

**WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS**

**Allies Shift Weight of Attacks Against Nazis to Belgium Front; Vital Issues Face New Congress**

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(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.)



Democratic leaders leaving white house after pow-wow with President Roosevelt before opening of 79th congress included (left to right) Vice President Wallace, Speaker Rayburn, Senate Majority Leader Barkley, Vice President-Elect Truman, and House Majority Leader McCormack.

**EUROPE: Tables Turned**

With U. S. forces having reacted quickly to Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's great winter offensive, which carried deep into the hilly Ardennes forest, the big German bulge in southeastern Belgium shrank under the steady hammering of the American First and Third armies plunging forward in swirling blizzards.

As elements of the First and Third armies punched at the western nose of the Nazi bulge, other units of these tried battle forces gouged into the north and south flanks and advanced within a dozen miles of each other, threatening to cut the German sack in two.

But even as the First drove southward from Malempre and the Third northward from Longchamps, Von Rundstedt was reported setting up a new defense line half-way back from his deepest penetration, with strong Nazi armored formations throwing in constant counter-attacks in a deadly battle of attrition to cover up the move.

With both sides bringing their heaviest weight to bear in the withering battle of Belgium, and with Von Rundstedt seemingly determined to continue the fight in the hilly Ardennes, the enemy appeared to have temporarily succeeded in turning the struggle away from the vital Ruhr and Saar valleys, heart of his heavy industries.

As the Allies threw their full weight into the battle, it was revealed that elements of the British Second army joined the U. S. First in the attacks on the northern flank of the bulge, and Field Marshal Montgomery was given overall command of forces in this sector. Not only the British Second but elements of the U. S. Ninth and Seventh armies also were moved into the line to mount increasing pressure, the Nazis said.

With the withdrawal of the major strength of the Third army from the southern end of the western front, U. S. troops dropped back from extensive holdings in the Saar and Palatinate in the face of heavy German pressure designed to exploit the realignment of forces.

**New Regimes**  
Europe's troubled political affairs took two new turns, with the formation of a liberal government in Greece expected to end civil strife, and the Russian - sponsored Lublin committee's establishment of a provisional government for liberated territory looked upon to further complicate the Polish problem.

Although Gen. Nicholas Plastiras assumed leadership of the new Greek government, principal attention was focused on Foreign Minister John Sofanopoulos, 57-year-old agrarian liberal, whose inclusion in the cabinet foreshadowed a sufficiently liberal policy to attract revolting Leftists.

In declaring itself the provisional government of liberated Poland, the Lublin committee, which favors territorial concessions to the Russians and a regime friendly to Moscow, clashed with the Allied - backed Polish government-in-exile in London, which contests Red land claims and radical internal social policies.

**INSIDE GERMANY**  
Reliable and uncolored reports emanating from inside Germany indicate that the Nazis appear to possess both the manpower and the material to string out the war on the western front.

It took Von Rundstedt's lightning thrust into Belgium with 200,000 men to point up the Germans' ability to replenish their shattered western armies after the rout in France. These troops' supply of grade A weapons also focused attention on the Nazis' industrial machine.

**CIVILIAN GOODS: 1945 Prospects**

With the European war having taken an unfavorable turn, and the nation's total resources needed for continued record production of war materials, there will be little improvement in stocks of civilian goods through 1945, the War Production board predicted.

With the frozen stockpile down to 45,000 units, and resumption of production unlikely until after the European war when almost six months will be needed for reconversion, mechanical refrigerators will remain practically unavailable. If manufacturers can start on production of 375,000 all-steel ice-boxes, civilians will receive about 56,000 a quarter in 1945.

Of 35,000 electric ranges authorized for 1945, civilians are to get 65 per cent, while about 1,200,000 electric irons will be assembled. Some aluminum kitchenware will reach the market but output of cast iron, enamel and galvanized utensils probably will remain down, primarily because of manpower shortages.

Although WPB authorized production of 319,492 vacuum cleaners in 1945—a fraction of the peacetime output of 1,903,000 annually—actual manufacture may fall short of goal. Because of the increasing scarcity of lumber, the supply for furniture is expected to remain short. Production of innerspring mattresses will be negligible for at least six months.

Only for small electrical appliances are prospects described as brighter.

**House Wanted**

Having literally sung himself into the senate, Idaho's crooning solon, Sen.-elect Glenn Taylor sought to sing himself into a home in crowded Washington, D. C.

Gathering his attractive brunette wife and two children about him on the cold steps of the capitol, and



Sen. Taylor With Family.

plunking on his battered banjo, Senator Taylor purred:

"O, give us a home, near the capitol dome,  
With a yard where little children can play—  
Just one room or two, any old thing will do—  
O, we can't find a place to stay!"

Until the Senator's song strikes a responsive chord in some landlord's heart, the Taylors will live in a hotel.

**UN-AMERICANISM: To Resume Inquiries**

The new house had barely settled into its seats before Rep. John Rankin (Miss.) set it agog by pushing through the formation of a new committee on un-American activities to succeed ex-Rep. Martin Dies' defunct investigating committee, bitter target of liberal elements.

Representative Rankin resorted to a legislative coup in having the house approve the organization of a new committee, suddenly inserting his proposal as an amendment to the rules being considered for the current session. Seventy Democrats joined 137 Republicans in voting for the proposal while 186 votes were counted against it.

Unlike the Dies committee, which concerned itself with investigation, the new committee on un-American activities will have the power to draft legislation for correction of abuses and submit it to the house for passage.

**BANKS: U. S.'s Biggest**

Biggest bank in the world, the Chase National of New York wound up its 1944 business with a record-breaking total of \$5,160,004,000 in resources, of which \$4,835,219,000 were deposits. Holding of government securities reached almost \$3,000,000,000.

Not far behind Chase's was the National City Bank of New York, with assets of \$4,469,686,465, of which \$4,205,072,012 were in deposits. Also of New York, the Guaranty Trust company finished the year with resources of \$3,826,161,882.

Biggest bank west of the Alleghenies, the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust company of Chicago wound up 1944 with \$2,619,821,039 in resources, of which \$2,447,740,085 were in deposits. The bank held over 1 1/2 billion dollars in government securities.

**TVA**

With gross revenues of \$35,429,000, the Tennessee Valley authority realized net income of \$14,116,000 on power operations for the year ending June 30, 1944. Electricity production exceeded 10 billion kilowatt hours and the agency also turned out 100,000 tons of calcium carbide for synthetic rubber, 130,000 tons of ammonium nitrate for fertilizer, and 9,000 tons of dicalcium phosphate for mixed stock feeds.

Partly because of the draft, TVA employment dropped to 21,000.

**Washington Digest**

**Overall Mobilization Keeps Nazis in Field**

Geared Nation in Peace to Meet Shock of Total War; Learned From World War I Experience.

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator

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

(This is the first of two articles by Mr. Baukhage on where Germany continues to get its fighting manpower. The second and concluding article will appear next week.)

Post-mortem arguments over the German winter counter-offensive will probably be fought out from the arm-chairs with almost as much bitterness as that which characterized the actual combat.

Already there are a few who dare insist that the German come-back, morally and physically, was not underestimated. This means that Germany's military preparedness, the extent of which many knew, few seemed to be able to assay. Just how thoroughly the Third Reich leaders had geared Germany's social, political and economic life into total war could be read in terms of facts and figures available to the experts. But since no state in history had ever so nearly approached the absolute in military activity it may have been difficult to



SS guard stands by as Baukhage signs out of radio studio in Berlin in 1939 after broadcast to U. S.

interpret those facts and figures in terms of come-back after the battle of France.

Perhaps one of the most basic datum came, not from plans stolen from the Nazi high command but furnished freely by the association of German tailors. It proves the old adage that exceptions prove the rule.

**Ludendorff Struck Keynote**

The day war broke out about one-third of the German people were literally clothed in the panoply of war. This was not an accident. It was part of the Nazi policy. The Allies themselves more nearly reached a state of total warfare at the end of World War I than did the Germans of that time. Ludendorff read this fact out of the bitterness of the defeat of 1918. He said: "total policy must in peacetime prepare for the people's life and death struggle in time of war in such a way that even under the impact of war it cannot be shifted, broken or completely destroyed by enemy measures."

Hitler reaffirmed this thesis and what is more immediately put it into effect as a policy, first by eliminating all organizations not under either the party or the army. A law was passed as early as March, 1935, which stated that "in wartime every German man and every German woman, beyond conscription, is bound to render service to the fatherland."

Let us look at some of the "organizations" which grew up under this policy of total war. First in importance, historically, is the "Sturmabteilung" translated "Nazi Storm Troopers," abbreviated "SA" and usually called the "Brown Shirts." Although this group contained military units, it was planned as a "political army" and was abolished as such after the Roehm purge of 1934. Then it contained three million men. It was shortly reborn and

reformed and starting with a group of a million 200 thousand of the original group took charge of training political soldiers from childhood up, indoctrinating them in Nazi principles and also overseeing military training before service in the army and again after the citizen had passed normal military age.

The second group to come into prominence in the Reich is now by all odds the most powerful group in the country considered from every viewpoint. It is the "SS."

The "SS" are supposed to have had their origin in the group who made up Hitler's bodyguard in the early days of the party. Their number was estimated as 750,000 in 1942, and Heinrich Himmler was from the beginning (and still is) their commander although their oath of loyalty is to Hitler.

This group was originally created to form the nucleus of a new aristocracy. The requirements of entrance are strict. In the first place, the applicant must have been an outstanding member of the Hitler Youth organization. He can apply in his 18th year for SS membership. Out of a hundred applicants usually 10 or 15 are admitted and they stand frequent re-examinations. The applicant's family must show healthy physical and (according to Nazi standards) political background, "aryan" blood back to 1750 and no hereditary diseases.

An SS applicant must be the "right" height and the "right" build, with the "right" color of hair and eyes. When he marries he must marry a suitable wife according to similar standards. Before he is eligible he must win certain sport awards, serve in the Reich labor service, then in the army. Meanwhile, he must attend special schools of training in Nazi ideology and military and physical training.

**SS Comes Into Its Own**

Gradually from an organization which took over many military, police and other functions, the SS grew to the point where it is the dominating police force in Germany, uniformed and plain clothes (the Gestapo) and now the dominating force in the army and the Reich. It has an entirely military branch, the "SS-in-arms" with its own branch and other divisions.

I was in Germany when war broke out and it was that winter that the SS-in-Arms was formed, some SS men being released from the regular army to form these units. It was evident when they watched the SS in any military formation from sentry duty up, that they tried to outdo the regular army in snapp, and "spit and polish." Their legs were a little stiffer when they did the goose step. Their salutes were as precise as a trip-hammer. They tried to look as mean as they could and often succeeded in looking meaner than that.

There is no doubt that the SS divisions have the reputation of being crack divisions and that they have won at least some of the respect of what is left of the old, professional, military element in the Wehrmacht army which struggled against their rise in power as long as it could. Dispatches from the western front frequently mention SS outfits—recently when they were shooting American prisoners—but the Russians refuse to say they fight any better than other divisions. They have frequently been used as reserves in tight situations and also as a strengthening framework for less fanatical troops.

The "Black Corps," as it is called because of its black uniforms, is described by one authority as embodying "a military fanaticism such as the world has hardly seen from the days of Mahdi and Omdurman."

**BARBS . . . by Baukhage**

The Berlin radio says that Hitler looks "vigorous and healthy." Maybe the Germans have discovered a new method of embalming.

A man in New York lost \$400 out of his sock and was so grateful when it was returned that he said he would put it into a victory bond. That is even wiser than investing in a pair of garters.

The Japanese urge that dolls and flowers be sent to workers in air-plants to boost their morale. What with the present raiding by the superforts we can understand the dolls but why the flowers?

If all the people who get black-market gasoline quit buying, the poor fellows might sell to Hitler direct without risking their patriotism.

**Few Secrets of Magic Are Still Undiscovered**



**Soybeans No Menace To Soil Improvement**

**Rotation and Proper Fertilization Solution**

SOYBEANS were defended against the charge of being "a menace to soil improvement" by a group of Purdue university agronomists.

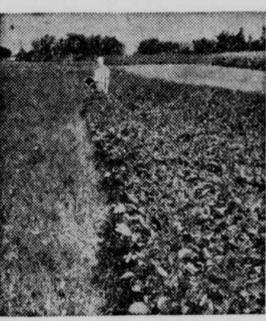
No other crop has had such a spectacular career in America as the soybean, which in little more than a decade has been catapulted into fourth place in value among crops grown for grain or seed in this country. No other crop in history has been so feared by farmers as a potential destroyer of fertility.

Reviewing the results of an eight-year test, these experts drew the following conclusions: "Soybeans are no more soil-depleting in minerals than are corn, alfalfa or some other crops on an equivalent yield basis."

Pointing out that all crops when grown and removed from the land deplete the soil minerals, the agronomists recommend that extra amounts of phosphorus and potash fertilizers be used in any crop rotation that includes soybeans in order to replenish the plant food removed when beans and other grain are sold as a cash crop.

Concerning the danger of soil erosion when soybeans are grown, they declared:

"The problem of erosion with soybeans is much the same as with corn. On rolling land, soybeans should be planted on the contour, preferably drilled solid and should



Inoculation also pays.

be followed by a winter grain or cover crop.

"On acid soils, limestone or marl is the prime need of soybeans. Without lime on such soils, fertilizers have little effect. These soils after liming usually gave marked response to phosphorus and potash fertilizer when plowed under for beans."

Considering the total of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash removed in the grain, soybeans are less soil depleting than corn, the agronomists reported.

"In any soil improvement program," they added, "deep-rooted legumes, clovers and alfalfas should always be grown where soybeans are included in the rotation. Extra amounts of fertilizer containing phosphorus and potash should be used in the crop rotation to replenish the plant food removed when beans and other grain are sold as cash crops."

**Agriculture In the News**  
By W. J. DRYDEN

**Submarginal Sunflower**

Sunflowers may surpass the soybean which has proven America's wonder crop of the present generation.

Sunflower oil sells for about 15 cents a pound. The meal, with a protein content of 53 per cent might prove profitable, not only for its food value, but as a rich source for plastic products.

As sunflowers can be grown on submarginal soil, where rainfall is scanty and nothing else of value is now raised, it promises an outlet for many farmers.

Sunflower seeds long ago proved their value as a poultry feed. While their protein content was not recognized by many poultrymen, it was known that they had a beneficial effect upon the bird's feathers.

Sunflower stocks, ground, prove satisfactory for silage as well as poultry house litter.

**Disinfect All Tools**

Careless handling of instruments used for dehorning, vaccination and similar operations on cattle may spread the serious and often fatal disease, anaplasmosis, according to the U. S. department of agriculture scientists.

Inadequate disinfection of such instruments will produce what are classed as "man-made" cases of the animal disease. In many cases the loss through man-made disease can be entirely eliminated.

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