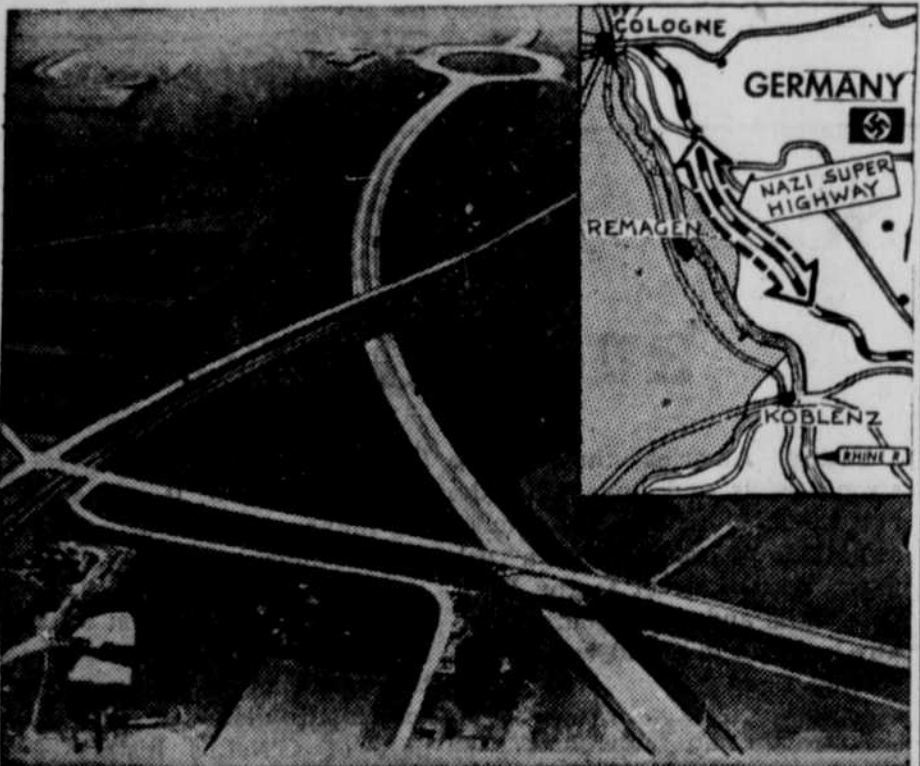


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Report German Peace Bids as Allies Press Attacks on Reich; Act to Assure Civilian Supply

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.)



Indicating the modern network of roads over which the Germans have been moving military supplies east of the Rhine, this aerial photo shows the Adolf Hitler superhighway near U. S. 1st army bridgehead. Map outlines extensive road system in territory.

EUROPE:

Rebuff Nazis

Amid a flurry of talk that high German groups had sounded the U. S. and Britain out on peace possibilities, Allied armies maintained their heavy pressure against Nazi lines in both the east and west. According to one report, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower rebuffed Field Marshal von Rundstedt's approach for an armistice, under which the latter offered to pull German armies beyond the Rhine, where they have been forced, and disarm them.

Published in Sweden's Svenska Dagbladet, the other report dealt with German overtures to a British official for an armistice for preserving the Reich as a bulwark against the "Bolshevik menace." To include the retention of the Nazis in office and the evacuation of occupied territory, the offer also was flatly rejected, it was said.

Even as the reports came through, Germany rocked under the tremor of continued heavy aerial assaults, aimed at Nazi industrial installations, communication lines feeding

'Town Buster' Latest Bomb
To Britain's famed "blockbuster" and "earthquake" bombs has been added another, the 11-ton "town buster," developed to penetrate to the underground factories the Germans established to avoid bombardment.

Carried by Britain's four-engined Lancasters, the "town buster" measures 25 1/2 feet in length and almost four feet in diameter. Upon releasing the heavy load, the huge planes have bounced up as high as 500 feet from relief of the weight.

Packing a tremendous wallop in itself, the "town buster" supplements the six-ton "earthquake" bomb, which sank the German battleship, Tirpitz, and penetrated 15-foot-thick concrete roofs of U-boat pens.

their armies and troop concentrations massed to meet Allied attacks in both east and west.

In the east, Russia grouped the bulk of her manpower for the grand assault on Berlin, heavily defended by an extended network of pillboxes, tank traps and infantry obstacles, which could be flooded.

As the Russians built up their forces beyond the Oder for the smash on the German capital, other Red forces were on the move in both Upper Silesia and Hungary, in an effort to pry open the roads to the rich industrial districts of Czechoslovakia and Austria, feeding the Nazi wehrmacht.

In the west, German war production was seriously threatened as U. S. and British armies closed on both the Ruhr and Saar valleys. Not only was the Ruhr menaced by the U. S. 9th and British 2nd armies from the west, but Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' U. S. 1st moved up from its Remagen bridgehead to threaten it from the south.

The U. S. 3rd and 7th armies also were applying a vise on the Saar valley, with the 3rd pressing in from the north and east, and the 7th squeezing ahead from the south. Taking full advantage of their extensive road system and short supply lines, the Germans fought viciously to hold both all-important regions.

SERVE G. I.

All over Europe the transportation corps military railway services are hauling 50,000 tons a month of meats, fresh vegetables and dairy products—literally bringing "fillets in his foxhole" to G. I. Joe. Reifer cars make it possible to deliver good food in good condition.

Months before the invasion, at erection depots in different parts of England, men of the railway shop battalions labored to construct the reifer cars from prefabricated sections sent over from the States.

FOOD:

Probe Supply

Following hard upon War Mobilizer Byrnes' formation of a special group to review all demands for non-military exports to protect essential civilian supplies in this country, senate war investigating committee announced the conduct of an inquiry into the food situation currently marked by the growing scarcity of meat.

Revelation of the senate committee's probe followed demands of mid-western senators for rectification of government food policies, which, they declared, discouraged fattening of cattle because of failure to bring prices and feed costs in line with production, and failed to place agriculture on a par with war industry.

Just before the congressional storm broke, Byrnes proclaimed the organization of a special group to determine that Europe's demands for relief and rehabilitation would not interfere with U. S. civilian needs, and even to review past commitments in the same light.

Following Byrnes' action, capital circles buzzed with talk that the War Food administration, for one, had approached him for help in allocating the shrinking food supply during 1945, with prospects of from 20 to 25 per cent less meat, 10 to 15 per cent less vegetable oils and fats, and 10 per cent less sugar.

Meanwhile, it was revealed, lend-lease purchases in recent weeks have been severely reduced because of the growing meat shortage. Although the government has been receiving larger allocations than formerly, it was pointed out, still the drop in slaughtering has reduced the volume available over last year, and practically only military demands are being satisfied.

As a result, lend-lease meat tonnage has been slashed almost 80 per cent in the last two months, with pork purchases in one week down about 84 per cent from last year, canned meats 86 per cent, and other products from 93 to 97 per cent.

PACIFIC:

Air Lashings

With long range U. S. bombers based within flying distance of Japan as a result of the recent conquest of outlying islands in bloody but valuable fighting, the enemy's great industrial cities have more and more been feeling the lash of heavy bombardment.

Carried on even as General MacArthur's forces in the Philippines tightened their grip on the sprawling archipelago guarding the inner China sea lane, and as begrimed marines finished off a stubborn foe on Iwo Jima, the B-29 raids on such Jap centers as Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka are designed to cut down factory production and impair the flow of supply to the enemy's armies.

Meanwhile, General MacArthur's forces moved toward the climactic battle with the bulk of the enemy cornered on northeastern Luzon, and additional American landings to the south secured the sea passage through the Philippines to Manila.

CRIME

Release of the FBI's annual crime reports bulletin for 1944 reflects a general upward trend in crime during the year, Director J. Edgar Hoover said. He added that arrests of boys and girls 17 years of age totaled more than for any other group.

Arrests of boys under 18 were 18.8 per cent greater in 1944 than in 1941, the last peacetime year, and arrests of girls under 21 showed a 134 per cent gain over the same period.

YALTA:

Test Agreement

First put to the test in Poland, the Big Three's Yalta agreement to act jointly in the settlement of troubled political affairs of countries was tabbed for a second trial in the case of Romania, where the Radescu government reportedly had been forced out by Moscow and replaced by a communist-dominated regime.

At the time the Radescu government left office, with Radescu himself seeking sanctuary in the British embassy in Bucharest because of fear of communist assassination, the Russians contended that the regime had failed to take proper action against pro-fascist elements still present in the country and threatening the Red army's supply lines.

Called at the instance of the U. S., the Big Three parley on Romania could look to its settlement of the Polish problem as a precedent, with democratic elements being brought into a new regime along with the communists to furnish a more representative pattern of government.

FARM LABOR:

At Low

With total farm employment estimated at 8,400,000 persons, farm operators will start the important spring planting season with the lowest seasonal level of workers in 21 years, the U. S. department of agriculture reported.

Of the 8,400,000 persons, USDA reported, 6,894,000 are family members, of whom a great number are women or elder folk. Because of the presence of the latter, it was said, total operating efficiency has been cut somewhat since the advancing years have impaired the efforts of many of the older people.

As the spring planting season approached, with excessive moisture retarding work in many sections, farmers were promised some manpower relief by the employment of 30,000 German war prisoners during the year. Despite the worker shortage, farmers are being asked to match 1944's record production.

Butcher Ol' Dobbin

Already evident before January 3, when race tracks were closed, there has been a decided rise in the sale of dressed horse carcasses as the meat situation grows increasingly critical, packers revealed.

Although sold for human consumption in Milwaukee, Wis.; Boston, Mass.; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich., and some New Jersey cities, it is not permissible in Chicago, Ill., where, oddly enough, sales to retailers have doubled since the beef famine.

In explaining the phenomenon of how sales to retailers could double if the latter could not resell the product to consumers, one packer's representative declared that butchers didn't know whether the buyers were going to eat the horse meat themselves or feed it to their pigs.

SHOES:

To Cut Output

With most of the cattle hide scheduled to meet greatly increased army demands, allocation of leather for production of civilian shoes during April, May and June may be trimmed down to about 10 to 15 per cent of present allotments, further affecting the future supply of men's and children's footwear.

In an effort to meet the overall civilian requirement of 350,000,000 shoes for the year, it was said, government officials are hoping to increase the production of fabric footwear, despite the tight situation in worsted materials needed. Against the 100,000,000 fabric shoes manufactured last year, 50,000,000 more may be produced in 1945.

Beyond the postponement of the validation of the next shoe stamp until sometime next summer instead of May 1 as originally scheduled, no change in footwear rationing is contemplated as a result of the new cattle hide allocation, OPA said.

HOLLYWOOD STRIKE:

Complex Scenario

Closure of American movie houses was threatened as the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, AFL, considered exertion of pressure on picture producers in its fight to obtain recognition as bargaining agent for some 70 studio set decorators in Hollywood.

In vying for control of the 70 workers, the IATSE backed another AFL affiliate, the painters' union, which had been accepted as the employees' bargaining agent by the War Labor board.

Standing in the middle of the entanglement were the picture producers themselves, what with the IATSE not only threatening to pull its workers out of the Hollywood studios but also to stop the showing of movies throughout the country, and the rival painters' union already on strike because of the picture producers' hesitancy in recognizing their group.

WORLD AGRICULTURE

Already accepted by 18 countries, adoption of the constitution of the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations neared.

The purposes of FAO are to improve agricultural production and distribution, raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living, and better the conditions of rural populations. An important part of the work of FAO will be to aid nations in adapting their agriculture to changing world conditions.

Washington Digest

World Monetary Plans Seen as Boon to Trade



Funds Would Help Restore Production and Stimulate Exchange of Goods in Postwar Era, Treasury Says.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

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

I have just come from a luncheon of creamed chicken and rice, green salad and trimmings. The food was not, however, the interesting part of the affair. The "food for thought" that went with it, was. And so was the setting. We were served from a large oval table in the conference room of the United States treasury. The hosts were Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau and a squad of his fiscal experts.

The subject of the conversation was the same one which was discussed at many of the more than 200 conferences which took place around that same table and which led up to the Bretton Woods monetary conference last July. Today that same subject is before Congress in the form of pending legislation which would authorize American participation in an international bank of reconstruction and development and an international monetary fund.

Upon the passage of this legislation and the creation of the bank and fund, the master-minds on money matters tell me, depends the success of any world security organization which may come out of the United Nations meeting at San Francisco.

Aim to Stop Economic Warfare

The reason for that statement, boiled down to its essence is this: you can't stop international warfare unless you stop economic warfare.

Economic warfare in this sense means international trade practices not in the common good—specifically some of the practices indulged in by nations competing for foreign trade before and after the grand smash of '29.

How is this warfare to be restrained? Quid pro quo, of course. In the vicious fight for trade after the war a large number of nations will have three strikes on them to start.

They are wrecked, some physically and a great many more financially, politically, economically. Those which will emerge less affected by the war scourge, like the United States, will be equally affected if they have nobody with money or credit enough to buy their goods.

Therefore in exchange for an agreement to abide by certain fair practices as we might call them, and contributions in cash or its equivalent, under the Bretton Woods agreement a nation would receive membership in an international bank which would guarantee private loans—make some direct—for the purpose of reconstruction and development so they can build factories and do other things necessary to create goods to sell and earn money to buy. These loans would be loans in which the risk is too great for a private institution to take, and which if they were made and bonds offered to the public the public wouldn't touch. But guaranteed by the international bank over a long term, private bankers would lend the money and the public, with the word of 44 nations behind the bonds, would hardly be skittish.

The monetary fund would be created for the purpose of stabilizing exchange, and facilitating the growth of international trade. The members would agree to tie their exchange to the gold standard and not change it unless the governors and directors of the fund approve. This would stop, among other things, what amounts to imposing hidden tariffs on foreign goods by changing the rates of exchange of a country's currency in terms of other nation's currency. In their mad efforts to export goods at any price and get credits abroad, the Germans had all sorts of different kinds of marks that had one value here and another there.

As to the administration of the bank and fund, a very careful system has been worked out regulating the amount of financial responsibility each country would have. The figure would be based on the trade of a nation over a certain past period with some other modifications. For instance, the United States would assume roughly one-third of the financial responsibility and have one-third of the votes.

Even the older people, despite the numbing fear of the espionage of the gauleiter, the fear of the firing squad, began passive resistance. The Volkssturm (the military unit drafted by Himmler) refused to fight, refused to assemble when ordered, hid. Regulations were evaded. Taxes went unpaid.

General De Gaulle says that France needs 12 million "fine babies" in the next 10 years. He may not get 12 million but they will all be "fine"—ask their mothers.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

One reason why Stalin can't leave Russia to meet even the world's bigwigs was revealed at the Yalta conference—he makes all the military decisions himself.

The Japanese government has taken over all the airplane factories, giving the Jap industrialists who want peace another reminder that there isn't much profit in war.

on how the money or credit is to be handled.

Relief for U. S. Bankers' Risks

One of the chief arguments as to the direct value of the program for the United States is this: it is estimated that in the postwar period, the United States bankers will have to do the bulk of the world lending. Estimated on the amount we did after the last war, perhaps as much as 90 per cent. Rather than have the lenders risk the loss as they did last time, it would be better to have the government and the governments of the rest of the nations bear two-thirds of the risk. This they would do under the international bank. It is pointed out by treasury officials that not only will most of the money be borrowed from private bankers in this country for the next five or ten years (since we have most of the money to loan) but most of it will likewise be spent here since we have most of the things foreign countries need.

There are two chief reasons why such an international financial program will be to the disadvantage of the private banker although by no means all bankers oppose it. One is that the governments of nations will control the world fiscal policy and not the leading private international bankers who had the control before. The second is that in the long run, as sponsors of the plan admit, it will lower interest rates.

Those two reasons are not stressed by the vocal opponents of the measure before members of congress. Many other objections, some highly technical, are set forth. The main suggestion in the report of a committee of the American Bankers association is that because of unsettled political conditions throughout the world, any action ought to be postponed until these conditions stabilize. They say that the nations should agree to certain changes in the program before it is presented to the congress.

Some of the changes suggested are prompted by honest conviction, some are due, according to treasury officials, to a misinterpretation of the program. There is a group in the United States which says that the little end of the horn under the arrangement and that the British sold us a bill of goods. There is a group in England which says that Britain will come out of the little end of the horn and that the United States sold their representatives a bill of goods.

That is one thing which, quite aside from the arguments pro and con on the various disputed parts of the program, demonstrates that it must be pretty good.

Some weeks ago in this column I tried to explain "why Germany came back" after its defeats in France.

May I be permitted to explain why the Nazis couldn't come back for the second time?

Once again we have to consider, not the military organization of Germany alone, but the civilian organization as well. Nazi discipline, because it was built on an entirely anti-human foundation, finally collapsed. It was a discipline of (1) deceit, (2) force. Both were bound to fail in the end because it failed to take into consideration one thing which the Nazis refuse to admit exists—the human soul.

Nazism with threats, brute force, and an organization which could carry out the threats and exercise the force, was effective up to a certain point. Then it failed.

Its strength was in "bending the twig," as I tried to point out in my earlier analysis. Youth worshipped the false god of Nazism as long as its clay feet could be concealed. Youth knew no other god. But the moment the clay feet crumbled in the defeat of its armies (i.e. force failed) youth deserted.

Even the older people, despite the numbing fear of the espionage of the gauleiter, the fear of the firing squad, began passive resistance. The Volkssturm (the military unit drafted by Himmler) refused to fight, refused to assemble when ordered, hid. Regulations were evaded. Taxes went unpaid.



Pasteurization of Eggs Improves Quality

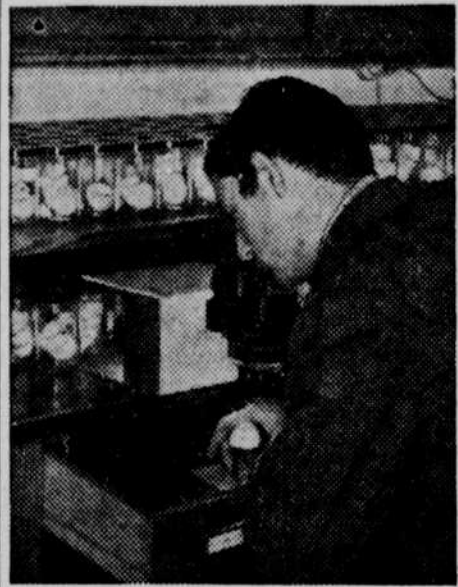
New Method an Aid To Egg Storage

PASTEURIZATION of eggs as developed at the University of Missouri, or the flash heat treatment of Cornell university, promises to prove of considerable value to the poultry and farm industries.

The pasteurizing of shell eggs not only destroys bacteria but causes shell eggs to retain their desirable physical properties much longer than do untreated eggs.

In the Cornell flash heat treatment of eggs, a five-second exposure of fresh eggs to boiling water forms a thin protective film of coagulated albumen, adherent to the shell membrane. This treatment of eggs at temperatures above the coagulation point of albumen proved to be an efficient method for the preservation of table eggs.

The application of the pasteurization process to shell eggs may prove of great value to the poultry in-



Cornell Method of Pasteurization.

dustry when applied to eggs as they pass through the regular marketing channels.

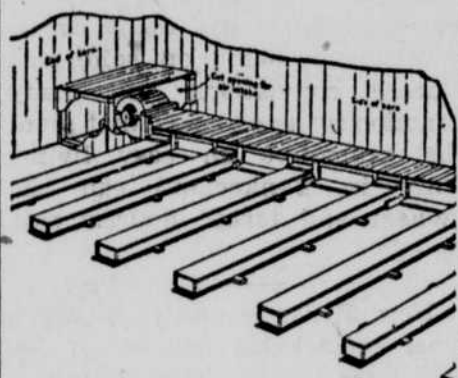
The treatment is simple and requires only average kitchen equipment. The eggs are plunged into boiling water for five seconds, cooled and placed in cold storage or a refrigerator, where they will stay fresh for 12 months. Without refrigeration they should remain fresh for about three months.

Barn-Curing Hay Safe

And Improves Quality

Making hay while the sun doesn't shine has been simplified for hundreds of farmers who have built electrically operated hay driers, using forced ventilation to cure hay in the mow.

The installation consists of wooden ducts, built on the mow floor,



Air Circulation in Mow.

through which air is forced into and upward through the hay by a blower powered with an electric motor, or when electricity is not available by a gasoline motor.

The use of the forced ventilation system enables farmers to move their fourage crops into the mow two to four hours after cutting, before the leaves begin to shed.

Farm Windbreaks Pay

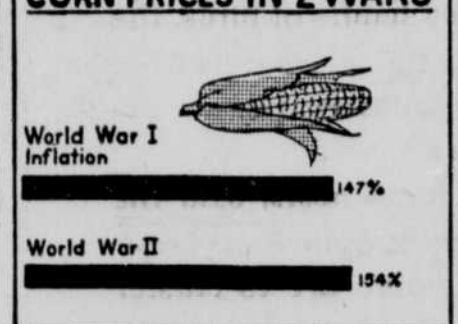
Dividends Annually

Planting evergreen windbreaks which will pay dividends in the future is a wartime farm improvement that should be undertaken at once.

Not only will the windbreak be a protection for the home, cutting down the cold winter winds, it will save heating costs as a result.

In many localities it is possible to secure planting stock which would have some commercial value—fruit, nuts or for the wood contained. As materials for many other improvements are not available, now is the time when considerable improvement can be made by planting desirable trees. Not only will the value of the land be improved, but many of the trees could produce an annual pay crop to the farmer.

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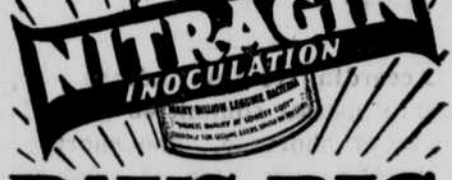
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