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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Laval Given French Police Powers As Germany Fears Invasion Threat; U. S. Bombers, Subs Smash at Japs; Increased Undersea Program Likely

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

VICHY:

Pressure from Berlin

Regardless of underlying causes, or of how much justification there might have been, the overturn of government in Vichy which had brought Laval back to power as "civil supervisor" had been definitely accepted by Britain and the United States as a decision to "go with the Axis."

It had come at a moment when there were some indications that Vichy was wavering in its collaboration with Germany, and that Petain and his associates were looking with longing and friendly eyes toward the United States as a possible source of food supplies.

Some favorable steps had been made in this direction, then, all of a sudden, Laval seized the police power, and before the world knew it, Laval was back in the cabinet and many believed it marked the end of the Petain regime.

London was very positive about the whole thing, saying frankly that the re-entry of Laval into the government, the man who looks, acts and talks like Hitler, "reduces France to the level of a nickel Balkan state." The spokesman continued: "It clearly indicates the complete subservience of the Vichy policy to Berlin."

Two vital reasons were seen for the Laval development and both of them were envisioned as Germany "cracking down" on the Petain regime. The first was the German fear that an American-British invasion of the continent through France is imminent.

The second was that Germany feared the growing friendliness of Vichy and Washington through the ministrations of Leahy.

Hardly anybody thought the French fleet would immediately go into the war on Germany's side, neither could most observers see French soldiers fighting against the Russians, nor French fliers manning planes to bomb Britain.

But they could see a strong effort to be made at once by Germany

U. S. SUBS:

Wolfpack Tactics

The success of American submarines in the present Pacific war with credit for a substantial percentage of the amount of Japanese warships sent to the bottom, had caused Chairman Vinson of the house naval affairs committee to present a program calling for \$800,000,000 more in undersea craft.

A program adopted in 1940 called for 65 such ships. This would call for 100 more, or more than double the amount previously authorized.

The navy, last October, had 186 submarines in service, of which only a few were of the 1,500-ton "cruiser type," which are now under construction and planned by the Vinson program.

The naval plan would be for the United States to adopt the same



CARL VINSON
An \$800,000,000 program.

"wolfpack" tactics used by the Japs and Germans against American shipping. Though it was pointed out that we are building ships faster than they are being sunk, Vinson felt that an increased sub program would kick the Japs out of the war faster, as their shipbuilding facilities were limited.

MacARTHUR:

In Command

Although it had seemed clear enough through dispatches from Australia that the return of MacArthur from the Philippines had been to place him in command of all armies of the United Nations in the Far East, some doubt had followed this in the eyes of the public largely because of stories about General Blamey, and the small amount of material coming direct from MacArthur.

Finally the direct question was put to the American generalissimo, and his headquarters gave credence to the rumors when it frankly said it didn't know—that the general's status was not clear.

This called for a statement by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Curtin, the former stating that it was his understanding that MacArthur was in supreme command.

The following day this had been concurred in fully by Prime Minister Curtin, who went into enough detail so that little doubt could remain as to MacArthur's command powers.

The only point remaining not clear was whether MacArthur's powers extended to New Zealand. A Netherlands spokesman had confirmed his command over such Dutch forces as had escaped from the East Indies, and the fact that General Stilwell was in command of Chinese in Burma seemed sufficient confirmation from that quarter.

PRICES:

And Labor

The chances were that President Roosevelt might "beat to the punch" congressional efforts to legislate on the labor situation by pegging all prices, including rents and wages and interest on capital, thus following the Canadian and Australian systems already in effect.

Australia, guarding against the "black market" troubles England had had, because of a dire shortage of commodities, took the same step Canada had, and brought all prices and services under control of the government.

The price commissioner was given authority to peg all prices and services at levels he might select.

JAP INTERNEES: Paid Too Much?



SENATOR GILLETTE
Offers a four-point program.

Latest "scandal" to land on the front pages had been a report, given to the public by Senator Gillette of Iowa, that Japanese internees some of them were being paid \$50 a month by the government as against \$21 for selectees.

The senator said he was impressed by the sources of his information, and that he might ask for the congress to investigate.

The senator added that in any case, he was offering a four-point program, as follows:

1. Put all Japs, native and aliens, under United Nations authority and remove them from the Pacific coast.
2. Rescind all their civil rights for the duration.
3. Draft all the males between 20 and 44 for farm work under army control and for basic army pay.
4. Support this entire program with funds obtained from frozen Japanese money now in this country.

The senator said that he had information there was the sum of \$130,000,000 now available, and that several hundred millions more could be liquidated by selling frozen Japanese assets in this country.

RUSSIANS:

Place names coming out in Russian dispatches spoke volumes, more than any claims of killed or wounded, because they definitely had showed that the German "spring offensive," although well under way with hundreds of thousands of men, was getting nowhere.

For instance, the Reds had claimed to have pierced German lines in the vicinity of Bryansk; constant references were made to actions north and south of Lake Ilmen; Kalinin was a common name in the dispatches and the reports from towns like Mariupol in the south, and Vitebsk of Nazi atrocities could only have been obtained as the result of Russian advances.

There were German admissions showing Russian advances, a breakthrough admitted near Lake Ilmen, and Berlin broadcasts had said that the Reds were pounding the central front with an army of 90,000, including hundreds of tanks.

Coughlin, the weekly newspaper which was founded at Royal Oak, Mich., by the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, radio priest, had been barred from the mails.

Father Coughlin issued a statement denying present ownership of the paper, or any connection with its editorial content since last fall.

Washington advices, however, had indicated that the principal ownership rested with the "radio priest's" father and mother.

The accusation against the publication had been two things—that it was conducted along the line of the Axis propaganda war against this country, and, second that it had been "making a substantial contribution to a systematic and unscrupulous attack" upon the nation's war effort.

AIR EPIC:

A heroic epic of the air was the story of the rescue at sea of 17 survivors of a torpedoed vessel, including one woman, by a navy patrol plane piloted by Ensign Francis E. Pinter of Bethlehem, Pa.

Pinter's plane, a twin-motored bomber flying from San Juan to Guantanamo on submarine patrol got a radio message to investigate a raft at a certain point, and to report chances of effecting a rescue.

He had taken off with 500 gallons of gas and had burned 300 gallons, or lightened his ship by 1,800 pounds, and though the sea was rough he decided to chance it "as rescue seemed necessary at once."

Down he came, got the people into his plane, all of them so exhausted that they needed help for the transfer. One was tied to the deck, the woman got a bunk, the rest sat or lay where they could, three of them in the bomb compartment.

Washington Digest

Total War Effort Demands End of Political Bickering

American Industry Now Rolling at Speed Which Means Victory for Allies; Defeat Can Only Come at Home.

By BAUKHAGE
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As the time grows shorter and the critical moment approaches when the Axis poises itself for a knock-out blow, there is one battle which the enemy is steadily losing. The battle of France, the battle of Crete, the battle of the Netherlands Indies are all deep scars on the Allied escutcheon. But at last, despite endless delays, the selfishness and the bickering, we have begun to win the battle of America.

In the laboratory, on the drawing board and now finally in the machine shop and on the drill field America is forging the weapons and the organization which will win.

That statement is based on the confidential reports of the performance of American rifles, cannon, planes, tanks and ships tested in actual warfare.

We are still behind the enemy in some weapons. Some special artillery units of the Germans are superior. We have not reached the perfection in training of paratroops. We have not mastered the Japanese art of infiltration. We have not been able to work out the synchronization of air forces with other forces as the Germans have done on land and the Japanese have done on the sea. But wherever our separate units have been in action there is high praise for both performance of personnel and material. Where we have perfected that unity we have been highly successful.

American big bombers lead the world. With the comparatively few now in action they have put out of commission 60 Japanese ships and destroyed as many enemy airplanes.

The United States was far behind in aircraft carriers when the war began. But we can build them faster than Japan can. We are building them now. We are turning out "eyes of the navy." Our navy after Pearl Harbor was constantly shadowed by Japanese reconnaissance planes which have been in the air steadily.

Torpedo Boats

We are building an under-water surface and air combination which will probably decide the war in the Pacific. Our fast patrol torpedo boats have an enviable record in the Philippines; our new destroyers are tough skinned. The Kearny reached port after being almost cut in two with torpedoes. Our new merchant ships are tough, too. The sinkings along the Atlantic coast have been limited to ancient tankers; the only new tanker the subs were able to catch and hit got into port under her own power.

General MacArthur reports that the new Garand rifle and the new carbines which have been substituted for the .45 revolvers give our mobile troops superior fire power. Our light machine guns are at least equal to anything the Axis has produced.

Our field artillery has been re-made.

Our light tanks have proved themselves against Europe's best in the same class; our medium tanks are being improved in the light of experience and army men believe our armored units soon will dominate in that field.

We have the men. We now have trained men to train other men and as the Axis draws on its reserves of manpower our own army swells. We are winning the battle of America before it is begun and unless the whole structure of the Allies is destroyed before we can get the ships, we will be able to carry that battle into the enemy's country.

That is the optimistic side of the picture. The other side is the confusion on the home front. Like France we are still battling each other. We still are afraid of losing our own privileges and our own profits, group is fighting against group instead of uniting against a common enemy.

Although we have gradually abolished business as usual, we have not been able to abolish politics as usual. Until we do we will not have a total war effort, and without a total war effort we cannot wage a total war to victory.

—Buy Defense Bonds—
Golden Silence

In all Washington taxicabs there are signs, placed there by order of



Sugar Rationing Is No Hardship

Our Ancestors for Eons Got Along Without Added Sweetening.

CHICAGO.—For every year that English speaking peoples have enjoyed tea and cane sugar, their ancestors got along 2,500 to 3,500 years without these delicacies. Accordingly, declares Paul C. Standley, curator of the botany herbarium of Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, if a lump of sugar should become so rare as to qualify as a museum piece, there still would be no cause for great excitement.

Sugar has been in general use in our civilization only about 360 years, and tea less than 300 years, though the human race has been eating meat (without the sugar cure) and dessert (fresh off the tree) for a million years or more.

Housewives worrying about a possible tea famine and sugar rationing may find these items to be only the beginning of the readjustments which the Son of Heaven and the Son of Schickgruber might occasion. This statement applies particularly to the wives of gentlemen who demand pies, cakes, waffles, French pastries, fried foods, and oily salads.

Sweets So Essential?

It is quite possible, declares Ovid A. Martin, World Wide writer, that the government may ration lard, cooking compounds, vegetable shortenings, salad oils, butter and butter substitutes. But the sugar ration is the only one already upon us.

"From the national concern about a shortage one would suppose that man could not exist without sugar," says Mr. Standley. "Perhaps this is almost true nowadays, for last year the people of the United States each consumed about 96 pounds, and food habits are indeed hard to change.

"But up to 40 years ago the Russians used no more than two pounds per capita annually; and for thousands of years highly civilized peoples of Europe and the Near East managed to live healthfully and happily, if we may judge by their literature, without any sugar at all.

"Sugar was unknown to the ancient Greeks and Romans, except the few legionnaires who made campaigns to the extreme Orient. The fabulous Lucullan banquets of Rome's epicures were graced by no sugar except that obtained in honey and in dates and other fruits.

Spread in World Recent.

"Cane sugar actually was introduced into England about 1466, but was long restricted to occasional feasts of the rich, or to use as a medicine! It did not come into common use there until about 1580, when importations began from Brazil by way of Portugal. By 1790 English consumption was 20 pounds annually per person.

"Sugar cane is believed to have been native in southeastern Asia and must have been utilized there from man's earliest days of existence, but it was not for hundreds of years after the beginning of the Christian era that it or its product (first called sweet salt) became known in China and northwestern Africa. It was taken to Spain by the Arabs about A. D. 700, and then grown along the Mediterranean coast; about 1420 it was introduced into Madeira by the Portuguese, later into the Canaries, thence to Santo Domingo, and to Brazil early in the Sixteenth century. It is said to have reached Mexico in 1553."

Chicagoan Is in Navy

Now, at Nothing a Year

CHICAGO.—You've heard a lot about dollar-a-year men. Now meet Chicago's only nothing-a-year man. He is 46-year-old E. J. Kennedy, retired business executive, who bobbed up with a wave of excited recruits the day after the Japanese rabbit-punched Pearl Harbor.

"I can help," Kennedy told the harried staff at the navy recruiting office, wriggled behind a typewriter and began taking down the names of volunteers.

He's been working there ever since and recently was assigned two enlisted men as assistants.

Japanese Credit Pigs

In Singapore Victory

TOKYO.—Hundreds of barking dogs, squealing pigs and crowing roosters helped the Japanese conquer Singapore, military observers said. They said it was all part of the "time-honored fear tactics employed by the Japanese centuries ago."

The Japanese collected the dogs, pigs and roosters and made them emit an "infernal clamor" close to the enemy positions, which "foiled the British into thinking they were being attacked by a tremendous force."

'Guinea Pig' Trees Aid Rubber Output

Raise Saplings to Send to Latin America.

MIAMI, FLA.—Twelve hundred "guinea pig" rubber trees are working full time producing for Uncle Sam new types which will inject vim and vigor into the rubber producing potentialities of Central and South America.

The little-known 150-acre plant introduction station here is the only government-operated station in the country devoted to study of natural rubber production. Experts have been on the job quietly for 17 years but their work has been spotlighted suddenly by war and the nation's urgent need to replace Far Eastern rubber sources.

Under the direction of H. F. Loomis, associate agronomist, the staff has been able through careful grafting to increase the output of latex (the sap from which rubber is made) from three pounds per tree to 30 pounds. It takes 14 pounds of latex to make an ordinary tire.

Further, the 1,200 mature trees now are turning out 90,000 saplings annually for transplanting in Latin America.

The finest seeds, buds and bud sticks from Malay and Latin America rubber plantations are sent here via the United States government inspection house at Washington.

The average rubber plantation grows 100 trees per acre, and the step-up means that the acreage yield will be increased from 300 to 30,000 pounds annually.

Loomis says it would take about 20 years for rubber plantations in Central and South America to supply this country's present need for 600,000 tons a year. But every production increase means that much less rubber has to come from other less-prolific natural sources and from synthetics.

Children's Toys for 1942

Display Martial Designs

NEW YORK.—Children in 1942 are going to be aware there is a war.

The American Toy Fair here displays martial designs ranging from bathtub counterparts of battleships and submersible submarines to army tanks, trucks, planes and fleet maneuvers.

Juvenile paint books had pictures of training camp activities. Play uniforms were copied from models worn by the army, navy and marine corps. Toy soldiers were modeled from the armed services of this country.

On the feminine side dolls were shown in service uniforms and Red Cross nurse costumes.

Because of the war, however, there was a reduction of individual items by about 50 per cent.

Lighter weight construction and simplified packaging have been developed in all toy lines to effect additional conservation of materials and labor. Orders are being accepted on a "when and if" basis.

Foe Uses Grave Mounds

To Hide Things on Bataan

WITH GENERAL MACARTHUR'S FORCES.—So diligently do the Japanese guard against letting anything of value fall into enemy hands that they even hide objects with the dead.

This was established when United States officers on Bataan peninsula, acting on the tip of a voluntarily surrendered prisoner, unearthed a quantity of war material from 12 mounds of earth that were supposed to mark the final resting place of Japanese officers killed when they were cut off behind the American lines.

Only one of the graves contained a body. From the others were hauled three 75-mm. guns, two 37-mm. guns, more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, several combination telephone-telegraph sets, five rolls of field wire and other materials of war.

Cans on Pantry Shelves

Will Give Way to Glass

WASHINGTON.—With tin cans already on their way out because of limited supplies and military demands, America's grocers and housewives will see their shelves lined with jars and bottles.

The war department board revealed that it was working out a program to step up glass-container production and increase the country's preserving capacity.

There is no glass shortage, WPB officials said, but the program does not envisage an increased use of material. They explained that the shift from tin to glass would bring in larger containers, simpler designs, elimination of excess weight and reduced breakage, and round rather than square containers.



PIERRE LAVAL
Who talks like Hitler.

to man unoccupied France with troops which could be depended on to fight an invasion attempt, and thus relieve Germany of the necessity, and already through field glasses they could see the Germans preparing gun emplacements on the channel coast.

MERCY SHIP:

For Bataan

The first revelation of identity of the men lost in the battle of Bataan (the Jap claim had been 6,700 Americans of 40,000 total prisoners) came when 60 relatives of 1,400 New Mexico soldiers pleaded for a "mercy ship" to be sent to Bataan with food and clothing.

They comprised fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers of the men of the 200th coast artillery corps (anti-aircraft), all from the state of New Mexico.

It was stated in their petition that they believed their unit to have had more men in it than that from any other single state.

While some of the relatives did not sign, and hope was expressed that perhaps much of the corps had escaped from Bataan to Corregidor, there was enough evidence that the regiment had been trapped to induce Senator Chavez to go to work at Washington in their behalf.

The first thing that had been done, however, was for the senator to ask the President for definite word as to the fate of New Mexico's 200th.