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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Armies Launch Strong Offensive Against German Strongholds in Italy; Russ Score New Gains Along Dnieper; Dairymen Get First Federal Subsidy

(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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TELEFACT

COST OF LIVING INCREASES IN THE AMERICAS



NAPLES:

Gutted City

By the time Allied forces had opened their offensive against Naples, the Nazis had turned the big port city into a mass of flames. They wrecked and scuttled every ship that had escaped Allied bombs and destroyed every wharf.

The Fifth and Eighth armies were bringing their full power to bear against their objective. That the Germans had early given up hope of holding the city was proved by the wholesale destruction of all usable facilities. At least 30 ships lay sunk or aground in the harbor as the result of Nazi scuttling and Allied bombs. Bombers had also wrecked railroad yards so thoroughly that no traffic had come into them for weeks.

Corsica

Even as the offensive against Naples began, French troops and American Rangers were driving ahead in Corsica, island of Napoleonic history. They had closed in on Bastia, northeastern port of the island, and Allied naval and air forces had clamped on a tight blockade against German escape.

MILK PRODUCERS:

Get First Subsidy

History was made in the dairy industry with the disclosure that the government has paid its first subsidy to dairymen. The announcement was made by Fred M. Vinson, economic stabilization director, took over the job of arbitrating a wide-spread milk price disagreement.

Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee stated that Vinson told him a subsidy had been given milk producers in the drought-stricken area near Memphis. Other official sources said the subsidy would total 50 cents a hundredweight, approximately equal to one cent a quart.

LIFE INSURANCE:

On War Deaths

Deaths in the United States army, navy and marine corps up to the end of June, 1943, had resulted in life insurance claim payments totaling 32 million dollars, the Institute of Life Insurance has reported.

Of 23,700 policies on which payments were made, \$15,100,000 was paid out under 11,100 policies in the first six months of this year by American life insurance companies.

"The number of deaths is probably half the number of claims paid," the institute said. The average ownership of life insurance is two policies per policy holder.

RUSSIA:

'Disengaged' Nazis

German troops continued to "systematically disengage themselves" as the Red army smashed on toward Smolensk, captured Poltava, the last Nazi base in the southern Ukraine, and engulfed German defenses along a 300-mile line just short of the middle Dnieper river.

Continuing their drive on Smolensk, the great Nazi eastern front stronghold that once was Hitler's headquarters, the Russian army closed in from the southeast, over-running 883 villages and killing more than 5,300 Germans.

A Berlin broadcast acknowledged the peril to Smolensk, Kiev and other eastern front bastions. But Berlin was hesitant to paint the overall picture. For instance: The Germans at one time held approximately 500,000 square miles of Russia proper. It is estimated that they now hold only 200,000.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC:

Spring Another Trap

Japanese troops manning the important New Guinea base of Finschafen were hemmed in on three sides by Allied forces following Gen. Douglas MacArthur's master plan of utilizing units to land in strength behind the enemy's key points and work to cut off his supply.

After the pattern of the conquest of Lae farther to the south, big airplane transports landed Allied troops northwest of Finschafen. As these troops pressed in against the Japs from the west, other ground forces moved in on the enemy from the south. Then, the encirclement was made complete when the U. S. navy put troops ashore to the north.

Capture of Finschafen would place the Allies a short distance from the Jap air bases on New Britain island to the east and thus reduce the efficiency of these bases as points for attack on U. S. forces.

WORLD RELIEF:

Plan Proposed

America's participation in an international relief and rehabilitation program to be administered along the lines of the League of Nations was to come up for congressional approval.

Congressional approval will be needed for appropriations with which the government will take part in the plan. As shaped along the pattern of a proposal of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, 44 united nations will form an advisory council, with a special central committee composed of the U. S., Great Britain, Russia and China.

Under the plan, the organization established will be authorized to acquire, hold, and convey property; make contracts; undertake obligations; manage undertakings, and perform any legal act appropriate to its object and purposes. Unless the senate ratified further forms of participation by a two-thirds vote, U. S. obligations would be confined to appropriations of funds.

ARMED FORCES:

Ask for Fathers

October 1 was at hand and before congress was the Wheeler resolution which would delay the drafting of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers scheduled to begin on that date.

Before the House and Senate Military Committees

Also before these legislative bodies came the highest officials of the army and navy. And then they heard the voice of Bernard M. Baruch, special presidential adviser. Testimony from all these sources arrived at the same essential fact: Give the armed forces what they want in the way of manpower.

Generally speaking the nation seemed to agree with this viewpoint but those who were opposing the drafting of these pre-Pearl Harbor fathers based their case on the assertion that the whole manpower program was being mishandled and that was why the drafting of fathers "appeared necessary." Agriculture, the armed forces themselves, government agencies and industry were all accused of hoarding manpower while fathers were being asked to get into uniform.

During his optimistic speech of two hours and seven minutes, Churchill defended the Italian campaign, terming it a "third front," and forecast a Stalin-Roosevelt-Churchill conference before the end of the year. He sketched Allied progress in air, sea and land warfare.

HESS:

Official Version

For two years British government sources kept their silence on the object of Nazi Rudolf Hess' flight to Scotland. Then Anthony Eden stood before parliament and told the official story:

Hess had made his historic and fantastic flight "on a mission of humanity." He came to Great Britain with specific peace terms because at that time Hitler feared a long war and didn't want to fight England. Among the peace terms that proved a stumbling block were these stipulations:

- (1) Hitler would not deal with Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
- (2) Germany wanted a "free hand" in Europe with the British empire to remain unmolested.

HANOVER:

Hangover

In one of the most destructive bombing raids yet delivered on the Reich, the Royal Air force demolished a large area of Hanover and struck a crippling blow at an industrial machine already staggering from repeated onslaughts.

The Hanover raid was one of the most destructive to be delivered on Germany. Block busters and incendiaries were poured into rubber factories, railroad yards and supply depots at the rate of approximately 133,000 pounds a minute. London sources said the raid was one of the greatest air blows of the war.

Equally heartening was the indication that the RAF may have found the answer to anti-aircraft defenses and night fighters. Its losses were only 26 aircraft, a remarkable record for such a large-scale attack.

ALLIED CHIEF:

Post to Marshall

To Gen. George C. Marshall was to go the supreme command of all Allied forces, it was reported, even as congress loudly protested over the general's rumored removal as chief strategist of the Allied armies.

According to the rumors, General Marshall's differences with British leaders over war plans resulted in pressure for his removal as U. S. chief of staff, in which capacity he mapped all U. S. military activity and thus influenced British action.

Official Washington waited to see whether General Marshall's reported appointment as supreme commander of all Allied forces carried with it the responsibility of continued planning, or whether it only involved execution of somebody else's strategy.

LEGION:

New Program

When the final gavel fell on this year's American Legion convention held in Omaha, Neb., delegates could look back on these major developments in the organization's program:

- (1) Election of a new commander, Warren H. Atherton of Stockton, Calif.
- (2) Pledging of a "middle road" conservative stand on the two important issues of foreign relations and domestic affairs.
- (3) Expansion of the Legion's Americanization program.
- (4) A memorial to congress calling on that body to tighten up the law on franking privileges to prevent congressmen from using the mails to promote the propaganda of an "un-American" cause.

GLOOM:

From Jap Radio

In a gloomy forecast of new Allied aerial blows, the Tokyo radio announced that Japan is getting ready to evacuate Tokyo and other important cities "in view of the decisive phase upon which the war will enter during the coming months."

Premier Tojo announced that the Japanese government had decided to prepare "for the moving of government departments, industrial establishments and the civilian population" from Japan's major cities.

The Tojo cabinet also called for total mobilization of the civilian population, abolition of age limits to make all persons liable for national service and strengthening of government control over industry.

MASS INVASION:

At 'Right Time'

Plans for a gigantic second front in France and the Low Countries "at what we and our American Allies judge to be the right time" were promised by Prime Minister Churchill in his war report to Great Britain's house of commons.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

QUEZON ON THE JOB

It's bad news for the Japs that President Quezon of the Philippines is back in Washington. They knew—though it was not generally realized in Washington—that Quezon had suffered a relapse of his old illness, tuberculosis, which has plagued him off and on for 20 years.

Quezon was a well man at the time of Pearl Harbor. But confinement in the dampness of Corregidor, during the Jap attack, brought the illness back again. That was one reason MacArthur urged him to return to the U. S. in a submarine. When he came to Washington, Quezon was advised to take things easy. Instead he rushed into the official activities of Philippine Commonwealth affairs, not sparing himself.

His physicians advised him not to remain in Washington during the summer of 1942, nor last winter. But he remained nevertheless. Result was that last spring he suffered a further relapse.

Specialists were summoned, and Quezon was given the stern advice that he would have to get out of the humid climate of Washington immediately, if he wanted to live. Yielding to pressure, he went to Saranac, N. Y., and submitted himself to a rigid discipline during most of the past summer.

Quezon led the life of an invalid, sitting in the sunshine in a wheelchair, listening to the radio, or to his nurses as they read to him. Result of this regime was that the tuberculosis was arrested, and Quezon gained 12 pounds.

When the Japs heard of his relapse, they were ready to say to the people of the Philippines, where Quezon is still highly popular: "Look, this is the skeleton you pin your hopes to."

But today Quezon is back on his feet and back at his desk, still hoping to realize his one great ambition, to see U. S. and Philippine forces march into Manila.

SEVEN MINUTES TO WAR

Every day now, pictures are arriving in a little room in Washington which seven minutes before were in Algiers, 3,400 miles away. One day, just after the landing in Italy, 41 pictures came through the air and landed safely on top of the Pentagon building, in a little room marked "Confidential—Keep Out."

Inside that room is a little machine not as big as a typewriter, with a little cylinder on it. The cylinder spins around, exposing a negative to dots and dashes of light, and after seven minutes, the exposure is complete. From there on, it's merely a matter of developing the negative, and the U. S. public has a picture of the landings in Italy, or the surrender of the Italian fleet.

And ditto for the South Pacific. It is farther away, but the seven-minute requirement still holds. From an unmentionable post in Australia, the dots of light flash into the little room, and you have a picture of General MacArthur flying in a bomber over New Guinea.

The pictures may have been taken by any one of the four photo syndicates—Acme, AP, INP, or Life—or they may have been taken by the Army Signal service. In any case, they can be telephoned only by the official airwaves.

What would be a highly expensive daily transmission cost for the photo agencies is thus fully borne by the war department. Officials justify the cost in terms of keeping the public abreast of the war—in fact, only seven minutes away from the war.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ex-Congressman Joe Casey of Massachusetts, now doing various inside jobs for the White House, recently made a political survey of New England, reported that Maine was so strong for Roosevelt's war policies that the only Republican who could beat him was Wendell Wilkie.

Admiral Standley, U. S. ambassador to Russia, has cleared with the state department a significant speech in which, after praising Russian victories plus those of England and the United States, he says: "A victory for one is a victory for all." Highly inflammatory remarks in Negro newspapers, some of them close to sedition, are being studied by the army.

Low Douglas, war shipping administrator, was personally thanked by the President for the job he did in helping to smooth British and American general staff "feelings" at Quebec. There have been some very vigorous differences between them, and thanks partly to Douglas, things were smoothed out considerably at Quebec.

How America Treats Axis Prisoners of War In Concentration Camps Throughout U. S.

Good Treatment Pays Dividends To Captor Nations

WHAT is our treatment of prisoners of war? Are officers overpaid? Do they have to work? These and many other questions are being asked as the total of Axis prisoners mounts.

As a matter of fact, the prisoner problem has become a real one since the mass surrender of Italians in Tunisia. After Sicily capitulated, Gen. Eisenhower had on his hands the staggering total of 135,000 Axis prisoners. Quite a job for any man's army.

While it is true that prisoners are enemies of this country, and many have been directly responsible for the loss of American lives, they cannot be treated as soldiers rather than as criminals, always with this thought in the background—the treatment we accord enemy captives will, in some measure at least, determine the kind of treatment given American soldiers who have been unfortunate enough to fall into enemy hands.

There are at least two other reasons for the good treatment of prisoners, aside from humanitarian considerations, one based upon a treaty made at Geneva on July 27, 1929, and the other a purely psychological one, namely, that war-weary and underfed troops may be tempted to lay down their arms to an enemy who feeds them generously and gives them safe haven.

Geneva Conference

At the Geneva Convention, which was ratified by 37 countries (which, by the way, did not include either Japan or Russia) certain rules on treatment and behavior were formulated. Under the provisions of the Geneva Conference soldier prisoners are required to work, but officers are not. The amount of time a prisoner must work is based on the number of hours put in by free labor in the adjoining territory, and one day a week is to be a day of rest. Food and clothing must be provided by the detaining army.

Occupational classification is determined by the prisoner's physical makeup. For instance, the prisoner who was formerly engaged as a clerk or teacher should not be put at hard labor. This provision, however, has been largely ignored in Axis countries, where many a scholarly soldier grinds out a day that taxes his strength sorely.

In every concentration camp many different crafts and trades are plied by the prisoners, but in no case do they work on projects directly connected with the war effort, as a precaution against sabotage.

Payment for labor is at the rate of 80 cents a day for the ordinary soldier, here in the United States, where we have some 70,000 Axis prisoners scattered throughout the country in 22 camps. The rate of pay for officers ranges from \$20 a month to \$40 a month. Officers who have been assigned no work get paid anyway, at the regular scale.

At some of the camps prisoners are kept within by double barbed wire enclosures. Armed guards pace back and forth outside to make sure that all is well.

Fed Army Rations

Prisoners in the U. S. army camps are fed the regular army field rations. In this respect they fare much better than General Wainwright and his gallant band of defenders who laid down their arms on Corregidor only after food and water supplies had been cut off. The Japanese diet consists mainly of rice, and there is reason to believe that the heroes of Bataan and Corregidor have suffered considerably from malnutrition since they fell into enemy hands. The Japs evidently have nothing much better to offer, for even the warriors of Guadalcanal and New Guinea have been forced to rely upon rice as their mainstay. Kiska and Attu furnished mute evidence of the Japs' utter dependence upon rice as a fighting staple.

While the Japanese government tentatively agreed to certain proposals from this country with regard to the treatment of prisoners, their at-



Pictured here are some of the 2,000 German prisoners of war who are housed at Camp Breckenridge, Ky. They are marching to the mess hall. German prisoners are closely guarded at all times, for, unlike the Italians, they refuse to play ball and are confidently arrogant. Most of them are glad to work to relieve the boredom of inactivity.

titude has been far from satisfactory. A case in point was the shooting of the U. S. fliers who bombed Tokyo with General Doolittle's squadron which took off from Shangri La (aircraft carrier, Hornet) and who had the extreme misfortune of either being shot out of the skies or forced down for other reasons. These prisoners, it was later announced by the Japs, were shot, contrary to all the rules of war, as a deterrent to other American fliers who might engage in the bombing of Japan. This violation of the international rules of war has not, however, worked, and Japan may well tremble in its boots for the day of reckoning which is drawing closer with each dawn. Bombing perimeters are drawing closer to the heart of the Japanese empire day by day.

The bulk of the work done by Axis

captives in the United States is agricultural. This field, of course, offers the least opportunity for sabotage. When captives engage in this work they do not in any sense compete with native labor, but are simply supplementary to it. Farmers arrange with their county farm agent for the employment of prisoners. The number is usually small and the prisoners are scattered over wide areas, thus removing from this practice all element of hazard.

Generally speaking, Axis prisoners, with the exception of the Jap, of whom we have only a very small number, are a contented lot. They have better food, clothing and shelter than they had under the Nazi banner; in a certain sense they have more liberties, and for them the war is over.

More Gifts for Overseas Servicemen

Based on increasing demand for gift items it is estimated that overseas servicemen and women will receive 20 per cent more Christmas presents per capita this year than last, and the home folks may expect an even larger percentage of reciprocal gifts, mostly of the luxury and sentimental type. This forecast was made by John C. Goodall, general manager of the Merchandise Mart, Chicago, following a checkup among gift item manufacturers and distributors, including those who sell



Ernest J. Kreutzgen, Chicago postmaster, (left) explains to George McCarthy, foreman in charge of foreign mail, how packages should be wrapped and addressed to get favored delivery service to men in the armed forces overseas.

to retailers and army and navy post exchanges.

Reasons given for the expected increase in the number of gifts sent this year overseas are:

1. The moved-up official mailing date, September 15 to October 15, extended to November 1, for those in the navy, marine corps and coast guard, will stimulate early shopping, and the five pound limitation on gift packages means more will be sent.
2. More stores have installed special gift counters or departments which means more display, advertising, and sales.
3. The home folks are now better advised on the gift preferences of servicemen and women, and know more specifically where they are stationed, hence can make their selections more intelligently.
4. The overseas forces, operating on more fronts, and facing more varied climatic and geographical conditions, become eligible for a wider variety of gifts.

The tendency to send more gifts to those furthest from home also favors increased sales. While shortages at home are developing in such items as watches, leather novelties and jewelry, it is thought heavy-

purchases of more available items will more than offset these.

The number of gifts to come from service personnel abroad to relatives and friends at home is expected to be larger per capita because manufacturers and distributors, who sell to army and navy post exchanges, particularly in the Mediterranean area, already report rising sales to servicemen and women. More post exchanges, greater opportunity afforded servicemen to buy direct from the natives, who also sell to PX, is a factor now boosting sales. Other sales stimulants are that overseas servicemen and women, in high spirits themselves, are not so sure about the morale of the homefolk and seek to bolster it by gifts. Flusher with cash, and conscious of accumulated favors from home, the overseas contingent find themselves in an ideal spot to reciprocate.

Among American made gift items most popular at overseas post exchanges are pins, clips, earrings, vanity cases, many bearing the insignia of the various branches of the service. Ornate pillow tops and handkerchiefs, which embody delicately worded sentiments, come to the aid of thousands of less articulate servicemen. Such items are prime favorites overseas as well as at post exchanges at home.

Necklaces, embroideries, pipes, laces, opal and topaz jewelry, metal and leather handicraft of Latin and Oriental origin, is also in high favor. Watches, one of the top preferences among all in the service, are relatively easy to get in the Mediterranean area, since many of them come direct from Switzerland.

The gifts servicemen may expect from the home folks parallel somewhat those sent last year, although there will be a wider selection to choose from. Furlough bags, small carry-all and sewing kits, duffel bags, wallets, religious medals, identification bracelets, photo cases, pen and pencil sets, shaving equipment, insignia pieces, and of course cigarettes, are high on the preference list of servicemen.

Money belts are not expected to be as popular this year as last, while watertight pocket-size holders for miscellaneous personal things are in high vogue. Pocketsized games such as checkers, cribbage, gin rummy, backgammon and aceg ducey are similarly popular.

While these gift items have general popularity among the forces overseas as well as at home, a variety of gift preferences is developing. A large number on the Pacific front, for instance, show partiality to such articles as knives, sun glasses and anti-sun and bug lotions.

The growing number of service women is dictating the installation of women departments in post exchanges. Heavy orders for toiletries, apparel items, and the more aesthetic type of gifts are reported.