

A War Reporter's Notebook

By Hal Boyle

ALPHETS, Nov. 15—(Delayed)——(P)—"Laundry Hill," the world's largest clothing repair and dry-cleaning plant is salvaging 4,000,000 garments a month for the American Army. Here all the (over worn and otherwise damaged) items of uniform are taken back by the troops as mended and when Uncle Sam's Quartermaster gets through, there isn't enough room to make a square meal for a month.

"Give us the buttons and we'll build a uniform around them," is the slogan on "Laundry Hill," a plant overlooking the Mediterranean near Orono where the Army has concentrated its clothing redemption facilities. Every repairable garment is carefully patched and retailed after being sterilized. Pants, shirts and field jackets too worn for further use are put into the rag bag after buttons and zippers have been removed. In addition to conserving clothing costs, the salvage operation releases shipping space for other war needs.

The two buildings which house the laundry are dry clean and equipped as in themselves are another salvage project. They were built almost entirely from lumber from discarded packing crates. The plant runs full blast for twenty hours every day.

MANNED BY ITALIANS
At present it is manned largely by native Italians, who originally were prisoners of war but have been formed into labor companies under their own officers since the surrender. American experts supervise their work.

Those who wield the needle have found out that the American soldier's button is a better one than the Italian one. It stands his wearing out the rest of his pants—a sure sign of good quality. The Italian button stands his wearing out the rest of his pants—a sure sign of good quality. The Italian button stands his wearing out the rest of his pants—a sure sign of good quality.

The biggest menace to Army uniforms left the enemy—It's barbed wire and machinery that reach and rip the fabric apart or the pieces of uniform sent back have been discarded because of tears.

House Okays Draft Bill
WASHINGTON—(P)—By a unanimous vote today the House today passed and sent to the Senate a companion legislation putting new war fathers at the bottom of the list of first eligibles.

The move was a condensed report submitted by a joint Senate-House committee which adjusted differences between the two branches on the father-son subject.

The compromise, which the Senate expects to accept, embodies principles of the House-passed Killdeer Bill to make it easier for a son to be called to duty if his father is in the nation but has not been drafted for occupational or other reasons he has been drafted.

Honored For Halting Tank
WASHINGTON—(P)—The nation's highest decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor, has been awarded to a cavalry lieutenant who halted a tank with a single shot.

Determined To Hold On Winter Line

Seek To Halt March On Rome

By DON WHITEHEAD
WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY—(AP)—Determined to hold their Garigliano River line all winter if possible the Germans have concentrated the bulk of their defensive strength along the Fifth Army front in a desperate bid to halt the Allied advance on Rome.

This strategy became increasingly clear today as American and British patrols probed the enemy's so-called Winter line—a deep series of pill-boxes, gun emplacements, trenches and barbed wire entanglements blasted out of the rocky mountains.

For the first time since Allied troops first took the beach on the beaches of Salerno the Germans have fallen back while they fortified six positions—and no one has any illusions about the bitter, bloody battles that must be fought before the enemy is dug out of the hills.

The valley running from Cassino to Rome is a deep, narrow, covered mountain mass in the natural road for the Army to follow. And because it is the natural avenue to Rome the Germans have dug in their defenses and massed the greatest part of their troops in the vicinity, with the bulk of their left flank standing as a guard against a British Eighth Army.

In addition to holding the strong positions on heights commanding the valley the enemy has dug in a firm ally in the weather. Steady cold rains have swollen streams and inundated fields, covering the Fifth Army's supply lines as well as subjecting troops to exposure in muddy and treacherous SIKES CLEAR.

But for the first time in a week the sky is clear and a bright sun shone on the muddy ground giving the Doughboys and Britishers a new offensive mood. Also for the first time in several days the Air Force had a chance to show its teeth.

The strain on the troops was great and the rugged mountain fighting is tiring. But it is again the fact that war is a game for tough resilient men.

Partisans Score Some Successes
LONDON—(AP)—Fighting fiercely against strong German attacks, guerrillas scored some offensive successes including the capture of a supply train near Ferrara, a communication line between power plants in Bologna, a communication line between the Yugoslav Army of Liberation and the Yugoslav Government, and the capture of a German breakthrough which was acknowledged in eastern Italy and only successful defensive operations were claimed in Dalmatia and Croatia.

Thousands Seeking To Leave Rumania
By THOMAS F. HAWKINS
BERLIN, Switzerland—(AP)—Thousands of Rumanians are crowding into refugee camps seeking visas to go abroad as a result of tensions created by the German advance on the Western Front. The revival of a dispute with Hungary and increasing indications of a German retreat have caused a Government change in Rumania.

Refugees from the north, according to reports of a German official, are being held in camps threatened by the Red Army advance west of Kiev, creating a acute housing problem.

New Ally For The United Nations:

Turkey Near War Against Axis

ANKARA, Turkey, Nov. 17—(Delayed)——(P)—Turkey is moving toward war with the Axis. Turkey's sub rosa assistance to Allied armed forces, which closely approximates that which the United States gave Britain in the months before Pearl Harbor, is rapidly carrying the nation toward a war footing.

Details of the help which already is being given naturally cannot be disclosed, but this correspondence indicates that what was only friendly neutrality a few months ago is rapidly approaching genuine co-operation.

This co-operation may grow into Turkish participation in the war on an all-out scale as suggested by the Turkish Government, which is making its plans for that eventually.

(This is the broadest indication of Turkey's new attitude to concern itself from Ankara through its ambassador which, as far as it concerns Turkey's foreign relations, has been one of the most cautious and rigid in Europe. King's findings are supported by information supplied by a man in London with authoritative contacts, who cannot be identified, but said two weeks ago that Turkey's participation in the war, qualified though it might be, was in the cards.)

Real war may not become Turkey's lot for several months. A few weeks ago I was convinced that Turkey would not enter the war before Spring, but now I am convinced she will be in the war by Spring. I have reached this conclusion despite the fact that there has been no visible effort by the Government to prepare the public for approaching participation in war. The man in the street is still convinced that Turkey will not enter until this necessary preparation has been taken.

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Hull Says Peace Foundation Laid

Nazi Surrender May Be Demanded

LONDON—(AP)——Belief that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin would meet soon on neutral ground was strengthened today by a report that, without official confirmation, newspapers printed dispatches from the United States forecasting such a conference.

The Daily Telegraph's Washington dispatch asserted that the conference would be held in London, with many demanding her surrender is considered here to be a probable event in addition to important decisions.

The New-Chronicle's Washington correspondent, Robert Walling, wrote "vague and carefully phrased but urgent" talk of big events and quiet American newspaper headlines as forecasting the conference.

The broadcast said German bombers and dive-bombers dropped bombs on all cables on military targets on the island of Crete, which has more than twenty miles north of Crete, which capitulated Tuesday.

London's evening newspapers sharply criticized the loss of Crete, with the Herald giving a full editorial explanation. "We shall gain nothing by glossing it over," said the Herald.

All the editors were filled with questions and stressed that the fall of the island to German attack, together with the loss of Crete, constituted a political setback to the Allies in Turkey and the Balkans.

BEHINDER SEEN
The News Chronicle put its editorial in the strongest terms. "It is hardly necessary to say that the fall of Crete is a disaster which should be maintained as long as possible."

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Complaining that the British Government has failed to give a "clear declaration of its reconstruction policy," Sir Patrick de Clerk.

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Congress Listens To Moscow Report

Cast in a Hero's Role, White House Says

WASHINGTON—(AP)——Cast in a hero's role, white-haired 72-year-old Cordell Hull made a triumphant appearance before an unprecedented session of Congress today to report that the recent Moscow Conference laid the foundation, in his opinion, for a world freed "of destructive forces of international anarchy."

Given a tremendous ovation by both members of Congress and packed galleries, the Secretary of State told his audience that the Moscow declarations—for which he has been given a large share of the credit—point the way toward establishing all peace-loving nations, large and small, to live in peace and security in the post-war world.

It was the first time a Cabinet member ever addressed Congress. A welcome and tribute paraded only by the welcomes accorded the President and rulers of other nations was given the one-time Tennessee milk skinner as he entered the House chamber.

Members of the House and Senate gathered from other lands and fellow Cabinet members stood and cheered as Hull walked slowly to the rostrum by the Speaker, Speaker Hays and Vice-President Wallace.

Hull, introduced by Rayburn as a statesman who has "interpreted the inarticulate feelings of the American people and abroad. A blunder of all plans endorsed the tribute.

"We have reached a stage in the war in which the United Nations are on the offensive in every part of the world. Our enemies are suffering defeat after defeat. The time has come when their desperate movement to destroy the United Nations must be stopped."

Hull's tribute to the "epic" fighting qualities of the Russian people also was cheered. High foreign diplomats, guided by State Department attaches, sat in the House gallery. Their wives and families watched from a special gallery section.

Squads of uniformed Congressmen kept visitors moving constantly through the corridors for an hour before Hull arrived. White wooden barriers closed off all passageways except those leading to the House floor and galleries.

Hull declared that "we can and will remain masters of our own fate through cooperation with other nations likewise intent upon security."

"As the provisions of the foundation 'Russia, Great Britain, China and the United States' declaration are carried into effect, said the Secretary of State, 'there will be no need for spheres of influence, for alliances, for balance of power or any other of the old-time methods of international relations to promote their interests.'"

"We of today," said Hull, "shall be judged in the future by the standards to which we meet our unprecedented responsibilities that rest upon us—not alone in winning the war, but also in making peace."

Despite Heavy Losses, Japs Navy Remains Quite Formidable

200 Vessels in This Category

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS—(P)—Entered and bated in every action since the early phases of the first Solomon campaign, the Japanese Navy could still oppose any major move in the Western Pacific with a formidable battle fleet.

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Captured In Plunge Into White Russia

24 Miles West Of Gornel

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Weather

Forecast For Tomorrow

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Partly cloudy with light rain in the morning. High 60, low 40.

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