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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Break-Up of Rommel's Desert Forces Affects U. S.-British Drive in Tunisia; French Fleet Will Join Allies: Darlan; President Proclaims National Farm Day

(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.)
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Allied forces proceeded swiftly toward ousting the Japs completely from the Papua territory of New Guinea following the capture of the village of Buna. U. S. and Australian jungle fighters took the Jap base. Occupation of Buna followed closely the seizure of Gona. A communique from Allied headquarters in Australia told of slowly increasing pressure on the enemy. A captured Japanese artilleryman told intelligence officers of Emperor Hirohito's mandate that Jap forces hold the New Guinea beachhead to the last man. The communique did not mention the Mambara area, on the northeast coast, where Allied planes lashed out at Jap warships attempting to land more men.

AFRICA: Darlan Speaks

"I have announced that my sole purpose is to free France and then retire to private life." With those words Adm. Jean Darlan, high commissioner of French Africa, hoped to still the loud voice of criticism which had been leveled at him by the Fighting French, the British and certain American sources. He did not wholly succeed. The Fighting French wanted more than words from Admiral Darlan to assure them. The British and a comparatively few Americans remained skeptical. Darlan, in a statement of clarification, called for maximum military effort for the defeat of Germany and Italy and added that "this will be accomplished by the unity of all citizens, regardless of their political or religious opinions, in an orderly and cohesive fashion." Darlan also declared flatly that strong French fleet units at Dakar, Alexandria and North African ports would join the British and U. S. fleets. Those units included: three battleships, more than seven cruisers, approximately a score of submarines and several destroyers.

Hit Tunis, Bizerte

Concentrating on docks and airfields in Bizerte and Tunis, American and British bombers continued to carry out their day and night raids with thunderous accuracy. Tropical rains had brought land action to a minimum, with action limited largely to patrol sorties. It was evident that the Allies were willing to sacrifice forward positions to reduce losses pending an all-out offensive. Allied attacks on Axis airfields are damaging the efforts of the Luftwaffe ground staffs to maintain operations. It is reported that less than two-thirds of the total force are able to take to the air at any time.

PRICE CONTROL: No Surprise

Washington dopsters had announced it weeks before so there was little surprise throughout the nation when Leon Henderson resigned as director of the Office of Price Administration. Announcement of the resignation came from President Roosevelt who, in accepting it, praised Henderson and declared that "You have not spared yourself . . . and I appreciate your patriotic service." Henderson said that he was quitting because of a recurrent physical difficulty and a "rather bad" impairment of eyesight. The President asked him to keep the White House advised on his physical condition so that when he had recovered he could be recalled to government service in some other capacity. Because of his firmness in handling rationing affairs and because of his treatment of congress (with-out concern of political favor) Henderson has been under fire for months. Early in December many Washington sources predicted he was resigning and had suggested that Sen. Prentiss M. Brown, Michigan Democrat, succeed him. Brown, defeated for his senate post in the last election, had previously piloted the price stabilization bill through congress.

RUSSIA: See-Saw Battle

In the see-saw battle of Russia the course of warfare appeared to favor once more the Red army as an official communique announced the capture of five additional strong points in the Rzhev sector on the central front. It told, too, of the repulse of a heavy Nazi counterattack in the area southwest of Stalingrad.

In their counterdrive at Kotelnikovski, 90 miles southwest of Stalingrad, the Axis armies attempted to throw back the flank of the Russian forces south of the Don river and break through the Russian trap. The attacks were led by tanks, dive bombers and motorized infantry. Red Star, Soviet army newspaper, said many Axis troops were slaughtered and the attacks were hurled back decisively.

To the west of Stalingrad the Red army was said to be widening the broad barrier they had made between the Nazis on the banks of the Don and those trapped near Stalingrad. During the Russian drive on the central front, which took seven more villages, two battalions of German infantry were reported wiped out. A communique reported that near Villkie Luki, Russian troops beat off a German attempt to break through the lines to help a surrounded Nazi garrison and destroyed Nazi equipment.

SCHOOL BELLS: In Wartime

America's system of higher education is headed for some profound and sweeping changes under plans now released by the army and navy to train youths between 17 and 22 for specialized military duties. Scheduled to begin in February the new setup for high school and college youths would be put into operation in several hundred colleges and universities throughout the nation. Students now in high school and college would fit into the program at the time they were called up for military training and virtually every youth over 17 in school would be affected.

As outlined in joint army-navy statement made in Chicago the plan calls for these major developments:

1. Mobilization of a selected number of colleges and universities for training soldiers in military-directed courses.
 2. Enlisted soldiers now having completed their basic training (or about to complete) will be selected, if qualified, for specialized training when the plan is first set in motion.
 3. A cadet system will be organized for the selected colleges and military training will thus be given but it will be subordinated to academic instruction.
 4. When soldiers complete any phase of the specialized training at these schools they will do one of four things: (a) be given further training in officer's candidate school (b) returned to the troops; (c) recommended for technical noncommissioned officers or (d) detailed for advanced technical training.
- Meanwhile the navy will be selecting high-school graduates or those with equivalent qualifications for induction as apprentice seamen or marine privates. Placed on active duty with pay these youths will attend designated schools.

China's President



The above photo of Lin Sen, 78-year-old president of China, is the first photo ever sent from Chungking, China, to Los Angeles, over a new radiophoto service. The Chinese characters read: "To President Roosevelt, from Lin Sen."

U. S. GOAL: Double Axis Output

The War Production board's goal for 1943 calls for a production rate by the end of the year estimated to be twice as great as that of the Axis nations. More than \$90,000,000 worth of American weapons will be manufactured in 1943. U. S. war production in 1942 equals that of all the Axis countries, the WPB reported. The United Nations are out-producing the Axis almost two to one at present.

U. S. Farmers With Less Labor, Supplies, Machinery, Must Double the Production Shown in World War I

Herculean Task Requires Advance Painstaking Plans

Before they win 1943's global battle for food, farmers of this country must solve a double-barreled problem.

They must produce record highs of foods and fibers with less machinery, equipment, supplies and labor. Enough food and fiber not only for civilians of this country, but for those of the United Nations, for our fighting men and those of our Allies.

That's a task a Hercules might shy from; a job which demands painstaking advance planning.

To this end, the department of agriculture has again established food and fiber goals for the nation, as it did in 1942. (See accompanying diagrams.) These goals have been broken down into state goals, which in turn are being broken down into goals for each of the 3,090 counties of the United States.

Throughout the nation, America's 6,000,000 farmers are now talking over the goals with neighbors who are Agricultural Adjustment Agency (AAA) farmer-committeemen. Eventually, goals will be set for each farm, with the producer signing a voluntary "production contract." A contract which, in effect, is a pledge to the nation that he'll keep food and fiber rolling to all fronts, at home and abroad.

Broadly, food and fiber goals in 1943 call for the same over-all production total that farmers achieved this year when their efforts resulted in an all-time production high—12 per cent greater than that of any previous year in American history! Just what does that 12 per cent gain represent?

It represents a gain in production which is more than twice that achieved during the five-year period covering World War I.

It is by far the greatest production gain that has ever been made in a single year by American agriculture. That gives one a rough idea of what America's farmers are up against in 1943. Besides wartime obstacles which will grow to ever-greater proportions, farmers must assume that they're going to have normal weather next year, another way of saying "bad weather" compared with this year when growing conditions were better than they've been in years.

That means lower yields. The difference will have to be made up by more efficient farming, by more intensive farming, by planting crops where they'll grow best, by vigorous, unremitting effort on the part of all civilians to help farmers get labor, equipment and materials.

Waste Must Go. The farmer's objective in the Battle for Food, 1943, will be to reach each goal without wasting an ounce of effort, a minute of time, an acre of land, or a sliver of material and machinery.

Only by doing this can he reach one goal without jeopardizing his chances of reaching another. He must face the fact that there aren't enough land resources in America for much acreage expansion. He must apply the principle of selective service to his acres.

For example, he knows that only about seven million acres of land can be added to the 1942 figure of 340 million acres put to row crops, small grains and hay crops.

But he also knows that he can make that added acreage count for more by putting it to war crops which bring higher yields than crops he would normally plant.

By wise expansion of this sort, by shifting other acres to crops that



For 1943 Mr. Farmer must see to it that there is a great increase in all meats and corn. (But there will be a reduction in canning vegetables, fresh fruits.)

count most, it will be possible to get as great a production in 1943 as in 1942 of the things for which we have the most critical need. In some cases, production may be greater.

Thus, the farmer is out to get more meat, dairy and poultry products, hides and by-products.

About the same production of fresh vegetables for consumption and processing, of dry beans and dry peas and potatoes, sugar and rice.

More fiber flax, hemp, long staple cotton and about the same production of other cotton and tobacco.

To get more of these all-important crops, the farmer knows that he must plant less of others. Wheat is an outstanding example. We have enough on hand to take care of normal needs for two years without raising another grain. It would be virtual sabotage to put more land



Mr. American Farmer
He will do the job . . .

to wheat in 1943. Consequently, the goal for wheat has been lowered.

Demand for dairy products in 1943 will exceed supply, but bread grains will be abundant. Although meat production reached a record high this year, and will probably be higher next, rationing is necessary because of unprecedented demand. However, the ration will allow the average consumer about as much meat as usual.

The man who has devoured a large T-bone or two each day will have to change his habits. It may be good for him, nutritionally speaking.

The 1943 goals are closely linked to the nation's dietary needs. For the number of planes and tanks and

Vitamins and Victory

During the dark days of 1940 in England, British doctors noticed that superficial scratches which should have healed in a day or two were taking two weeks to heal. They found that a lack of vitamins in people's blood was the cause. There's a direct connection between vitamins and victory.

ships and guns turned out by workers is determined largely by the kind and quantity of food they eat.

Take the figures on comparative days lost by strikes and sickness in 1941. About 20 times as many man-days were lost by sickness as by strikes in that year. And the most prevalent illness was the common cold which, doctors say, can be best prevented by a good diet.

Good food is the equivalent of millions of laborers. The British, for example, have pointed out that production is 15 to 20 per cent greater when their workers are eating as they should.

Vitamin B curbs nervousness and digestive troubles; vitamin C wards off scurvy, bad teeth and many similar ailments. Scurvy was an important factor in the internal breakdown in Germany in 1918. That Hitler knows this is only too evident from the way he is bleeding the occupied countries of Europe. Scurvy has been responsible for more deaths than all the weapons of war combined.

Food for good diets is not the only thing the farmer is after as he sets out to meet 1943 goals.

He wants fibers and oils and other crops which are vital to the maintenance of our war industries.

In 1942 farmers raised enough soybeans, flaxseed, peanuts and cottonseed to produce 530 million gallons of vegetable oil—54 per cent more than in 1941. Our Allies are asking for five times as much vegetable oil as we normally export to all nations.

Next year's vegetable oil goal calls for about as much as the record 1942 production. If farmers meet the test, the resulting geysers will literally drown the Axis. For vegetable oils are the source of glycerine used in explosives; they are used in protective paints for battleships, planes and other war machines; and they have a thousand industrial uses—to say nothing of their use in foods and cooking.

Suffice to say the farm job in 1943 is all-important to farmers and civilians alike. Perhaps the greatest obstacle will be lack of help on the farm.

Fortunately, it is in overcoming this obstacle that civilians can do most to help the farmer.

This year, townspeople, school children, professional men and women, college youth and men from army camps achieved miracles on harvest fields throughout the nation. Even British sailors pitched in to help harvest our bountiful food and fiber supplies.

Next year the job will be much tougher. The department of agriculture estimates that the nation could use 1½ million more full-time workers than there are in sight to do the job.

The department has thrown every one of its agencies into the farm labor fight, and it is receiving valuable assistance from other agencies of the government.

However, it is going to take the continuing efforts of civilians and others to fill the gap.

Through such co-operation—and sheer hard work on his part—the farmer will get his job done.



By LEMUEL F. PARTON
Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—A corporation may get an "E" pennant now and then, but there's no Ebets field and no cheering mob for the incorporeal home run. Similarly the man behind the corporation may bat a steady stream of steel ingots all the way to Tunis and still the bands aren't playing. A steel mill and its master don't fit easily into any pattern of high romance, but it may win a war.

Witness the bulky and baldish Robert W. Wolcott, president of the Luken's Steel company, who, since the war started has released more steel and less publicity than probably any man in America. His ingots and armor plate output increased more than 400 per cent in the last fiscal year, while his column-inches in the newspapers have slumped off, if anything.

At its Coatesville, Pa., plant, his company rolls individual armor plates weighing more than 100,000 pounds each. In addition to rolling, instead of traditionally forging the plates, it turns out plates 195 inches wide as against the previous 155-inch limit. The 1942 output has yielded enough armor plate for a dozen big warships and hundreds of army tanks, and large tonnages for lighter-gauge armor plate. The company reports, for the 1942 fiscal year, which ended October 10, an all-high, all-time record not only in the production of the rolled armor plate but in all other types of steel for this plant.

If he could somehow work Joe Di Maggio and Rita Hayworth into his report Mr. Wolcott might get a big cheer, east and west. He is a man of management rather than finance, steadily moving up with the Luken's company since 1922, elected president of the 131-year-old outfit in 1925.

The First World War interrupted his college term at Lehigh university and sent him to Boston where he was a lieutenant in naval aviation. With the end of the war, he apprenticed himself in the steel business with the Bethlehem Fabrication company of Bethlehem, Pa. He joined Luken's as manager of its warehouse and fabricating department. When he became president, at the age of 32, he was one of the youngest top executives in the history of the industry. He has kept his mind on his work.

[N APRIL, 1932, the depression began gnawing at the vitals of the United States congress. Congressmen suffered illness to an almost unprecedented degree, frequently diagnosed as "intelligentsia," a condition Dr. George W. Calver, congressional physician, as worry ailments. While these afflictions were varied, frequently marked by a cold developing into something worse, they were in the general field of fatigue and frustration, and frequently led to coronary occlusion, or heart trouble, the menace of men who fret too much and exercise too little—a common disease of the "intelligentsia," said Dr. Calver, although that is a fighting word to many congressmen.

Ten years later, after a year of war, burdened with perhaps greater responsibility than any other, this congress is as fit as quarter horses. Only three members died this year, against an average of 12 during the 28 years in which Dr. Calver has been attending physician. Troublesome, but not fatal illness, is similarly away down. Dr. Calver attributes this, in part, to the lowered imminence of high blood pressure, as incidental to heated debates and congressional milling in general. There is much less of this now, as the solons get together easier on war issues.

Dr. Calver also says the good showing is attributable to steadily improving health education in congress, with more careful attention to diet, exercise, rest and healthful mental attitudes. All this, he has pioneered diligently, coaching congressmen on how to take care of themselves.

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

There must be more hogs, more milk, more lard, more and still more beef cattle. But not as much cotton, or barley, or oats.