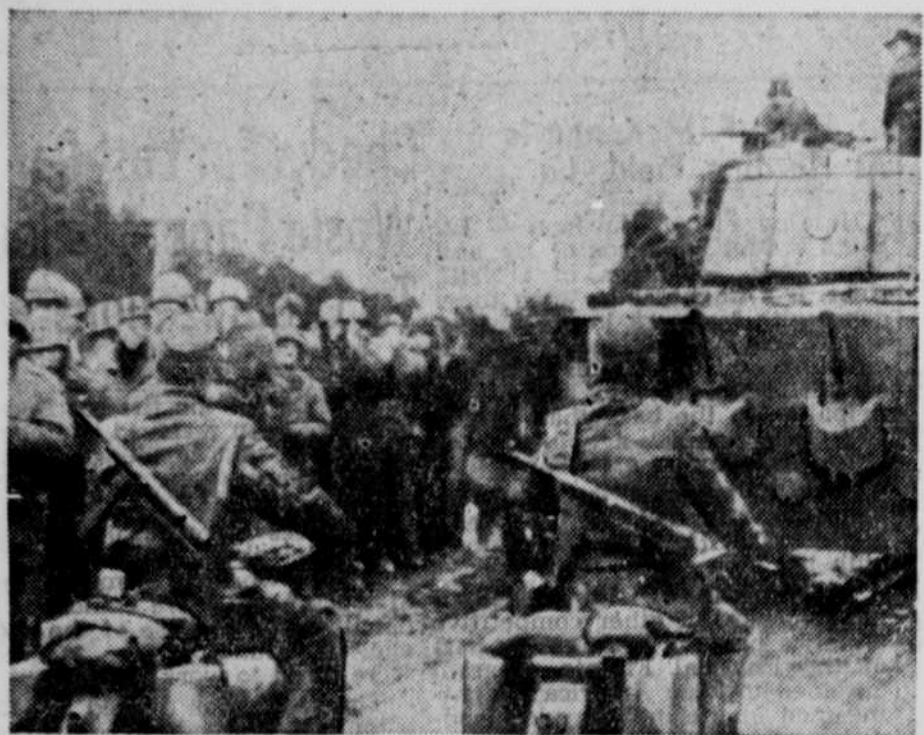


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Yanks Strike Back at Germans; Move to Step Up War Effort; National Income Sets Record

Released by Western Newspaper Union.



Taken from roll of captured German film, picture shows American prisoners being taken to rear as German drive roared through Belgium.

EUROPE:

Patton to Rescue

On the western front, it was big, blustery Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton to the rescue, as U. S. forces smashed into the flanks of the Germans' great drive into Belgium and Luxembourg and compelled Von Rundstedt to divert strength toward meeting the threat to his whole position.



Gen. Patton

Called upon to thwart the German drive shortly after it got underway, General Patton, then attacking in the Saar basin, pulled up his offensive in that area and shot major forces to the north to rip into the lower wing of Von Rundstedt's offensive. Charging over the snow-capped Ardennes hills on a 35-mile front, General Patton's Third Army soon bit deep wedges into the enemy's lines, forcing diversion of his strength from advanced spearheads within four miles of the Meuse.

While General Patton attacked from the south, Lieut. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First Army smashed at the northern flank of the German bulge, reducing the enemy threat to important supply lines around Liege. Faced with these strong twin U. S. thrusts, Von Rundstedt concentrated the bulk of his strength in the center of his bulge, meanwhile probing Allied lines behind the First and Third armies for a blow at their rears.

Intelligence Slips

Knocked out of complacency by the great Nazi winter drive, Allied quarters cast about for the reason of the setback, with opinion general that the fault lay in an underestimation of German military strength and failure to detect substantial Nazi troop movements.

Although Allied chiefs expected a German attack, they felt that the enemy needed more time to reassemble his shattered forces, and they also overlooked the Ardennes forest as a possible ground for Nazi operations because of the rough character of the terrain.

Biggest slip, however, occurred in the Allied intelligence department's failure to observe Von Rundstedt's massing of 200,000 men in the Ardennes sector, an operation which ex-U. S. Chief of Staff of World War I, Gen. Peyton C. March, likened to the movement of the population of Richmond, Va., toward Washington, D. C., without our knowing anything about it.

Lucky Winnie

Having come to Greece to untangle the knotty political problem in that embattled country standing athwart Britain's Mediterranean life line, Prime Minister Winston Churchill twice cheated death in Athens within a week.

First, caches of explosives were found in a sewer below Britain's headquarters where Churchill was expected to visit, and then a sniper's bullet whistled past the prime minister and struck a woman 300 yards away as he was entering the British embassy.

That Lucky Winnie's presence in Athens served to force a settlement of the Greek political crisis was seen in the report that the radical and conservative elements had agreed upon the formation of a mixed council to rule the country in behalf of the king.

MEAT PRODUCTION

Despite the fact that both producer and packer had to overcome many wartime obstacles, the industry turned out a record output of 25 billion pounds in 1944, Chairman T. Henry Foster of the American Meat Institute declared in a year-end report.

Citing U. S. department of agriculture estimates, Foster said the total number of dressed animals for the year included 96,600,000 hogs, 24,300,000 sheep and lambs, 19,700,000 cattle and 14,200,000 calves.

MONTGOMERY WARD: U. S. in Again

The government's second seizure of Montgomery Ward, unlike the first, headed for settlement in court as the U. S. again took over the huge corporation on charges that its disrespect of War Labor board orders threatened vital war production.

With the legality of the second seizure scheduled for judicial review, the government contended that Montgomery Ward's importance to the war effort was attested by its sale of farm machinery and supplies and manufacture of military products, while the company replied its major operations did not directly affect the war and it would be unconstitutional to accept the War Labor board's order for a closed shop denying individual workers the right to decide on joining a union.

In filing suit in court for affirmation of its right to take over Montgomery Ward, the government declared that the company's persistent refusal to abide by War Labor board settlements led other parties to defy WLB directives and threatened a wave of strikes and lock-outs.

LABOR:

Stay in Unions

Apparently sold on the strength of organization in the achievement of better working conditions, the great majority of union people have retained their membership when given the chance to quit, the U. S. bureau of labor statistics reported.

Covering 21 plants and 75,000 union members, the BLS discovered that only 395 of these workers, or less than 1 per cent, withdrew from labor organizations during the 15-day period allowed for such action before maintenance of membership contracts went into effect.

Industries covered by the BLS study included shipbuilding and ship repair, textile, radio, auto parts, chemical, electrical machinery, steel products, transportation equipment, and tobacco.

Postwar Projects

With wartime income remaining postponed because of manpower and material shortages, many states are accumulating huge balances to be used in the postwar period, when their expenditure should help bolster the economy.

Although far from possessing the biggest surplus, Oregon, with \$61,536,000 available, already has completed \$190,000,000 of postwar construction plans, far more than any other state. Although possessing the largest of all balances at \$344,000,000, Oklahoma has only \$114,000,000 of projects in the ready to go stage.

Other states with big surpluses and the dollar value of completed postwar construction plans include California with \$185,000,000 balance and \$75,000,000 projects; New York with \$163,000,000 and \$65,400,000; Pennsylvania with \$150,000,000 and \$25,000,000, and Illinois with \$100,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

WAR RELIEF:

Buy Clothes

In the largest purchase so far undertaken for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the U. S. treasury will buy \$15,000,000 worth of outmoded but warm and durable clothing.

In making the purchase, a treasury official said, the government hopes to obtain the major share of the clothing from manufacturers' and dealers' old stocks, and to speed up the procurement, it appealed to these businessmen to take a rapid inventory of such supplies.

With 170,000,000 people looking to UNRRA for relief, a treasury spokesman said, the present purchase program is but a drop in the bucket.

STEEL:

Peak Output

Hitting its peak in March before gradually leveling off, U. S. steel production for 1944 reached a record 89,400,000 tons of ingots and castings, 80 per cent over maximum output in World War I and 1 1/2 times over Axis Europe's probable turn-out last year.

Because of the industry's heavy output during the first part of the year, it was able to top 1943 production by 600,000 tons. Output in the last part of the year dropped more than 600,000 tons over the same period in 1943.

"Despite higher production, earnings, after taxes, for 1944 probably will approximate 170 million dollars, compared with 201 million in 1943," a spokesman for the industry said.

GI PLANS

One enlisted man out of every eight plans, on being discharged from the army, to operate a business or farm of his own, according to a survey.

Seven per cent of the men now in the army have definite plans for operating a business, 5 per cent plan to operate farms. For the most part they are interested primarily in relatively small enterprises, with half of those having definite plans saying they will invest \$4,000 or less.

Washington Digest

Maldistribution Factor In Europe's Food Crisis



Shattered Communication Lines Hamper Market Movements; Civil Strife Further Restricts Deliveries.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator

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

Recently I saw a list of 12 European countries with an estimate of the number of calories consumed in each now, as compared with their inhabitants' prewar diet.

It was just at the time when the Greek revolt was well under way and only a tight lid was keeping the Belgian pot from boiling over.

The calorie consumption in those two countries was the lowest on the list, 67 and 63 per cent, respectively, of their prewar diet.

About that time Myron Taylor, the President's representative at the Vatican, was warning the Allies that if communism came to Italy, it would come over empty stomachs. Adding up this data the natural assumption is that hunger is the chief cause of unrest in Europe. But it isn't as simple as that. I made some investigations and came upon a number of interesting facts which prove the dangers of over-simplification.

Number one is: Low calories may be a symptom and not a disease. In other words, disorganization and revolt affect the food supply as well as being affected by it.

Number two: Destruction and disorganization are the chief causes of famine and the type of destruction which affects the food supply is not the destruction of food. It is the smashing of railways and rolling stock and blowing up of bridges and doing other things that interrupt transportation. This has done more to create areas of starvation than any planned destruction of the crops themselves by the enemy.

Number three: Conditions are frequently worse after countries are liberated.

One common misconception which needs to be corrected is the total amount and distribution of the food shortage. Since Europe's food problems are of vital concern to America it might be well to clear up some of these erroneous ideas.

Problem Varies in Different Countries

In the first place, in the early years of the war the situation was painted too black. There were various reasons for this. Among them the fact that many countries exaggerated their plight, asking for more than they expected for fear of getting less than they really needed. Later the picture was painted far too rosy. Through all this time the experts were not fooled but the public was.

"It is wrong to say that Europe is starving. It is wrong to say that nobody is starving or will starve," I was informed by a person who is in a position to know if anyone is.

The point is that the situation in various places varies greatly and here we come back to the question of transportation. We might use Greece as an example of a place where revolt has increased the seriousness of the food situation. One of the chief concerns of persons who had no political interest whatever in whether Greece became a purple monarchy or a bright red spot of communism, but who were interested in seeing that the Athenians didn't starve, was the fact that because of the fighting, shiploads of food lay untouched in the harbor of Piraeus.

Athens, Rome, Marseille are all in spots far distant from areas where surplus food exists. Normandy, for instance, could share some of her products with the south of France if there were any way to get the stuff across the country. The grain in the holds of ships in the harbor is no good to the people of Greece unless there is unrestricted passage to and from the docks and men who can unload and transport it to safety.

This question of proximity to supply explains why all over Europe the average consumption level of the farm population is 40 per cent higher than that of the people in urban or manufacturing communities.

One of the paradoxes of Europe's eating troubles is that in most countries the situation often grows worse instead of better after liberation takes place. Italy is an example of what mixed blessings liberation can bring.

When General MacArthur rides up the streets of Manila some day, we hope not far off, he may have a mounted cavalry escort and if he does, three of the high-stepping members may be veterans of the battle of Bataan.

The First Cavalry fought for months overseas as foot soldiers. A part of their job happened to be the capture of the racetrack at Tacloban on Leyte. Naturally every man cast envious eyes on some of the horses left there.

Later the horses were rounded up, and lo and behold, among them were three which were identified as having belonged to the 26th Cavalry which had fought at Bataan. They were repatriated with acclaim and formed the nucleus of a mounted unit which has been doing excellent reconnaissance on the island.

So history repeats. In the Spanish-American war of 1898 dismounted U. S. cavalry were sent to the Philippines. Later a few horses were obtained and they proved so valuable that the whole regiment was mounted.

Here we begin to see how the twin demons of destruction work out.

As indicated, the direct destruction of food supplies either by bombing, or battle, or German sabotage so far has not been a major factor. Of course, the more rapidly the Allies remove the Germans, the less chance they have to steal the food or the crops and transport them. They had considerable time in Italy. On the other hand, on their hurried trip from Normandy to the Rhine the Nazis were far too busy moving to beg, borrow, steal or destroy. Where they had a chance to squat as in the Netherlands, Poland and Czechoslovakia, the situation is worse. But until they knew they were going to have to get out of a country they did not wish to destroy productivity and the natives were fed. They had to keep the people alive to support their own military and economic activity and they expected they would have plenty of time to exploit later when they set up their own new order in Europe.

The factors in food production which suffered most were those involved in food processing. It is easier and quicker to wreck a flour mill or a milk plant than a farm. Some fertilizer factories suffered, and of course in Holland there was wholesale obliteration of arable land when the dykes were blown. This is almost permanent damage since the salt from the sea water will sour the soil for years to come.

Complex Economies Cause Troubles

But there were other forces which began to work earlier.

Europe, before the war, produced most of what its own people ate. The things imported were tea and coffee, spices, and fats and oils.

They also had to import much of their cattle food and fertilizer. Germany, striving to be self-sufficient, built many plants for the production of seed oils and raised many oil-seed crops. This was true elsewhere in Europe and because more food value can be produced from the same resources directly than indirectly through raising food for livestock, the livestock was reduced.

Under these conditions, in order to get the greatest value out of food products, strictest regimentation was necessary. When the Germans left a country and controls vanished, conditions immediately became worse unless, under liberation, a stable government could step in immediately and reorganize.

This reorganization was impeded by the destruction of transportation, the disrupted economy and, in the case of countries like Italy, by the effect of fascist rule which has made the people lethargic, dependent and impotent and, depending, left them leaderless.

And so we see the vicious circle in operation—disorganization hampering the food supply, hunger and unrest preventing reorganization. For their own sake, the "haves" must feed the "have-nots." Time is of the essence, and casting bread upon these unhappy waters will be as profitable an investment as it is a gesture of mercy.

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BARBS... by Baukhage

The production of safety razor blades is sufficient for the current quarter, the WPB assures us. No excuse for the five o'clock shadow.

A Tokyo broadcast tells of the decline in Japanese revenue from excises—not the only government that has a yen for taxes.

Another farm land-boom is on, according to the secretary of agriculture, like the one in the last war. Well, there is nothing that lasts up a room in the poorhouse like papering it with mortgages.

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

By WESTERN VALE

IT WAS way back in the days when Raoul Walsh was making "The Big Trail." He was telling Director John Ford about his difficulties in finding an unknown to play the lead. Just then a tall, good looking, hefty fellow looped past them — one Marion Mitchell Morrison, truck driver, former member of the University of Southern California team. "There's your man," said Ford. "Let his hair grow a little and you've an actor." So they tested him, ordered him to



JOHN WAYNE

let his hair grow, and changed his name to John Wayne, who justified Ford's opinion by making a hit in "The Big Trail"; he's now hanging up new records in "Tall in the Saddle."

Virginia Mayo's story is a little different. She was touring the country as ringmistress of a horse act when Samuel Goldwyn caught the act at a New York night club, offered her a contract, and started her bow as a Goldwyn Girl in "Up in Arms," then sat waiting for her second assignment. It was worth waiting for — the role opposite Bob Hope in "The Princess and the Pirate."

Glenn Ford, a Columbia Pictures star before he enlisted in the marines, expects to resume his career as soon as he's recovered from the disability that resulted in his discharge.

After rehearsing one of the more dramatic scenes in "Meet Me in St. Louis" little Margaret O'Brien dashed off the stage and ran into her stand-in. The latter youngster looked at her anxiously. "Why, Margaret," said she, "You've been crying! What's the matter?" "Oh," sobbed Margaret, mopping her eyes. "Don't worry about it—it's just part of my job!"

Previous Rose Queens of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses have been signed for films only after winning the contest—Cheryl Walker, of "Stage Door Canteen," for instance. But Producer Frank Ross and Director Mervyn LeRoy took no chances this year; they jumped in and signed all seven of the candidates considered in the finals, for roles in "The Robe," after looking at newspaper photographs.

What with Grace Moore standing on her head and other opera and movie stars really letting themselves go on his radio program, "Let Yourself Go," Milton Berle has at last got an air show worthy of his talents. It should lead the popularity polls soon.

Every Tuesday night when the "Roy Rogers Show" is broadcast over Mutual, the actors can visualize certain members of their listening audience with no difficulty at all — 36 youngsters, all children of the members of the cast.

Bob Hope has a new feather in his cap; on January 17 he goes to Philadelphia to receive the Poor Richard award, a gold medal presented annually to the man who has achieved outstanding success in his field. Hope is the second entertainer in the club's history to receive the award; Will Rogers was the first.

National Broadcasting Company, alone among American networks, has presented a day-by-day, eye-witness account of the disturbances in Athens, since the first shot. Their Guthrie Janssen became the only American radio man in the city when transferred there from Cairo. He's been using BBC facilities for his broadcasts; they're beamed to London, then relayed to the United States.

ODDS AND ENDS—Capt. Art Ross, former "March of Eagles" child star, was one of the GIs who rigged a makeshift radio transmitter that flashed the first news of the Philippine invasion by American troops. . . Warner Bros. "Four Men of God" will be a story of those four chaplains who sacrificed their lives when the transport Dorchester was torpedoed last February. . . A newspaper poll chose Lauren Bacall as "Actress of the Year." . . Alvin Jones will have the lead in "Have a Heart," a Universal musical. . . Pat O'Brien, just back from a 40,000-mile entertainment tour for American fighting men, wants to start out again soon.

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PUREBRED YOUNG GUERNSEY BULL. Serviceable age, a good one. WM. VOSS, JEFFERSON, SOUTH DAK.

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FEATHERS WANTED. NEW OR OLD. Ship or write to STEELING FEATHER CO., 911 North Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

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KIL-RAT SAFE! NO POISON! RID YOUR PLACE OF RATS—MICE—MOLES. 15¢ and 35¢. See Drug or Hardware Store, or write to KIL-RAT CO., ESTABLISHED, IND.

ARE YOU MARRIED TO MRS. "GLUM" OR MRS. "GAY"? Low-Spirited Moods And Fatigue Are Often Symptoms Of Constipation!

For constipation take Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets). Contains no chemicals, no minerals, no phenol derivatives. NR Tablets are different—act different. Purely vegetable—a combination of 10 vegetable ingredients formulated over 50 years ago. Uncoated or candy coated, their action is dependable, thorough, yet gentle. Get a 25¢ Convincer Box. Caution: Take only as directed.

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WNU-U 1-45

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May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action. Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—its risks 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 nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly 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 wastes. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

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