

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Forces Continue Drive in Tunisia; Pressure for Tough Labor Legislation Halted by Continuation of Coal Parley; Soggy Terrain Hampers Red Offensive

EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper. Released by Western Newspaper Union.



A British Bofors gun as it was pulled toward the front in Tunisia by a British army lorry. Note how the road is lined with German tank debris. In foreground is a Nazi tank turret. This official British photo was made after the Allies repulsed the Germans between Thala and the Kasserine Pass.

TUNISIA:

'Fox' Seeks Cover

When Marshal Rommel threw back the British eighth army in the narrow coastal corridor of Tunisia, it looked like the great struggle of the Mareth line might resolve into a bloody battle of attrition. But then Gen. Bernard Montgomery sent a strong armored column around the southern anchor of the Mareth line and it succeeded in swinging back and trapping the Axis forces from the rear.

Thus faced with heavy pressure from his front and rear, Rommel pulled out his army from the Mareth line. As the British took over Gabes and El Hamma, Rommel was withdrawing northward toward the marshes and salt flats strung out along the coastal plain. Here Rommel is expected to concentrate his army of 80,000 men in the few passable trails.

Threatening Rommel's flank for almost 100 miles up the coastal plain to the north, were two American columns. One was poised at Maknassy and the other at Fondouk. Both overlook roads leading to the main path of Rommel's retreat. Should either of these forces break through the Allies would cut the Axis armies in the south off from those in the north.

BASE: For Offensive?

When Herbert Morrison, British home security minister, announced that the entire east and south coast of Great Britain to a depth of ten miles was to become a "restricted area," military experts began speeding up their predictions regarding the Allied invasion of Europe.

In fact, the official British announcement declared that there was a possibility that this area might be used as "a base for offensive operations."

BERLIN: Blocks Busted

One thousand tons of bombs were showered on Berlin by 400 British bombers in the 60th air raid of the war on the German capital. Twenty-one ships failed to return.

The raid on Berlin followed an equally heavy assault on the Nazi submarine base of St. Nazaire. Here, 1,000 tons of bombs also were reported dropped on docks, hangars and warehouses. One-quarter of the city was aflame and seven huge fires raged.

Continuing to pound Germany's vital industrial valley of the Ruhr, RAF bombers pounded the iron, steel and coal center of Bochum, which stands 10 miles east of the great Krupp steel works of Essen. Bombs also were dropped on the engine manufacturing center of Duisberg.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

SMALL FAMILIES: Out of the 35 million families in the U. S. in 1940, 85 per cent had two children or less. The birth rate of 1942 also fell below the World War I standard despite the recent record level.

TAXES: Nearly 40 million income tax returns have been filed, the treasury reported, and income tax payments for March approximated \$4,500,000,000.

RUSSIA:

New General

All eyes are turned now on General Spring in Russia. Spring thaws along the entire 2,000-mile Russian front are not expected to be severe because of the relatively mild winter. The degree of boginess depends upon the intensity of the spring rains.

Soggy terrain has been hampering the Red push on Smolensk. One column bearing down on the Nazi base from the north is reported to have knifed through defensive positions moving in from the east have encountered stiff resistance. Rains have turned the swampy country into almost impassable quagmires.

Following the Nazi's successful counterattack in the Kharkov and Belgorod areas along the southern front, fighting in this sector has abated. Russian troops are said to hold some positions on the western bank of the Donets river, gained during their recent winter offensive.

LABOR: Tough Legislation

Extension of the negotiations between the Appalachian soft coal operators and the United Mine Workers union for a 30-day period stalled temporarily the pressure for some of the toughest labor legislation to be given consideration in congress in recent years.

Had the agreement not been reached it had been freely predicted around Capitol Hill that stern steps to curb union activities would have been taken in both house and senate. One such measure which had been reported ready for a quick vote was the Hobbs anti-racketeering bill. Also the senate judiciary committee gave a unanimous indorsement to a measure intended to empower the President to seize and operate any mine or factory whenever a labor dispute halted production. This was the anti-strike law first introduced in November, 1941.

This measure had once been allowed to die because the White House had asked the pressure be taken off.

SKIP-YEAR TAX: First Defeat

In an action reflecting on both Democratic and Republican leadership the house of representatives rejected the Ruml skip-a-year tax plan and the administration's collection-at-the-source plans.

Excited representatives directed the ways and means committee to draw up a new bill that would put the income taxpayers on a pay-as-you-go basis.

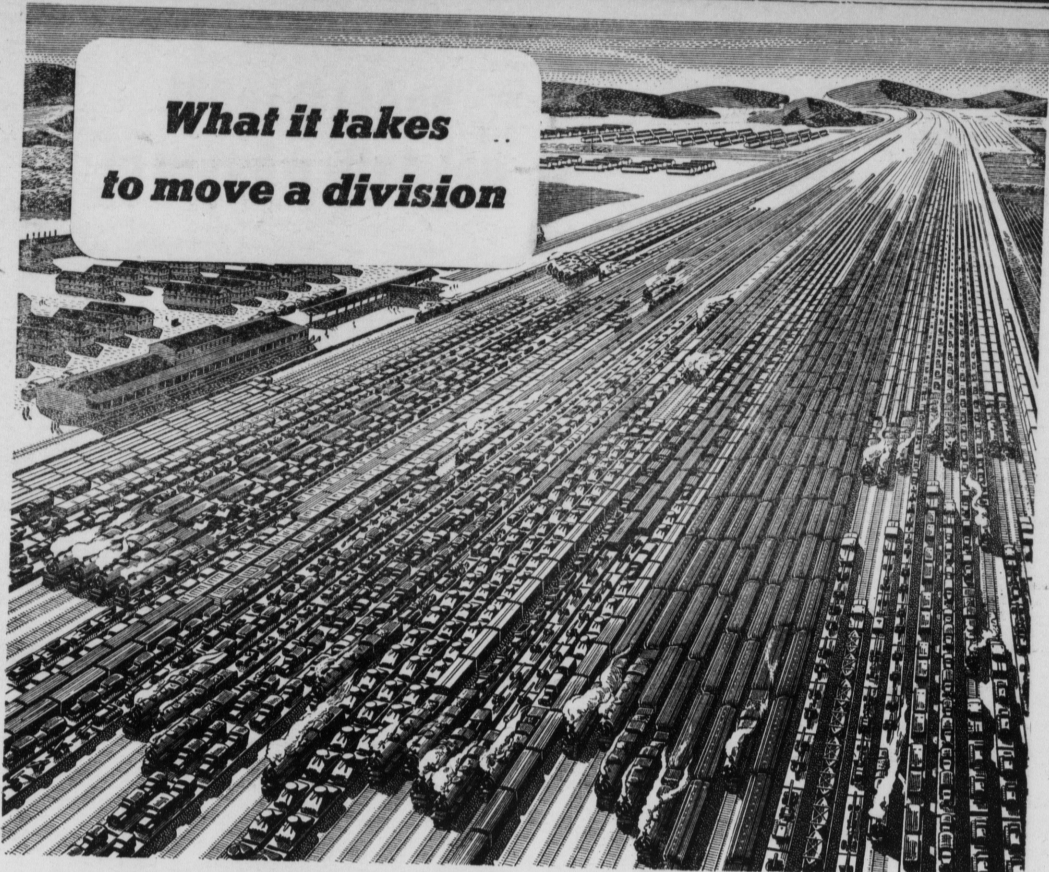
Representative Martin, Republican leader, had expressed confidence that Republicans would get across the Ruml plan to skip 1942 taxes and let them apply on 1943 income taxes.

Representative McCormack, Democratic leader, failed to keep majority members in line for the administration's collection-at-the-source bills. He was in charge while Speaker Sam Rayburn was absent.

The chamber's defeat of the Ruml plan tossed the controversy back into the lap of the committee. Leaders predicted there will be no effort to revive it until increased tax rates are considered later in the year.

BUMS RUSHED: On a recent night, only 629 vagrants applied for shelter in British institutions. This was the lowest figure in 100 years. 16,911 were housed during the peak of the depression of 1932.

DRAFT: Only employment in essential industry is now considered grounds for draft deferment. Dependency is no longer regarded as a factor.

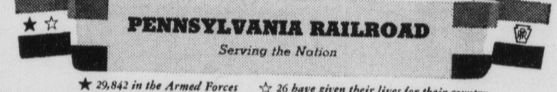


What it takes to move a division

If, like the eagle, you could look down on the amount of railroad equipment it takes to move a single armored division, here is what you would see . . . 75 trains: Many passenger trains, many freight trains—all required to move just one division. For a division takes all its equipment with it—tanks, jeeps, armored cars, supply trucks, tractors, anti-aircraft guns, many things. And its men, numbering about 12,000, need berths in which to sleep!

What's more, when this division moves by rail, it moves as a unit—that is, trains following one another a few minutes apart. Now, in terms of trains, those 75 taken out of civilian service and put into military service, are about equal to the number of passenger trains running daily over the Pennsylvania Railroad between two of the busiest places on the face of the globe—New York and Washington.

Multiply this one division by the many moving in this country and you can understand why . . . you may have difficulty getting a berth . . . or be obliged to stand in a coach . . . or arrive at your destination late. In fact, demand for equipment is now so great that on arriving at terminals cars must be put right back into service, so you may find them not quite so spic and span as we would like. Housekeeping facilities are adequate but there's not always time. But Americans are taking all this like good soldiers. For they know this is a war of movement, and that movement begins right here—in America, on the rails.



25,842 in the Armed Forces 26 have given their lives for their country

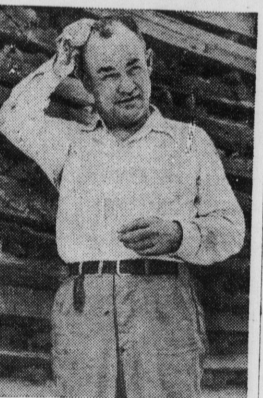
One of America's Railroads . . . All United for Victory!

FARM LABOR: New Plans

Shortly after he had been summoned to Washington as the nation's new food administrator, Chester C. Davis conferred with President Roosevelt, Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard and farm leaders to discuss means of handling the mounting crisis in farm labor. Later, President Roosevelt declared that while Davis was not yet to make known his plans, it was rather definite that a strongly persuasive program to get draft-age men in nonessential pursuits to shift to war jobs, including agriculture.

First objective would now be to get former experienced workers back into dairying. It is here that the farm labor situation is most critical. Employment offices throughout the country are now listing names of dairy farmers needing help and county war boards are urging men between 36-45 with dairy or farm experience to seek re-employment at these places.

Conscientious objectors may be released from camps to take farm jobs; men now classified 4F now on



CLAUDE WICKARD The mounting crisis in farm labor

WEEK FARM CALENDAR

From the Pennsylvania State College Agriculturalists

Horses Need Feed. As a rule, work horses in the spring should be liberally fed, say livestock specialists at the Pennsylvania State College. Unless the strength of the animals is maintained by proper feeding, they will tire quickly and be unable to stand the heavy work they are called on to do in the fields.

Produce Pulpwood. Pennsylvania's wood-pulp manufacturers fear that they will be short about 75,000 cords of wood this year. Extension foresters of the Pennsylvania State College suggest that 7,500 farmers each cut ten cords of pulpwood on days unfavorable for general farm work during the next few months.

Grow Good Hybrids. Extension agronomists at the Penn State College report that good hybrid corns generally require less labor in harvesting and will yield more corn per acre than most open-pollinated varieties. This, they consider, is an important item in solving the present farm labor problem.

Have Equipment Ready. Poultrymen who will receive their baby chicks within a few days should have all operating parts of brooders and equipment checked and the broode reoperating for several days, remind poultry specialists of the Pennsylvania State College.

Plant Tested Varieties. Demonstrations have determined which of the available potato varieties are best in Pennsylvania. Penn State agronomists urge growers to get information on locally adapted varieties from county agricultural extension agents.

Use Protein Wisely. Because of the shortage of protein foods and the great need for livestock feeding, Penn State dairy specialists suggest that the protein be made to go as far as possible in the dairy cattle ration.

OPA WANTS THE FARMER TO LIMIT USE OF FOOD

Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown will put farm families on their honor not to eat more meat, butter, and cheese than other Americans. The Office of Price Administration will urge farmers to market most of their produce and to retain for themselves only an amount equivalent to what they would be able to buy in Ration Book No. 2.

With farm families accounting for 24 million persons, officials admitted that failure of this honor program could result in a serious loophole in the entire rationing system. If every member of a farm family ate, for example, two pounds of butter a week more than the average ration of four ounces, the loss to the nation would run to at least 168 million pounds a year. Similarly an extra pound of

meat a week over the ration of two and one-quarter pounds would mean consumption of an extra 624 million pounds of meat annually.

Buy bonds and stamps and Save!

LILLY GETS \$8,000.

State Treasurer G. Harold Wagner last week announced the payment of \$8,000 to the Lilly Borough School District, under the aid to financially-handicapped school districts plan.

Advertisement for Barnesboro Budget Plan, Inc. featuring a woman on a telephone and the text: 'It's Easy to borrow money for Home Repairs . . . I wanted to paint and paper our home but was short of ready cash to do it. A friend suggested that I visit Barnesboro Budget and have them help me with my money problem — I had the money I needed the next day. The manager was very cooperative, he asked no embarrassing questions and between us, we worked out a plan so that I can repay the loan over a period of months, the terms are very liberal and I can repay the loan easily. YES — Whenever you're confronted with a money problem, the answer is simple — we extend to you a cordial invitation to visit us — let us solve your money problem. No lengthy details or bothersome delays. Let us help you. Loans up to \$300.00 Hours: 9 to 5:00 Daily, Except Wednesday Afternoon BARNESBORO BUDGET PLAN, INC. Telephone 467 BARNESBORO Buy War Bonds and Stamps!