

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Russians Strike for Berlin As Nazis Plan Last-Ditch Defense; New Landings Aid Manila Drive

Released by Western Newspaper Union (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.)



Members of Fifth division of Third army warm themselves about bonfire in Luxembourg comfortably ensconced in furniture salvaged from the town's debris.

EUROPE: Berlin Goal

Berlin was their goal as the First White Russian and the First Ukrainian armies plunged to the winding ice-packed Oder river on a wide front, with German resistance growing stronger as columns of reinforcements rushed to the front and took up their positions in the flaming battle line.

With the two Russian armies drawing up to the Oder on an almost solid front from above Berlin clear down to the Czechoslovakian border, Berlin was imperiled by a powerful outflanking maneuver by Marshal Zhukov from the north and Marshal Konev from the south.

The great thrust on Berlin promised to put the Germans' vaunted Oder river defense line, over two years in the making, to the test, and further strain Nazi strength, already outnumbered by about three to four in the east. In early assaults on the Oder in the Silesian area, German regulars, reinforced by fanatical 16 to 65-year-old home front troops, stubbornly held their ground against the powerful attacks of the First Ukrainian army, which had been the first to reach the defense line from central Poland.

Finish Fight

Long the hallowed center of Prussianism, Berlin, it appeared, was not to be spared the fate of other great European capitals as the Nazis made strong points of its public buildings and institutions for a des-

perate stand and prepared to blow up all factories and installations in the district. "Not one stone atop another . . . will be left . . . when the Russians enter," proclaimed Propaganda Minister Goebbels.

Meanwhile, as thousands of German refugees streamed into the Reich from the east and Hitler called upon all able-bodied men for a last ditch fight and all others for industry, Nazi leaders threatened . . . cowardly creatures who try to desert the fatherland in its hour of need. . . . Said they: "We shall not permit them to throw a wrench in the works. . . . Germany will fight on no matter where or under what conditions. . . ."

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and Luxembourg in his great December drive. As the Yanks plowed through heavy snowdrifts, they met bitter opposition at Nazi strong points.

PACIFIC: Strategic Moves

Strategist and tactician, Gen. Douglas MacArthur scored two more landings in Luzon, directly aiding his triumphant march on Manila, while far to the north, U. S. forces continued to drive to the eastward in bitter hand-to-hand fighting, which threatened to cut the island in two.

In one of the landings, U. S. troops overran the Subic Bay area, which opened up a big harbor for naval use and supply of American forces above Manila, while the other land-



General MacArthur (right) studies maps with aides on Luzon.

ing Yanks stepped ashore below the Philippine capital itself, threatening any enemy effort to bring up reinforcements from the south. As long as MacArthur still appeared to be holding back some of his strength, Jap commanders were reluctant to commit sizeable forces into the battle in the Manila region.

In one of the most dramatic episodes of the Philippine invasion, picked men of the 6th Ranger battalion and Filipino guerrillas made a surprise attack on a Japanese prison compound behind enemy lines on Luzon, freeing 486 Americans, 23 British, three Dutchmen and a Norwegian. Although over 100 were so weak from malnutrition, disease and old battle wounds that they had to be carried off on husky Ranger backs or in carabao carts, only two failed to survive the 25-mile journey to safety.

CONGRESS: Busy Session

With publication of President Roosevelt's agreement to the separation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation with its vast loaning powers from the U. S. department of commerce, the senate passed the George bill authorizing the action by a 74 to 12 vote and thereby paved the way for the confirmation of Henry A. Wallace as the department secretary.

Although Wallace's confirmation was postponed to March 1, it was considered likely at that time, since principal objection to his appointment had been based on the fact that he would have controlled the vast resources of the RFC in the postwar period, with fear of their use on government projects to provide full employment. House approval of the bill to separate the RFC from the commerce department was expected to meet speedy approval.

At the same time, the house passed, and then sent to a none too sympathetic senate, a work or fight bill, under which all men between 18 and 45 would be frozen in essential occupations or asked to take jobs designated by their local draft boards under penalty of induction or fine and imprisonment in case of refusal.

On Nation's Honor Roll

To Pvt. John Hartman of Exeter, Calif., went the Silver Star for gallantry in action. During a fierce enemy counterattack in Italy, seeing that two machine guns 200 yards to the front and right front were causing considerable trouble, he moved forward into the face of these firing machine guns on his own initiative. Edging his way forward with enemy bullets landing within inches of him, and in spite of the fact that he had received a serious wound in his arm, he fired till he had silenced the machine guns.

MEAT:

U. S. to Take More

With smaller slaughter in federally inspected plants reducing allocations of meat for military and lend-lease purposes, the government moved to channel more stock into these packing houses from non-federally inspected establishments.

To trim slaughter at the 27,000 non-federally inspected plants, whose entire output goes to civilians, the government reported that they will receive cattle subsidies ranging from 50 cents to \$2 per hundredweight only for the same amount of stock that they butchered a year ago, while payments of \$1.50 per hundredweight on hogs will be made on only 70 per cent of the volume of 1944.

Effect of the regulation will be to make less meat available for civilians in centers served by non-federally inspected plants, but only slightly more for consumers supplied by federally inspected houses. Present government acquisition of half of the beef and 45 per cent of the pork output of federally inspected plants will be increased, it was said.

FARM MACHINERY: Pinch to Persist

Stating that ". . . as long as the war continues, farmers will not be able to buy as much new farm machinery as they need," the Office of War Information said that the production of equipment for the year ending July 1 will fall short of heavy demand despite the fact that it should approximate peak prewar output.

Although expecting quotas to be generally met despite a slow start in production, OWI warned ". . . no more new tractors, side delivery rakes, combines or other haying and harvesting machinery will be available during . . . 1945 . . . than were available during . . . 1944."

Indicating that farmers will have to fall back on the same methods this year to meet food goals, OWI said that "1944's high production resulted from intensive use of existing machinery, increased use of fertilizer, greater acreage and harder work and longer hours, with output per hand 28 per cent above 1940. Reprocessing of some 365,000 young farmers between 18 and 25 for the draft, however, may further complicate the already pressing manpower problem, OWI said.

ACCIDENTS: High Toll

Ninety-four thousand people killed, 9,750,000 injured and material losses of \$4,850,000,000—that was the nation's accident toll in 1944, the National Safety council revealed.

As a result of mishaps, lost time equalled one year's production of 1,000,000 workers, it was pointed out, or the manufacture of 29,000 heavy bombers.

Although the death toll showed a drop of 5,000 over the previous year, with the greatest reduction shown in home accidents, authorities were alarmed by the increasing fatalities among children. More than 1,000 toddlers under five were killed, more than in 1941, the Safety council said, while accidental deaths of youngsters from 5 to 14 in the home were high.

Luckiest Man

In rear base hospital, in Pacific recovering from frost bite, Sgt. James B. Krantz of Hickory Point, Tenn., might well consider himself the luckiest man in the world.

Blown from gannery in waist of B-29 during raid over Japan, one of Krantz's legs was miraculously held by a safety strap while the rest of his body dangled in the air at 29,000 feet before buddies pulled him back in.

GRAIN MARKETS: Get Boost

With brokers interpreting the senate banking committee's approval of a bill increasing the Commodity Credit Corporation's borrowing power from 3 to 4 1/2 billion dollars as a means of maintaining major farm prices at 90 per cent of parity for two years after the war, grain prices firmed.

Also adding to the market's strength was the expectation of an increase in the government subsidy to wheat millers, and reports of CCC purchases in Minneapolis, Minn., with CCC acknowledgments it had given large quantities of high protein wheat to millers in exchange for inferior grades.

In approving the increase in the CCC's borrowing power, the senate banking committee limited food subsidy expenditures to \$845,000,000 for the year beginning next July 1, and also permitted sale of more than 1,500,000 bales of cotton a year from CCC stocks.

FARM FORECLOSURES

With more and more farmers recovering from the drought years, and with present high incomes making it possible to reduce debts, farm foreclosures totalled 5,800 in 1943 compared with 11,000 in 1942 and 65,000 during 1934, the Farm Credit administration reported. These figures are equivalent to 2.7 foreclosures for every 1,000 farms mortgaged in 1943, 5.3 in 1942 and 30.3 in 1934, when farm activity still was at a low ebb, the FCA said.

Washington Digest

Political Trend Points Return to Conservatism

Wallace-Jones Fight Indicates Movement In Congress; 'Regular' Democrats Vie With 'Leftists' in Party.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

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

As we contemplate the second month of the political calendar one thing is clear and that is the strong conservative trend in the congress as a whole and within the structure of the two major parties as well.

Many straws show clearly the way the prevailing winds have been blowing. One was the Jones-Wallace controversy which soon became a senate versus Wallace-Roosevelt controversy. Another was the turn taken in the battle over the national service bill which developed into a fight against the fair employment practices policy and the closed shop. Behind both these moves there was a play of forces which marks the beginning of a struggle which will make the biggest post-war story on the domestic front.

The opposition to Wallace had many and complicated ramifications but it revealed the conservative trend both in congress as a whole and within the Democratic party.

Within the party it was a struggle between the "regulars" and the CIO political action committee adherents, something which is being reflected in the conduct of the party organization, too. When Democratic National Chairman Hannegan was questioned as to whether he was going to work with the CIO-PAC he answered that he would welcome their assistance, but in the same breath added: "and other independent organizations." The inference drawn by the reporters was that the two groups would pursue their separate ways. It is reported that Wallace was offered a deal by which his confirmation as secretary of commerce would be assured and perhaps RFC powers left under the department of commerce, if he would agree to put a "safe" man in to administer the government lending. This would have meant breaking with his CIO-PAC following and Wallace naturally refused.

That illustrates what rivalry there exists between liberal and conservative elements within the Democratic party. It is also whispered that a campaign has begun by which the Democrats hope to pare down the influence of the CIO-PAC. The scheme is to build a strong coalition between the southern Democrats and the northern big city bosses.

Compare Wallace To Bryan

The Democratic "regulars" claim they have no fear of Wallace as a successful contender for the presidential nomination in 1948, although they admit that he is the one man in public life, now that Willkie is gone, whose leadership would be most likely to unite both liberal and radical support. But they claim he is another William Jennings Bryan, much more intellectual but with the same fate in store for him: often a bridesmaid, never a bride.

The Wallace supporters talk quite differently. They say any man who could rally 429 1/2 votes last summer at Chicago could get enough of the necessary additional 105 1/2 by 1948 and that every time bad, big business assaults him as it did through the friends of Jesse Jones, his stock with the "common man" and "little business" whom and which he constantly champions, will go higher.

In other words, the louder the Wall street "wolf-pack" howls the more the CIO "pack" grins. This reasoning is based on those two somewhat paradoxical observations "we love him for the enemies he makes" and "every knock a boost."

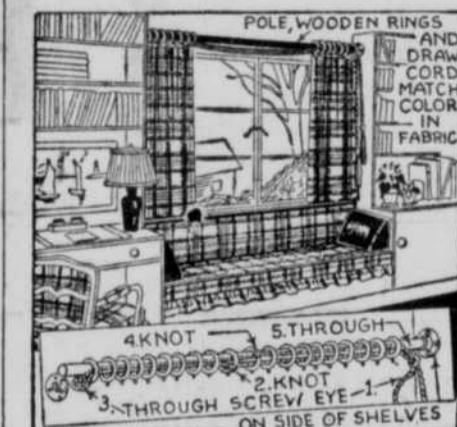
That is the "leftist" reasoning, and whether or not the "regulars" think it is sound, they have to take it into consideration. In any case the opposition to Wallace on both sides of both houses of congress shows the conservative color of the legislative body.

As to the party organizations, they have indicated that they intend to put their faith in works. On the same day (January 23) both Republican and Democratic national chairmen announced that their respective political machines would start running on a full-time basis. As I said, Mr. Hannegan revealed his attitude toward the left-wingers of his party by implying that Messrs. Hillman, Murray, et al would paddle their own canoes.



Making That Problem Window Fit Perfectly Into the Room Setting

By Ruth Wyeth Spears



THE smart plaid curtains shown herewith match the window seat and several slip covers, and the wooden curtain pole, rings and draw cord match the dominant color in the plaid repeating the color of small cushions and lamp base. The window lets in the maximum of light and you would never guess that originally it looked like a postage stamp in the middle of a blank wall. At first it seemed impossible to curtain it because fixtures could not be screwed to metal casements or the plaster.

The built-in book shelves helped that. A space a foot wide was allowed at each side of the window so that the curtains could hang over the wall, and the painted wooden pole was then screwed to the sides of the shelves. The diagram shows this and how the draw cord was knotted so that the curtains could be pulled back and forth.

NOTE: These curtains are from the 32-page booklet "Make Your Own Cur-



A temperature of from 60 to 65 degrees F. is suitable for most plants.

To prevent corks from sticking in bottles containing glue or polishes, coat the cork with vaseline.

To flatten rug corners that curl and slip on the floor, cut out L-shaped pieces of cardboard, and glue to the underside of the rug at the corners.

To rid the chimney of soot, burn potato peelings or the tops from mason jars or other bits of zinc. Keep the damper open while cleaning.

Put a few rubber bands around the handle of your bath brush to insure a firm grip upon it.

A few drops of lemon juice gives added flavor and also helps tenderize ground beef.

Keep your household sponges fresh by soaking them in cold salt water.

To prevent your piano wires from rusting, tack a small bag of unslacked lime just inside. This will absorb the moisture.

Cover the top of your bed-spring with oil cloth. This will be a good protection for your mattress and will make it easier to turn your mattress.

tains" which Mrs. Spears has prepared for readers. To get a copy send 15 cents with name and address direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS Bedford Hills New York Drawer 10 Enclose 15 cents for booklet "Make Your Own Curtains." Name..... Address.....

SORE THROAT

Let a little Vicks VapoRub melt on the tongue. Works fine, to soothe sore throat due to colds and helps relieve irritation in upper breathing passages. To Ease Spasms of Coughing: Put a good spoonful of VapoRub in a bowl of boiling water. Wonderful relief comes as you breathe in the steaming medicinal vapors that penetrate to cold-congested upper breathing passages. . . . soothes the irritation, quiets fits of coughing, helps clear head. For Added Relief, rub VapoRub on throat, chest, back. Let its famous double-action keep on working for hours as you sleep.

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

The first use of motor trucks — and that means rubber tires — by the U. S. Army in active campaigns occurred during the Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1916. About 800 motor vehicles were in use on the Mexican border.

B. F. Goodrich's latest analysis of the rubber situation shows that after the war annual potential rubber production of the world should be 2,800,000 long tons. This is more than twice the amount of rubber used by the entire world in 1941, the record year, when consumption totaled 1,300,000 long tons.



BRONCHIAL IRRITATIONS — of colds quickly relieved by Penetro — Grandma's old-time mutton suet idea developed by modern science into a counter-irritant, vaporizing salve. Only 25c, double supply 35c. Get PENETRO BASE RICH IN MUTTON SUET



- DUE TO MUSCULAR PAINS!

SORETONE soothes fast with COLD HEAT ACTION

MANY MEN are persecuted by lumbago or other nagging muscle pains—especially after exposure to cold or dampness. If every sufferer could only know about SORETONE Liniment! In addition to methyl salicylate—a most effective pain-relieving agent. Soretone acts like cold heat to speed relief—

- 1. Quickly Soretone acts to enhance local circulation. 2. Check muscular cramps. 3. Help reduce local swelling. 4. Dilate surface capillary blood vessels. For fastest action, let dry, rub in again. There's only one Soretone—insist on it for Soretone results. 50¢. Big bottle, only \$1.

MONEY BACK— IF SORETONE DOESN'T SATISFY "and McKesson makes it"

Though applied cold, rubefacient ingredients in Soretone act like heat to increase the superficial supply of blood to the area and induce a glowing sense of warmth.

ARMY PURCHASES

The army quartermaster corps in 1944 placed more than 65 per cent of its prime contracts, representing 46 per cent of the dollar value of all QMC depot contracts, with smaller business organizations, the war department said.