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.

President Roosevelt, in a raido address, said that "During the past two weeks we have had a great deal of good news and it would seem that the turning point of this war has at last been reached. But this is no time for exultation. There is no time now for anything but fighting and working to win."

Navy Secretary Knox reported the following total damage inflicted on Japan in the Battle of the Solomons November 12-15; sunk—2 battleships (1 may have been a heavy cruiser), 6 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, 6 destroyers, 8 transports, 4 cargo transports; damaged—2 battleships, 1 cruiser, 7 destroyers. The Japanese lost between 20,000 and 40,000 troops, as well as large numbers of naval personnel. U. S. losses were 2 light cruisers and 6 destroyers sunk.

Mr. Knox said U. S. forces are in complete control of the area in and around Guadalcanal and "our hold on the island is very secure." President said the battle is a major victory. War Secretary Stimson said Army aircraft from Australia and New Caledonia played an active and effective role in the battle.

Allied headquarters in North Africa reported that American, British and French troops are driving into Tunisia from all sides, closing in a ring around the northeastern triangle of Bizerte and Tunis. The British First Army, reinforced by U. S. and French units, engaged Axis mechanized columns in Tunisia and drove them back, the War Department announced. Gen. McArthur's headquarters reported November 21 that American and Australian forces are driving hard against the Japanese, who are pinned along the northeastern coast of New Guinea between Buna and Gona on a narrow beachhead extending 20 miles along the coast and 6 miles inland.

Selective Service

President Roosevelt ordered registration for Selective Service for all young men who have reached the age of 18 since July 1, as follows: those born July 1 to August 31, 1924, inclusive, to register the week beginning December 11; those born September 1 to October 31, 1924, to register December 18-24; those born November 1 to December 31, 1924, to register December 26-31. Young men reaching 18 after January 1 will register on their birthdays. Selective Service Headquarters ordered distribution of questionaires to 18 and 19-year-old registrants, who will be inducted as their order numbers are reached.

"To make sure that no one who is really irreplaceable shall be separated from an essential position," the President ordered the Secretaries of War and Navy to "see to it that present Government employees, who have been deferred, are not enlisted or commissioned—unless they can produce the approval of the head of their agency." Mr. Roosevelt said that after his order November 17 for cancellation of all deferments already made on the basis of Federal service, there was a rush of Government employees to get into uniform. He said his new order should apply not only to the regular civilian employees of the Government "but also to employees in Army arsenals and in Navy yards and Navy shore establishments owned or operated by the United States."

The new manpower setup to be completed soon, the President said, would provide for deferment and prohibition on enlistment of men needed more urgently for war production than in the Army. More uniformity could be obtained from local draft boards, he said, by plant managers certifying to the boards cases of men who are irreplaceable and by more consultation between draft boards and war production employers.

The Armed Forces

Navy Surgeon General McIntire said Navy fatalities among the wounded at Guadalcanal are less than one percent, compared with an average of seven percent wounded in World War 1—due principally to use of new medical discoveries in treatment of wounds. The President appointed Brig. Gen. Frederick H. Osborn, Chief of Special Services of the War Department, as chairman of a committee which will work out plans for post-war education of young men whose school years are iterrupted by entrance into the armed services. The President increased the maximum size of the WAAC'S from 25,000 to 150,000 women. More than 1,000,000 soldiers have applied for benefits on behalf of their families under the Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act.

The Office of War Information announced 48,956 members of U. S. armed forces have been officially reported as killed, wounded, missing or prisoners since the war began_exclusive of the African campaign. The War and Navy Departments organized the United States of America Typhus Commission, headed by Rear Admiral Charles S. Stephenson, to "function as a board of strategy against typhus, the common foe of all armies and of all people."

Production

War production Chairman Nelson announced aircraft production in 1943 has been fixed at more than double the 1942 output. At the same time he appointed a new top board of aircraft production supervision under the chairmanship of WPB Vice Chairman Charles E. Wilson. Mr. Nelson issued a statement asking war workers to stay on their jobs Thanksgiving Day. The WPB Smaller War Plants Division reported it has completed its operating organization and now has the staff necessary to carry out its work.

Farm Prices and Production

The WPB froze until March 6, 1943 one-half of the supply of cold storage butter in the 35 principal markets of the country—between 30 and 35 million pounds. Without regard to existing contracts, this butter may not be delivered except on specific permission by the WPB or to the armed forces, Lend-Lease, or other specified Government agencies. The freeze order applies to any person in the 35 markets, who between November 6, 1942, and November, 20, 1942, had any butter in his possession or under his control in any warehouse. He is required to set aside until March 6, 1943, 50 percent of the supply of butter he had on hand November 6 or November 20, whichever is higher.

The OPA set special price ceilings on turkeys sold direct to consumers by farmers and processors. Terms of Commodity Credit Corporation contracts offered to farmers in Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota and Kentucky for the production of 300,000 acres of hemp in 1943 were announced by the Agriculture Department. Contracts will be available at AAA county offices in a few weeks. Employment on farms November 1 totaled 10,879,000, a seasonal decline of about 1,000,000 persons during October and representing a much higher percentage of women, children and townspeople.

Rationing

The OPA cut the value of the basic A gasoline ration coupon from 4 to 3 gallons in the District of Columbia and 16 of the now-rationed Eastern States, B and C books were not affected. Those motorists who, because of the change of the value of the A coupon, are unable to obtain "essential mileage" may now apply for supplemental rations. To allow motorists extra time in which to dispose of idle tires in excess of five per passenger car, the OPA postponed the deadline for idle tire turn-ins until December 1. A total of 2,872,000 tires had been turned in by motorists at the close of business November 14.

War Finances

To finance the war effort, the Treasury will borrow during December the unprecedented sum of approximately $9 billion, Treasury Secretary Morgenthau announced. Twelve Victory Fund Committees will launch an intensive sales campaign on November 30 on three series of offerings of new securities, with 44,000 volunteer workers soliciting subscriptions. At the same time the War Savings Staff, with its 300,000 volunteers, will intensify its drive to add at least 7 million more income-earners to those already investing regularly in War Bonds through the payroll savings plan.

The Enemy Within

Maryland Musings

A good wartime dairy program is also a sound dairy program in normal times. A sound program properly executed should pay dividends to Maryland dairymen by increased milk production and cash received for surplus cattle.

—V—

Better management of farm animals is not only good business, but it is also patriotic in this time of critical need for more meat.

—V—

To meet the call for increased production of crops will require careful attention to all details. Rotations must be maintained and soil fertility preserved; farm machinery must be kept in repair.

—V—

With curtailed supplies of many canned foods and perhaps rationing in store for civilians; with transportation difficulties limiting the supplies of some foods in the markets; with some of the dried foods and canned foods requisitioned by the Government for use of the armed forces; consumers in Maryland must look to fresh fruits and vegetables to supply a large portion of their food needs.

Loss of almost half of the crop of potatoes on the Western Shore of Maryland in 1942, due to destruction of the vines and tubers by late blight, is a good example of the severe losses which may be caused by crop diseases.

—V—

The girls and boys of Maryland have responded to the Nation's call for an "all-out" war effort. They are doing their share of the work in the home and on the farm and, in addition, have been the spearheads of many patriotic drives for salvage, civilian defense, and other war activvities.

—V—

To assure enough nitrogen for the crops most needed in wartime, the Government has prohibited the sale of nitrogen fertilizer for lawns, golf courses, and other playtime uses.

—V—

Increased Productivity

Between 1910 and 1930, the output of the average American worker increased 39 per cent in manufacturing, and 41 per cent in agriculture.

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THANKSGIVING 1942

"But soon a tide
Of men and guns
And thundering wings
Obliterating Axis things . . ."
—QUOTATION FROM GUNTHER MESSAGE LABOR DAY 1942

Just months have passed
Since we have hoped
And prayed
The Tide would turn . . .
But who'd have guessed
That 60 days
From THEN
Would be the start!

★ ★ ★

Amid the toil
And sweat and blood
We couldn't see the plan
Nor the fruits of
Our accomplishments . . .
Rushed as we were
And blind . . .
Blind to the truth
That Freedom here—
With all its faults
And ills—
Is infinitely stronger
Than the strongest
Tyrants' wills!

★ ★ ★

So let's give Thanks
This Hallowed Day,
That those
Who came for Freedom
Can REST . . . and know
That even THERE,
In lands they had to flee,
New hope is born . . .
New fervent hope
That Pilgrims ALL are we
Who come at last
And will not stop
No *never* stop
'Til EVERYONE
IS FREE!

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