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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Pledges Bombs to Japan's Heart; Allies Break Axis Mountain Defenses As Drive for Tunis and Bizerte Speeds; Russ-Nazis Locked in Caucasus Battle

(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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American arms, ammunition and equipment were a potent factor in stepping up the fighting strength of French armies aiding the Allied cause in the Tunisian campaign. Above, Gen. Henri Giraud (center), French high commissioner of North Africa, is seen inspecting U. S. war equipment sent for French army use.

VENGEANCE:

For Jap Executions

Stern punishment for the Jap military leaders responsible for the execution of American fliers captured after last year's raid on Tokyo was promised by President Roosevelt, who said the United States would "hold personally and officially responsible" all those who participated in these crimes and bring them to justice.

That the Japs' barbarity was a confession of their vulnerability to air attack was clear. This was underscored by Tokyo broadcasts threatening to execute American fliers captured on future raids over Japan.

The reply to such threats was given by Maj. Gen. Henry H. Arnold, commander of the air forces, who told his fliers:

"Let your answer to their treatment of your comrades be the destruction of the Japanese air force, their lines of communication, and the production centers which offer them the opportunity to continue such atrocities."

To this Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle, who led the Tokyo raid a year ago added: "Soon our bombers will be there again, striking at the heart of Japan until the empire crumbles and they beg for mercy."

RUBBER:

Sheddown on Oil Use

Rubber continued to be a controversial subject as William M. Jeffers, rubber director, came to grips with Robert P. Patterson, under-secretary of war, and Harold L. Ickes, petroleum administrator, in a dispute over the use of gasoline in the synthetic production program.

Patterson, supported by Ickes, charged in a statement that Jeffers was weakening American air strength against the Axis by reducing combat supplies of high octane gas for the benefit of the civilian synthetic rubber manufacturing schedule.

Still at odds with Elmer Davis, OWI director, over publicity releases on the rubber program, Jeffers briskly took on his two new opponents declaring that their charges called for investigation to bring out the true facts to the public.

PACIFIC:

U. S. Fliers Busy

From the Aleutians to New Guinea, American airmen continued their assaults on Jap airfields, shipping and ground installations.

Liberators, Mitchells, Lightnings and Warhawks made 15 raids on the enemy at Kiska, carrying the total of forays on this menacing Jap installation to more than 100 in the course of a single month.

In the Solomons, Yankee fliers battered Jap positions in four air raids, attacking Toneri harbor and Kieta and smashing at Kahili and Munda.

From Australia, Allied aircraft made 10 forays in a single day, destroying enemy planes and straffing Jap base installations and occupied villages. Rabaul and Ubi, New Britain, the Saidor area of New Guinea and Laga on Timor island were the principal targets.

U-BOAT DAMAGE:

More Ships the Remedy

Calling submarine losses of United Nations' shipping "heavy but not disastrous," the Truman senate committee revealed that approximately 1,000,000 tons a month were sunk last year—or more than the total tonnage built by the United States and Britain combined in 1942. Adding that losses were reduced in the latter months of the year, the report declared: "The submarine menace can and will be effectively met."

Most effective answer to the U-boat threat will be increases in new construction of merchant ships and escort vessels this year, the committee said. The report estimated that between 18 and 19 million deadweight tons will be built in 1943, compared with 8,000,000 tons last year.

Increased speed for newly constructed ships was promised through the building of new Victory models and the redesigning of Liberty ships to permit speeds of 15 to 17 knots compared with 11 knots for the present design.

VACATIONS:

Public Must Co-operate

Summer vacations by train for Americans remained a probability in spite of a ruling by the Office of Defense Transportation that no additional summer train service requiring the use of Pullman sleeping car equipment would be authorized. Rail officials expressed the belief that regular services would be sufficient to accommodate vacationists if the public is willing to accept inconveniences and co-operate by spreading travel throughout the week.

Only exception to the curtailment policy, the ODT stated, will be "coach trains operated in the period between Saturday noon and Sunday midnight utilizing primarily commuter equipment otherwise idle in that period and additional trains of semi-commuter type operated on other days of the week within a radius of approximately 50 miles of a terminus."

All other requests for extra coach or parlor-car train service for daily, tri-weekly or week-end summer operations will be denied, the ODT indicated.

DRAFT:

Payrollers on Call

Probability that many of the 840,000 draft-eligible men on government payrolls would be inducted into the armed forces was seen in the selective service's ruling that federal workers could not be deferred for occupational reasons except through examination of individual cases by a special presidential committee.

Up to the present, thousands of government workers had been given deferred classification as essential.

Selective service announced that effective May 15, the 6,500 local boards must submit monthly to Major General Hershey, for transmission to congress, the names and numbers of federal employees classified as 2-A or 2-B, the classes of deferment for occupational reasons.

POISON GAS:

British Ready

Prime Minister Churchill had warned the Nazis several times previously that the use of poison gas on any front would result in immediate retaliation by the British. Now he cautioned the enemy again, adding:



WINSTON CHURCHILL

ing that he had received reports that "Hitler is making preparations for using poison gas against the Russian front."

Munitions centers, seaports and other military objectives throughout the whole expanse of Germany, he said, would be the target of British gas attacks should the Nazis use this weapon against the Russians.

Increasing Allied mastery of the air plus the fact that Britain had stepped up its chemical warfare preparations in the last year lent an ominous note to the British statesman's warning.

South American Jungles Throb With New Rubber Boom; Scientific Methods Are Used to Protect Native Harvesters

Old Industry Revived in Neighboring Tropics; Transportation Biggest Problem as Countries Lack Rails and Roads; U. S. Grows Rubber in Miami.

In this crucial year of 1943, Latin America will have contributed more than 50,000 tons of natural rubber to the United States war industry stockpile, according to estimates compiled from official sources. In 1944, natural rubber production south of the Rio Grande will have doubled, or perhaps exceed 100,000 tons. At the same time U. S. horticulturists announced success in growing the Hevea rubber tree in the experimental station at Miami, Fla.

Fourteen American republics, besides British Guiana and Trinidad, have signed agreements with the United States, calling for a substantial increase in the cultivation and collection of natural rubber. These nations are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. In Brazil alone, about 50,000 workers have been recruited for the purpose of extracting the milky sap from wild rubber trees.

In order to get natural rubber out of trackless jungles and remote places, new transportation systems making use of donkeys, canoes, steamboats, airplanes, human carriers, etc., have been organized. Medical stations along the routes have lessened, but not eliminated, the hazards which threaten every man who works in the jungles.

The natural rubber needed by United States tanks, airplanes, jeeps, artillery, etc., must be extracted from wild and cultivated trees scattered over an area encompassing hundreds of thousands of square miles.

In order to protect rubber harvesters against fevers, animals, and insects, the Latin American countries, aided by United States government health officials, have created modern sanitary centers, where preventive medicine is taught and treatment given to rubber collectors and their families.

Once Rubber Center.

Brazil forests, of course, yield most of this hemisphere's present supply of natural rubber. There, in the Amazon valley, natives first found the gummy substance that plays such an important part in modern war. Before seedlings of "Hevea Brasiliensis" had been exported from Brazil and exploited commercially in the Dutch East Indies and the British Malay Straits Settlements, the Brazilian industry enjoyed a heyday. In order to market their natural rubber, Brazilian promoters had built the costliest railroad in the world. When rubber was a Brazilian monopoly, it fetched as high as three dollars per pound.

However, not even in its balmy days did Brazil produce as much rubber (42,400 tons) as it is contributing in 1943 to a United Nations victory. According to the coordinator of Brazilian economy, Joao Alberto Lins de Barros, Brazil in 1943 will produce 45,000 tons of natural rubber; and 1944's estimates call for 75,000 tons.

The future holds even greater promise for rubber from South America's largest country. That is because commercial plantations, similar to those in the Orient, are well on their way to production, and it is anticipated that by 1945 these plantations will yield more rubber than the millions of wild rubber trees in the Amazon valley produce at present.

Some Brazilian rubber is transported by airplane from jungle depots to the Atlantic port of Belem, whence it is shipped northward. With the exception of eight or ten thousand tons which Brazil requires for domestic industry, the entire production is exported to the United States.

Among South American rubber-producing nations, Ecuador ranks second. The figures of 1942 production have not been announced, but in 1941, when Brazil produced 17,500 tons, Ecuador yielded 1,500 tons.

Indians Want Beads.

The Yumbo Indians, a source of rubber workers in the Ecuadorian forest, are not attracted by money in any form. On the other hand, they covet colored beads and machetes. The Ecuadorian Development corporation understands native tastes and is now supplying the Yumbos with trinkets and useful articles, like scissors, razors, salt, mirrors, and even rifles.

Colombian forests are already yielding two tons of rubber daily, all trans-shipped by the same airplanes which supply the workers with their needs.

In Colombia, rubber exploitation is supervised by a committee made up of representatives of the Colombian government, the United States embassy, and the Rubber Reserve corporation.

A service of floating hospitals and dispensaries has been organized to look after the rubber workers in the

Proof that progress has been made was demonstrated recently by the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., which produced a pair of rubber heels from the latex of "Hevea Brasiliensis" trees growing in Florida. The experiment cost the department of agriculture 17 years of research and thousands of dollars but government chemists reported the quality of the latex compared favorably with East Indian.

In this promising test-tube rubber plantation are growing more than 2,000 Hevea from Haiti, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the East Indies. It is the only rubber project on plantation scale ever attempted outside the tropics. Some of the trees are 35 feet high and ten inches in diameter.

Tree Survives Florida Climate.

For a tree whose natural habitat is in the region of the equator, the Hevea's endurance and adaptability to temperate climate has amazed scientists. Periodic measurements have shown that its early growth has been as rapid in Miami as in Haiti and Mexico. Its resistance to cold weather has been incredible, surviving temperatures as low as 28 degrees. Like many northern trees it has been found to shed its leaves in winter, reducing frost danger and making it particularly well-suited to Florida cultivation.

The entire rubber reserve has sprung from seeds, many of which were sown nearly two decades ago. After sprouting from seedbeds the young trees were transplanted into deep depressions near the water-table so the tap roots could find permanent moisture. The creamy,



Workers tap the Hevea rubber tree at the U. S. agricultural experimental station at Miami, Fla. The U. S. has experimented with 2,000 species, and satisfactory results have been obtained.

been engaged to attend the plantations.

"Cryptostegia" originated in Madagascar and reached Haiti in 1912 as a decorative plant. Since then it has spread without assistance over many parts of the island.

Combat Leaf Blight.

Dr. E. W. Brandes of the U. S. department of agriculture is enthusiastic about the progress made by the Americas in combating rubber plant diseases. The South American leaf blight, he said, is being conquered by development of disease-resistant trees. These hardy trees in turn are being crossed by hand pollination with high-yielding Oriental rubber trees further to improve yields.

Victory over the leaf disease is a great forward step in the hemisphere's rubber expansion program, said Dr. Brandes.

On one of the Ford plantations in Brazil, a million trees fell victim to its ravages, but it was observed that a few full, leafy canopies of healthy trees stood out sharply against a background of pest-ridden neighbors. This meant that the blight, carried from tree to tree by wind-blown spores, had not infected them. They were immune.

Scientists then bud-grafted the immune tops to other trunks and produced a high-yielding, disease-resistant plant. The work of developing the resistant tree by the system of cross pollination is an arduous task, but it is ultimately the best solution to the problem. It is being done on a large scale in Brazil, where lies the hemisphere's greatest potential supply of latex.

Meanwhile horticulturists at the Federal Plant Introduction Garden, Miami, Fla., have been experimenting with "home-grown" rubber trees.

Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.— Tremendous old Phineas Taylor Barnum (P. T. to historians) swung to the head of the circus parade after Jenny Lind had trilled through one of his golden nights for his \$1,000 per night performance.

The new president of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey's swings in front after lifting his own baritone voice in song for many years. Robert Ringling was an operatic star, too. And good! "Why not?" his mother said when he started in the family business a few years ago. "He can't go any farther in opera."

Taking the presidency of his family show, Ringling preserves a family tradition sixty years old and over. The seven Ringling brothers, of whom his father was fifth, rolled their first little acts out of Baraboo, Wis., in 1822. In an era of trusts they got the idea quickly, bought Barnum and Bailey's and finally merged it with their own.

Robert Ringling, for upwards of thirty years, watched their performances with no interest at all. Barring four years spent in hobbies after winning a high school football game at the price of broken hip bones, he went right on becoming a singer. He made his debut at twenty-five in Tampa, Fla. He sang all over Germany, and then with the Chicago Civic Opera. He had a repertoire, count 'em, of 194 roles, the best of them Wagnerian.

Since 1939 he has been chiefly with the circus. Age will hardly stop him. He is only 46, stocky, bespectacled, gray-haired and quiet. And certainly he isn't likely to find a bigger job. He heads up the vastest amalgamation of marvels, mastodons and muscularity man has ever seen.

Tarquin the Younger would pop his eyes to see what has grown out of a few simple tricks he thought up 2200 years ago to make a Roman holiday.

DR. HERBERT VERE EVATT, in Washington now from Australia to talk a few wrinkles out of the troubled state of affairs in the Pacific, might also give some first hand evidence about the mixed marriages that American soldiers down under seem to look upon with such high favor. His wife was Miss Mary Alice Shoffer of Ottumwa, Iowa.

Evatt was a brilliant member of the Australian High Court bench until the war came on and he quit to help more directly in the good fight. He had reached the bench at 36, the youngest man ever appointed to such a court in all the British empire. Forty-nine now, he is recognized as one of the commonwealth's first scholars, historians and jurists.

These last three years he has been a member of Prime Minister Curtin's Labor government, and it is as minister of external affairs that he comes to the United States. This is not his first visit. A lecturer in philosophy and English, he has spoken often at various American universities.

NOW that Sir Richard T. D. Acland's Common Wealth party has elected its first man to parliament England's older parties may do more than worry.

To Less Favored They have been doing so through the four previous by-elections in each of which a Common Wealth man ran. All four lost, but even so the vote was too close for comfort.

Tall, spectacled, baldish at 37, Acland talks about his new party as though it combined the ripe virtues of the Townsend plan and Louisiana Long's Every-Man-a-Millionaire club plus some choice Russian cuttings. "We want," he says, "to amalgamate Russia's economy with our own political system."

One of his notions is that old-school millionaires are finished. In proof he un-millionaired himself last February, gave his total interest in 17,000 acres of the storied Lorna Doone country to the National Trust. A cozy \$80,000 inherited from his father went into the hopper, too. He proposes to support his wife and two sons on his pay as a member of parliament and his earnings as a writer.