

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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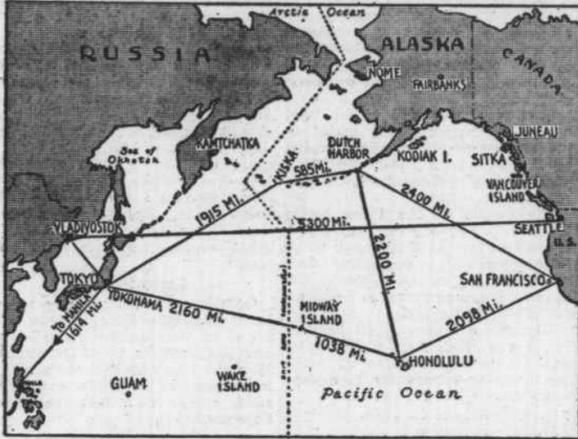
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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Fresh Nazi Offensive Forces Red Army To Yield Key Ground Back of Kharkov; Rommel Drive Perils All Middle East; U. S. Names Leader for European Zone

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
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The strategic importance of the Aleutian islands, off Southwest Alaska, is indicated by the above map. From Kiska, near the western end of the chain, to Tokyo the distance is less than 2,000 miles. Dutch Harbor lies 2,400 miles northwest of San Francisco. Jap landings in the fog-blanketed Aleutians have focused America's attention on that area.

RUSSIAN WAR: Nazis Pay Dearly

Marshal Timoshenko's Red army had sustained blow after blow on the Kharkov front as General von Bock's Nazi hordes tried a breakthrough to swing around Rostov, gateway to the Caucasus oil fields.

Stubbornly resisting German forces numerically and mechanically superior to them, the Russians had been compelled to fall back to new lines. Here they had withstood heavy attacks of tanks, infantry and planes.

A Russian communique acknowledged the loss of the railway junction city of Kupyansk, 60 miles south-east of Kharkov.

The Reds were following a strategy that had served them well in last year's bloody campaigns—of fighting fiercely until forced to fall back, then withdrawing slowly to strongly prepared positions. Meanwhile they were taking an enormous toll in Nazi dead and slowing down Hitler's timetable.

Meanwhile, Britain brought additional grief to the Nazis with a world record raid on the German port city of Bremen. More than 1,000 planes raided Bremen, leaving it in flames. A British communique reported the loss of 52 planes.

TAX BILL: Biggest on Record

The average income taxpayer faced the prospect of paying about twice as much as he is now paying when the new federal revenue bill becomes operative.

As approved by the house ways and means committee, the new bill would provide a gross revenue estimated at \$5,924,000,000—the largest tax ever collected in United States history. At that, it was a billion and a half short of the treasury department's original request for new levies to help finance war outlays.

Surprising to many fiscal experts was the house committee's action in striking out a provision making it mandatory for husbands and wives to file joint income tax returns.

The average wage-earner would be affected, three ways under the new tax measure. The bill provides a normal income rate increase of from 4 to 6 per cent; exemptions for single men would be reduced from \$750 to \$500 and for married men from \$1,500 to \$1,200; surtaxes would be increased from 6 to 12 per cent on the first \$1,000 of net taxable income.

U. S. INCOME: To Hit 117 Billion

Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve board told the nation that a new all-time record of 117 billion dollars for the annual national income would be reached during the war years.

Mr. Eccles warned Americans that this tremendous spending power will be far in excess of the consumer goods available to the buying public. Strict curtailment of all but necessary purchases, greater personal savings and steady buying of government war bonds, he said, will stop inflation.

The 1942 national income will be about 110 billion dollars, he said in a radio address. This will be about 30 billion more than it was in 1939.

SUBMARINE WAR: Caribbean Casualties

While President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill labored over the problem of finding ships with which to open and support a supreme front against the Axis, disquieting news of the increasing menace of enemy submarines in American waters was made public.

Soon after the navy had announced that a convoy system was protecting shipping along the Atlantic coast, came a communique disclosing that Axis subs had sunk 13 ships in the Caribbean in a 12-day period. The shift in Axis U-boat tactics from our immediate shores to the Caribbean sea lanes presented new problems to an already over-worked navy.

That these problems would receive prompt attention was intimated when it was announced that the navy had purchased two big airports in Miami, Fla. Establishment of air bases here would provide the navy with effective operating points from which to strike at submarines in southern waters.

CONSUMER SERVICE: OPA Takes Hand

Prices for shoe-shines and half-soles, for funerals, pants-pressing and permanent waving reverted to the level existing on March 1, when the Office of Price Administration established fixed ceilings for consumer services.

The new order affecting a million establishments doing a five billion dollar a year business, stabilized costs of important personal service items for every American citizen. It was a further step in the OPA's campaign to prevent inflation and runaway prices.

For example, the laundry that charged 12 cents for a shirt in March and raised the rate to 15 cents in April or June, had to cut its figure back to 12 cents on July 1.

Among the most common family budget items covered by the regulations were shoe repairing and shining; pressing, altering and repair of clothing; hat cleaning; laundry; electrical repairing; food locker service and rental; cleaning and dyeing; film developing and printing; watch and clock repairing; and undertaker's services.

ARGENTINA: 'Neutrality's' End?

While Argentine's policy of "prudent neutrality" had fendered with the sinking by a Nazi submarine of the freighter Rio Tercero, President Roberto M. Ortiz, supporter of President Roosevelt's policies, formally submitted his resignation. Inactive for nearly two years because of



DR. ROBERTO ORTIZ

near-blindness, Ortiz placed full responsibility for his country's administration upon Acting President Ramon S. Castillo, father of the "prudent neutrality" policy in dealing with the Axis.

The sinking of the Rio Tercero fanned a flame of popular resentment against Germany, for this was the third Argentine ship attacked and the second sunk in recent months. This resentment failed to calm down even when the government announced it had dispatched an "energetic" note of protest to Berlin. Sterner measures were demanded not only by the public but by the chamber of deputies.

AUSTRALIA: 100 New Airdromes

Steady progress in the task of strengthening Australia's defenses against Japanese invasion and providing offensive springboards for an eventual United Nations assault on Nippon was reported by Brig. Gen. Hugh Casey of the U. S. engineers corps.

At least 100 airdromes have been completed in the last few months, he said. In addition, war construction work embracing 1,500 major and minor projects is "well in hand" despite a scarcity of labor, plants and machinery.

General Casey reported that one airdrome costing \$9,600,000 had been completed in 71 days.

Washington Digest

Presidential Peace Plan Linked With Lend-Lease

Advances Made by America Looked Upon as 'Contributions to a Common Pool' Instead of Loans.



By BAUKHAGE
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President Roosevelt has completely reversed the ancient slogan: "In time of peace prepare for war," to make it read, "In time of war prepare for peace."

Because it is an axiom that the man behind the gun has to keep his mind on the gun, and the man behind the man behind the gun has to keep his mind on the man behind the gun, it isn't safe for people as a whole to look too far beyond the barbed wire. That is why there hasn't been much talk about the plan. A nation in the death grip finds it risky to turn its attention from the brutal needs of the moment to humanitarian hopes for the future. But a formula is being worked out that has the astounding purpose of using the very fires of war to forge a weapon for peace.

Hints of the program were revealed, partly between the lines, in a 42-page document which made up the President's last quarterly statement on the lend-lease operations, and partly in the President's address to the assembled representatives of the United Nations on Flag day.

Both references hark back to an idea set forth in an article which appeared in these columns long before we entered the war. That article said that Secretary Hull had a "peace machine" oiled and ready for use when the moment arrived. "Secretary Hull," it stated, "believes that the roots of war grow in the soil of evil economic conditions, that war cannot be prevented unless nations indulge in mutually profitable trade."

Mutually profitable trade, the secretary believes, can only be achieved when there are mutual concessions and mutual benefits—in other words, the basis of world trade must be reciprocal trade, to be brought about by means of the famous Hull reciprocal trade agreements.

The President in his last lend-lease report to congress clarified the meaning of "benefit," a meaning which of course has changed since America entered the war—since military co-operation with our own fighting forces has now become a very real factor. The President made it plain that now that "we are at war" the lend-lease principle as it develops "removes the possibility that a condition of finance will affect the full use of all material resources" because the advances made by America are not loans but "contributions to a common pool with which the common war is being waged."

So much for the part lend-lease is to play in war. Now to its role in the peace plans. The President said: "If the promise of the peace is to be fulfilled, a large production among nations must be restored and sustained. This trade must be founded on stable exchange relationships and liberal principles of commerce."

"Liberal principles of commerce" can only refer to reciprocal trade and the President concludes that the lend-lease settlement will rest on "a specific and detailed program for achieving these ends" which are the "material foundation of the liberty and welfare of all peoples."

Practical Peace Machine

That word "material" is important because in it is the promise of a practical peace machine which will supply the very quality, the lack of which doomed the League of Nations from the start. All the experts agree that no matter how effective the covenant of the League might have been had it been carried out, it could not possibly have worked because it in the main ignored economic relationships. It was a political machine—and you can't eat or wear politics.

The lend-lease policy, therefore, although a dynamic part of the war efforts of the United Nations, contains in the belief of its authors, the basis for an effective post-war reconstruction plan.

And now we come to the second evidence that its supporters believe make it a two-edged sword, striking for peace and victory at the same time.

The recently promulgated Russo-British 20-year mutual assistance treaty and the Roosevelt-Molotov agreement both contain affirmation

of the principles of the Atlantic Charter which in turn lists the four freedoms. One of the four freedoms is freedom from want which at once involves economics and the most intimate interest of man, his personal welfare. At the Flag day celebration at the White House for the first time since we entered the war the President offered to the German and the Japanese people, over the heads of their governments the hope that they might share the benefits of an Allied victory. For the first time there has been a direct official contradiction of the charge continually dinned into German ears by Herr Goebbels that defeat means their destruction. The President offered them the opposite. He said in his Flag day speech:

"We ask the German people, still dominated by their Nazi whip-masters, whether they would rather have the mechanized hell of Hitler's 'new order'—in place of that, freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear."

He made an identical appeal to the Japanese people.

Without attempting to attack or defend the practicability of the President's plan or the theories upon which it is based, it is significant that an effort is being made: First, to use a war weapon (lend-lease) to blaze a trail to peace; second, to provide an economic basis for the post-war restoration and, third, to make use of both of these factors in driving a wedge between the enemy peoples and their governments by offering them hope of something better than what they have.

Meet Rags II, STARS and STRIPES Mascot

Recently I interviewed a war-dog who probably will become familiar to all of you because the exploits planned for him are such as no dog ever had before.

He is "Rags II," mascot of the new army newspaper YANK which is the successor to the STARS and STRIPES, the army paper printed in Paris during the last war. Rags II is a "successor," too—to the original Rags, who would have been mascot of the STARS and STRIPES if he hadn't been so thoroughly devoted to one of the staff, Corporal "Tip" Bliss, his master.

Rags grew to be a tradition and he is perhaps a solar myth by this time. He could understand English, French and Elizabethan in which he was usually addressed by his master who was a scholarly person.

After marching over most of France and learning some of the less polite corners of Paris, Rags came back to America with his master. Neither ever completely settled down. Tip worked on newspapers and wrote pulp fiction. Rags lived out his cycle as carefree and disheveled as his master. Tip acquired Rags who was a curly black spaniel of some sort as some French port when he landed. The two never parted, until the end.

Rags was never formally inducted into the army and he got very little publicity but his shaggy, waggly memory lives green in the heart of every STARS and STRIPES man.

When YANK was given its send-off at a banquet in New York a few of the old STARS and STRIPES staff were present, among them "Wally" (the cartoonist, Walgren), buddy of Tip and Rags. A part of the ceremony was a presentation by Wally of Rags II to youthful Captain Spence, who is executive head of the new paper.

Afterward when I slipped up to get a few comments from the new Rags who is even raggier than his namesake for he is part poodle, he was finishing off part of a steak right up on top of the main banquet table.

He was friendly, in fact most affectionate, but not loquacious. I couldn't get a word out of him as to his plans. But I figured he had just gone hush-hush like all army people and was afraid that enemy ears might be listening.

However, from other sources, usually considered reliable as the papers say, I found out that Rags II is about to travel to Australia, Iceland, Ireland and perhaps other fronts as yet undisclosed. For YANK will follow the troops and Rags II will follow YANK. He will probably be the most traveled army dog in history.

Malta Is Most Bombed Spot

5,000 Raids in One Month Is Record; Story of One Family.

VALLETTA, MALTA.—Five thousand air raids in one month, an average of 166 every 24 hours, 75 per cent of this city's homes destroyed or damaged—that's the statistical story of this most bombed spot on earth. The human story is—

Mrs. Marmena Urpanis gets up at 6 a. m. Her husband is a working man. She has six children. All is peace and quiet for 20 minutes. Then the siren sounds.

"Say, you," she says casually to the eldest son. "Go up and spot." The youth climbs to the roof. All over the neighborhood, family spotters are on the roofs. No use being disturbed by mere bombs unless they are close.

"Planes Coming Close." Urpanis, having washed his face and shaved, comes in for breakfast. The three younger children are still asleep. Urpanis says he slept well and Mrs. Urpanis said she had a good night too. She has the coffee pot poised to pour when a shout comes from the roof. They're coming close.

Urpanis awakens the children. Calmly all eight repair to the nearest shelter, an ancient rock-walled well. Within seconds bombs are dropping all around. Forty minutes later the planes have been driven off and the family returns to breakfast, Mrs. Urpanis slightly annoyed because she must warm the coffee.

Urpanis goes off to work and Mrs. Urpanis starts scrubbing and dressing the three young ones. She is just about through when, 50 minutes after the first raid, another starts. She and the children go off to the shelter again.

When that one is over, she goes shopping. In the midst of it the sirens sound again and she and all persons in the streets go casually to public shelters. That raid didn't amount to much and there isn't another until 2 p. m., which lets the family lunch in unaccustomed quiet.

The tea-time raids come every day and it would seem a break in routine if the Axis missed one.

Family Hardly Blinks

The next raid was in early evening. One hundred German planes hit at Valletta again. One big bomb after another came down within a radius of 200 yards and close to the shelter. The younger children were somewhat disturbed by the noise; the rest of the family hardly blinked.

Then one came really close. The lights went out. Candles revealed dust and dirt pouring through the exits to the well. The oldest Urpanis girl wetted a handkerchief and tied it around her mouth. That makes breathing easier when there's a lot of dust.

It was all over at 7:30 and the family found their house had been damaged—again. It was annoying because it was supertime and they were hungry. But Mrs. Urpanis cleared the debris out of her kitchen and got the pots on the stove. Urpanis meanwhile repaired doors and windows. He's an expert at that now.

Supper is hardly over when another big feet comes overhead, and since it is apparent the Axis intends to keep it up all night, the family decides to spend the night in the shelter.

They had 12 raids in all from the time they left their beds to the time they went to bed again.

It's Too Bad, but Fido Cannot Have His Sugar

NEW YORK.—A tea-sipping dog will simply have to learn to use lemon instead of sugar.

A local rationing board made this determined decision recently when a woman applied for a war ration book for her pet poodle. She said that the dog had tea with sugar three times a day.

"The dog is accustomed to sugar," the woman icily replied when asked if it couldn't get along without it.

Just as icily, the board said "no!"

No Round Trips Provided In This Patrol Wagon

NEW YORK.—The woman insisted on riding, so police took her to the station in a patrol wagon to answer a charge of permitting an unmuzzled dog on the streets.

She pleaded guilty, then asked to be taken back to the stationhouse in the wagon to get her dog. "I'm sorry," said the court. "The city isn't in the habit of making round trips with its patrol wagons."



By L. L. STEVENSON

Arms and Girls: Gate crashers are common in New York. Every large party, and sometimes smaller ones, bring them out in such numbers that there must be careful checking of invitations as well as guards. In the past, however, the crashers usually have been all male. There has been a change lately. Those who give parties for service men—some of them at least—have discovered the female gate crasher. Maybe it's "something about a soldier" that has upset party conservatism, speaking socially, of course.

Matrimony: "There are some churches in the East where, if you wish to get married, it costs money before you start," reports one of this department's able scouts. "For example, the parents of a bride of a few days ago, being identified with a certain suburban community, naturally expected the ceremony to take place in the local church of their denomination. To their great surprise, they were informed that it would cost \$20 'to open the church.' Not being persons of great means, they telephoned the rector of a church in a near-by town. He informed them that the wedding would be welcome and most certainly there would be no charge for 'opening the church' since it was open the entire day. So the wedding took place there to the satisfaction of all concerned and the financial benefit of the rector who cooperated."

Opportunity: Charles Martin tells of the Canadian prison camp for German and Italian soldiers. The prisoners needed exercise so he decided to teach them lacrosse. Having lined the Germans up on one side and the Italians on the other, he gave each player a lacrosse stick. Then he started to explain the rules of the game. Neither the Germans nor the Italians seemed to be much interested until he said, "Sometimes the players get hurt. A man goes for the ball, misses and hits his opponent on the head. Now I'll get a ball and we'll—"

"Never mind the ball!" shouted an Italian brandishing his stick and glaring at the Nazi he'd picked out. "Let's start the game right now."

Prepared: Sou Chann is one Chinese restaurant man who is not worrying because war has stopped food imports from China. Out on Long Island he has a 38-acre farm on which seven of his fellow countrymen work all the year around. There he raises snow peas, which are eaten pod and all, bok tan, mustard greens, winter melons and other Oriental vegetables. In summer, the regular force is supplemented by as many assistants as can be found. Usually they are college women who want to work in the open air to earn money for the next semester. They are paid by the hour. He doesn't raise bamboo shoots or water chestnuts, the Long Island climate not being suitable. But those items are now being grown in Louisiana.

About Manhattan: All Souls church at Madison and Eightieth . . . Looks as if a bit of old New England had been moved to New York . . . Sign: "Popper's Dairy" . . . But I can't find Mommer's . . . Yorkville now one of the quietest places in New York . . . The German names in neon on beer garden fronts dark for the duration . . . No bright strings of colored lights now in Little Italy in the shadows of the Queensboro bridge . . . Crippled children entering Orthopedic hospital clinic . . . Something seems to clutch at my chest each time I see that procession . . . But the faces of most of the youngsters are bright . . . Gallant little soldiers fighting the battle of life . . . The East river slipping along darkly and slushily . . . Central Park West lined with bench-sitting newspaper readers . . . With now and then a book peruser so lost in the printed page that no notice is taken of passing traffic . . . Or the green branches arching over the stone wall and forming a canopy . . . A nurse girl trying to get her charge to take its bottle . . . and the baby finally knocking it out of her hand . . . But she saves a smash by a quick catch and patiently resumes her efforts . . . A regular perambulator parade from Eighty-sixth street down to the Sixties.

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