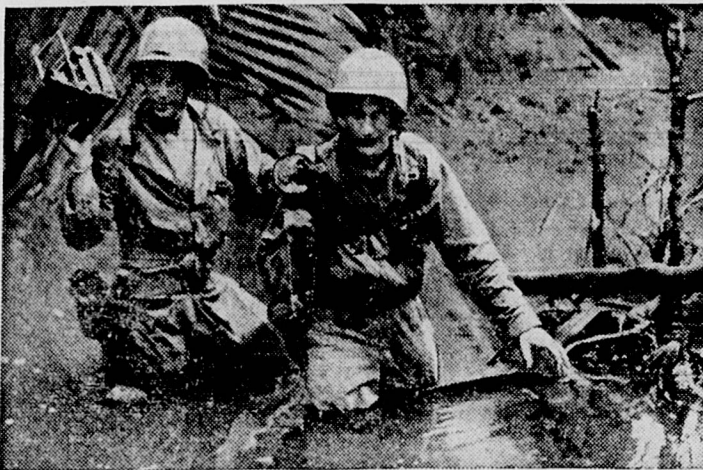


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Invasion Raids Hit Greatest Strength As Allies Hammer Western Defenses; Bitter Fighting Continues in India; Co-Op League Reports Steady Growth

(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.)
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Hollandia—Moving into battle alongside combat troops, Signal corps photographers run all risks to take front line pictures. At Hollandia, Sgt. Carl Weinke (left) and Pfc. Ernest Marjoram wade through swamp in quest of "pix."

EUROPE:

Decision Inland

With the invasion already underway in the air with the thunderous non-stop bombardment of the western perimeter of Hitler's quaking Fortress Europe, experts agreed that the big decision would be reached beyond the coastal defenses and farther inland, where German panzers will attempt to fight off an Allied breakthrough.

As U. S. and British planes continued their round-the-clock bombardment, the two sides readied their lines in other parts of the continent where attacks were expected to occur simultaneously with an invasion from the west. In central Italy, the Nazis shortened their lines by pulling in a big bulge in the Allied defenses, and in Russia, the Reds were reported massing troops near eastern Poland for another powerful offensive.

COOPERATIVES:

Big Business

Steady growth of the cooperative system in the U. S. was reflected in the Cooperative league's report that various organizations' total sales for 1943 reached the record high of \$750,000,000, and savings of \$50,000,000 were effected for consumers.

Feed, fertilizer, equipment, seeds and other farm supplies accounted for about two-thirds of the total sales, the Cooperative league reported, with oil products and petroleum next in line.

Declaring that local, regional and national cooperatives now control about 113 manufacturing plants, 2,000 farm supply establishments, 2,500 gas and petroleum products outlets, and 1,100 grocery stores, the Cooperative league said that the various organizations looked forward to balancing the movement by increasing gas and petrol operations in the East and grocery stores in the Midwest.

Another objective, according to the Cooperative league, is extension of trade to Europe, where the cooperative system had a strong hold prior to World War II.

AGRICULTURE:

Plans Changed

Excessive rainfall in the southwest and midwest delaying field work in oats and barley, may result in increased production of corn and soybeans.

With corn stocks throughout the country as of April 1 at 1,162,000,000 bushels—380,000,000 bushels below last year—figures showed that at 42,000,000 head exclusive of pigs farrowed since January 1, there were 4,000,000 less hogs on hand than in May, 1943. Since the first of the year, 42,000,000 hogs were reportedly butchered, a 55 per cent increase over the same period in 1943, reports showed.

Because heavy rainfall has kept farmers out of the fields, they are expected to seed only 41,000,000 acres of oats, compared to the 46,000,000 planned, and plant about 1,500,000 acres less of barley than the 15,000,000 acres originally intended. On the other hand, about 100,000,000 acres of corn and 15,000,000 acres of soybeans probably will be seeded.

MAIL ORDER:

U. S. Withdraws

Hottest issue of the year, the government seizure of Montgomery Ward and company's Chicago plants took another turn with the government's withdrawal from the company's properties, following an election in which a majority of the help voted to be represented by the CIO's United Mail Order, Warehouse and Retail Employees union.

Originally the government had taken over the plant and ejected Ward's Board Chairman Sewell Avery after the company refused to honor a War Labor board directive to extend the union's maintenance of membership contract until a new one could be negotiated.

Although the government's withdrawal was based on the contention that a determination of the union's right to represent the company employees was the big issue, Ward's officials pointed out that the company stood on its grounds that it could not legally be forced to accept the so-called maintenance of membership contract, under which union employees must remain within the union for the life of the contract.

Entrenched in the Hollandia area of New Guinea, U. S. forces turned their eyes to the westward reaches of the island, where the Japs reportedly have massed many planes in the region to defensively flank the sea routes to the Philippines and India.

In India, British and native forces counterattacked invading Jap troops at both Imphal and Kohima, where the enemy had rocketed close on to the strategic Assam-Bengal railroad feeding Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell's U. S. and Chinese army in northern Burma. In bitter fighting in the wild hill country, the Japs found the going growing tougher.

In looking toward western New Guinea, the U. S. command sent bomber and fighter squadrons against enemy airdromes and defense installations, and the attacking planes drew stiff opposition from Jap air and ground crews.

Internal Threat

With Rebel Subhas Chandra Bose on India's doorstep with the invading Japanese army, Britain released ailing Mohandas K. Gandhi from luxurious imprisonment to avoid giving collaborators too much propaganda fodder in the event of his death during confinement.

Jailed by the British in August of 1942 because of his concerted wartime campaign for Indian independence which they claimed interfered with the war effort against Japan, Gandhi recently suffered from a recurrence of malaria fever. While imprisoned, Gandhi conducted an unsuccessful 21-day hunger strike for his freedom.

Once one of Gandhi's close followers, the exiled Bose now working hand in hand with the Japs in north-eastern India, has long advocated more vigorous action against the British rather than the saintly Gandhi's civil disobedience program.



Ghandi

LEND-LEASE:

Extension Favored

With extension of lend-lease for another year assured in congress, President Roosevelt asked for a \$7,188,893,000 fund for the period to continue the program, which has cost \$30,362,687,362 to date.

Although congress put off enactment until senate and house could agree on terms for limiting the President's power to formulate policies of preliminary or final settlement of accounts with recipient nations, only Sen. William Langer (N. D.) registered opposition to the bill in the senate.

Said he: "According to the report, we got so-called strategic supplies from nations that are beneficiaries of lend-lease. . . Yet when we obtain metals and other strategic war materials from these same countries, we pay cash on the barrel-head, instead of crediting the lend-lease account. . ."

WAR PRISONERS:

Aid Farmers

Of the 183,618 prisoners of war the U. S. is holding in 203 camps in 41 states, good use is being made of many in critical labor shortage areas, the War department revealed.

Between June of 1943 and the end of March, prisoners' work approximated 19,300,321 man-days.

Prisoners have been particularly helpful in relieving the farm labor pinch. In the south, 3,500 prisoners were used for an emergency harvest of sugar cane after a freeze, and they assisted with the cotton, rice and peanuts crops. In the east and midwest, prisoners have helped in picking and canning fruit and other foods.

FRIENDLY RIVALS



For awhile, it looked as though New Mexico's gubernatorial race would be a one family affair, what with Robert E. Peterson (left) the candidate for the Republican nomination, and his wife, Edna, vying for the Democratic nomination. But Mr. Peterson's petition of candidacy was rejected.

Although Mrs. Peterson can keep Mr. Peterson in hand in the kitchen as the picture shows, Mr. Peterson has a mind of his own politically. Said Mrs. Peterson: "I tried to keep him in line, but I failed. He is a former Democrat. I'm sorry he couldn't file, though."

NEUTRALS:

Blacklist Threat

Applying pressure in its efforts to curb neutrals' trade with the Axis, the U. S. and Britain announced that its black-listing of companies for continuing business relations with the Allies' enemies would be extended into the postwar world.

Meanwhile, it was reported, a special U. S. representative arrived in Stockholm, Sweden, to seek a cancellation of that neutral's prosperous black-bearing trade with the Germans.

Of 15,000 firms on the U. S. and British blacklist, 10,000 are in South America and the remainder in neutral European countries. The Allies' threat to carry-over the blacklist into the postwar world, implied that more friendly businesses would receive the jump on trade.

ARMS:

U. S. Output

No less than 13½ billion rounds of .30 and .50 caliber bullets—enough munitions to kill off six times the population of the world—were shipped to fighting men in 70 war theaters during 1943 by the U. S. ordnance field service.

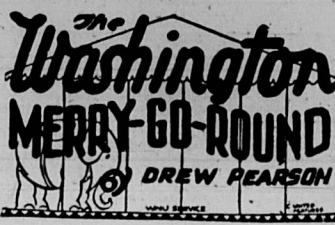
Besides this tremendous volume of ammunition, other deliveries included 9,500 light and medium tanks; 20,000 75-millimeter tank guns; 91,000 bazookas; 648,000 sub-machine guns; 15,000,000 hand grenades and 21,000,000 rifle grenades.

As the figures reflected, Vice-Chairman Donald Davis of the War Production board declared that U. S. production of military supplies, equipment and munitions nearly equals total war output of the rest of the world.

LOCKERS

Because of the demand for food lockers far exceeding the number available, the War Food administration has issued new regulations restricting the applications for lockers.

Only two classes of users can be included in applications after June 1. First class consists of farmers who are resident operators, producing the kind of food normally stored in lockers. The second class are people living in towns, but who supervise operation of a farm by a tenant on a share basis or by hired labor.



Washington, D. C.

BIG VS. LITTLE FARMERS

Forty years have elapsed between the big-business battles of Teddy Roosevelt and Cousin FDR, but one issue which plagued the former is also plaguing the latter and is now before congress. It is the question whether government irrigation, government water, and government reclamation shall benefit the big land-owner or the small.

The issue is now one of the hottest fights both in California and in congress, where Secretary of the Interior Ickes has been called to testify on a rider which Congressmen Elliott and Carter of California have skillfully smuggled into the rivers and harbors bill—a rider permitting big landowners in California's central valley to benefit from government low-cost irrigation.

The question in Teddy Roosevelt's day was whether any farmer holding more than 160 acres should benefit from government irrigation. The issue arose when the land kings of the Far West wanted to develop their ranches and speculative holdings through irrigation at government expense.

The West was for it, but the East objected. Eastern states claimed they would be footing the tax bill and that Western irrigation would come out of their pockets. The West replied that the irrigation projects of that day would provide benefits for small Eastern farmers who migrated westward tomorrow.

After a terrific battle, Teddy Roosevelt won out. Congress ruled that government - irrigated land tracts must be limited to 160 acres. That law still stands. But Republican Congressman Carter of Oakland, Calif., and Democratic Congressman Elliott of Tulare, Calif., have ganged up to change it with a rider exempting the central valley irrigation project.

Their amendment, already passed by the house, would mean that big ranchers in the central valley could benefit from the new irrigation project no matter how extensive their holdings. Even more important, it would mean that a lot of new land, not extensively cultivated at present, would be subjected to cut-throat speculation.

Ickes for Small Farms.

Secretary of the Interior Ickes, who has supervised the expenditure of \$150,000,000 on central-valley irrigation, is determined that the benefits shall not go to land speculators and big ranchers, plus some of the big liquor companies which have bought up California wineries.

The issue, according to Secretary Ickes, is whether the U. S. is going to become a nation of large landowners hiring Okies and tenant farmers, or whether the nation will feature medium-sized farmers operating their own land.

NOTE—Business men in the central valley are split over the issue. Many merchants believe that medium-sized farms rather than poorer farm labor make for better business in neighboring towns. The Fresno Chamber of Commerce calls 60 to 80 acres of figs an economic unit for a family, or 80 to 120 acres of alfalfa. The Chamber has sent out booklets urging settlers to take up small land tracts.

FOUR-Fs.

Despite all the army howls for 4-Fs to get into war plants, it remains a fact that physical examination in many plants is so stiff that they can't get in. In fact, the physical in some plants is stiffer than in the army.

Many a patriotic 4-F has worn out shoelather making the rounds of war plants, only to find that he can't get in. A punctured ear-drum, for instance, is considered just as important in a war plant as in the army.

In recent weeks, belated steps have been taken to relax some of these physical restrictions, but much still remains to be done. So you can't blame a lot of the 4-Fers if they aren't in war plants.

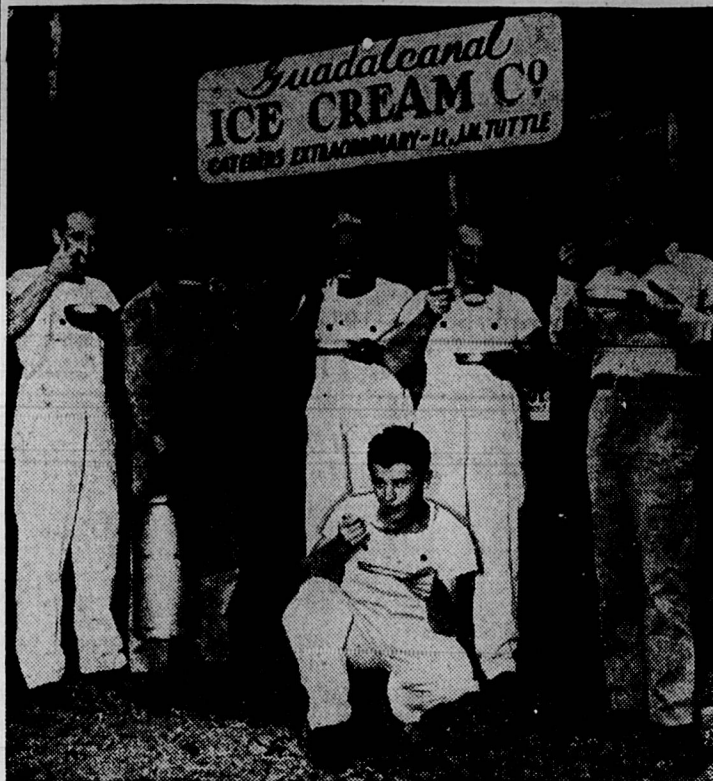
Another difficulty which the War Manpower commission might well dig into is the fact that anyone can quit work in a vital war plant but, without a certificate of availability, cannot transfer to another war plant—at least, not until after a 60-day period.

In other words, you can step out of an aircraft factory or a synthetic rubber plant and go to work in a barber shop or at a bootblack stand, or just loaf at home. They are not essential industries. But if you want to switch to a munitions plant, you can't—without a certificate of availability (which you probably can't get), or without waiting the required cooling-off period of 60 days.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Busy as he is, President Roosevelt will soon be called upon to settle the problem of whether a rail worker's vacation week is six days or seven. Railroad workers were granted a week's vacation as part of the wage compromise last year, but the railroad executives now contend that FDR meant the vacation should be six days, not seven. If the railroad workers get seven days, they can stay away Sunday, which is a holiday anyway, plus Monday, or an actual total of eight days.

Seabees Open Ice Cream Parlor



Destined for the scrap heap because many of its parts were worn out and could not be replaced, an ice cream manufacturing unit of Guadalcanal was salvaged and put in order by a naval construction battalion and now is turning out ice cream twice a week for Seabees and the marine unit to which they are attached.

Pegging a Strike at a Jap Pillbox



A Jap pillbox has been located on Bougainville island, and Sergt. Charles H. Wolverton of the 37th division sticks out his tongue as he takes aim before letting a grenade fly to its target. These are two of the soldiers who beat back Jap counterattacks in the Empress Augusta Bay area in March, taking a toll of about 7,000 Jap dead.

Rail Key Loss Perils Honan Province



Two critical situations face China as Jap drives along the Peiping-Hankow railroad (1) have resulted in the taking of Chengchow (2), both key points on the north-south line. As the map shows, Chengchow is on the northern rim of the Honan province, a great food-raising area. From Chengchow the rail line cuts across Chinese territory (indicated by dark areas).

Prize-Winning Waste Paper Campaign Photo



The above picture won the national grand prize in the news picture contest sponsored by the U. S. victory waste paper campaign. It was entered by John Medicino of the Chicago Sun. Award was a \$500 war bond plus \$200 war bond for first place in the East North-Central region. Prize winners were announced by Linwood I. Noyes, president of the ANPA.

Watch Skies



This photo was made as General Eisenhower (arrow) was on an inspection tour of an RAF bomber wing, somewhere in England. With him at the control tower are, top left, Maj. Gen. L. H. Brereton, USAAF; top right, air marshal Sir Arthur Coningham; center left, group captain C. R. Dunlap. The general at lower left is unidentified.

Sewell Avery Family



Sewell Avery, chairman of the board of Montgomery Ward & Co., Mrs. Avery, and their daughter, Nancy, shown after the annual meeting of the stockholders of the company, in Chicago. The Ward plant was seized under President Roosevelt's orders.

Behind Firing Line



As if they didn't have enough shooting, these American doughboys who came back from the front line at Anzio beachhead for a rest, bang away at targets on the rifle range, somewhere in Italy.

Miss Pan-America, '44



Lovely 19-year-old Virginia Warren of Miami, Fla., holds huge trophy presented to her, following her selection as Miss Pan-America of 1944, at a contest held in Miami.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

SAVINGS: National savings exceed the 33 billion dollars accumulated last year, according to economists. By the end of the year the total invested in war bonds, deposited in banks or put into insurance may reach 125 billion dollars, the institute predicts, adding that this huge sum is a danger to the national economy if inflationary tendencies get out of hand.

GUTENBERG BIBLE: Harvard university has been presented a copy of the famous Gutenberg Bible, one of the 10 perfect copies known to be in the United States. It is the gift of George Widener of Philadelphia and it is valued at more than \$100,000. There are only 40 copies of this edition in existence. They were printed in 1455 in Mainz, Germany.