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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Nations Are Stunned by Stories Of Jap Atrocities to War Prisoners; Reds Surge Forward Below Leningrad; Fifth Army Continues March to Rome

(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.)

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Beauty Parlor—Just like that, T-4 Joseph Drescher of Leavittsburg, Ohio, dropped into this chic little salon on Bougainville in the Solomons for a haircut, shine and manicure.

JAP ATROCITIES:
'Death March'

"Death March on Bataan."

In these four ghastly words, the late Lieut. Col. William Dyess, who led a party of officers and men in escaping from Jap imprisonment, told a still more ghastly story of horror and atrocity committed against the heroic U. S. and Philippine defenders of Bataan by the enemy.

On 85 miles of road leading from Bataan to San Fernando, Colonel Dyess related in a war and navy department release, U. S. and Filipino troops plodded along from dawn to dusk for six days, thirsting under a piercing sun. Sick and delirious were dragged from the straggling columns and cruelly put to death. In one instance, prisoners were forced to bury three Americans and Filipinos alive at bayonet point.

Conditions in prison camps were equally atrocious, the army and navy report revealed. At one camp, the death rate was 20 Americans and 150 Filipinos a day in the first week. In the second week the rate jumped to 50 Americans and 500 Filipinos through starving and overwork.

Strike at Supplies

To make sure that there will not be another Tarawa when doughboys land in the Marshalls astride our supply lines in the mid-Pacific, U. S. bombers continued pounding defense installations in the islands.

On New Britain, Allied bombers struck hard at shipping in the port of Rabaul, which feeds barges supplying Jap troops through coastal depots.

With their bombers striking at enemy supply lines, U. S. troops drove farther inland, both on New Guinea and on Bougainville.

RUSSIA:
Form Trap

Fighting raged on two widely separated sectors of the 800-mile Russian front, with the Reds fanning out below Leningrad in the north, and the Nazis counterattacking to strengthen their position 80 miles from the Rumanian border in the south.

As the Reds surged forward below Leningrad, they chewed two big holes in the Germans' positions on the northern and southern ends of this front, threatening to swing toward each other and throw a loop around the enemy's rear.

Far to the south, the Germans pushed slowly into Russian lines above the Rumanian border, keeping massed Red armies off balance, more than attempting any real breakthrough. In Poland, Nazi resistance stiffened.

Reject Mediation

The U. S. offer to mediate Russia's claim to one-third of prewar Poland was rejected by the Reds, and the situation became even more complicated with Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's declaration that Great Britain could not recognize any territorial changes made during the war without consent of the parties concerned.

Russia's rejection of the U. S. mediation bid emphasized Stalin's disposition not to deal with the present Polish government - in - exile, which he has accused of strengthening Germany by its requests that an impartial commission investigate Nazi charges that the Reds slew 10,000 Polish officers near Smolensk.

ITALY:
At Nazis' Rear

With their supply lines leading to Cassino under fire of the Fifth army advancing inland from their invasion beachheads below Rome, the Germans launched a series of counter-attacks in the new battle region while their long-range artillery sought to break up Allied troop concentrations.

Near Cassino U. S. and French forces moved through rugged Nazi fortifications to ring that key to the broad highway to Rome on two sides, while farther to the south, British units battered against the right flank of the enemy defense line.

By surging inland after their landings on the sandy beaches below Rome, the Fifth army threatened to cut off an estimated 100,000 German troops in the Cassino area, some of whom were being withdrawn back to counter the new Allied thrust. As the Germans moved back to meet the threat, Allied bombers roared in to machine-gun the columns.

ARGENTINA:
Breaks With Axis

Declaring that a huge Axis spy ring within Argentina was working to overthrow the country's self - rule which previously had deemed relations with Germany and Japan to its best interests, President General Pedro Ramirez signed a decree breaking off diplomatic ties with Berlin and Tokyo.

Gen. Ramirez

Argentina's action followed U. S. refusal to recognize the revolutionary government of Bolivia on grounds that the new regime was linked with a subversive movement in South America designed to disturb Allied relations.

Obviously delighted by the turn of events, U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull declared: "It must be assumed . . . that Argentina will now proceed . . . to adopt other measures which all of the American countries have concerted for the security of the continent."

SOLDIER VOTE:
Big Issue

Already a big issue of the present congressional session, the question of soldier voting in 1944 became a bigger issue when President Roosevelt directly appealed to the legislators to provide for federal supervision over service balloting.

Declaring that a system of absentee voting in which states would determine eligibility and print complete ballots would involve too much shipping and time, the President asked that the federal government be allowed to distribute blank ballots on which soldiers would then write in the names of their election choices or merely the name of the political party they favored.

Champions of states rights assailed the President's recommendations, standing firmly for state supervision over registration to assure that each ballot is cast by the registrant himself, and objecting to the services' power to decide the voting time because permission might be given just before or in the midst of a great battle, when soldiers might feel that the country should pull together behind directing leadership.

FARM PRICES:
Supports Announced

Subject to congressional approval, the War Food administration announced support prices for 34 principal farm products, with the only big decrease being the $1 per hundredweight for hogs effective October 1.

Loans for corn and wheat would be made at 85 per cent of parity, and for cotton, rice and tobacco at 90 per cent of parity. Potato supports would be pegged at 90 per cent of parity compared with 92 in 1943.

On a per bushel basis, support prices would be higher on soybeans by 14 cents, flaxseed 10 cents, barley and grain sorghums 10 cents and sweet potatoes 10 to 20 cents.

Peanut supports would be raised by $10 a ton, sugar beets $1.50 a ton, and sugar cane 30 cents a ton.

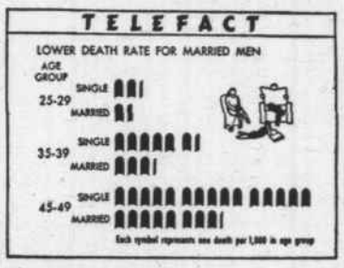
NEW TAXES:
Only Hope Chest Spared

Only the hopeful young misses stocking their hope chests got any kind of a break from senators and congressmen drawing up a compromise $2,000,000,000 tax bill.

With over $1,000,000,000 in so-called luxury levies agreed upon, only silver plated flatware (knives, forks, etc.) escaped taxation. Otherwise, the lawmakers decided upon a 20 per cent tax on jewelry.

In raising $1,000,000,000, the legislators recommended a 25 per cent tax on cosmetics and toilet articles; 1 cent tax on every 5 cents of amusement admissions; 30 per cent tax on cabaret or night club bills, and $20 annual tax on pool tables and bowling alleys.

It was also recommended that air mail postage be boosted to 8 cents and locally delivered mail to 3 cents.



CIVILIAN TIRES:
Less Predicted

Because chemical difficulties have been encountered in processing oil into synthetic rubber ingredients and military requirements have increased, a cutback in civilian tire production from 30 to 20 million casings for 1944 loomed.

Production of heavy duty tires for busses and trucks also was expected to fall below expectations, since a mixture of natural rubber is required for manufacture of these casings and the natural rubber stockpile has dropped to a low level, partly because of the failure of South American growing programs to fully develop.

The rubber pinch also has affected recapping plans, with the government again specifying reclaimed scrap for retreads.

PETROLEUM WAXES:
Waterproofers

To help meet the military services' crying need for water and other proofing, the petroleum industry produced 390,000 tons of waxes in 1943, a notable achievement since certain crudes have a wax content of only three-fourths of 1 per cent.

In 1944, emphasis will be placed on production of micro-crystalline waxes, which have proven especially useful in packaging food rations because thin coatings resist moisture and the substance retains its flexibility in low temperatures. Micro-crystallines are further useful in proofing army shoes against mustard gases and protecting metal parts from the elements.

WHISKY:
None to Be Made

Because industrial requirements for alcohol in 1944 will approximate 632,000,000 gallons and keep distilleries operating at 150 per cent of their rated capacity, no whisky will be manufactured this year, War Production Czar Donald Nelson declared.

Donald Nelson

Alcohol reserves had dropped to 80,000,000 gallons by December, 1943, a dangerous level, Nelson said, because synthetic rubber plants, arsenals, powder plants and tank terminals for lend-lease require a working inventory of 30,000,000 gallons.

To assure 1944 supplies, Nelson said the War Production board was seeking to secure sufficient molasses and corn for distilleries, to persuade the British to meet their own requirements by processing molasses from the Caribbean, and rushing new grain alcohol plants to completion.

Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK. — After 1940 it seemed that Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntyre had had official instructions to look on only the bright side of all presidential microbes. In '40, after the usual pokes and taps and lab tests, he announced that his White House patient wasn't so good. In '41, however, he said the subject was in grand health and he said the same in '42 and '43. But now, following that recent bout with the flu, he is firm in his order that the President coast for a while.

This 3rd Termer Will Also Take 4th If Voters Say So

McIntyre, chief doctor to President Roosevelt for three terms and a cinch for the assignment if voters approve a fourth term, is stocky, broad-faced, full-mouthed, bald and assured, as all good doctors must be. Born in Oregon, he married and practiced for a while before entering the navy in 1916 as medical corps lieutenant, j.g. Until he took on the top-to-toe care of President Roosevelt he specialized in eye, ear, nose and throat matters and was good enough to be elected a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has decorations from Brazil, Sweden and Belgium.

When he went to the White House he was a captain, but he was boosted over a lot of seniors into the navy's surgeon generalcy and made a rear admiral forthwith. His order is that the President keep between 184 and 188 pounds, which cuts off second helpings but allows an unlimited variety of food. He didn't order but approves the President's eight hours of sleep and breakfast in bed between eight and nine. Dinner he leaves to Mrs. Roosevelt.

KINFOLKS seem to have guided the hand of fate which brings Leighton Goldie McCarthy now to the post of first Canadian ambassador to the U. S. He is a top-drawer statesman and business man, of course; and for that may take some personal credit. But consider his grandfather! A solicitor back in Dublin, he came to Canada because a partner left him short of cash and Canada seemed the best place for a fresh start. McCarthy wouldn't likely be the new ambassador except for that Irish trouble.

Let's Give All Due Credit to Kinfolks Of Amb. McCarthy

Then there is the fact that his family has long held a seat in the Canadian house of commons. Young Leighton, who was born in Ontario, near blue Lake Huron, helped his uncle win the seat in 1891 and that, no doubt, inspired him to run for the seat himself in 1898. He held it until 1908. He has been Canadian Minister to Washington since 1941.

Early in life he studied law in an uncle's office in Barrie, Ont. Relatives, again! He has represented aluminum interests and is chairman of Canadian Life, the oldest Canadian life insurance company. A humanitarian, he is a trustee of our National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and visits the President yearly at Warm Springs. They are old friends.

Mr. McCarthy is a spare, polished man, six feet tall. Although he is 75 years old now, it is easy to believe that he once excelled at rough tough lacrosse. Fishing, golfing and riding are his present interests.

THE Russians can't be reading King Carol's recent clippings. When his expensive press agent was hired the idea was to fill even Moscow's new papers with stories of a sort to draw a halo around the head of Rumania's runaway ruler. A lot of pieces landed in a lot of papers, good ones, too. But here is Moscow calling Carol a comic opera fellow and warning that he will never, never get his throne back.

Reds Say There're Still Kings a Cat Wouldn't Look At

Such stubbornness will dismay Carol down in Mexico City's suburban Coyoacan where he lives a simple life intended to convince his worst enemies that he is changed for the better. A Hohenzollern on his father's side, kinsman of British royalty on his mother's, he keeps to a practically peasant routine. He and Madame Lupescu live in a small house with only one servant, six dogs and in the master's bedroom only seven suits of clothes.

Tradition Gives Lincoln Three 'Birthplaces' But Historical Research Establishes the Fact There Was Only One; It's Near Hodgenville, Ky.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

ONE of the most famous of all newspaper cartoons, appropriate to the annual observance of Lincoln's birthday, was drawn by H. T. Webster while he was on the staff of the old New York World. It has become a Newspaper Classic, i. e., annually it is "reprinted by request." It is:

HARDIN COUNTY, KY., 1809

If you go down into Hardin county, Kentucky, today expecting to see the place where the new baby was born "down t' Tom Lincoln's," you'll be disappointed. For you won't find there the log cabin in which that historic event took place. But if you drive east into Larue county to the little town of Hodgenville, the county seat, then go 2½ miles south, you will see, enshrined in a temple of stone, this rude little structure and you will be told that it stands on the very spot where it stood when Abraham Lincoln was born within its log walls on February 12, 1809.

Why this apparent discrepancy in the geography of Lincoln's birthplace? Well, the explanation is simple. When Tom and Nancy Hanks Lincoln became the parents of a son, their home stood within the boundaries of Hardin county. Years later Hardin was divided into two counties and the eastern part of it, including "Tom Lincoln's place" on Nolin creek, became Larue county. So there's some truth in the statement that "Abraham Lincoln was born in two counties," paradoxical though that statement may sound.

Other Inconsistencies.

Nor is that the only apparent inconsistency in regard to the site of Lincoln's birth. Several years ago, Rev. William E. Barton, one of the leading biographers of the Great Emancipator and the man who, perhaps more than any other historian, has cleared up many of the mysteries surrounding the name of Abraham Lincoln, wrote an article under the title of "Three Places Claim Honor of Being Birthplace of Lincoln." It reads, in part:

Homer had seven birthplaces; Lincoln had at least three—according to divergent Kentucky traditions.

First of the houses in which Abraham Lincoln is said to have been born is the Berry house at Beechland, Washington county, Kentucky.

If we should go to Beechland, we will find the house is not there. It has been moved to Harrodsburg, where it stands as a kind of museum, not very intimately associated with Lincoln, who never in his life was in Harrodsburg.

The house today bears little resemblance to its former self. Fortunately, however, it was photographed while on its original site. In this house, the home of Richard Berry, the President's parents, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, were married by Rev. Jesse Head, June 12, 1806.

Washington county people have a formidable group of affidavits from old and truthful people who declared that Abraham Lincoln was born there; that his people did not remove to Hardin county till he was a lad several years of age; and certain witnesses affirmed on oath that they saw him as a child playing about the door of the Berry house.

My own impression is that these people were truthful and that they may have seen the little lad, Abraham Lincoln, playing about this house. The parents of Abraham Lincoln were married in this house; he doubtless visited it in his early childhood and may have lived several months beneath its roof, but we must look elsewhere for his birthplace.

So we go to Elizabethtown. The house we wish to see is not standing, but we can find people who will assure us that Lincoln was born there and who will show us the unattractive location. What they are showing us is the place where Thomas and Nancy Lincoln spent their honeymoon, and lived from June, 1806, till the spring of 1806. Here Abraham's little sister, Sarah, was born.

The cabin that stood here was the first house advertised as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln and the picture is still frequently shown as such. This house was standing at the end of the Civil war. It was first photographed, apparently, for "The Campaign Document," in which William M. Thayer, in 1864, told of the "Character and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln." But Thomas Lincoln did not build this cabin, and Abraham was not born there and never lived there. The last vestige of this cabin has disappeared.

The actual birthplace of Abraham Lincoln was a log cabin which, after many removals, now stands not far from its original site on Rock Spring farm on Nolin creek, 2½ miles south from where the village of Hodgenville now is, in what was then Hardin and now is Larue county, Kentucky.

A Romantic History.

This cabin, which was the true birthplace of Lincoln, has a romantic history. It stood on a tract of 300 acres, known as the Sinking Spring farm, which Thomas Lincoln bought in December, 1808, for 66⅔ cents per acre. Here little Abe Lincoln lived until he was four years old. Then his father abandoned the place because of litigation involving a flaw in the title and moved his family 10 miles northeastward to another farm of 30 acres on Knob creek, which he had previously purchased.

Several years later (two different dates, 1827 and 1835, are given for this event) a certain Henry Brother bought the Sinking Spring farm and lived in the Lincoln birthplace cabin for several years. Then, according to Beveridge, who quotes J. T. Hobson's "Footprints of Abraham Lincoln" as his authority for the statement, Brother tore down the cabin and used the logs for firewood. The accuracy of this statement, however, is doubtful and, as will be seen later in this article, it has been refuted.

There seems to be good reason to believe that the cabin was still standing on its original site in 1860 when Lincoln was elected President. Soon afterwards it was purchased from the man who then owned the farm by George Rodman who moved it to another farm about a mile and a half from the Sinking Spring farm. There it remained during the turmoil of the Civil war and after being used a number of years as a shelter for Negro families and as a tenant house, it was used as a school house in 1872 and 1873.

A certain John Davenport married the school-teacher and they lived in the cabin from 1875 to 1894, when it was bought by A. W. Dennett and moved back to its original site on the Sinking Spring farm.

The cabin was not destined to remain on its original site long, however. Soon afterwards it was bought by Rev. J. W. Bingham who took it down and shipped the 143 logs in it to Nashville, Tenn., for a centennial celebration there. Next it was moved to Central park in New York city where it was on exhibition for a time and in 1901 it was exhibited at the Buffalo exposition. The next owner was David Greer, who stored it in the old Poffenhausen mansion in Long Island City, N. Y.

Bought by Collier.

In 1906 Robert J. Collier bought the Sinking Spring farm and presented it to the Lincoln Farm association, "a patriotic organization formed by American citizens for the purpose of preserving as a national park the farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born." The president of this association was Joseph W. Folk, governor of Missouri, and its trustees were a group of distinguished citizens, including Mr. Collier, who also bought the Lincoln cabin. The logs were shipped to Kentucky, accompanied by a guard of honor sent by the state, for a homecoming celebration in Louisville and then taken to the Lincoln farm.

"The cabin, I am reliably informed, originally stood near to the spring," writes Barton. "After its first removal, it was reerected on the top of the slope leading up from the spring. When it was taken down for exhibition purposes, this site was marked by a post; and when the cabin was purchased and rebuilt, it was erected around the post which still stands in the middle of the cabin floor."

In this log cabin near Hodgenville, Ky., Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809.

The Lincoln Farm association, by popular subscription, not only raised an endowment of $50,000 to maintain the homestead but provided an impressive memorial at a cost of nearly $225,000 to house the little log cabin. In 1916 the title to the farm was transferred to the United States government which, in accepting the property and the administration of the endowment, agreed to maintain the farm, preserve the cabin and never charge an entrance fee to the public. Thus the farm became a national park.

In September, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson journeyed to Hodgenville to accept the new national shrine on behalf of the nation and on that occasion declared that it was "an altar upon which we may forever keep alive the vestal fire of democracy as upon a shrine at which some of the deepest and most sacred hopes of mankind may from age to age be rekindled." Unfortunately, however, the government did not keep its promise as far as maintaining the farm properly was concerned. During the next 10 years the place was permitted to fall into disrepair, owing to a lack of maintenance funds. Then in 1928 Rep. M. H. Thatcher of Kentucky reported as a "national disgrace" the fact that "the Lincoln memorial farm is now grown up in bushes and briars, gullies are being washed across the land and at times the approach to the memorial is covered with several inches of silt. The spring where Lincoln drank as a boy and which supplied water for the household is flooded in rainy weather so as to foul the water . . . Yet, this is one of the greatest shrines in the country, and the government of the United States, having taken over this property, is under at least a moral obligation to provide for its maintenance."

As a result of this disclosure congress passed a bill providing $100,000 for the rehabilitation of the farm and authorizing future appropriations as may become necessary for its preservation. One of President Coolidge's last official acts before leaving the White House was to sign this bill.

The Legend Lives On.

In the meantime the legend that the logs in the rebuilt cabin in the stately memorial were not the original logs, would not die down. In 1920 the Kansas City Star published a story about the Lincoln memorial at Hodgenville which brought from Judson S. West, justice of the Supreme court of Kansas, this statement:

In August, 1879, I visited the scene of Lincoln's birthplace a few miles from Hodgenville, Ky., and drank from the beautiful stream which flows off the ledge of rocks. The cabin in which Mr. Lincoln was born had then been burned for some time and from the ashes of the debris where the fire occurred, I gathered up some relics to take home. No one has seen and no one will ever see the original cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born.

In reply the Star declared it "has no correction to offer on the story published. The log cabin in which Lincoln was born stands on the spot where it was originally built, enshrined in an imposing building of granite." It then tells of the work of the Lincoln Farm association, mentions some of the men who were trustees and declares "It is hardly possible that citizens of their standing would allow an imposition in the matter of Lincoln's birthplace." The statements of such a careful and conscientious historian as Rev. William E. Barton seem to be sufficient verification of that assertion and Americans who visit this "shrine of democracy" at Hodgenville today can feel certain that they are gazing upon the veritable logs of the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born.