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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Forces Rip Jap Pacific Defenses; Complete Organization of New Agency To Supervise Surplus War Goods Sale; Heaviest Aerial Attacks Blast Germany

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.



New Guinea—Following a strict medical examination, New Guinea natives receive training equipment for military police duty in Papuan foothills against bandits and tribesmen.

CONGRESS: Democratic Revolt

Relected by the senate's Democratic majority as its floor leader after breaking with President Roosevelt on the tax veto, burly Sen. Alben Barkley (Ky.) took back the reins of a balky party, but not without an eye on restoring harmony in its ranks with its principles.

Barkley's break with F.D.R. came as a result of the President's rasping attack on the \$2,300,000,000 tax bill, which he said was an "inedible crust" offering relief to "the greedy instead of the needy." It was not the question of the increased taxes but rather of the size and nature of the new levies which promoted the differences between the Chief Executive and congress, and Barkley's position indicated stiffening congressional independence in formulating legislation, rather than an all-out repudiation of Democratic principles.

The same attitude prevailed in the house, where 80-year-old Rep. Robert Doughton's declaration that he "parted company" with F.D.R. on the tax veto set the stage for congressional overriding of the veto.

WAR GOODS: Sell Surplus

With the U. S. treasury preparing to sell 20,000 horses, 10,000 motor trucks and 4,600 motorcycles released by the army, the Surplus War Property administrator, William L. Clayton, was completing organization of the newly created agency to supervise disposal of all such goods.

Although the treasury already has disposed of 100 million dollars worth of surplus material chiefly to lend-lease and other U. S. agencies, the new unit was established by the President upon recommendation of the Baruch postwar planning committee to supervise sale of excess government goods so as not to glut and disrupt ordinary markets.

Principal task of Clayton's agency will be to determine selling and distribution policies and insist on minimum prices, leaving actual sale of material to the various government departments which originally produced the goods.

EXTEND CCC: Subsidies Included

With consumer subsidy foes unable to override a presidential veto, the senate passed a bill extending the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation until June, 1945, and permitting its use of from 750 to 900 million dollars for payments to hold down retail food costs.

Headed for acceptance in the house, whose banking committee approved similar legislation, the bill also calls for continuation of price-support programs to assure farm production, a feature endorsed by those who opposed consumer subsidies or government payments to processors and others to cut retail prices.

A recent check by CCC showed that only one billion of its three billion dollar funds have been obligated and the remainder are available for extended operations. War Food Administrator Marvin Jones' request for an additional \$500,000,000 postwar fund was turned down.

RUSSIA:

Army Anniversary

Celebrating the 28th anniversary of the creation of the Red army with "Molotov cocktails," Russian forces continued bending back German lines at both ends of the 800 mile front. Meantime, it was also indicated that peace negotiations with the Finns progressed.

As the Nazis announced retirement movements on the eastern Estonian border, the Reds drove on the important rail and highway hub of Pskov, communication gateway to the Baltic states.

At the southern extremity of the front, the Russ kept chewing off chunks of the German wedge extending far to the rear of their lines in Poland, with the iron, copper and coal center of Krivoi Rog falling into their hands after almost 2 1/2 years of enemy occupation.

Stub in the Finnish peace moves was the presence of 175,000 Nazi troops in the country's mineral-rich north.

WORLD AIRWAYS:

Blimps in Picture

Forgotten recently because of the spectacular action of the airplane in the present war, the huge, sleek dirigible has slipped quietly back into the picture, with the U. N. Airships Incorporated's application for five routes from Washington, D. C., to large cities in all parts of the world.

Using noninflammable helium, the U. N. Airships Inc., would operate passenger and cargo dirigibles over 41,633 miles of world routes to Calcutta, India, via Dakar, French West Africa; Buenos Aires, Argentina, via Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Capetown, South Africa, via Zanzibar, British East Africa; Brisbane, Australia, via Los Angeles, Honolulu, Chungking, China, and Darwin, Australia; and finally to Moscow, via Glasgow, Scotland.

Although the dirigible's speed is limited to 75 to 100 miles per hour as compared with the airplane's 150 to 200, blimp enthusiasts say the huge lighter-than-air craft can cruise greater distances and provide passengers with more luxurious quarters.

BREAK STRIKE:

Army in Los Angeles

With a strike of its AFL electrical workers tying up repair of damaged power lines feeding war plants and private homes and business houses, Los Angeles called upon the army to take over the city's municipal water and power department and restore stricken facilities.

Power lines were downed during one of southern California's severest storms on record, 7.3 inches of rain flooding homes and chasing small water craft into coastal ports. Glancing over the drenched countryside, rough and tumble film actor Wallace Beery groused: "One advantage in the South Pacific is that down there they've got islands."

When the army moved in on presidential order, the strikers who walked off the job in a wage dispute, went back to their work after a 10-day layoff.

ARGENTINA:

New Chief

Having drawn the displeasure of Argentina's celebrated "Colonel's Club" which stands as the dominant force in Argentine politics, Gen. Pedro Ramirez turned over his presidency to Gen. Edelmiro J. Farrell, army favorite.

Ramirez' action climaxed the crisis created when his foreign minister stood for declaring war on the Axis and subsequently was fired on the insistence of the ultra-neutral "Colonel's Club."

Although Ramirez' foreign minister left his cabinet, he evidently lost the confidence of the "Colonel's Club," which then promoted Farrell to the high position.

Take Out OUCH!

Long the terror of even the bravest of heart, dental drilling may soon be relieved of much of its pain by general adoption of a new technique used by the army.

The new technique is simple in itself, the dentist pouring cold water into the patient's mouth at the rate of eight ounces a minute, while drilling, and draining the same amount out through another tube. By circulating about the mouth, the water cools the drilled tooth, the pain of which is caused by heat generated by friction of the drill.



They tell you it actually happened. I dunno . . . He was managing editor for a New York syndicate. Now with OWI . . . Several years ago a comic strip was submitted to him . . . He liked it. Recommended it for syndication . . . The boss to whom he delivered it took it home . . . Next day he memo'd it wouldn't do. The kids he showed it to didn't care for it, he said . . . The young cartoonists were disappointed, of course . . . They finally got their strip started in a cheap comic weekly—for practically nothing per week . . . Every year they brought it back to the m.e., who liked it, but he couldn't get it on his chain . . . The boss still didn't like it . . . Another syndicate made an offer, but the boys gave the m.e. another chance . . . They were turned down . . . It now grosses \$5,000 per week via royalties from newspapers, radio and gadget makers . . . The first syndicate boss, who spurned it so many times, demanded to know what happened . . . The strip is the renowned "Superman."

He is a nice kid—always laughing or smiling . . . He worked for an ad agency before the war started, where they used to kid him a lot because he liked colorful cravats and apparel . . . No zoot suiter, more Lucius Beebe . . . One day they nearly drove him out of the place because he turned up wearing a purple-colored vest . . . Then came the draft, and he was among the very first accepted . . . After 17 months in action he showed up again . . . Now, wherever he goes, his old pals show him considerable respect, even though he wears purple . . . On his chest.

His life's ambition was to be a name bandleader . . . Studied almost every instrument . . . He finally became one of the great arrangers, instead . . . He couldn't "front" for a band, it seems . . . Wasn't the type, the agents said . . . So he was hired as head arranger for a well known orchestra . . . The leader of which was a "front man" because he looked it . . . The front man could never read a note of music, but he had a baton man's "personality," whatever that is . . . Each performance the arranger stood backstage and saw the "leader" take the bows for his work . . . Not long ago the arranger (who knows nearly every instrument) was inducted. Because of his musical background, by golly, he was made army bandleader, a commission due soon. The bandleader's front man was drafted a few weeks ago . . . You guessed it . . . He's a private in the infantry—still trying to keep in time!

New York Noveltie: She was a waitress in a small Midwest hotel . . . Because her feller played in the band . . . One day a stranger offered her a screen test chance . . . She spurned it . . . She wanted to be near her Joe—hoping he'd ask her to marry him . . . All unsuspecting her Josephus wrote one of those screwy nonsensical national anathemas which periodically sweep the land . . . So he upped and left for The Big Burg . . . Leaving her behind, of course . . . Two months later she followed her broken heart . . . In New York he blantly told her that his plans did not include her. He said he was waiting for a movie agent who was bringing him a contract for Hollywood any moment—and would she please leave? . . . She found herself staggering down the hall towards the elevators, where out stepped the guy who offered the screen test back home! He recognized her and had no trouble selling Hollywood to her right there . . . You anticipate me . . . Her Joe still is waiting for the same agent with his movie contract—and wondering whatinell happened?

Quotation Marksmanship: Mark Twain: Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not; and a sense of humor was provided to console him for what he is . . . Karen Cooper: In war, as in baseball, those who do the striking are against the men who are in there pitching . . . Louis Nizer: I don't like people who smoke a pipe of peace only for the purpose of creating a smoke-screen . . . H. Whitman: Billions of Jack Frost's paratroopers descended upon New York . . . A. Lincoln: By giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free . . . Richard Todd: We can never lose our way if we remember Lincoln's Gettysburg address . . . C. Carton: Speeches as long as a rainy week-end . . . Herald Tribune: Chennault Thorn in Tokio's Side, May Prove Dagger in Its Heart.

Generous Treatment of Axis Prisoners in United States Improves Conditions for Captured Americans

Red Cross Reports Men in German Hands Well Fed and Housed

By BARROW LYONS
WNU Staff Correspondent

In some 30,000 families throughout our land today the folks are thinking of some soldier from home who has fallen into enemy hands—now a prisoner of war far away. When our troops make the great push against the mainland of Europe, there will be more boys taken prisoners.

In the war prisoner camps within the United States, we hold some 175,000 enemy soldiers captured mostly on the battlefields of Africa, Sicily and Italy. Of these, 125,000 are Germans, 50,000 Italians. Only 116 are Japanese.

Many protests have been made to army authorities, because of the good treatment given these prisoners. Lots of people don't understand why enemy prisoners should be given the same comforts, the same medical attention, the same food as our own soldiers.

But there is a reason so compelling, that none can complain when it is understood. It is not for the sake of the prisoners, but in the interest of our own soldiers held by the enemy. They are the real object of our forbearance and solicitude. And, of course, our national honor is involved, for we agreed to give prisoners the same food and care as our own men under the Prisoners of War convention signed and ratified at Geneva on July 27, 1929.

Reciprocal Good Treatment.

Reliable reports made to the army indicate that the good treatment we have accorded prisoners has won for our own men in German prison camps conditions that are at least as good as those under which German soldiers live.

These facts were revealed for the first time to your correspondent by Maj. Gen. Allen W. Gullion, provost marshal general of the army, who has general supervision over prisoners of war. The actual guarding of the prisoners is a function of the prison camp commander who is under the control of the commanding general of the service command.

Censorship reveals that letters from relatives and friends express much gratitude and happiness over the way we are treating their men.

"We are informed by the International Red Cross that the Germans say that because of our good treatment of their soldiers, they are giving our men more liberties and better treatment," General Gullion told your correspondent. "The Geneva conventions required that each prisoner be given the same food as soldiers of the capturing power receive in base camps. According to the reports of Swiss observers, the Germans are living up to this provision; our men in some instances are getting even a little better food than the German soldiers, although the German facilities do not compare with ours.

"I think there can be only one answer to the complaint that we are treating the prisoners we take too well. One gets it when one asks the question: Is it better to yield to a very natural, vengeful impulse to take it out on our prisoners, or to observe our treaty agreements and protect our own men?"

Few Escape.

There have been complaints also that the prisoners we hold have not been sufficiently guarded; that too many have escaped to become a menace to the home population. General Gullion points to the facts. Of the 175,000 prisoners we now hold in this country, about 100 have escaped, but all except three have been recaptured and are in custody. The only men at large are two Ital-



The first German soldier to be taken prisoner in Iceland was Sergeant Manfrak, who bailed out of his Junkers plane after it had been hit by U. S. army fighters. He is shown at intelligence headquarters, enjoying the rations on the tray before him, despite a bandaged arm and numerous bruises.

ians who escaped from a branch camp at El Paso, part of the Lordsburg, N. M., camp, and one German who got away at Crossville, Tenn.

There has been complaint from organized labor lately because we have used some of the war prisoners for tasks in lumber camps and on road work, where there was no American labor available. General Gullion gives labor assurance that prisoners of war are not being put to work on any job where civilian labor is available in adequate supply. Prisoner of war labor is a temporary expedient to relieve the existing shortage of man power. The United States agreed at the Geneva convention to return all prisoners of war to their own countries at the conclusion of the war, hence the fear of competition with free labor is groundless, the general says.

Prisoners Out Pulpwood.

Prisoners have been in logging operations where American workers have left the woods to work in shipyards and machine shops at much higher wages, he explains. They have been useful in cutting and peeling pulp logs needed critically for containers in civilian industry and for newsprint, of which there is a shortage. Prisoners have been used also in maintaining roads in some areas where other manual laborers are very scarce. The tremendous importance of road maintenance, in view of the heavy traffic, is obvious.

Prisoners have been used also in laundries. Nearly everyone today has suffered inconveniences because of the shortage of laundry labor, and can understand this expedient. The story of Japanese prisoners is less happy. When a Japanese soldier is taken prisoner he is washed up—he never wishes to return to Japan for he is disgraced forever in the eyes of his countrymen.

We have in this country scarcely more than a hundred Japanese prisoners, and General MacArthur has only a few hundred more, according to General Gullion.

They are given the same food and accommodations as our own soldiers, because we hope by according such treatment to ameliorate the lot of our own 18,500 men held by the Japanese.

Yanks Had to Blast Japs Out of Holes On Marshalls

Doughboys of the Seventh infantry division who captured Kwajalein and other islands of the Kwajalein atoll during the invasion of the Marshall islands literally had to dig the Japanese out of the ground. Col. Cyril E. Faine, infantry, of New Straitsville, Ohio, who is now in the United States, acted as deputy chief of staff of the division during the six-day campaign. He said the Japanese defenders of the mid-Pacific coral base had taken refuge in hundreds of shell craters by the time the first waves of infantry hit the shore on January 31 (February 1, Pacific time).

"It was just like killing rats," he declared. "The whole island was rubble, after the preliminary bombing and shelling. The Japs had crawled underground wherever they could, and the infantrymen had to stoop at every hole and fire down into it, or throw grenades into it."

Playing Possum.

The Japanese were up to their usual nasty tricks, went on Colonel Faine. Even after they were hopelessly defeated, they refused to give up. At one point in the action, an American aid station was established close to a pile of three apparently dead Japs. Only two of them, it turned out, were really dead. The third, at the bottom of the heap, pulled himself up after playing possum for a long time and fired one ineffectual shot at an American officer. Other Japs blew themselves up with grenades.

The landing on the Marshalls, Colonel Faine said, was preceded by one of the most intensive bombardments of the war. Both army and navy planes participated, and later, warships pounded the Jap defenses. "One airstrip on the Wotje atoll was so chopped up," Colonel Faine said, "that not only couldn't the Japs get a plane off it, but you couldn't even have run a wheelbarrow along it."

Amphibious Warfare.

The aerial hammering kept up as the invasion armada, containing more ships than there were in our whole navy at the start of the war, swept over the horizon. As the landings started, Seventh Division infantrymen who had received special amphibious training drove their own "alligators" and "ducks" toward shore, and later ferried supplies back and forth from the mother ships.

The doughboys had relatively easy going when they first hit the beaches advancing 1,300 yards on the first day. On the second day, they began to run into lines of pillboxes, against which they advanced with combat engineers right behind them. With flamethrowers, grenades, and other weapons, the infantrymen calmly cleaned out each pillbox as they got to it. The engineers used 400 tons of dynamite on two islands alone, leveling everything on them.

TELEFACT

FEW JAP PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY U. S.

JAPANESE	400
GERMANS	111,000
ITALIANS	170,000