

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

U. S.-British Forces Fight Grimly In Resisting Heavy Jap Pressure; 'Joker' Found in Price Control Bill Has Power to Check Farm Prices

(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.)



Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, shown conferring in Washington, D. C., with naval officers and John W. Studebaker, on a plan to have high school youth of America participate in a vital part of the U. S. navy's training program, plane model making. Looking over some of the models are (left to right) Artemus Gates, assistant secretary of the navy for air; Secretary Knox and Mr. Studebaker. In the rear is Adm. John H. Towers, chief of the navy's bureau of aeronautics. About 26,000 American youths in the high schools throughout the country are being asked to build 500,000 aircraft models—10,000 each of 50 different types of fighting planes—for training personnel in aircraft recognition and range estimation in gunnery practice. The models likewise will be important in the training of civilians in aircraft recognition.

MIRACLE:

Man on Luzon

The continued holding out of General MacArthur's "smoke-begrimed army in its foxholes on Bataan peninsula" to use his own words, challenged and won the admiration of all Americans.

It was felt that his long stand in the face of more than 10 to 1 odds, his ability to maneuver his men into a position where only a fraction of the Japanese power could be used against him, and the fact that he was still immobilizing a vastly superior force, entitled him to the title of "miracle man" of warfare.

If the Japanese attempted to infiltrate his lines, as often as not he checkmated them with counterattacks. If they succeeded, either by a skillful withdrawal or by vigorous counter-measures at hand-to-hand, the following day would find the MacArthur army still intact, still fighting, still able to resist all efforts to drive him into the sea.

Though the communiques from Luzon never had given hope of a successful outcome, there was no tinge of heroics, save the tribute of the general to men who, without relief and subjected to almost constant attack by fresh troops in rotation, continued a defense that seemed to grow from day to day in strength rather than to be collapsing under pressure.

General Homma, Japanese commander, sent over a "leaflet raid" in which he strongly suggested surrender, paying tribute to the magnificent defense of MacArthur's army. It was not rejected—the army simply paid no attention to it whatever.

SINGAPORE:

Siege

The Japanese, having increased their pressure on the narrow and difficult Malayan peninsula, had finally induced the British defenders to make a sudden, dramatic withdrawal from the mainland, starting the long-expected siege of Singapore.

This, a battle expected to go down into history as one of the bitterest and bloodiest in the history of warfare, started with the 750,000 population of Singapore largely added to by civilian refugees from the mainland.

It was the first test in battle of a fortress and stronghold called by British tradition the "Gibraltar of the Far East" and now, after 118 years of building and rebuilding its defenses with more and more modern armament, the time had come for its testing.

Singapore stood buttressed on the north by a mile-wide strip of land from which the British had attempted to strip all obstructions which might offer refuge and cover to enemy soldiers or batteries; by another mile-wide strip of water which had become the "moat" of Singapore following the destruction of the granite causeway which connected the potato-shaped island with the peninsula.

—Buy Defense Bonds—

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

Washington: Walter Nash, first New Zealand minister to the United States, urged that an American naval officer be placed in supreme command in the Pacific.

Hamilton, Bermuda: Survivors from a torpedoed British freighter said that the German submarine tried to crush and upset their lifeboats.

London: Quisling has assumed in Norway the German-designated post of "Prime Minister of State"—equivalent to dictator.

—Buy Defense Bonds—

Belfast: Americans in the British Isles were reported as clamoring for chances to enlist in the A.E.F. Many of them already were serving in the British army and wanted transfers to American units.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

Washington, D. C.
WARY GRAVY-TRAINER

You can write it down that Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard is going to be very chary about using that gravity-train veto power the farm lobby voted him in the price control bill.

He knows that the White House is still sputtering over his unauthorized endorsement of this lobby scheme at a crucial moment in the senate fight over the legislation. Also, that if he attempts to exercise the power he is liable to be slapped down even harder than when he fronted for the lobby.

Actually, under cover, Wickard has promised in effect to be a good boy.

It didn't leak out at the time, but during the secret deliberations of the joint senate-house conference committee on the bill, he wrote the committee a letter repudiating his previous endorsement and saying he didn't want the veto power over farm prices.

Wickard wrote this letter under White House pressure. He knew he was in bad and he tried to square himself.

But for the administration, the backdown was too late. The damage had been done, for the amendment was in the bill and the lobby's pals on the joint committee were in a powerful position to stand pat.

In this final bitter fight, two Alabama Democrats and a Michigan Republican were responsible for the retention of the gravity-train provision. They were Sen. John H. Bankhead and Rep. Henry B. Steagall of Alabama, and Rep. Jesse P. Wolcott of Michigan.

As the amendment originated in the senate, under the rules, it was necessary for the house conferees to propose deletion. Steagall, chairman of the house group, publicly makes a great show of being a red hot Administrationite. But behind closed doors of the committee room he adamantly refused to heed Roosevelt's pleas for elimination of the lobby amendment.

Backed by Wolcott, who fought the vital war bill from the start, and with Bankhead running interference in the senate group, Steagall forced the retention of the provision.

Note: The administration's fight was made by Sen. Prentiss Brown, Michigan Democrat, and Sen. John Danaher, Connecticut Republican.

Another Row

Wickard's fronting for the farm lobby in the price control bill isn't the only row he's had on this score with inner administration leaders.

The papers are full of stories about a big crop expansion program this year to meet the food needs of U. S. war allies. Frequent press releases issue from the busy publicity staff of the agriculture department about grandiose plans.

The real inside is that Wickard didn't get busy on these plans until he was practically ordered to do so by Vice President Henry Wallace as head of the Economic Warfare board.

Wallace sent Wickard two sharp letters demanding prompt action to expand crop production and only then did Wickard bestir himself.

Certain farm elements are against crop expansion, on the ground that scarcity makes for better prices. Working through politically minded Triple A officials, who have a lot of influence with Wickard, the anti-expansionists kept him on the fence until Wallace jarred him off.

Note: Secretly, the AAA politicians also had a lot to do with Wickard's endorsement of the gravity-train amendment in the price bill. The AAAs are jealous of Price Administrator Leon Henderson's authority, want to elbow their way into the war set-up as big shots.

F.D.R. AXES LEWIS

The inside reason why John L. Lewis was not named a member of the three-man C.I.O. peace committee was because President Roosevelt personally blocked it.

When he and C.I.O. President Phil Murray discussed the counter plan that scuttled Lewis' blitz scheme, Roosevelt advised that the new A.F.L. and C.I.O. peace committees be limited to three members each. That would avoid turning the joint committee into a "mass meeting," he explained, and also make it easier to keep hostile Lewis out of the picture.

"If you have too large a committee, Phil," the President added with a smile, "you may appoint Lewis."

"I guess you're right, Mr. President," laughed Murray.

Note: Lewis intimates say he would not have accepted appointment to the committee if it had been offered him.

GENERAL MARSHALL

You weren't seeing things if you saw the news picture of Gen. George C. Marshall, army chief of staff, attired in the uniform of an air corps officer.

It was him all right and he had on an air corps uniform. Marshall is not a flier. He is an infantryman. But outside of the air corps, he is the flyingest officer in the army. Whenever possible Marshall always travels by air and is an authority on planes and aerial tactics.

Applaud Anti-Axis Agreement in Rio



Symbolic of the spirit of co-operation at the anti-Axis conference is this photo of Dr. Enrique Ruiz-Guinazu (left, seated, in white), foreign minister of Argentina; Caracciolo Para Perez, foreign minister of Venezuela (center), and Sumner Welles, U. S. undersecretary of state. All are shown applauding the anti-Axis agreement arrived at by all. Soundphoto.

Another Score to Settle With Adolf Hitler



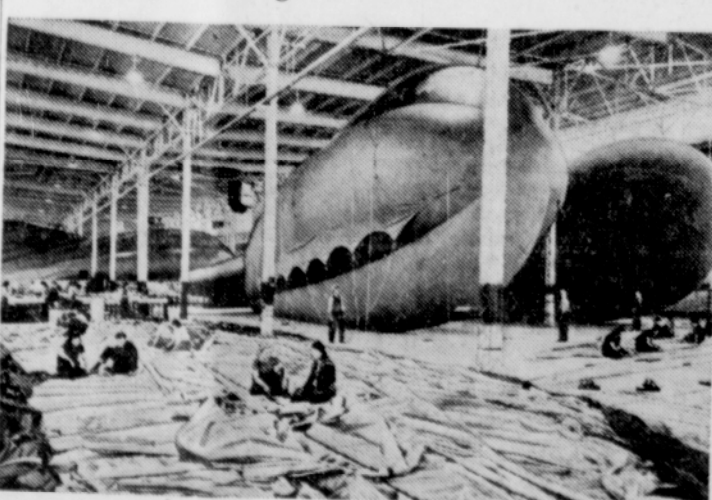
Above is shown some of the crew of the ill-fated Norwegian freighter, Varanger, which went down last month within sight of the New Jersey coastline after being hit by a torpedo from an enemy submarine. The entire crew of 42 which took to lifeboats arrived in port safely. They are symbolizing victory as they eat at Gloucester, N. J. Inset: The Varanger sliding beneath the waves following the attack.

Para-Ski Parachute Battalion Members



Para-ski members of the 503rd parachute battalion get their first training in the snow-covered mountains and valleys of Utah. Some of these paratroopers had never seen snow until they arrived in Salt Lake City for training. Here Instructor Hugh Bauer demonstrates to his class the proper way to do a kick turn.

Making Barrage Balloons for Defense



A view of the new huge balloon room at the plant of the Firestone Tire & Rubber company in Akron, where as many as 12 great barrage balloons may be inflated at one time. These gas bags have proved their worth in defending vital points against enemy aircraft in Great Britain. Workers in foreground are assembling a big bag.

For a Raidy Day



Philadelphia is going right ahead with its air raid precautions, and the latest innovation is the fire-fighting suit for women wardens, made of chemically processed fireproof cloth. Above is shown the suit with helmet as worn in action.

Turns on Hitler



Once leader of the fascist home guard in Austria, Prince Ridiger von Starhemberg is now flight lieutenant with the Free French forces of Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

Relief At Last For Your Cough

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Bake Whole Camel

Ibn Saud, king of Saudi Arabia, sometimes gives a great banquet in his palace in Riyadh at which a large number of camels are served whole, having been cooked in giant vessels that hold an entire carcass.



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Point of Contrition

To err is human; but contrition felt for the crime distinguishes the virtuous from the wicked.—Alfieri.



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Awaiting Discovery

There are whole worlds of fact waiting to be discovered by inference.—Woodrow Wilson.

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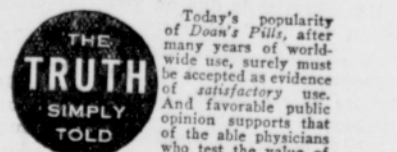
Way of Ease

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.—Benjamin Disraeli.

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