IMPORTANT NEWS

On The HOME-FRONT

GASOLINE—"A" Book Coupons No. 6, good for four gallons each, outside the eastern gasoline shortage area. Within the east coast shortage area, "A" book coupons No. 5, good for three gallons each, must last through July 21. "B" and "C" coupons cut to 2½ gallons in shortage area.

SUGAR—Coupon No. 13 good for 5 lbs. through August 15. Coupons No. 15 and 16 are good through October 31 for 5 lbs. each for home canning purposes. Housewives may apply to their local ration boards if necessary.

COFFEE—Stamp No. 24 is good for one pound through June 30.

FUEL OIL—Period 5 coupons valid in all zones until September 30.

SHOES—Stamp No. 18 became valid for one pair June 16.

MEATS, ETC.—Red Stamps J, K, L, M, good through June 30. N becomes valid June 20.

PROCESSED FOODS—Blue stamps K, L, M, continue good through July 7.

LOWER MEAT PRICES: Effective June 21, meat prices at retail will be lowered from 3 cents to 7 cents a pound by order of the OPA. New prices for cured and processed pork will go into effect on July 5. Reductions in price are smaller on cheaper cuts and larger on the more expensive. As in the case of the roolback of prices on butter, the lowering of meat prices will not directly affect the farm producer. Subsidies, which begin June 7, will be paid to anyone who slaughters 4,000 pounds of meat or more per month.

COFFEE BY MAIL: Coffee drinkers who order their blends by mail may now "pay" for the purchase by enclosing detached ration stamps with the order rather than the entire ration book, OPA has announced. Formerly, consumers were equipped to forward their War Ration Book to the retailer or wholesaler for removal of stamps.

TO SUBSTITUTE TIRES: Farmers needing farm implement or front wheel tractor tires will be permitted to purchase substitutes when they are unable to find a dealer with tires designed expressly for their purpose, the OPA has announced. Dealers may also sell passenger car owners tires and tubes of a slightly different size than is called for by the rationing certificate.

GAS COUPONS CHANGED: A new "TT" gasoline coupon, which replaces the present "T" coupon, will become valid for use on July 1. The old type "T" coupon will be invalid on and after July 1, except in the northeastern shortage area where it will be used through July 25. OPA expects the change in design to help take up "slack" mileage and remove potential sources of black market gasoline.

"B" MILEAGE CUT: Maximum mileage of "B" gasoline ration books has been reduced to 300 miles per month in the notheast shortage area—and no additional mileage will be allowed under any circumstances unless the applicant is in a preferred occupation, for example, a doctor, ambulance driver, firefighter, or policeman.

WRITE TO MEN IN ICELAND: "American soldiers in Iceland are not getting nearly enough mail from home," said Captain Peter E. Cullom, Chaplain's Corps, who recently returned to the U. S. after two years of duty with Icelandic garrisons. "In spite of the fact that the army delivers the mail with promptness and regularity to every army post in Iceland, folks at home are not taking full advantage of this service." Chaplain Cullom said.

INSPECTION REQUIRMENTS CHANGED: Tire inspections for commercial motor vehicles now may be made every 5,000 miles or every six months, whichever occurs first, ODT has announced. Previously, commercial vehicles had to have tire inspections every 5,000 miles or every 60 days, whichever occurred first.

ELECTRICITY TO FARMS: Rural electrification loans to 26 systems in 18 states have been made to a total of $1,790,000 for immediate extension of service to more than 1,000 farms qualifying under present WPB regulations permitting connections to farms producing livestock, dairy and poultry products.

MORE FARM MACHINERY: A total of 300,000 tons of carbon steel, with other materials in proportion, has been allocated to the farm machinery program for the quarter beginning July 1. An additional 200,000 tons of steel have also been approved for each of the three quarters from October 1, 1943 to July 1, 1944. During the third quarter of this year, special emphasis will be given to the manufacturer of harvesting machinery for this year's crops. The whole farm machinery program has been stepped up.

DATA ON PRISONERS: American soldiers officially reported as prisoners of war in enemy countries to date total 17,083, the War Department has announced. Of these, 11,307 are held by Japan, 3,312 by Germany and 2,464 by Italy. However, these reports are incomplete. Information in the hands of the War Department indicates that the basic diet of an American soldier in German prison camps is largely potatoes, cabbage, fish, and an indefinite amount of meat.

COUNTRY SHIPPER REPORTS: "Country shippers" of dry beans, peas, and lentils must report their purchases, sales, and transfers for the month of May to the Washington office of the OPA before June 20. A "country shipper" is the first person who acquires dry beans, peas, or lentils from a grower, or who imports them for the purpose of selling them to the wholesale trade.

ICE BOX PRICES: Retail ceilings on new ice boxes have been established by OPA by models and states. Present prices will be lowered in many cases. Three sets of retail ceilings have been provided, (1) sales by ice companies and their stores, prices ranging from $16.75 to $75.50 delivered, (2) mail order sales—$18.95 to $59.95, (3) all other sales at retail —$30.75 to $88.75.

LEATHER FOR CIVILIANS: Manufacture of many civilian leather products, which was prohibited after June 1, can be continued through 1943 out of manufacturers inventories, under a recent WPB amendment. Among products affected are dress gloves, and mittens, brief cases, new upholstery, radio cases, pocketbooks, handbags, cigar and cigarette cases, key cases, tobacco pouches, watch straps and dog furnishings.

MUST REPORT FOREIGN HOLDINGS: Every American citizen who had an interest in any property in a foreign country on May 31, 1943 must file a special report on form TFR 500, obtainable at Federal Reserve Banks. Citizens, in enemy-occupied countries, or in foreign service with the armed forces, or whose property in foreign countries is worth less than $10,000 are not required to make this report. The information so obtained will be of great importance in the formulation of post-war financial policies involving this country and foreign nations. The report applies both to tangible and intangible property.

MATERIALS FOR UNDERWEAR: Materials for knit underwear for men, women, and children will be made available by an action of WPB. Manufactures have been assured of supplies of cotton yarn, thread, fabrics and other materials to meet essential civilian requirements.

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He Wanted to Eat, Too

Soldiers at Camp Edwards, Mass., were lined up and ready to march to the mess hall for breakfast. Suddenly Private Thomas F. Miller broke ranks and dashed for the barracks. When he returned the sergeant wanted an explanation, for good soldiers just don't do those things. The explanation was accepted—Private Miller had forgotten his teeth!

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

The surrender of Pantelleria, after 20 days of intense bombardment, was announced in a special communique from General Eisenhower's headquarters. The announcement came suddenly, less than an hour after the day's regular operational communique had merely reported continued heavy attacks on the island throughout yesterday and the previous night.

Surrender of Pantelleria gives the Allies an airdrome and naval base only 60 miles southwest of Sicily. The encirclement of Lampedusa, second largest of the stepping-stone islands in the Sicilian narrows, would give the Allies another valuable base, just 90 miles southeast of Pantelleria and 110 miles west of Malta. (British naval forces landed a reconnaissance party on Lampedusa on June 6, and all but two of the party returned safely.)

Forced By Air Power

The communique reporting the fall of Pantelleria said the surrender was the result of a period of "continuous and intense air bombardment, supported by naval bombardment."

It was an unprecedented capitulation, brought about almost solely by air power. The British Navy shelled the island six times, but the greater part of the attack was carried on by American and RAF planes of all types —wave after wave of bombers heaping fire and destruction on the smoking ruins of previous bombings. In the last phase of the onslaught, the island was under constant unremitting attack, and 37 Axis planes were knocked down in the final air battle.

Allied pamphlets dropped on Pantelleria Tuesday (June 8) warned that the island would be bombed, shelled and blockaded until it surrendered. When the Italian garrison made no reply, Allied planes inflicted on the island the severest kind of aerial and naval bombardment. Secretary of War Stimson announced that the Axis rejection of the chance to surrender meant the bombing would continue.

The surrender of Pantelleria came at 11:40 a. m. (6:40 a. m. EWT), when the Axis garrison ran up a white flag and placed a white cross on the airfield. Shortly after noon, American Flying Fortresses marked the victory with a big parade through the all over advanced Allied air force headquarters—and impressive display of the growing Allied aerial strength.

The message from General Eisenhower was received by President Roosevelt early Friday morning—a good piece of news, the President said. Shortly afterward, he told a press conference that he had no details on the island's surrender except that the reason apparently was that the Italian defenders did not have enough water to sustain them.

Striking On Many Fronts

Even as the Northwest African Air Forces were concentrating on Pantelleria, American four-engined bombers of the Middle Eastern Command raided the Gervine and Catania airdromes in Sicily, thus carrying forward the campaign to cut down Axis air strength in preparation for possible large-scale amphibious operations.

Secretary of War Stimson, emphasizing that American air forces are striking with increasing vigor and effectiveness on widely scattered world fronts, said that while American and British planes continue to hammer the Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia, as well as the Italian mainland, the weather in Britain has interfered with bombing raids in recent days.

Over Europe a quiet prevailed—the longest interruption in the night air offensive against Germany since the 24-night lull that preceded the Allied landings in North Africa.

Maj. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, head of the American air forces in the European theater, said the USAAF in Britian has doubled since March and will be doubled again by September. By the end of the summer, said Gen. Eaker the USAAF, increasing 15 to 30 percent monthly, will be carrying its full share of the bombing offensive against the Axis.

The increase in American planes is in both bombers and fighters, he said, with a preponderance of bombers, both heavy and medium.

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Maryland Musings

Keep the vegetable garden producing to its limit by following early-maturing crops with other later-maturing crops. Information regarding succession cropping, control of insects and diseases, fertilizer application, and preferred varieties of vegetables to plant can be obtained from the Extension Service of the University of Maryland by asking your agricultural or home demonstration agent.

A list of turkey breeders and hatcheries which have qualified under the Maryland Turkey Improvement Plan can be obtained from Wade H. Rice, secretary, College Park, Maryland.

Plenty of ventilation under buildings will help protect floors and other wooden parts near the ground from decay. Ventilators in foundation walls that may be kept closed in winter for fuel economy should be open in warm weather.

Dairymen need to budget feed pretty carefully if their herds are to keep up milk production next fall and winter. That includes budgeting hay. This year, and probably for some time to come, we will have to push hay lands to the limit—and cut the hay at the right time and handle it carefully—to produce the hay needed to keep up milk production.

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