

# Wood Is Really a Critical Material Today; The US Is Using More of It in the War Than Steel—Even for Such Things as Bedsprings

By JAMES D. WHITE

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The United States is using more wood in this war than steel.

War Undersecretary Robert W. Patterson says the 1942 figures were 120,000,000 tons of wood, about 100,000,000 tons of steel.

Wood is a critical material. Its sale is restricted. You can build a porch or a lean-to garage if the whole job, including all labor and materials, costs no more than \$200.

Farmers and industrial builders have bigger allotments. Too, you can buy more if it's for a repair job, but you may have trouble finding it. Shortages exist where stocks have been depleted.

American dependence upon wood is unusual. In no other country, with the possible exception of Japan, are there so many wooden houses. The government estimates that in peacetime we use nearly half the lumber, more than half the paper made of wood, and 40 per cent of the wood in all forms used in the whole world.

War is increasing the uses of wood, and the National Lumber Manufacturers association estimates that substitution of wood saved five million tons of war-scarce metal last year.

On the civilian side, wood is being used for bottle caps and bed springs, baby buggies and shopping pushcarts, and dozens of other new uses.

For the military services, the lumber people have figured out that somewhere near 1500 items are made wholly or in part of wood—from crutches to plywood fuselages for airplanes.

The demands are tremendous and specific. Pontoon bridge planks, for instance, are six inches thick—enough to support a heavy tank. Decking for ships is required in huge quantities, some of it in strips 40 feet long. Mine sweepers require some timbers 108 feet long, and you don't often see trees big enough to yield such a chunk of wood in one piece unless you live among the redwoods or the Douglas firs.

The figures show about 600 types of structures built of wood for the army and navy alone. Estimates for 1943 indicate, however, that the majority of this work—cantonnments, barracks, bridges, factories—has been finished. About 35 per cent of the lumber supplied in 1943 will go into boxes and crates in which to ship materials of war across the oceans.

Much heavy wooden construction has been possible in this war which was not dreamed of in the last.

The navy, for instance, has billion more than that last year, will cut probably less this year, for, like all war industries, lumbering is having its troubles. Main problem is manpower, officially estimated to be 15 per cent deficient for the entire industry, but unofficially as high as 25 per cent in the logging end of the game.

Latest complaint of the industry is that the price ceilings placed on logs in April used fell as low as a base period. Ceilings on logs mean ceilings on wages to the operator, who contends he can no longer compete on the labor market with other war industries.

Otherwise the industry says the government has been helpful with allotments of equipment. About 95 per cent of all logs are moved by truck these days, and if replacements for trucks and tires were not provided logging would be seriously hampered, the industry says.

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## No Women With Japs On Attu

MASSACRE BAY, Attu Island (AP)—Just to settle some rumors which already are rife on this island and doubtless will be equally common in the states as soon as some ships from Attu get back home. To wit:

Americans haven't found any indication that there are any Japanese women on Attu.

They haven't found any women soldiers.

They haven't found any geisha girls.

True: Among Japanese effects have been found lots of silk (soldiers frequently carry silk handkerchiefs, sometimes decorated with pornographic drawings).

Also true: They frequently have small dolls among their effects (they apparently are souvenirs or reminders of Japanese children at home).

Also true: There are numbers of powder puffs (Japanese officers use them to apply after-shaving powder).

In short, American officers have been making a serious effort to find out if Japanese military plans involve the importation of women and especially to learn the fate of native Aleut women who were captured when the enemy took this island. Both queries to date are unanswered.

## OPA Subsidy Plan Fight Waxes Hot

WASHINGTON, June 17—(AP)—A housing committee's counsel declared Thursday that the office of price administration "is seeking to bring the entire American industrial system under bureaucratic control" by controlling profits. OPA Administrator Prentiss M. Brown replied his agency has no authority to control profits and does not seek to do so.

Other OPA-related developments:

1. Rowland Jones, jr., Washington representative of the National Retail Druggists association, testified OPA is "considering a nation-wide ceiling price on cigarettes," and a committee member commented this might mean an intention to eliminate brands.

2. Rep. Scanlon (D-Pa) told the house that a "profligate minority in big business" is attempting to discredit the OPA and "to place control of consumer food prices in the hands of the war food administrator where they know big business will get a break and the consumer will get it in the neck."

The question of profit control was raised by Harold L. Allen, counsel of the house committee investigating executive agencies, who said subpoenaed files of David Ginsburg, former OPA general counsel, showed this to be an OPA aim.

Jones, saying he spoke for 28,000 independent druggists, told the committee they objected to the OPA rubber goods sundries regulations from the standpoint of "price ceiling, grade labeling and differentiation in price ceilings for different classes of retailers." He said "we want one maximum ceiling price for all."

Scanlon said he was replying to an advertisement by the American Dairy association entitled "100 million pounds of butter disappeared." He said the butter "disappeared" into the hands of the WFA which bought it "to protect the creamery industry from suffering an inventory loss when OPA's consumer nickel-a-pound butter subsidy went into effect June 10."

Declaring the WFA "now owns the butter," Scanlon asked: "Is the WFA going to release it today or tomorrow so that the present butter shortage to consumers will be averted? Or are they going to sit on it and play politics with their pals in the creamery business?"

## Bamboo Shack Wedding Scene In New Guinea

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA—(AP)—In a bamboo shack lighted by kerosene lanterns, the first marriage ceremony here uniting Americans was performed recently before a small service audience of officers and nurses.

The principals were First Lieut. Dan Maser, Evansville, Ind., and Second Lieut. Eugenia Andrews, an army nurse, of Minneapolis, Minn.

Lieut. Maser said he and his bride came across the Pacific on the same ship. On Australia they were assigned to the same hospital and came to New Guinea on the same ship.

They became engaged here in January and decided there was no time like the present to get married, even if they could obtain only seven days leave to the Australian mainland for a honeymoon.

The auction, which establishes prices at levels set up last February for California, Oregon and Washington, should cause a reduction in the price to the farmer, the OPA declared.

The maximum price for ungraded hay, loose on the farm, is \$20 a ton. Slightly higher prices are permitted for hay that is graded by a state or federal inspector, except grade No. 2 which is also \$20 a ton.

WEST SALEM—Darwin Michaels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Drew Michaels, got the shock of his life when he went fishing this week. In casting, his hook came in contact with a live electric wire. The rod being metal, the circuit was completed. Current knocked him down, burned his hands severely and melted the end of the rod and reel.

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## Speeders Fined

WEST SALEM—Ronald E. Baker, route one, paid a fine of \$5 for violation of the basic rule.

## Richard H. Norris of McMinnville and James Walter Stilson, 2145 Bellevue, each posted \$5 bail for the same offense.



**Joe Asks You to Buy Bonds**  
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If You're Looking for a Good Place to Buy  
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Here You'll Find Just the Suit You Expected to Pay \$5 or \$10 More for Elsewhere  
**\$45** Is the Average Retail Price of 100% Wool Suits Today  
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Regular Retail Prices \$27.50 to \$50.00 Complete Stock of Sizes—34 to 50  
Large Selection of Single and Double Breasted Models, in the Most Wanted Durable Materials, Patterns and Designs to Choose From  
**WHY PAY MORE?** When You Can Get the Same Identical Thing in Dollar for Dollar Value for \$5 to \$10 Less at  
**Joe's Upstairs Clothes Shop**  
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OPEN SATURDAY NITE TILL 10 O'CLOCK  
Entrance Next Door to Quella Cafe  
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*The Store of Greater Values*

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