CHIEFS AT FRONT

Right at the front in New Guinea are the Australian and American commanders Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey, left, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Blamey directed the Allied amphibious landing near Lae while MacArthur personally witnessed the U.S. paratroop attack near that Jap base.

OTTAWA REPORTS

That Canada Closed the Last Crop Year With a Carry-Over of 601,500,000 Bushels of Wheat

Canada's piled up wheat surplus, once a bewildering and almost embarrassing factor in domestic affairs, stands as one of the world's greatest food assets, when war-torn humanity finally settles down to save stricken nations from starvation.

Despite the increased use of wheat for other than human consumption during the past year or more, Canada closed the 1942-43 crop year with a record carry-over of 601,500,000 bushels of wheat, Dominion authorities have just reported.

This carry-over was approximately 177,000,000 bushels greater than the surplus remaining at the end of July, 1942, and 121,000,000 bushels more than the previous record carry-over on July 31, 1941.

A feature of the 1943 situation, according to official report at the capitol, was the large supply of wheat still in farmers' hands at the end of the crop year. More than 197,000,000 bushels—almost one third of the total carry-over—was held on the farms.

* * *

The use of wheat for animal feed was one of the outstanding developments of the past year, and promises to figure prominently in the present crop year. Use of wheat by distilleries to make industrial alcohol has also consumed a large proporton of wheat in the Canadian domestic market.

During the past crop year the people of Canada consumed only about one-half as much wheat as went into animal feed and alcohol production. More than 650,000,000 bushels of wheat are likely to be used in the United States, Canada, and Argentina during the next 12 months for the feeding of livestock, the production of industrial alcohol or for heating of homes and buildings.

* * *

This is more wheat than was moved in international trade in most of the years between 1929-30 and the outbreak of the present war.

Shipments of Canadian wheat flour exported during the first nine months of the crop year 1942-43 totalled approximately 137,000,000 bushels compared with 169,000,000 in the corresponding period the previous year. Flour shipments in terms of wheat were 5,000,000 bushels larger than in same period of the 1941-42 crop year. Wheat grain exports were 37,500,000 bushels smaller.

American farmers produced more than four million acres of flaxseed in 1942.

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THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

The Bulk Of The Italian Navy Now Safely Anchored At Malta

Varying in details, but with an inexorable logic that was beyond the calculations of the dictators, the present war is being fought to its predestined conclusion in an almost uncanny parallelism to the course of events in the last war. This is again emphasized by the dramatic surrender of the Italian Navy, the bulk of which is now safely in Allied hands. Thirty-two Italian warships, including four battleships, six cruisers, eight destroyers and fourteen submarines, are now anchored at Malta, in fitting homage to that indomitable island. More war vessels are expected if they can escape the German clutches. The Germans, having seized the northern ports of Italy, may have succeeded in capturing some of Italy's fifty to sixty submarines, as they have probably seized a part of Italy's merchant fleet. But it may be doubted whether they will be able to make much use of them.

The Italian Navy, in any case, is either "present or accounted for," especially all of its remaining battleships, and presumably all of its remaining cruisers. And, according to Allied spokesmen, they are first-class and ready for immediate action, which will be greatly facilitated by the Allied seizure of the naval base of Taranto, which presumably is stocked with all necessary naval supplies.

Scapa Flow

Inevitably, thoughts go back to Scapa Flow, where a once proud German Navy surrendered after the last war. Once again it has been shown that an inferior navy is little more than an expensive luxury, and in a prolonged war even a danger point. For, as in the case of Imperial Germany, the disintegration of the Italian fighting spirit also began in the navy, which, even more than the Italian land and air forces, was reluctant to face the overwhelming odds of Allied superiority. The only service it could render to the Axis cause was to immobilize a large part of the British fleet in the Mediterranean. But it could not and did not stop either the Allied invasion of North Africa or the invasion of the Italian homeland. And this refusal to face suicidal odds was one of the main causes of the Italian collapse.

But the surrender of the Italian Navy is both more and less than Scapa Flow. It is less because Germany, the main enemy, still continues the fight, and has even succeeded in seizing the major portion of Italy, from which it will take time and trouble to dislodge her. But it is also more, because both General Eisenhower and Admiral Cunningham have already made it clear that the Italian Navy will become part of the Allied naval forces, to be used against both Germany and Japan.

Mediterranean Highway

Surrender of the Italian fleet has finally cleared the Mediterranean of even a potential menace. It has thereby opened up an unimpeded highway for even greater attacks against the remaining Axis partners. From now on, Allied convoys can move freely through that lifeline of inter-Allied communications for landing operations at any point along its shores on which the Allied command may decide. From now on, supplies to Russia, to India and to China will find an easier and shorter route than the long way around the Cape of Good Hope. Finally, from now on, a large part of the British fleet can be transferred to the Indian Ocean or the Pacific, for operations against Japan in conjunction with the American forces. And though a prediction made by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in his opening speech to the Kuomintang executive committee that Japan "would be defeated in possibly six months, and certainly not much longer than one year," may prove to be too optimistic, the Japanese military masters know what the Italian surrender means to them, and rage accordingly.

Result of Armistice

The surrender of the Italian fleet with all its consequences, is one result of the armistice arranged by General Eisenhower with the Italian King and Marshal Badoglio. And, as General Eisenhower said, the armistice is worth while even if it nets the Allies nothing more than the fleet. Of course, it nets them much more than that. It eliminates a nation of 46,000,000 from the fight, together with its manpower, its resources, and the millions of bayonets of which Mussolini used to boast.—New York Times.

They Were Just Nice Little Snakes

A little girl entered a store in Midland. She carried something that looked sinister and terrifying to the women shopping in the store. They huddled in corners and would have run past the little girl into the street if they had dared. But they didn't dare to move. And it wasn't a couple of guns that the kid carried. She had a pair of live garter snakes, which she held tightly in her little fingers while they writhed and squirmed and tried to get away, and she didn't mean to scare all the ladies. She was just looking for her mother to show her the nice snakes she had caught. "No," said the storekeeper, "your mummy isn't here. Please go away." And since the merchant was polite, and said please, she went.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

A WISE MOVE

The managements of three local theatres have announced that they intend to clear all children who are not accompanied by their parents out of their theatres at nine o'clock every night. In other words there is going to be a strict enforcement of the curfew law. We commend the theatres for this action, for if the parents of these children do not take sufficient interest in their welfare to see that they are home, someone else must. — Peterborough Examiner.

WHAT'S THE USE?

With junior away in the Air Corps, the family again has the use of the car. However, as it turns out, junior has the gas.
—Milwaukee Journal.

ALSO CANADIANISM

Americanism: Farmers scolding workers for hindering the war effort to get more money; the nation pleading for corn and beef while farmers hold for a better price.
—Victoria Times

ANGLING GARDENER

She said her husband's garden wasn't much of a success because every time he starts digging he finds worms and goes fishing.
—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

BARK TO BITE

War sacrifices are passing from the bark to the bite stage as the hot dog becomes a war casualty
—Kitchener Record.

NOTE TO BLOOD DONORS

Army doctors talking to a newspaper correspondent in Sicily on the subject of blood plasma said: "Write lots about it; go clear overboard for it; say that plasma is the outstanding medical discovery of this war." This will be of interest to the public generally and to blood donors particularly.

DOINGS AT THE SOO

There is no hay fever at Sault Ste. Marie, according to F. W Collins, Canadian Pacific Railway Industrial Commissioner.

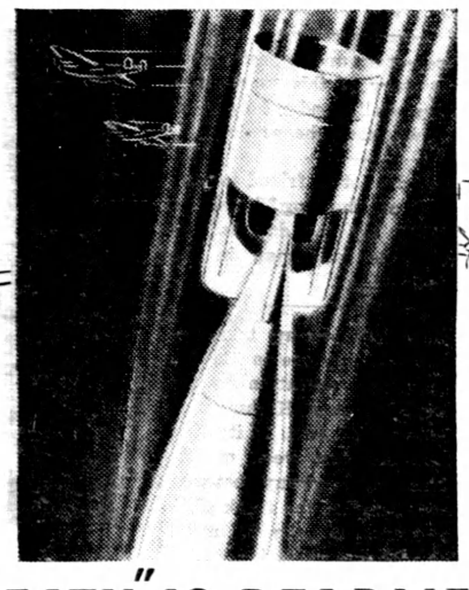
New, if we only could be sure we would not be "et by a wolf," the Soo would sound like a healthy spot.—Windsor Star.

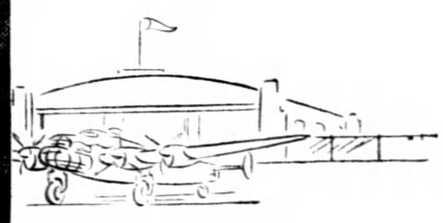
A joint statement issued by the Prices Board and Transport, Labor and Munitions Departments, last week said shortage of labor and transportation would result in no Christmas trees being cut this year.

SIDE GLANCES — By Galbraith

"By the gods, I didn't know the stores sold pants for boys until I had outgrown my father's!"

SERVING THE UNITED NATIONS WITH WAR ALCOHOL





THE "RAIN OF DEATH" IS DEADLIER BECAUSE OF WAR ALCOHOL

Here is a load of grief for Hitler . . . 1000 pound packages of concentrated destruction, made with the help of War Alcohol, and powerful enough to flatten whole city blocks.

Due to its "stabilizing" influence, alcohol is also used in tremendous quantities in the making of smokeless powder and other war materials. It is a basis for ether, widely used in the manufacture of high explosive. It keeps planes ice-free. It keeps trucks and tanks rolling in zero temperatures. It is used in the production of synthetic rubber and plastics. It serves doctors, nurses and field dressing stations as a practical disinfectant. Alcohol is now in Battle Dress 24 hours a day. All of our plants are producing it . . . to 100% capacity . . . for the duration.

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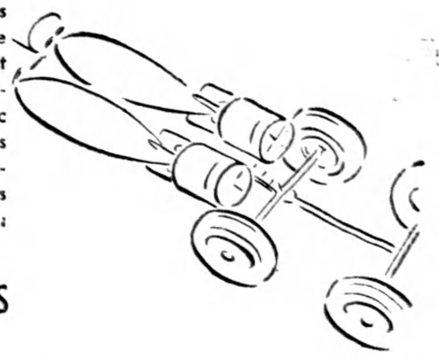

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REG'LAR FELLERS—Come and Get It — By GENE BYRNES