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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Air, Naval Blows on Nazi Supply Lines Pace Allied Offensive in North Africa; New Advance Carries Reds to Ukraine Thus Threatening Million Nazi Troops

(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.)
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NORTH AFRICA:

Supply Route Attack

Increased Allied naval and air activity in North Africa took a heavy toll of Axis supplies and men in a series of vigorous actions which foreshadowed greater things to come.

At least six and probably 10 Axis ships were sunk on the Tunisia-Sicily supply line. British submarines sank three supply ships in the Sicily-Africa lane and Middle Eastern command planes based on Malta blew up two more ships in the Tunis Harbor basin. The remainder were sunk as they attempted to bring reinforcements to Nazi forces.

During the comparative lull in the fighting, announcement was made of the landing of American troops in Dakar, nerve center of French West Africa, and the port which repulsed a British and Fighting French attack in September, 1940.

Operating to the southwest of Tunis under newly established Allied aerial superiority, French forces reported that they had captured "numerous prisoners, armored vehicles and artillery" in one sector while beating off repeated Axis counterattacks in another.

A French communique announced that French forces had captured the Axis men and material near Pont-du-Fahs, about 35 miles south of Tunis.

However, Axis forces in Tunisia were found to be strongly entrenched when Allied Commando troops raided northern Tunisia at a point within five miles of the huge Axis naval base of Bizerte. The incursion lasted several days, and the raiders were forced to regain the beach through about 15 miles of enemy-held territory. The Germans held strong machine gun posts in the area.

Libyan Drive

Dispatches from the Libyan front said that General Montgomery's British eighth army was advancing on Buerat El Hshun, only 50 miles west of Sirte along the Mediterranean coast and 180 miles from Tripoli. The British had advanced more than 200 miles west of El Agheila since launching a new attack to drive Marshal Rommel out of Libya.

FOOD FATS:

Face 15% Cut.

Because of military and lend-lease requirements, the government expects to ration food fats and oils in 1943 at a level approximately 15 per cent below civilian demands, the bureau of agricultural economics has announced.

Likely to be rationed are cooking compounds, butter, margarine, lard and possibly salad dressing. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, food administrator, indicated previously that butter would be rationed as soon as plans could be made.

Food items now under ration or scheduled for in 1943 include sugar, coffee, meats and cheese. Even milk supplies are running low in metropolitan areas.

The bureau estimated that civilians, with increased incomes, would buy about 57.1 pounds of fats and oils per capita in 1943 at present



CLAUDE WICKARD
48 Pounds Per Capita.

ceiling prices if this supply were available. Per capita consumption amounted to 51 pounds during the 1940-42 period.

Under a rationing system about 48 pounds would be available for each person, including indirect consumption of fats in bread, cake, confectionery and canned soups.

NAZI MORALE:

Artificial Boost

In an effort to bolster a morale lowered by bad news from the war fronts and by lower food rations, Germany's Propaganda Minister Goebbels is reported to have mobilized hundreds of Nazi orators to deliver a nation-wide series of "pep talks" to the German people. At the same time the German press began hammering home the thought that African setbacks are unimportant because the war will be decided in Russia.

Information from Germany indicates that a program of mass meetings is under way with Goebbels and Dr. Robert Ley, Nazi labor leader, keynoting the morale offensive.

The Voelkischer Beobachter, Adolf Hitler's newspaper, declared editorially that the objective properly



DR. ROBERT LEY
Nazi morale booster.

was Europe, not Africa, and that after Russian resistance is ended, "we will soon regain on the southern front what we have had to give up."

The Beobachter reminded Germans who grumble about the scarcity of food and clothes that their sacrifices were as nothing compared with the soldier who is called on to "give his blood for the homeland." But the holiday season was not a happy one, despite the morale-boosting drive.

POSTWAR GOODS:

Plan for Purchase

A detailed plan for consumers to pay now for automobiles, automatic furnaces, refrigerators, pianos and other postwar goods to be delivered after the war has been developed by the Office of Price Administration.

The plan, which OPA officials said would drain off \$6,000,000,000 annually in excess purchasing power, has been described as "installment selling in reverse." It is also intended to help many business firms which otherwise might fail to survive another year of war.

Here is the way the plan would work:

Consumers would purchase any item exactly the way they did normally, but they would receive a certificate instead of merchandise. Payment would be made in cash or installments. The dealer would get a 6 per cent commission and the finance company either 1 per cent or 7 cents a collection. The money would be deposited with the U. S. treasury which would pay manufacturers when the goods were delivered after the war. The certificates would constitute a priority for the desired article.

Sale price of the certificates would be set at an arbitrary figure and would have no bearing on the actual price. They would be non-interest bearing.

Following the war, consumers would be permitted to select their own brand.

ROYAL NAVY:

Back to Sumatra

Two important facts were made evident when British naval planes bombed the Japanese fueling and naval base of Sebang off the north-west tip of Sumatra.

One: The fact that the royal navy went back to the scene of an earlier tragic defeat was evidence of increased strength of the British navy.

Second: Losses inflicted by the United States were thought to have compelled the Japs to withdraw ships to the South Pacific.

In opening offensive operations at the western end of the Netherlands East Indies, 680 miles from Singapore, the British naval force heavily damaged the base at Sebang. Heavy explosions occurred at the dock and gasoline tank area, followed by huge fires. The bomber planes were thought to have been based on a carrier—perhaps the 23,000-ton Illustrious.

Sebang had become a major Japanese base. It lies slightly more than 300 miles west of Penang off the Malaya coast. The harbor has a coaling station and is sheltered from heavy winds and ocean swells by mountains and a high coast line.



WHO'S NEWS This Week

By
Lemuel F. Parton

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—That brief dispatch from Chile reporting that Berlin had recalled Ambassador Wilhelm Freiherr von Schoen is something more than a straw in the wind of World War politics. Baron Von Schoen has been so long and so deeply entrenched in Latin-American intrigue and so successful in covering his tracks and staying on the job that this four-line news item may well indicate a powerful Chilean swing to the Allied Nations.

His organization of subversion in Chile has been exposed and attacked time and again without so much as jolting the baron's monocle. He has been most elaborately wired in, not only with double-dealing politicians but with a hemisphere complex of industrial and financial interests and German-based cartels. If it is true that they finally have cut him loose from these moorings it surely means that some of the scariest and toughest Axis tentacles in those parts have been severed.

His family is an old, established firm in international political conspiracy, in war and peace. His father, the late Baron Albrecht, circulated in Europe before the start of the first World War, trying to soften up the opposition, and Baron Wilhelm carried on over here in the Mexican machinations which helped get us in the war. He did this so smoothly that a few post-war years passed before his role, as an aide to Count Bernstorff, was understood and his activities fully appraised.

In 1914, he arrived in Washington, after several years as secretary of the German embassy in Japan. In an interview, which seemed to have been carefully premeditated, he told of Japan's bitter hatred of the United States, and her determination to annihilate us, sooner or later. The interview stirred up much angry discussion and brought the baron a sharp reprimand from President Wilson, with a hint that the statements had been intended to promote enmity.

He was married in 1916 to an American girl, highly placed socially, and, as secretary to the embassy, achieved deep penetration in the capital salon diplomacy at a time when our entry into the war was still in the balance. He returned to Germany, after the failure of the Mexican conspiracy and little was heard of him until the early days of the Hitler ascendancy.

AS THE army and navy propose to take over the colleges, their plan to teach the young how to shoot meets considerable academic opposition. Prexies Disagree

On Army, Navy Taking Colleges
are in agreement, but other prexies throughout the country register dissent on varying grounds. The main base of opposition is that liberal arts education and small colleges will be casualties.

Dr. W. H. Cowley, president of Hamilton college, an active ally of the armed forces in collegiate mobilization in the past, finds the plan "quite inadequate." His is a college of about 450 students, and he has been a goal-keeper among college presidents against drives threatening the humanities and liberal arts in the colleges. As an educator, he has opposed early and extreme specialization and has stressed the importance of educating the "whole man."

With this strong conviction, he believed colleges, by proper adaptation in teaching, could help meet the demands for youth in the war and at the same time hold their ancient cultural franchise. A year ago, he circulated 200 upperclassmen of his college with a letter urging them to join the navy and has served as a member of the educational committee working with the army and navy. He says this committee opposed the new plan, about a month ago, without success.

Dr. Cowley became president of Hamilton in 1938, at the age of 39. As an expert and authority on vocational guidance, and in educational research, he has concluded that an organized and adequate personality, and the ability to think must take precedence over special skills.

Synthetic Era Taking Shape Today.

SUBSTITUTES INCREASE

Raw Materials Might Have Less Importance After War Ends.

Remember not so long ago when the slogan "Accept no substitutes" was popular? Today, because of war demands for strategic materials, the very opposite of that is the rule!

And the enemy is beginning to realize that what with Paratroopers dropping down on them from the skies in synthetic cloth parachutes, from transport planes made from substitute synthetic material, it would be good for them if they could get a personal substitute on the battle fields all over the world.

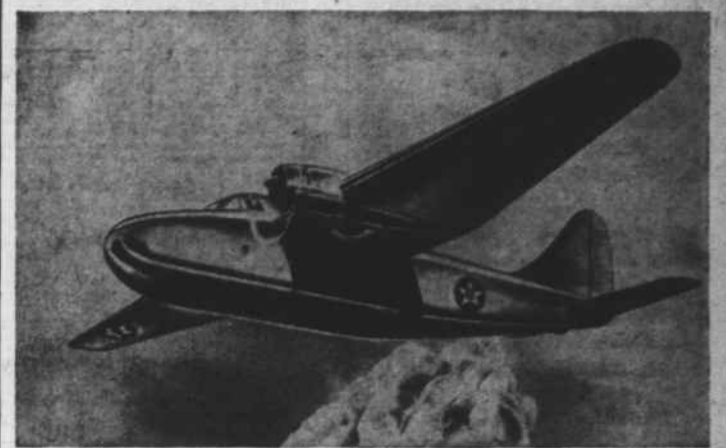
As the war progresses, Americans are awakening to the fact that they are in the middle of a chemical revolution, the end of which is not in sight, and the social possibilities of which are far from being completely, thoroughly achieved.

It used to be that the motorists of this nation were completely dependent on the laboring, sweating natives coming out of the jungles of South America and the Southwest Pacific area with their crude rubber extracted from trees. Within a year, according to William M. Jeffers, there will be plenty of synthetic tires for every one who has a car. And those tires will be synthetically made from all native, easy to obtain, either chemically or from the earth itself, material in the U. S.

An interesting part of this chemico-industrial revolution is that the rural section of the United States is taking an increasingly important part in it. Chemurgy, the science of finding new industrial uses for farm products, has been very busy during the past years. Now that the war is on, the good it is doing can be noted in the extensive use made of casein obtained from skimmed milk. The plastic material obtained offers the best possibilities as a substitute material in various kinds of war material.

Parts of many bombers, dropping block busters over Italy and Germany, are made from casein. Further research will find still greater uses for it. As it is now, a contented cow chomping grass along a

The Army's New Wooden Plane



This is an official war department sketch of the new type wood and non-strategic material military transport plane. It is twin-engine, and about the size of the present-day all-metal transport planes operated by domestic airlines. It is officially designated the Curtiss C-76. Performance details are a military secret.

Mississippi levee in Louisiana is partially the cause for discontent in Axis nations.

Soybeans, from which many plastic articles useful both for the war effort, and helpful in the homes, is another farm product that is being further developed. Bagasse obtained from sugar cane waste has proven its worth for electrical goods, washing machines and automobile parts. Possibly the toothbrush you used today had a handle made from sugar cane.

Often you hear the statement that possibly, because of the nation's all-out war and deathdealing on the Axis, most of its natural resources such as oil, coal, iron ore, will be used up. But from the great strides taken by industries making substitute synthetics and plastics, it isn't far-fetched to suggest that maybe there will be no need for the present natural resources in years to come. At least, not as necessary as today.

Miss and Mrs. America have found that many synthetic products are clothing them just as well as when they could buy all the silk they wanted from Japan. Scientists state that it is quite possible that every bit of clothing you will be wearing in the not too far distance will be synthetically made. Maybe four or five of the pieces of clothing you own today are synthetically made, and yet you never realized it.

Household furnishings, from glass fireplaces to dishes, from dressers to stoves are now being made from synthetic materials. The old gag about the errand husband hiding all the dishes before facing his wife

holds no more. For many plastic dishes don't hurt when they land on the target because of their light weight. On top of that they won't break and are also too colorful to throw around. Any angry wife will think twice before she begins to lay down a barrage with such ammunition.

Many of the war plants constructed, and in the process of construction today, have no windows. All artificial lighting and air-conditioning takes care of what nature used to consider her job. Glass bricks that let the health rays of the sun through, but prevent vision, now take the place of windows.

Those who aren't "up on" their knowledge of what is going on in the world of substitutes still say something to the effect that "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." But there are glass houses today, with more in the offing, that wouldn't be in the least affected by anyone who might want to throw some stones at them. Even some good, solid glass bricks wouldn't cause them any damage.

Statements from scientists busy working in laboratories far into the night in all the free United Nations have hinted that what has been seen so far in plastics, is nothing compared to what is to come. One spokesman stated that by October, 1943, synthetic production will be sufficient to provide the nation's military needs.

As you look about and see the hundreds, thousands, of articles of everyday commonplace variety, you automatically begin to ask yourself, after fully realizing the significance of the substitution era you are in, whether that article, or this article—probably having some strategic, or scarce material—could not be substituted by a plastic. More than likely in the months to come you won't be surprised when that article appears in its plastic dress.

Scientists have tagged the millions of years in ancient man's past as belonging to certain periods as he slowly developed from the brute stage. Then there were the various ages, of stone, wood and iron. The astounding use of steel, brought about by quicker, more efficient production methods, gave that period of development in the U. S. the title The Steel Age.

You wouldn't be surprised, would you, if after this war is over and won, the present days, and then, would be appropriately titled the Plastic Period, or the Synthetic Era?

Glamorous

U. S. Department of Commerce Puts Title on Plastic Industry in Bulletin.

Acting director of the U. S. department of commerce's bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, in a reference service bulletin, issued this statement:

"The spotlight of industry today is focused on our glamorous plastics which are commanding much interest and attention. This gigantic new industry, now gone to war, is doing a fulltime job in meeting the requirements of the war effort where performance counts most.

"Both at the front and behind the front, plastics are playing an important part in war equipment. Through their ever-increasing use as materials vitally essential in both combat and industry they are now on equal basis with the older fundamental raw materials, glass, wood, stone and metal.

"Although the new and original uses, as well as substitutions, in the non-essential civilian classification have been curtailed for the duration, the plastics industry, we feel assured, will not retreat after the war, but continue its rapid advance."

Old License Plate Still Useful



The small tabs which this New York miss is holding fit right over last year's license. By using them, instead of full size tags, the state will save many tons of strategic metal, besides thousands of dollars production costs. Regardless of the size of the license, they will still cost the same as last year.

It all depends on where you are living whether you will be seeing new automobile licenses, or new color combinations on the license plates on automobiles. This year only five states—Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Wyoming and South Carolina—are having new color combinations on the licenses.

Of course, you might be living near one of these adjoining states and get to see them, but the possibilities are very small, considering how gas rationing is cutting down highway travel.

The reason for the use of 1942's license for the current year, 1943, is due to a WPB order, of March 18, 1942, curtailing the use of steel for license purpose by 90 per cent.

State officials have devised many schemes to overcome the obstacles brought on by the lack of steel for plates.

Pennsylvania's license, which has had added a touch of individuality by having the plates in the shape of the state's outline, will go a little further this year in originality by having a date tab in the form of the state's symbol, a keystone.

Ingenuity has been shown in every state with the license problem. Illinois is using new plates made from fiber board. Arkansas is using wooden plates for trucks and motorcycles, but passenger cars will use their old license plus a windshield sticker.