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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazis Reel Under Combined Pressure Of Heavy Air Attacks and Sea Losses; New Air Blows Strike Japs in Pacific; Fifth Army Steps Up Assaults in Italy

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are these of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



New Britain-Map shows points of U.S. landings on New Britain island Arawe on south and Cape Gloucester on north. (See: Southwest Pacific.)

INVASION: **Eisenhower** Commands

Hitler's high command shuttled proops in western Europe as Amer-ica's four-star Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower assumed command of Al-lied forces and the stage was set for the big second front.

Britain's Air Chief Marshal Arthur Tedder stood at General Eis-enhower's side as deputy command-er, with Britain's Adm. Bertram Ramsay as the leader of naval forces, and Britain's Air Marshal forces, and Britain's Air Marshal Trafford Leigh-Mallory in charge of all air forces.

As the Allies' supreme command buried itself in the mass of invasion detail, the tensed Germans reported heavy aerial bombardment of their channel fortifications and Commanto attacks along the French coast to test their defense. As the Gerins awaited the grand assault, said Nazi Marshal Erwin Rommel: Our defenses are technically cor-

FORTRESS EUROPE: Step Up Action

Bringing heavy artillery into play, Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth army blasted the Nazis from strong points blocking the 75-mile road to Rome, while farther to the east, the British clambered past the enemy's Adriatic bastion of Ortona, won after more than a week of vicious streetto-street fighting.

As U. S. and British troops punched- their way through the Nazis' stiff mountain defenses in



Chickens, Points As the War Food administration requisitioned 170 million pounds of dressed chicken and fowl for the government, OPA slashed point values on canned vegetables and or-dered frozen vegetables point-free. WFA's action was prompted by the government's inability to obtain more than 20 per cent of the fowl they required in recent months, and the army was said to be particularly anxious to get the poultry for Sun-day dinners at camp and hospital diets. Civilians may be little affect-

FOOD:

ed by WFA's order, however, since it does not apply to stock stored after December 30, 1943. Because of comfortable stocks of

canned green and wax beans, zero point values were established for them. A 10 per cent reduction in consumer demands for canned peas and tomatoes during the last two months led OPA to chop their point values for No. 2 and 2½ cans to 15. In an attempt to move frozen vegetables from storage to make room for record pork stocks, all point values were removed. **RAILROADS:**

Strike Off

Seeking to avert a threatened strike after the switchmen, conductors and firemen and enginemen had refused his offer to arbitrate their wage demands against the carriers, President Roosevelt quickly seized the nation's railroads for the government.

Representing about 150,000 men, the three unions had balked at pres-idential intervention even after the trainmen and engineers accepted FDR's proposal, as a result of which they received an overall pay increase of 9 cents an hour.

Also accepting FDR's offer at the last minute were the 15 non-operating railroad unions representing 1,150,000 employees, who suddenly agreed to a former government proposal of pay increases ranging from 10 cents an hour for the lowest paid to 4 cents an hour for the highest paid, but also insisted on overtime

compensation past 40 hours. flame throwers. As the marines advanced at Cape Gloucester, ele-ments of Lieut. Gen. Walter Krue-**Biggest Year** Nineteen hundred and forty-three ger's Sixth army encountered heavy

was the greatest year in the history resistance at Arawe to the south. of American railroads. The Allies made increasing use of (1) 725 billion ton-miles of freight air power to jar the Japs loose on

were handled, a ton-mile equaling one ton hauled one mile. (2) Passenger traffic totaled 85 bilon passenger miles.

oline tanks on enemy strong points on Bougainville and sending fleets of bombers to pound installations on the Marshall islands. (3) Gross earnings exceeded 9 bil-lion dollars, although net operating income amounted to 1 billion, 385 million dollars.

LEND-LEASE:

Farmers received an all-time high Aid to Russia: of four billion dollars for livestock With many of its great industrial slaughtered under federal inspection in 1943 as meat production also cities razed and natural resources overrun, 3½ billion dollars of lend-lease assistance bolstered Soviet reached an all-time high of more

Russia in its critical hours. To the Russ, the U. S. has sent nearly 7,000 planes, 3,500 tanks, 130,-000 sub-machine guns, 150,000 trucks, 25,000 jeeps, 225,000 field telephones, and 750,000 miles of field telephone

wire. In addition, the U. S. has sent 1,000,000 tons of steel, 350,000 tons of non-ferrous metal, 400,000 tons of chemicals, 600,000 tons of petroleum

products, and more than 18,000 metal cutting tools.

Who's News This Week

Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features .- WNU Release. NEW YORK .- For this new year of pell-mell war traffic the In terstate Commerce commission has elected to its chairmanship William

J. Patter-Took Railroading Son, who By Mail as a Call knows the Boy; Heads ICC nation's transportation system and its problems in war or peace from the ground up. He began studying them nearly half a century ago as a call boy.

Patterson became an ICC member in 1939, but he has been on its payroll for 30 years. He was hired as an inspector of ap-pliances in 1914 when there was a considerable stir about safety. The job expanded until a score of years later it turned into the assistant directorship of the commission's bureau of safety. Next Patterson went onto the nechanical advisory committee of the federal coordinator of transportation. Finally membership on the commission itself came from President Roosevelt. Patterson made his first connection with a railroad in Neenah, Wis. He was born there, where the Fox Indians used to hunt and do a lot of fighting, only seven years after the town was founded. A little while as a call boy made him want a better job. Correspondence courses were new then, and well recommended for kids who couldn't get other schooling, so he studied air brake and train operation by mail. That started him up the railroad ladder and finally he became a conductor. At the peak of his rise he married,

fathered a son, a daughter. Later he switched to the ICC. He is 63 now

H ITLER'S legions fall back and the little kings whose little countries lie just beyond the smoke of battle turn more boldly toward Gen. Royce Talks mies. Maj. Of Oil, Transport Gen. Ralph Rights, Weather Royce and his Allied military commission sit down to 10 sheep served on heaped up rice by shrewd warwise Ibn Saud, master of the best of Arabia. The talk, after chins are wiped, is of oil and transport privilege. But each at transport privileges. But once, at least, the general certainly asked about the weather. An airplane pi-lot who has flown his own ships

more than a million miles, he is always a little worried about wind and clouds and rain. Royce is American command-er in the Middle East, big, wide-

er in the Middle East, big, wide-jawed, with his military cap usu-ally cocked at a Beattle angle. He gets on with kings. A while back Egypt's Farouk piloted him on an aerial sightseeing trip, though Royce could have piloted Farouk even more skill-fully. He was one of the first fully. He was one of the first 30 army officers to qualify as filers and in the last war led a squadron of fighting planes in France.

In this war he began by fighting the Japs a DSC and the DFC there to add to the Croix de Guerre he earned a quarter of a century ago. Con-vinced that Germany can be beaten from the air, he has commanded in the Middle East since September. Like most of the army's top men he went to West Point.

Farmers Get Set to Achieve Still Higher Food Production as 1944 Planting Begins

WFA Calls for a 6% **Increase Over 1943's** Food Crop Acreage

Farmers all over America are busy with preparations for their 1944 production battle. They have set a goal of 380,000,000 and meat products. The number of milk cows planted acres, from which-in-The number of mulk cows on farms on January 1, 1944, will be large enough to permit realization of the 121 billion pounds of milk set as the year's goal, according to fig-ures from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. However, it is pointed out that the level of milk production during the year will depend to a cluding meat, poultry and eggs -they expect to produce 4 to 6 per cent more than the 1943 food record and enough vegetable oils and fibers to meet essential war needs.

That is an ambitious program, but the War Food administration points out that America's farmers have reason for their confident outlook. They've just closed the seventh successive year in which their intention to produce more food than the year before was fulfilled. Food produc-tion, at the beginning of 1944, has reached a point 32 per cent higher than before Pearl Harbor and 5 per cent more than the 1942 record, which many believed could not be duplicated.

Acreages on most food crops will be increased in 1944, according to planting goals set at fall meetings of farm leaders in the agricultural areas. National needs for farm products, previously determined by the War Food administration, were presented at these sessions. Upon the basis of these needs, the goals were set.

Whether they are met or not will depend upon many factors, the chief one being the yield the farmer gets from his land.

That yield, in turn, is influenced first by weather. A farmer may have the finest of soil, plus all the labor, machinery and supplies he needs, but if the weather is bad his crops will not be up to expectations. On the other hand, excellent growing weather can do much to mitigate the problems involved in labor and sup ply shortages, and even low fer-tility of land. The past few years, when records have been broken right and left under conditions far from ideal except as to weather, make this very clear.

Conservation Ups Yields.

It should be pointed out, however, that conservation practices have played an important role in bringing the productivity of United States farms to its present all-time high. Yields per acre have averaged 20 per cent more during the past five years than during the previous 20, and on some crops the increase and on some crops has been phenomenal.

The total acreage increase needed to meet the 1944 goal, most of which will be devoted to food crops, will be about 16,000,000 acres. Av erage yields would result in the hoped for upping of production over last year. Chief increases in acreage planned

by U. S. farmers are 50 per cent more sugar beets, 24 per cent more ing and by-product feeds may be larger in the coming months, the wheat, 23 per cent more peanuts, 21 per cent more dry peas, 19 per cent more soybeans, 1 per cent more

chickens and turkeys raised, togeth-er with a sufficient volume of live-stock slaughter to reduce the num-ber of meat animals on farms from again in 1944, is not expected to pre-sent any unusual problems except in specific areas. The main difficul-ty will probably be to get the workthe record high reached in 1943. Such a volume of slaughter would bring an increase in total meat production this year of 8 to 10 per cent, and ers where they are needed when they are needed. As in 1943, farma 4 to 6 per cent increase over the all-time high reached in 1943 for the combined output of poultry, dairy ers will have to rely in the peak harvesting periods on voluntary help

from the urban centers. Assembling and marketing of crops, especially in the South, will need some attention to make the best possible use of the abundant har-vests to be sought during the year. Marketing problems may be expect-ed to remain largely local in character, and their solutions also local. Conservation practices will reduring the year will depend to a considerable extent upon the quan-tity of feed concentrates available ceive further emphasis in 1944, with attention focused on those practices

1944 GOALS CORN DRY PEAS CANE POTATOES POTATOES BEANS +52 +142 +142 +22 +22 DRY BEANS +21% 4+4 OATS MILK -7x +22 VEGETABLE HAY -112 +4: EGETABLES WHEAT +24 10+5% CHICKENS RICE -42 -1: SOYBEAN HOGS +192 -17 PEANUTS EGGS +23 +23 COTTON CATTLE Ŷ -5% SUGAL SHEEP -2% Q +50;

PERCENTAGE OVER 1943 ACREAGE AND UNITS)

to dairy producers. The feed situ-ation is expected to become tighter as locally grown crops are used up in areas where supplies are short. Livestock feed will be one of the chief problems in the northeastern dairy states and in the southern states where dairy farming is a comparatively new enterprise. It will enter into calculations everywhere, however, and in some areas maintenance of milk supplies may necessitate cutting in on other crops in order to provide sufficient feed. The estimated feed-grain produc-tion for 1943 was 116 million tons, 7 per cent less than the record out-put of 1942, but 16 per cent higher than the preceding five-year aver-age. While supplies of both wheat and rye available for livestock feed-

which will increase production this year and in 1945. The need is to keep a cover on the land, prevent immediate danger of erosion and apply vitalizing material to the soil in such forms as lime, superphosphate, slag and other fertilizers, green manuré "turn under" and legume planting. These are all calculated to aid in increasing yields as well as in preserving the productivity of the soil.

Conservation problems vary with the different regions, depending upon topography, soil, climate and con-servation needs of each state. Four points must be considered, says WFA, in determining the necessity for any specific practices. They are: 1. Will it contribute to increased

production 2. Will its returns be immediate and substantial?

understor

Japan's great air and shipping base of Rabaul on New Britain came within closer range of U.S. bombing planes with the marines' capture of two air strips on Cape Gloucester on the western end of the island. Following up heavy bombing which helped crumple the enemy's strong line of pill-

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC:

Bombings Jar Japs

boxes, the marines stormed remaining Gen. Krueger Jap positions with

the wide Pacific front, dropping gas-

Fifty per cent more meat was pro-

duced than during the 10-year pre-war average, but after allocations

to the government, civilian con-sumption was held to the prewar

rate of 132 pounds per person. Be-

cause of rationing, however, sup-plies were more evenly distributed

Meat output for 1944 was estimat-

ed at 25 billion, 600 million pounds,

of which 8 billion, 500 million pounds

AGRICULTURE:

Meat Production

than 24 billion pounds.

than formerly.

lend-lease purposes.

CCC Program



Germany's Scharnhorst.

southern Italy, aerial and naval warfare in Europe stepped up. Fleets of Allied bombers winged

their way over the English channel to pound Nazi fortifications along the French coast, and the RAF rained another 2,234 tons of explosives on battered, hapless Berlin.

Following the British home fleet's sinking of the 26,000-ton Nazi battleship Scharnhorst off North Cape, Norway, light Allied and German naval units tangled in the Atlantic off the French coast, with airplanes being called into play to help sink three enemy destroyers and a speedy blockade runner.

RUSSIA: **Reds** Advance

Delivering trip-hammer blows all along the 800-mile Russian front, Red armies surged forward again in the south as Germany's harassed high command shifted forces to check the big push.

The Reds' heavy blows in the south fell as German resistance stiffened in the north around Vitebsk. Quickly shifting the gravity of their attack, the Russ struck on a 110-mile front in the south, first punching hard at Zhitomir, then punching still harder above that railway hub at Koresten.

This winter's Russian offensive was a real slugging match, with each side in the south primarily con-cerned with exhausting the other.

To help stimulate production and fulfill commitments to support crop and livestock prices, the Commod ity Credit corporation spent 3½ bil-lion dollars during the 1943 fiscal year.

As of December 18, CCC possessed 32,898,338 bushels of wheat under 1942 loan, while 96,101,516 bushels were redeemed. CCC wheat stocks that date totaled 86,928,000 bushels.

Principal objective of the CCC's 1943 program was to increase the production of vegetable oils, dairy and poultry products and meats, and at the same time to underwrite OPA price ceilings.

U. S. NAVY: 42 Carriers

The U.S. finds itself well equipped as naval operations throughout the world quicken, with Uncle Sam's navy boasting of 42 aircraft carriers, including sleek destroyer-escorts for protecting convoys. The U.S. start-

ed the war with seven. Corsair and Hellcat fighter planes taking off from the carriers' decks have increased their striking power, and a deadly new dive bomber has

been put in service. During 1943, the navy trained twice as many pilots as in 1942, and three times many combat planes were sent to the front.

During 1943, arming of merchant ships was speeded, 4,000 now being outfitted with weapons. 1 per cent.

will be required for military and Besides sending wheat, flour, meats, fats and oils, the U. S. also has supplied 10,000 tons of seeds to Russ farmers.

Traffic Toll Drops

On the basis of reports for 11 months, the National Safety Council estimated that America's traffic death toll for 1943 would reach 23,000, 13,000 below the prewar year 1941. The north central region of the U. S. showed the sharpest decrease for the 11 month period, with 29 per cent less fatalities than in the fimi-



This was a fatal accident.

lar period last year. The mountain region recorded a drop of 28 per cent, the south central 24 per cent, the north Atlantic 22 per cent and the Pacific 6 per cent. Mount Vernon, N. X., was the largest city in the country without

a fatality in the country without a fatality in the first 11 months of 1943, while among cities of 250,000 population or more, St. Louis report-ed the biggest decline of 52 per cent and Philadelphia the smallest

A THIN, tireless Englishman helps make the fliers of the Eighth air force safer than Milton's 'helmed cherubims . seen

in glittering Of a Long Line of ranks with Tailors, This Son wings dis-Makes Steel Vests played." He covers more than the Americans' heads

with steel. They fly cap-a-pie. Well, nearly! If they aren't armed from head to foot they wear, besides a helmet, an armored vest. And it turned blows like Lancelot's shield. This war makes less and less sense. It uses every invention of history's most mechanized age, but the best protection for its champions is copied from the days of old when knights were bold.

A dozen years ago Leonard Barratt of the elassic Wilkinsop Sword company tinkered up an armored vest. Vests came easy to him. His father, grand and creat grandfathers were failors some were sold, in the Battle of Britain, to wives and sweethearts wanting extra protection for their airmen. Nearly two years ago Brig. Gen. Malcolm Grow, Eighth air force surgeon, heard of the dandy device. Scot-land Yard helped him run down the maker and shortly Barratt was working until all hours.

sweet potatoes, 11 per cent more fresh vegetables, and 9 per cent more dry beans. Small increases are set up for potatoes, sugar cane, and vegetables for processing.

The farm goals also recommend a 2 per cent raise in total milk and egg output, with a similar increase in the number of dairy cows. A slight decrease will be sought in



Amateur farmhands will be available again this year, particularly during the summer vacation period when many city boys and girls are willing to help raise food. This Long Island, N. Y., high school girl learned to milk during a four-week course.

of grain-con ing a units currently on farms is much above normal and considerably larger than a year ago.

Cattle-feeding operations are expected to be on a smaller scale than last season as to the number of cattle on feed, with shorter feeding periods also indicated.

Double-Cropping Emphasized.

Another problem of national scope is the continued need for double cropping to make possible the plant ing of some 15 million more acres to crops than there is good growing land to be planted. In 1943 farmers put 360,457,000 acres in crops on an actual acreage of some 340 million acres. This was accomplished by the planting of two or more successive crops on a given piece of land which otherwise would have lain idle after a single harvest for the year.

It is expected that inroads will have to be made in 1944 on summer fallow land, and that much idle land of low productivity may have to be brought into use if it does not seem feasible to continue double-cropping on certain farms or to increase suf-ficient of the permanent crop acre-age to take care of the planting goals. Pressure for cropland is go-ing to be heavy everywhere, says WFA, but especially in the West.

Machinery problems are not ex-pected to be as severe in 1944 as last year, although machinery for harvest will still be less in quantity than would be desirable. Som planting equipment will be at a pre-mium, also. Relaxation of specified restrictions by the War Production board, and continued efficient application of the time-honored sharing of equipment always a part of neigh-borly farming, will help alleviate its performance practical for the farmer?

4. Can it be easily and effectively administered?

For example, the use of more fertilizer is recognized as a major method of increasing food production on the proposed acreage of crop-land, without increasing labor and farm machinery requirements. The use of fertilizer is estimated as probably accounting for a minimum 20 to 25 per cent of total food production in 1944, if supplies are avail-able as anticipated.

Assistance Available.

Government aids to assist farmers are available for the most part through the County Farmer Commit-teemen of the Agricultural Adjustment agency and the County War boards. These include help in pro-curing essential machinery and supplies, labor, information on marketing and transportation, necessary redit; and transportation, necessary credit; and technical assistance of various kinds. Certain types of loans are expected to be available which will aid food producers.

Overall objective of the 1944 farm program, with its record-breaking goals on acreage and production, is to supply the largest amounts pos-sible for food, feed and fiber for war without destroying future productiv

Emphasis will be on production of crops with high food value for direct crops with high food value for direct human consumption. War demands call for the right amounts of food, the right kinds of food, and food in the right places at the right time. That is why producers are plan-ning to grow the things that will stretch the food supply to the ut-most.