

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazi Armies Fall Back in France; Hitler's Hold on Balkans Shaken; Lend-Lease Totals 28 Billion

Released by Western Newspaper Union.  
(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



Carried on ox-carts, wounded Allied soldiers arrive at Myitkyina airstrip, Burma, for transfer to hospital plane.

EUROPE:

Nazi Pull Back

As fast-moving Allied forces pushed the Nazis back throughout all of France, German spokesmen hinted that Hitler's high command planned a withdrawal to the Reich frontier so as to concentrate the greatest number of men on a short line.

But even as the Nazis fell back, swift armored thrusts by the U. S., British and French continued to slash at the harassed enemy's flanks and threaten his encirclement from the rear, and clouds of Allied planes reared over the battle-lines to dip low and gun the retreating German columns.

With the bulk of their forces crowded in the area immediately north and south of Paris, the Germans put up their stiffest rearguard resistance in this region. In southern France, Lieut. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's Seventh army fanned out quickly in all directions, with only scattered bands of enemy troops standing up briefly to slow the Allied drive.

After capture of the great French Mediterranean port of Marseille, American engineers went to work quickly to restore facilities damaged by the Germans and enable the Allies to funnel supplies quickly to their armies in the south. Use of Marseille's installations would relieve the troublesome practice of landing supplies on the sandy beaches in shallow-draft craft.

Armistice arrangements for the German evacuation of Paris having fallen through, Free French armored columns were compelled to fight through a screen of Nazi defenders in the city, with heavy U. S. backing up Gen. Charles de Gaulle's troops, and helping to break through the German lines. Occupation of Paris by 3,000,000 people in the city and fuel for utilities, a major problem for the Allies.

Balkans

Announcement of a peace government in Bulgaria, Adolf Hitler's unshaken hold on the turbulent Balkans, and the turbulent Balkans, with Rumania's declining to topple German southeastern front.

King Michael announced a country's willingness to accept Allied peace terms called for by the Russian government of German troops in her homeland, or a withdrawal from Hungary to clear the way for Transylvania, as armistice terms.

Rumania acted to quit the Balkan peace front. Bulgaria peace proposals were forwarded to the Bulgarians who were said to have agreed to the Bulgarians' withdrawal from occupied Greece and territory as one of the terms.

Any peace factions in Hungary were said to be in a grip in Hungary, and the regime dissolved from the parties, including the active elements.

Pressure

Figuring in the Balkan countries' swing toward the Allied camp was the Russians' power-house drive bearing down from northern Rumania.

As the Reds hurled their might at the enemy lines, they bored down on the Galati Gap between the Transylvanian Alps and Black sea, barring the way to the heart of Rumania and the Ploesti oil fields. From this region, there was short going before the Reds would reach the Bulgarian frontier.

POSTWAR PEACE:

Powers Confer

Meeting in the quaint, old Dumbarton Oaks estate in Washington, D. C., representatives of the U. S., Britain and Russia began momentous conferences on preserving postwar peace, with emphasis on the need of force as an ultimate resource. China was to join the conference after the Reds had finished their talks, since Russia is not at war with the Japanese and is unwilling to discuss repressive measures against them.



John F. Dulles

Accepting the invitation of Secretary of State Cordell Hull to discuss postwar peace plans, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey sent John Foster Dulles, his advisor on foreign affairs, to the capital to consult on the conferences. Hull issued his invitation after Dewey expressed concern that the major powers might overlook the interests of the smaller nations.

Although the conferees were said to agree on the principle of employing force to suppress future aggression, plans under discussion called for the use of force only after measures for peaceful settlement had failed.

ANTI-TRUST:

Railroads Named

Charging maintenance of non-competitive rates, prevention of improvements and facilities of western lines, and suppressing development of other forms of transportation, the government filed an anti-trust suit against the Association of American railroads; the Western Association of Railway Executives; 47 railroads; and the investment houses of J. P. Morgan and Company and Kuhn, Loeb and Company.

Focusing its attention on western rail operations, the government declared that establishment of higher rates in that territory than in the east placed it at a competitive disadvantage, retarding its economic growth. The government also claimed that movement of perishable commodities has been delayed by unwillingness to speed up schedules, and efforts have been made to stunt the development of truck and water transport.

In naming J. P. Morgan and Company and Kuhn, Loeb and Company in the suit, the government charged that they controlled major railroad financing and possessed substantial industrial interests in the East.

LEND-LEASE:

Aid Mounts

Declaring that continuation of lend-lease was essential for speedy victory until both Germany and Japan were brought to their knees, President Roosevelt revealed that the U. S. share of such assistance approximated 28 billion dollars up to July 1, while other countries contributed in excess of 3 billion.

Of the 28 billion dollars, Britain received over 9 billion; Australia and New Zealand, 1 billion; Africa, the Middle East and Mediterranean, 3 billion; Russia, almost 6 billion; China and India, 1 1/2 billion, and Latin America, 172 million.

As an indication of the gigantic contribution U. S. industry has made to the war, figures showed that this country lend-leased 11,000 planes and 300,000 trucks and other vehicles to Russia; 6,000 planes and 9,900 tanks to Great Britain, and 4,800 planes, 51,100 tanks and 73,000 trucks and other vehicles to the Mediterranean area.

AGRICULTURE:

Seek to Avoid Glut

Looking forward into the postwar world with all of its economic problems, the War Food Administration has sought to develop a procedure designed to avoid the accumulation of vast stores of surplus foods which might constitute a market threat when hostilities cease.

Under WFA plans, the agency now buys food only for foreseeable demands, and declares that any commodities required for relief in liberated countries will first be withdrawn from surplus army and lend-lease stocks before purchases are made in the domestic market.

In establishing a surplus sales division, which is to sell current food stocks when demand is high to make room for fresh supplies, the WFA has set up machinery for future disposals.

World Plans

Drawn up with the avowed ambition of improving the efficiency of farm production and distribution, and bettering the economic conditions of rural populations, plans for a permanent international agricultural organization have been submitted for approval to the 44 United Nations by their food conference committee.

To act in an advisory capacity only, the proposed organization would consist of a governing body in which each nation would be represented, with efforts directed toward promoting research, spreading information and offering recommendations.

Other objectives of the plan include the elevation of nutritional standards throughout the world, and the development of agriculture as a contribution to an overall economic expansion.

PACIFIC:

Bombers Active

With thousands of Japanese troops stranded on the enemy's string of outer defense islands from the Solomons down to New Guinea, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's air command concentrated on the bombardment of shipping lanes through which supplies might seek to bolster the sagging garrisons.

At the same time, Adm. Chester Nimitz revealed that navy planes continued their attack upon the strategic Bonin islands, which lie approximately 600 miles from the Japanese mainland and just above the U. S. occupied Marianas, in an effort to soften up these stepping stones to Tokyo.

In pressing their bombardments, General MacArthur's airmen ranged over Mindanao, important basing point for enemy shipping in the southern Philippines.

Fatherly Marines



Having been removed from hillside dugout on Tinian island in the Pacific, these native children were scrubbed clean by battle-hardened but fatherly U. S. marines, then outfitted with new clothes and sent to rear areas.

WAGES:

AFL Wants Boost

Declaring that the President possessed the power to raise wages, and that the stabilization act calling for a balance in the nation's economy afforded him the grounds for such a move, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor asked for abandonment of the "Little Steel" formula, limiting pay increases to 15 per cent of the January, 1941, level.

At the same time, the council chartered the International Office Workers' union, which would embrace a vast number of white-collar employees, who, as a class, have felt the squeeze of rising living costs more than any other group, since most wage increases have been enjoyed in the heavier war-boomed industries.

In appealing for higher wages, AFL President William Green declared: "The working men and women of this nation have been made to suffer from a maladjustment that exists between wages and cost of living. This maladjustment has broken and depressed their peacetime standards of living..."

U. S. LAND

More than 34 million acres have been acquired by the federal government for war purposes, exclusive of land taken over by the Defense plant corporation, according to Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming.

The war and navy departments have stated that 6,750,000 acres of their holdings are surplus for post war purposes. Of this, 1,576,000 acres are tentatively classified as good agricultural land, 2,107,000 acres as grazing land, and 2,107,000 as forest tracts.

Washington Digest

U. S. War Prisoners Seek 'Escape' in Camp Doings



Yanks Like Plays and Develop Liking for Soccer Football, but Letters From Home Greatest Source of Cheer.

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

It is not often that we get direct communication from Americans in Germany, and so I am not ashamed to say that when I perused a communication from that source, I did not at first recognize what the frequently used abbreviation POW stood for.

Comparatively few Americans know the meaning of those three letters; perhaps none know what they mean to the POW himself.

POW is prisoner of war. According to the latest figures I have from the war department there are now 41,234 American soldiers, sailors, marines, merchant seamen held by the enemy!

The officials of the Red Cross know exactly what the conditions are under which those prisoners move and live and have their being in Allied prison camps in Germany or in the more than 40 hospitals for Allied wounded in the Reich or occupied countries. They have regular reports from the International Red Cross representatives who visit the camp regularly. The Red Cross says in effect: "So far as we know, the Germans have treated American prisoners in accordance with the Geneva agreement."

That is all it says. But even if the Germans live up to both the spirit and the letter of the Geneva agreement, the lot of the prisoner of war is not to be envied. Recently, I studied some of the newspapers issued by men in the prison camps. Some have been released for publication. Others have not. Not that those withheld revealed any dark secrets of suffering. Quite the contrary. They simply prove what Kipling said about men who live in barracks not growing up to be plaster saints, and some of the humor might be a little, shall we say, unsaintly.

The reason for this is expressed in the word escape. There are two kinds of escape which a prisoner thinks about. One is a safe get-away through the barbed wire and past the machine guns and quick-trigger sentinels. If he is wise, he doesn't spend too much time on such cogitation. The official advice to POWs is "don't try it."

The other kind of escape is defined by Webster as, "mental distraction or relief from the bondage of reality or routine; as, literature of escape." The somewhat highly seasoned humor of some of the jokes and cartoons in the prisoners' papers are, technically speaking, "literature of escape." — this and the description of things they do to provide escape from the monotony of prison life.

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Yank Ingenuity Shows In Stage Productions

As always, the drama provides one of the easiest and most effective mental distractions and I am told that the time, effort and ingenuity that is put into the learning, producing, staging and costuming of plays by these men is remarkable.

"The Kriegle Times," issued by the American airmen in Stalag Luft III, in Sagan, Germany, which I have before me as I write, is perhaps not typical because it was an edition especially for the home folks. But it has a story on page one headed "theater" which begins with the statement which started me off on this topic. It says, "The Kriegle (local nickname for war prisoner) is assured of 'escape' in the theater." Then it explains that in order to accommodate the whole camp in an auditorium which seats only 20 per cent of the members, five performances of each play are given. And they include real drama.

The article records as recent productions that sure-fire, never-die farce, "Charlie's Aunt"; "Our Town," the popular American play, nostalgic and easy to stage because it requires no scenery; "Tobacco Road," a popular, earthy piece with a run longer than the retreat from Stalingrad; "The Man Who Came to Dinner," whose appeal perhaps lies in the fact that "the man" couldn't get away, either; and "Flieger Frolics," an original musical comedy. (Flieger is flyer in German.)

"Female costumes," it is explained, "are hired through German sources when possible, usually fabricated out of sheets and men's clothing."

The newspaper (a typewritten sheet) says that "scenery, furniture and stage properties have been constructed from wooden Red Cross boxes and burlap, covered with magazine paper and painted with cold water paint."

In another item, the paper comments that "the handy man is the hero of the camp."

Of course, there are sports, but limited ground space makes baseball impossible in this particular camp since a homer over the fence is irretrievable. The boys have learned to like soccer, learned from their English comrades, as a form of what they call "mass murder." Softball is a favorite sport, and with the arrival of fencing fells, fencing. There are some classes, but they are not dealt with in detail.

Another nostalgic diversion was described although not admitted as such, since no note of sentimentality enters the sheet. It was a baby contest, the entrants photographs supplied, presumably, by wives from home. A "Miss Stalag Luft III" was later to be selected from the pictures of wives and sweethearts.

The schedule for a typical day runs like this:

POW's Day Leisurely But Monotonous

The day starts at 10 a. m. with roll-call (following a breakfast of coffee, bread and jam). Then calisthenics, showers for the few designated that day (they go in lots of 24), classes, library, cooking schedules (the men take turns at the culinary arts). Mail (if there is any) is distributed at noon. Last roll-call comes at four p. m., then a few turns around the perimeter of the camp, supper, bridge and poker (for cigarettes). Then "some good talk, much foolish dreaming before midnight sends the Kriegle to bed with the hope ever that the new day brings peace."

Of course, in this little typewritten journal which has had to pass the German censor there is only here and there a hint of certain inner feelings toward the hosts; one note on the showing of a German film speaks of a "none too spellbound audience."

It is difficult to get an intimate view of a prisoner's life from these brief notes or, indeed, from the letters the prisoners write home. But those persons who have read all the confidential reports and also many letters passed on to them by relations tell me two things: one, that generally speaking, American prisoners in German camps are not badly treated and are not in want; second, the first months are the hardest. Most prisoners build up some kind of "escape" mechanism and manage to keep up their spirits and morale by adapting themselves to their environment.

Naturally, the question is frequently asked: "What are we doing for our prisoners in Germany?"

The thing they want most is provided for most of them—letters from home. The next are the food packages which are paid for by the army, packed by volunteer workers and shipped by the Red Cross from their four shipping centers, two in New York, one in Philadelphia and one in St. Louis. Most of the packages, assembled like motor cars on a moving line, are packed by loving hands—that group which bears the scars of war as deeply as the combatants themselves, and described prosaically in army language as "the next of kin."

These packages go, one for each prisoner, every week. The prisoners also can receive personal packages every 60 days. They get books and other prescribed articles.

The Red Cross has eight ships of its own which, up until recently, have been landing regularly at Marseille, where packages have been shipped in sealed cars to Switzerland. These goods went through un-molested. Lately some of the shipments have been made to Lisbon and re-shipped on smaller shuttle vessels. The disruption of traffic in Germany has recently interfered with the system. Other routes are being planned.

Many of the German prisoners of war captured in Normandy have volunteered to help with the harvest in Great Britain.

All major youth organizations are cooperating in the drive to raise an army of school-age milkweed pod harvesters in order to get milkweed floss needed to replace kapok in life jackets for the armed forces.

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE  
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Ann Blythe almost makes you shudder; she's already had so much success that you wonder what's left. Not that Ann feels that way about it; she's as excited over what's ahead as if she'd never appeared in a sensationally successful play—"Watch on the Rhine," which gave a command performance in Washington—and been a supper guest at the White House. She has made a place for herself in radio, beginning at the age of five. She's established

on the screen; has a long-term contract with Universal—her latest picture is "The Merry Monarchs." She sang for three years with the San Carlos Opera company. Yet she feels that she must work hard—to get ahead!

They do say that "Sweet and Low Down" is a semi-biographical story of Benny Goodman's life. Whether that's true or not, it gives him a chance he's never had before in films; this time he makes his debut as a dramatic actor and comedian.



ANN BLYTHE

Steve Cochran is stepping right along in the path traveled by Humphrey Bogart, Spencer Tracy, and other stars whose screen wickedness paid handsome dividends. A handsome six-footer, reared in Wyoming, he plays a gunman on the Broadway badlands in Samuel Goldwyn's "The Wonder Man," starring Danny Kaye. He was discovered when he played in "Without Love" on the Los Angeles stage, with Constance Bennett.

Kay Harding's first big role at Universal is the romantic lead in "The Mummy's Curse," but her first arrival on the lot had nothing to do with pictures. In those days she was the helmswoman on a delivery wagon. "The Scarlet Claw" started her on her way up.

Alexis Smith, who did so well under Edmund Goulding's direction in "The Constant Nymph," will work with him again in the re-make of "Of Human Bondage," in which she has the role of "Norah." The picture features Paul Henreid, Janis Paige and Eleanor Parker.

Victor Jory was all set to return to acting before the movie cameras a few weeks ago, when he was offered the part of a swashbuckling adventurer on the Sunday afternoon CBS show, "Dangerously Yours"—and liked the role so much that he's renounced movies for the year to come. He's already blossomed forth as a radio matinee idol.

Producer Lester Cowan has begun to wonder if every man in the country—and some out of it—want to play Ernie Pyle on the screen. Since it became known that Cowan is looking for someone to portray the popular war correspondent in "G. I. Joe," more than 2,300 letters have poured in from men who are sure they resemble Pyle closely enough to characterize him on the screen. Ernie Pyle at present is covering the invasion of France, sharing the hardships as well as the companionship of our fighting boys there.

The company of players and technicians making "Objective, Burma" for Warner Bros. settled down to a full night schedule for battle scenes depicting the last ditch fight before evacuation of Burma. They've been on location for three months—a new record for off-the-set shooting. Errol Flynn heads the cast, which includes George Tobias, Henry Hull and James Brown in featured roles.

Dick Brown, new singing star, will tour the "Purple Heart Circuit" in the East. Brown knows the value of entertainment to wounded service men, as he spent many months recovering in army hospitals after he was injured in a plane crash in the South Pacific.

ODDS AND ENDS—Frank Sinatra auditioned dozens of girl singers before he selected Eileen Barton to be his first singing partner in his new radio program... Parks (Fox Pop) Johnson's daughter, Mrs. Willett, has named his little granddaughter Louise Johnson Willett... Gene Krupa and his band have been signed for a featured spot in "George's White Scandals of 1945"... Claire Trevor commits two more movie murders, her score is 88 to date... Frances Langford got permission from Washington to carry quite a lot of extra baggage on that current trip with Bob Hope to the South Pacific.

Household Hints

In grinding an ax on a motor driven emery wheel or grindstone, keep the fingers on the ax-head to test its temperature. If the metal gets uncomfortably hot in the hand, stop grinding to keep the ax from losing its temper.

Next time the cream won't whip try this: add the white of an egg to the cream, chill and try again.

A half-teaspoon of oil of peppermint added to the filling for chocolate pie gives a new and different flavor.

For crisp bacon that is juicy within, dust lightly on both sides with flour before frying slowly.

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WOMEN '40's

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If you suffer from hot flashes, feel weak, nervous, a bit blue at times—all due to the functional "middle-age" period peculiar to women—try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Take regular doses. Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such annoying symptoms. Pinkham's Compound is made especially for women—if helps nature and that's the kind of medicine to buy! Follow label directions. LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

WNU-U 36-44

That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action  
Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, overeating, and drinking—its risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood.

You may suffer sagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.  
Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

USE OF AUTOS: A recent survey discloses that 74 per cent of car owners are driving their autos less than half the peacetime mileage. This reduction has come about through shorter and fewer trips rather than the laying up of cars for the duration. Gasoline and tire rationing have combined with patriotic motives to lessen car use, the survey continued.

TRAP SHOOTING: Capt. Joseph Hiestand of Hillsboro, Ohio, has once again won the North American clay target championship in the 45th Grand American Trapshooting tournament held at Vandalia, Ohio. This is the fourth time he has captured the award, the previous occasions being in 1935, '36, and '38. He broke 200 straight targets to lead the field of entrants.