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.

The program for utilizing college and university facilities to give specialized training to young men in the armed services was announced jointly by Secretaries Stimson and Knox. Mr. Stimson said the program would go far toward temporarily destroying liberal education in America so far as the ablebodied men of college age are concerned, but would not have a permanently bad effect Mr. Knox thought it an attempt to preserve liberal education during the war, as preference would be given to smaller not-so-richly-endowed colleges whose exictence might be threatened by the war. Meanwhile, a new bulletin has been sent to local Selective Boards granting temporary deferment for college and university students and instructors in certain medical, engineering and other technical fields, all university men have been advised to remain in school until called for military service, and the 18 and 19-year-olds have been told not to hesitate to enroll to begin their college training.

The rules and regulations under which schools will be selected for the program will be prescribed by WMC Chairman McNutt, after consultation with Secretaries Stimson and Knox, the actual selection to be made by a joint committee consisting of representatives of the armed services and the WMC. A questionnaire on staffs and facilities has already been sent to all the higher educational institutions in the country, and the schools chosen will, under contract with the Army and Navy, furnish instruction in prescribed courses and also furnish the necessary housing and messing facilities. Qualified young men detailed to these institutions will be on active duty, in uniform, with regular service pay and subject to general military discipline.

Manpower

By the end of 1943 or early in 1944 according to WMC estimates, there will be 9,700,00 Americans in the armed forces 20,000,000 in war industry, 19,600,000 in civilian industry and 7,900,000 in year-round farm work. In addition, millions will be needed seasonally in the various agricultural areas. In November 52,800,000 people were employed and 1,700,000 unemployed, but the Census bureau said there were 5,000,000 people—most of them housewives—who could take full-time employment but had not done so. The Department of Agriculture said that 7,272,000 family workers and 2,279,000 hired hands were working on farms on December 1, and the Department of Labor reported that employment on new construction projects in 1943 would drop to an average of little more than 1,000,000 workers, making an equal number available for other war employment.

The War Front

Elmer Davis, Director of the OWI, said there is no reason for Americans to be disheartened about the Allies' progress in North Africa, as it was natural for the drive to slow down after its initial start. While the enemy there still has a measure of air superiority, that "will be taken care of when we establish our forward bases." From the beginning of the North African campaign through December 12, U. S. fliers destroyed 70 Axis aircraft and damaged 43, at a cost of 35 American planes lost and eight missing, and communiques throughout the last planes downed, another 10 destroyed, week have reported another 11 Axis and 100 Axis soldiers killed and scores taken prisoner. U. S. losses of the week were set at three planes lost and one missing.

Gen. MacArthur's headquarters, after reporting the capture of Buna by Allied troops, opened a heavy new attack today on the Japanese beachhead at Buna Mission. On Friday, December 18, U. S. submarines, operating in Pacific and Far Eastern waters, sank seven more Japanese ships—one large tanker, one large cargo ship, one medium-sized tanker, two medium-sized cargo ships, one medium-sized transport and one trawler. From Guadalcanal came reports that U. S. fliers subjected the Munda area of New Georgia Island to numerous damaging attacks, and the week's action reported one Japanese destroyer sunk, one set afire and probably sunk, one damaged, one destroyer or cruiser damaged, eight planes downed and one destroyed. In this action the U. S. lost one motor torpedo boat and one plane, and one plane is reported missing.

BUY WAR BONDS

War Strategy

Admiral Darlan's declaration of intention in regard to French North Africa has been issued by President Roosevelt. The text reads in part: "In leading North and West Africa against Germany and Italy and into the ranks of the United Nations, I seek no assistance or support for any personal ambitions.....My sole purpose is to save French Africa, help free France and then retire to private life with a hope that the future leaders of France may be selected by the French people themselves and by no one else." Admiral Darlan pledged cooperation to the cause of the United Nations, and said he had already taken steps granting amnesty to Allied sympathizers, restoring to rank French officers, releasing United Nations prisoners,, and stopping persecution of Jews. Also, he said, he had placed armed forces in the field to fight beside the Allies and made available to the Allies whatever posts, airfields, railroad and communications facilities and buildings the military situation demanded.

Production

A production report released by WPB states that 1943 production for war alone will have to equal the value of all the goods and services produced by the nation in its years of greatest prosperity. Although the U. S. is making as many combat weapons today as the entire Axis, in 1943 it will have to do a "better than $90,000-000,000 war job."

Under Secretary of War Patterson gave the following figures for 1942 production of war weapons: more than 9,000 40-mm. anticraft guns, more than 300,000 .50 cal. machine guns, and more than 500,000 machine guns of all types, and small arms ammunition coming off the lines at better than 1,000,000,000 rounds a month. Maritime announced a new monthly record in the production of Liberty ships—68 Liberty ships were turned out in November at an average of only 56 days from keel-laying to delivery. This is a cut of 10 days from the October average, and represents one-fourth the time necessary last January when the program was started.

The dollar value of military supplies acquired for the Army in 1942, including all munitions and equipment, was set by Under Secretary Patterson at $25,000,000,000 as against $5,000,000,000 in 1941 and $1-000,000,000 in 1940. Munitions, exclusive of aircraft acquired by the Army this year will amount to $11,000,000-000, or about 90 per cent of U. S. and Allied stated requirements.

Agriculture

January 12, 1943, by Presidential Proclamation, will be Farm Mobilization Day. The President asked farmers to meet on that day with Department of Agriculture representatives, State officials, farm organizations and others concerned, to discuss ways and means of insuring maximum 1943 production of vital foods on every farm in the country.

Final reports on 1942 agricultural production set the total corn crop at 3,175,154,000 bushels and the total wheat crop at 981,327,000 bushels, with total production of all crops 14 percent higher than in 1941 and 12 percent higgher than in the banner year of 1937. According to Under Secretary of War Patterson, the canning industry of the U. S., Hawaii and Alaska also produced a record 1942 pack_over 300,000,000 cases of canned fruits, vegetables and fish, as compared to 1941 production of 236-000,000 cases.

The Cost of Living

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' comprehensive index of nearly 900 the highest level in more than 16 years The index for farm products has risen nearly 21 percent in the past year and is now 12 percent higher than for the year 1926 and the index of retail food costs on November 17 stood at the highest point reached since January 1930, having advanced 40 percent since the outbreak of war in Europe. Survey figures from the OPA Rent Department demonstrate that the nation's rent index, which skyrocketed in 1941 and early 1942, has dropped fast since the OPA brought critical industrial centers under legal rent control. Four months after OPA issued its first maximum rent regulation in June 1942, the rent index for wage earners in 34 large cities had dropped from its spring 1942 high to the level prevailing at the time of Pearl Harbor.

———V———

Roasting on the top of the stove in a heavy closely covered castiron pot, a "Dutch oven" is preferred by many both for the flavor gained and for the elimination of "pot watching". Chicken, squab, roast and ducks may be cooked in this pot. Shoulder of lamb or veal are especially good cooked this way. Allow fifteen minutes to the pound as in other roasting. Sear the meat to brown quickly in a little butter or fat of the meat, add a little cold water, about ½ cup. Cover tightly and let cook undisturbed. About three-quarters of an hour before the meat is finished, the desired vegetables may be added—peas, beans, carrots, potatoes, etc. Add one-half to one cup of hot water with them if not much juice is left in the pot.

———V———

There are several different varieties of melons—cantaloupes, honeydews. Persian melon, and honey balls. Honey dews or Persian mellons, usually cost more than the cantaloupes, but are often large enough to be cut into four to six sections. Serve salt with melons. They may be decorated with cherry slices or mint.

———V———

When washing cotton clothes, special care should be given to the parts like hem, under-arms, necks and cuffs.

———V———

The flavor of coffee is much better preserved if the coffee is removed from the pot into a glass container.

———V———

After mixing a cake, beat it a few minutes with a silver fork and it will be finer grained.

———V———

Yunnan Largest Province

Yunnan province, invaded by the Japanese, is with its population of 12,000,000, the largest in China.

———V———

Repair Fire Equipment

To save coal and transportation heating engineers say firing equipment must be repaired to save an estimated 35 million tons which otherwise would be wasted.

Supercane Lifts Big Bombers

Army air corps engineers at Wright Field have designed a giant crane capable of lifting the huge B-24 bomber. The crane, intended for clearing fields of damaged planes with a minimum of delay, will be used during and following enemy attacks.

Money To Lend—

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(13)

The conversion of the distilling industry to the production of the grain alcohol necessary for the manufacture of smokeless powder, synthetic rubber, plastics and other vital war materials has been characterized as a "major feat of engineering."

In order to conserve the nation's supply of steel and copper for ships and planes and tanks, the industry's conversion was achieved mainly through the use of secondhand equipment. Where this was not possible, tile and wood were substituted.

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