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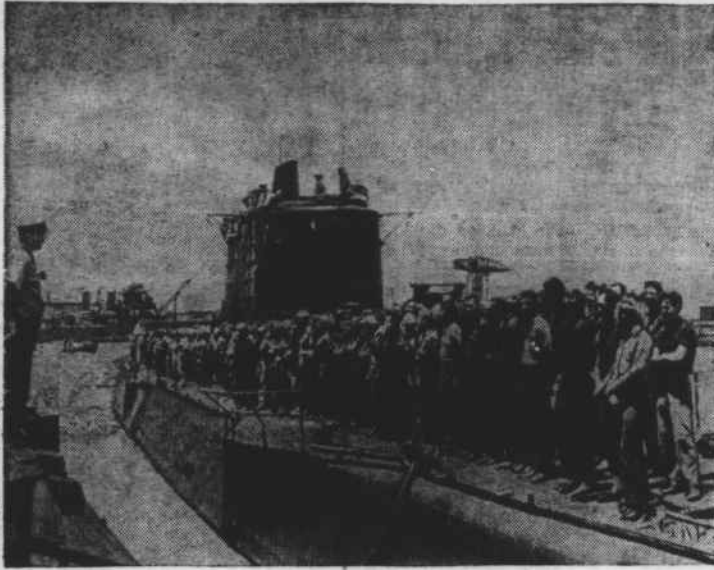
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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Congress Moves to Defer Farm Workers; Climax of Tunisia Campaign Approaches As Allies Close In on Rommel's Forces; Manpower Shortage Grows More Critical

(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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Lining the deck of a U. S. submarine as it docks at Pearl Harbor after a successful raid on the Jap base on Makin island, these marine raiders are ready for the comforts of shore for a while. The raiders, transported to the island and back aboard American submarines, wiped out the garrison and all enemy installations there.

FARM LABOR: Deferment Act Passed

Congress demonstrated unmistakably that it meant business in dealing with the farm labor shortage.

Evidence of this determination was found in the senate's action in passing legislation to defer all essential farm workers from military service. The measure which had required house approval would direct draft boards to defer men employed substantially full-time in production of essential foods and fibers. Although Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson had strenuously opposed blanket farm deferments, sponsors of the legislation contended such action was necessary.

The house meanwhile had moved to combat the farm labor shortage in another direction, by passing a bill appropriating \$261,000,000 to recruit and train 3,500,000 men and women as a "land army."

SHOWDOWN: Looms in Tunisia

Evidence had continued to mount that the Allies were preparing a concerted drive that would bring the North African campaign to a climax.

As the ring around the Axis defenders of coastal Tunisia was tightened by the Allied command, two developments spelled progress toward the final showdown.

One was the upsurge of offensive action by American forces under Lieut. Gen. George S. ("Blood and Guts") Patton which continued on after the recapture of Gafsa and El Guejjar in central Tunisia and apparently had as its ultimate goal the coastal city of Gabes. Replacing Maj. Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendall on this front, General Patton brought with him the reputation of being one of the most offensive-minded generals of the army.

Another development of high significance was the drive by General Montgomery's British Eighth Army against Marshal Rommel's Mareth line positions in southeastern Tunisia. Characteristically, tight-lipped Montgomery had issued no communiques concerning his early moves; first reports of the offensive had come from German sources.

Together, these two developments indicated that an Allied squeeze play was under way against Rommel's army.

LESS GASOLINE: For East Coast

While the gasoline ration for "A" book holders in eastern states was cut from 3 to 1½ gallons per week, these motorists were given the opportunity of using the gasoline as they pleased, for the ban on pleasure driving was removed.

In making public the reduction, the Office of Price Administration, Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown, announced that "A"-book holding industrial workers who motor to their jobs would be allowed supplemental gasoline.

Revolving of the basic ration was made necessary, according to a statement by Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes, because only 333,000 barrels of gasoline daily could be made available for East coast civilian and industrial use during April.

RUSSIA: See-Saw Offensives

The see-saw character of the warfare on the Russian front had continued with Soviet offensives pushing on without interruption toward the goals of Smolensk and Staraya Russa, while German counter-offensives were striking with increasing power in the Kharkov sector.

The main force of the Russian drive toward Smolensk had been concentrated on a stretch of the Vyazma-Smolensk railroad. The Reds were reported as having captured scores of settlements south of Bely. Much of the fighting was reported west of the Dnieper river headwaters.

The German offensive further south had ranged from Kharkov to Kursk, with epic tank battles and a struggle for supremacy in the air. A German communique had reported that "Enemy forces encircled southeast of Kharkov have been annihilated with the exception of small remnants." Far northwest of Kharkov and on a battle line extending down into the Donets river basin, the Germans were reported concentrating their reserves and tanks on narrow sectors still held by the Russians.

UNITY: For French Factions

Three months of unpublicized preparation had been necessary for the action that was to culminate in a meeting between Gen. Henri Giraud and Gen. Charles DeGaulle and bridge once and for all the chasm that had separated the French North African regime and the Fighting French.

When Gen. Giraud had announced that everything reminiscent of Vichy rule was to be thrown overboard and then had followed with decisive decrees translating words into action, the day of French unity dawned.

Happily received by the DeGaulle lists, were Giraud's decrees nullifying all Vichy laws discriminating against Jews, restricting the activities of labor unions and banning Freemasonry.

Even before the Giraud decrees and the resignation from his government of ex-Vichy officials, Fighting French leaders meeting in London rejoiced that events in North Africa had taken a more favorable turn and that Giraud's invitation to DeGaulle for a conference would meet a friendly reception.

Further evidence of the increasing unity of French interests was the action of French Guiana's government in breaking away from Vichy control and joining forces with General Giraud. This South American possession had previously been under control of Axis-minded Adm. Georges Robert, high commissioner at Martinique.

POLITICS: Banned for OWI

Accused by administration critics of propaganda boosting President Roosevelt for a fourth term, personnel of the Office of War Information were cautioned by Director Elmer Davis to refrain from partisan political activity.

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS: Dozens by Year's End

Henry J. Kaiser, shipbuilding "miracle man," was at it again. This time it was on the large-scale production of 500-foot aircraft carriers.

Some details of Kaiser's new activities were disclosed following a recent visit to the White House. Twelve shipways at Vancouver, Wash., he said, are being used for the construction of medium size airplane carriers. The rate of production is expected to reach six a month by the end of 1943.

The Kaiser carriers will be 487 feet long at the water line, with flight decks of 514 feet. They can be used either as carriers or as aircraft transports. Standard carriers are 761 feet long.

'FREEZE': 200,000 Vehicles

As the nation's transportation situation grew more critical because of heavier loads and lack of new equipment, ODT Director Joseph B. Eastman moved to prevent the "migration" of vehicles from one area to another by freezing nearly 200,000 buses and street cars in their present service.

Mr. Eastman's order applied to every vehicle carrying nine or more persons in passenger transportation in the United States, its territories and possessions.

Included in new regulations were: 93,000 school buses; 20,000 inter-city buses; 44,000 city buses; 10,000 rapid transit, elevated and subway cars; 3,000 suburban rail cars; and 3,500 trackless trolley vehicles.

At the same time, in line with the government's plans to keep the nation's automobiles rolling, OPA officials announced that additional pre-Pearl Harbor and "Victory" tires would be available to certain lower mileage ration passenger car owners.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Japs Show Concern

Even as Premier Hideki Tojo was warning the Japs that "the war situation is becoming more serious," Secretary of Navy Frank Knox declared that Japan has lost 1,857,000 tons of shipping, or one-third of her tonnage at the beginning of the war. "The journey to victory is just beginning," Knox, however cautioned.

WAR CHIEF SAYS U. S. REQUIRES 11 MILLION MEN TO WHIP AXIS; HOME FRONT MUST BE ADJUSTED

Patterson Claims Nazis Have 13 Million Men at Their Command; Jap Also Strong in Pacific Area.

By ROBERT P. PATTERSON, Undersecretary of War

Questions raised in recent weeks as to whether America shall have the army of 8,200,000 men which its military leadership has determined to be the minimum with which we can expect to defeat our enemies have not, it seems to me, given due consideration to military necessity.

We are out to win this war. The nation has entrusted the responsibility for this victory to its military leaders. This leadership—the joint chiefs of staff of the army and navy, after the most careful analysis of our enemies' strength, has decided that we must build an armed force of approximately 11,000,000, which includes an army of 8,200,000 for 1943-44.

Our own men have been in contact only with the smallest of the Axis armies—a part of its Tunisian force of less than a quarter of a million men. But the striking force of this powerful foe has already been felt by our troops.

The German field armies are assisted by more than one million men in semi-military organizations, such as the military police, engineers, and supply depots, which in our army are included among service troops.

Reliable sources indicate that the combined number of those in the German and Italian armed forces and those directly assisting them runs well over 13 million. It is evident at this point that the superiority of our enemies in the European theater is of ominous proportions.

A similar analysis in the Pacific area does not brighten the picture. The Japanese army exceeds by many divisions the forces that the United Nations have been able to equip and place in opposition.

Yet the United Nations, and particularly this country, have the potential power to overcome this numerical superiority. These potentialities must be converted to actuality. They must be harnessed and driven toward a single goal, the defeat of our enemies. In that drive our country, the latest of the major powers to enter the war, must play the most important part.

Army Determines Size After Careful Study of Its Needs

Offensive action requires superiority in numbers. This is the reason we need an army of 8,200,000 including officers by the end of this year. The navy, the marines and the coast guard need 2,600,000 this year. That makes a total of 10,800,000 men and women that must be in the armed forces by the end of this year. This will be less than 8½ per cent of our total population. Thirteen and a half per cent of the German population is in the armed forces.

Ten million, eight hundred thousand is not a figure pulled out of a hat. It is the requirement determined by those charged with the heavy responsibility of winning this war.

General Marshall says that we need so many planes and so many tanks to win the war. Is there anyone in America who would question his judgment? Admiral King says that we need so many escort ships and destroyers to beat the Axis. Is there anyone in America who would question his judgment? The expert views of our military leaders are accepted on our needs for guns and ships. Why should anyone question their judgment as to the number of men that they need to use these weapons and man these ships?

The staffs of the army and the navy under General Marshall and Admiral King, in full possession of the facts, have made the military decision that a force this size is necessary to win the war. Our Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States, has approved this program. It is America's answer to the Axis. The Axis, I assure you, does not like that answer.

In making this decision full account has been taken of the ability of American industry and labor and agriculture to produce the supplies



American troops land in North Africa. They are the vanguard of a proposed force of 8,200,000 men who will be needed to defeat the Axis, war officials say.

needed by our forces, by our Allies and by our civilian economy. Full account has also been taken of the ability of our rapidly expanding merchant marine to deliver soldiers and supplies overseas. The conclusion reached was that it was a hard job, but that it could and must be done.

But there are critics of the army program who ask, "Why should we fight? Why not give more supplies to the British, the Chinese and the Russians and let them fight for us?"

The British, with the smallest available manpower and subject to savage aerial attacks, have come nearer than any other of the United

for more arduous labors and sacrifices on the home front.

Realism must extend from the foxholes and pill-boxes on the firing line to the factories and homes of America. When our country is at war, none of us can escape the responsibility of viewing the routine, as well as the emergency duties of life, in the light of their bearing upon the final result—unconditional surrender by our enemies.

This nation has done a magnificent job in production for war. But there is an even heavier task ahead. We will have serious problems because of the increasing drain on our manpower. But similar problems have been solved in England, Russia, Germany and Japan. Non-essential activities are out for the duration and these countries are fully mobilized—to a much greater extent than we. On every one rests the equal obligation to give service either in the armed forces or on the home front. Why should we suppose that we can wage war successfully without mobilizing our human resources with a thoroughness at least approaching that of our enemies and of our principal allies?

Army Requirements Come First; Nation Must Get Into Industry

The needs of the armed forces must come first. The problems of turnover and absenteeism must and can be solved. Each of us must work to the utmost of his capability.

We must also tackle our farm labor problem with vigor. There are white collar workers in non-essential industries who can go back to the farms from which they came. There are victory gardens to be encouraged. More work can be done by women. Farm machinery can be pooled. Many steps can be taken to increase production on the farms.

We cannot solve our manpower problems by whittling down the size of our armed forces. The problem must be tackled at its source. Every one wants to do his or her share to help win the war and must serve where he or she can render the best service. The decision cannot be based upon personal desire.

With vast territories and resources at their disposal, the Axis cannot be defeated by a blockade. Victory will come from decisive military action, backed by an armed force and ability so overwhelmingly superior that the enemy's further action will be futile.

In World War I, it was our American Expeditionary force of 2,000,000 added to the strength of our Allies, that made the enemy surrender. On November 11, 1918, the Allies had 32 fresh divisions in reserve. The Germans only had two. The Allies had a total of 213 divisions. The Germans had 185. The Germans were aware of these figures. Their ability to reason from figures is well known. They decided that they could not win, and they quit.

Now, as then, the enemy must be made to realize that they cannot win. Now, as then, we must make them see that we are going to see the job through.

Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—When Maj. Gen. Robert W. Crawford talks in earnest, his thin, small mouth twists and the words come out of one corner after the manner of the late, great Cohan.

The general is in North Africa now, talking in earnest to keep guns and grub and gasoline rolling to the American army there. He commands the Middle East Service of Supply. He reached Africa around the middle of January and had a whole month of ease before work caught up with him. Before that he commanded an armored division at Fort Knox. The chances are that in Africa he has lost weight. For him it would be an easy matter, because he has always been one of our plumper men-at-arms.

In the last war the guys in the trenches used to rib the SOS with pointed mention of non-fighting soldiers. They talked that way even when the supply trucks ran Boche barrages like ducks diving into a shower of No. 9 shot. Very likely the talk in African fox-holes is the same and with even less reason, for in these days of fluid fronts the Crawford cargo crews are as likely to find themselves alongside a Mark VI tank as a purely American supply point. In such a dilemma the general instructs the crews to say "Vot iss!" in a loudly deceptive voice if they feel it will help, but above all to get a-rolling.

General Crawford is of the army's elite on two counts. He was graduated from West Point. He took the best post-graduate courses, War College, Command and General Staff school. He is a New Yorker, 52 years old and was three years out of West Point when we went to war the last time. A captain then, he finished a lieutenant-colonel. This was fairly close to par for the year and a half course.

AMBASSADOR CLARENCE E. GAUSS, starting toward bond-weary Washington from bomb-weary Chungking for consultations, should have all the news we need about China on the tip of his tongue. Except for a couple of turns in Paris and Australia, he has served all his diplomatic career there, and his career runs back to 1907.

Shanghai was his first post. He was deputy consul, after a while spent at stenography in the house of representatives. Then he was consul at Amoy, Tsinan, Mukden, and finally counselor to the legation at Peiping.

Washington was his birthplace and he got back now and then, marrying a Los Angeles girl on one visit. Maybe her preference turned him to the Paris consulate. The Australian assignment came later. He was our first minister there. But when an ambassador to China was needed two years ago he packed up and went back to his old stamping ground.

He has been a quiet ambassador. He has a lean, quiet look and a shrewd one too, behind neat spectacles. When he smiles a dimple that is practically a sinkhole appears in his right cheek. This is because he smiles so much more with the right side of his sharp mouth. The effect, though this description may make it seem otherwise, isn't bad at all.

IN RUSSIA a Bolshevik by any other name is just as Red. Thus Trotsky was really somebody else. So is Stalin. And Vyacheslav Mikailovich Molotov, whose department of foreign affairs considers Admiral Standley's brusque speech, was born Scriabin. Molotov means hammer, plainly a better way to call a man who set out at 15 years of age to break the old Imperial government.

Molotov's official biography says he was born the son of a shop assistant. That was 53 years ago. By 1905 he was a professed Marxist, and a year later joined a bolshevik group. Ten years later he was on the Bolshevik Central Committee. Meanwhile he and Stalin had met, and started their newspaper, Pravda, and Molotov had been arrested or exiled three.

Both Lenin and Stalin schooled Molotov, and he likes to tell of this.



ROBERT P. PATTERSON Undersecretary of war.

Nations to the full-time war employment of every man, woman and child. The Chinese have been heroically fighting for 5½ years. The Russians, by brilliant tactics and with indomitable courage, have killed more Nazis than all the other United Nations combined. We should give tribute to their dead, for they have sacrificed countless lives. But their manpower is not inexhaustible.

We're In the War, Too, and It Will Be Won the Hard Way

This is our war just as much as it is the war of the British, the Russians and the Chinese. We are sending supplies to the utmost of our ability to these and the other United Nations. We will continue to do so. But it will be our soldiers and sailors, and those of our Allies, that will win the final victory.

Elemental truths are often the most difficult to grasp. Throughout all ages people have tried to avoid facing up to the reality that war is grim business; have longed for an easy war; and have hoped that somehow, some way, victory could be gained without risking too much or without experiencing the stark unpleasantness of the conflict. But all the wishing in the world does not change the nature of war and its impact on all peoples engaged in it, whether in the battle lines or at home.

The hour for realism has arrived for every American. We must brace ourselves for mounting casualty lists and reverses on the battle front, and