

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Columns Thrust Toward Industrial Belt in Rhineland; U. S. Carries War to Philippines

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.)



Belgian pedestrians stand by as U. S. medical corps men dress wounds of German soldiers caught in withering machine gun fire.

EUROPE:

Sight Rhineland

Quickly catching their breath after their drive across France and Belgium, the valiant U. S. First and Third armies renewed their offensive against a reorganized enemy in a supreme effort to knock the Germans out of the war this year. While the Nazis regrouped behind their vaunted Siegfried line, or west wall, Lieut. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First Army and Lieut. Gen. George Patton's Third rolled forward again, with the former's strong armored forces thrusting against the fortress city of Aachen, gateway to the rich industrial Rhine valley to the northeast, with its great manufacturing centers of Cologne, Dusseldorf, Duisberg and Essen.

As General Hodges' troops gathered strength for their smash into the Rhineland, General Patton's men worked their way beyond the bitterly defended Moselle river against the rich Saar coal and manufacturing country, which curves off sharply to the east with the winding German border.

To the south of General Patton's Third Army, Lieut. Gen. Alexander Patch's Seventh drew up its ranks before the historic Belfort Gap, great open plain lying between the Vosges mountains and the Swiss border and leading into southern Germany. As the Seventh army with its complement of French troops smashed at the enemy here, it encountered stiffening resistance and heavy artillery fire from the hills beyond.

As the U. S. First, Third and Seventh armies smashed against Germany's western frontier in a quick move to end the war, British troops worked their way slowly against bitter opposition through southeastern Holland, where the enemy contested their advance in strength in an effort to protect the far northern flank of their Siegfried line, reportedly its weakest link.

Do or Die

As the reinforced U. S. Fifth and British Eighth armies threw their full strength at Germany's Gothic line in northern Italy, guarding the rich agricultural and industrial valley of the Po, Nazi Field Marshal Albert Kesselring went all out in an effort to hold his ground. With his 19 divisions of roughly 250,000 men outnumbered by the Allied forces, Kesselring was placing his chief reliance on the mountainous terrain, and other improvised obstacles dotting the rugged countryside, such as tank traps and buried tank gun nests, etc.

U. S. officers looked to "tough fighting" ahead.

Utilize Manpower

With manpower always Russia's strategic military trump, the Reds were making full use of it on the eastern front, where four major actions were in progress against the Germans' shortened, but strained, defense lines.

In the north, the Reds were grinding their way forward against the enemy's stiff East Prussian lines, and attacking heavily around Warsaw with armored columns that were drawing a steady stream of Germans into the fight.

To the south, strong Russian forces held up about 100 miles from Germany proper, switched their attack to the mountain passes leading into Czechoslovakia, while deeper in the Balkans, the Reds were pressing on Hungary's Transylvanian wheat fields.

MISCELLANY

EMPLOYMENT: Of the 53,170,000 persons employed in the U. S., 18,440,000 are women, the bureau of census reported. Although 3,000,000 women were added to payrolls during the 12-month period ending in August, 1943, there was no appreciable increase in the following year. As a whole, the civilian labor force decreased 1,000,000 from July to August, 1944.

CROPS:

Huge Harvest

With August rains checking the serious deterioration of the crop in the drought area east of the Mississippi, the U. S. department of agriculture predicted a bumper corn harvest of 3,101,319,000 bushels for 1944, second largest on record.

With the wheat crop set at an all-time high of 1,115,402,000 bushels, oats production at 1,190,540,000, barley at 290,036,000, soybeans at 179,024,000 and sorghums at 149,962,000, a total grain harvest of over 6,000,000,000 bushels was predicted.

Because of the bumper crops and reduced feeding, the live stock and poultry industry should find sufficient grain available throughout the coming months, the USDA declared.

Markets Dip

With the USDA reporting excellent crop prospects, prices on leading grain markets dipped, with only wheat bearing up under purchases of the Commodity Credit corporation and information that the agency was interested in deferred shipments.

PACIFIC:

Homecoming

Two and one-half years after the Japanese over-ran the Philippines, U. S. naval forces under Admiral Chester Nimitz's command and have come back to subject enemy installations on the islands to withering aerial and artillery fire.

At the same time, marine and army assault forces under Admiral Nimitz's command swept ashore on the Palau islands, 600 miles east of the Philippines, while units under Gen. Douglas MacArthur's leadership invaded the Moluccas, 300 miles south of the Philippines, thus establishing a menacing steel ring around the islands.

Presaging major operations against the Philippines guarding the enemy's vital supply lines from the Indies to the west, U. S. naval aircraft swept over the southern string of islands, lashing at enemy planes which had been carefully husbanded to resist U. S. advances. Big battleships, riding with smaller cruisers and destroyers, raked enemy shipping, using water routes to supply the disconnected jumble of islands.

Because of the eastern front's pressing demands on his time, Premier Stalin regretted his inability to attend the discussions.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's dramatic last-minute dash to Quebec following talks with the Polish government-in-exile's cabinet officials led to reports that the conferees went over Premier Stalin's claims to eastern Poland, and his suggestion that Poland be compensated for this loss of territory through annexation of German soil.

The man on whom most of the administration's work has fallen so far is C. W. Bailey, executive secretary of the policy board.

Following the theory of utilization of existing agencies, the board immediately turned to the three government agencies which were already engaged in activities similar to those, or including those which the R & R has to do, namely, selective service with its 6,500 offices in all parts of the country through which virtually everyone who entered the armed services had to pass; the United States Employment service, with its 1,500 full time offices which have been the main channels carrying the war workers to their jobs, and finally the Vet-

ern administration with its hundred offices with a personnel experienced in handling ex-soldiers' claims since the end of World War I.

Committees were appointed in the various states composed of representatives of these agencies, whose function was to assist in the creation of the information centers. In many states these committees have been able to report that the organization of these smaller groups is now adequate to handle the present load; in other states the completion of the organization is underway. Mr. Bailey tells me that he feels that a national framework has been constructed upon which the complete organization can be raised as demobilization begins and war industries are cut down.

This is the organization which has been functioning under the executive order. It is taken for granted that it will be continued in function if not in exact form, and of course provided with adequate funds for expansion, by current or future legislation. But the point is that in the interim action has been taken, without working for the legislative bodies to deliberate and adumbrate while the readjustment program merely marked time.

Administration Eager To Make Good Showing
Since the Democratic administration is open to sharp criticism if any phase of the adjustment program drags, considerable effort will be made to show results. Pressure applied to congress to hurry the legislation was exerted, too, with the Republicans perhaps in the less advantageous position since the original measure offered by the administration was considerably altered, first in the senate and later in the house.

When the President was asked for comment on Governor Dewey's charge that the New Deal was afraid of the peace because it was uncertain that the economic problems would be satisfactorily solved, the President merely said we could say that he smiled broadly.

Meanwhile, some members of the administration not sure whether smiles were in order have been out in the field attempting to find out just what has been accomplished toward opening the way to full employment, which is generally admitted to be the one sure answer to the danger of a depression. The work of the Retraining and Reemployment administration if it can show a good record can be an example of one of the first concrete steps.

Reports of the informal investigators have not been made public. We do know that in some communities the local people have responded well. Many energetic mayors and chambers of commerce are ready and anxious to show their local industries the benefit of the possibilities of expansion. They have been active in making plans which will get the returned veteran or war worker a job, or get him in contact with the proper source for training which will make him a potential benefit to the community. In such places the committees are quickly and easily formed and are prepared to function—in some cases are already functioning—effectively.

After all, the federal government, by a unanimous vote in congress, produced the GI Bill of Rights, that welfare program opening a thousand effective channels for human readjustment, physical, moral, intellectual and economic, to normal life, to millions of servicemen. It devolves upon their friends and neighbors to see that their benefits remain the benefits of the community rather than lose them to some more energetic society or, by complete neglect, to oblivion.

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AIR TRAVEL:

Postwar Preparation

Taking full advantage of the wartime stimulus given aviation both in the development of equipment and transportation service, three major airlines planning for postwar traffic placed orders for 93 super sky ships with the Douglas Aircraft company at a cost of more than \$50,000,000.

In filling the orders, Douglas will furnish DC-4 ships carrying 44 passengers and cargo with a speed of four miles a minute, and DC-6s accommodating 56 passengers and cargo with a speed of five miles a minute. Both planes are a development of Douglas' C-54 military cargo ship.

Four-engined and powered by Whitney Wasp motors, the planes will cut coast to coast schedules to 8½ hours, officials said, and reduce the Chicago to New York flight to 2 hours and 40 minutes.

NO-STRIKES:

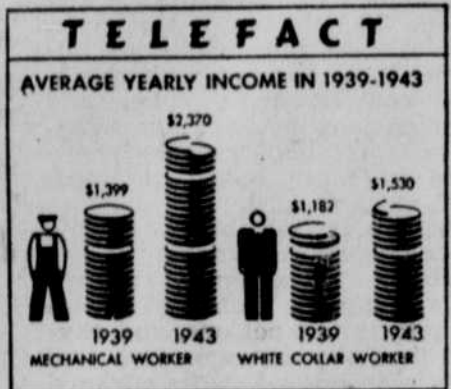
UAW Keeps Pledge

Predicting that the "Little Steel" wage formula limiting wartime pay increases to 15 per cent over January, 1941, levels would be altered to meet labor's complaint that living costs have soared far above the permitted boost, CIO Pres. Philip Murray joined United Automobile Workers union officials in pressing membership to maintain the no-strike pledge for the duration of the war against Germany.

Although 3,801 votes were mustered against keeping the no-strike pledge at the UAW's convention at Grand Rapids, Mich., a majority of 6,463 favorably responded to the bigwigs' plea to retain it.

Miners Meet

While the biggest union in the world—the union John L. Lewis helped to build—was meeting in



Grand Rapids, the United Mine Workers were holding their biennial convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Here, in all of his glory, shaggy, portly John L., who seemed to have ridden out a rebellious movement led by one of his ex-lieutenants for district self-rule in the union, railed against the record of mine disaster victims as "butchery" and a "crying national shame."

Said Lewis: "... The time is coming when this union will have to stand stern action to abate this slaughter of our people. Were this war not on, I would be prone to recommend that the coal miners... stop coal mining for a time until we receive assurances from the operators of a greater degree of safety."

BIG TWO:

Meet in Quebec

Although selection of a supreme commander for the Pacific and master overall plans for dealing a death-blow to the Japanese chiefly occupied the attention of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill at their second historic Quebec conference, postwar European problems also loomed importantly in the discussions.

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ARMISTICE: Pattern Set
Armistice terms under which Romania agreed to pay Russia \$300,000,000 in goods, industrial equipment and foodstuffs in six years was considered to constitute a model for other dealings with enemy countries.

Because of Romanian participation in the war against Germany under Russian command, however, the reparations payments reportedly were scaled down.

Other conditions of the armistice included Romania's cession of Bessarabia and Bukovina to Russia, restoration of all Allied property, abolition of racial discrimination laws, and elimination of Fascism.

PAYROLL

Declaring that about 5 per cent of the working population in the U. S. is now employed by the federal government, Sen. Harry Byrd (Va.) revealed that there were 3,112,965 persons on the payroll July 31, exclusive of 252,978 war department employees engaged outside of the country.

Contradicting the U. S. civil service commission's report of personnel cuts, Byrd said the payroll increased by 96,046 between May and July.

Washington Digest

Plan for Local Offices To Aid Demobilization

Vets' and Civilians' Problems Would Be Tackled in Own Communities; Re-Employment Is Major Goal.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

These days it is popular to criticize Democratic methods for their lack of speed. The legislative mills do grind slowly as we have noted, with many of the measures delaying readjustment to the peace to come. But in the case of the first steps toward preparing for demobilization which have brought up such hearty disagreements, it so happens that, quite unobserved by most observers, the machinery has been grinding steadily ahead just the same.

This was achieved by executive order, and, on the surface at least, it appears that work has been done while congress was disagreeing. Since February 24, when the executive order creating it was issued, the Retraining and Reemployment administration has established more than 8,000 information centers which will be the contact point with discharged veterans and war workers. It also erected the framework of a system which can be expanded to take care of the peak demands when demobilization starts in earnest.

These information centers are the vital points of contact between government agencies and the citizen, veteran or civilian who is starting on the road back to peacetime existence.

The philosophy back of this whole readjustment plan is based on the idea that a man or woman can best be served by his own friends and neighbors. The government, local or federal, helps, but the local community whose own prosperity depends on the prosperity and happiness of its members, is the best of guides, philosophers and friends.

The Retraining and Reemployment administration is the child of the Baruch-Hancock report, which is a lengthy document embodying the results of a long study and presented as a suggestion for appropriate legislation. Since the lawmakers were slow in their law-making, the President issued his executive order under his war powers.

He put the new administration under the office of War Mobilization, its head, Mr. Byrnes, named General Hines, head of the Veterans administration, as Administrator of the Retraining and Reemployment setup.

New Agency Works With Other U. S. Bodies

Under General Hines was created a policy board made up of representatives of the various government agencies whose functions fit into the picture, the purpose being to make use of existing government agencies insofar as possible rather than to create new ones. The agencies represented on the board are: labor, federal security, war manpower, selective service, the war department, navy department, war production board.

This board has general supervision of all activities affecting the returned veteran or the discharged war worker and it consults with congress on matters which would promote the processes of readjustment.

Specifically this is a large order for it involves getting jobs, getting the right job for the right man; training for jobs, training the right man for the right job and assuring an expert and sympathetic handling of the process, from the human as well as the economic standpoint. It also deals with all the multifold benefits and rights of the GI Bill of Rights, already dealt with at length in these columns.

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Darryl F. Zanuck

Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

SINCE most people believe that the postwar world will be a wondrous affair with new discoveries in science and transport revolutionizing our everyday living, it occurred to me some changes will be due in the motion picture industry.

I don't remember who said, "I don't care who makes our laws, so long as I can make our pictures," but I hid me over to Darryl F. Zanuck, a producer on whom the genius tag is pretty firmly tied since he made "Wilson," and asked him what sort of film fare we are going to give our returned soldiers. I wanted to know what we could expect of the film of the future. There was Zanuck pacing up and down his lush office like a caged tiger, swinging a polo mallet to give greater emphasis—and he was ready to give. Here is what I got—

The over-all picture of the postwar cinema industry is a radical one. It has little in common with the industry we know today. Said Zanuck, "The postwar film will be international in scope. Picture-making in our peacetime era will be a far different thing than it is today. The broadening scope of world vision that comes with peace will bring about the ascension of a great foreign star. I would not be surprised to see a great Chinese actress become a dominant figure."

"I look to see our company, Twentieth Century-Fox, open a large studio in a foreign land—quite possibly India—where pictures will be aimed at world consumption although made basically for the East. "I would have no hesitancy in making a motion picture with a love story between a typical American boy and a Chinese girl. The same is true of a picture with a high-type Indian and an American girl."

Films for Freedom
"The reeducation of Germany will center largely around its film industry. Films were the instrument most freely used to propagandize the German people into Nazism. Films should therefore be the most powerful instrument used in their reeducation."

"I would personally like to have the job of running the postwar German studios. I do not think this should be done by a government agency. It should be done by motion picture men. After all, we made our product so popular abroad that dictators banned our pictures in their countries."

Well, with that for a starter (and I maintain that's a good hunk for anyone to chew on), let's cut back to the psychology of today's soldier as outlined by Zanuck. He said, "War makes men think. There are no drunken speers from our returned soldiers today. These boys, transformed into men, have fought in 59 localities over every end and corner of the world. They're worldwide in vision. Geography isn't something they learned out of a book. They didn't have to find the far-flung places of the world on a map—they've been there. The motion picture industry will have to keep abreast of their way of thinking if we want to continue in business."

The Three Rs, Too
Servicemen, says Zanuck, have reflected a willingness to accept enlightenment along with their entertainment; and while the poll is high in favor of the pin-up type picture, many significant films rank with musicals in attendance. Backgrounds outside the United States will be characteristic of many of our new films and the foreign star will come back into favor.

"Our international casting average will mount higher and higher when the avenues of foreign talent, shut out by wars, are opened again. There should be no national boundaries in art. There aren't any in music, painting or sculpture. The talent of the world should and must be brought to our audiences."

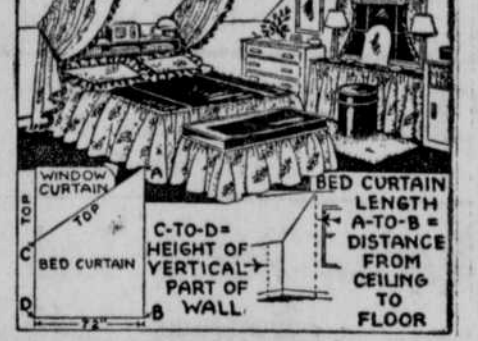
"This will not come as any jolt to the people at home. We're building up a new audience here, too. They know new names—places they'd possibly never heard of if their sons hadn't been fighting there. Many of them are buried there. They'll want to know more about St. Malo and Cassino and Chungking and Mitkyna—those places are familiar household words now."

The Truth Brought Back
Jinx Falkenburg, all dolled up in a sarong on the "Song of Tahiti" set, walked over to chat with a bunch of visiting marines, just back from the South Pacific. Said Jinx, "Tell me—do you think I make an authentic South Sea Island girl?" After a brief hesitation, one of the marines spoke up and said, "Well hardly, Miss Falkenburg. The trouble is, you're about 80 pounds underweight, you smell too nice, and you have far too many teeth!"

It's Simple Furniture With Frills, Ruffles

IF YOU have been wondering if quaintness, frills and ruffles were going into the decorating ash can after the war, the answer is—no. There will be many strictly modern rooms but there will be rooms also in which all the war years' pent-up longing will burst forth in the most romantic versions of the traditional Home, sweet Home with variations according to taste.

Period themes and quaintness will be stepped up to have a dramatic quality. Modern ideas will



creep in and add to this effect. Simple furniture will be built in and fabrics will be cut and sewn especially to fit the spaces they are to fill. The bed curtains for the slanting wall in the sketch are an example—and the triangular shaped window curtains to give extra fullness. Frills will be even fuller than those of our dreams.

NOTE—Why not start your dream room now with a skirted blanket chest like the one in this sketch? It is grand to have extra covers handy on chilly nights and the padded top makes a comfortable seat. Pattern 259 gives complete and fully illustrated directions with detailed list of materials needed for making the chest, full skirt and top cushion. Enclose 15 cents with name and address to get pattern 259. Address:

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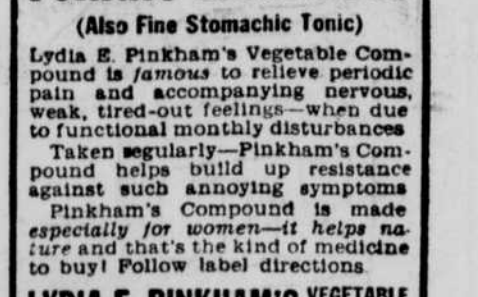
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