

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Dewey Pledges Strong Postwar Market for American Producers; Batter Nazi Defenses in France

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



Saipan—U. S. marines pay last respects to fallen buddies on Saipan in Marianas Islands.

EUROPE:

Big Battle

In a great drive to encircle the Nazi defense pivot of Caen on the eastern end of the 125-mile Allied front in Normandy, British Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery compelled German Field Marshal Von Rundstedt to commit large forces to the raging tank battles on three sides of the town.

As Montgomery forced Von Rundstedt's hand on the east flank, U. S. troops resumed the attack above the vital communications hub of St. Lo to the west, and U. S. engineers undertook to clear up the wreckage in the port of Cherbourg to permit its early use for funneling in supplies.

With Montgomery reportedly using 100,000 men in the Caen drive and pushing the offensive under a curtain of heavy artillery, tank and aerial fire, the Nazis were compelled to call in reserves to stem the British thrust, which threatened to remove the pivot on which the enemy had resisted Allied advances.

Russia

Within 250 miles of flaming front in north Russia, German troops slowly fell back before the powerful surge of Red forces chewing into the big bulge overhanging the southern end of the battle-line, and Hitler's last springboard to Moscow.

The Germans were compelled to retire from prepared strongholds when large Russian forces broke through their lines on all sides, threatening to encircle them from the rear.

In Finland, the Reds continued their offensive in the face of stiffening resistance both on the Karelian isthmus near the capital of Helsinki, and in the lake country farther to the east.

Italy

With the Germans moving in reinforcements and increasing their artillery and anti-tank gunfire, the Allied advance up the Italian peninsula was slowed by hard fighting.

Still operating in the mountainous terrain which lays before their last major defense line guarding the rich Po industrial and agricultural region to the north, the Nazis were taking every advantage of the rugged country to impede the Allies.

As U. S., British and French forces fought steadily ahead, the Nazis were converting little villages into small fortresses.

MEAT:

Beef Scarcer

Because of a 12 per cent decrease in supply of rationed beef as a result of larger allocations to the army, navy and lend-lease, point values on steaks and roasts for the month of July were raised to their highest levels.

Nearly all cuts of lamb were returned to rationing, with only breast, flank, neck, shank and lamb patties point free. Despite shortages of better grades of pork loins, all pork will continue unrationed.

Point-free for over a week, all so-called soft cheeses, including most varieties except cheddar, were put back on the rationed list at four points per pound. Canned milk was raised to two-third point per can from one-half.

DIPLOMACY:

Troubled Relations

Finland's refusal to lend its ear to U. S. approaches that it negotiate a peace with Russia, and the tiny Baltic state's determination to remain in the war beside Germany following promises of military aid, led to an open rupture of relations with this country.

At the same time, U. S. Ambassador Norman Armour was recalled from Argentina for consultation with state department officials, following reported increasing Axis sentiment in that South American country, particularly since the invasion.

Meanwhile, Gen. Charles de Gaulle was scheduled to confer with President Roosevelt over alterations in the U. S. attitude toward the French National Committee for Liberation as the provisional government of re-occupied territory.

CASUALTIES:

Total 250,000

As a result of losses of 24,162 men during the first two weeks of the invasion, total U. S. casualties up to June 22 approximated 250,000 killed, missing and wounded.

Total Allied losses in France were 40,549 for the two week period, with the U. S. dead averaging 12.7 per cent of American casualties; the British 13.5 per cent and the Canadian 12.9 per cent.

A large percentage of U. S. losses in the invasion came in the first two days, when elements of two divisions ran into a German division practicing maneuvers on the beaches. Enemy casualties were estimated at 70,000.

For the first four years of the war, Prime Minister Churchill placed British losses at over 667,000 men.

CHINA:

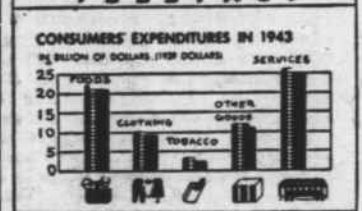
Japs Gain

Pressing their drive in southern China, the Japs threatened to seize the country's entire eastern seacoast and secure an unbroken rail route of over 1,000 miles.

The Japs pushed their offensive as U. S., British and Chinese efforts to open up a back-door into southeastern China from India slowed in the mountainous Burmese jungle country.

U. S. warplanes joined in the valiant Chinese defense against the Japs, who continued their favorite tactic of driving forward on either side of by-passed strongholds. Allied thrusts to open a back-door to China continued even as the Chinese asked for greater assistance to resist the enemy.

TELEFACT



LEND-LEASE:

In Reverse

With the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand pitching in, Britain's reverse lend-lease to the U. S. for the two years ending last March totaled 2½ billion dollars, and if continued at the same rate as the first three months of 1944, was expected to approximate 2 billion dollars for the whole year.

Out of the United Kingdom's contribution of almost 2 billion dollars, the U. S. received rail transportation to invasion ports; British planes; airfields and other construction; fresh vegetables and other foodstuffs; lightweight gas tanks; 25,000 miles of steel landing mats; thousands of parachutes, and 2 million pair of woolen socks.

Meats and dairy products constituted a major portion of Australia's reverse lend-lease of almost ½ billion dollars, while foodstuffs made up one-third of New Zealand's contribution of over 100 million dollars.

CIVILIAN GOODS:

Feeling Pinch

With large stockpiles dwindling and scarcities of material and manpower prevailing, the public will start feeling the shortage of civilian goods more and more from now on; an official of the War Production board declared.

Although some demand for such merchandise as electric irons, alarm clocks and aluminum kitchen-ware will be partially met this year, WPB disclosed, manufacture of stoves and other steel products and availability of lumber are expected to be affected by shortages of materials.

In remarking on the continued restriction of textile production because of the tight labor supply, a WPB official declared: "Our manpower is not always applied to the right things—there probably is plenty if it were properly distributed."



FBI Items and C-Maneuvers

In the gangster film about Roger Touhy and his gang the producers lost a few good tricks which apparently the gov't agents didn't tell them about—after Touhy and his mob were recaptured. . . . Frix-ample: When the FBI went into the rooms of two of the gang—they didn't notice a match stuck at the top of the door. . . . To let the gang know if anyone entered during their absence. One mobster had started opening the door when he realized the planted match was gone. . . . So he started firing his revolver. . . . The agent came out shooting too, and two of Touhy's pals were hit by the marksman and went to heaven.

Then there's the episode in the butcher shop. . . . A uniformed chauffeur turns out to be one of the Touhy gangsters. He went to purchase meat in the neighborhood for Touhy (and the others) who didn't risk coming out of the house. . . . The butcher shop, however, was staffed by G-Men. . . . After a signal from one butcher a bike-rider G-Man tailed the chauffeur to the scene where Touhy was hiding. . . . But the confederate was not disguised as a chauffeur in the actual kidnap. . . . The movie people apparently didn't want to offend the devout by sticking to the facts. . . . The disguise worn by the gangster in the meat shop was that of a priest.

The average newspaper reader, recalling Touhy's mob, will think the snatched man is the rich Jake the Barber, victim of that gang. . . . But in the film the producers purposely switched things to give the story more pep. . . . Jake the Barber's real tortures cannot be screened or even written about—so vile were they. . . . So for the screen the authors and director borrowed several interesting items from the kidnappings of a wealthy youth named Rosenthal (in New York) and the Urshel snatch in the West. . . . All the kidnapers are now rusting and rotting in prison on sentences for life.

The most frightful moment in Director J. Edgar Hoover's entire life happened that terrible 5 in the morning—when the night was still black. . . . Hoover and some of the agents attacked the Touhy mob from the rear of the building—other FBI men covered the front. . . . Mr. Hoover, revolver in paw, climbed over the back fence and tread softly to the back door, where he let out the most piercing shriek ever heard anywhere in the whole world. . . . It seems that a poor, little, inoffensive, sleeping black cat was stepped on by the most famed of all G-Men, and it let out one screech, which the startled G-Man tried to out-holler.

FBI agents the other day were investigating a theft of gov't-owned cigarettes destined for overseas shipment. . . . The foreman, who had denied any knowledge of the theft, produced a package of cigarettes bearing a give-away gov't label. . . . The agent, who had mooched a cigarette with a definite purpose, forthwith arrested the foreman, who was charged with the crime.

One of the problems confronting the FBI these days is the apprehension of individuals obtaining money fraudulently under the Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act. Sixty-nine convictions have resulted during the first ten months of the 1944 fiscal year. An eddy in the FBI's files on this subject has to do with a Louisville, Ky., woman who, when questioned by FBI agents, offered to return fourteen \$50 checks she got illegally, but hadn't spent. She said she had kept all the checks except one, which the soldier himself cashed, and that she was most willing to return them to the Government.

The alertness of G-Men was demonstrated again the other day in Los Angeles. An agent spied a man on the street whom he recognized as a fugitive—a wanted notice had been issued a few days before. Although the suspect produced phony selective service cards, the G-Man was persistent and took his fingerprints, whereupon the fugitive admitted his identity as Walter Ray Carroll, wanted in Washington State in connection with a \$25,000 narcotics robbery.

Don't Worry About Your WAC Oversea; She's Healthier And Happier Than When at Home, Says Medical Officer

Major Janeway Tells About 14 Months With N. African Contingent

By GERTRUDE BACHMAN

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—If your daughter, sister or wife is a WAC and stationed in the Mediterranean area, you are probably worrying a lot more about her than she is about herself. Maj. Margaret Janeway, Medical corps, U. S. army, gives a report that should put to route all unnecessary fears.

"They are never sick," Major Janeway told a press conference in Washington. "The Fifth army WACs have had an amazing health record from the beginning."

Of 1,800 women soldiers who landed in North Africa since January, 1943, only 12 have been sent home for medical reasons. Dr. Janeway believes that this record may prove one thing—that the more primitive the circumstances, the better a woman thrives.

"They take hardships in a spirit of fun," Major Janeway said.

When the first contingent went over in January, 1943, it found circumstances definitely primitive. The trip over wasn't exactly a sum-



PVT. MARION DeGRAY of Milwaukee, Wis., brings an armload of homemade bread into the messhall. Excellent food is credited to a large extent for the splendid health record of the WACs overseas.

mer cruise—especially since most of the women hadn't ever been to sea before. They landed at Oran on January 13, and took a train for Algiers. They discovered their quarters to be an old French convent with no heat and no water. They used their helmets for carrying water from an old well in the courtyard and for wash basins. It was bitterly cold. Major Janeway said:

"It was May before we thawed out, and it was May before we could get an occasional good night's sleep."

The women slept 12 in a room on straw mattresses placed on double-decker bunks, wore all their woolen clothes and wrapped themselves in three blankets when they went to bed. Those on the night shift were envied because they slept during the daytime when there were no air raids.

On Duty 12 Hours Daily.

Such were the conditions of their employment. The wages of WAC privates are the same as those of G. I. Joes—\$50 a month plus 10 per cent of the base pay for overseas duty. The hours were 12 a day, seven days a week. Since curfew was at 7 p. m., and the Algerian shops were closed at that time, there was no point in time off.

During this whole period, despite hardships — or what most of us would consider hardships — there were no serious illnesses and very little jitters, Major Janeway said. A three-bed dispensary had been set up in what was described as "a large closet" in the convent. This was used only as an isolation ward for those with colds—and as a room for an occasional rest of 24 hours for the very weary. Major Janeway said that after such treatment most of them were ready to go back to their jobs. Despite all the dire warnings, not one WAC contracted any of the diseases they had been told very carefully to guard against.

When more WACs arrived in Algiers in May, the entire WAC colony took over an apartment house which provided more comforts, and much more warmth. The number of beds in the dispensary was increased to 11.

Of the 68 women who came with this contingent, only three had to be



STROLLING DOWN the roadway to the entrance of the old French convent which is their barracks in North Africa are these five WACs who are assigned to the headquarters offices of Allied force headquarters. They are, left to right, Mary C. Woods, Everett, Mass.; Ellen Condon, Missoula, Mont.; Mary Livingston, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Lucille James, Sioux City, Iowa; and Elizabeth Page, Escanaba, Mich. A nun is passing in the background.

returned to the States. The reason given was "excessive nervousness." The three women were aged 30, 35 and 40 respectively, and had backgrounds of nervous instability. What had been a potential inability to adjust at home under secure routine now became complete maladjustment. Major Janeway said they just "couldn't take it."

No diet deficiencies were discovered. Army food was more than adequate, and in addition, the WACs were the friendly concern of army and navy men. They received oranges, eggs that cost \$2 a dozen, and a general supply of "nice spoiling." The navy men—who vied with the tradition of their marine brothers for having this situation well in hand—even obtained pillows for the WAC bunks.

"Every time a girl got a letter from home," Major Janeway said, "Mama wanted to know if she was getting her vitamins. She was, but she didn't know it. Fortunately, their folks started sending them vitamin pills and that settled the problem for us. They ate their pills and felt better."

Too Much Sun Tan.

The power of the North African sun was an unknown quantity to the WACs. Anxious to get a smooth tan, they discovered, to their dismay, that it could very easily be overdone. After a few painful burns,



LETTERS FROM home are the best morale boosters. Sgt. Betty Jane O'Leary of Pittsburgh, Pa., sounds the welcome "mail call."

which kept the victims away from work, sunburn was classified "not line of duty." That meant that any WAC who was not sensible enough to get her sun gradually, would have her pay docked for any time she was off work. They soon learned how to do it gradually.

By November, three more WAC companies had reported for duty in Algiers. In December, one company fresh from the States went directly to Italy.

The healthiest women in the whole Mediterranean area, Major Janeway found, were the Fifth army WACs living in tents very close behind the fighting lines in Italy. They were part of a communications platoon based at Naples and half up toward the front, living in tents, working the command post message center. They were with the Fifth army in North Africa and followed when American troops took Naples.

Major Janeway said that the WACs at the front and those in North Africa, for that matter, are so healthy because they do not have time to spend in "trivial activities."

There is no special training for keeping the WACs in trim. In winter they don't have much opportunity for exercise, but in summer they swim. In North Africa, a program has been set up which pro-

vides each woman, after so long a time, a four-day rest period. A rest camp has been established 20 miles up the coast from Algiers. It was opened first for those earliest WACs who were beginning to look a little fatigued after their 12-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week grind with no passes from January to June.

No similar arrangement has been made in Italy as yet, but Major Janeway believes that one soon will be.

Only Six Marriages.

In 14 months, there have only been six marriages of WACs in the Mediterranean area. It is possible that a three-month waiting period—known as the "cooling-off" period—after announcing marriage intentions to the commanding officer is the reason. This is an army regulation and applies to both men and women.

In regard to the unhappy stories that have been circulating about the morals of the WACs, Dr. Janeway cited medical statistics which showed definitely these rumors to be figments of somebody's imagination.

The women were homesick at times, but "not too badly," Major Janeway said. Six weeks after the first group arrived in Algiers, however, there was no mail from home, which resulted in many a tearful night. But the regular arrival of mail after that, and the strict regimen took care of homesickness pretty thoroughly.

There have been no battle casualties among the WACs. One woman was injured, and one killed in a jeep accident. There was plenty of bombing, but the bombs fell "just across the street" from the Algiers barracks. The bombs would hit the same spot night after night. During the day the damage would be repaired, and that night it would be undone. Yet none of the WACs was hit.

A piece of shrapnel hit the bed in which a WAC was sleeping, but she was unharmed. There was some dispute between her and the occupant of the next bunk as to whom the piece of shrapnel belonged.

Major Janeway said that the jobs which the WACs perform, and about which "they are very keen" are those of stenographers, telephone operators, drivers, cooks, and all kinds of communications jobs.

Asked if the WACs overseas feel that girls at home are lackadaisical



A WAC in North Africa hangs up some personal laundry in the back yard of the convent which serves as a barracks, giving a homelike touch to the grim business of war.

about not joining up Major Janeway replied: "They certainly do!" She continued:

"It takes a level-headed and very well-balanced woman to stand up against that pressure and maintain her own good sense. It takes a level-headed woman to keep rested and to maintain her sense of humor."