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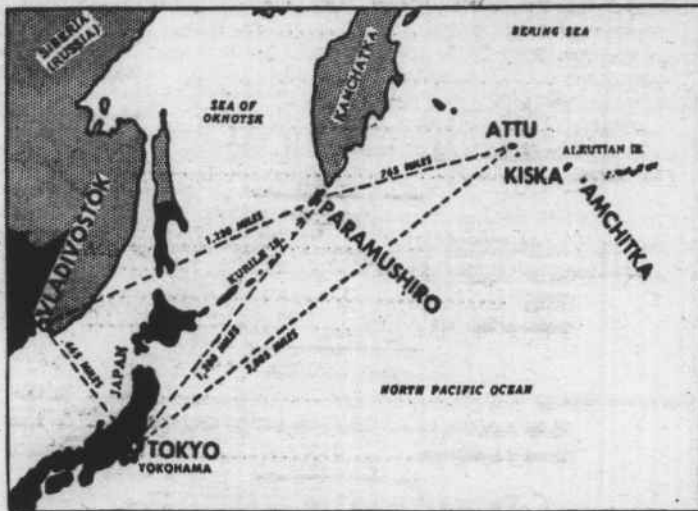
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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Capture of Palermo Pockets Axis Army in Sicily's Northeastern Corner; Allied Activity in Pacific Is Intensified; Nation's Employment Reaches 38 Million

(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.



American fliers moved closer to the Japanese mainland when they bombed Paramushiro, which lies below the Kamchatka peninsula of Siberia, 1,200 miles from Tokyo. Hits and near misses were reported on Jap ships lying in the harbor.

SICILY: Pocket Axis

The second stage of fighting in Sicily found the Axis forces retiring from the western reaches of the island as the Seventh American Army of Gen. George S. Patton moved into rapid occupation of the territory.

The Yanks' seizure of Palermo sealed off the Axis troops in the northeastern corner of Sicily. As Patton's army hemmed the remaining Axis forces of approximately 100,000 men in from the west, Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth Army pounded at the enemy's line on the southern extremity of the trap, at Catania.

Units of the celebrated Herman Goering division put up a stiff fight on the outskirts of Catania. In this section, the broad Catania plain is criss-crossed by several rivers, making tank and motorized operations difficult; and many shallow creek beds and thick grain fields gave German machine-gunners good cover for defensive fire.

While the fight raged in Sicily, British naval and air units bombarded the sole of the Italian boot at Crotona.

CIVILIAN GOODS: Increase Possible

The government's effort to get a more effective production for the war might result in a reduction of certain programs and free materials for civilian goods, War Mobilization director James F. Byrnes said. That, however, is a hope and not a prediction, Byrnes cautioned.

Byrnes' statement came on the heels of a revelation that the munitions program was being cut down in some lines because our growing air power was amply protecting Allied industries abroad from destruction from bombing, and thus reducing their demands on U. S. plants for material.

According to Byrnes, the various war agencies are studying their purchasing programs, to confine procurement to articles most useful in the light of recent combat developments. Where cancellations or reductions in orders may be feasible, the possibility exists that material spared will be used for civilian goods.

EMPLOYMENT: 38 Million at Work

As the labor department announced that over 38 million people were currently employed in non-agricultural establishments, the war department revealed that it had authorized the release of 4,500 men from the army for work in copper, zinc and molybdenum mines.

According to the labor department, current employment was 1,663,000 over that for the same period a year ago. Despite the fact that the manufacturing and public utilities and transportation industries put on 162,000 workers recently, total employment was only 66,000 more than in May of this year. Since May, the construction industry has laid off 99,000 men.

The war department said failure of the metal mines to secure the necessary amount of workers left only the army as a reservoir of men with the requisite skills for the pits.

FARMS: 1.3 Per Cent Idle

A total of 76,704 farms with an acreage of 6,484,292 lay idle in the United States when the decennial census was taken in 1940. The number represented 1.3 per cent of all farms in the country.

New England and the Middle Atlantic states showed the greatest percentage of abandonments, with one out of every 20 farms idle. This compared with Iowa's report of one out of every 2,000.

Abandoned farms averaged 85 acres against the 174 acres for operating tracts. Depleted soil and crop failures accounted for one-third of the vacancies, and there were many departures for employment in industry.

Almost 57 million acres of land lay idle on producing farms, census figures also showed.

CASUALTIES: Light, So Far

War and navy department casualty lists issued for the first year and half of the war totaled 16,556 men killed in action or from wounds, and 31,343 missing. The missing, it was explained, may either be dead or prisoners, but final tabulation must await the war's end.

Casualties were almost equally divided between the services. Of the known dead, 8,412 are navy, marine and coastguardsmen, while 8,144 are army men. However, the army's record of 21,075 missing doubled the navy, marine and coast guard's figure of 10,267.

As the services' casualties were announced, word was received of the death of Maj. Gen. William P. Upshur of the marines and Capt. Charles Paddock in the crash of a naval plane near Sitka, Alaska. General Upshur was commanding general of the marines for the department of the Pacific, while Paddock, who had served on General Pershing's staff in the First World War at the age of 18, was world famous as a sprinter, having set 94 records from 1920 to 1929.

POULTRY: Army Takes Over

Under the second war powers act, the Office of Price Administration ordered the detention of poultry trucks on eastern highways and the requisitioning of their stock for the army.

OPA took the action, it said, after black market operations had interfered with the army's purchase of poultry in the Delaware, Maryland and Virginia area, largest fowl producing section in the East. According to OPA, much of this meat was being sold to dealers over the price ceiling.

Dealers from whom the poultry was requisitioned, were paid the prevailing ceiling price.

MINERS: Seek Contract Approval

With the War Labor board rested the task of determining the fate of the new wage contract entered into between Illinois' United Mine Workers and bituminous coal operators, providing for a daily payment of \$1.25 for time spent traveling underground. Differences over such compensation was the chief cause of three walkouts, leading to government seizure of the pits.

In addition to providing portal-to-portal pay, the new two-year contract outlawed strikes and lengthens the 35-hour week to 48 hours. Under present conditions, the miners now receive \$7 daily for a seven-hour shift, but the new pact would award them time-and-a-half for the eighth hour each day and for the full eight hours on the sixth day.

Besides WLB approval, the agreement is dependent upon the Office of Price Administration's authorization of an increase in coal prices to offset the wage settlements.

LABOR: Demands Roll-Back

Meeting in the White House, organized labor served notice on President Roosevelt that it would not continue support of his anti-inflation program unless prices were rolled back to the September 15, 1942, level.

Charging Price Administrator Prentiss Brown with having failed to execute the government's roll-back program, labor representatives declared they would open a pressure campaign for his removal from office unless plans were set in motion to push current prices back.

The labor leaders said further dalliance on roll-backs would lead them to repudiate the wage stabilization program, in which wage increases have been limited to 15 per cent over the January, 1941, levels. Living costs have jumped approximately 21 per cent since that time, they said, outstripping income by at least 6 per cent.

Historic Rainbow Division Is Born Anew

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

THE other day veterans of the 42nd Division of World War I held their reunion in Tulsa, Okla. Then they went to Camp Gruber near Muskogee, there to see the reactivation of their tradition-rich outfit, to pass on to the new 42nd Division of World War II their honored battle flags and to gaze proudly upon the shoulder patch adorning the uniform of each man in it—the red, yellow and blue striped quarter-circle which was the sign and symbol of a "first-class fighting man," a member of the "Rainbow" Division.

The reactivation took place at midnight—the "Champagne hour," so called because it was the hour when the last great German push of World War I, the Champagne offensive, began. That offensive, which started on July 14, 1918, broke to pieces against the stubborn resistance of those fighting Yanks of the Rainbow division and from that day the might of the kaiser's armies ebbed until it reached low tide in a railroad car in Compeigne forest four months later.

Two Messages.
Before the veterans of the Rainbow division of a quarter century ago adjourned their 1943 meeting, they sent two messages to widely separated parts of the world. One was flashed to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, "somewhere in the Southwest Pacific," because it was he who had given their division its nickname. The other was the traditional reunion greetings to one-armed Gen. Henri Joseph Eugene Gouraud, who commanded the Fourth French army, which included the American division, at the historic battle in the Champagne sector July 14 and 15, 1918. The message was sent to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander-in-chief of the Allied forces in the European theater of war, to be transmitted to General Gouraud "somewhere in Occupied France."

In the early summer of 1917 a young colonel named Douglas MacArthur was serving as "censor" for news coming out of the war department in Washington. Visited by newspaper men one day, he told them of the forthcoming organization of a new division to be composed of units from 27 states and the District of Columbia. As the journalists were leaving, MacArthur remarked that the assembling of so many units from so many states into one division was somewhat like making up a rainbow. Struck by the aptness of the expression, the newspaper men used it in their stories and the nickname stuck to the division when it was organized on August 1, 1917, and concentrated at Camp Mills on Long Island in New York.

While the division was still at Camp Mills, many different kinds of rainbow designs were used as divisional insignia. They were irregular in size but nearly all were a half circle with the three colors of red, yellow and blue in them. It was not until the division was engaged in a major action in the Meuse-Argonne that the final, official design was conceived and adopted. Col. William N. Hughes Jr., who had succeeded Col. Douglas MacArthur as chief of staff of the division, determined the measurements, reduced the original design to a quarter circle and telegraphed the description, with the approval of Maj. Gen. Charles T. Menoher, then division commander, to corps headquarters.

It is one of the cherished traditions of the 42nd that General Menoher, acting on an omen of a rainbow in the sky, sent the division into action in the Champagne operation. From

the time that he told of seeing the rainbow in the sky from his bivouac in the Baccarat sector, rainbows kept showing up at decisive hours in the division's history, as if to justify its selection as the 42nd's talisman.

Before long veterans of our regular army as well as veteran French and British troops were joining in proclaiming the Rainbow division as one of the hardest fighting outfits in France. Here is its record, as given in a series of articles on "AEF Divisional Insignia," written several years ago by Sergt. Herbert E. Smith for the United States Recruiting News:

First Taste of War.
It trained under veteran French soldiers in Lorraine, and elements of the Rainbow division entered the front line trenches for the first time February 21, 1918. This was along the Luneville sector, at a point north of Celles-sur-Plaine, through Neuville, Ancerville, the eastern edge



THE RAINBOW became the insignia of the 42nd division

of the Bois Banal, to the eastern and northern edges of the Foret de Parroy. Elements of the 42nd's artillery brigade entered the Dombaire sector, also on the night of the 21st, to receive their first taste of combat warfare affiliated with the French 41st division.

From March 31 to June 21 the division occupied the Baccarat sector in Lorraine, moving from there to Chatel-sur-Moselle in the Vosges. Then came July, with its heavy fighting in the Champagne and Champagne-Marne areas. The highlight of the 42nd division's activities at this time would seem to be the battle of La Croix Rouge Farm.

This farm was a low, widespread group of stone buildings connected by walls and ditches. The Germans had made an enormous machine gun nest of this natural stronghold, and had defied several earlier determined efforts of Allied troops to dislodge them from this key position.

The 167th and the 168th infantry regiments, old Alabama and Iowa troops respectively, struggled all day, July 26, against this nest of horrors. It was practically impossible to rush this enemy stronghold across the open; endeavors to work around the edges were thrown back by flanking fire; an accurate punishing shell fire from the German artillery ripped through the wet underbrush; gas, made doubly dangerous by the moisture, swirled about in terrible gusts.

At last, two platoons of assembled casuals—volunteers, all, from the 167th and 168th—led by two lieutenants, squirmed their way forward, Indian fashion, and closed upon the farm buildings with grenades and bayonet. The raid, staged at dusk, was successful. The 42nd possessed La Croix Rouge farm at nightfall, but at a fearful cost in dead and wounded.

Less than a week later these same regiments, with their sister outfits of the Rainbow, were pressing forward toward the Ourcq river. Upon the 42nd fell the chief burden of the

main attack. It was ordered to storm the heights on both sides of Sergy and, in conjunction with the French on the left, to take Hill 184 northwest of Fere-en-Tardenois.

A Deadly Hall of Fire.
The 168th infantry crossed the stream under a deadly hall of fire, to climb by slow stages to the crest of Hill 212, between Sergy and Clerges. The 167th meanwhile, had made its way down the Rue de la Taverne, crossed the Ourcq, and swept on up the northern slope of the hilly country.

New York's "fighting Irish" of the 165th infantry emerged from Villers and secured a precarious lodgment on the slopes on either side of Mercury Farm. Subjected to the same raking fire that had made this push so costly, this fine regiment still carried on, plunging forward to the sunken road north and west of Sergy.

By midafternoon the weary doughboys of the 42nd division were battling in mortal, hand-to-hand combat with the Germans in the streets of Sergy. The enemy troops were of the 4th Prussian Guard, grim and spirited fighters embittered by recent German setbacks, veterans all and determined men.

Twice the Americans were rushed out of Sergy, but thrice the Yanks returned, and the third time the Americans captured the entire village. Again the men of the Rainbow division had proved to be of heroic mould.

In the St. Mihiel drive, launched in mid-September, the 42nd, with the 1st and 2nd, formed the spearhead of the attack which penetrated deepest into the enemy positions. In the main attack, the 2nd division captured Thiaucourt, the 1st took Nonard, and the 42nd division drove through to Pannes.

Through the thick of the heaviest action of the Meuse-Argonne operation, the Rainbow carried on. It penetrated the Kriemhilde line, swooped up the fire-swept slopes about Romange and Cote Dame Marie; it seized Cote de Chatillon by skillful infiltration behind its protective wire, and early in November, on the extreme left flank of the American attack, it began to fight through Bulson, Thelonne and Bazelles, on the Meuse, to gain the cherished final objective—Sedan.

The taking of Sedan, for sentimental and historic reasons, however, was left to the French 9th corps, on the left of the Rainbow. On the night of November 10 the 42nd division was relieved, and assembled in the area of Artaise-le-Vivier and Les Petites-Armoises.

The Full Tide of Victory.
The 42nd thus shared in the full tide of victory, on the morning of November 11, 1918. The American Second army was even then preparing for a general assault in the direction of Metz, in an offensive with the famous Mangin and 20 French divisions. The Meuse had been crossed, French troops in Sedan in retaliation for the terrible French defeat there in 1870; the Germans were on the run, almost in utter rout.

Naturally, the Rainbow was one of the crack divisions of the AEF chosen to be a part of the American Army of Occupation. Concentrating near Stenay, it began the long hike into the Rhineland on November 20. On December 14 it took its station in Germany in the Kreis of Ahrweiler. Training continued there, on the steep hill of the Rhineland, through the winter and spring of 1918-1919, until April 5, when the division began entraining for Brest. On April 9 the first element to sail for the United States, the 117th Trench Mortar Battery, boarded a transport for an American port. By May 12, demobilization had been completely effected at Camps Upton, Dix, Grant and Dodge.

"After the storm, the rainbow!"



GEN. DOUGLAS MacARTHUR ... he named it the "Rainbow" division

Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—Our newest battle-ships mount such firepower of such diverse calibers, that they can pound a mountain to rubble or plunk a hummingbird at fifty feet. Rear Admiral William H. P. Blandy puts it another way. He says they have finally caught up with the parade; meaning they are no longer, as was Britain's Repulse, a sitting duck for any dozen dive bombers.

Of all our admirals Blandy should know. He is chief of the bureau of ordnance and has been fathoms deep in gun design and manufacture, fire control, armor and projectiles for a quarter century.

At Annapolis he was top man of his class and even then tops in ordnance. He has the Class of 1871 Sword to prove it. He was barely graduated when he wanted to marry. She was Roberta Ames, just about Washington's prettiest in 1913. However, he was sent on a cruise and the wedding waited for almost a year.

His present post, at fifty, is the cap stone on a single-minded career. Besides that sword he holds commendations for increasing the accuracy of fire of his destroyer squadron. And while he was gunnery officer on the New Mexico she won pennants, gunnery "E's," trophies and cups, everything in sight.

He has been ordnance chief since 1941. About then world events made it plain that this country was going to need a man who could fix its battleships so they could pound mountains to rubble and plunk hummingbirds at fifty feet.

ONE national leader who is not writing a peace plan at this early date is the Juncoese president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She Better Peace Later, counsels GFWC Head Says will get better treatment in the years ahead if her followers limit themselves these days to understanding the war effort and helping it along.

She is Mrs. John L. Whitehurst of Baltimore, Sara to Maryland's club women, five feet eleven inches of executive vacuum cleaner, but a model wife also who wouldn't be coaxed out of domesticity until she had phoned her husband and he had said it was all right with him.

Mrs. Whitehurst has been federation president since '41. She was headed for medicine, with special notions about psychiatry, until she met John L. eighteen years ago. Since then she has dug into national and international affairs and, when she counsels her followers, she does not need to read from a book.

She is that rare bird, a woman who does not like to shop. Something sensibly dark and tailored for the street, something light and lacy for evening sums up her specifications when she does her semi-annual buying. Plus pearl earrings: "I hardly feel dressed without them."

Pearl earrings and all she is a good cook. Waffles, spaghetti and what lobster newburg! She is a good musician, too, piano and pipe organ and likes Beethoven and Tchaikowski. Sinatra? Hardly! She can also knit and crochet a blue streak, and serves on a raft of boards to boot.

EVER since the present war began H. Freeman Matthews has been in the thick of things on the diplomatic front in Europe. Now Home to Guide Us are moving Through Highly Dramatic Days toward a climax on that beleaguered continent, he's coming home to head the European division of the state department. With him he's bringing plenty of knowledge gained first hand both in France and England.

For a time after the fall of France, as charge d'affaires he ran the American embassy in Vichy. That was after Ambassador Bullitt left and before Admiral Leahy checked in. After the naval man's arrival, Matthews sat in on all the talks with Petain and the late Admiral Darlan, serving as interpreter for Leahy. Late in '41 he was shifted to London and he was counsellor of the U. S. embassy there when the call home arrived.