

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Invasion of Yugoslavia Poses Another Threat to Reich; Plan for Small Standing Army

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.)



Entering Chambois, France, the Allies found abandoned, wrecked and burned German equipment, common sights along the enemy's battered retreat route to the Reich.

EUROPE: New Front

Far the little man with the clipped mustache, there seemed to be no end of trouble.

Although his broken armies in the west were reorganizing for a stiffer stand against the U. S. and British onslaught, and although his battered armies in the east were slowing the Russians from the Black sea to the Carpathians, the Allies posed still another threat to his narrowing defensive circle by an invasion of Yugoslavia.

As Russian troops tore across Romania onto the eastern Yugoslav border near the capital of Belgrade, U. S. and British forces landed on the western coast for a drive inland. As the two Allied armies worked forward for a junction, Marshal Josip Tito's Partisans were active in harassing German troops and sabotaging communication lines.

The twin offensive in Yugoslavia doubly imperilled the harried legions of Adolf Hitler.

First, the U. S., British and Russian drives promised to link the Allied armies for a concerted attack against southern Austria and Hungary, and, also to outflank the Nazis manning the Gothic line in Italy to the west; and, second, an Allied junction would cut off an estimated 260,000 enemy troops remaining in lower Yugoslavia, Greece and the Aegean islands.

Stiffen at Border

Bleated the German radio to fanatical Nazi rearguards resisting the U. S. and British drives to the Reich's western frontier:

"Every day gained now amounts to a reinforcement of our national strength for the defense of the Reich itself."

Partly because of such resistance, partly because the fast-moving Allied armies had outrun their lengthening supply lines, the U. S. and British thrusts in the Lowlands and France temporarily lost their whirling momentum.

Fighting was particularly heavy in northeastern Belgium before the fortress city of Liege and in the rugged Ardennes forest, and directly to the east of Paris, where American troops drew up along the Moselle river for an assault on Nazi defenses guarding the rich industrial Saar basin.

Mounted thickly in the precipitous, wooded heights east of the Moselle, the German artillery maintained a steady drumfire against doughty U. S. troops seeking to establish firm bridgeheads across the river.

Farther to the south, Lieut. Gen. Alexander Patch's Seventh army, driving up from the Mediterranean for a juncture with Lieut. Gen. George Patton's Third army along the Moselle, drove on the Belfort gap, the low lying plane between the Vosges mountains of France and Swiss border leading into Germany.

Costly Fighting

Reflecting the strong pressure the Russians were exerting to the north-east of Warsaw, the Germans acknowledged their withdrawal across the Narew river, "... to avoid the danger of a Russian breakthrough on the southern border of East Prussia."

In withdrawing across the Narew, the Nazis continued their policy of economizing their forces by giving ground when the superior weight of their opponent promised to grind down their manpower.

Because of the proximity of the Russians to German soil, however, the Nazis no longer were free to make wholesale withdrawals, but now faced bloody front-line fighting.

MISCELLANY

OPA VIOLATIONS: In the first half of this year, formal enforcement of Office of Price administration regulations was necessary in 42,000 cases, involving violations of price ceilings, rationing quotas, and rent levels. Action included revocation of 20,984 consumer gasoline rations, 4,265 suits for injunctions, 1,158 triple damage suits, and 2,191 criminal prosecutions.

PACIFIC: Tougher Going

With U. S. forces edging closer to the Philippines and Japan itself through intensive operations against the Bonins lying 600 miles from Tokyo, Navy Secretary James Forrestal warned the country that the going would become increasingly tougher as the enemy concentrated his forces for a fight on a shorter front.

In speaking of the enemy's air force, Forrestal said: "The Japs have obviously been saving their planes for the engagement to come. Except for the battle of the eastern Philippines, they have not risked a big aerial battle for months."

In addition to concentrating numbers, the Japs have also been improving the quality of their planes, Forrestal revealed. Said he: "Jap planes of every type... now have greater fire power, armament, speed, range and load capacity. United States navy planes have been improved, too, but we don't now have as big technical advantages... as a year ago."

CANNED FOODS: Remove Rationing

Because War Food administrator Marvin Jones advised that available and prospective supplies justified the step, the government removed from rationing all canned and processed jams, jellies, fruit butters, asparagus, lima beans, corn, peas, pumpkins, squash, mixed vegetables, baked beans, tomato sauce and puree and all varieties of soups and baby foods.

At the same time, a WFA spokesman declared that heavy runs of cattle may permit the removal of commercial grade beefsteaks and roasts from rationing in October or November. At present, sizable marketings of grass-fed stock have resulted in ample point-free supplies of utility grade meats. Lighter runs of prime cattle, on the other hand, will make continued rationing of top cuts necessary.

Charts Quake



Using a cross-sectional model of the globe, Rev. Joseph Lynch, director of the observatory of Fordham university, charts course of recent earthquake which shook northeast corner of U. S., and extended as far southwest as Wisconsin. According to Reverend Lynch, disturbance centered near eastern end of Lake Ontario.

CATTLE: War Prices

As the war entered its sixth year this month, price levels of meat animals were from 45 to 105 per cent higher than they were in September, 1939.

On the Chicago market, cattle that brought \$12 per hundredweight six years ago sold at \$18.35. Steers that averaged \$10.30 then drew \$15.85.

The rise was equally marked in hogs, with head under 240 pounds, which brought \$8 per hundredweight six years ago, selling for the \$14.75 ceiling. As a whole, the average of \$7 of 1939 was far below the 1944 figure of \$14.35.

Against the top of \$10 in 1939, lambs drew \$14.65 per hundredweight, with the \$9.50 average of six years ago below this month's mark of \$14.25.

FURLOUGHS: Shipping Factor

As a demand was made in congress for an investigation of the war department's handling of furloughs, especially in the Pacific, a letter from Gen. Douglas MacArthur stated that the scarcity of shipping hindered a more liberalized policy.

Citing the shipping shortage, General MacArthur said: "The return to the United States without replacement of all men who have served a specified length of time would, of course, halt our offensive against Japan and might indefinitely prolong the war."

While the demand was made for the investigation, Rep. Carl Hinshaw (Calif.) urged that soldiers stationed in Alaska be rotated by units to other posts.

SURPLUS GOODS: Release Vehicles

Excess stocks of war materials are being declared surplus at the rate of 100 million dollars worth a month. Goods "declared surplus" can be sold off as rapidly as possible. Eighty-five per cent of the materials are from the war department at present, and consist of airplanes, motor vehicles, medical supplies and radio equipment. So far, goods sold have brought 83.8 per cent of original cost.

Washington Digest

Donald Nelson Remolded By Government Service



Thinks Public Officials' Responsibilities Are Greater Than Businessmen's; Believes Expansion Necessary to U. S.

By BAUKHAGE
 News Analyst and Commentator.

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

As Donald Nelson, head of the War Production board, sips his tea in Chungking, what is he thinking about?

He knows that most of Washington thinks he is through. He knows that some people think that if he is, business, big and little, has lost a friend at court.

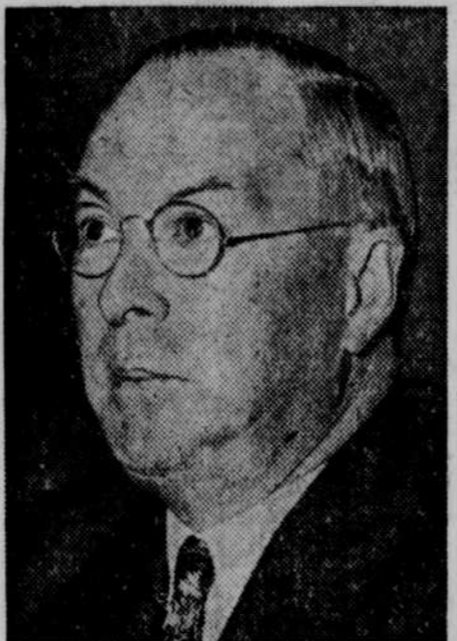
He recalls that, before he could walk up the ramp of his plane to take off on this hazy mission to Canghai, the President had casually remarked at a press and radio conference that the WPB chief would not necessarily take up his former duties when he returned.

He knew then that in all probability congress would pass the demobilization-reconversion bill which, although it does not name the WPB specifically, nevertheless does give power to a new agency which would make Mr. Nelson's organization a mere appendage.

He knew, too, that many of his colleagues who remain on the board, or hold other positions which will affect American economics in the next months, if not years, hold views contrary to his. Privately he calls them "contractionists," while he calls himself an "expansionist." A battle between these two categories is going on now. Mr. Nelson's fate may influence the outcome.

Because the results of this struggle may affect America's economy vitally in the next few years I think it is rather important to consider Mr. Nelson's own attitude; an attitude, a philosophy, if you will, which has gradually developed since he has been in Washington.

I believe Nelson wants to stay in government. I believe, as do a small percentage of persons who are interested in his fate, that he will be



DONALD NELSON

offered as good a job, or a better one than he has had. What the "contractionist-expansionist" controversy means to the country's business, I'll take up in a minute, but first I'd like to say a little more about Nelson. I have gleaned my views from no key-hole peeping, no rifling of Mr. Nelson's files, but from those who know him well, plus some of my own observations.

There are two reasons why I believe Mr. Nelson wants to stay in government.

One is partly psychological and has to do with what has happened to Nelson's own attitude toward government, which his closest friends have watched develop. The other has to do with this idea of "expansionism," definition of which entails a number of facts and figures, some of which may startle you as they did me when I saw them assembled for the first time and had them carefully checked and double-checked. They reveal strikingly what the economic problem is which this country is facing and which so far it seems ill-prepared to meet.

Nelson came here from big business—Sears Roebuck is pretty big. He was used to pressing buttons and giving orders like most big businessmen. This particular function is a poor buffer against the slings and arrows of which Washington has more than a quiverful.

FINDS WAYS TO GET THINGS DONE

Most businessmen, as one old-time politician said to me the other day, are immediately affected in one of

two ways when they step into public life. There are the ones who, when the buzzer isn't answered immediately, or when the order is criticized or its wisdom or even its integrity questioned, explode in haughty anger. And there are the ones who learn to take it and go right ahead and find a way to get things done, with the chips and quips falling where they may, including into their own breakfast coffee.

Nelson is in the latter class. He not only can take it but he has grown to like it. In fact, he has decided, unless his friends read him wrong indeed, that he wants to be a public servant. That he believes he can get more satisfaction out of public life than out of private life. That doesn't mean that he will simply let himself be kicked upstairs into a sinecure. He will demand a job that he believes is a real one in which he can truly serve.

And now we come to the second thing which has influenced Nelson's attitude, and it, like the first, brought about something like a conversion in the man. Just as he became convinced that a public career offered the best opportunity of service, so Nelson became converted to expansionism in general and to the importance of small business in particular and this is one of the causes of friction in the WPB today—a notable result of which was the resignation of Charles E. Wilson.

In the course of his experience in Washington, Nelson became convinced that maximum productivity of industry is essential to prosperity, and more recently, that the protection of small business in the coming readjustment period is essential to maximum production. He felt that if big business were to succeed and the capitalist system of free enterprise were to be preserved, little business must be expanded.

Specifically, Mr. Nelson believes, according to his often-expressed opinion, that the more little businesses there are, the more things that a firm like Sears Roebuck sells, the more things Sears Roebuck will sell.

PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY GREATLY INCREASES

And now we come to some of the strange statistics about business, big and little. The most striking of all to me is this: retail trade, in spite of all the difficulties in its path, had an increase of dollar values in sales, of more than 50 per cent in 1943 over 1939—department of commerce statistics show \$42,042,000,000 for 1939—\$63,268,000,000 for 1943. That is expansion under difficulties.

And here is another: the department of labor figures reveal that from 1939 to 1943 the average yearly employment showed a decrease of only one-tenth of 1 per cent.

In the field of agriculture, although the farm production has nearly doubled, the farm population has decreased nearly 40 per cent—more expansion.

What do these figures mean? That the productive capacity has been increased tremendously, not only in the war industries but in consumer goods, and the expansionist believes that what has been done can be continued provided that obstacles are removed.

In addition to this revelation of the nation's highest productive capacity, remember that there are 11 or 12 million men in the armed forces, 11 million more in civilian industry than before the war and 3 million in government.

The 11 million in private industry must keep their jobs, and jobs in business, big and small, must be found for those discharged from the armed services, plus some released from government work.

To achieve this, according to Nelson, the country must go expansionist, must further every means of expanding production.

The contractionist, he says, although he naturally plans, hopes and works for expansion in his own business, does not always see the importance of expansion in all businesses, especially in those which compete with him.

If Donald Nelson has the opportunity, he is willing to go ahead doing his part to help expand industry, big and little. It remains to be seen whether leads the road from China.

BRIEFS... by Baukhage

The British government has relaxed its rigid blackout rules.

The people of Sweden, preparing to celebrate the victory of the Allies over the axis, have flooded the "largest fireworks manufacturing company" in Stockholm with orders for fiery portraits of Prime Minister Churchill, Marshal Joseph Stalin, and President Roosevelt.

The results of research conducted during 25 years by the University of Illinois in heating, ventilating, cooling, insulating, building materials, mechanical equipment of buildings, sewage disposal, plumbing, sanitation, home management, household art, house planning and construction and rural architecture is to be gathered and collated to solve the post-war small-home problem.

Star Dust
 STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE
 Released by Western Newspaper Union.

THOUGH the world wasn't aware of it, there's been a crisis in Hollywood—because of old age, the original chimpanzee who played Cheta, Tarzan's mate, couldn't work, and a new Cheta had to be found for "Tarzan and the Amazons." Kurt Neumann, director of the picture, searched far and wide, finally found the new ape right in Hollywood. The perennial Tarzan, Johnny Weissmuller, liked the new Cheta at once, and Cheta reciprocated. Now the problem is—how will Cheta get along with Brenda Joyce, Tarzan's new mate?

Betty Hutton received her first letter from an American soldier in a German prison camp only to discover that he was a boy she went to school with in Battle Creek, Mich.



BETTY HUTTON

He said he hadn't seen any new movies as he'd been out of circulation for the past 14 months, but asked her to send him an autographed photograph, as pin-up pictures were allowed in the camp where he was imprisoned.

Alan Marshal, borrowed from David Selznick by RKO to star with Dorothy McGuire and Herbert Marshall in "The Enchanted Cottage," has had to give up the role because of what his doctor diagnoses as nervous exhaustion. Marshal has combined bond tours, army camp appearances and other war activities with months of studio work on two long productions.

So nobly has Ted Malone acquitted himself on his Monday, Wednesday and Friday night human interest broadcasts from the invasion fronts, on NBC, that his sponsor signed him to a five-year contract. His postwar efforts will be on the Alexander Woolcott style.

Bettejane Greer is making her film debut simultaneously in two RKO features, the musical "Pan-Americana" and "Two O'Clock Courage." This calls for considerable bicycling between stages, so she doesn't have to take time out for exercise, at least!

The War Production board has approved "Paper Troopers," written by Mutual network composers Sunny Skylar and Henry Sylvern, as the official marching song of the waste paper drive. Skylar, you know, is the composer of "Besame Mucho" and "Amor"; Sylvern is a noted musical conductor who is on the Jane Cowl show and "Cisco Kid" as well as on the Mutual show he does with Skylar.

Roy Acuff, his Smoky Mountain Boys and little Rachel, of NBC's "Grand Ole Opry," have been selected by the army to take part in a special movie which will include many top-flight stars of stage, screen and radio, and be shown in army camps all over the world.

"The Great Gildersleeve" is probably the only stooge who's risen to having his own radio program and also starring in the movies. He surrounded Fibber McGee and Molly in various stooge roles until in 1941 his avalanche of fan mail inspired a sponsor to build a show around the character Hal Peary had built up—a fellow with big ideas, but simple, warm-hearted and jolly.

At the age of five and a half, Dickie Jones, of "The Aldrich Family," had his own radio program on a local station in Texas. Today, at 17, he's played more than half a dozen major films—in fact, he had his first film layoff in more than 10 years in 1942, when he broke a leg while playing the lead opposite Shirley Temple in "Miss Annie Rooney," then broke it again in "The Major and the Minor."

ODDS AND ENDS—Awful back when Jim ("Here's to Romance") Ameche and Ann ("Joyce Jordan") Shepherd were typical American boy and girl in their first big radio program, out of Chicago—now they're together again in "Big Sister."... When Lum and Abner travel by train, Lum gets the lower berth and Abner the upper; this was settled 12 years ago by flipping a coin... "Mr. Skeffington" set a record for Betty Hutton by running 14 weeks at a Broadway theater... Arturo de Cordova has played with only five feminine stars—but they're Ingrid Bergman, Luise Rainer, Joan Fontaine, Betty Hutton and Dorothy Lamour!

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When Your Back Hurts—
 And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.
 You may suffer nagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.
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