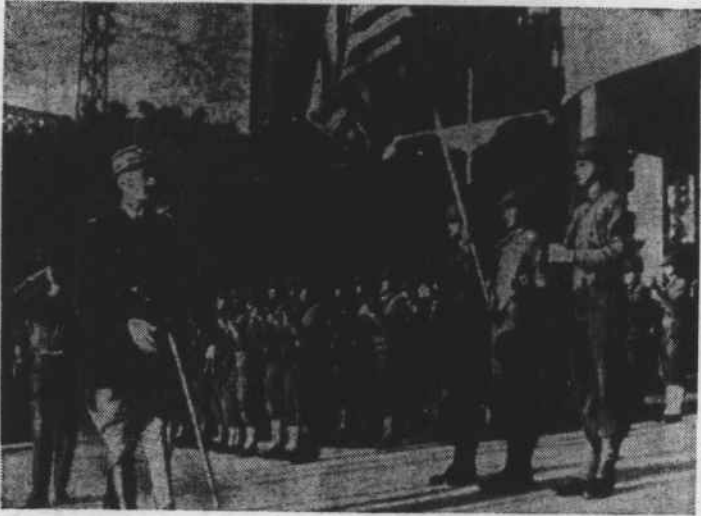


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Soviet Offensive Stretches Westward; French Cooperation in North Africa Paves Way for Unified Allied Campaign; Fierce Buna Battle Marks Pacific War

(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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Gen. Henri Giraud, newly designated high commissioner of French North and West Africa, reviews American fighters soon after his appointment as successor to Admiral Darlan. The appointment of the French general, famous for having twice escaped the Nazis, did much to satisfy the elements discontented over the "deal" with the assassinated Darlan.

AFRICA: Cooperation

World-wide cooperation of all French leaders not captives of the Axis powers was deemed almost a certainty when Gen. Henri Giraud, successor to the assassinated Adm. Jean Darlan as high commissioner of North Africa, named Gen. Alphonse Juin as commander in chief of the French forces in Africa.

Jun commanded French African forces at the time of the Allied occupation in November and had since been collaborating with the pro-Allyed French regime.

The previous appointment of Giraud had a unifying effect which was missing under Darlan. French North African civil and military forces rallied around the new commander, as did Gen. Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Fighting French, who would have no part of Giraud's predecessor.

Battle in Tunisia
Although the Allied North African headquarters acknowledged that British and American forces had withdrawn from a hill position six miles northeast of Medjez-el-Bab—which they held for less than a week—competent observers said that the Allied position as a whole was not materially affected.

In another area of operations it appeared as though Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was intent only on getting his broken Africa Corps to Tunisia for the Axis final stand on the African continent. Rommel had three possible lines of defense on the Libyan coast. But British eighth army patrols broke through the first one at Wadi Bei El Chebir, 55 miles west of Sirte and 185 miles east of Tripoli. Rommel's chances were lessening. And above all, the Middle Eastern command appeared confident.

Plot Nipped
An assassination plot against Giraud and Robert Murphy, President Roosevelt's minister to French Africa, was nipped in the making when Giraud announced the arrest of 12 persons, including two who helped the American landing at Algiers.

Brief initial dispatches said that Giraud had announced that 12 persons were arrested to prevent "further assassinations." He said that "it is better to prevent than punish" and that those arrested were not going to be shot.

RATIONING: Little Hoarding

Despite the fact that more than 200 canned food items will be rationed soon, American housewives have made very little attempt to stock their cupboards in advance, Office of Price Administration spokesmen have pointed out.

The absence of hoarding was due to two factors: Consumers must declare all canned goods on hand, on the basis of which deductions will be made from the ration points allotted each person; the feeling that hoarding would be emphatically unpatriotic kept many a person from ordering more than the usual supply of foodstuffs.

Even though a tremendous printing job is yet to be completed, OPA officials expressed hope that the point-rationing program would get under way some time in February.

TAXES: Record Year

Early on the agenda of the new congress was consideration of some form of pay-as-you-go tax payment plan. There were increasing indications that one of the many proposed methods for meeting this year's income tax out of this year's income would be adopted.

Most widely discussed was the program advanced by Beardsley Ruml, New York Federal Reserve bank official. Under this setup one year's taxes would go by default, and taxpayers would meet 1943 taxes out of 1943 income rather than pay 1942 taxes this year.

Well might congress study tax plans because this year brings increased income tax rates, the 5 per cent Victory Tax and larger levies on many everyday living items. And the treasury department indicated that to meet the rising cost of war even greater sacrifices may become necessary. But U. S. citizens were taking the new situation in stride. Most people realized that it takes a great deal of money to win a modern war.

GIFT: Of 20 Million

In 1939, Walter P. Murphy, head of the Standard Railway Equipment company, gave Northwestern university \$6,735,000 with which to establish a technological institute on the Evanston, Ill., campus.

When death came to Walter Murphy on December 16, 1942, he had not forgotten Northwestern. A provision of his will, announced at the end of the year, gave the university more than \$20,000,000 to develop, maintain and operate the technological institute. Beyond this restriction the will placed no limitation on the use of the bequest.

The gift raised Northwestern university to fifth place in amount of endowment among the universities of the country. Harvard, Yale, the University of Chicago and the University of Rochester lead.

DRINKING: And the Army

Drinking conditions in and around army camps do not constitute a serious problem for officials, according to a report made by the Office of War Information after an extensive coast-to-coast investigation. This survey was undertaken to determine what truth if any there existed for some of the rumors among U. S. citizens about excessive drinking among the nation's armed forces.

In all U. S. history, the OWI says, no army has been so orderly.

The sale of 3.2 beer in army camps is described as a "healthy and sensible" arrangement. This is listed as the main reason for the vastly less amount of drinking by soldiers in this war as compared to World War I.

Security Planner

Gen. Hsiung Shih-fei, head of a Chinese military mission to this country, and a majority of his staff have been ordered home by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, it was announced in Washington.

The mission was sent here 10 months ago to contact the joint Anglo-American military staff and to confer with U. S. military officials. Chinese sources said the return was prompted by the apparent decision of the joint staff to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations on sectors other than the China front. Dissatisfaction in Chungking was reported over what it considered the minor role assigned to China in Allied strategy. It was said that Hsiung and his colleagues have decided there is no likelihood of a large scale offensive against Japan in the near future. The closing of the Burma road was an important factor in the Allied-China plan of strategy.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Advance in Buna

Japanese tenacity was nowhere in greater evidence than on the bitterly fought Buna front in New Guinea. Allied headquarters spoke repeatedly of advances against stubborn Japanese resistance.

Striking at Jap coastal fortifications, ground troops eliminated a triangular enemy stronghold of 13 bunkers, then were forced to beat off a counterattack. The desperately defended bunker triangle, approximately 1,500 yards from the coast, had been bypassed earlier in the Allied drive toward the Buna government station. It was surrounded several days before, after tanks and infantry had gone ahead to smash through to the coast and thence turn west to advance on the Buna air strip.

Up the coast from Buna, Allied bombers hit at the Lae airdrome and at Kavieng in New Ireland. Fires were started at both places. Bombers also struck at the Gasmata airfield in New Britain.

SALVAGE: A Jap radio broadcast reported that engineers had refloated and repaired an 11,000-ton U. S. floating dry dock which it said American forces scuttled last April at Port Marivales, Bataan.

Point Rationing Brings Equitable Sharing, Food Administration Officials Announce

Enough Food for All U. S. Promised; Sub-standard Diets Said Unnecessary

Even though Americans will have to have a ration book with their can opener starting next month when all canned, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables are rationed, those who live on farms and in the rural section of America will fare much better than their city dwelling friends and relatives.

For fresh fruits and vegetables, and those preserved at home, will not be affected by the rationing order.

Those who have hoarded canned goods will have to declare the amount of goods they have on hand. But housewives on farms, and in the rural sections of the nation who have always been more "canning conscious" than those living in the cities will reap the benefit of all their extra housework during the past summer and early fall months.

But, all in all, everyone will have enough to eat, even though there will not be the usual assortment of formerly available foodstuffs. Food Administrator Claude R. Wickard declared that nearly half of next year's production of canned and dried fruits and vegetables will be needed for military purposes. He also stated that rationing in the U. S. does not mean sub-standard diets.

It is possible that eventually all food and wearing apparel will be rationed. The rationing system will be carried on through the new so-

en different commodities. Using meat again as an example, a pound of one kind of meat might be given a value of eight points. A pound of another kind of meat, more plentiful, might be given a value of six points. The more plentiful a foodstuff, the less point value it will be given. The government will determine the point value of each commodity on the basis of supply and demand. As the supply or demand fluctuates, the point value can be changed accordingly.

The new ration books will have stamps that are designated as worth eight, five, two or one points. Virtually any point value can thus be computed by using this combination of stamps. When purchases are made the appropriate stamps are turned in to the dealer. The stamps besides having the point value designated on them will also be marked with a letter to indicate the period of time in which it may be used.

This point rationing system would be similar to the system that has

will be required, according to Leon Henderson, OPA director.

Food administration officials have hinted that for a while the point rationing plan will be somewhat confusing. They feel, though, that the American people will be able to swing into the point purchasing plan in a minimum amount of time, with but little complaint, and with the same spirit they have shown during the past year of war effort.

Food Rationing List:

Here are the processed foods to be rationed and the exceptions, as listed by the Office of Price Administration:

Canned and bottled fruits and fruit juices (including spiced fruits).

Apples, including crabapples, applesauce, apricots, baby foods, berries, all varieties; cherries, red sour pitted, other cherries; cranberries and sauce; fruits for salad and fruit cocktail; grapefruit, grapefruit juice, grape juice, peaches, pears, pineapple, pineapple juice, all other canned and bottled fruits, fruit juices, and combinations.

Fruit juices in containers holding more than a gallon are exempt.

Canned and bottled vegetables and vegetable juices:

Asparagus; baby foods; beans, fresh lima; beans, green and wax; beans, all canned and bottled dry varieties including baked beans, soaked dry beans, pork and beans, kidney beans, and lentils; beets, including pickled; carrots; corn; peas; sauerkraut; spinach; tomatoes; tomato catsup and chili sauce; tomato juice, all other tomato products; all other canned and bottled vegetables, vegetable juices, and combinations.

Vegetable juices in containers holding more than one gallon are exempt.

Other processed foods:

Canned soups, all types and varieties.

Dried, dehydrated fruits: prunes, raisins, all others.

Frozen fruits: cherries, peaches, strawberries, other berries, all other frozen fruits. Frozen fruits in containers holding more than 10 pounds are exempt.

Frozen vegetables: asparagus, beans, lima beans, green beans, and wax beans, broccoli, corn, peas, spinach, all other frozen vegetables. Frozen vegetables in containers holding more than 10 pounds are exempt.

The following additional items are exempt:

Candied fruits, chili con carne, fruit cakes, fruit puddings, jams, jellies, meat stews containing some vegetables, olives, paste products (such as spaghetti, macaroni, noodles) whether or not packed with added vegetable sauces, pickles, potato salad, preserves, relishes.



Secretary of agriculture, Claude Wickard (l.), and chief of the office of war information, Elmer Davis (r.), as they broadcast to the nation announcing the pending food rationing.

called universal ration book, or war ration book No. 2. This book is designed to handle two or three ration programs simultaneously. Its coupons are numbered to permit the rationing of consumer items by the expenditure of an allotted number of points by each individual, rather than the coupon system as used for coffee and sugar.

OPA officials explained that while the unit-coupon system works well for sugar, it cannot be used for rationing foodstuffs that are diversified, such as meat. Using meat as an example, rationing officials showed how impossible it would be to divide the total supply on a per person basis because there are too many kinds of meat, too many cuts of each type, besides too many grades of each type and cut.

Point rationing, they say, provides an equitable share for each and every one, besides permitting freedom of choice for the consumer.

Different point values will be given to each commodity.

Administrator Wickard, Hoosier State Native, First U. S. Job in '33

Food Administrator Claude Raymond Wickard was born on a farm in Carroll county, Indiana, February 28, 1893. He graduated from Purdue university at the age of 23, with a degree in agriculture. At 25 he married Louise Eckert. They have two children, Betty Jane and Ann Louise. His first important federal job was with the AAA in 1933 as assistant chief in the corn and hogs section.

He has been secretary of agriculture since 1940. Just recently he was appointed food administrator for the nation at the same time Paul McNutt was appointed manpower administrator.

Administrator Wickard is a member of the United Brethren church, a Mason, and Rotarian. His rural home is in Camden, Ind.

been in use in England for some time. There the system is used for food as well as clothing. According to OPA officials British housewives learned to welcome point-rationing.

To put the rationing system into effect more than 1,500,000 volunteers

Inescapable Facts Prove Farmers' Job for 1943 Almost Superhuman

Every American farmer is facing one of the most grueling years he has ever had in prospect. He will be expected to produce more in the face of less farm labor than last year and serious shortages in mechanical equipment. 1942's record achievements were, in a sense, merely a "warm-up" for the job to be done in 1943. These facts are inescapable, and the earlier they are accepted, and the sooner every possible step is taken to overcome the handicaps which will be encountered, the better the assurance that the 1943 farm program will be successful, according to L. G. Elliott, president, LaSalle Extension university, Chicago.

No one can deny the seriousness of the worldwide food situation. Millions upon millions of once productive farm lands have been laid waste by the ravages of war in Europe. Wartime drains on manpower, which have created serious farm labor shortages already in this country, have had a paralyzing effect on farm production in Russia and Germany particularly. Countries under the conqueror's grinding heel have been stripped of cattle, swine, surplus food supplies, and even seed grains. Total world production of food is down sharply, while world food demands are up.

We can no longer think only in terms of this nation's requirements. America has never been able to stand idly by and watch other nations starve, and regardless of what effort is required, what sacrifices are entailed, we are not going to turn a deaf ear to the world's frantic pleas for food. In food, as well as in arms and munitions, we cannot and will not produce "too little, and too late."

Increases of more than 10 per cent above last year's record peaks are planned for many of the major farm products, including pork, lard, beef, eggs and poultry. They are the products that will be most urgently needed. Farmers who have specialized in these lines have already boosted their output and for the third consecutive year have surpassed even their previously high totals. They will do even more this year in order to meet the larger demand from consumers with higher incomes, from the government to supply the armed forces, and from nations abroad that are fighting with us.

Long before planting time much can be done to insure higher production in 1943. Right now is the time for every farmer who has not already started to do so, to examine every piece of mechanical equipment he owns for wear and correctible defects which, if not remedied now can cause breakdowns at a time when they would seriously interfere with production. Now is the time to do all possible repairing and construction of buildings, and all other work which can be done in advance. During the planting, growing, and harvesting season every hour which is devoted to any other task will rob the world of food.

WHO'S NEWS This Week

By Lemuel F. Parton

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—Scouting optimists in the news around the New Year, one finds Dr. Thomas Midgley Jr. becoming president of the American Chemical Society.

Holds Science Will Clear the Way for Peace, Abundance of hopeful prophecy and

dotted-line achievement. Among his prophecies have been his forecast of about three quadrillion dollars' worth of gold to be taken from sea water, inter-planetary travel, age control and the end of indigestion by the use of hormones. His achievements, which are many, include his discovery of tetraethyl lead as a gasoline anti-knock compound, his development of non-toxic and non-inflammable refrigerants and his many contributions to basic research in synthetic rubber processes.

As to the mundane outlook in general, Dr. Midgley takes the cheerful view that the potential creativeness and productivity of science, with its command of new energies and processes, will clear the way for peace and abundance in spite of our collective stupidities and villainies. These alluring, if remote, horizons, Dr. Midgley sees from his wheel chair in Worthington, Ohio, having been stricken with infantile paralysis in 1940. Thus afflicted, he has continued his research, with no slackening of either work or fervor, and a possibly heightened belief in some kind of happy ending, or rather fulfillment for the comedic human. His story would be a case in point for Thomas Mann, who says the calmest faith and truest personal integrity is attained through suffering.

In Cornell university, where he was graduated in 1911, it was said that young Midgley would coast along through routine work, but was always busy on something out of the groove—some idea of his own. This inclined him quickly to research and before he had been out of college a year he was threading the subatomic maze of synthetic rubber. It was in the years from 1922 to 1926 that he brought through his knockless gasoline, which bloomed into the impressive ethyl gasoline industry, with headquarters at Detroit, of which industry he is vice president. In his wheel chair, he is a big business executive, with special telephone rigs to make his inter-office communication around the country easy and casual—like everything else about him.

Speaking of attainment through frustration, he worked with tellurium when he was bringing through his non-toxic refrigerants and that permeated his genial person with a powerful odor of garlic. He took scientific measures—something like protective coloring. When he traveled, he found in the smoking car the closest possible concentration of bad cigars. The fragrance of garlic was just a harmless added starter here, and nobody noticed him. He is resourceful, diligent, optimistic.

PERSONS who have been a bit jittery about the government telling us where to work and what to do may be assured by the public record

He'll Square Our War Manpower Clark, the New York lawyer who

drafts the quite unprecedented and drastic manpower bill for Paul McNutt. A staunch advocate of compulsory military service, and of any and all methods necessary for national survival, Mr. Clark has been at the same time an alert and outspoken defender of civil liberties. He is a pioneer of the Plattsburg system and chairman of the National Emergency Committee of the Military Training Camps, and an active advocate of a big and strong army, but he is a wary opponent of anything suggesting a military caste. In May, 1931, he said:

"My experience in the war department has led me to distrust the participation of army or navy experts in affairs of national policy."

Similarly, he has opposed any encroachment on Constitutional safeguards by bureaucrats, or excessive centralization of government which might endanger individual liberties. He may be cited as a conspicuous holdout against both the weakness of a peace-loving democracy and the aggression of militarists and war-planners who might save the country but leave it no longer a democracy.