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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Parity Vote Heralds Farm Price Rise; Allies' North Africa Strength Grows As Yanks Wipe Out Rommel's Advance; RAF Raids Strafe German U-Boat Nests

(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.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.



On their way to continue the offensive against the Japs at Salamaua in New Guinea, Australian troops pass through a group of Americans who had been in action earlier. This photo was made after the successful close of the Papuan peninsula campaign against the Japs.

TUNISIA:

Rommel Pays Dearly

The 50-odd miles that Marshal Rommel had originally advanced against American forces in Tunisia had cost the "Desert Fox" dearly. For not only had most of that gain been lost in retreat, but the Axis offensive had been converted into a first-class Axis setback, with heavy casualties.

Pell mell through the Kasserine pass Rommel's Afrika Korps tank forces had retreated to the southwest under powerful Allied gun and aircraft attack. Seasoned observers termed Rommel's maneuver, a typical Axis hit-and-run action. The Axis had found the American forces overextended and trying to man untenable positions. The Axis had struck hard. When the American high command met this offensive with a more powerful counter-offensive, the Axis ran for cover.

Thus Rommel's first major bid to cut Allied communications lines had been thwarted.

As the Allied fortunes in Central Tunisia thus turned brightly upward, reports disclosed that General Sir Bernard Montgomery's British eighth army had been on the move in North Africa and had struck with augmented power in southeastern Tunisia. Smashing with tanks into the Mareth line, General Montgomery had seriously threatened Rommel's rear.

HITLER BOASTS:

Nazis Not Yet Beaten

Adolf Hitler's absences at key Nazi party gatherings had caused speculation as to his health and reasons for remaining under cover. But wherever he was, his remote-control message to the German people via a Munich proclamation was as harsh and fanatical as if der fuhrer had delivered it personally.

Ominous to the people of occupied Europe was Hitler's declaration that "we shall not scruple about foreign lives when such hard sacrifices are exacted from our own lives."

Germany's future and the future of Europe, he said, will be decided on the Eastern front. He boasted that enemies who believed they almost had Germany down would be "terribly disappointed."

"No matter how great the coalition of our enemies may be," his proclamation added, "it is smaller in power than the strength of the alliance of our peoples."

4,403 NEW SHIPS:

To Help Beat Axis

Funds for the construction of 4,403 ships for the Maritime commission were approved when the house appropriations committee reported an appropriation bill providing \$6,298,530,435.

The current shipbuilding program to thwart the Axis submarine peril and provide transoceanic facilities for men and supplies has been mapped through 1943, according to Admiral Emory Land, director of the Maritime commission. The schedule called for construction of 2,242 ships of which 554 were delivered before January 1, 1943. In addition, he said, it was proposed to extend the program to provide for 2,161 additional ships to be contracted for during 1943.

EASTERN FRONT:

Russians Roll On

All along the eastern front the Russians had continued a series of blasting offensives. Each offensive was a battle unit in itself, but added to all the others it formed a pattern that was inexorably moving westward across the map toward the Dnieper river.

Military observers were asking whether the German defenses on the Dnieper line were as strong as the anchors the Axis had lost further east in the Don and Donets river basins. If sufficient time had not been available to strengthen this secondary line, then the Nazis faced a crisis more serious than anything that yet confronted them.

In the upper Ukraine the Red armies had moved steadily forward on a wide front toward the Moscow-Kiev railway, their offensive based on a triangle formed by recaptured Sumy, Lebedin and Akhtyrka.

To the south the Germans had fought violently in an effort to halt the Russ maneuver for enveloping the remainder of the Donets basin from which hundreds of thousands of Axis forces were seeking to retire in some semblance of order.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC:

To Have and to Hold

Three activities had continued to occupy the attention of American and other Allied forces in the Pacific war theater. These were 1—To hold the territorial gains they had already exacted from the Japs; 2—To destroy enemy aircraft installations, dock facilities and ships in nearby occupied territory; 3—To gather strength and momentum for further full-scale land and sea blows at the Japs.

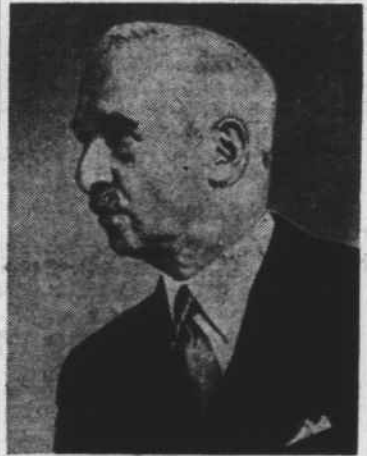
In unremitting "softening up" tactics, heavy American bombers in attacks on the Jap base of Rabaul in New Britain scored hits on two Japanese warships, drove a third onto a reef and damaged a 10,000-ton cargo vessel. U. S. planes scored hits on a Jap barge at Rekata bay in the northern Solomons and strafed enemy positions at Munda.

Indications appeared that the British drive against the Japs in Burma was gathering steam preparatory to a major movement to retake Burma and open the supply road to China. The strength of the British was indicated by the fact a Jap effort to raid Assam airfield resulted in the loss of 30 planes.

TURKEY:

Watches and Waits

A watchful waiting policy based on a determination to stay out of the war if possible but to enter the fight if necessary was enunciated by President Inonu of Turkey. Inonu pointed out that the final decision might not be in Turkish hands. Calling all Turks to intensify their preparedness against any eventual-



PRESIDENT INONU ... 'Decision not Turkey's'

ities, President Inonu declared: "We are grieved by and suffer from the global disaster. We shall do our utmost not to be entangled in it nor contaminated by it, but we know that it is not entirely within our power to stay out of the war."

Turkey has spent more for defense in the last four years than at any time in her history, he declared.

4 TO 1 RECORD:

For U. S. Airmen

Americans learned with pride that their fighting airmen had destroyed four enemy planes for every one of their own knocked out of the skies in 1942.

An official tabulation covering complete operations for the last year showed that army, navy and marine fliers shot down at least 2,587 of their foes. This total did not include hundreds of planes listed as probably destroyed.

Aircraft losses by all American armed services last year totaled 609. Some of the fliers were shot down by anti-aircraft fire, others simply did not return from combat missions for reasons unknown. A majority of the 609 losses, however, resulted from actual combat with enemy airplanes.

V-Gardens on Home Front

Sufficient Vegetables Can Be Raised for Entire Family on Small, Fertile Sites

Beginners Told to Plan Plots Before Starting Seeding

However Hitler, Hirohito and Mussolini may be kept guessing about Allied offensives on the fighting fronts of the world, they can just as well be told right now that there is no secret about one of America's great drives on the home front. It's the Victory Garden campaign, already under way and expected to set a national record for home food production.

When a national poll late last month reported that 54 per cent of the citizens interviewed were intending to grow gardens this year, newspaper readers of the country became aware of the proportions of this home-front offensive. By January, however, it was no news to the government's garden promoters that a 1943 bumper crop of home gardeners was in sight. They were already swamped with popular demands for how-to-go-about-it information and were meeting them—with news releases, radio programs, photographs and a special 1943 edition of a publication called "Victory Gardens."

The garden authorities had seen what happened in 1942 when an estimated 15,000,000 Victory Gardeners shouldered spades and hoes. Since then they had seen the national food situation change until by the beginning of 1943 the department of agriculture was saying: "The nation needs the help of everyone who can grow a good garden."

Will Educate Gardeners

The department of agriculture, it may be reported, was precise in making its appeal to everyone who can grow a good garden. Getting good gardens from inexperienced gardeners thus became one of the department's war concerns. Fortunately, its bureau of plant industry, in the agricultural research administration, has been dealing with this same problem in normal dimensions for many years, and was all set to meet the demands for information as they might arise.

It is impossible, of course, to avoid thinnings of some vegetables. Small seeds like those of carrots, collards, onion, parsnips, spinach, and turnips must be sown three or four times as thick as the plants will eventually grow, because many seeds fail to grow well. Surplus seedlings then have to be thinned out before the plants crowd each other.

When the inexperienced gardener begins to worry about not planting his seed too deep or too shallow, too early or too late, and realizes the many other details that have to be kept in mind, he will appreciate truly the helpfulness of such publications as the department of agriculture's "Victory Gardens" and the other free bulletins that can be obtained from the government and from state agricultural colleges and extension services. Most valuable of all to him will probably be the one published nearest to his home, for from it he can obtain most specific information on the times of planting and on the varieties of vegetables best adapted to his locality.

With such aids, 18,000,000 Americans and their helpers are this year expected to plant Victory Gardens—6,000,000 of them on farms, the rest in their backyards, on vacant lots, or in community Victory Gardens. With the seed sown and the tomato and cabbage plants set out,

The main item in planning a garden is, of course, choosing what to plant. One thing is certain. There is little to be gained in growing vegetables that the family does not like, but within the family taste there are many garden products from which to choose. Green leafy vegetables—leaf lettuce, cabbage, spinach, chard, collards, kale, and turnip greens—should be well represented in every garden. Tomatoes and beans are also likely to be grown generally. All these are rich in vitamins. Potatoes and corn are among the best energy foods, but they require considerable space and are thus not recommended for very small gardens, which should specialize on the valuable vitamin, or protective, vegetables.

No garden plan, of course, is suitable for all tastes or all localities, but an example of one balanced garden is provided by Dr. Victor H. Boswell in his "Victory Gardens." For the 30 by 50 "very small garden," Dr. Boswell suggests 13 vegetables planted in 14 rows. Those planted in spring include two 50-foot



Variety for Everybody.

they will still have to face the Axis agents known to gardeners as weeds, insects, and diseases. But they will know at least that their own home-front offensive is under way and that the seeds of Victory are in the ground.

The gist of garden fundamentals has by now been reduced to terms so simple that they make gardening seem easier than it really is—so easy in fact that a great emphasis has been put on perseverance. No one reading how-to-do-it garden instructions, it is pointed out repeatedly, should set his foot to the spade unless he is determined to stay by his job without wasting seed, fertilizer, or effort.

The first requirement that the new gardener will find in the specifications written by the experts is for a garden spot that is both sunny and fertile. And for his help in judging fertility he is given the rule-of-thumb: "If the weeds grow rank, the soil is fertile." Good soil, moisture and sunshine are three essentials. If they are missing, no gardener can expect to grow enough crops to justify his use of seed, fertilizer and effort.

The home gardener this year is advised to grow just as nearly all the fresh vegetables for his family as he possibly can. A garden 50 feet by 100 feet tended and kept growing all season is, for example, expected to produce enough vegetables to give each member of a family of five at least three servings a day, which comes about as close to providing the needed four to seven daily servings of fruits and vegetables as many gardeners can come. Smallest garden size for which a garden plan is suggested by the department of agriculture is 30 by 50 feet, but even smaller areas will grow a worthwhile crop of tomatoes and a few other crops, if greater space cannot be obtained.

Choose Vegetables You Like

With the area located, the Victory Gardener's next step is putting the garden on paper, an exercise not only interesting but also especially helpful for the inexperienced. Arranging the garden properly includes attention to a few general principles. Rows, for example, should not run up and down hill if the garden slopes very much, but if the area is level the rows should run the long way for convenience. First plantings are generally best placed along the south or east side of the garden, with later crops being sown progressively across the area, and whenever possible the tall growing plants should be on the west or north side of the garden so they will not shade other plants.

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Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—With the death of Lammie F. Parton, Delos W. Lovelace, a journalist of many years' experience, will conduct the WHO'S NEWS column.

NEW YORK.—Maj. Ruth Cheney Streeter, new Marine Corps Women's Reserve director, has been an airplane pilot since 1940. Dates don't lie, and those in Mrs. Streeter's diary say she was born in 1895. That would make her 45 when she began to fly. Not many women do that at that age. There isn't another, probably, between the Halls of Montezuma and the shores of Tripoli; a fact doubtless pleasing to the marines as the major scouts the country seeking 19,000 recruits for her command.

A year or so after her first lesson the major had a commercial license, too, and a little time back the 126th squadron, army air forces, made her honorary pilot. She is also the only woman on New Jersey's defense council's committee on aviation.

Major Streeter's home is at Morristown, N. J. Before the war there were few town schemes and stratagems in which she didn't have a hand. She belongs to six clubs, to the Junior League and to the New Hampshire Society of Colonial Dames. When the war began she expanded her orbit to include most of the doings at Camp Dix nearby. Now to Dix she adds the marine corps. Her children, happily, are all old enough to go their own gait... daughter Lillian and sons Frank and Henry, who are ensigns, and Thomas W. Jr., who is in the army reserve.

The senior Thomas W. is a lawyer and retired public utilities expert now collecting funds for the Red Cross.

ONE college, three universities, ten years in the law and three with the United States attorney general have helped make Norman M. Littell a winner.

Keeps Uncle Sam a Litter From Being Rooked m. n. A In Big Land Deals too, considering the fummy-diddles he has lately uncovered.

Mr. Littell is assistant attorney general in charge of the government's wartime real estate business. Land is needed for shipyards, housing and all the army's great growing pains. When the boys come marching home the government will own 20,000,000 acres, five times as many as there is in the state of Maine. In a venture so vast, Uncle Sam could be rooked to a fare-ye-well. If he isn't, Mr. Littell will have earned a D.S.C.

Forty-four now, he joined the attorney general's staff in 1939. Earlier he had practiced law in Seattle after studying at Wabash college, Oxford, Harvard and Washington university. At Oxford he was a Rhodes scholar. He was born at Indianapolis, Ind., and has been married 12 years. Two children.

Already his canny double-check on real estate deals has saved the price of a few Flying Fortresses, maybe of a battleship. He cut one-\$198,000 fee in half, cut a couple of commissions from 6 1/2 per cent to 3 1/2 per cent, persuaded one land agent to take a flat \$50 fee on each of 600 deals although original claims had run as high as \$20.

BUDGET DIRECTOR Harold Dewey Smith will compile the record of the administrative history of the war; and he was handpicked by a Democrat.

To Compile Record Of Administrative History Of The War Democrat.

Democratic

ic Supreme court justice. Nevertheless Republicans borrow trouble if they wonder whether the record will be on the level. Fifty years from now undoubtedly anybody will be able to travel the budget director's miles of memos and learn the truth about everybody's sins. Mr. Smith loves documents and data too well to fling them even for his party.

When Associate Justice Frank Murphy sold President Roosevelt on Mr. Smith he was budget director of Michigan. That was three years back. He had got to Michigan's state capital after righting the problems of cities in both Michigan and Kansas. He was born in Kansas, 45 years ago. He got a degree in engineering from the University of Kansas.

Plants Should Be Spaced.