This Week Of The War Showing Progress Of The All Out Effort

The German Afrika Korps, retreating up the Tunisian coast toward the Tunis-Bizerte triangle, has been playing a series of delaying actions. Having made a safe exit through the Gabes bottleneck before the American and British armies could effect a junction, Rommel last week turned to make a stand at prepared positions north of Oudref. Attacking Allied forces found their advance hindered by mine fields laid to cover the Axis retreat.

According to OWI Director Elmer Davis, Rommel's withdrawal from the Mareth Line was made under cover of a sandstorm, which saved Rommel from the devastating air pounding the Allies had been preparing to inflict on him and allowed him to get out with most of his material intact. As a consequence, the Afrika Korps will now be in a position to fight a good delaying action, Mr. Davis said, and the more delaying actions it can fight, the longer it will postpone "the eventual invasion of Europe."

Reports of Axis losses so far are incomplete, but Secretary of War Stimson said the Axis has lost large numbers of Germans and Italians killed, several thousands made prisoners, and large quantities of guns, tanks and vehicles. He said that American divisions are on this front, to take part in the expulsion of the Axis from North Africa, and predicted that before the final phase of the campaign is over there will probably be a great deal of fighting.

Eighth Army Success

The Allied success at the Mareth Line—forcing Rommell to abondon his defense system and flee to the north—was attributed, by both Director Davis and Secretary Stimson, to the leadership of General Sir B. L. Montgomery and the skill of the British Eighth Army. Mr. Stimson explained that what forced the Axis retreat was the Eighth Army strategy of sending a flanking force to the rear of Rommel's troops, but said that coordinated operations of American and French troops in central Tunisia and the British First Army in the north, plus the able support of American and British fliers, contributed substantially to the Eighth Army's success.

All week Allied air forces have been harassing the retreating enemy columns, and a cordon of British, American and French ground troops continues to press the Axis forces into an ever-narrowing area in eastern Tunisia. Through this gap, Secretary Stimson said, Rommel must try to move his forces. Apparently this is what he is trying to do, heading for a union with the Axis forces in northern Tunisia under Col. Gen. von Arnim. Union of Rommel's and von Arnim's troops would give the Axis a strong army in good defensive positions—the defense perimeter of Bizerte.

Reports From The Pacific

The recent conference held in Washington between high commanders from the Pacific combat theaters and the U. S. Chiefs of staff brought out valuable first-hand reports of developments in the Pacific. There is evidence, Secretary Stimson said, that Japan is augmenting her front line air strength in Burma, China and the southwest Pacific, but on the basis of the commander's reports the Army and Navy are preparing detailed plans for forthcoming operations.

All week Japanese positions in the Aleutians and in the south Pacific have been under attack by American planes. In the north, Navy planes hit at Kiska and at Holtz Bay, Attu Island, and the Army Defense Command announced that American bombers in one attack dropped more than 80 tons of bombs on the uncompleted runway in the Salmon lagoon.

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Egyptian Demands

Manganese was much in demand in the days of Egyptian civilization, as a source of purple color for glass and glazed objects.

Aid to Enemy

"Any American who wilfully neglects to pay his taxes on time or to invest every cent he can in War Bonds is surely giving aid and comfort to the enemy . . . We have a job to do and we are all called for service to our country. Our dollars are called to service too. Let us all ask ourselves, **'Shall we be more tender with our dollars than with the lives of our sons?'** " — Secretary Morgenthau.

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Jungle Is Safe Place, Declares Noted Botanist

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. — "The 'snake infested jungle' is a figment of the imagination," says Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, Arnold professor of botany at Harvard and director of the Arnold Arboretum.

"The jungle is in reality a relatively safe place, and this applies not only to potentially poisonous plant species, but also to poisonous snakes," he states.

Dr. Merrill claims that, "actually, in all Polynesia, where poisonous snakes are absent and in most of Malaya, there is really less chance of being bitten by a poisonous snake than there is on the Hudson Palisades just outside of New York city."

The noted botanist is working on a book for soldiers in the Orient to show what local vegetation can be used as the natives use it for emergency food.

He says that the number of plant species classified as containing poisons relayed by bodily contact is very small. There is much less chance of being poisoned by plants in the entire region than there is in a New England woodlot or pasture where the common poison ivy abounds.

University Dances Are War Casualty in Canada

LONDON, ONT.—War hit the University of Western Ontario in a new way with the registration of students this fall. Big dances, in former years counting to approximately 15 during fall and winter terms for Arts and Meds, have been cut to seven this term.

Reduction in amusement for Joe College and the Sweet Co-Ed was announced by the University Students commission, which holds the moneybags for most of the dances and decrees the number allowed each year.

First group to suffer from the wartime restriction in fun-making are freshmen who will have to cherish memories of the informal, get-acquainted dance given by the university faculty.

The Frosh Hop, one of the most talked of functions of the year, when freshettes get a chance of having mighty seniors escort them, is definitely off the list.

IMPORTANT NEWS On The HOME-FRONT

Food Distribution Discontinued:

Distribution of foods through State Welfare Departments to local communities for use in school lunch programs is being discontinued on April 30, according to the Department of Agriculture. Under a new program announced in February, schools are able to purchase foods locally for their lunch programs and receive reimbursement in part from the Food Distribution Administration.

Reclassification Of Manpower:

The Bureau o Selective Service of the War Manpower Commission began promptly on April 1 to reclasssify registrants in certain activities and occupations designated on February 2 as non-deferrable" regardless of dependents, WMC Chairman Paul V. McNutt has announced. This order affects only registrants of military age.

2,000 Sacks Of Army Mail Lost:

Through enemy action more than two thousand sacks of U. S. mails carried on United Nations ships and destined for American soldiers overseas in recent weeks have been lost, the Army Postal Service Reports. In making this announcement, the War Department said that the loss of these mails was a striking illustration of why V-mail should be more fully utilized in communicating with soldiers overseas since 30,000,000 pieces of such mail have been handled thus far without the loss of a single letter. This is made possible by holding the originals at the ports of embarkation until the duplicate copies arrive safely at their overseas destinations.

Ceilings On Used Vehicles:

Used commercial motor vehicles have been brought under price control by establishing ceilings at a percentage of the value of the vehicle when new, the new OPA regulation is expected to halt speculators' activities which in some instances have resulted in prices 200 percent or more over the normal value of the used truck.

Farm Trailer Shortage:

An increasing shortage of trailers to handle farm produce is reported by truck trailer industry advisory committee. The need for trucking facilities to transport farm products is now pressing in some sections of the country and will increase with the coming of warm weather and harvesting. The committee pointed out as an example the situation in Texas where there are some 2,600 towns not served by any railroad.

More New Cars:

A quota of 38,000 new passenger automobiles was set by the OPA for rationing in April. 37,100 were released in March.

Increase In Bicycle Quota:

A quota of 88,200 new bicycles for rationing in April was announced by OPA. 87,100 were released in March.

Transportation Rumors False:

Rumors now circulating to the effect that the Office of Defense Transportation intends to apply priorities to civilian train and bus travel are completely and entirely false, says Joseph B. Eastman. However, passenger transportation facilities are under severe strain, and people who have no real need to travel should stay off trains and buses.

More Can Openers:

Production of can openers for civilian purposes will be more than twice as much as previously allowed. The quota, previously held to 35 percent of the base period rate including Army Orders, has been increased to 50 percent, not including military requirements.

The Circus Is Coming:

The circus—delight of American boys and girls—will be coming to town again this summer. The ODT has issued a general permit authorizing railroads to transport the employees and property of circuses, carnivals, or similar shows in railway cars owned or leased by the circus or carnival companies. The first movement under the general permit was that of Ringling Brothers—Barnum and Bailey combined shows, which left its winter quarters at Sarasota, Florida on March 29.

Price On Baked Goods:

Housewives who buy pastries, doughnuts, pies, cakes and sweet yeast raised goods from producers who sell direct t oultimate consumers may expect to see a printed retail ceiling price on the wrappers, the OPA said. The price is now required to be printed on the package or wrapper.

Redused Vehicle Speeds:

State support of the nation-wide 35-mile limit has effectively reduced motor-vehicle speeds on rural roads, according to Public Roads Administration of Federal Works Agency. Fifty-three percent of all cars still travel in excess of 35 miles per hour, ninety-one percent were exceeding this limit about a year ago. Rationing had little effect on speeds, but the appeal for a 40-mile limit about a year ago reduced average passenger car speed from 47 to 44 miles per hour. The Federal order for a 35-mile limit, effective last October, brought the average down to about 37 miles per hour.

Men Over 38 Will Not Be Discharged

The War Department on March 31 stopped the discharge of men over 38 years old. Hereafter, those men will be transferred to an inactive status in the enlisted reserve corps, subject to the following conditions:

A. The man must request transfer to an inactive status to enter an essential industry, including agriculture, and accompany his request by a statement from the War Manpower Commission to the effect that his release is desired.

B. The man will be recalled to active duty upon request of the War Manpower Commission.

Wives Of Service Men To Get Maternity Care:

Maternity care for wives of service men and for their infants will be available shortly for those who apply to State Health Departments, according to Katherine F. Lenroot, Chief of the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor. Following appropriation by Congress of $1,200,000 to meet estimated needs to July, plans are being rushed to extend such aid to women in the 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The care will be available to the wife or infant of any private, private first class, corporal, or sergeant in the Army—and comparable grades in the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. It is not available to wives of men in higher ranks.

Maximum Prices For Meats:

Maximum prices for all retail cuts of pork went into effect throughout the U. S. on April 1, and the OPA will issue, effective April 15, similar schedules for beef, lamb, and mutton. Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown regards the action as a major blow against the black market in meats and a step toward simplifying retail food purchasing.

Tires For Farm Equipment:

Tire Dealers or persons selling or servicing farm equipment are now entitled to keep on hand a maximum of six rear-wheel tractor tires. Dealers who have the replenishment portions (Part B) of rationinf certificates calling for truck tires may restock with tires suitable for farm equipment instead.

Gas For School Busses:

School bus operators who did not receive revised certificates of war necessity before April 1 may obtain supplemental gasoline allowances if necessary, ODT has announced. An appeal form may be obtained from the nearest district office of ODT's Division of Motor Transportation, completed and presented to the Public School Superintendent for his recommendation, and returned to the district office.

Relief For Battery Shortage:

Some relief is anticipated in the current farm raido battery shortage, the Consumers Durable Goods Division of WPB has announced. Lack of batteries has been acute in those farm areas where radio reception depends solely on battery sets. In some sections of these areas, reports have indicated that as many as one-third of the farm radios have been inoperative due to a lack of batteries.

More Ice-Boxes:

About 400,000 household refrigerators, 148,847 electric and gas-operated, and the rest "ice-boxes", will be available to the general public this spring, according to the Consumers Durable Goods Division of WPB. Only those who cannot be served by other types of refrigeration are eligible to buy gas or electric refrigerators, the order provides.

Legal Help For Soldiers:

Free legal assistance will be available for all military personnel under a plan sponsored jointly by the American Bar Association and the War Department. Legal assistance offices will be established at each post, camp and station in the U. S. A qualifified commissioned officer who is also a licensed attorney is to be appointed by the Commanding Officer of the post as the legal assistance officer. Assisting the legal assistance officer, will be volunteer civilian lawyers from nearby communities.

Advance Payment Of Points:

Payment of points "in advance" for home deliveries of butter and cheese by dairymen or salesmen operating delivery trucks over a regular route has been authorized by OPA. For example, the housewife who on Monday wants a pound of butter left at her home Thursday, can give the deliveryman eight stamps to cover the later delivery.

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35 Tons

A copper nugget found last year weighed 35 tons.

Noted Artist Paints War Poster

Urging Americans to "Keep 'em Flying" through the purchase of more War Bonds, the above poster will soon make its appearance in several hundred thousand stores and display spots throughout the country. It was painted by Georges Schreiber, internationally known artist, whose pictures hang in the Metropolitan and Whitney Museums in New York and other museums in various cities.
U. S. Treasury Department

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