

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Brazil's Declaration of War on Axis Aids Western Hemisphere Solidarity; 'Largest' U. S. Convoy Reaches Britain; Marines Score Again in Pacific Drive

(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.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.



U. S. fliers in London celebrate after the first raid on Hitler's European arsenals. Target of the first raid was Rouen, France, which was left in flames. Center: Holding the wire from the first bomb dropped by a Flying Fortress is Capt. William Musselwhite of Jackson, Miss.

LARGEST CONVOY: Arrives in England

Shape of things to come in Europe was clearly etched by the announcement that the largest U. S. troop convoy ever attempted in this war had landed safely in Great Britain. Military experts quickly viewed this move as a speed-up gesture in United Nations' second front plans. Included in the convoy were "many thousands" of soldiers and airmen plus vast quantities of war materials. Troops were swiftly disembarked and scattered to the interior of England, there to join other units already in training for the attack on German-held Europe. "Special units" and "task forces" in the convoy added weight to the theory that U. S. troops will play an increasing role in future Commando raids or other action on the continent.

MORE ACTION: In the Pacific

As U. S. forces were continuing their mopping up activities in the Solomon Islands word from another sector of the Pacific indicated that the marines had done it again. This time it was the Gilbert Islands that felt the power of a marine detachment as it smashed a Jap seaplane base, radio installations and stores on the island of Makin, island in the Gilbert group. This action came in the form of a hit and run attack. Caught entirely by surprise, the Japs were so confused that bombers from other bases actually destroyed their Jap planes on the ground. Meanwhile all was not quiet in the Solomons, scene of the earlier and more extensive action by the U. S. forces. Here the marines were busy cleaning out the Japs that retreated to the hills after initial successes were scored by the American attackers. Trouble for the marines came from another source but an official communique from Pearl Harbor revealed that it had been treated with typical marine thoroughness. This was a night attack by fast boats of 700 Japs who stormed the marine-held positions from the sea. After a night and day of fighting, 670 Japs were dead and the other 30 were captured. Marine losses were 28 killed and 72 injured.

WAR PRODUCTION: An Important Date

Straight from the source that should know—the War Production board—the nation learned how it was doing in the battle of the assembly lines. Donald Nelson, WPB chief, told the U. S. frankly where it stood. It amounted to this: War production is ahead in some categories, behind schedule in others. Biggest problems are shortages of materials and balancing of output among various agencies and service branches. These, he said, are getting vigorous attention. Such production also now has a date objective. Nelson said that U. S. war production is being planned to provide the maximum impact on the enemy by July 1, 1943. This does not mean that our offensive will necessarily reach its peak by that date but this is the definite strategic goal of production and all production will be gauged by the one question: "How much will it contribute to the war effort by July 1, 1943?"

ELECTRIC POWER: Less for Civilians

In a move to readjust its wartime power expansion program the War Production board has halted or suspended work on 85 public and private power projects. In addition, the WPB assigned such low priority ratings to 28 federal projects that completion probably will be postponed until after the war, unless new demands arise. The WPB said that "civilian inconvenience and sacrifice must be expected."

BRAZIL AT WAR: First in South America

Angered by months of Axis aggression, Brazil became the first South American nation to declare war upon Germany and Italy, thus swelling the ranks of the United Nations to 29. Brazil's declaration of a state of war climaxed a week filled with mass demonstrations against the Axis sinking of five Brazilian ships with the loss of approximately 600 lives.

The state of war did not include Japan, although Brazil broke diplomatic relations with all three Axis nations last January.

The declaration of war cleared the way for immediate measures to secure the protection of what has been termed the most vulnerable land area on the Atlantic side of the Western hemisphere—the Natal bulge only 1,600 miles from Dakar in Africa. Military men long have pointed to this sector as the place where Axis forces would strike first if they were able to consolidate their African and European positions.

Brig. Gen. Amaro Soares Bittencourt, Brazilian military attaché to the United States, said that Brazil "is defending the continent," and that "we must congregate and reunite all our military elements for the defense of the northeast, the strategic point on the bulge of Brazil for invasion by the Axis."

RUSSIA: Bloody Battle

Good news resulting from Allied offensives in the Pacific was offset by continued reversals on the Russian front. As the Nazi pincer movement drove relentlessly toward Stalingrad, the official Soviet communique admitted new crossings of the Don river.

"In the area northeast of Kotelnikovo," the communique said, "our troops fought intensive battles with large tank and infantry forces. On various sectors the Germans, at the cost of tremendous losses, managed to advance."

Fresh Nazi reinforcements brought out of the reserve pool or shifted from other sectors, were thrown into the bloody battle for Stalingrad. The reckless disregard of losses gave evidence of Nazi desperation for a knockout blow to the Red army.

Stalingrad is a rich prize. Its prime importance is in its location on the Volga river, along which the oil of Baku and Allied supplies shipped through the Persian gulf reach central Russia. In addition, the city's huge plants produce tanks and war supplies, and its oil refineries add to its strategic value.

COMMANDO RAID: 'Official Success'

As Allied service chiefs studied the results of the Commando raid on Dieppe, official sources declared that the operation fulfilled its objective. Valuable information on Nazi defenses was secured.

The raid, employing British and Canadian Commandos supported by American Rangers, was a nine-hour battle on the Nazi-fortified coastal defenses at Dieppe, midway between Calais and Le Havre. Initial German estimates placed the invader force at 15,000, but the exact number remained an Allied secret. The force carried tanks and artillery with them.

"As the result of heavy fighting... our casualties were high but not unduly so in view of the operation," the British communique said. "The navy lost a fairly large number of landing craft because naval craft did not leave the French coast until it was known that every possible man had been taken off."

The raiders were reported to have destroyed ammunition dumps, a six-gun shore artillery battery, a large anti-aircraft battery and a radio location station.

Reports from Vichy placed British dead at 500.

ALLOTMENT: Speed-Up

Dependents of enlisted men in the U. S. armed forces will be getting their allotments earlier than November 1 under the terms of a bill passed by congress and now signed by the President.

After the President had affixed his signature the navy said it would issue such allotment checks "very soon" and the army announced that their payments would start early in September.

Originally these payments would have started November 1, although applications filed early would be retroactive to June 1. Basic payment to dependents is \$50 per month, servicemen contributing \$22 and the army or navy \$28.

It could not be determined how many applications for such payments had been made to the army or navy. It was estimated however that about half the men in the service would have dependents receiving the allotments.

YOUR DRAFT STATUS: May Change Soon

Married men and men now deferred because they work in essential industry will be called in the draft in the not distant future. That was the statement of Brig. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, national director of selective service, before a well-packed forum at a Chicago university.

In respect to men deferred because of war work, Gen. Hershey said: "You just can't go on deferring a man for war reasons alone if you can find an older man, a woman, or a physically handicapped per-



BRIG. GEN. LEWIS B. HERSHEY
Work reasons alone aren't enough.

son to take that man's place. It's going to be necessary to reclassify those 2A's and 2B's (war-work deferments) — and necessary means just that, necessary. Just because they are in war industry is no reason for permanent deferment. The industrialists will simply have to train substitutes."

He was also asked about the prospects for 3A's—deferred because of dependencies.

"The first in order are the so-called "grandmother cases," the men with second-class dependents—grandparents, mothers, brothers, step-brothers and so on. I think they're under the light right now. As sure as September 1 comes around—well, obviously, those fellows are next."

"And the men with wives only are just as obviously next after that. Then would come the men with wives and children, and the question there seems to be what is the degree of dependency?"

COFFEE, OVERALLS: One Down; the Other Up

The possibilities of coffee rationing appeared more imminent with the government's order to restrict deliveries to dealers to 65 per cent of last year's deliveries as compared with the present monthly quota of 75 per cent.

The decrease in coffee deliveries was but one of several actions which will bring the war ever closer to Mr. and Mrs. John Public. Increased employment has resulted in steps by the War Production board to make cotton looms turn out more rugged fabrics needed for serviceable work clothes.

The theater-going public may have reduced fare in the not so distant future. Operators of movie and stage theaters were warned by WPB that shortages of materials would make it increasingly difficult to keep all show houses open.

MISCELLANY:

COMMANDER: An ace of World War I, Brig. Gen. Clayton L. Bissell, was appointed commander of U. S. army air forces in China, Burma and India.

IMPROVED: Returning from an official tour of Alaska, Sen. Mon C. Wallgren of Washington announced himself "much improved by the improved military situation" in the Aleutians.

SUNK: American submarines, hammering at Japan's extended Pacific communication lines, sank four and damaged two more enemy ships. Two cargo ships and a large transport were sunk in the western Pacific. A large merchant ship was sunk off the Aleutians.

TEAM: Henry Kaiser, western shipbuilding wizard, and Howard Hughes, noted round-the-world flier, have announced they are joining in a program to build a fleet of 500 "flying freighters" to carry important war supplies to the fighting fronts in all parts of the world.

Birth of a Bombardier

Would you personally like to bomb Berlin and Tokyo? From towns, cities, farms, factories and colleges thousands of American youths are answering "yes" and swarming into the world's largest bombardier college at Midland, Texas, to learn the technique.

Scientifically selected to operate the secret, deadly U. S. bombsight, bombardier cadets are trained in 12 weeks to be the "most dangerous men in the world."

Where they are going is a military secret. The tyro bombardier becomes familiar with his thrilling job with the bi-motored AT-11 training bomber. He watches mechanics who "keep 'em flying." At the bomb-loading dump, brawny ordnance men carry the kind of bright blue 100-pounders used for practice.

Each cadet drops as many as two hundred bombs during training—the equivalent of forty real raids. A scale model of Tokyo's waterfront industrial section provides a realistic target for bombardment, and really gives the boys something to shoot at.

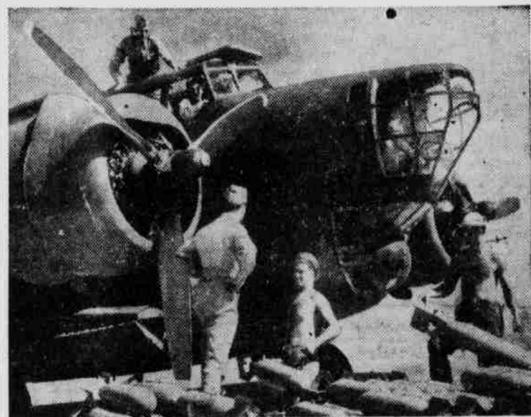
These pictures tell how cadets from all corners of the U. S. become "lords of the bombsight."



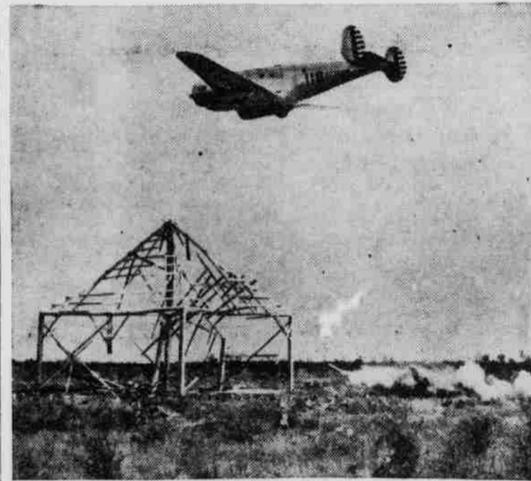
Physical fitness is the prime requisite for cadets. Here they use practice bombs for "bombardier build-ups."



In ground school, a group watches an instructor using a model U. S. bomber and models of Japanese warships to illustrate a point.



Ready for bigger things, a cadet sits in the shark-nose of a B-17 bomber, awaiting the loading of the bomb bay by ordnance men.



Skimming low over a 30-foot target shack, a cadet at Midland army flying school sends missiles skimming into the ground whence they ricochet, rocket-like, into the pyramid-shaped structure.



Tyro bombardiers become familiar with the AT-11 training bombers.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND
DREW PEARSON

Washington, D. C. IMPROVED NAVAL POSITION

Behind the Solomon islands battle are some optimistic naval facts, entirely aside from the announcement of victory. These facts had to be very carefully considered even before U. S. naval chiefs started to invade the Solomons.

One of these naval facts is that the Japs have suffered very severe losses in cruisers. Although it has escaped public notice, U. S. forces have been bumping off this fast, important type of warship with deadly regularity, so that Jap cruiser strength is now cut at least in half, perhaps more.

Another known naval fact is that the Japs have lost approximately half of their airplane carriers. And with air power what it is today, this is the type of vessel they can least afford to lose.

On the American side of the picture is the fact that U. S. repairs of ships sunk or damaged at Pearl Harbor have been miraculously swift.

All this obviously was taken into consideration before the United States started a major engagement and the offensive in the South Pacific. For Admiral King had to calculate the risk of the Jap admirals rushing a large force to the Solomon islands.

Simultaneously he also had to figure the risk of a Jap attack on various other vital points—Midway, Alaska, Hawaii, even the continental United States.

Top admirals these days do not take chances. Not when the fate of a nation depends on them. Therefore, it requires only a mathematician to figure that the scale of American strength in the Pacific has turned. It reached its low ebb just after Pearl Harbor, when the navy was unable to do anything about the Philippines, Singapore, or Java.

But now the Battle of Midway has shown that Hawaii and the West coast can be defended by land-based planes. No Jap ship dares come near land-based planes without committing suicide.

This leaves a reinforced fleet to operate in the Pacific. Top naval men are not doing any crowing yet. But at least the naval picture seems to counterbalance some of the bad news from Russia—which is going to get a lot worse.

BURIED SILVER

Ten years ago, President Roosevelt and Cordell Hull held a series of discussions with the foreign ministers of Europe in preparation for the London Economic conference, at which one of the chief proposals of the United States was world use of silver.

At these conferences, the late Senator Key Pittman, of the great silver state of Nevada, droned through a regular 45 minute lecture on silver which American experts knew almost by heart and which put Hjalmar Schacht, German finance minister, to sleep. After Pittman had finished, the German minister woke up with a start, hastily brushed aside silver.

"We accept silver. Now this is what we want in return."

The London Economic conference was a dismal failure. But the United States had committed itself so completely to silver in these preliminary talks, that it undertook a silver program, which actually meant that the world sold its silver to us at an artificial price and we buried it in the ground at West Point, N. Y. It was a fine thing for Mexico, China and Canada and a great victory for Senator Pittman and the Rocky Mountain states. Also it resulted in the U. S. treasury accumulating two and a half billion ounces of silver—other than coin.

Today, however, there is a shortage of industrial silver. And yet the treasury will not open up the giant hoard of silver gathering mold at West Point.

Shortage Amid Plenty.

What has happened is this. About 5,000,000 ounces of silver monthly is being mined in the United States, which is ample to care for war needs, but not enough for ordinary commercial needs, especially for the silver industry of New England.

The silver industry, which makes knives, forks, and household ware, formerly used alloys and critical materials—all of which have now been dispensed with. However, silver is not a critical material. There is plenty mined for the war effort but not enough to supply the 80,000,000 ounces needed annually for the silver industry.

So New England silversmiths now ask that they be permitted to buy a mere 80,000,000 ounces out of the two and a half billion ounces which the treasury has buried.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Though the U. S. navy gave the royal run-around to the Sea Otter, Germany is now reported building exactly this type of shallow-draft, automobile-engined boat for use on the Danube, the Black and Caspian seas—against Russia.

When the WPB made a survey of junk dealers it found 6,000,000 pounds of "scrap" silk stockings on hand. This is a "gold mine" for making silk bags to hold gunpowder for the navy.

—Buy War Bonds—

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for September 6

Lesson subjects and Scripture texts selected and copyrighted by International Council of Religious Education; used by permission.

THE ALCOHOL PROBLEM: PAST AND PRESENT

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 13:13; 19:22-25; Deuteronomy 32:31-33; Amos 6:1-7. GOLDEN TEXT—The way of the ungodly shall perish.—Psalm 1:6.

The necessity for using to the limit every resource—man power and material—in this time of national crisis should make every American doubly alert to the devastation and loss which has come (and is coming in increasing measure) to us as a result of the sale of intoxicants.

This is no time (nor was there ever a time) when "men should put their enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains; that we should with joy, pleasure, revel and applause transform ourselves into beasts! To be now a sensible man, by and by a fool, and presently a beast!" (Shakespeare).

Christians—and especially Sunday school teachers—should use this lesson to drive home anew the great lesson of moral accountability, of the importance of man's choice of a way of life, and the certainty of judgment.

I. Man is Morally Responsible (Gen. 13:13; 19:23-25).

Life is not just a careless drifting from day to day, from pleasure to pleasure, from sin to sin. Man was created in the likeness and image of God, which means that he is a personal being, knowing right from wrong and possessing the power of choice. Sodom and Gomorrah drew upon themselves the judgment of God because of their determination to persist in horrible wickedness. What happened to those cities, terrible as it was, is but a prophecy of even greater judgment to come (Luke 10:12).

If man chooses to do right, he may count on all the resources of the omnipotent God to uphold him. But if he chooses to go in the way of sin, he must look forward to the judgment of God. It is important to remember that

II. He Chooses His Own Way of Life (Deut. 32:1-33).

Moses contrasts the Rock—Jehovah—in whom his people trusted, and the corrupt standards of their heathen neighbors, of Sodom and Gomorrah; but note it well, each one made his own choice.

One greater than Moses, our Lord Himself (Matt. 7:13, 14), spoke of the two ways, and noted with sadness that many go down the broad road to destruction and but few walk in the narrow way of life.

It is a vital matter that we teach our boys and girls the great and noble spiritual standards of Christianity; bring into their lives the power of God through faith in Christ that they may choose well for themselves and be able to lead a bewildered war-shocked world in the right way.

The need of humanity is great now, but it will be even greater in a post-war world of broken homes, broken lives and broken hearts. We must be ready to minister in the name of Christ.

III. Neglect and Ignorance Are No Excuse (Amos 6:1-7).

Surprise attack is always doubly effective. "Remember Pearl Harbor." Yes, and remember man's defeat in spiritual things.

Satan would like to lull us to sleep with the assurance that all is well. The heart of man is prone to cherish optimistic thoughts; to magnify that which encourages him to take his ease; to keep away the fear of reality by sweet music, good food, and flowing bowl of wine.

The people of Amos' day, to whom this message was given, had come to the point where prosperity had made them at ease, when they should have been actively alert; foolishly serene, when they should have been vigilant and ready for battle.

Who can say that the same is not in all too large a measure true of the people of our own beloved America. Many elements enter into that dangerous situation, but not the least of them is our increasing use of intoxicants. It may shock some to learn that the per capita use of alcoholic beverages has increased greatly throughout the country. The appalling fact is that the city of Washington, D. C., which should in these days set an example of sobriety and sanity, has led the nation in the increase of the use of strong drink.

That way is the way of captivity (v. 7) unless we repent—and that right soon. America needs to awaken to the dangers which threaten its precious liberty—and, we repeat, the liquor question is not the least of these problems. We must win a victory over it soon, or we may find that it has won the victory over us—which may God in His mercy forbid!

Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, engraved on the head of a small gold pin, is in possession of a pawnbroker in Butte, Mont. Three years of labor: over us required for the work.