

War Industry Draft Needed By U. S. Army

War Department Officials Oppose Deferment Of Fathers WOULD UPSET PLANS Possible Disruption In Aircraft Plants Cited As The Reason

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—(AP)—War Department officials, called on to explain the need for drafting fathers, told Congress today that the global war situation demands not only this step but also legislation allowing compulsory assignment of men and women to war industries.

Gravelly, Lieut. Gen Joseph T. McNarney, deputy chief of staff, testified before a Senate-House committee that a ban on induction of fathers would necessitate recasting all the strategic planning done at the Roosevelt - Churchill conference.

Shortage of Labor Felt To this, Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson added testimony that deferment of fathers would cripple war production because it would necessitate drafting childless men who are essential workers in key industries.

Already, Patterson said, a shortage of labor in aircraft factories "is cutting down the number of planes that might be produced for waging war against our enemies," and added that he believed the only solution to be legislation for compulsory manpower controls.

"The War Department believes," he continued, "that the prompt passage of a law for national service would be of prime value in bringing the war to a successful and swift conclusion."

McNarney and Patterson testified before the Senate Military committee on a bill by Senator Wheeler (D-Mont.) to forbid drafting of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers before January 1.

Wheeler has served notice he will try to bring the measure up in the Senate without waiting for the committee's report and also will amend it to prohibit indefinitely the induction of fathers.

Members of the House Military committee are sitting with the Senate group at the hearings. With the issue of drafting fathers holding top place at the capitol, there were these other Washington developments:

The investigating staff of the House Naval committee recommended government aid after the war to help industries convert to civilian production but retention, meantime, of the law allowing renegotiation of contracts to prevent "excessive" profits.

Chairman George (D.-Ga.) of the Senate Finance committee and the House (D.-N. C.) of the Ways and Means committee met with President Roosevelt, Treasury officials and others to discuss a new tax program.

Leaders of major farm organizations also were called to the White house for a conference with Mr. Roosevelt, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard and Food Administrator Marvin Jones. Some of the agricultural leaders said they received assurances there is "not going to be any general consumer subsidy program" for farm products.

It was announced after the Quebec conference that it was concerned primarily with planning campaigns against the Japanese. Therefore, McNarney's assertions stressed the implication that it

New Nurses' Home Ready For Occupancy



The four story addition to the nurses' home at James Walker Memorial hospital is now complete and has been turned over to the board of managers by the Federal Works Agency. The structure will provide living quarters for 70 nurses. C. F. Churchill, FWA engineer, declared. Equipment for the interior has not been received but temporary provisions for occupancy have been made.

Bond Drive Indicator To Be Erected Today

A thermometer by means of which New Hanoverians will be able to chart progress toward the county's goal of \$6,053,000 in the Third War Loan drive will be erected Thursday on the postoffice lawn, officials of the campaign announced Wednesday night.

The large sign will measure 20 feet. A donation of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, it will indicate daily gains in the current drive.

In addition, a large banner bearing the words "Headquarters, Third War Loan Drive" will be hung across the front of the Tide Water Power company building Thursday to mark for campaign workers and prospective bond purchasers the center of campaign activity throughout the month.

Wednesday was described as another active day for participants in the drive. Statistics on total efforts were not forthcoming, but officials reported that there were good subscriptions for the special Treasury notes, issued for the first time Wednesday.

Mrs. Bernice Stelling, chairman of the Women's division of the War Finance committee, revealed that uptown solicitations reported to the Tide Water bond booth operated by the Ministering Circle, Wednesday amounted to \$6,975. Collections at the booth in Belk-Williams department store, operated by the Order of the Eastern Star, totaled \$6,436.85.

It was announced that Mrs. F. A. Tatum has been selected to supervise sales in the area between Third and Fifth streets. Mrs. Herbert Coddington has been named co-captain with Mrs. Henry Emory for the zone between 13th and 17th streets.

It is estimated that a comprehensive report of activity among canvassers in the house-to-house phase of the campaign will not be available before next week. All campaign officials, however, agree that the door-knocker work being accomplished by members of the Citizens Service Corps and other volunteers is bringing much coin into the bond treasury.

Miss Jennie D. Stout, health educator who has been appointed to succeed Miss Louisa Eskridge, and part of whose job will involve Citizens Service Corps work, has entered the drive and is assisting in direction of the block plan efforts.

Soliciting committees have been formed in various large organizations and industrial plants, and will be manned by the following persons: The professional groups and their chairmen are: Retail Oil, J. E. Brantley, The Texas company; Automobile dealers, L. A. Roney, Roney Chevrolet Co.; Bakers, J. B. Fox, Royal bakery; Barbers, Charles P. Murray, Cape Fear Barber shop; Beauty Shops, W. P. Troutman; Troutman's; Printers, Z. K. Bell, Jackson and Bell;

The ACL Car Loadings Beginning To Level Off, Says President has spent four ears as a flying instructor at Randolph Field, Texas; four years at Mitchell Field, New York, in bombardment and reconnaissance; and two years in a pursuit group at Selfridge Field, Michigan.

Administration, too, is an old game to Colonel Jones. For 16 months he served as assistant staff supply officer for the entire First Air Force, and prior to coming to Bluthenthal, he exercised two important commands in New England. From September 1942 to July 1943, he was in command of Otis Field, Falmouth, Massachusetts, and he came directly to Wilmington from the command of Grenier Field, New Hampshire.

At this period in its development and during these critical times, the air base has drawn as a commander a man with a broad and varied tactical background and solid administrative experience. The colonel is familiar with virtually every branch of the Air Corps and practically every part of the country. For four years between 1938 and 1939, he served in Panama as a pilot and observer. He

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ALLIES REPULSE BIG NAZI COUNTERBLOW AT SALERNO; REDS PLUNGING TO DNEIPEP

NEZHIN CAPTURED

More Than 6,000 Germans Killed As 200 Towns Are Retaken

IS NOTABLE TRIUMPH

Enemy Is Pursued Beyond Limits Of Vital Kiev Gateway

LONDON, Thursday, Sept. 16—(AP)—Soviet flying columns pounded toward the vital Dnieper river from captured Nezhin, 73 miles east of Kiev and from captured villages only 50 miles east of the river in the south, Moscow dispatches said today.

Killing more than 6,000 Germans and capturing more than 200 towns in the Ukrainian sweep, the Russians registered their most notable victory of the day. Yesterday at Nezhin, which they captured after two days of fighting.

Railway Is Lost Reports to London said they were pursuing the enemy beyond the city, a vital stronghold of German defenses before Kiev.

The Moscow communique, recorded by the Soviet monitor, said the capture of Nezhin deprived the Germans of the last main railway line on the left flank of the Dnieper and Premier Joseph Stalin, who announced the capture in an order of the day, called it "the most important center of the Germans' defense on the road to Kiev."

Three thousand Germans fell in the fierce fighting there and large quantities of war material and prisoners captured, the communique said. It marked an advance of 200 miles in 40 days.

But Soviet forces were even nearer the Dnieper in the south where the river bends far east. Here they captured Gulai Pole and Pokrovskoye, both 50 miles from Zaporozhe, a river and railroad town upon which hinges the entire German defense of the Crimea.

"German attempts to stem the violent offensive of the Soviet troops by counter-attack ended with the rout of many enemy in the field."

"Under the order, retail deliveries of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, confectioneries, soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages

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Americans Lose Ground—British Advance



American forces, locked in desperate battle with the Germans at Salerno (circled), have been forced to yield some ground, Allied headquarters said in announcing at the same time that the British Eighth Army, advancing in southern Italy, had captured Cosenza and Bari (arrows). Another Eighth Army column was at Gioia, between Taranto and Bari.

Fifth Army Front Line Holds Firm Under Fire

By REYNOLDS PACKARD Representing The Combined American Press Distributed By The Associated Press

WITH THE U. S. FIFTH ARMY IN THE SALERNO AREA, Sept. 15—The front line of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army held firm today after the enemy unleashed attacks yesterday — one just east of Salerno toward the center of the British-American bridgehead.

In all the attacks the enemy used a number of tanks to support the infantry. Today, however, Allied air and sea forces and infantry joined together to give the Germans the worst blasting they have yet received since the landings last Thursday.

ALLIES PIERCE LAE OUTER RIM

Main Core Of Resistance Broken West Of Vital Japanese Airbase

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Thursday, Sept. 16.—(AP)—Allied forces have crested through the main core of resistance west of the Japanese air base at Lae, New Guinea, and the other arm of a steadily advancing pincer has moved within two miles of the town's center.

Following quickly the overrunning of other prepared positions on both sides of Lae, the new successes were announced today by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Health's Plantation, eight miles west of Lae, where a bitter battle with the Japanese had been expected, fell to forces moving down the Markham valley. This force, brought in by big air transports September 5, also overran Vernon's Plantation, another center of resistance, and pushed ahead.

The force east of Lae standing nearest the town is comprised

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MUCH AIR SUPPORT

Small Bits Of 27 Mile Beach-head Yielded By Clark's Army

MONTGOMERY DRIVING

Eighth Army Captures Mediterranean Village Of Belvedere

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Sept. 15—(AP)—Supported by the strongest air attacks ever launched in front of an Allied army and by naval bombardment, American and British troops beat off the most violent German counterattacks yet mounted in Italy after again yielding small bits of their 27-mile bridgehead in the week-old, see-saw battle of Salerno.

On forced march from the south, Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army dashed 25 miles up the Calabrian coast to capture the Mediterranean village of Belvedere, narrowing the gap between his force Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army to 67 miles and raising the prospect of early relief by land as well as by sea.

The crucial battle of Salerno roared and flamed throughout yesterday and last night along the whole slender front from the port of Salerno around its crescent-shaped bay to Agropoli, with both sides throwing fresh troops and armor into action.

Allies Occupy Capri Offshore just west of Salerno, the little island to which the Emperor Tiberius retired in 27 A.D. to build villas to the Roman gods.

"Bitter fighting continues in the Fifth Army sector," the Allied communique said. "Determined counterattacks have been carried out by both sides. In some places our troops have been forced to yield ground, but new positions are being consolidated and reinforcements continue to arrive rapidly.

"Troops with their supplies and equipment continue to be disembarked on the beaches of the Salerno area by the Royal and U. S. navies working under Vice Admiral Henry K. Hewitt, USN. The bombardment of enemy positions by strong forces of cruisers and destroyers continues.

"During the night of September 13-14 and throughout yesterday, heavy, medium and light bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters of the Northwest African Air Forces in their most intensive and concentrated operations to date attacked roads and railroads, enemy positions, transport and troop concentrations at numerous points around the Salerno area."

The whole battle scene was veiled in smoke and dust. Generally the Allies were in the low flats and the Germans were ensconced in better positions in the wooded hills rising sharply from the coastal low lands.

The Germans brought up at least a fourth division, the 29th motorized, through heavy day and

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ODT AGAIN CUTS DELIVERY TRAVEL

Sharp Curtailment In Retail And Wholesale Motor Routes Slated

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—(AP)—Director Joseph B. Eastman of the Office of Defense Transportation today ordered a sharp curtailment of all retail and wholesale motor truck deliveries in the country, effective at 12:01 a. m., Monday, October 14.

The restrictions will extend to the rest of the nation the limitations on the frequency of deliveries which have been in effect since last spring in the northeastern "gasoline shortage" area.

The order includes a ban on the retail delivery of any package weighing less than 5 pounds or measuring 60 inches or less in length and girth combined. It also prohibits any retail deliveries, except ice, milk or cream, on Sunday.

"The necessity for this action has been carefully weighed in the light of the ODT's prime responsibility to protect and maintain the domestic transportation facilities essential to the successful prosecution of the war and current conditions in the field of motor transport," Eastman said.

"It is the belief of ODT that this action is the best means of safeguarding the public's interest in the field of wholesale delivery."

Under the order, retail deliveries of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, confectioneries, soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages

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Powerful American Raid Strikes Paris Industries

LONDON, Sept. 15.—(AP)—Powerful formations of United States bombers struck at Paris and other sections of France today and the Paris radio later reported "there are many victims."

The U. S. Eighth Air Force command said Flying Fortresses bombed Nazi aircraft factories in the vicinity of Paris while other Fortresses, Liberators and Marauders attacked scattered air fields in France.

The attack on Paris was the second within a week by the Fortresses and the sixth this month. They raided a German aircraft plant near Paris last Thursday.

Preliminary announcements indicated the Fortresses and Liberators might have made up one of the biggest heavy bomber forces ever to strike at the continent. Up to today, Flying Fortresses

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NEW BALKAN PUSH APPEARS NEARING

Mystery Of British Ninth Army Location Creates Much Speculation

LONDON, Sept. 15.—(AP)—The mystery of the whereabouts of the British Ninth Army, coupled with the reported successes of Yugoslav patriot forces apparently fighting along a prepared plan, hinted tonight that a strategic Balkan thrust was in the making.

A Cairo announcement that Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, who has been commander of all U. S. forces in the Middle East, had been shifted to an important new assignment suggested he might now be with the Ninth Army.

Official quarters here expressed ignorance of the movements of the Ninth Army, whose size and equipment had been kept a military secret. Ankara and Stockholm reports had the Army sailing from Syrian bases after two years of training. The Germans repeatedly have suggested the Ninth was being saved for a Balkan invasion.

The route from the Middle East to the Balkans would traverse the German-occupied islands of Rhodes and Crete and these islands, in Allied hands, would provide needed and valuable bases for bombers and fighters in any air umbrella, vital to a landing in Greece.

Reports from Yugoslavia said partisan forces had occupied more than 100 miles of the Dalmatian coastline on the Adriatic sea opposite Italy. They were said to have seized a large area in Slovenia which previously had been occupied

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WEATHER

Table with weather forecast for Wilmington, Masonboro Inlet, Moore's Inlet, and New Topsail Inlet. Includes temperature, humidity, precipitation, and tides for today.

Bluthenthal Airbase Gets New Commander

From Bluthenthal Field Public Relations Office Bluthenthal Field, Wilmington's former municipal airport, which has in the past year been developed into one of the most modern and important airports in the South, this month came under the command of Colonel John N. Jones, Air Corps.