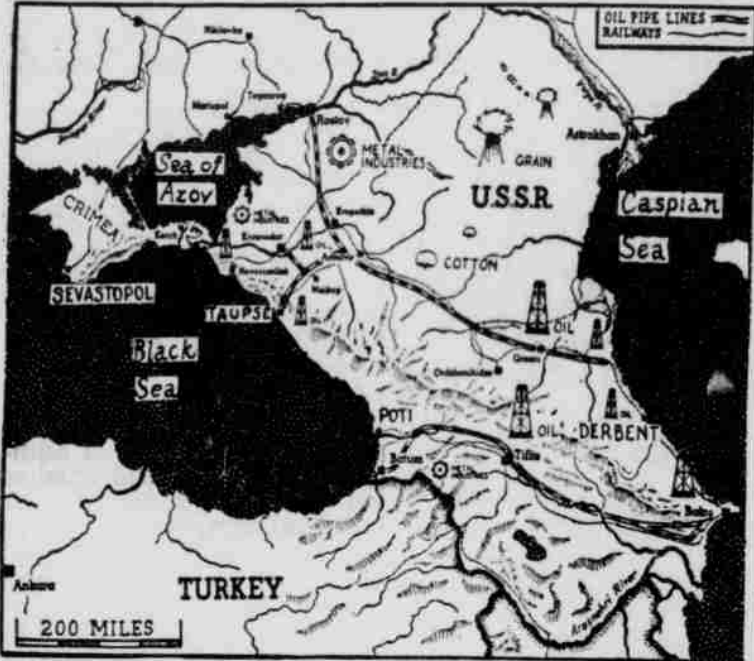


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Terrific Air Offensive Against Nazis Is Opened With Epic Raid on Cologne; Violent Fighting in Battle of Kharkov Drains German Reserves in Ukraine

(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 above map shows why Hitler drove his armies toward Kerch. Beyond Rostov and the Crimea lies the fabulously rich land called the Caucasus. Larger than the state of Texas, it is wealthy in oil and metals. However, Russian warriors at Kharkov may well shatter the Nazi dream to bits.

HITLER'S EUROPE: Gets a Taste

From London came the first word of the new United Nations offensive against Hitler on his home grounds—occupied Europe. This first word was described as part propaganda and part actual heavy aerial warfare.

There was loud talk of non-stop bombing attacks on the Reich. Said some reports, these attacks would be the heaviest and most fearful the world had ever seen.

The London radio let the German people know that Britain was being visited by U. S. Services of Supply Commander Somervell, Air Borne Command (Ground Forces) Commander Lee, SOS Chief of Operations Lutes, and SOS Transportation Services Chief Gross.

SOS Commander Somervell told a London press conference that U. S. and British officials were conferring on a program to standardize military equipment, including tanks and planes.

Cologne

But the Nazis had something to listen to that was stronger than propaganda. It was the whir of 1,250 British bombers and the thud of 6,000,000 pounds of high explosive bombs as the RAF unleashed the "most devastating aerial raid in history" to level and burn three-fourths of the industrial city of Cologne in a single night.

Called the first of the "four-figure" bombing raids on German industrial centers, this raid on Cologne saw a British bomber swoop over its objective once every six seconds. Equipped with both British and American-made planes the raiders were reported by London sources to have made the vicious Nazi annihilations on Britain last year look feeble by comparison.

Even Berlin admitted that terrific damage had been done. The Royal Air Force used so many planes in the mass raid that anti-aircraft defenses were of little use. This method was described as "super-saturating" the Nazi target field so that his aim was constantly diverted. One after another the planes dove low to blast their objectives. One Canadian flier was quoted as saying that when his turn came so much of the city was in flames that he felt like leaving the scene and seeking another target. It didn't seem possible, he said, to do any additional damage.

AUSTRALIAN FRONT:

Exchanges After a lull of over a week, aerial fighting on the Australian front began again. This time it took the shape of a series of exchange blows by first the Allied forces and then the Japanese.

Heaviest Allied attacks were by American and Australian planes striking at enemy invasion bases at Rabaul and Lae. There was also a heavy raid on the Jap seaplane base at Tulagi in the Solomon islands.

LIBYA: Allies Meet Rommel's Drive

From Cairo came the first reports of the opening of a new offensive by the Nazis across the sands of Libya in a drive for Egypt, then Iraq and the rear gate to the Caucasus.

It was Field Marshal Erwin Rommel who was leading the German tank forces against the British in this hot desert campaign. But Rommel's rush met not only the British. It met the full power of American-made tanks.

And with these tanks, Lieut. Gen. Neil M. Ritchie's British troops turned the first spearhead of the Nazis and the terrific engagement of armored forces began once more.

The fury of the battle was described as so fierce that a decision in the Tobruk area would not be long in coming, for one side or the other would be forced soon to yield.

GULF: Frontier Command

As the submarine menace continued to mount in the Gulf of Mexico, the U. S. navy created a gulf sea frontier command and the army at the same time placed the coastal region along the gulf in a military area. This would mean that the district along the gulf coast from Florida to the Rio Grande would be subject to demounts and blackouts.

Rear Admiral James Laurence Kauffman was chosen by the navy to command gulf sea frontier and Lieut. Gen. Walter Krueger, head of the southern defense command for the army, was in charge of the land fighting forces in the district.

No evacuation of citizens was ordered and the army emphasized that civilians within the military area would not be restricted except as to lighting.

Headquarters for the navy forces fighting the submarines in the area will be at Miami.

POISON GAS: Halts Chinese

"Poison gas" was the cry from China as the Japs were reported to have resorted to this method of fighting to stem a sustained drive by the Chinese to capture fallen Kinhuwa and Lanchi in the Chekiang province.

This was not the first time that the Chinese had accused the Japs of using poison gas. Last fall at Ichang, a Yangtze river port, it was thought they had learned their lesson—for this session at least.

But it seems they haven't, for the gas grab is only part of the rationing ducking story. OPA has said nothing about it, but the inside fact is that a number of the congressional statesmen have privately demanded that the drastic tire restrictions be lifted for them so that they can get tires for campaigning purposes.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE: West Coast

The equipping of West coast police and firemen with gas masks gave evidence that the Pacific seaboard is bracing itself for an enemy attack.



James M. Landis, left, director of the Office of Civilian Defense, talks with Stanley W. Donogh, assistant regional director OCD director in Seattle. Speaking at Portland, Ore., Landis said: "This is a priority region, tops in our strategic thinking. I've directed (civilian defense) equipment here to the anger of other regions."

GASOLINE: Rationing

After WPB Automotive Division Chief Kanzler had stated that gasoline rationing on a nationwide scale would help in relieving potential rubber and automotive replacement parts shortages, Board Chairman Nelson said that administrative difficulties will make it impossible to start a rationing system before July 1.

The Office of Price Administration meanwhile was reporting that the June ration quota of new passenger automobiles will be 40,000, plus carryover of unused quotas from March, April and May.

SMALL BUSINESS: Two Moves

The house of representatives has passed and returned to the senate legislation setting up a Small Business corporation to make loans which would enable small firms to obtain war contracts.

Meanwhile the commerce department was issuing suggested procedures for establishing Business Wartime clinics to aid local business men in working out current problems of dislocation and changes in their businesses.

RUSSIA: Kharkov Claims

While local encounters were being reported on the Kharkov front in the Ukraine, the operation was considered as having resulted in two vital factors:

The Kharkov battle drained German reserves and diverted a minimum of 36 German divisions which had been massed for an all-out offensive against Rostov.

A Russian communique stated that while "attempting to improve their positions, the Germans threw in large reserves for three days in continued counterattacks. All counterattacks were repulsed with great losses to the enemy."

Claiming a brilliant success in the 19-day Kharkov campaign, the Russians admitted the loss of 75,000 troops—5,000 killed and 70,000 missing. However, a Red army communique claimed the capture or killing of 90,000 Germans.

The same communique pointed out that Soviet offensive operations in the Kharkov region were started only in order to forestall the anticipated blow of the Nazis. The Russian plans did not include the capture of Kharkov. The communique concluded: "Now that these battles are nearing their end, it can be said that the main task put forward by the Soviet command—to forestall the German blow—has been completed."

MEXICO: Power for Camacho

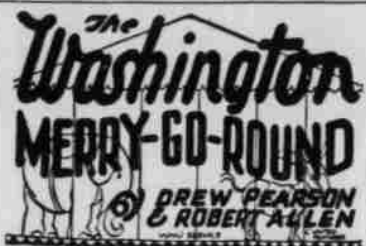
With Mexico's proclamation of hostilities, 11 of the 21 American republics became aligned in the war against the Axis. In addition to the United States, war has been declared by Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Panama, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras. Eight other Western hemisphere nations have broken off diplomatic relations.

In paving the way for war on the Axis, the Mexican senate approved a bill to suspend 14 constitutional guarantees, including freedom of the press and the right of habeas corpus. The vote was 53 to 0.

Gen. Salvador Sanchez, chief of Mexican general staff, announced that a supreme national defense council with Camacho at its head was being established to mobilize resources and manpower. The high command has ordered strong army units into positions on the gulf and Pacific coast.

MISCELLANY:

Wheat: Department of agriculture experts estimated probable winter wheat production in the nine important producing states at 436,305,000 bushels. Also announced was a deferred payment plan for the new three-year crop insurance contract offered wheat growers the first time this year will permit payment of the premium in annual installments (about harvest time).



Washington, D. C. WAR FLASHES

Belgian anti-Axis saboteurs have blown up one of the largest synthetic fertilizer plants in their country. This is a serious blow to the Nazis, who have been using the output of this plant for food production in Germany.

For more than a month there have been no cereals of any kind on the Sofia market. Also the lack of feed, commanded by the Nazis, is so severe that thousands of horses have died of starvation.

Four small Buffalo concerns are demonstrating that where there is a will there is a way to aid war production. Three of them, tombstone manufacturers, have obtained contracts to sandblast castings for battleships and machine gun mounts. The fourth, which formerly made wig-wag turn signals for trucks, is now making armaments parts.

When Nazi stooge Quisling recently issued a call for enlistments in a select "Quisling Guard" only 35 in the whole of Norway responded.

The labor shortage in Italy has become so acute that all males between 14 and 70 and all females between 16 and 60 have been required to register for "war work service."

Even Washington, where congressional boodling is an old story, was startled when some 300 senators and representatives took "X" rationing cards giving them an unlimited supply of gasoline.

The capital well knows that few members of congress have sufficient "official business" to warrant an "X" rating. Also, after the way the boys got their fingers burned in the attempted crude "bundles for congress" pension grab, it was thought they had learned their lesson—for this session at least.

But it seems they haven't, for the gas grab is only part of the rationing ducking story.

OPA has said nothing about it, but the inside fact is that a number of the congressional statesmen have privately demanded that the drastic tire restrictions be lifted for them so that they can get tires for campaigning purposes.

Further, none of these politicians said anything about extending such a concession to their opponents. They want tires for themselves, but their rivals must abide by the regulations without any special favors.

So far OPA has turned a deaf ear to the tire demand.

Note: One reason why "X" cards were dished out so freely on Capitol Hill was that a number of congressional wives acted as registrars.

FAST THINKER

Popular pastime at Selective Service is swapping stories about draftees. Here is the latest making the rounds:

A prospective draftee was taking his physical examination and the doctor directed him to "look at the chart on the wall and tell me what numbers you see."

"What wall?" asked the draftee blankly.

After looking him over a few minutes the doctor told the registrars the army couldn't use him. He put on his clothes and departed. But on the way home, he stopped off to see a movie. When the lights went on at intermission, he was startled to find the examining physician seated beside him.

But the draftee was equal to the occasion. Nudging the doctor he asked innocently, "Can you tell me if this is the bus to Alexandria?"

JAP OIL

Navy experts are closely watching Jap efforts to rehabilitate the destroyed oil wells and refineries in the Dutch East Indies and Burma.

Orders have been issued that samples of oil, grease, gasoline and fuel oil from captured Jap equipment be rushed by the fastest route to the Engineering Experimental station, Annapolis, where analysis will attempt to ascertain from what region, and even from what well, the original crude was obtained.

Nearly all oil wells and refineries were destroyed when the Allies were forced to retire from the Netherlands Indies and Burma, but the Japs are working feverishly to get the fields back in production. So far there has been no sign of any Jap use of this oil.

Note: A quart is needed for a thorough analysis, but if no more than a smear can be found, the navy wants it.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

The hens of the nation are doing their part for the war. This year's egg goal is 51,900,000,000 eggs—13 per cent more than in 1941. And so far this year egg production has been running around 16 per cent greater than 1941.

Although one of the oldest men in the senate, Senator George Norris, "father" of TVA, is at his desk every morning by eight o'clock, never misses a meeting of the committees of which he is a member, and rarely goes home before 7 p. m.

Home Front Strengthened By Army of Rural Women

Wives and Daughters Help Keep Nation's Larder Full.

If victory begins at home, it is up to the women to start it. So you will find rural women today, individually, in small groups and in large groups, figuring out what needs to be done to strengthen the home front and doing it.

First and foremost, the production of food must not be interrupted, even if husbands, brothers, sons and hired men are all called to the army or accept positions in war industry. Food must be produced and plenty of it. Traveling in almost any part of the country, it is a common sight to see women driving tractors, feeding livestock, milking and doing practically all kinds of farm work.

Generally, these are the farm wives and daughters who, with the help of the older men and the young boys, are not only keeping up production but actually increasing it to meet the national goals for vital foods.

To supply extra farm labor, a women's land army has been organized in Maryland, Connecticut and other places. The University of Maryland trained about 30 women who had enrolled in the land army in a four weeks' course in poultry, horticulture, and dairy. Connecticut's land army furnished help in harvesting fruits and vegetables, cultivating the garden and many other chores around the farm.

The women are serious about their responsibility. Visiting some farm homes in central Virginia during the spring the picture of a soldier boy on almost every mantel was noticed—a boy who last year was on the farm and this year is in the army. On a big poultry farm, the son was in an officer's training school while the mother carried on with the same number of chickens, working a little harder and a little longer to send her 150 or 200 dozen eggs to market each day to supply eggs for the army, eggs for munitions workers, eggs for the United Nations—more than 4 billion dozen of them needed in 1942.

Co-operative Endeavor. If the women are going to work on the farm, they have to save time in the house or get extra help there. The women of Marshall county, S. D., have established an employment service for domestic help in the home demonstration agent's office so that women and girls who have some time to spare can help in the farm homes where women are taking more farm responsibility.

In Texas, community sewing centers and canning centers make efficient use of sewing machines and pressure canning equipment and save time and effort for the housewife. Sharing the available equipment is one war measure that farm women's clubs have found very useful.

Women are also successfully entering the cow-testing field. One conservative association in Michigan finally agreed to try out girl testers because they were very anxious to continue their cow-testing work; but, said these gentlemen, she must wear overalls or slacks—she won't stand for shorts on our cow testers.

If the home front is to be a strong bulwark supporting our fighting forces, every man, woman and child must understand and contribute. Women in rural districts are taking a leading part in bringing

this about. In Iowa, a man and a woman co-operator have been selected for every school district of about 16 families. They get the latest information on victory gardens, the buying of war bonds, anti-inflation legislation, and other war activities, and see that all of the 16 neighbors know and understand.

Victory Gardens. The victory-garden idea was carried to all farm families through these neighborhood leaders. The secretary of agriculture called for 5 million farm home gardens, and this meant a garden on practically every farm. In some states, every farm home was visited and seeds supplied to those who could not afford to buy them. The neighborhood women are also following through with information on care of gardens, control of insects, and preservation of surplus vegetables.

Mrs. M. O. Lawrence, a Mississippi leader, tells her neighbors: "If all farm families will grow all they and their city children need to eat, it will release all the factory-canned vegetables for those who cannot grow them and for the countries resisting aggression. So, farm wives, let us join hands and do this and help to win the war to save democracy." Another leader in a Virginia mountain community which has been largely on relief reports her activities: "I tell 'em to plant a garden, and they tell me 'Why, I'm on relief'; and I tell 'em, 'Maybe so, but you can't eat what ain't.'"

When a survey of the food supply was taken in Summit county, Utah, it was found that in the 500 farm homes 95 per cent had space for a garden, but only 38 per cent had gardens. Armed with these facts, a garden committee was appointed, and leaders selected to visit every farm home. They discussed the garden possibilities—the size of the garden plot, the water supply, the type of soil, and whether the labor was there to care for the garden. Next, letters were sent out listing recommended varieties, giving amounts of vegetables to plant, the time to plant them, and other garden helps. Women in each neigh-

borhood volunteered as demonstration gardeners, keeping accurate records of when the garden was planted and sprayed, the cost in time and money, the amount of produce used by the family, sold, canned, and stored. Neighbors can visit the demonstration garden and find out all about the methods used. Gardens are really flourishing in Summit county, and the women are growing and learning to use new vegetables as their share in keeping plenty of health-giving foods on the home front.

Garden Total Doubled. South Dakota's garden goals called for just twice as many gardens as had ever been grown there before. When all of the gardens are counted, it looks as if the goal will have been reached with 57,500 victory gardens to supply health-giving vegetables for South Dakota's farm families.

In times of war it is even more essential that the health and safety of children be insured, and this is woman's job. The great increase in hot school lunches and in clinics for school children and preschool children is an indication of a check-up on this sector of the home front. When the women of Mountain View community, Va., began to check up, they found that some children were coming from isolated farms high up on the mountains and walking several miles to meet the school bus fortified by a very slender breakfast and bringing no lunch.

This efficient dairy maid is helping farm women meet war production goals. The use of dairy products has been stepped up commensurate with the war effort.

Women Students Enroll in War Aid Courses. After an extensive survey of the nation's need for trained women in various occupations, the Pennsylvania State college has made available nearly 100 courses for its women students, all closely-related to the war effort.

Among the elective courses recommended for women are journalism, commerce, mathematics, French, German, Spanish, shorthand, typing, horticulture, poultry husbandry, bacteriology, agricultural

engineering, psychology, physical education, home economics. These courses are designed to prepare co-eds for such occupations as abstractors, accountant clerks, menstological assistants, statistical clerks, translators, typists, stenographers in research institutes, fruit and vegetable growing specialists, inspection work at canneries, rearing and marketing chickens, farm and household mechanics, aides in nutrition and chemical laboratories.

Women's clubs have found many other ways to help the war along. For example, the home demonstration clubs of Wicomico county, Md., received a request for 100 emergency stretchers to be placed at strategic points throughout the county.

As the stretchers were to be made of three feed bags, letters were sent to local feed dealers and farm families urging them to contribute their empty bags. Three hundred and twenty-five bags were left at the home demonstration agent's office.

For Future Use



This poultry leader helps the women of her club with their poultry problems. She is shown with a few of her 200 baby chicks which, in the future, will help supply the needed 4 billion dozen eggs for the army, industrial workers, home supply and the number promised to the United Nations.

They returned home at twilight, weary and hungry, to an inadequate supper. The women got busy. First, they had a school canning day when anyone who had extra fruit and vegetables could bring it to be canned for the school. They arranged to get surplus commodities from the department of agriculture and a WPA cook. They succeeded in getting a nicely equipped school lunch building by using the material from two abandoned district schools and getting NYA boys to build it. Now a nutritious hot lunch is served to 150 children each day in an attractive, light dining room; and the



This "hot stove league" helps clarify war aims and needs. Though these Virginia women like to discuss the situation in general, they have pledged themselves to be careful in avoiding unconfirmed information. Community clubs such as this are focal points in many rural areas.

Children, according to their teachers, are much more alert and interested in cleaning up their school grounds, collecting salvage, and other community activities, as well as in their studies.

School Health Survey. The women of the Potterstown, Ky., homemakers' club, though living in a community where the average income of farmers was less than \$300, decided that the health of all their children was their responsibility. Because the school was under suspicion of tuberculosis, they asked the county health department to conduct a survey of the school. The entire student body was tuberculin-tested with reactors X-rayed. Public drinking cups were done away with and sanitary drinking fountains installed. A free hot lunch for all 60 children was established.

As the women look about their own community to find out just how strong that sector of the home front is, they feel the need of more training in nutrition, first aid, and home nursing. In practically every rural community in many states, rural women have conscientiously come into town to take a 20- or 30-hour class. In Brazos county, Texas, 120 women enrolled in a 30-hour Red Cross course in home nursing, one woman living in a community 23 miles from the nearest doctor. Epidemics of measles and mumps in Brazos county recently gave these women an opportunity to put their new knowledge into practice.

New Use for Feed Bags. Women's clubs have found many other ways to help the war along. For example, the home demonstration clubs of Wicomico county, Md., received a request for 100 emergency stretchers to be placed at strategic points throughout the county.

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