

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Increasing U. S. Air and Naval Power Demonstrated in Pacific Sea Battles; U. S. Wants Car Owners 'Extra' Tires; OPA Decrees Gas Quota for East Coast

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



The strategic importance of Madagascar to the two main supply arteries of the United Nations armies in the east are indicated by the above map. By capturing the key naval base of Diego Suarez, British Commandos supported by marines, infantry, air forces and naval units, assured protection of these vital supply lines.

MADAGASCAR: 40-Hour Triumph

A 40-hour epic of British Commandos' gallantry came to a victorious conclusion when the Diego Suarez naval base on the northern tip of Vichy-held Madagascar surrendered.

While French army outposts still held military control over the Madagascar hinterlands, the fall of the huge naval base assured the United Nations possession of the vital gateway to their eastern supply routes.

Moreover, it was vindication of a new spirit of aggression which made the Japs "miss the bus."

Military authorities in both America and Britain pointed out that the successful attack marked a refreshing contrast to the fiasco at the key port of Dakar, Africa, a year ago.

It was revealed in London that the Commando attack on Madagascar, supported by marines, RAF forces and naval contingents, had been planned three months in advance.

PRESIDENT OF PERU: Closer Latin Ties

Closer knitting of relations between Latin America and the United States was seen in the visit of President Manuel Prado of Peru to this country.

When Senor Prado arrived by clipper plane, it marked the first official visit in history, of a South American president to the United States.

Significance of this precedent-breaking official mission to the future of Pan-American resistance to Nazism was seen in the fact that Peru was the first South American country to break off relations with the Axis under the accord reached last January at the Rio de Janeiro conference.

President Prado's Anti-dictator policy before the war was an important step in the virtual exclusion of Axis propaganda from Peru.

Under a recent decree, Peruvian armed forces now function under the direction of U. S. army and navy officers.

RUBBER: U. S. Wants Tires

Robert P. Patterson, undersecretary of war, intimated that county fairs, football games and other public gatherings might have to be curtailed this year in the interest of rubber conservation, when he announced that the government planned to purchase extra tires from private car owners.

"Extra" was meant more than five to a car, he said. Purchases will be on a voluntary basis.

At the same time the Office of Defense Transportation disclosed that it was drafting plans for "rationing" civilian travel by train, bus or airplane.

Officials declared that "travel-as-usual" would be a thing of the past by the end of 1942. They expressed the belief that sharp curtailments of non-essential trips would be necessary before the end of the summer.

That requisitioning of civilian tires and cars would be undertaken if necessary was a view supported by a number of Washington officials.

In outlining his views on motor car use curtailment, Mr. Patterson said the prospects are that there will be sufficient rubber for the army, navy, war-workers and essential civilian supplies. He pointed out that there was a million tons of rubber "now rolling on the highways" and that it must be conserved.

Civilians who expect synthetic rubber plants to bring any relief this year are doomed to disappointment, it was declared. All such rubber is earmarked for the nation's armed forces.

Rent Ruler



Charged with the responsibility of setting up machinery to place ceilings on rents affecting more than 86,000,000 persons, Paul A. Orter, deputy administrator of the Office of Production Management, is directing the federal rent control program under the supervision of Price Administrator Leon Henderson. Landlords in affected areas have until June 28 to stabilize rents in line with OPA recommendations.

'BACKDOOR THRUST': Japs Use Burma Road

Japan's "backdoor" invasion of China via the Burma road continued into Yunnan province despite U. S. army air attacks which knocked out 74 enemy planes in a single week.

Seriousness of the newest threat to China's resistance was seen in the decision of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to take personal command of his armies. That Chiang could count on stout co-operation from his American allies was shown by the repeated attacks by big Yankee bombers from India on the Jap's main airbase at Mingaladon north of Rangoon, Burma.

The effectiveness of the American air offensive was illustrated by reports that each bomber was able to drop 250-pound explosives on the field in spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire.

CHARGE ACCOUNTS: Time Buying Curbed

Every American who used a charge account or an installment purchasing plan to acquire the goods he uses in everyday living was affected by the Federal Reserve board's orders clamping the brakes on time-payment buying.

The Reserve board decreed: 1—A limit of 12 months in the period over which most consumer's goods could be purchased on installment plans.

2—Down payments of one-third cash on a majority of consumers' items. Exceptions were automobiles purchasable over a 15-month period and furniture and pianos for which a down payment of only 20 per cent is required for purchase of over a 12-month period.

3—Payment of charge accounts in full by the 10th day of the calendar month after purchase. Failure to abide by this order would prevent the purchaser from buying on the account until he settled up.

4—The following additions to the list of goods on which regulations already apply: automobile batteries, tires, tubes and accessories; bedding, draperies, household electrical appliances; used furniture; athletic goods; household equipment; non-military clothing including shoes, hats and other haberdashery.

SPECIALISTS SOUGHT: Also Allied Nationals

Two moves to increase the flexibility of the army were made when the war department announced the creation of the new army specialist corps and the selective service headquarters declared that nationals of all Allied nations will be able to join either this country's forces or those of their home nation.

Men with certain specialized skills will be recruited for the army specialist corps. They will replace those who are capable of going into active military service. In general, no men subject to the draft will be admitted into the new corps, according to the announcement. Those accepted may become officers ranging from lieutenants to "director generals."

In the move to recruit nationals of our allies, Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, announced that reciprocal arrangements had already been worked out under which Canadians residing in this country might join either the Canadian or American forces. This agreement will be extended to other nations.

MISCELLANY:

Honolulu, Hawaii, first American area to suffer Axis aggression, proved again that its people are grimly determined to see the war effort through, by oversubscribing four times the Islands' May quota of \$250,000 War Bond quota.

New York: Rationing of silver bullion supplies for industrial purposes has been undertaken because of increased industrial demand.

War Effort Strengthened By High School Graduates

Armed Services, Industry, Farms Lure 1942 Students; Vocational Training Now Becoming Increasingly Important.

By WILLARD E. GIVENS

Executive Secretary, National Education Association.

IT HAS been estimated that over one million boys and girls will leave high school this spring with their diplomas. It is this same group of boys and girls, the youth of the nation, who were figuratively being spoken to when a commencement speaker said to a group of graduates before him: "You have seen more history than you have read."

During the first half of 1942, the pages of history have been turning fast, recording the names of men and their deeds in the greatest drama of all ages.

And now today, not only the high school graduate, but all those who have read the story of man's upward struggle from the early dawn of history to the present time, recognize the climax of history in which they are now living. Each and everyone—especially the high school graduate—is seeking to find the proper place, the suitable niche in it.

The Significance of Today.

Only to the man who is in some measure educated is it granted to know what is going on about him and to estimate its significance.

There is an old story of two peasants of Brabant who were weeding their crops on a sultry June day in 1815 when the guns of the Iron Duke greeted those of Bonaparte at Waterloo. One of the peasants lifted his eyes from his hoe and scanned the horizon. "Soule," he said, "it thunders; it will rain today!" As the guns of destiny broke the silence of their fields, these two peasants went on hoeing their vegetables, almost as ignorant as their beets and cabbages of what went on anywhere else in the world but in the limited sphere in which they moved.

The mental isolation of mankind in the not-so-long-ago unhappy days of the human race when one class of men was privileged to enjoy the culture and refinement of wide knowledge, and another class was doomed to live and die in vulgarity and poverty, is banished. Universal education has banished it. The high school, especially, is responsible for making this vastly different world from the one which existed a century and a quarter ago when Europe was rocked as it is today by the clash of arms and ideals—and only a few knew the issues and fewer still had a part in resolving them.

Today, high school students see themselves in the setting of time and events. In their hearts is a stirring that finds its expression in a common question, "What is my place in all this?"

Some of the boys may volunteer at once for service in the armed forces. The army has just announced that volunteers 18 and 19 years old may select training in the combat branch of their own preference—infantry, cavalry, artillery, tank corps, air corps, signal corps, or corps of engineers. Others will wait the decision of the Selective Service system as to where and when they may serve best.

Many graduates will continue their education under the direction of the navy, which has in operation plans by which graduates may go on to college and pursue studies in which they may earn college credits and at the same time prepare for more effective service in the navy. From this group, the huge two-ocean battle fleet now building in our shipyards will secure many of its commissioned officers.

War Industries to Hire Many.

Some thousands of these high school graduates, such as these at the Hannah Penn, junior high school, York, Pa., will be able to take their places without much further training in the ranks of those who are planning to defend their communities from death dropping down during air raids.

provision of food stuffs and the use of foods dictated by modern knowledge of nutrition for both civilian and soldier are of vital importance. Many of the opportunities may be seized without leaving home or community. The alert and eager high school graduate will look about him for unfilled places in the ranks, step in where he is best qualified and serve.

The student selected by fate for graduation in 1942 faces towering handicaps as well as opportunities. For many of these graduates, school days are ended. In any case, educational careers will be interrupted or diverted from original purposes.

The Test They Face.

Ambitions must be modified, new emphasis placed upon ideals and duties. The high school graduate of 1942 faces the severest kind of test which can be given to individuals—the test of flexibility, adjustment to untoward circumstances. This applies to the minor as well as to the major enterprises of life. The contrast is still greater if we compare this generation with grandfather's as an illustration of change in our national life. To that elderly gentleman now toasting his slippers in retirement by the fireplace, Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man," was an inspiration. There was an immeasurably wealthy West to conquer. Grandfather saw the finishing touches given to the world's greatest economic empire, as the ingenuity, energy, and determination of a New world, assembled from the tribes from the Old, trimmed off the last frontiers from the American wilderness.

Looking beyond the present strife, there is the citizen-in-the-making getting ready for the years ahead. Complete and final victory would be unavailing if we lost in peace what we had won in war. There is a tremendous task of reconstruction ahead of all the world. There is the rubble to clear away; but much more important there are new structures to take the place of the old. The vision and capacity of today's youth will determine whether they live in the ruins of a past or in new edifices built upon the ideals of freedom and liberty.

William J. Hamilton, superintendent of schools, Oak Park, Ill., spoke on this problem which faced education: "There is evidence that during the post-war period, conditions pertaining to the support of the public schools will not be improved. The demand for social security is already being given much consideration as the principal factor in the new social order and may supersede education in importance. . . . public education will become involved in a confusing mass of legislation."

Victory vs. Luxury

"John's older brother who finished high school in 1941 burned up the tires of his old jalopy on the highways at sixty miles an hour, either pleasure or business bent. John will ride a bus or walk to 'go places and do things.' Susan who graduates in 1942 will find that permanents, fluffy evening dresses, silk and nylon hose were luxuries that her older sister of 1940 did not bequeath to her. Youth, like the rest of us, must sacrifice some of the refinements of existence, and before the struggle is over, may forego some of the necessities."

workers, electricians, ship carpenters, joiners and other skilled trades.

There is opportunity of some kind today for youth everywhere. All can join in the "great adventure" in some capacity. This is true for girls as well as for boys. Many girls are taking their places in the war industries. The great expansion of offices in Washington and other centers of administration of the war effort issue calls for typists, stenographers, clerks and secretaries. Many girls are enrolling in nursing courses which lead to direct or indirect service, for some of which officer's commissions are available, in the armed forces.

The kinds of military work for girls to choose from are numerous, and announcements of further opportunities are expected from time to time.

Oftimes the impulse to seek service far afield is ill advised. There is also the home front. Whole states must be prepared to resist invasion from land, sea or air. Civilian defense is vital. First aid, air raid duty, auxiliary fire and police service must be manned and administered.

In hundreds of agricultural communities high school graduates will immediately lay aside their diplomas for cultivator handles and hoes. There is much truth in the slogan that "Food will win the war." The

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Legal Holidays

According to the Constitution neither congress nor the President has the power to prescribe legal holidays except in the District of Columbia and the U. S. territorial possessions, says Collier's. Nevertheless, congress has recognized the following days as public holidays: New Year's day, Washington's birthday, Memorial day, the Fourth of July, Labor day, and Christmas.

Since most of these holidays have been declared local holidays by the individual states, they can be said to be national and legal holidays. The President proclaims Thanksgiving a holiday.

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