the end brings me out all wrong, then 10 angels swearing I had been right would make no difference. If the end brings me out all right, then what is said against me now will not amount to anything."

Parachutes, Jeeps, Halftracks, Flamethrowers, Will Be Used in Peacetime to Battle Forest Fires

Methods Devised for War Are Being Adapted to Save Timber Resources

The swords of war become the plowshares of peace, and this time Mars has some weapons that are going to come in mighty handy in the never ending battle against forest fires. Some very logical questions are being asked today: Why not use fire-extinguishing bombs to drop on spreading forest fires? Why not use bombers, equipped with precision sights, to aim these bombs? Why not use fire-fighting parachute troops to drop behind "enemy" lines or to transport to fire regions difficult to negotiate by land?

The man who is expected to take charge of this program is David Godwin, a veteran of the forest service, who has been active in anti-fire experimental work for a number of years.

Godwin already has investigated the possibility of dive-bombing forest fires, using bombs which in reality were exploding fire extinguishers. That, however, was a number of years ago, and didn't meet with much success. It was difficult, the experimenters found, to hit the exact spot where the bomb-extinguishers would do the most good, and there was difficulty in covering a sufficiently large area.

Aviation enthusiasts, however, are counting upon effective bomb-sight and other precision instruments to change this situation. As an alternative, they believe there may be great possibilities in the use of helicopters. No doubt a fleet of bombing planes could be used to advantage in blasting a fire out of a forest, especially with ground support from a parachute battalion.

The use of parachute-dropped troops to fight forest fires was first tried a few years ago, and they have been seeing action in this capacity ever since. But there never has been enough of them to combat a really big fire. This number can be expanded greatly after the war, and the wartime training of paratroop combat units can bring about the organization of a formidable fire-fighting force.

'Jeep' Will Be Fire Engine

When it comes to post-war techniques in forest fire fighting, however, it may be not only the use of waves of bombing planes, and parachute troops to augment the present forces. The ubiquitous "jeep"—accustomed to the jungle trails of New Guinea and the difficult terrain of Africa and Italy—is already recommended by professional foresters as highly suitable for service as a miniature fire engine. Likewise, the "walkie-talkie" radio unquestionably will be used by the thousands to keep in contact between fire chiefs, their crewmen, aviation spotters, pilots and paratroopers overhead.

"Half-tracks" which combine automobile speeds with tank and tractor ability to negotiate swamps and rugged land, can serve efficiently as big brother to the jeeps, and for use as bulldozers to scrape fire trail barriers to the progress of flames. Bulldozers already are essential fire-fighting equipment.

Even flame-throwers developed by the chemical warfare service may be called upon for building "back fires," burning out areas in the path



As soon as a forest ranger spots a fire he radios for the flying fire-fighters. Here a "smoke jumper" is making a "feather bed landing" in the tops of a young coniferous growth.

of spreading flames. Accompanying them would be men with fire extinguishers, to guard against the back fires getting out of control.

The paratrooper, however, will doubtless have a glory and a duty all his own. His greatest service will come from the fact that he can get there first. Once a watcher from a fire-tower or from a patrolling plane spots smoke, it need be only a few minutes until a paratrooper can land within 50 or 100 yards of the blaze, and by getting there while the fire is just starting, he will be able in many cases to extinguish it without additional help.

Paratroopers by Hundred.

But when long periods of dryness have rendered the forests highly inflammable and fires spread quickly, a radio summons from the spotters can bring reinforcements in a hurry. A single big plane may bring a score or more paratroopers; a dozen planes could bring them by the hundreds.

With their faces protected by plastic masks, heads covered with padded helmets, and bodies covered with non-ripping fabrics, to spare them injuries in case of tree-top landings; and with coils of rope handy for quick descent from the trees, the paratroopers can reach a fire many precious minutes sooner than men on trucks or horseback can generally arrive.

Portable fire-fighting devices that are strapped to a man's back are already standard forest equipment suitable for the paratroopers. Sometimes these are hand-pumps with a small tank of water. An alternative device uses water but builds the pressure behind it with carbon dioxide, either in its liquid form or in the form of "dry ice." Some portable extinguishers use carbon dioxide itself to play upon the fire. It snuffs them out by driving away the oxygen. Extinguishers of greater capacity and other supplies will be attached to parachutes and dropped from other planes.

Meantime, the jeeps and half-tracks, trucks and bulldozers will be moving up with other reinforcements and supplies. They may bring the flame throwers to build back fires, if necessary. They'll bring long lines of hose and high-pressure pumps, powered by motors which are twins to those used on rowboats. With the high pressure equipment, they'll be able to combat fires in "snags," dead trees which are an especial menace because they tend to carry ground fires upward to the tops of other trees.

Ground Reinforcements.

When a forest fire goes into the tree tops it is about as difficult to check as any fire can possibly be. In an old forest a crown fire may be as high above ground as the 15th story of a skyscraper—with no automatic sprinkler system to help combat it, and plenty of oxygen to make it burn freely.



After landing the "smoke jumper" unstraps his parachute and goes to work with his portable fire extinguisher. He carries other tools such as axes and spades. The heavier equipment can be dropped by parachute when necessary.

Thus, if the original fire does get out of control of the first paratrooper to reach it, and proves too big for the first reinforcements also, it is almost certain that the third wave of paratroopers and ground forces will resort to building backfires and digging trenches as the maximum effort to check it. Bulldozers and plow-equipped half-tracks will mechanize a large part of the digging job. Men with flame-throwers and extinguishers will handle the backfires. Other men with gasoline-powered "chain-saws" will clear the path of the bulldozers and half-tracks of trees too big for them to bowl over.

America has a big stake in forest lands. Forest operators are seeing to it that our trees continue to grow, but they know that fire is the biggest menace to growth. They need weapons with which to fight fires, and they expect those that this war provides will help to keep a better control over this persistent enemy.

On Land or Sea, Navy P. O. Gets Mail Delivered

System of 5,000 Branches Reaches Remotest Islands

One of the most gigantic wartime tasks confronting postal men is delivering mail to mobile units of the fleet. The mounting tempo of operations in the last year means not only that greater distances must be spanned to effect delivery but that a greater number of men are involved in combat activities increasing all classes of mail to an unprecedented volume.

During March, 1945, 86,132,623 pieces of letter mail passed through Fleet Post Office, San Francisco to navy, marine and coast guard personnel in the Pacific. In March, 1944, there were 36,636,337 pieces of letter mail dispatched to the Pacific showing clearly that the mail volume increased well over 100 per cent in one year. It is expected that it will rise even farther.

The nerve center of the navy mail service is in the navy department, Washington, D. C. Here, ship and plane movements are traced and communicated daily to the fleet post offices by wire and airmail. Information on ship and plane movements come in from all over the world—by radio, letter and messenger.

Throughout the world, there are over 5,000 navy post offices, varying greatly in size and appearance—some within the United States but the vast majority are on board ship or at advanced bases or on captured and liberated islands. The large ones serving the mobile units are designated as fleet post offices.

Extensive surveys show that navy, coast guard and marine corps personnel overseas above all want letters—letters giving local news and telling of things done and things planned. Secondly, they want objects with a personal sentimental appeal such as photographs, snapshots, drawings made by their youngsters, and newspaper clippings that can be enclosed in these letters.

Such surveys also show that they positively know what they don't want. They don't want cakes, soft candies, cookies, cigarettes and fancy toilet kits. These foods do not survive the trip to the Pacific and arrive in a battered, moldy condition.

To make sure your package arrives in good condition, the following suggestions are outlined:

1. Use a strong container (special boxes are designed for this purpose).
2. Pack each article in shredded paper or some filler material to prevent movement inside the package.
3. Inside each package put a sheet of paper with a list of the contents and the full address of the person to whom it is sent plus your return address.
4. Tie the box with cord, then WRAP it in heavy paper and tie it with strong cord.
5. PRINT the address in ink directly on the wrapping; don't use gummed labels which fall off when they are subjected to moisture.

Experience has shown that a man overseas places a far higher value on a letter from home than a package of candy, or a long delayed newspaper. Because of the great morale factor, the navy delivers first class mail to the far Pacific as a condition.