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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Forces Advance in South Pacific As New Air, Sea, Land Blows Hit Japs; 1944 Farm Machinery Output Doubled; Germany Stunned by Bombing of Berlin

(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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SOUTH PACIFIC:
Outposts Crumbling

Less than a week after U. S. forces under Maj. Gen. Holland Smith swarmed onto the shores of the Gilbert islands of Makin, Tarawa and Apamama, the stars and stripes floated bravely over them and most of their 6,000 Japanese defenders lay dead.

Even as U. S. forces were mopping up the Gilberts, from which the enemy once menaced Allied supply lines to the southwest Pacific, American airmen struck another heavy blow at

Maj. Gen. Holland M. T. Smith

Jap naval forces serving their embattled troops on their last Solomons' holding of Bougainville island. Of a force of six Jap destroyers, two were sunk by torpedoes and two more by gunfire by a smaller squadron of U. S. warships.

In ground fighting on Bougainville, U. S. forces expanded their base of operations under support of heavy artillery barrage and bombing attacks of Mitchells and Venturas.

FARM MACHINERY:
Doubling Output

Rationing of farm machinery will be reduced to 31 types next year as increased raw material allotments will allow the manufacture of almost twice as much equipment as was made in 1942 and about 80 per cent of the 1940 total. Production of repair parts will be unrestricted.

With sufficient carbon steel available, only uncertainty of supplies of anti-friction bearings, malleable castings and forgings is ruffling farm machinery manufacture. As in all mechanical production, bearings are the chief bottleneck.

Despite the improved outlook for farm machinery, difficulties may arise from the scarcity of hauling vehicles, including trucks, and in acquiring replacement tires for trucks now in operation.

LIVING COSTS:
Up 23 Per Cent

While the War Labor board's "Little Steel" formula restricted wage increases to 15 per cent over the January, 1941, level, living costs have risen 23.4 per cent since then, according to figures of the department of labor.

Originally, WLB awards were based on a 15 per cent increase in living costs from January, 1941, to September, 1942. Since September, 1942, however, there has been another 5.6 per cent rise, with labor demanding a corresponding reduction in living costs or higher wages to equalize the present condition.

Further, labor charged that the government figures on living costs were inaccurate, and the President appointed a special committee to look into the subject.

WORKING WOMEN:
More Needed

With 16½ million women already at work, another million are needed to round out war production demands.

As of October, only 700,000 people remained unemployed, and with this sharp reduction in the number idle, it has been found necessary to call on women to fill in many jobs, especially in busy war production centers.

The extent to which women have been recruited for industry since the armament program got under way can be glimpsed by the fact that only 10,800,000 were working in October, 1940.

CONGRESS:
Ban Subsidies

To the senate for approval went a house bill prohibiting payment of subsidies to reduce or maintain retail food prices and only allowing their use to stimulate agricultural production.

Championed by the administration as a means of keeping living costs down, retail subsidies were attacked in the house as inflationary, in that such savings to consumers only added to their purchasing power, and money borrowed for the purpose increased the national debt.

The administration is now spending approximately 800 million dollars annually on retail subsidies for meat, butter, milk, and other products. Under the house bill, subsidies would be continued only for domestic vegetable oils, fats and oil seeds.

In approving subsidy payments to stimulate production, the house voted to extend the life of the Commodity Credit corporation to June 30, 1945, and maintain its borrowing power at three billion dollars. CCC also was given permission to resell at a loss perishable fruits and vegetables bought to support prices.

Vote for Higher Taxes

Also to the senate went a house bill providing for 2½ billion dollars in additional taxes, far below the 10½ billion dollars requested by Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau.

Largest source of new revenue in the bill would be obtained from taxes on goods, such as beer, liquor, jewelry, luggage, bulbs and cosmetics, and from services such as telephones and telegraphs, amusements, transportation and club dues.

Adjustments in individual and corporate income taxes would provide substantial revenues, with approximately 600 million dollars being obtained from additional levies on business.

Local postal rates would be increased to three cents and charges would be raised on money orders and special deliveries.

EUROPE:
Fortress Smoulders

With its home front rocked by Berlin's devastation by 1,000 RAF bombers, Germany sought to bolster the southeastern flank of her smouldering Fortress Europe by turning to military maneuvers to influence wavering, neutral Turkey.

While Berlin's populace dug out of its ruins, Germany was reported moving troops through Sofia, Bulgaria, to the Grecian frontier, fronting Tur-

German Foreign Minister Von Ribbentrop (at right) greets Bulgarian regent, Prince Kyrill (at left), while Hitler looks on in background.

key. The moves closely followed the Nazis' recapture of the strategic Aegean islands of Kos, Leros and Samos, from where they could threaten Turkey's western coast.

The Germans' movements appeared to be their answer to Allied pressure on Turkey to cast her lot with the U. S., British and Russian cause. Under terms of the Turkish-British alliance of 1939, each country promises to come to the assistance of the other if attacked.

In Italy, Britain's 8th army occupied lowlands along the Adriatic coast, in preparation for an assault against the Nazis' mountain positions immediately to the north. U. S. casualties in Italy since September 8 were placed at 1,613 killed; 2,685 missing, and 6,361 wounded.

WORLD RELIEF:
Big 4 to Cooperate

In accordance with the principles of the Big Four pact of Moscow, the U. S., Britain, China and Russia will work together in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation administration for obtaining supplies for the postwar's needy countries.

The U. S., Britain and Russia will co-operate in estimating the requirements of the different European peoples. To get the necessary supplies as speedily as possible, it was suggested that raw materials be especially allocated to pre-war industrial nations with available machinery for manufacturing goods.

United Nations not invaded are to contribute 1 per cent of their national income toward a fund for financing relief and rehabilitation operations.

Rationing After War

Because of prospective demands on U. S. food supplies for feeding other nations, rationing will not only continue but also may be more severe after the war, Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard told a senate committee.

Claude Wickard

Declaring that the time needed to feed other people will determine how long rationing will go on in this country, Wickard said the severity of the control will depend to a great degree on the supplies we have on hand when the war ends.

All tillable land out of the 20,000,000 acres owned by the government should be returned to farming by sale or lease after the war, Wickard said.

WORLD BANK:
For Reconstruction

To join with private capital in reconstruction and rehabilitation in the postwar era, the U. S. treasury has proposed a world bank and laid details before congressional committees for study.

Harry White

Announced by the treasury's financial wizard, Harry D. White, the bank not only would help in advancing long term credit for rebuilding the shattered economies of nations, but in some cases it would also guarantee repayment of loans made by private capitalists.

U. S. contribution to the bank would amount to 700 million dollars at the start, and possibly 3½ billion dollars in all. Great Britain would advance less than a billion dollars, Soviet Russia's share would be substantially less.

RUSSIA:
Counter-Punches

Red armies launched a heavy attack on the northern sector of the 1,200 mile Russian front as German Marshal Fritz von Mannstein's troops pecked out new gains in the vicinity of important railroad junctions to the west of Kiev.

In their drive in the north, the Reds took another step closer to the pre-war Polish border, and pressed against the upper section of the railroad system constituting the Nazis' last north-south rail link in Russia.

After recapturing the rail hub of Zhitomir in a whirlwind comeback, the Nazi attack lost some of its impetus against stiffening Red resistance, and although the Germans beat forward for further gains and spread the scope of their drive northward to take in still another section of the rail line previously cut, their pace was slowed by concentrated Russian artillery fire.

U. S. SPENDING:
Sees Need

Special advisor to the board of governors of the Federal Reserve bank, Economist Alvin H. Hansen proposed annual government expenditures at the rate of 15 to 18 billion dollars to prevent postwar depression.

Declaring that the last great depression was the result of a drop of 15 billion dollars in private investment between 1929 and 1932, Hansen said it was necessary for the government to develop a program for meeting such crisis, so as to halt big dips in consumer buying and attract capital back into business.

The present war will be followed by a period in which people will spend money for accumulated needs, Hansen said. But unless government stands by with some kind of program to take up the slack in employment that will follow the filling of all these orders, we might well run into another depression, Hansen asserted.

The New York, Washington And Hollywood Express:

Nancy de Marigny will inherit $4,000,000 from the Oakes estate when matters are probated in Canada. She also gets $1,400,000 from the fortune Oakes left in Nassau . . . But not until she is 30, and she's 19 now . . . Wise father . . . She's virtually broke—had to hock her Nassau farm, etc., to raise $30,000 for the defense fee. The lawyers, however, cut their retainer in half when they learned she didn't have it . . . Intimates say the reason Dorothy Thompson has been so sentimental about postwar Germany is that she'd like to be the first Ambassador to Germany after the war—to straighten them all out. She's said to be working on it already . . . Pearl Buck's comment on the Chinese situation: "We send missionaries to China so they can go to Heaven—but we won't let them into this country."

Damon Runyon, in his confessional the other day, admitted bravely enough: "My prediction that the war in Europe will be over by Christmas now seems somewhat improbable" . . . Somewhat, indeed . . . We wondered who would make such a statement . . . We certainly never thought Runyon would want to contribute to the complacency set . . . It is comforting to learn, however, that he is the first to debunk his own error . . . We wish his friend, Richard Tregaskis, author of "Guadalcanal Diary," would tell his publishers to catch the next edition of his book and omit our name where he carelessly put it and replace it with Damon's . . . Because we never said that any war would be over at any time . . . We are the guy who always said it would never be over for some of us . . . And that when anybody asked: "When is the war going to end?" the reply has always been: "When we win it!!!"

The Statler in the Capital turned away 321 contingent reservations one day last week . . . We recently mentioned a war mother's complaint about conditions in an Army hospital (at Tuscaloosa, Ala.) for returned wounded. She told us the bed linen hadn't been changed for two weeks, the men's pajamas ditto, the food awful, etc . . . We sent her charges to the War Dep't . . . As a result, the commanding officer of that hospital has been replaced and $5,000 rushed to improve conditions. We wish servicemen's newspapers everywhere would reprint that, please.

Edmund Wilson replaces Clifton Fadiman as the book critic on The New Yorker . . . Warner's has offered Kyle Crichton of Collier's a contract to write out there . . . In Miami Beach the soldiers (who sing as they march) invariably shout: "What the hell are we fighting for? The WACS and WAVES will win the war!" . . . FDR might be amused to read page 23 of the Feb. 15th, 1908, issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The article on the page is titled: "Is Roosevelt a Menace to Business?" . . . A noted FDR booster was being teased about his loyalty . . . "Listen," said the heckler, "Willkie has his eye on the presidential chair again!" . . . "That," was the retort, "isn't quite as good as what Roosevelt's got on it."

The bootlegger, who has already emerged in the firewater shortage, is one who shouldn't have the social standing he had in the Dry Era . . . Now the circumstances are different. If a man encourages a Black Market in booze just to get himself an occasional quart, he's doing something that hurts . . . The Black Market needs only something like a popular product — like booze — to crack the whole structure of price control . . . If booze gets flowing illegally, it's going to flood the works. You can drink yourself right into inflation, brother.

This is how the Astors became New York's biggest real estate operators: During the War of 1812 the blockade hurt merchants most. Astor loaned them money, refusing all collateral but mortgages. He gained all of his property through foreclosures . . . Waterfront workers have names for various piers. They are usually named after women . . . Years ago the city's biggest sporting events were races between steamships in the Hudson . . . A ship laden with gold was sunk in Hell Gate Channel, 50 years ago a part of Long Island Sound. Many attempts have been made to recover the treasure, but the gold is still there.

People Keep on Getting Hurt, War or Not, In Ingenious, Sometimes Humorous Ways

Reaper Strips Farmer; Soldier, Ogling Girl, Falls in Coal-Hole

The comic note creeps in now and then, even in the grim catalogue of the year's accidents. A few ludicrous examples from the files of the National Safety Council indicate what vaudeville-like mishaps can happen.

Residents of Cocoanut Grove, Fla., were mildly surprised one day when their morning mail was delivered by a mailman who, of all things, wasn't wearing any pants. It wasn't the heat, the pantsless postman explained. He'd merely fallen off his bicycle and landed in an anthill. And, he added with simple pride, even when the United States postal service gets ants in its pants, the mail must go through!

Dr. W. A. Franklin stood before his junior high school class in Ponca City, Okla., to demonstrate the safe way to handle matches. "First, remove the match," he was saying, "then close the container." As he flipped open the container to demonstrate, all the matches caught fire. Dr. Franklin bandaged his burned hand. Then, with exemplary fidelity, he closed his lecture with this observation: "That, students, is what happens when one becomes momentarily careless."

As Private Ernest M. Scofield of Denver, Colo., huddled in a foxhole in the Solomons, dodging enemy shot and shell, a stray bullet dislodged a cocoanut from a tree limb overhead. The cocoanut landed kerplunk on Private Scofield, broke his left leg, and he became the army's first cocoanut casualty.

Residents of Dayton, Ohio, were startled one fine day this summer to see a small electrically-driven invalid's chair scoot through a red traffic light and crash into a huge six-ton trailer truck. When Ben Myers, the unperturbed and uninjured pilot of the chair, had been extricated from the wreckage, he explained he was on his way fishing and, bubbling over with high spirits, had failed to observe the light. Sympathetic onlookers helped him pick up and reassemble a large and wriggling supply of crawfish, crickets and grasshoppers, and he went hilariously on his way.

Blitz Welding.

During army maneuvers in Tennessee, a bolt of lightning struck the zipper of a sleeping bag, neatly welded it all the way around and sealed up a soldier who happened to be inside. The soldier, understandably perplexed, howled for help, then pleaded for anonymity.

In Chicago, Colton Ankebrandt was testifying in the case of a driver who inadvertently had piloted his auto into Mr. Ankebrandt's parlor, through the wall of the house. The incident had happened ten days before. "And where is the car now?" asked the court. Mr. Ankebrandt appeared surprised. "Why, your honor, it's still in our parlor," he replied. "It doesn't bother us

much." Foreseeing, however, that Mrs. Ankebrandt might wish to rearrange the parlor furniture some day, the court ordered the car removed.

Lieut. D. M. Schultz of the army air forces ran into trouble while flying over Portland, Ore., and bailed out. Obligingly, he landed on the roof of the U. S. Veterans' hospital, where it was no trouble at all for hospital attendants to pop out and treat him for minor injuries.

Then there was the case of Sergt. D. P. Smith, an aerial gunner of the Australian Air forces, who was visiting the Chicago Service Men's Center. He decided to try his hand at bowling. He did all right, too, for a novice, except that he neglected to remove his fingers from the bowling ball. He accompanied the ball on a short flight and made a crash landing with more embarrassment than pain.

In Detroit, a city-bred horse named Davie, blase in the heaviest auto traffic, ran away and wrecked his buggy when he met a terrifying sight—another horse.

At Hammonton, N. J., a speeding train hit a truck driven by Jules Press. Mr. Press left the truck and flew high into the air. So did four blankets. The blankets landed on the road bed. Mr. Press landed on the blankets. No—no pillow.

Highballer.

In Mankato, Sask., a steer in a cattle car poked an inquisitive horn through the car's slats, caught up a switch lamp hanging outside the car and roguishly baffled the engineer by swinging red and green signals all the way to Moose Jaw.

Herbert L. Carpenter, a subway rider in Brooklyn, N. Y., appeared before the mayor with a plan to eliminate subway rushes, of which Mr. Carpenter had grown weary. Later the same day he was trampled in a subway rush and had to go to a hospital for treatment.

In South Bend, Ind., Miss Ruth McGrady slipped, fell, broke her right wrist, stood up, slipped, fell, broke her left wrist.

Private Louis Henriquez fell 14 feet down a coal-hole as he was strolling along in Denver, Colo. Afterwards, dug up and refreshed with a bath, Private H. explained: "She smiled as we passed . . ."

Mrs. Blanche Heck of Centerville, Iowa, had not ordered her winter coal. She was a little surprised when a loaded coal truck entered her home, pushed the bed on which she was lying, through the wall, into the next room, and left her against a hot stove, uninjured.

James Hollingshead was taking a horseback ride in Summerberry, Sask., one day when a passing freight train frightened his horse. The horse dashed against the train,

thoughtfully tossed Mr. Hollingshead onto a passing flat car, backed away, and fell dead.

Loyal comic strip fans were goggle eyed one day when Connie, of "Terry and the Pirates," drove a car up and over an opening bridge. "Of course, it could only happen in the funnies," they told themselves. But a 17-year-old Milwaukee, Wis., youth did it in real life. He drove up the rising leaf of the Sixth street bridge, made a graceful 18-foot arc over the gap, then pancaked on the slanting span on the other side. The car was damaged, but the driver was unhurt.

It is described in the Bible that the lilies of the field toil not, neither do they spin. But Rancher Walter Wynhoff of Wilbur, Wash., is no lily. For as he toiled on his ranch, the spinning rod of his reaper caught his overalls and spun him into the air. When he landed he was clad casually in shoes and eye glasses.

Canned.

And little Erlan Wittola, three, of Kulm, N. D., crawled into a large cream can in his back yard. He had no trouble getting in, but his parents were able to get him out only after an operation on the bottom—of the cream can.

In Omaha, Neb., the Berigans' dog, Bozo, got his foot and tail caught in a hay mower. Farmer Berigan jumped over a fence to help Bozo, cut himself on one knee and hit himself in the eye with the other knee. His daughter, Pat, ran out of the house, slipped and sprained her wrist. Mrs. B., startled as she was canning vegetables, jumped and cut her finger. Champ, another Berigan dog, jumped over the barn door to see what was going on, and broke his foot. The Berigans learned later that a cousin in Keokuk was uninjured that day.

For Old Siwash.

When Phillips high school defeated Amundsen high in a hard-fought football game in Chicago, not a player on either team was hurt. But as Phillips scored a touchdown, an enthusiastic substitute on the bench

yanked Coach Lou Tortorelli's arm so violently that the coach's left shoulder was dislocated.

Staff Sergt. Leroy Post of Evanston, Ill., survived 37 bombing missions in the New Guinea area. He helped sink three Jap transports and shoot down at least six Jap planes. For this he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the oak leaf cluster. Then he was removed from the danger zone to become an instructor in an armament shop in Salt Lake City. A few days later his arm was caught in a machine and the bone was fractured.

And in Pocatello, Idaho, the sole survivor of a plane crash was Private John J. Lucky.

Engineer Corps Has Only Half Accidents Of Private Industry

The army's corps of engineers has achieved a reduction of 45 per cent in accident frequency and 31 per cent in accident severity below that of private construction.

As compared with the accident rates for the five-year period, 1936 to 1940, it is estimated that the engineers' safety program during the past two fiscal years has saved more than 1,000 lives, averted 34,908 lost-time injuries, and prevented the loss of 6,306,374 man-days, with the saving in wages of workers amounting to $46,604,104.

Regulations of the corps, rigidly adhered to, require that all lost-time accidents on construction projects over which the corps has jurisdiction be reported. The statistics so gathered, comprising the greatest mass of construction accident statistics and case histories ever assembled, have shown what practices cause the accidents, thereby enabling the engineers to take preventive measures.

Strict Code Enforced.

When the army's construction program was expanded in 1941 to the greatest the world has ever known, specific uniform safety requirements were established by the engineers and compliance enforced in all construction contracts.

Outstanding among the requirements were those providing for mobile first aid stations; central infirmaries staffed with trained nurses under the supervision of one or more full-time physicians on all projects where a thousand or more workers were employed; the employment of a full-time safety engineer on all similar projects, and the maintenance of a first aid log at all field stations and infirmaries.

The current program is placing the most stress on the proper use of heavy construction equipment which, although responsible for but 25 per cent of the total injuries, causes up to 52 per cent of the time lost in all accidents on construction projects.