

FOOD UPPERMOST IN THOUGHTS OF JAP INTERNEES

Nip Objective of Breaking
Morale Nearly Success as
Civilians Fight Over Food

(Editor's Note—Franz Weissblatt, United Press staff correspondent who was with Gen. MacArthur on Bataan and spent three years in a Japanese prison camp at Santo Tomas tells in the following dispatch of the Japs' systematic starvation of the internees and of the enemy's penalties against black market-ers.)

By Franz Weissblatt
United Press Correspondent
Santo Tomas, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—I heard for the first time today about the OPA and food restrictions imposed on civilians back in the United States.

I hesitate to draw parallels. It might be in poor taste. But I can't help writing about a subject that's been uppermost in my thoughts and the thoughts of my fellow internees for many months.

Food First Thought

Food was the first thought in the morning and the last at night. It was the gnawing thought in the midst of all work and all leisure time. It was the principal topic of conversation. And the aim of all activity.

All moral senses became submerged by thoughts of food.

Honest men stole from one another, or from a common larder.

Lifelong army friendships were broken by arguments over food distribution often involving a single spoonful of rice.

Black market dealing was not a question of greed. It was the envy of those without jewelry, clothing or credit to obtain staples such as rice, Mongo beans, sugar or any other sweets or foods with high calories or energy content.

The basic question was that of survival.

Jap Penalties
I do not know the OPA's penalties, but I do know that the penalties imposed by the Japanese included 30 days' solitary confinement for stealing weeds out of a neighbor's garden.

Kangkong, a tubular weed, was used for soup. Tapinum, a broad-leaved weed, was used for salads. It is surprising what excellent salad some leaves and weeds will make.

In the early days of our confinement, rice was plentiful in Manila and we got an average of 1500 calories per day. We

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secretly buried rice daily so the Japanese would not learn of the excess we were getting, and cut our rations.

The situation became progressively worse as the Japs began looting the islands and calling upon the Filipinos for increasingly greater quantities of food-stuffs.

Food Unavailable

Finally the time came when food was unavailable—even in exchange for Japanese currency. Our rations were not filled for days at a time. We got rotten vegetables, fruits, greens, and camotes, for a time and learned to relish them.

Then we had the rice issue cut. Stealing broke out to an alarming extent.

The self-imposed discipline of the Americans disappeared. The Japs' apparent objective of breaking our morale neared achievement.

We welcomed liberation, but even freedom is academic when your belly is empty.

All that is past now, and we hope soon to return to America. With or without the initials OPA, America is the promised land.

EDITORS THANKED FOR SILENCE ON BIG 3 CONCLAVE

Washington, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Director Byron Price of the Office of Censorship today offered his "thanks and appreciation" to American editors and news broadcasters for their conduct with respect to the current Big Three conference.

"The responsible editors and news broadcasters of the United States," he said in a note to editors and broadcasters, "are entitled to great credit for their conduct, under voluntary censorship, with respect to the international conference in the Black Sea area."

"The difficulties have been many but in spite of strong provocation from abroad domestic news columns and broadcasts in this country have been, on the whole, remarkably free of aid to the enemy. That he still is confused about major points of security connected with the conference is demonstrated amply by misgivings of enemy propagandists."

"The Office of Censorship offers its thanks and appreciation."

Boy Scout News

Scout troop 17 of Gold Hill in their meeting Feb. 1 decided on several important things. A window display in a local merchant's window for Scout Week Feb. 8 to 14. A pot luck dinner during Scout Week at 6:30 p. m. on Feb. 8. Also painting of Scout hall.

This is a start of a series of improvements by the Gold Hill troop.

Lt. Jack Martin was present and talked to the troop.

BIRTHS

SHERARD—To Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, 417½ G St., Feb. 5, 1945, a girl, six pounds, at Osteopathic clinic.

NAVY ENLISTMENT RECORDS BROKEN DURING JANUARY

Navy enlistment records for the past nine months in the Oregon recruiting district were broken in January with the enrollment of 353 17-year-old volunteers, it was reported by Chief W. R. Cumley, USN, in charge of the Medford recruiting station.

Previous high month was April of last year, when 369 teensters were signed. Considerable credit for January's excellent showing goes to this district for its response to the navy's various recruitment programs, the recruiter declares.

Enlistment of men for the radar training course showed a substantial increase, it was reported, and few states in the nation had as good a record on a per capita basis. Recruitment of radar trainees continues unabated this month, as many ships are delayed in commissioning because of an inadequate supply of experts to man their radar devices.

There are several reasons why the radar program is having such a great appeal, the recruiter explains. One is that the candidate who qualifies for the training is enlisted as seaman first class—two steps above the normal starting rate of apprentice seaman.

Another is that the successful applicant is given between 10 and 11 months of training in advanced radio and electronics at leading colleges, universities and navy schools before being put on active duty as a petty officer.

The most popular reason with many radar trainees is that they will be assured of a fine job in the postwar period by virtue of their schooling and actual experience in the navy. This background will permit them to work in television, civilian aviation and many other commercial enterprises.

The recruiter emphasizes that the navy's radar program is open to men of draft age as well as to 17-year-olds. Anyone interested is asked to go to the navy recruiting station for additional information.

SOLDIER SURVIVES BEING MADE INTO HUMAN EXPLOSIVE

Temple, Tex., Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Pvt. William H. Edwards, a booby trap who didn't explode, told today how German soldiers who found him wounded on the Western front turned him into a living bomb.

Edwards, pending the healing of his right leg and getting back home to his wife and six children at Hayti, Mo., is at McCloskey General Hospital here.

The 4th infantry division foot-soldier recalled vividly the agonizing 70 hours he lay in the Huertgen forest after stepping on a land mine which blew off his right foot.

On night patrol near the Nazi lines when wounded, Edwards called a medical corpsman. The enemy heard too, and began a search.

It wasn't long, the Missouri soldier recounted, until a voice whispered, "Are you a GI?"

"Hell, yes," answered Edwards.

The medic promised help, but the Germans forced them to drop back.

Edwards said he lay undetected in the forest until 3 patrolling Germans found him. They refused his plea for water, he said. Instead, they rummaged through his field jacket and divided up his five packages of cigarettes.

Then the Germans turned the American soldier into a human booby trap by inserting a land mine beneath his body and wiring it tight to him.

"They left," Edwards continued, "and I had to lay on that mine all day and most of the night. I smoked some cigarettes the Germans failed to find in my shirt pocket, all the time thinking I was a goner."

"I knew I would never leave the forest alive."

About two a. m. the next day,

two soldiers from another company rescued him.

"I warned them about the mine," Edwards said, "then helped them get me loose."

POTATO COUNTRY IS TAKEN UNDER WFA PERMIT PLAN

Washington, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The War Food Administration today brought the last two remaining important potato producing areas, Colorado and the Red River valley of North Dakota and Minnesota, under its potato shipping permit plan.

The plan bans shipments except under WFA permits. It already is in effect in Idaho, Oregon, California and Maine. It is designed to assure the armed forces of their full allocation of good quality potatoes.

WFA has warned civilians that they must expect a potato shortage this spring because of a shorter crop and rapid disappearance of supplies since the fall harvest. It said the extension order undoubtedly would divert further supplies from the civilian market.

Under the order, effective Feb. 9, shippers in affected areas must offer their potatoes to a government agency. Potatoes not needed for the armed services either for consumption or processing will be released into commercial channels under a WFA permit.

PEANUT SHORTAGE HITS CANDY MEN

Chicago, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Sugar and peanut shortages are likely to put a tighter squeeze on civilian candy supplies, leaving counters as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard, Philip P. Gott, president of the National Confectioners' Association, said today.

"The sugar shortage in the United States will prevail through 1945 despite release of the Philippines. Even if the Japanese are not destroying the sugar mills, which is unlikely, the maximum production of the islands is required for our troops, China, and Allied forces in the Pacific area," Gott said.

The candy industry is confronted not only with the sugar shortage but with a peanut shortage that prevents it from filling government contracted orders, according to the industry.

Shelled peanuts for 1944 topped all previous crop records but "60 per cent of the Dec. 31 invoices of peanuts in the hands of shellers have been frozen," Gott said.

WORLD WIDE BAN ON RACE HATRED

New York, Feb. 8.—(U.P.)—A message urging that a world-wide ban against racial and religious discrimination be proposed at the Big Three conference has been sent to President Roosevelt from the Committee of Catholics for human rights, it was announced today.

The message was signed by Catholic leaders in educational, political, and labor fields. Among them were Sen. James E. Murray, D., Mont., Philip Murray, president of the congress of industrial organizations, and Gov. Frank J. Lausche of Ohio. Murray is honorary national chairman of the committee.

THE GRANGE

Eagle Point Grange
Recreation night will be held Feb. 10 by the Eagle Point Grange at the hall, beginning at 8 p. m. Boys and men attending are asked to bring six whole sandwiches for refreshments.

STAR FOR OVERSEAS

Hollywood, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—First Lt. Tyrone Power, former motion picture star, has completed marine corps transport pilot training and has been assigned to the El Centro, Calif., marine air station awaiting transfer overseas.

MID-WEST FACES HEAVIEST SPRING FLOODS IN YEARS

Chicago, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The threat of the worst spring flood in nine years hangs over the East and Mid-west where heavy winter snows have piled up a huge backlog of precipitation that could turn every stream into a roaring torrent with the first rainfall, weather bureau and flood control officials reported today.

So great is the threat to the millions of residents in the low-land areas, where previous floods have taken a huge toll in life and property, that disaster and relief agencies are preparing for the "heaviest flood year since 1936," and the U. S. coastguard and Red Cross have flood relief equipment ready for instant use.

Improvement in flood training and the use of amphibious vehicles developed for the armed forces is expected to keep casualties to a minimum, but the National Safety Council has urged residents of these regions "to prepare now and reduce the loss of life."

U. S. Weather Bureau officials predicted that a quick spring thaw would burden rivers and tributaries in the threat-

ened areas with an overflow as disastrous as nine years ago.

NEW TERM OPENS, ENROLLMENT GAIN

The second half of the winter term at the Southern Oregon College of Education opened Monday of this week. There has been a substantial gain in enrollment for this term, with new curricula having been offered which should interest prospective students. In addition to the approval of two new two-year terminal curricula in merchandising and for medical and dental assistants, the state board has approved additional



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courses which will be offered here, beginning in 1945-46. These courses are clothing construction and selection, three hours credit; foods, nutrition and cookery, three hours credit; personal and family relationships, three hours credit; industrial arts for elementary schools, two hours credit, each term.

METAL SUBSIDY ASKED
Washington, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—A bill to permit continuation of

subsidy payments on strategic minerals, metals and petroleum products was introduced today by Reps. Clare Engle, D., Calif.

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