

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS
German Drive Reminder of Last Desperate Fling in World War I; Farmers Harvest Banner Crops

Released by Western Newspaper Union.
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Attired in civilian clothes, and with some of their number carrying mace-like antitank projectiles, Heinrich Himmler's home guard parades in Berlin.

WESTERN FRONT: History Repeats

To many, the mighty German counter-offensive Field Marshal Von Rundstedt launched against Allied armies on the western front was reminiscent of General Ludendorff's last desperate throw of the dice in 1918 in an effort to improve Germany's position for the negotiation of a peace.

Then, Ludendorff's drive failed; this time, resolute U. S. troops moved in to stem Von Rundstedt's attack, with decisive Allied counter-measures expected to not only blunt the enemy's thrust but also sap the most formidable part of his force and reduce his war potential for next spring.

There was one difference between Ludendorff's suicidal gamble in 1918 and Von Rundstedt's of this war, however, and that lay in Heinrich Himmler's success in holding the German home front together to supply the wehrmacht with men and materials for the big drive. In 1918, on the other hand, Ludendorff was faced with a crumbling home front, one rising to a bawling rage in those months because a tottering government failed to provide sufficient troops and supplies.

As the Germans' desperate drive developed, it followed the pattern of other major Nazi attacks of World War II, with powerful armored spearheads punching through forward defenses and then speeding onward to let the trailing infantry deal with opposing elements surrounded to the rear.

It was thus that the Germans wiped out the Poles; broke France, and marched a third of the way across Russia. This time, however, the enemy faced a stronger, better equipped, more resolute foe, and as his attack developed, U. S. reserves thrown into the battle moved to dam the surge.

In launching the offensive, Von Rundstedt followed the 1940 invasion pathways, pointing spearheads across Belgium and Luxembourg. In choosing this battleground below Aachen, the Nazi field marshal concentrated the bulk of his forces against the First army, which had thrown the Germans onto the edge of the Rhineland plain.

In the early fighting, the Nazi thrust against Monschau was appreciably contained by the Yanks, but the spearhead farther south probed as deeply as 22 miles to the important road juncture of Stavelot in Belgium. Still another Nazi force pushed across the Belgium border and threw a pincer around St. Vith.

In Luxembourg to the south, the Germans drove through the Ardennes forest beyond Echternach after meeting stiff U. S. resistance.

Once the German attack got underway, the battle turned into a slugfest, with the enemy pouring men into the initial breaches to exploit their breaks, while the Allies moved reserves to the front to check the drive.

Coincidentally with Von Rundstedt's smash to the north, Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. First army encountered stiffening Nazi resistance in the Saar, with the enemy following his favored pattern of throwing in short, sharp armored counter-attacks in an attempt to momentarily check the Yanks' push.

Meanwhile, it was announced that Himmler himself had taken over command of German resistance in the Colmar pocket in Alsace, throwing in strong detachments of his motley but fanatical home guard units.

People in the News

Testifying that her husband refused to work as long as Mr. Roosevelt was president, Mrs. Catherine Grassia of Detroit, Mich., was granted a divorce.

Only a few days after purchasing his own plane, 24-year-old Howard Hoy of Urbana, Ill., was killed when it crashed in the barnyard of his own farm.

While one of her newer customers was chatting to Bessie Vandre, 50, of Chicago, Ill., another man dropped into her cafe and asked the way to the county hospital, saying that he was carrying \$20,000 out there to endow a children's ward. The new customer cautioned him against carrying that much money, suggesting that he put it into the cafe's safe, which he faked doing when Miss Vandre was persuaded to open it. After the two men left, Miss Vandre looked into the safe and found \$3,000 of her own gone.

PACIFIC: Put on Heat

All through the scattered Philippine islands, the enemy came under increasing pressure of U. S. land and naval forces as the Americans speeded up their attack on this great archipelago guarding the Japs' vital inner imperial lines.

Latest threat to the enemy was the U. S. landing on Mindoro island, where the Yanks drove forward against negligible opposition to establish air bases from which land-based bombers could join carrier planes in hammering the main island of Luzon to the north, nerve-center for the whole Jap defense in the Philippines. Even as the doughboys plodded forward, carrier planes ripped at enemy shipping feeding island garrisons from the main staging point.

On Leyte, General MacArthur's triple-pronged offensive continued to squeeze the Japanese into an ever narrower corner on the island.

STATE DEPARTMENT: O. K. New Setup

Amid fierce debate, in which charges were leveled that the recent reorganization of the state department put the House of Morgan in an influential position in the shaping of U. S. foreign policy, the senate confirmed President Roosevelt's appointments of William L. Clayton and Nelson Rockefeller as assistants to Secretary of State Stettinius. With ardent New Dealers Pepper (Pa.) and Guffey (Pa.) leading the attack, it was charged that the new setup in the state department following Secretary Hull's resignation might indicate a reversal in a liberal



Secretary Stettinius (left) with William L. Clayton.

U. S. foreign policy, to which Senator Connally (Texas) replied at President Roosevelt would chart the country's course regardless of the reorganization.

As the storm over the state department reorganization first mounted then subsided under presidential pressure, Mr. Roosevelt told newspapermen that the Atlantic Charter was not a formal document, signed by this country and Britain, but merely a statement of principles to guide the Allies' war aims.

CROPS: Banner Year

Surmounting weather and manpower problems, American farmers again answered the nation's call for high level production with a near record output of crops, 24 per cent above the 1923-32 pre-drought average, the U. S. department of agriculture reported.

Pointing to near record acreage, the USDA said: "... Farmers planted only when they could and they kept on planting past the normal season as long as there seemed half a chance of success."

Production of grains, fruits, nuts and commercial vegetables were all above last year, with all-time top harvests of corn at 3,228,361,000 bushels and of wheat at 1,078,647,000 bushels. Output of dry beans and peas, oil seeds, tobacco and hay and forage crops has been seldom exceeded. Cotton was about average.

TIRES

With increased military demands and manpower shortages limiting supply, no passenger tires will be available for "A" card holders or less essential "B" card applicants through the first three months of 1945, trade circles reported.

At the same time, it was said, the supply of heavy truck tires during this period will be the smallest for any quarter since 1941. Release of experienced workers from the army was proposed to help remedy the truck tire shortage.

CASUALTIES

With 57,775 casualties reported in November, U. S. losses in invasion operations in France, the Lowlands and the German border region total 253,124, the war department reported.

Of this number, 44,143 were killed, 189,118 were wounded and 24,863 are missing, the war department said. Announcement of the casualties came as selective service revealed that it would increase its January and February calls from 60,300 to 80,000 men each month.

POSTWAR PLANNING: Stability Sought

Looking forward to the day when the war will end and the cessation of wartime production will pose problems of providing adequate opportunity for a peacetime economy, senate and house committees busied themselves in developing a program for the prosperous employment of both labor and agriculture.

Most specific action taken was by a senate committee headed by Montana's Senator Murray, which submitted a proposal for an annual estimation of the amount of expenditure necessary for full employment and the probable outlays by private industry, with any differences to be made up by federal investment. Before the government would undertake any expenditures, however, every effort would be made to stimulate the flow of private capital.

While Senator Murray's committee presented the proposal, a house committee held hearings in Chicago, Ill., on means of bolstering postwar agriculture.

While advocating a reappraisal of farm credit needs, international agreements to dispose of surplus commodities and lowering of trade barriers, Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau federation, also called for realistic marketings based on feed and labor costs to replace subsidies.

Movement of 2,000,000 persons from farms after the war to provide them with sufficient income and guard against overproduction was advocated by Chairman Oscar Helme of the Iowa Farmer Grain Dealers association. In agreeing, Prof. Noble Clark, chairman of the Land Grant Colleges' committee on postwar agricultural policies, urged a broadened educational program to equip rural youth for occupational opportunities.

WAR COSTS: Pricing Policy

Aiming to cut government costs and at the same time impose greater efficiency on some firms with a resultant release of manpower and material, the war department announced the adoption of a new pricing program employing teams of experts that will comb over contracts before letting.

Expressing the belief that lower prices would lead to greater use of manpower and material, Col. Fred C. Foy, director of army service forces purchases, said: "When ever a contractor's selling prices are close to his costs, the contractor has an incentive to lower his costs to increase profit..."

To firms establishing close pricing policies went the promise of consideration for a higher rate of return in reviewing contracts for excess profits and maintenance of work in case cutbacks, or reductions, are made in their line of war production.

AGRICULTURE: New Crop

Thanks to a new oil extraction and harvesting process, the raising of sunflower seeds may develop into an important farm crop in the middle west, following successful experimentation in Illinois' Piat county.

Due to a new solvent process of bio-chemist Ezra Levin, oil now extracted from the sunflower seeds and the resulting mash no longer become rancid, while the construction of a new combine cuts the once high harvesting costs.

Planted in 40-inch rows and cultivated twice through the season, 1,600 pounds of seed were obtained from an acre, with a yield of oil at 14 1/2 cents per pound reportedly higher than that obtained from a similar planting of soybeans. Not only is the oil good for salads and cooking, it was said, but seeds were found to have protein content of 53 per cent.

WAR SHIPPING: Big Profits

With nine American steamship lines having made \$26,847,000 in profits on \$31,364,000 worth of business from April to September on lend-lease runs to the Middle East, the U. S. maritime commission started court action against seven of the operators to recover excess income.

Operating on rates that the commission itself set at the time when subs were scouring the seas and ships were needed to haul material to the British in the middle eastern and north African sectors, the companies averaged \$300,000 profit per vessel, or 910 per cent of the book value of each.

Although two of the companies have refunded \$300,000, the others have refused to make remittances, claiming that they merely charged prevalent rates, recognized by the British themselves.

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Washington Digest
Liberal Ground Swell Sweeping Over Europe

Underground Coalesces Democratic Groups In Fight for Popular Government; Look to 'Big Three.'

By BAUKHAGE
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As the New Year approaches, Washington is preparing to experience the results of two titanic struggles which will chart the course followed by this nation and the world in the decades ahead.

One contest will be witnessed on the floors of congress. The other in some unnamed spot where President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Marshal Stalin and perhaps General De Gaulle will sit down and try to agree on details of the framework of an international organization for the maintenance of peace.

The election was supposed to have settled the old issue of "isolationism versus internationalism" but those terms were far too indefinite to delimit any lasting decisions and since November our allies have been strewing land-mines of doubt along the way, causing many cases of non-interventionist jitters in congress.

There will be debate in the senate flavored with remarks, the tenor of those which criticized the British course in Greece.

As to the battle behind closed doors, you can imagine that the American viewpoint will need all the support the President can rally behind it, to overcome the tendency of Messrs. Churchill, Stalin and De Gaulle to fall into all the old bad habits of their happy power politics days.

In order to understand the differences which have already arisen between those who support British armed intervention in Greece and those who support the state department's action in protesting against it, it is necessary to take a look behind the scenes and see what these forces are which are bound to shape the new governments of Europe as they are re-born after the period of democratic hibernation during Nazi-Fascist occupation or control.

U. S. Favors Self Rule

In the first place, there is a powerful, liberal-oriented ground swell to be discerned everywhere if we look for it. It is the belief that, eventually, this force will dominate, which has prompted the American "hands-off" policy. Uncle Sam merely says: "Let the people of the various countries choose the form of government they want. Those who want democracy enough will get it if there is no outside interference."

That is one thing to bear in mind. Another is that this ground swell, as I call it, is the result of many different factors - not merely hunger and discontent or faith and enlightenment; not only inspiration or desperation, but aspiration as well, aspiration toward the natural historical and evolutionary goals of progress which are a part of man's eternal struggle for liberty.

The reaction against Nazi tyranny and the successful resistance to German control in the form of the underground, generated certain forces toward freedom and independence. The underground made its own laws, gave opportunity for the coalescence and strengthening of all democratic movements. It was of the nature of the Germans were driven out that these forces refused to bow to representatives of any regime, no matter how beneficent, if it had about it even the slightest odor of sanctified feudalism.

It is necessary to get this premise firmly fixed in our minds or else fall into the error of writing off every revolutionary movement as "communist," including some certainly no whit less virtuous than our own in 1776.

It is well to study the France of today in this connection, and interesting to note the comment which appeared in the French press at the time of the first revolts in Belgium and later in Greece where Allied support was given the government in power. The "Franc-Tireur," whose name indicates the "underground" flavor of its opinion, explains why, so far, France has had no such internal trouble.

"It has been our great good fortune," it says, "to have a man to protect our honor and prepare the

liberation, who had such character and personality that he is universally accepted, acclaimed and followed by the entire nation as our leading member of the resistance."

The last seven words are the important ones - "as our leading member of the resistance." In other words, De Gaulle was able to lead his fellow countrymen into liberation without chaos because he had the approval of the most active and most militantly democratic elements of the underground.

New Spirit In Greece

Papandreou, premier of Greece during the revolt, with all his virtues, was no De Gaulle in that respect.

I was reliably informed that Papandreou had expressed firm anti-monarchist sentiments, that he is, as he says, a democrat and a socialist, that he had a clear record through the occupation. But what a "but" there is, judged by such standards as I imagine "Franc-Tireur" would hold up - Papandreou was selected by the King with British consent. The motives back of his election may have been honest enough and practical enough from the standpoint of the old order. Here was a man with a good record who, it would seem, could reconcile the royalists and the leftists. But that formula itself violates the very principles of the new order, and when the left-wingers began to feel that the cabinet was monarchist and British-made, they withdrew and their followers refused to give up their weapons.

All armed groups in Greece not absorbed officially by the army were ordered to turn in their arms. The police, of course, did not turn in their arms and they were the same police who had helped the pre-war Metaxas dictatorship, and later the Germans, "keep order." The "sacred battalion," a group composed chiefly of former Greek officers who fought bravely beside the Allies all through the African campaign (and were charged with containing a strong monarchist element) was not disbanded but became a part of the army.

Translate the above into terms of the French attitude and see how impossible acceptance of a Greek government such as that could be to groups thinking as the French resistance groups think.

There is every reason to believe that the leftist movement in Greece and elsewhere in Europe, even where the majority of their leaders may be led by communists (as was not the case in Greece) is actually at heart a drive against tyranny and toward democracy.

Here again it might be wise to examine some of the opinion expressed by Frenchmen now backing the De Gaulle provisional government which is a product of the forces similar to those operating in other liberated countries.

The leading editorial in the December issue of "Free France," that attractive and informative magazine published in New York by the French provisional government, gives the reasons for the change of attitude toward the French communists as follows:

1. The French communist party joined the resistance movement and later gave its allegiance to De Gaulle's national committee.

2. The communists rendered invaluable aid to the resistance movement.

3. The striking collaboration of all French patriots in the underground struggle removed many prejudices, including the suspicion of "communists sans patrie" (a political group with loyalty to no fatherland).

The editors of Free France cautiously state that it is too early to answer the important question: Have the French communists accepted democracy as it is understood by the western democracies? Nevertheless, they note for the record that so far "the communists helped to draw up the National Republic council program of March, 1944, tacitly accepting the democratic principle" and "the abolition of private property is not listed among the immediate demands of the communist party."

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Great Britain has found that true love (even in Greece) doesn't always run smooth.

The appointment of Archibald McLeish as assistant secretary of state was opposed by certain senators and others on the ground that he was a poet. It is well they didn't have to pass on the confirmation of John Hay!

A Nazi district leader told a meeting of women in Nuremberg that they must all make their husbands fight. Make your own comment on this.

It takes more than a cork tip to win a cigarette these days.

Girls have taken up pipe-smoking I hear. Well, winter is here, there is a manpower shortage in the plumbing business and if a woman can smoke a pipe she ought to be able to mend one.

Improved Uniform International LESSON

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lesson for January 7

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THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 2:13-23. GOLDEN TEXT—Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whithersoever thou goest.—Genesis 28:15.

Matthew is the Gospel of the King and His kingdom. It stresses the fulfillment of prophecy in the coming of Christ, the King. After His rejection, it tells us of the Church, "the kingdom in mystery," and of the death of Christ for our sins, His resurrection for our justification, and His glorious coming again.

This then is an important book which we study for the next three months. Teacher and student alike should be enthusiastic and expectant.

The genealogy of the King, and the story of His coming to earth as the babe of Bethlehem (both important matters), are covered in chapter 1. In our lesson we find Him as a little child. Observe how man He received Him, and how God cared for Him. Without assigning definite verses to our points we note that:

1. Men Received or Rejected Jesus. It has always been so. Men, then as now, were either for Him or against Him. The world or today is far different from that of the first century, but the difference is all on the outside. Almost breath-taking have been the developments of modern science, but these have not changed the heart of man. He still fears and hates and fights and sins.

His attitude toward Christ is unchanged. There are still only two classes of people in the world—those who have received Christ and are saved, and those who have rejected Him and are lost.

1. Men Are Against Christ. How do men show their rejection of God's Son? Just as they did at His birth, by:

a. Fear. Herod was afraid lest the coming of this One should result in the loss of his ill-gotten gains. His anger and fear made all Jerusalem afraid.

b. Indifference. When the Wise Men asked where Christ was to be born, the priests and scribes knew exactly where to find the facts in the Holy Scriptures, but having done so, they relapsed into utter indifference. They had no interest in the fulfillment of the prophecy.

c. Hatred. Herod poured out the violence of his heart by killing the first-born. He was the first of many who have raged against the Christ in futile anger.

d. Sorrow. The tears of the mothers of Jerusalem but foreshadowed the weeping and wailing which characterizes Christ-rejection both in time and eternity.

2. Men Are For Christ. Thanks be to God, there were those in that day who were for Christ and, like those who follow Him today, they showed it.

a. Spirituality. Men have marveled that the Magi knew of the birth of Christ. They must have studied the prophecies of the Word and been responsive to the teaching and moving of the Holy Spirit. Can we say as much for ourselves?

b. Interest. Not content to know and to marvel, they shamed the priests of Israel by their persistent interest in this great thing which had come to pass.

c. Love. They brought themselves in worship and they brought rich gifts from their treasures. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

d. Action. They came. They persisted until they found the Christ. Then they listened to God and protected His Son by not returning to Herod.

II. God Protected and Prepared Jesus. The ruin which sin had brought into the world could only be met by redemption which Christ had come to bring. Some men had already shown their hatred for Jesus and their rejection of Him. But God still ruled, and for the sake of those who received Him (and would receive Him in all the centuries since), He kept the Child Jesus from harm. We find Him:

1. Protecting Jesus. Men may hate and seek to destroy God's Son. Satan may inspire them with ingenuity and cunning. But see how the Eternal One spoke to Joseph in dreams, how He prepared a place of refuge in Egypt and ultimately in Nazareth, where the boy Jesus might increase in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man.

2. Preparing Jesus. God knew of the days of public ministry which were ahead, and above all, of that day when on Golgotha's hill Christ was, in His own body, to prepare salvation for you and for me. God is never taken by surprise. He moves forward to the completion of His plan with the stately tread of eternity.

He took Jesus to Egypt. He brought Him again to Nazareth. In it all He was preparing His Son for the days of ministry which were ahead. All this was in fulfillment of prophecy (see vv. 15, 17). God's Word is always sure.

Without Deeds. The one who can boast only of what his ancestors have done is like a potato—the best part is under the ground.

Trouble With Habits. Some people have so much trouble with bad habits that they find it difficult to cultivate good ones.

As We Do, We Are. We grow to be what our daily thought, feeling, and conduct determine.

When the New Year Will Arrive Among U. S. Fighting Men the World Over



Many churches of America, of all denominations, will keep their doors open Sunday and Monday in order that relatives and friends of American fighting men and women throughout the world may offer New Year's prayers at the time their loved ones are welcoming in the New Year, no matter where they will be. These services are in addition to regular watch night services.

When 1945 reaches New York City in a glare of noise or a silence of prayer, it will already be early Monday evening just east of Australia in the Chatham Islands. Meanwhile, at Honolulu the clock will register 6:30 p. m. Sunday. The New Year is born on the lonely Chatham islands, 414 miles southeast of New Zealand, and races westward at 1,000 miles an hour. About 200 shepherds and fishermen, augmented with troops in the Chatham group, will celebrate the New Year by ringing the church bell on Hanson Island. The international date line, near these isles, was set by the British admiralty and runs near the 180th meridian of longitude.

Bells Over the World Will Herald In a New Year of Promised Peace

For Centuries the Old Year Has Died to Tolling Of Bells—With Hope for Better Times.

"Never forget the cheerful and cordial observance of New Year's Day." —George Washington.

Since early ages, the sound of stone, of hollow resonant wood, and of all the metals that came out of the earth, fashioned as a means by which man could make his gods hear him, have also been used to announce peace and the turning point toward better things of life.

The first bells were fashioned by primitive man of wood. Prior to this time the "click stone," sometimes called the first bell, was a resonant stone suspended by a thong



and struck with a stick or another stone to give the ringing effect. The first church bell was erected by Paulinus, bishop of Nola, in the city of Campania, Italy, in about 400 A. D. Early bells were baptized. In Switzerland a curious tradition is that all baptized bells take a trip to Rome every year during Passion weeks and get back in time to be rung on Easter morning.

"All they thunder here are harmless! For these bells have been anointed and baptized with holy water. They defy our utmost power."

The science of music of bells has been recognized in some of the leading music institutions of the world. M. Kamel Lefevre is carillonneur of the Riverside church in New York City where the chief of carillons, by size and scope, were installed. He

has started a movement for the wide development of carillon music, believing they could be made an element in promoting human accord and genuine sympathy among the many racial groups in America. Just when bells were first used to announce the end of the old year and the start of the new is not known. Long before the clock had found its way to the tower, they had been used to announce time, often united with the observance of the canonical hours. By this usage a monastery became timemarket to the neighborhood.

Variety of Uses for Old Greeting Cards

Don't throw away the Christmas and New Year's cards you have received. Almost every church and philanthropic society has a committee which collects greeting cards and sends them to institutions, hospitals and organizations that put your greeting card to good use. If you take the trouble to distribute in some such fashion the greeting cards you have saved, you'll earn the satisfaction of sharing with others the joy the cards brought you.

Meaning of January. The name January was derived from the two-faced god Janus. Janus was originally the god of light and day, but he gradually developed into the god of the beginning of all things.

The beginning of the year was sacred to Janus and a festival in his honor called Agonia was celebrated.

At the beginning of any important undertaking the aid of Janus was sought.

RING OUT, WILD BELLS

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light: The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind For those that here we see no more; Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite; Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease, Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.

—LORD TENNYSON.