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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Formal Declaration of War by Italians Adds Impetus to Allied Drive on Rome; Heaviest Air Raids Blast Nazi Plants; Action Increases in Southwest Pacific

(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.)

FORTRESS EUROPE: Hit From All Sides

Even as Allied forces crossed the swollen Volturno river under the cover of heavy artillery fire in southern Italy, hundreds of Flying Fortresses escorted by speedy Thunderbolt fighters delivered a hard blow at the Nazis' huge roller-bearing plant in Schweinfurt, Germany.

In crossing the Volturno, Allied forces chose to span the narrow river at its eastern point, where they began working northward toward the mountains overlooking the communication lines used by the Nazis to supply their embattled legions.

While the Germans held to the west flank of the river, they were brought under increasing pressure of Allied fire from land and sea. Hovering offshore, U. S. and British warships pumped big shells into German positions inland.

In blasting Schweinfurt's roller-bearing plant, a record number of 60 Flying Fortresses were reported missing. More than 100 of fighter planes upon which the Nazis are depending to check Allied air raids, were brought down by the raiders.

Italy Now on Own

Allied consideration toward Italy will be greatly influenced by the degree of assistance she lends British and U. S. armies in the war against Germany.

When Badoglio declared war on the Nazis, the Allies accepted his Italian government as a partner on the strength of its ability to help beat back the Germans and thus spare U. S. and British lives.

It was made clear, however, that Badoglio's regime, as it now is, would not be accepted as a political partner; and the Allies would only give Italy political recognition upon the formation of a liberal democratic government.

Because of Italy's weakened industrial and agricultural position, it was presumed that some sort of assistance, possibly through lend-lease, would have to be given her to equip and maintain her for fighting.

SUBSIDIES: To Dairy Farmers

To offset the increased cost of feed, the government will pay subsidies ranging from 30 to 50 cents per hundredweight on whole milk sales, and from 4 to 6 cents a pound on butterfat.

Based on increased feed costs, the different rates were fixed to assist farmers who have to purchase more feed than formerly, with maximum payments going to farmers in drought counties where feed crops suffered damage.

Subsidies will be paid after farmers submit such satisfactory evidence as creamery statements as to the amount of milk or butterfat sold to their AAA county committee. In all, 3 1/2 million dairy farmers are expected to qualify under the 60-million-dollar program.

The whole subsidy question appeared to be headed for a thorough going over again, with the house banking and currency committee advising congress to allow subsidy payments to producers only, and not to reduce retail food costs.

RUSSIA: Battle Rages

The great battle for the Dnieper river rages.

With Russian forces across the river at several points, German troops fought desperately to prevent their organization for full scale encircling attacks, which would trap the Nazi armies from the rear.

Far to the south of the 750-mile front, the Reds assaulted Nazi positions protecting their forces in the Crimea. Since the Germans held shortened defense lines in this sector, any Russian breakthrough would compel them to fall back to the Dnieper river and thus extend their battle front, or else trap at least 100,000 Nazis.

Standing behind prepared positions, the Germans bitterly resisted the Reds' repeated attacks on their northern lines guarding the Baltic states and old Poland.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC: Strike Jap Air Posts

Now that Allied ground forces have driven the Japs from most of their Southwest Pacific outposts, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's command is concentrating on the elimination of all enemy air bases which might be



Gen. MacArthur: Blasts Rabaul.

used to harass further drives to the north toward the Philippines.

For this task, imaginative General MacArthur is using large air fleets. Hundreds of Liberator and Mitchell bombers poured 350 tons of bombs on Rabaul, leaving that important Japanese supply depot for their entire Southwest Pacific front, smoking in ruins.

After Rabaul, General MacArthur's bombers trained their sights on remaining Jap air bases in the Solomons, and with U. S. fighters, attacked the main airdromes from which the enemy has been raiding Allied posts to the south.

Southwest China Periled

Trying to seal off the back door of China, three strong Japanese columns drove toward Yunnan province's capital of Kunming.

The Japs attacked along the Burma road, which leads into China at the point of the enemy's new attack. Chinese forces bitterly resisted the Japs' drive, with the aid of the 14th U. S. air force, which pounded the invaders' gas and oil dumps and military installations.

With the Japs dominating much of the eastern coast of China, key to the entrance of the country lies in the southwestern section, known as Yunnan province. This section assumes important significance with talk of Allied plans of driving into China from Burma.

LABOR: Lewis Back in AFL

John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers were welcomed back into the American Federation of Labor at its 63rd annual convention in Boston, with formal re-entrance delayed until settlement of disputes between certain AFL unions and the UMW's District 50, which organized in their fields.

Once ridiculed by Lewis as an "Old Lady," AFL President William Green swallowed his pride and, pleading for unity in labor, led the fight for the UMW's re-admission against opposition from the floor of the convention, mustered by the Progressive Miners Union, which stayed in the AFL when the UMW bolted it in 1935.



William Green: For Lewis.

Re-entrance of Lewis' 700,000 miners into the AFL will boost the organization's total membership well over the seven-million mark.

Confederate General's Widow Aids Uncle Sam

Widow of the famous Confederate general of the Civil war, Mrs. Helen Dortch Longstreet is learning riveting in Georgia so that she might take her place in a production line to help Uncle Sam win World War II.

Refusing to disclose her age, gray-haired Mrs. Longstreet resides in a trailer camp outside of Marietta, Ga., and reports for instruction each morning in slacks.

Since the general's death in 1904, Mrs. Longstreet has worked as a newspaper reporter, postmistress in Gainesville, Ga., and an employee in the veterans bureau in Washington, D. C.

INDIA: Famine Relief

To relieve famine conditions which reached their worst peak in Bengal province, the central government of India placed a ban on the export of all grain from the stricken country.

At the same time, officials said every effort was being made to obtain more shipping for importation of food. However, it was said that India's famine was of such proportion that imports alone could not entirely appease the hunger.

Worst conditions existed in Bengal province, where scarcity of rice was aggravated by the high prices being asked for the staple despite the low level of the populace's income.

Government purchase of the entire rice crop and resale was seen as a partial solution to the famine problem.

RECOVERY: Would Use Old Models

In order to speed reconversion to civilian goods after the war, War Production board officials have suggested manufacture of 1942 models with tools already available.

If plans were made for the production of new models, in the automobile industry for instance, WPB officials said at least 18 months might be required for retooling.

WPB could enforce manufacture of 1942 models, it was said, if it retained its control over the allotment of materials. Such control would be lifted when industries would be on the way toward development of new models during the ordinary course of production.

SALARIES: U. S.'s Highest

Highest salaried official in the U. S. in 1941 was Hollywood executive Louis B. Mayer, who drew \$949,785 from Loew's, Inc. Second highest was C. G. Swebilius, who received \$631,809 from the management and engineering firm of the Dixwell corporation. Third highest was Eugene Grace, who was paid \$537,724 by the Bethlehem Steel corporation.

Movie stars were high on the list of the top-salaried. Claudette Colbert drew \$390,000 from Paramount and Twentieth Century Fox; Ginger Rogers received \$355,000 from RKO and Twentieth Century, and Charles Boyer was paid \$350,000 from Paramount, Universal and Warner.

On the basis of tax rates applying to 1941 rates, \$654,554 would be paid on a million dollar salary; \$307,084 on \$500,000, and \$108,174 on \$200,000.

POSTWAR: Peace Plans

To prevent future aggression and to preserve the peace of the world, a senate subcommittee proposed that the United States act through constitutional processes to join with free and sovereign nations in the establishment and maintenance of international authority.

The subcommittee's proposal was considered as a likely compromise between advocates of broad participation in international plans for preserving world peace, and advocates of limited participation, who have insisted on U. S. freedom to decide her action on any particular measure for maintaining order.

The subcommittee's proposal was little different from the Fulbright resolution adopted by the house, calling for the "... creation of appropriate international machinery with power adequate to establish and maintain a just and lasting peace and as favoring participation of the U. S. therein through its constitutional processes."



The Private Papers Of a Cub Reporter:

The Cafe Society uptown proprietor, who is so proud of the murals there, said to Mike Romanoff: "Prince, who did the decoration of your restaurant on the coast?" "Decoration?" replied Mike. "I am the decoration!" "Yes, I know that," was the retort delightful, "but who did the interior that pales into insignificance when you are not around to give it a glow?"

Betty Smith, whose first novel, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," is a best seller, will soon be a grandmaw, and she's practically a girl herself. Last Laff Dep't: A West Coast biggie withdrew his 25 per cent interest in "Laugh Time," the hit, at the last moment. The show is making nothing but money.

When Mountbatten was in Washington recently they say he had a session with Admiral King, who graciously said: "If there is anything you want, you may have it. Just name it." The Admiral, of course, was speaking of ships, etc. Mountbatten replied: "There's just one request. I hope you will grant me a favor." "What is it?" asked Admiral King. "I would like," said His Lordship, "a top button from your tunic." King seemed puzzled. Mountbatten continued: "You see, I have General Arnold's wings and General Marshall's top button, and I am certain that with yours we will have good luck. Nothing, sir, can then happen to us."

"Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 3: Walter Winchell, New York City: Thought probably the politicians in Washington who are endeavoring to speak for the young men of America would be interested in the following resolution: Whereas: We the Utah State Junior Chamber of Commerce represent a cross section of the young married men of draft age in Utah. And Whereas we fully realize our responsibilities to our country in this time of war.

"And Whereas: Acts and statements made by misinformed persons have created the false impression that draft age fathers wish special consideration from the selective service system on a dependency basis notwithstanding military requirements. Be it resolved: By the Utah State Junior Chamber of Commerce, in State Board meeting assembled this third day of October, 1943, that we urge the defeat of all legislation which attempts to defer heads of families on the basis of dependency only and reaffirm the fact that we have been and are ready and willing to answer the call to arms if and when we are summoned.—Pres., Provo Jr. C. of C., Provo, Utah."

Now that children no longer automatically become American citizens when their parents are naturalized, the 11-year-old daughter of Gerhart Seger, former member of the Reichstag, was up before the immigration and naturalization examiner. The child, who has lived most of her 11 years in the U. S., was asked the usual questions: "Have you ever been a member of the German-American Bund?" "Do you favor anarchy?" et cetera.

The child looked a little confused for a moment and then, smiling, said: "Oh, a quiz program!" Whereupon the examiner stamped her papers and replied: "You don't want to become an American—you are one!"

The Eyebrow Raiser of the Week: Common Sense magazine's editor appeals for subscriptions from Americans to "repair any damage" we may do to Tokyo and Berlin. Editor A. M. Bingham says a group of vigorous thinkers and famous writers will contribute articles to that end. They include: Pearl Buck, Stuart Chase, Thomas Mann, Quincy Howe, Lin Yu-tang and John Haynes Holmes. "Tokyo may soon be destroyed," says Mr. Bingham. "The world's third largest city will not be pocked with areas of destruction like stone and steel-bult London and Berlin. It will be literally gutted and 7,000,000 human beings will be homeless. . . . To rebuild Tokyo, however, and Berlin and Essen. . . will require real statesmanship and an application of genuine democracy. Are you ready to help do it, or shall we crucify democracy on the cross of hate?"

"We just want to know one thing before we send in our check. . . . What kind of monument will mark the spot in Tokyo where our fliers were beheaded?"

The Plow Is NOT the Enemy of the Farmer, Says a Noted Agronomist, Who Replies to That Charge in a Recently Published Book

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

IS THE plow the arch-villain in the tragedy of soil erosion that costs American agriculture two billion dollars a year through the loss of precious nitrogen, phosphorus and potash from the nation's farms? Or is it one of mankind's traditional benefactors? Will the plow eventually become an obsolete implement and a museum piece, or will it continue to be one of farming's main reliances?

Americans, especially farmers, who have learned to "revere the plow" and who read the book "Plowman's Folly" written by Edward H. Faulkner and published recently by the University of Oklahoma Press, or who saw articles in the newspapers based upon that book, no doubt were startled when Mr. Faulkner told them that the plow was an enemy rather than a friend of agriculture. But the old saying about there being "two sides to every question" has proved true again, for no less an authority than Dr. William A. Albrecht, head of the soils department of the University of Missouri, now comes forward to defend the plow and to offer a rebuttal to Mr. Faulkner's charges against it.

Dr. Albrecht both agrees and disagrees with the author of "Plowman's Folly." He acknowledges that farmers in the silt loam soil areas of the United States have, in the past, plowed too much. As a result, the heavy rainfall in these regions has washed away priceless soil. But the question, "to plow or not to plow," cannot be answered "yes" or "no" nor is it safe to make hasty generalizations in any other respect while dealing with this subject. The crux of the whole question lies in the soil and climatic conditions of the geographical region involved.

"We need to plow less on some soils and, conversely, we need to plow more—and deeper—on others," asserts Dr. Albrecht. "We need to learn that the differences in degree of soil development according to climatic differences are factors in determining how important the plow is."

In "Plowman's Folly," Mr. Faulkner charged that the moldboard plow "now in use on farms throughout the civilized world is the least satisfactory implement for the preparation of the land for the production of crops. . . . The truth is that no one has ever advanced a scientific reason for plowing." Moreover, he says that the plow is responsible for "all the erosion, the sour soils, the mounting floods, the lowering water tables, the vanishing wild life, the compact and impervious soil surfaces" that have harassed American farmers for a generation.

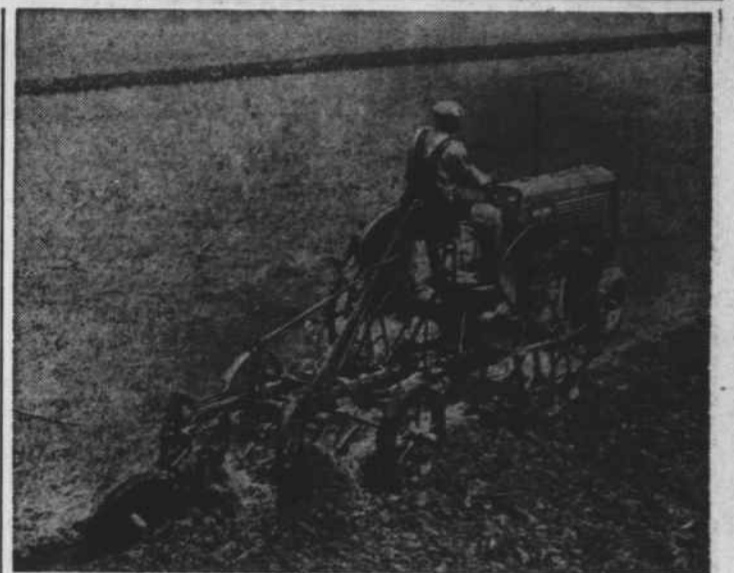
And there the University of Missouri scientist disagrees. He holds that even though the average farmer can't give a scientific answer to the question "Why plow?", the men of science can provide plenty of valid reasons for doing so. High on his list of reasons is the fact that this practice supplies the soil with oxygen which helps transform its chemical components into usable plant food for growing crops.

Aerating the Soil. "Any microbiologist will testify that plowing aerates the soil," he says. "As a consequence of the change of atmosphere in the soil and because of the stirring by the moldboard plow, there is new 'life'."

"The soil is a factory in which energy is expended. Tons of carbon are being burned to form carbon dioxide. Sulphur is oxidized into sulphur dioxide. Ammonia is changed to nitrate. Other similar combustions are taking place.

"A 40-acre corn field under maximum growing activity in July burns an amount of carbon equal to the coal used in running a 40-horsepower steam engine in order to form carbon dioxide. Can anyone deny the necessity of air for such a performance? Surely no one would close the draft by refusing to plow and thus destroy such crop producing power."

"This burning business in the soil by means of oxygen from the air must go on, if the plant nutrients tied up in chemical combination with carbon are to be released for repeated use by other plants that follow. Were this performance not proceeding in the soil, life on the globe would soon become extinct. The soil's productive power would soon be expended. As a result, the



Plowing scenes such as this will not soon vanish from the American scene, says a noted agronomist who refutes the charges in a recently published book that the plow is the enemy of agriculture.

soil could offer nothing and no growth could occur."

Plowing has the further scientific value of helping the soil supply a larger amount of soluble nitrogen for growing crops than would otherwise be available, according to Dr. Albrecht. Studies of the nitrate supply in soil planted to corn forcefully support this finding.

Tests were made on three adjoining plots planted to corn. One plot was unplowed. The second was plowed. The third was both plowed and cultivated. The soluble nitrogen supply in the plot that was plowed and cultivated was at least 30 per cent greater than in the unplowed tract. In the plowed tract it was between 25 and 30 per cent greater.

"Crop yields correspond to the level of these nitrate supplies," says Dr. Albrecht. "The farmer may not know that these higher levels of nitrate are responsible for his improved crop yield. Nor may he understand that they are the result of his making the soil 'turn turtle' with his plow. He simply plows ahead of the corn to get a better crop. His inability to point out the underlying scientific channels through which the effects of plowing are transmitted to the crop, does not put the plow into bad repute in his eyes."

"Surely the hundreds of thousands of corn producers will not suddenly discard so ancient an implement merely because they cannot call to

tend the period of sterility of the soil due to dryness. Crops are not declining or failing because plowing is drying out the soil.

"The forces that turn plowed land into bare, eroded fields are not the mold-board plow and the horses or tractor that pull it. They are the continued removal of soil fertility with little or no return of needed plant foods. Plowing is not the cause of the depletion of the fertility supply. Depletion occurs because of the fertility removed when the crop is hauled off to market. The plow is not the exploiter; rather it is the farmer. The plow is merely the tool that facilitates his exploitation at a faster rate and over more acres than before the plow was given him. The plow has helped him feed many of us too far removed from the land to appreciate its exploitation."

In urging that the plow be junked as an agricultural implement, Mr. Faulkner's book advocated the use of the disc harrow as a means of producing more and better crops, because it would incorporate crop residues, green manures and organic matter into the top soil. To this suggestion Dr. Albrecht had the following to say:

"The author of 'Plowman's Folly' condemns the plow because it inverts completely the upper portion of the soil profile. In its place, however, he advocates the use of the disk harrow which carries out a similar process, differing only in degree."

To Mr. Faulkner's contention that crop residues or organic matter from plants allowed to grow of their own accord should be incorporated into the top soil without the addition of manure, lime or other fertilizers, Dr. Albrecht replies:

"Such a proposal does not take into account differences in vegetation in type or quality. Weeds or forest trees as ancient as the sequoias are taken on a par in the 'Plowman's Folly' thesis with legumes as soil re-juvenating agencies. The author cites 'every wooded country' as a perfect example of soil maintenance, but neglects to mention the low level of fertility and the difficulty involved in maintaining life."

Mr. Faulkner's belief, that the prevalence of wild life on the western plains was due to the fact that this region was unplowed, comes in for some critical analysis, also. Dr. Albrecht points out that the unplowed wooded areas of New England which our Puritan ancestors first settled, supported only a few wild turkeys and squirrels.

In further refutation of the contention in "Plowman's Folly" that "principles which are valid in the forest are valid in the field," Dr. Albrecht asserts:

"In view of the fact that the soils differ as widely as they do under forest and under prairie, we surely cannot subscribe to the belief that all 'principles valid for the forest are valid for the fields.'"

Summarizing his views on the entire subject, Dr. Albrecht concludes: "The indictment of the plow by the book 'Plowman's Folly' will not stand against the facts of science nor the judgment of experienced farmers. This publication will fall far short of helping us to realize that 'the Garden of Eden, almost literally, lies under our feet almost anywhere on earth we care to step,' provided we allow vegetation to grow and we cling to the disk harrow as a means of turning it under rather than to the mold-board plow."