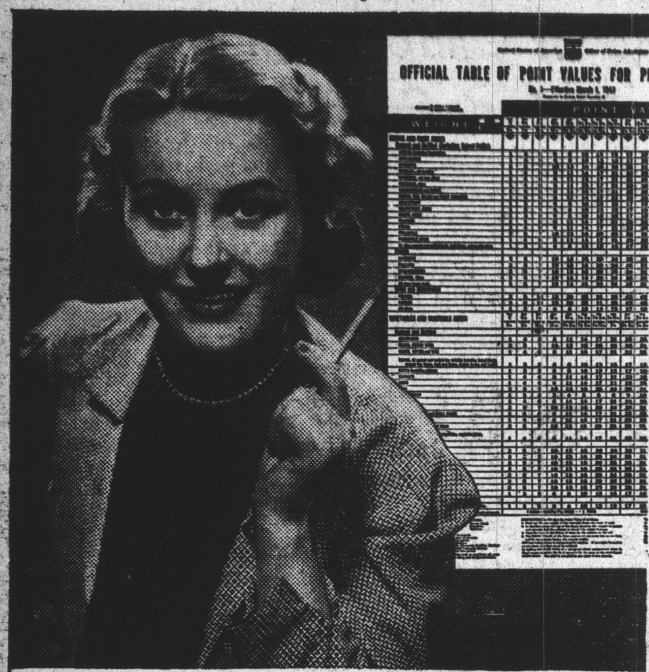
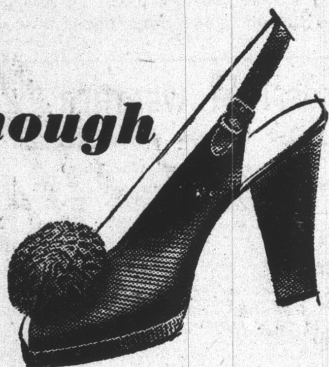


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ODDS AGAINST 1943 VICTORY

It's Possible but Slowness Of Tunisian Push Makes It Unlikely.

By HARRISON SALISBURY United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, April 9.—Hitler can be beaten in 1943, but the odds are strongly against it, a synopsis of the best military and economic opinion here showed today.

This realistic view is based on the hard facts of war—the fighting experience of Britain, the United States and Russia thus far against the Wehrmacht, an assessment of Germany's potential war material reserves and a factual analysis of the number of troops Hitler still has available for opposing an allied invasion of Europe.

Experts are inclined to think that the jokers in the woodpile may be allied air power and the Red Army's recuperative power, but at the same time they point out that Nazi air power did not lick Britain—a much more compact target than vast axis Europe—and even the Russian offensive did not quite even the score in 1942 or 1943 for the Nazis' summer victories.

Allied combat experience largely has been confined to Africa, where it is noteworthy that German Marshal Erwin Rommel's strength seldom, if ever, exceeded six German divisions plus a fluctuating number of Italians.

Despite this comparatively little strength, Rommel has managed to maintain a field against the allies for five months against forces which uniformly were larger than his and it may be several months more before he is completely defeated.

Maintains Ratio

These figures are most revealing when placed beside the forces Germany has available for the defense of Europe. Best estimates indicate that Germany and Italy have between 300 and 325 divisions—probably 4,500,000 to 6,000,000 fighting men. In addition, they have possibly 50 satellite divisions numbering roughly 750,000 troops who probably are able to stand front-line combat, plus considerable others lacking in equipment and experience.

If the Germans went to the full defensive, the eastern front probably could be held with 150 Nazi divisions, plus a score of satellite divisions. That would mean a withdrawal to the Dnieper line to shorten the front sufficiently so that the current ration of one division per 10 miles could be maintained.

The axis now has about 30 divisions stationed in Norway and the Balkans and it is presumed that regardless of where the allied invasion hits, it would be necessary to continue this number of occupation troops. However, if the invasion hit either of those points, occupation troops could be drawn in for front-line fighting.

It therefore is believed that the axis has available something like 200 divisions—roughly 3,000,000 troops—which would be available for meeting the allied western threats.

In view of the time it has taken to cope with Rommel's small force, it is difficult to find optimism in predicting greater speed and greater strength against the full Wehrmacht.

CRASH KILLS FARMER

ANDERSON, April 9 (U. P.).—John L. Runk, 70, a native of Shelby county and retired farmer, died late yesterday at an Anderson hospital from injuries received when an automobile in which he was occupant was struck by a fast passenger train.

Plan Rigid Price Ceiling To Check Living Cost Rise

(Continued from Page One)

for the house small business committee, together with Food Administrator Chester C. Davis. They agreed that there will be strong sentiment for imposition of price ceilings on live animals in view of the president's new order, and Brown believed such regulations might be issued.

Brown said he personally was anxious to put ceilings on live animal prices but that they would have to be approved by Davis.

Some Prices May Drop

Byrnes indicated that Davis would have considerable authority to regulate food prices. Application of specific ceilings to fresh vegetables, he said, would be up to the food administrator, as would regulation of farm labor wages.

Byrnes said an effort will be made to reduce prices in a number of cases. This also will be undertaken by Price Administrator Brown, he said.

Mr. Roosevelt characterized the entire program to combat inflation as a four-legged stool. The legs he enumerated were:

1. Control of wages.
2. Control of food prices.
3. Rationing.
4. Decrease of purchasing power through taxation and savings.

Hits Luxury Buying

The president said that because so many people had a great deal more cash in their pockets than they have ever had before, there was too much luxury buying. He said the administration's goal for the new fiscal year still stood at \$16,000,000,000 in additional revenue. Congress received cautiously Mr. Roosevelt's sharply-worded warning to help hold the line against inflation or face the consequences of a runaway inflation.

Most congressmen wanted to study the executive order carefully before commenting. Immediate congressional reaction indicated that the president would get support from divergent groups for his objectives, but there were rumblings of possibly strong opposition.

Singles "Loopholes"

Senator Jason D. Smith (D, S. C.), a leader of the farm bloc, said "I honestly don't know what the president's driving at."

"I notice the order provides a lot of loopholes permitting increases of both wages and prices in special cases," he added. "Isn't the president breaking the stabilization line right there?"

But Mr. Roosevelt, in a statement accompanying the executive order, made it unmistakably clear that he plans to fight it out with congress to assure continuance on an even more stringent basis of the anti-inflation program he set up last fall when he made Byrnes director of economic stabilization.

"I am exerting every power I possess to preserve our stabilization program," Mr. Roosevelt said. "I am sure the congress will co-operate."

What the Order Provides

Specifically, Mr. Roosevelt's executive order provided:

1. Price Administrator Prentiss I. Brown and Food Administrator Chester C. Davis are to have control over all prices and were instructed immediately to place ceiling prices "on all commodities affecting the cost of living."
- Any further increase in ceiling prices was banned "except to the minimum extent required by law."
- If congress wants the farmer to get more money for his crops, congress must provide for it with subsidy money.

Upholds Little Steel Formula

2. The war labor board was directed "to authorize no further increases in wages or salaries except such as are clearly necessary to correct substandards of living" and aside from "reasonable adjustments of wages and salaries in case of promotions, reclassifications, merit increases, incentive wages or the like."

Mr. Roosevelt also specifically provided that the "little steel formula" of wage stabilization be retained by the WLB as its primary yardstick, labor demands for abandonment of the formula to the contrary notwithstanding.

GERMAN DONETS ATTACKS SHIFT

Izium Blows Dwindle, and Balakleya Zone Flares Into Action.

MOSCOW, April 9 (U. P.).—The red army has killed nearly 1000 enemy troops in repulsing a series of German attacks along a 30-mile stretch of the Donets river below Kharkov in the past 24 hours, the Soviets announced today.

Some 750 of the enemy were slain in fighting south of Balakleya, where the Germans shifted the main weight of their Donets attacks following repeated failures to dislodge the Soviets from their south bank bridgehead below Izium, 27 miles to the southeast.

Upwards of 1000 German infantrymen, supported by 12 tanks, moved against the Russian lines below Balakleya, 45 miles southeast of Kharkov, yesterday, but were thrown back in disorder by an intensive Russian artillery and mortar barrage.

Taking advantage of the chaos, the Russians counter-attacked and pursued the axis troops back to their original positions.

Axis forces also launched small-scale attacks south of Izium, but were repulsed with a loss of 200 men.

ELWOOD TEACHER DEAD

ELWOOD, Ind., April 9 (U. P.).—Funeral services were arranged today for William F. Smith, 63, high school English teacher and former city school superintendent who died yesterday.

Pacific Lull Ended as Japs Strike Frantically in South

WASHINGTON, April 9 (U. P.).—The long lull on the Pacific battlefield has ended and both American and Japanese are exchanging increasingly powerful blows.

Some authorities expressed belief today that increased air activity portends renewal of the Pacific struggle on a major scale.

The Japanese have initiated most of the aggressive moves in recent days, but certain quarters suggest that the enemy is doing so to prevent American interference with their efforts to strengthen the "armored" defense perimeter around Japan's stolen empire.

Military sources at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Australia today estimated that Japanese air strength in bases bordering the MacArthur command had been increased about 80 per cent in the first three months of this year.

The navy announced here today that another American bombing attack had been made on the enemy air base at Kahili in the northwest Solomon, one of the places where enemy strength has been greatly reinforced.

Japs Seem Desperate

The Japanese have appeared almost frantic in their efforts to reinforce air, naval and ground strength at their ring of bases, especially in the southwest Pacific, since the recent conference of high-ranking Pacific military and naval officers here. And this, observers believe, indicates that the enemy fears a big American offensive.

War Secretary Henry L. Stimson in his weekly press conference re-

view of the war said that the United States also has increased its air strength in those areas "and further increases are in prospect."

(A dispatch from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters quoted an authoritative source as estimating that there is a reserve of 10,000 combat planes in the United States over and above lend-lease commitments and assignments to various fronts. Four of MacArthur's aids recently returned to Australia after appealing in Washington for the dispatch of more materials to the southwest Pacific. The war department had no comment on the estimate of the reserve combat planes.)

Wednesday's 98-plane raid was one of the largest air assaults attempted by the Japanese since the marines first invaded the Solomons last Aug. 7.

The Japanese in a communique said their planes sank a cruiser, a destroyer and 10 transports near Florida Island in the Solomons Wednesday—presumably the engagement reported by Washington.

The navy today corrected its figure of 37 Japanese planes shot down in this encounter to 34.

Although the navy did not say whether any American ships were hit by the raiding force, which included 50 bombers and 48 zeros, there appeared to be no signs of gloom around the navy department. Only 7 American planes were lost.

Planes under Gen. Douglas MacArthur's command continued their single sorties, one Hudson bomber catching 12 barges and a small warship off the Dutch New Guinea south coast, hitting three with bombs and firing the warship.

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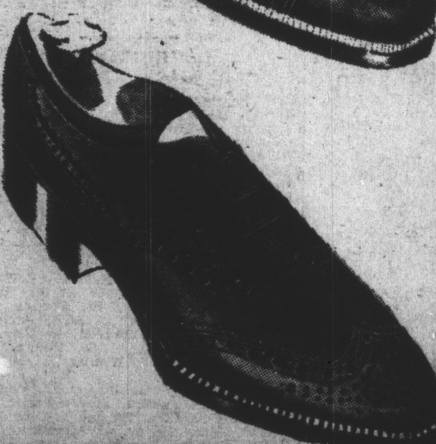
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