

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

New Ration Orders Assure Healthy Diet; Nazi's Kharkov Offensive Recalls Drive That Preceded Collapse in World War I; Congress Ponders Postwar Security Plan

(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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The direction in which the Nazis launched their counteroffensive against the Russians in the Kharkov area is indicated by the above map. Successful in its early stages, the counteroffensive had driven the Russ back 100 miles and regained for the Nazis areas captured by the Russ winter drive.

WAR PROGRAM:

Centralization Needed

Like doctors in a clinic, members of the senate's Truman investigating committee gave the progress of the war program a thorough examination and emerged with three basic reasons for "nearly all the failures and shortcomings" found.

First reason was "inadequate over-all planning within government agencies at the beginning of the various programs"; second was "conflicting authority over various phases of the war program"; and third, "hesitancy of the government to adopt unpopular or unpleasant policies long after the facts indicated such policies were necessary."

In recommending corrections, the committee called for clearly defined authority, centralized in a few officials, during the coming year. Incidentally, the committee warned that the year ahead would be the toughest and grimmest in U. S. history.

RATIONING:

Healthy Diet Sure

Americans tightened their belts in anticipation of the slimmer portions of meat, canned fish, butter, cheese and edible fats the new rationing regulations effective March 29 would impose.

To those who for months had been following the Food Administration's request to ration themselves voluntarily, the new estimated ration of about two pounds weekly of meat per person "more or less" represented only a slight shift downward. Still unrationed as the orders went into effect were poultry, fresh fish and such rarely used meats as rabbit and other game. The new rationing orders had been accompanied by the heartening news that coffee would be more plentiful, with one pound every five instead of six weeks, and that point values on dry beans and peas had been lowered.

All things considered, the new regulations would reduce consumption of the foods they covered by from 12 to 15 per cent. That supplies assured a healthy diet was emphasized by Food Administrator Wickard. Estimates indicated that 1943 per capita civilian supplies of meat, cheese, fats and other commodities would be about equal to the average for 1935-39.

NORTH AFRICA:

Axis Hopes Dimmer

Holed up in the Mareth line after having received a punishing beating Nazi Marshal Rommel had had to face the consequences of being ringed in by an Allied line of steel. That those consequences were to be serious and might even reach the disastrous proportions of a defeat rivaling the Axis rout at Stalingrad was the opinion of seasoned observers.

Faced by the increasing strength of General Montgomery's British 8th army and by the reinforced and battle-seasoned American forces of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Rommel and his cohort, Col. Gen. Von Arnim, had their work cut out for them.

TAX PLANS: Ruml Revived

Like the cat with nine lives, the Ruml plan to skip a tax year and put America's 44,000,000 taxpayers on a pay-as-you-go basis, was hard to kill.

Even though the house ways and means committee had approved a plan imposing a 20 per cent withholding levy from pay envelopes effective July 1 and making "pay-as-you-go" optional with each taxpayer, proponents of the Ruml plan, principally in the ranks of the Republican minority, had ranged themselves solidly behind a bill embracing the Ruml principles.

Sponsors of the house ways and means committee's tax program pointed out that the withholding levy would not be a straight 20 per cent deduction against wages and salaries, but against the portions of such earnings remaining after deductions were made on the basis of dependents. The levy would not be an additional tax, but merely a means of collecting actual taxes through wage and salary deductions.

LEND-LEASE: Diplomacy Weapon

Predictions that lend-lease shipments in the coming year would dwarf all previous records and that Uncle Sam would use it more and more as a means of obtaining agreements with nations receiving it for postwar security, were voiced by Washington observers, after the house and senate had approved extension of lend-lease for another year.

What eventual payment this nation will seek for its wartime aid to its allies and friendly neutrals remained to be seen. Two major principles were involved, however. One was the promotion of a stable economic situation throughout the world after the war. The other was the necessity of America obtaining additional naval and air bases to help prevent a recurrence of Axis aggression.

A report to congress by Edward R. Stettinius Jr., lend-lease administrator, disclosed that aid extended by the United States under the act aggregated \$9,632,000,000 in its first two years of operation. Mr. Stettinius reported Russia was allotted 29 per cent of all lend-lease shipments last year, including half of all tanks shipped and 40 per cent of all tactical planes.

CHINA AIR FORCE: Victory for Mme. Chiang

The labors of Madame Chiang Kai-shek had not been in vain. One of the first fruits of her American visit and Washington conferences was the creation of a full-fledged U. S. air force command in China.

Hailed as the fulfillment of long-deferred Chinese hopes this move indicated a sizable expansion of



MME. CHIANG KAI-SHEK... first fruits sweet.

American air power in the China war theater and a new phase in the war against Japan.

Under the new arrangement the newly activated 14th U. S. air force under command of Brig. Gen. Claire L. Chenault replaced the former China Air Task Force. Famous as the trainer of the "Flying Tigers" which scoured Jap invaders, Chenault with augmented manpower and planes would now be able to expand his operations greatly.

FRANCE: Patriots Fight

As repressive measures by the Nazis had failed to halt the underground revolt by French patriots against conscription into German slave legions, it became clear that this movement was well organized and had the leadership of key men in General De Gaulle's Fighting French forces.

As hundreds of thousands of youths were reported fleeing from their homes to escape conscription, the flareup of anti-Nazi sabotage and terrorism resulted in the wrecking of German troop trains, the killing of Axis soldiers and attempts to assassinate pro-Nazi French leaders.

Country Press of America Is Vital Factor In the Job of 'Holding the Home Front'

It 'Went to War' on the Day Pearl Harbor Was Bombed And It's Still Waging A Valiant Fight.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.
WITHIN 24 hours after the Japs made their sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Raymond B. Howard of London, Ohio, president of the National Editorial association, was telegraphing to President Roosevelt:

I am sure you will find a united press backing a united nation in the defense of our country and flag. I am sure that I speak for the small dailies and weekly newspapers making up the membership of the National Editorial association, in assuring you of our complete support. It is fortunate that we have a free press in America with which to enlighten and solidify our efforts.

On the same day a similar message went forward to the White House from the president of Newspaper Association Managers, Inc., the organization of field secretaries and managing directors of more than 30 state press associations.

Such was the promise. What has been the fulfillment?

Well, it is difficult to estimate in exact figures the contribution to America's war effort since December 7, 1941, of the 11,000-odd dailies and weeklies that comprise the nation's "small-town press." A large part of that contribution—perhaps a major part—has been in the realm of that intangible, but vitally important, thing called morale—in "holding the home front."

As a matter of fact, the country press of America began making this contribution long before Pearl Harbor. It started with the beginning of the national defense program when the menace of Hitlerism to the democratic way of life became more and more clearly apparent. For one thing, the country press contributed thousands of columns of its space, both editorial and advertising, to promoting the sale of defense bonds. When the selective service act was passed, the country editor told the people of his community why it was necessary for their sons and brothers to leave the farms and stores and offices of rural America and go into training so that they could be prepared to defend their country when that inevitable day of attack by the aggressor nations came.

Morale Was Low.

And it was during that period, when the morale of the selectees, inadequately equipped, not yet adjusted to the change from civilian to military life and not having the incentive of the existence of a "state of war" to make real the necessity for training, might easily have slipped to a dangerously low level. Recognizing the fact that the drafted man's receiving his home town paper was next best to receiving a letter from home, some country publishers began sending copies of their papers free of charge to the boys in camp. Hundreds more voluntarily followed their example and the good effects of this practice, in terms of heightened morale among the citizen soldiers, was so apparent as to win special commendation for the country press from the morale division of the war department.

The same practice was continued after America entered the war and its benefits have been even more apparent. It requires little imagination to realize what it means to a soldier, sailor or marine in an outpost in Alaska or Greenland or on the fighting front in North Africa or New Guinea to open up a copy of his home town paper and read there how the folks back home are "backing him up" by their buying war bonds, by their contributing to the Red Cross blood bank, by their help in "getting in the scrap" and all the other ways in which civilians can aid the war effort. More important still, perhaps, is the way in which it satisfies their hunger for the other news from home—the dozens of little items about the normal life in their communities to which they hope to return some day soon.

Important as has been "free papers for servicemen," it is but one of the ways in which the country press has fostered morale not only among the fighting men but also among their families. Some publishers have sponsored "send-offs for selectees"—celebrations in which the whole community joins in paying



It's "Just Like a Letter From Home" to Him!

honor to the men as they march away to war instead of allowing their departure for their great adventure to pass almost unnoticed except by the presence of their relatives at the railroad station as they leave. Other publishers have devoted the front windows of their offices to displays of pictures of servicemen from their communities and almost without exception the country press, from the beginning of the war, has printed "honor rolls" of the names of the community's fighting men, pictures of them and their letters.

Typical of the numerous ways in which the country press has built morale, both military and civilian, are these examples:

A New York weekly that founded a "War Service Club" which performs a variety of services for the community's men in the armed forces, including the sending each month of two dozen home-made cookies to every man.

Another New York weekly that promoted a "Happiness from Home" box to bring Christmas cheer to all local men in the service.

A New Jersey weekly that sponsored a special Armistice day ceremony, honoring the mothers of four local boys who had been killed in action.

A Virginia weekly that sponsored a "Write Right to Fighting Men!" campaign to offset the ill effects of the kind of discouraging letters which some people write to men in the armed forces.

One other great service of the country press in the realm of morale was the part it has played in putting this nation in a "fighting mood." Back in the days when we were still calling them "defense bonds," certain government officials—also some big city columnists and commentators—began accusing the American people of being too complacent about the war. Thereupon a weekly newspaper down in Florida printed an editorial which was at once a reply to that accusation and a trumpet call to action. It said in part:

... If you want the American people to snap out of their complacency, then for the sake of all that's holy start yelling ATTACK! Call the defense bonds VICTORY BONDS. Call the defense councils WAR COUNCILS.

This is a fighting nation. This is a mighty nation. Stop low-rating us. We common men and women know what war is. We have no illusions about it. We do not intend to be a slave race, or a subject race, or a passive race. We know that our nation is at stake. Furthermore, we more than a little suspect that the entire future of mankind is at stake. Give us a battle cry!

That this was not an isolated case was shown by the fact that about the same time a small community out in Montana had set aside a certain day to sell a certain amount of bonds—not "defense bonds" but WAR bonds and they called it BONDbardment Day. Commenting on this project, the editor of the local weekly which had sponsored the event said:

We think we have the answer here, the challenge to the cry of complacency. We think the people are suffering from a sort of emotional starvation. We are going to try and bring back the spirit of the old Fourth of July celebrations—that is that part which

invoked the deep spirit of patriotism. We feel that it will be a laboratory test. We are sure that scolding and charges of complacency are not the answer.

Needless to say this BONDbardment Day in that Montana town, as in many others throughout the country, was a tremendous success. And it is significant that as the result of a new spirit which swept the country, aided by the efforts of hundreds of country editors, soon thereafter they were no longer called "defense bonds" but "war bonds" or "Victory bonds."

Nor has the work of the country press in behalf of the sale of war bonds through its editorial, news and advertising columns been the only contribution it has made to the war effort in the realm of tangible things. There was the scrap metal campaign carried on to salvage from the farms of the nation the thousands of tons of metal so urgently needed by the steel mills to make battleships, guns and other weapons of war. A Florida weekly dramatized the effort to "get in the scrap" by capitalizing upon the reputation of a scrappy American fighter—Gen. Douglas MacArthur. So that community set aside a day for bringing in all kinds of scrap material and called it "Gen. MacArthur Day." The event was an overwhelming success.

He Sets an Example.

Nor does the average country editor merely urge the people of his community to do their patriotic duty. Frequently he sets them an example by going out and doing it himself. There was the editor of a New York weekly who has made his office the center of a 24-hour service as communications headquarters in case of enemy air raids. There was the editor in a little Kansas town who not only managed the salvage yard in his town but who personally collected and shipped some 60 tons of scrap iron. More than that he personally did all the work of cutting up the iron with an acetylene torch and supervised the loading and sorting of the entire lot—all this in addition to his regular duties as editor, publisher, advertising solicitor and printer of his newspaper. And finally there was one of the leading country publishers in California who did something about the manpower shortage besides writing editorials about it. When trained sawmill workers in his town began leaving because they feared they would be "frozen" in their jobs, he signed up for work as a lumberjack in a sawmill on the night shift—from 5 p. m. to 1 a. m. He sleeps the rest of the night, then puts in a full day at his publishing duties.

Such are only a few of the highlights in the story of what the country press of America has done and is doing since it "went to war." Despite the loss of revenue from decreased advertising linage and increased production costs, despite the shortages of materials essential to the printing business and despite the loss of manpower when its newswriters and advertising men and printers went into the armed forces, it is carrying on valiantly in the fight for freedom and it is doubtful if any other class of patriotic Americans, either as a group or as individuals, are contributing more in more different ways to the victory that will eventually be ours.

Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

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NEW YORK—About 15 years ago a British officer was killed in Egypt and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr got mighty tough with Egyptian officials. Too tough! Saving hurt feelings, London had to pretend to take Sir Archibald down a peg. He was withdrawn from the main current of British diplomacy and set to drift in South American backwaters. The spanked boy came back after a time unabashed and with a Chilean wife, Maria Teresa Diaz Salas. It was a late marriage. Sir Archibald is 60 years old now. But along with his admitted toughness it has helped keep him out in front ever since.

Pulling these days on the increasingly tangled problem of Russia - British relations, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr has one great asset. He is more friendly with Stalin than any British ambassador before him. Kremlin Joe sends him good Russian tobacco where previous plenipotentiaries got semi-ultimatums to put in their pipes and smoke. The Ambassador was educated privately, but his sheltered start doesn't seem to have handicapped him. He got into the diplomatic service 35 years ago and has represented Britain in Sweden, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco and, as noted, in South America, taking time out for a stretch with the Scots Guards back in 1918. Before he went to Russia he had the China assignment, where he said a good word for this country off and on because he is a notable friend of the United States.

WHEN men like Dr. Hugu L. Dryden talk of a near future in which any man may fly through the air with the greatest of ease and only a rocking chair risk, they turn the fancies of "Looking Backward" into facts, just about. The doctor, speaking from the eminence of the presidency of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, argues that even now the safest way to make a long journey is by air.

He speaks with nearly youthful enthusiasm. He is only 43, a smooth-faced thinker whose forehead tapers, whose chin comes to a point; a man his friends can call a pleasant-looking egg and mean it two ways.

Pocomoke City, off the salty Chesapeake, would get into print seldom if he hadn't been born there, and he adds luster even to Johns Hopkins university which gave him a Ph.D. He is a Marylander who knew early what he wanted. Before he finished his schooling he had hired out to the Federal Bureau of Standards and he has been with it ever since. He can unravel the snarls of aerodynamics and hydrodynamics into simple-speed and performance almost before Boeing can set up a production line.

Whenever he hasn't anything better to do he builds another wind tunnel, because he always has a few new notions to try out. Wind tunnels, he says, save life, time and cash for any man trying to build the foolproof airplane of the future. It was wind tunnel experiments which earned him the Reed award for research in aeronautics three years back.

DR. OTTO GEORG THIERACK doesn't exactly say with the great Louis of France that he is the law, but he stands all right. He's a lawyer, primed to ding up any needed statute that isn't already on the Reich's books. At this time he warns, in Cologne, that justice must knuckle down before the policy of the state. His status he had declared earlier when he said, "Every Reich judge may call on me when he feels compelled to render a decision not compatible with real life. I shall then provide him with the law he needs." Write one on the spot, if necessary.

For six months now Thierack has been Nazi minister for justice. He has the power of life and death and the concentration camp. No one may appeal his decisions. Only Hitler may revoke them.

Dresden, in placid Saxony, is his birthplace. He must have distilled a queer elixir from the town's china and chocolates, cigarettes and postcards. To become the man he is