The Nation At War ★

A complete coverage of the week's news on the all-out effort of the United Nation's fight for freedom.

War production Chairman Nelson reported overall munitions production in September was 7 percent above August, with airplanes up 10 percent, ordnance up 7 percent, Navy and Army vessels up 22 percent, and merchant ships up 10 percent.

The report stated that the WPB index of munitions production increased 24 points in September to 381—four times the production rate at the time of Pearl Harbor. The Treasury paid out $5,500 million for war purpose, an increase of $300 million over August. This amounted to 40 percent oof all payments made in the United States for goods and services during the month.

Mr. Nelson's report said four-engined bombers rolled off assembly lines very nearly on schedule. The output of heavy aircraft showed a marked increase over August,, with the output light, trainer-type planes held below August. Some new plants which came into production recently made a much better than anticipated showing. Propeller production continued a major problem, although enough propellers have been made thus far to fly all planes.

While merchant ship production was 10 percent above August, actual tonnage delivered was 34 percent above August—1,009,000 deadweight tons compared with 753,000 in August. This was 12 percent above first of the month forecasts and approached closely the total production of merchant shipyards last year. During the month, 12 major combat vessels were launched, the report stated. Deliveries of major vessells were greater than forecast, but deliveries of other types were behind expectations.

ARMY

The Army Specialist Corps, which had inducted approximately 1,300 men, was abolished, the War Department announced, and all future commissions directly from civil life will be given in the Specialist Reserve until the men commissioned have completed a course of military training. Then they will be commissioned in appropriate grades in the Army. Members of the Corps already in the Service will be tendered commissions in the Army of the United States, if qualified.

The change was made, the War Department said, because it was found inadvisable "in the interest of efficiency, uniformity of operations, discipline and the avoidance of duplication of effort" to have two uniformed services. Applications now on file for the Specialist Corps will continue to be available for consideration for appointments in the Army of the United States," the Department said. Under the new rules no person under 35, without previous commissioned service, will be appointed unless he has been classified 4-F for physical disability. No person without previous commissioned service who is between 34 and 45 will be accepted if his classification is 1-A or2.

U. S. Treasury Department.

"Wait! On second thought you ought to make a good son-in-law!"

Exceptions will be made to these rules only where there is "critical need" for the applicant's service.

War Secretary Stimson reported the Alcan highway is now open to trucks carrying munitions and materials to troops in Alaska for its entire length of 1,671 miles. Formal opening will probably take place November 15, he said. Mr. Stimson said the furlough period of two weeks given newly inducted soldiers will be reduced to one week. Approximately 3,400 tons of mail, including more than 1,000,000 Christmas parcels, were sent to U. S. armed forces overseas during the first 25 days of October.

THE WAR FRONT

Army Chief of Staff Marshal, in a letter to Commander in Chief King of the U. S. Fleet, said the "skillful seamanship" of the Navy has already escorted 800,000 soldiers safely "across the submarine-infested waters of the Atlantic and Pacific.

The Navy reported November 1 that two enemy aircraft carriers, two battleships and three cruisers were damaged and 100 airplanes destroyed in a great sea battle 250 miles northeast of Guadalcanal. Navy Secretary Knox said the Japanese fleet units have retired from the scene in the Solomons and the "first round" of that battle is over. In the battle the U. S. lost an unidentified aircraft carrier and the destroyer Porter. Folowilng this battle U. S. naval units shelled enemy positions on Guadalcanal. On the ground U. S. Marines and soldiers repulsed all Japanese attempts to dent their positions around Henderson airfield. Gen MacArthur's headquarters in Australia reported November 2 that fresh bombing raids on Jap bases at Buin and Faisi were believed to have sunk or damaged seven more enemy surface ships.

LABOR SUPPLY

President Roosevelt told his press conference that a compulsory registration for American women to determine their availability for war work is being considered. While no compulsory drafting of women for war industries is contemplated, he said, there is a need for information which a compulsory registration could produce. Such a registration would require legislation which probably could not be completed until the end of the year.

Labor Secretary Perkins reported 4,500,000 new workers must come into the labor market before the end of 1943 and an additional 3,000,000 by the end of 1944. War Manpower Commission Chairman McNutt said that about 500,000 workers will be released to war industries when nationwide gasoline rationing becomes effective November 22.

STABILIZATION OF WAGES

The War Labor Board began to set up administrative machinery to regulate all wages and salaries under $5,000 a year. The Board will delegate to local Wage-Hour Administration officers the power to decide whether employers are exempt under the provisions permitting individual raises for merit, length of service or increased productivity. The Board will establish 10 regional offices whose directors will meet in Washington with WLB officials to work out details for handling applications. The Treasury Department which will control salaries not under WLB jurisdiction, established a Salary Stabilization Unit and announced that seven regional offices of the Unit will be opened soon.

STABLIZATION OF FARM PRICES

The Agriculture Department estimated net farm income for 1942, including Government payments, at nearly $9,800 million, about $1,000 million above the previous record in 1919, and set 1943 income at approximately $10,500 million. Total agricultural production is nearly 12 percent greater than the record set in 1941, and 40 percent greater than in 1918. Military and Lend-Lease buying of food next year is expected to take one-fifth of current production.

WMC Chairman McNutt said all "necessary" workers on the nation's dairy, livestock and poultry farms will be frozen in their present occupations. Local draft boards will be asked to defer such workers, all other employers will be instructed to refrain from hiring them, and the Agriculture Department will act toward stabilizing their wages, he said.

RATIONING

Agriculture Secretary Wickard ordered 144 types of new farm machinery and equipment, excluding repair parts frozen as of November 1 in the hands of dealers, distributors and manufacturers pending formal rationing. The Agriculture Department and its State War Boards will establish State and county quotas. The WPB delegated to the Office of Price Administration the authority to ration milk cans and farm fencing. The OPA will redelegate this authority to the Agriculture Department. Sugar rations for Army and Navy personnel on furlough will be one-half pound per week, instead of on the basis of the value of the current sugar ration coupon. The first coffee ration will be obtained beginning November 28 by surrendering the last coupon, No. 28, in the sugar ration book, and subsequent rations will be given on coupons taken in sequence toward the center of the book.

R. H. HARRISON IS PROMOTE D TO CAPTAIN

Robert B. Harrison, Land's End Farm, Centreville, Queen Anne's County, Md., has been promoted from First Lieutenant to the rank of Captain in the Quartermaster Corps. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Norris Harrison, 2028 Locust St., Philadelphia.

Capt. Harrison is assigned to headquarters of Camp Lee's Quartermaster Replacement Training Center and is connected with the technical training service. Here in the QMRTC, Quartermaster soldiers are trained to take their places on the farflung battlefronts of the world.

Capt. Harrison was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy, and at Cornell University, Penn State, and the University of Pennsylvania. He received the B. A. degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1940, as an honor graduate, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the ROTC. He is a member of Delta Upsilon, S. A. M. E., Scabbard and Blade.

Prior to call to active Army duty, Capt. Harrison was vice-president and general manager of the Tri-County Sales Corporation whose headquarters were located at Chestertown. He arrived at Camp Lee on February 8, 1941, after previous duty at Fort Myer and with the CCC at Quantico and Cabin John, Md.

Capt. and Mrs. Harrison, who was Miss Alice Elizabeth Fontaine, of Chestertown, Md., prior to their marriage here in 1935, and their two children, Mary Marjorie, 4 years, and Robert Clarke, 1 month, are living at 115 Cameron Ave., in nearby Petersburg, Va.

Capt. Harrison's brother, Capt. C. L. Harrison, is on duty at the Normovle Ordnance Motor Base, and uncle, Lt. Commander John Harrison, Jr., is in Naval Operations, Cape May, N. J.

SOCIAL NEWS OF INTEREST AT KENNEDYVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Coss and children spent the weekend with relatives in Western Maryland.

Mr. Earl Pinder and son spent Sunday with his mother at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Nickerson.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Boggs and Mrs. Caulk and children spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Boggs.

Miss Marie Miller of Wilmington spent the week-end with her parents.

Mrs. Henry Boggs spent a part of this week with her son and wife in Wyoming, Del.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anthony entertained her mother and sister over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hopkins and daughter Anne spent Sunday with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Samuel DeShane near Galena.

Mr. and Mrs. Pyle of Wilmington visited her mother over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. David Nickerson and family of Baltimore visited his parents Mr. and Mrs. Earl Nickerson on Friday.

Mrs. Maude Cleaver spent the weekend with her son Mr. William Cleaver and family.

Mr. White and Delia Ann White are on the suck list.

The W. C. T. U. served lunch on Election Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Johnston of Baltimore spent Wednesday at their home here.

Eddie Nickerson is spending some time with his grandparents.

Outdoor Fireplace

An idea for outdoor fireplace builders comes from the navy which makes movies of smoke before locating hangars.

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