

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

**Red Army Forges Deeper Into Poland, Southwest Drive Perils Nazi Troops; Allied Bombers Blast Western Europe; Strikes Show Marked Increase in 1943**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)  
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"War Is Hell"—Nowhere better is this expression indicated than in this Italian town of Castel Di Sangro, lying in rubble.

**SOUTHWEST PACIFIC: Jungle Fighting**

Like the story of every other island in the South Pacific, U. S. troops have had to fight for every inch of ground on tropical New Guinea, where landings have placed doughboys in possession of the air strip on Cape Gloucester and a beachhead at Arawe.

With the enemy dug well in the jungle, U. S. dive bombers and artillery helped clear the way for the infantry as it edged forward through the dense brush about Cape Gloucester. In similar terrain at Arawe, the enemy also fell back grudgingly.

While doughboys clawed forward in New Britain, other elements of the U. S. Sixth army beat south-eastward along the New Guinea coastline toward a juncture with Australian troops driving northward. In this sector, the Allies aimed for the big Jap shipping base of Madang, supply point for their coastal positions.

**Acc Lost**

Only hours after a dispatch from Guadalcanal had announced that pudgy, 30-year-old Maj. Gregory ("Pappy") Boyington had shot down his 26th Jap to enter the selective list of U. S. air aces, his mother received word in Okanogan, Wash., that he was missing.

With a mother's faith she said: "I am confident he is all right and he will show up somehow, somewhere."

Called "Pappy" because of his comparatively older age among the younger marine fliers, Boyington was a picturesque daredevil. Once, "Pappy" purposely led a squadron over a Jap airdrome, circling the field slowly and daring the enemy to come up and fight. When they did, "Pappy" nailed three.

**STRIKES: Increase in '43**

Almost 14 million working days were lost through strikes in 1943 compared with 4 million in 1942, records of the bureau of labor statistics indicated.

Approximately 3,337,091 workers were involved in the estimated 7,327 walkouts, which topped the 1942 total of 839,961 men idle because of 2,968 strikes.

Last year's strikes doubled the 1927-'41 average of 1,945, but it was pointed out that the depression prevailed during that period, and because of scarce employment walkouts were less frequent.

**EUROPE: Plaster Defenses**

Flying over an 800-mile front, Allied bombers rapped hard at German defenses and industries in western Europe preparatory to the heralded invasion.

But in Italy, bad weather restricted Allied progress over the mountainous terrain, and equally bitter resistance in the future loomed with the discovery that the Germans were constructing another "Siegfried line" of concrete and steel several miles in depth, and just to the north of their present positions.

Continuing the softening up process of western Europe, swarms of U. S. and British bombers and fighters lashed at German factories, the important naval base of Kiel, air fields strung over northern, and the channel coast, along which the Nazis reportedly have erected rocket guns.

**PROHIBITION: Before Congress**

Prohibitionists lined up in support of Rep. Joseph R. Bryson's bill for forbidding sale or manufacture of all beverages containing more than 1/2 of 1 per cent of alcohol for the duration as a congressional committee prepared for hearings on the measure.

As prohibitionists organized support, Rep. Emmanuel Celler said it was rumored that they had raised \$10,000,000 for lobbying in Washington.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the Anti-Saloon league would remain on the sidelines during consideration of the bill, devoting its efforts to persuading President Roosevelt to declare prohibition as a war measure under his present vast powers.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL: No Deaths**

For the second time in the 12 years he has compiled statistics on college football deaths, Dr. Floyd R. Eastwood of Purdue U. announced no fatalities due to football in 1943.

Possibly because of a lack of sufficient amounts and quality of equipment, nine deaths were recorded in high school football, Dr. Eastwood said.

Fatalities in the sport have gradually decreased since he started his survey in 1931, when 31 deaths were announced, Dr. Eastwood said. Since most deaths have been due to head injuries, he suggested that grid leaders look into possible use of new crash helmets designed for military use during the present war.

**'44 CONVENTIONS: Chicago Bids**

With 10,000 visitors expected at both the Democratic and Republican national conventions this year, Big Business in Chicago bid to have the conclave held there, with New York also reportedly interested.

In Chicago alone, representatives of hotels, restaurants, realty and financial concerns, banks and utilities agreed to raise \$75,000 to help defray hall expenses, etc., for either party, or \$150,000 for both, if they met in the Windy City.



Chairmen Spangler and Walker

As the national committees under Frank Walker of the Democrats and Harrison Spangler of the Republicans studied convention sites, the Office of Defense Transportation declared Chicago was the city least likely to upset train schedules, since regular line sleeping cars with 11,368 beds terminate there, compared to 7,129 in New York.

**CANADIAN WHEAT: To Increase Imports**

With approximately 350,000,000 bushels of U. S. wheat expected to be fed to livestock during the current feeding season, an additional 100,000,000 to 150,000,000 bushels will be brought in from Canada, according to government sources.

Because U. S. railroad cars will be sent into the interior of Canada this winter, from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 more bushels of wheat will be imported than otherwise possible, due to the freezing of the Great Lakes.

Although the heavy dairy and poultry producing areas of the Northeast have bettered their feed situation, feed grains are needed in the drouthy south central regions, and protein meals are scarce in the southwest range districts. The total supply of feed concentrates was estimated at 169,000,000 tons.

**SOLDIERS' VOTE: Urge Uniformity**

While congress wrangled over whether the federal government or the individual states should control soldier voting in 1944, the war and navy departments recommended that applications for absentee ballots be distributed by the services and local officials accept such applications any time before election.

Other recommendations made by the army and navy were that voting material be designed for air carriage, and that a serviceman's vote be acknowledged by an officer no lower in rank than sergeant.

**RAIL TRAFFIC**

The nation's railroads broke all transportation records last year, both for passengers and freight. Volume of freight hauled was 14 per cent above 1942, the previous high, and passenger traffic shot up 58 per cent over the preceding year.

Average load of freight per train was 1,116 tons, another record. Per car load was 41 tons. Average volume of passengers per car was greater than ever before. An increase of about 20 per cent in gross revenue is expected.

**Washington Digest**

**Pressure Groups Point Way To Mild Fascism in U. S.**



Government by Majority Rule Ceases to Exist When Various 'Interests' Begin Trading Votes for Concessions.

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At a recent White House press and radio conference, the President was explaining his pre-Christmas remark—that it was time to discard the term "New Deal"—the remark that gave the cartoonists so much fun. He used a fable about "Old Dr. New Deal" who had healed the patient of "internal troubles" (the depressions). But when the patient had an accident and had broken his arms and legs, he had to call in his partner "Dr. Win-the-War" to heal him.

A correspondent asked: "Doesn't that add up to a fourth term declaration?"

The President showed his irritation in his answer. He said that that hadn't been under discussion, that the question was picayune. Then he caught himself, leaned back, half smiled, half apologized, with the remark that the questioner would understand that he had to answer that way.

Two things came to my mind at once. First, that the President was thinking about the war and postwar problems, and to be brought back to earth with a bump was very much like being awakened by an alarm clock in the midst of an interesting dream. That was one thing I thought of.

Another was just what the United States, and the whole world for that matter, would be suffering from after the war and what the cure would be, if any.

Recently there have been several predictions that we were in "for a dose of mild fascism."

**Background for Belief**

I never took that so very seriously until three news items were called to my attention. One was the statement that the CIO committee of political action was planned as a nucleus of a labor party. That didn't smell of fascism but it had a slightly collectivist aroma.

The next item was in the London News Letter, a little pamphlet edited by Commander King-Hall, member of parliament, the contents of which are cabled to Toronto, Canada, where it is printed as an American edition. King-Hall is an independent in politics with slightly conservative leanings.

Here are the excerpts to which I refer:

"... There are many indications at what might be called the lower levels of domestic practice, that there are forces and tendencies at work in Britain which are going to produce great changes in our political system. Some of these changes were foreshadowed in a pamphlet entitled 'The Future of Party Politics' written by Commander King-Hall in 1937. It was there argued that a crisis, both domestic and international, was developing and demanding for its solution a high degree of national unity in Britain, and that the political expression of that unity, and the instrument for making it effective must be a national government..."

In other words, the writer means by a "national government" a coalition government such as England has now with no opposition—what amounts to a single party.

**The Mood in Britain**

And here is another excerpt, a quotation from a speech in the house of commons which the London News Letter says was given a "wide measure of assent."

"... Government must always be by majority but let it not be by party controversy and party majority. In this country at the present time, there seems to be coming into being a central body of opinion very well and adequately represented on all sides of this house. It is to that central body of opinion that I should like the government to appeal in a bolder and more forward-stepping policy..."

This speaker continues his appeal for a single "central body of opinion" and warns against "dividing a people (the British) who provide some bridge between the extreme capitalism of the United States and the extreme collectivism of Russia."

Just what all this was getting at, I understood a little better when I read an article by Freda Kirchway in the Nation on the mood in Britain.

Miss Kirchway had interviewed a number of people in England and she says that "big business forces in England have recognized more clearly than these forces in America the need for government control." They are ready, she says, to accept the government as a partner to save themselves from liquidation.

Some of the people interviewed by Miss Kirchway gave her the impression that they saw in the set-up ahead "a successful, polite form of semi-fascism," which will prove acceptable to the key people of these groups. She doesn't agree with this herself and she believes British labor will be ready to fight it at the second election after peace but she believes these people believe it.

How much of a similar feeling exists in the United States, I do not know, but, quite independent of England, many people are shrugging their shoulders and saying it is a possibility here.

One thing may point in that direction. That is the way the various pressure groups are now operating in congress. Already many trades have been made even to the point of those "unholy alliances" (all alliances except those in which we belong are unholy, of course) which it was charged in the senate had been formed between southern Democrats and some northern Republicans.

As soon as powerful pressure groups can agree among themselves to trade concessions for votes, government by majority rule ceases and the moment you begin to break down the party lines, you are in danger of having one party which in the end is no party.

I can well understand how when anyone contemplates the problems of our domestic affairs in the post-war period, it is hard to keep one's mind on the war.

**The Change in Invasion Plans**

It is a perilous thing these days to write more than an hour in advance of the invasion if one uses the future tense. The majority of opinion "as I write" (that's the saving line) believes that the invasion won't get under way until late spring although one report through Sweden said the Germans were expecting it between Christmas and New Year's.

But from the time that General Eisenhower was named as commander and the other changes in command were named, it appeared that the shape of the whole Allied plans for the assault on fortress Europa began to change rapidly. The speed with which the Russian armies were moving toward the German frontiers set new forces in motion.

Suddenly the Mediterranean became less important in the picture as Washington saw it. It was pointed out that the British had a large force of men, ships and supplies in that theater than the Americans. What had seemed the most important thing in Europe to America ever since our troops landed in North Africa suddenly grew less important. The Middle East, which had looked as if it were the gathering point of a new blow through the Balkans, perhaps with the help of Turkey, shrank on the horizon. The shifting of British commanders seemed to make this clear.

And then there were calls for greater speed on the part of the Allies, it seemed as if a fear that Russia might get to Berlin first was stirring new activity and there were stories that Spain was not as anxious for Allied friendship as she was to keep the "Bolsheviks" from getting nearer her borders, that if she must make new enemies, at least it was better to have the Allies against her than to have Russia get too near her.

But even without these rumors, it grew clearer and clearer that the job ahead was colossal. Hopes that Germany could be brought down by bombing alone were given up. It really seemed as if her factories and indeed her cities had moved underground.

**BRIEFS... by Baukhage**

Ernesto Lecuona, chief song writer of Cuba and cultural attache of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, has recently signed one of the largest song publishing contracts of Broadway history.

Colombia's entrance into the war November 27 makes it the 14th American republic to join actively in the struggle against the Nazis.

Suspender buttons are to be restored to men's work pants, according to an amendment of WPB's Order L-181.

The navy's famous PT boats and all they have accomplished is owed to the mahogany tree of Middle America and to the men of history who discovered its value in ship building.

**Their Heads, Hearts, Hands and Health Are Pledged to Victory**

"I Pledge—my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, my health to better living, for my club, my community, and my country."



**LIVESTOCK** honors went to Richard Lacy, 17, of Kansas, Ill., pictured with his Grand Champion Hereford.

This is the pledge of the 1,500,000 members of the 4-H clubs. Accomplishments revealed at their 22nd congress and contests in Chicago indicate this pledge has been kept—\$14,000,000 worth of war bonds and stamps sold, 300,000,000 pounds of scrap collected and 5,000,000 bushels of victory garden products grown. Figures, however, cannot show the democratic power generated by 4-H discussion groups and educational programs.



**DRESS MAKING**—Verda Patterson, 17, Marathon, Iowa, received a \$200 scholarship for her clothing achievements. These garments were made from clothing previously discarded.



**LEADERSHIP** awards and trophies for outstanding 4-H records for 1943 were won by Robert R. Mayer, Marysville, Kan., and Emily E. McHattie, Newport, Minn.



**FOOD** FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM

**HEALTH** champions are (l. to r.) John Weis, St. Cloud, Minn.; Virginia Nelson, North Platte, Neb.; Rena Garner, Ozark, Ala., and Delmar Couch, Eagletown, Okla.



**COOKING** winner was Audrey Averill (right), of Collins, Mont. State Leader Pauline Buntin offers congratulations.



**ELECTRIFICATION** winners: Herbert Rice, Monroe Arne, Leon Bernsen, Glenn Eisenbrandt, Marvin Heft and Lawrence Kirk.

**HIGHLIGHTS... in the week's news**

**RIVER:** Vagaries of the White river in Indiana have shifted the boundary line between Decatur and Perry townships in Marion county. Two schools operated by the Decatur township authorities will have to be closed because of lack of funds. Property of the power company is no longer within the township's tax limits to provide revenue, it was pointed out.

**FARM HANDS:** Several organizations in New York state, working in collaboration, filled 210,000 farm jobs last year. Only 3 per cent of the workers were normally farm hands.

**TYPHUS:** Eleven "public" delousing stations have been set up in Naples, Italy, by Allied military health officers to combat typhus, which is spreading in the city.