WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS -

Allies Hammer at Gustav Line: Japs Continue Advance in China; Delay Induction of Men Over 30

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

(EDITOM'S NOTE: When spinions are expressed in these celumns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



China—Allies fight to open back door to China in southwestern part of country as depicted by 1 and 2, Japs seized control of Peiping-Hankow railroad in drives shown by 3 and 4.

EUROPE:

First Blow

Taking the first crack at Hitler's

Taking the first crack at Hitler's Fortress Europe in the expected three-headed offensive from the west, south and east, the U. S. and British armies in Italy launched a powerful drive against German Gustav line below Anzio.

In the west, Allied bombers poured thousands of tons of ex-

plosives on the Nazis' rail network in France, Belgium and Germany, over which anti-invasion Comdr. Erwin Rommel must shuttle troops

against his coastal defenses. In Russia, the Reds reportedly moved troops up in line for a big offensive to coincide with western operations.

Under command of Britain's Gen.

Harold Alexander, the Allied push in Italy up the broad valleys lead-

ing to Rome got underway after a thunderous artillery bombardment, while the Nazis tried to neutralize

other Allied forces massed on the Anzio beachhead in their rear to the

Although government troops arched in and out of Montgomery

Ward & Company's Chicago plant arousing the nation to a pitch over

the dramatic course of events, nothing, it seemed, had been settled.

An election had been held to de-termine the CIO United Mail Order,

Warehouse and Retail Employees' union right to bargain collectively

for the company workers, but Ward's had never objected to such an election and stood ready, as pre-

viously, to negotiate with the union.

Left unsettled, however, was

Ward's objection to extension of the maintenance of membership con-tract with the union, which provides

that its members must remain in good standing for the life of the

Confident of meeting the services'

demands for manpower out of the

pool of younger men unless un-expectedly high battle casualties are

suffered, draft officials gave a new lease on civilian life to men from

30 to 37 years of age by indefinitely deferring them if engaged in es-sential occupations.

At the same time, it was ruled that

men in the 26 to 29 year age group were to be eligible for six-month deferments if found to be necessary

and regularly employed in an essential occupation. Deferments in the 18

to 25 year age group will continue

to be confined to strictly key-men. In indefinitely deferring men in the 30 to 37 group in essential work,

local boards were advised not only to go by the War Manpower com-

mission's list of necessary jobs, but to make determinations of their own.

For use of attempted restoration

of sight in persons blinded by ex-

plosions, burns and ulcers, an "eye bank" has been established at the

New York hospital for storing cor-neas, the transparent part of the

Corneas will be collected either from living persons or from those arranging for their removal after

death, in which case they have to be obtained within four hours of

Cornea transplants are effective in

the individual's expiration.

'EYE BANK':

coat of the eyeball.

Store Corneas

DRAFT:

30-37 Spared

U. S. VS. WARD'S:

Nothing Settled

ASIA:

Chinese Set Back Gallant China's defenders took one more step back in the eastern belt of their country as 80,000 Japanese drove beyond the Peiping-Hankow railroad, upon which they tightened

As the Chinese fell back, Lieut.-Gen. Joseph Stilwell's mixed U. S. and Chinese troops hacked their way forward in north Burma, far to the southwest of the main Chinese battleground. Purpose of General Stilwell's offensive was to clear the Ledo road, over which supplies could be trucked into sorely pressed China from the southwestern corner of the

By grasping the Peiping-Hankow railroad, the Japs consolidated their positions in eastern China, which extend inland from the sea coast. It is in this rich region that the cagey enemy has established heavy industry to utilize the country's abundant manpower and natural resources.

Near Inner Lines

As U. S. army and navy forces drew closer to the Philippines and Indies within the Japs' inner defensive ring, Yankee airmen con-tinued to hammer at the enemy's tottering outer fortifications guarding these prized conquests.

To the west of Hollandia, army fliers pounded at Jap installations



Yank Feeds Wounded Jap.

near the tip of New Guinea, formand drew stiff fire from some of the planes the enemy has supposedly concentrated in the region.

To the north, both army and navy fliers collaborated in blasting at Jap installations in the Caroline islands, the front door to the Philippines, with the big base of Truk be ing an especial target.

OIL:

Big Strike

Mississippi's little village of Hei-delberg in the southeast corner of the state, became the mecca for the nation's sharpest oil men with the development of two high producing wells in the region and giddy antici-pations that it might blossom into another East Texas field, which has given up almost two billion barrels

As oil men rushed to be in on the kill, the region's poor, struggling farmers who have eked the barest living from the stingy soil, suddenly visioned manna from heaven. Be sides receiving fancy sums for leasing their land, they would get a royalty of one-eighth on production. Already, a Negro reportedly obtained \$17,500 in royalties alone.

First probed by the Gulf Refining company in 1940, the Heidelberg field has two heavy producing wells, both reportedly capable of producing 15,000 barrels daily.

WHEAT: Big Crop

With frequent spring rains over much of the country resulting in good plant development and improvement in yield outlook, the U. S. department of agriculture predicted a 1944 winter wheat crop of 662,275,000 hushels as compared with an 000 bushels as compared with an earlier estimate of 602,000,000 and a 1943 harvest of 529,606,000.

On the basis of 40,943,000 acres grown, yields are expected to average 16.2 bushels per acre, compared with 15.6 last year and the 1933-'42 average of 15.

Since January 1, the USDA reported, rainfall has replenished soil moisture supply, offsetting deficiencies at seeding time last fall in much of the Great Plains area. Failure of plants to germinate or survive because of dryness has been marked in the western portion of the Plains states, USDA said, and floods have damaged stands in the Mississippi and Missouri river ba-

High in a Tree-top



There was much ado before elec-tion officials recognized Coffing M. Arslanian's quaint little bungalow atop a 50-foot tree in Montelair, N. J., as a legal residence, entitling him to vote.

The rug merchant, who has barred visitors from his roost, has lived in the tree-tops since 1936.

Spoiled Cantaloupe

The U. S. department of agriculture's research laboratory at Peoria, Ill., continues as one of the centers of penicillin development, with the latest discovery that spoiled cante-loupe produces a mold efficient in making the wonder drug.

Although it is little known, British Doctors Heatley and Florey made the Peoria lab their workshop in developing methods of increasing peni-cillin production after they had been bombed out of London in 1941.

The discovery of the spoiled can-teloupe mold came only after the laboratory's scientists had studied growths on cheese, fruits and other foods as part of a search for a mold from which much of the penicillin would not be lost during separation of the drug from the liquid in which

A new process of extracting oil from tung nuts may result in the use of the residue as a protein feed for livestock as well as a material Chemist R. S. McKinney of the U. S. department of agriculture declared.

Under the old system of extraction through pressing, only about 85 per cent of the oil from the nut was obtained, McKinney said. By re-moving the oil with solvents, however, almost 99.9 per cent of the oil has been extracted, with probable use found for the residue or meal.

Used for all sorts of paints and varnishes and in brake-linings, tung oil has many other applications, Mc-Kinney said. The services have found it invaluable as an insulator for electric wiring and as a "dope" for waterproofing the wings of naval

CIVILIAN GOODS:

More Coming

To take advantage of the increasing supply of surplus materials and relieve local employment problems, the War Production board ordered the resumption of manufacture of civilian goods wherever it would not interfere with the arms program.

One result of the order was expected to be a relaxation of restraints on production of simple farm machinery, like hay loaders and barn equipment, although WPB declared that there would be no increase in quotas for binders, trac-

tors and mowers, etc.
Regions outside of the centers of heavy war output primarily will benefit from the WPB's new order, while companies inside these cen-ters will only go into civilian work restoring eyesight in 20 out of 100 with the permission of the local urcases of blindness, it is reported.

(Ray Brock, war correspondent, 4½ years in the Balkans for the N. Y. Times and practically en route at this moment to the European theater for International News Service, spellbound some of us with this breathless story. We asked him to jot it down.

Dear Walter: Here's the story precisely as Bea Tolstoi gave it to me the other night. I think it's one of the great, hitherto unwritten chapters in the war. Scene: Shepheards Terrace, Cairo. Time: Late afternoon, November 15, 1941. Ken Downs, then an ace war correspondent for the care of the control of the care Downs, then an ace war correspond-ent for Int'l News Service (he's now a lt. col. on Terry Allen's staff in Europe), was finishing a Scotch and the last five pages of "For Whom The Bell Tolls." Geoffrey Keyes in-terrupted him. Geoffrey, a lieuten-ant-colonel at the age of 24 (son of Admiral Roger Keyes), had ducked a desk inh in England to come out to a desk job in England to come out to Egypt, join the British desert commandos and raid the German and Italian rear-dynamiting airdromes, blowing bridges, playing general hell with the chemy, etc. But now Ken Downs told Geoffrey Keyes to go 'way. Ken was absorbed in the fic-tional last few minutes of Robert Jordan's life in the Bell, the unfor-gettable last few minutes when Jor-dan, with a smashed thigh, props himself against a tree and levels his tommygun on an approaching col-umn of Fascist cavalry . . .

Keyes was off with Capt. Colin Campbell and his commandos on the raid to kill Rommel, the raid the raid to kill Rommel, the raid that missed Rommel because the Afrika Korps general was in Rome on a birthday party—but it was one of the most daring operations of the war and won Keyes his Victoria Cross—posthumously. Keyes landed his commandos two hundred miles behind the Carren lines beabed. behind the German lines, beached his landing craft by night near Sidi Rafa. They hid two days and nights in a wadi (gully), trekked twenty miles on D-night and snaked up to the Afrika Korps GHQ.

They attacked with grenades, tom-myguns and machine pistols, Keyes leading. Keyes killed the first sen-try, kicked down the outer door and his raiders in, spraying the corridor with tommygun and pistol. Startled, frightened German staff officers poured from their billets. Keyes' men blasted them down. The sirens went, a general alarm being

The Germans got to their arms, began to fight back. Keyes' small force got smaller. But Geoffrey, still leading, took seventeen men through the last defenses in the inner stockade to Rommel's own quarters. Rommel's staff aide got Keyes, a machine pistol fusillade which almost tore Keyes' right leg off. Keyes fell in the doorway. Colin Camp-bell, behind him, dragged Keyes back from the threshold and hurled two grenades inside. Then he sprayed the room with his tommygun. Had Rommel been there he'd have

Campbell and a sergeant dragged firing as they fell back. Then Campbell was hit. "Get out!" Keyes ordered. "Take him out. Leave me here." They had reached the door of the outer stockade. "Give me that tommygun." Keyes took the submachinegun and propped himself in the door. Well. The rest of it came from Downs' report-as he got it from the sergeant-and from Colin Campbell, who wrote from a German prison camp.

They dragged Campbell to a tree They dragged Campbell to a tree nearby. His wound was pretty bad. They gave him morphine and he began to go under. But he could still see Keyes, in the first gray streaks of daylight, propped in the doorway and blasting away at the Germans in the stockade. The sergeant ran back to Keyes, but Geoffrey refused aid. He simply demanded more clips for his tommygun. The sergeant got them. gun. The sergeant got them.

"Listen-" Keyes fired a burst. 'Not more than two or three of you will get away. Some of you—" he fired again, a long, choppy burst that drove the Germans back to cover. "Some of you must get back to report-" he fired again and rammed home a fresh clip.
"Tell them—"

"Yes, sir!" snapped the sergeant.
"Get word to Ken Dowas," finished Keyes. "Tell him, if you will, that it happened this way. Good-by." The sergeant saluted and ran, zig-zagging, for a wadi and safety.
Campbell began to pass out. As
he went under he could see Keyes
firing, reloading, firing . . .

It Takes a Heap o' Fussin' to Make a Hall Into a Home For Major Political Parties' National Conventions

GOP and Democrats Work Harmoniously On Arrangements.

By AL JEDLICKA

Amid buzz and bedlam, color and decoration, and teeming thousands with their tingling enthusiasm, America holds its great political conventions

every four years.
As convention delegates fuss and fume through the lengthy, historic sessions, millions of Americans throughout the nation follow the pro-ceedings with attention and even heat, since either the Republican or the Democratic party embodies the principles they hold most consistent with their social ideals.

During the period of the conven-tions, well might it be said that the heart of the nation is centered in the localities of the meetings, bound-ing with the people's delegates, with ing with the people's delegates, with newspaper men, newsreel men and radio broadcasters milling to flash stories of the unfolding events to an anxious citizenry, and with visitors attracted by the great spectacles. Normally, cities compete to have the conventions held in their localities, since the delegates' and visitors' expenditures for held exceptions.

tors' expenditures for hotel accom-modations, food and entertainment and shopping in the business dis-tricts amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. But with the counsands of dollars. But with the country riding the crest of a profitable war boom this year, with housing facilities taxed and heavy demands made for limited stocks of merchandise, only Chicago actively bid for the conventions, offering each party \$75,000 for expenses. Ordinarily, it costs between \$100,000 and \$150,000 to run a retireal conventions. \$150,000 to run a national conven-

When both parties accepted Chi-cago's bids, financial problems thus were added to other special war-time difficulties confronting Republi-can Walter Hallanan of Charleston, W. Va., and Democrat Ambrose O'Connell of New York in making arrangements for the conventions. On these two men falls the responsibility of setting up the smooth functioning of the meetings assuring or-derly activity on the floor of the con-ventions and establishing facilities for quick transmission of news to

the waiting world outside.

Two Old-Timers.

Both O'Connell and Hallanan are old hands at conventions, O'Connell having attended his first as a member of Al Smith's entourage in 1928, and Hallanan his as a newspaper man in 1912. Although red hot parti-sans inclined to admit nothing, both men have worked together in making the principal arrangements, since the Republican convention of

June 26 will be followed by the Democratic on July 19.

Because of the heavy wartime strain on the railroads, transportation posed one of the big problems of this year's conventions. But the problem promises to be solved by use of day coaches by those within 61/2 hours of traveling time of Chiprovision of extra sleeping and dining cars for ac-credited representatives from farther distances. To assist delegates from Hawaii to attend, the navy will furnish plane service to the main-

Next to transportation, housing has presented another major difficulty. Although both parties were assured of approximately 5,000 rooms, the Republicans, for one, could use another 3,000. In quest of extra housing, Hallanan has even scoured Chicago's outlying apart-



ment districts for accommodations, and it was reported that some good Republicans offered to come to the aid by boarding convention attend-

As if O'Connell and Hallanan were not having trouble enough, they have been pestered for accommodations by that type of individual who feels that no business is so important as that of finding a particular room for him, even though all hotel arrangements are to be made by the head of the state delegation.

Plenty of Problems.
Preparation of Chicago's huge, streamlined Stadium for this year's conventions has not been without its problems, either. Until the Citi-zens committee which bid to bring the conventions to Chicago arranged to furnish the Stadium for \$25,000 to each party, Hallanan estimated that the cost of readying the amphitheater alone would amount to \$48,-000, not including rental. The services of over 100 men

working about three weeks are demanded for preparing the Stadium.

Canopies outside the main entrances must be draped with bunting. One hundred and twenty flags must be hung from the rafters to sway impressively above the floor. Three emergency "hospitals" must be set up and equipped with medical goods, light and water. A huge platform holding 180 people must be constructed, with a special confer-ence room underneath it. And, of

ions for the different state delegations must be put up. Elaborate preparations must be made to accommodate the press, newsreel and radio, especially this year when the two conventions will attract international attention. Already, reservations have been asked by newspaper representatives from Britain, Russia, South America, Chi-na, Sweden and French Africa, and, in all, about 3,000 observers with their technicians will be on the

course, seats enclosed within stanch-

U. S. and world. Not only will the press be seated in front of the main platform, but a special newsroom will be provided in the basement. At both places, telephone and telegraph facilities must be established to send out stories from the building. Darkrooms will be constructed for photogra-

to describe the proceedings to the

Microphones Everywhere. Important for transmitting the acual reality of the convention atmosphere to the world, all four of Amerca's great radio networks will make elaborate arrangements for cover-ing every detail of the conventions. Contact will be made with dele-gations through microphones on the

floor; portable equipment will be used to interview dignitaries throughout the entire building; spe-cial booths will be erected to ac-

and facilities will be installed to pick up the rumbling, rolling peal of the huge Stadium organ. Approximately \$6,000 will be spent

by the parties to furnish newsreel men with enough lighting to take moving pictures of the proceedings. With 10,000-watt incandescent searchlight units set up, enough light to illuminate a medium-size town will be provided cameramen shooting from the high rafters. This lighting

from the high rafters. This lighting must be arranged to permit shooting from any angle of the building without causing blind spots from too much light on any one point.

In making a success of a convention, the little things are as important as the big ones, and sometimes the little things cause as much bother as the big ones.

For instance, O'Connell and Hallanan have had their difficulties providing badges and tickets. Because

of wartime, metals have been unavailable for badges, and it has been necessary to secure plastic material. To convention - wise Ambrose O'Connell, there is metals for instance.

than meets the eye. For instance they must be so designed as to avoid catching onto clothing and ripping it, and all kinds of different types must be used to restrict the move-ments of the various attendants throughout the Stadium. Tickets a Headache, Too.

Also because of wartime, there has been a scarcity of certain paper stocks, a condition of particular pique to bustling Walter Hallanan, since it is necessary to print tickets on material that cannot easily be counterfeited.

Incidentally, in the distribution of tickets to the conventions, each delegation is allotted a percentage, usually depending upon the approxi-mate distance of its state from the meeting site. The idea, of course, being to provide more seats for those who might be able to come in by auto, etc., from neighboring re-gions. Civic committees which put up the finances to bring the conven-tion to their cities also receive an

tion to their cities also receive an allotment of ducats.

Unique, in that this year's conventions will be the second in the history of this country held during wartime—the first being in 1864—the impending Republican and Democratic meetings are expected to lack some of the flourish and hoopland by some days. However, they are lack some of the flourish and hoopia of bygone days. However, they are not expected to be bereft of all pop-ular enthusiasm so easily stirred over a candidate, or over the ex-pression of a party's outstanding principle stressing the hopes, the aspirations and the achievements of its partisans.

In their excitement over the swift stream of dramatic events often accompanying conventions, even the soberest politicians and statesmen sometimes forget their immediate environment and lapse into what afterthought must characterize as the

For instance, during the 1932 Democratic convention in Chicago, O'Connell remembers the heated fight over the election of a permanent chair-man, which would have demonstrated the strength of the contending factions.
As the fight developed, the Missis-

sippi delegation caucused, only to find venerable old Senator Pat Harrison absent. Without further ado, some members hurried off to his hotel and after pressing the urgency of the situation upon him, hustled him back to the convention hall in his pajamas, carpet slippers and bathrobe, there to cast his vote. As Hallanan said, this year's con-ventions will be marked by the so-

ber restraint of a nation at war. Once events have stirred up the attendants, the enthusiasm may carry over into the typical hysteria of these great national meetings,

