

Washington Digest

Specter of Starvation Stalks Liberated Europe

Hunger Already Rampant in Many Nations; Relief Dependent on Sacrifices of United States and Canada.

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The size and shape of the postwar food emergency which the world has been generally anticipating and fearing is now beginning to take shape. As this is written in mid-June, a swelling cry is coming across the Atlantic, "We're hungry. Send us food." In one day's issue of the New York Times there were special dispatches stating:

1. That the liberated European nations were meeting in London to hear the facts of the world food situation from British Food Minister Llewellyn. He had spent three months in Canada and the United States surveying the world picture. It was said that he would inform the delegates of the liberated countries that there is in prospect a world shortage of 2,500,000 tons of meat, 1,000,000 tons of fats and oils and 1,500,000 tons of sugar. A shortage, that is, in terms of what is required to maintain a quite frugal, though fairly health-giving diet.

2. That European nations were being urged to produce to the maximum in order to offset the lack of imports for their winter's food supply.

3. That the new food minister of France (Christian Pinaud) was coming to the United States to urge the American food industry to sell food to France.

4. That the Bavarian food ration was down to the low minimum of 1,150 calories a day (the average American diet contains 3,200 calories).

Need Is Acute In Many Areas

The need for food is acute in many areas throughout the continent of Europe. The people living in German-occupied Holland have been suffering from outright starvation for months. The physical condition of many was so serious immediately following liberation that they were no longer able to digest ordinary foods. The whites of eggs in powdered form were shipped from the United States to provide special treatment for these starvation victims. Britain also shipped to Holland a special food consisting of solutions of predigested proteins, glucose and vitamins.

In Yugoslavia, when UNRRA supplies arrived and were being unloaded from the first shipment, food was so scarce that the women brought brooms and brushes to sweep up the grain that spilled from the sacks of wheat. When cans of beans were distributed to the people, the Yugoslav weighing officials were so careful in measuring out portions that it was common to see a single bean removed from the scales in order to give each person no more than his fair share.

In May, the office of foreign agricultural relations of the United States department of agriculture reported that this year's output of food in Europe will be the smallest since the beginning of the war. It may be as much as 10 per cent under the 1944 production. As the war has come along, machinery is worn out. Factories have been kept out of most of Europe by the lack of transportation and the shortage of materials.

Manpower has become scarcer. In the final agonies of the conflict, farm animals were slaughtered or stolen by the retreating Nazis. Hence, the production of the continent will reach the low point of this winter in the current crop year.

Sharpening the difficulties is the breakdown of internal transportation to move what food is produced from the countryside into the cities and towns. In the final phases of the war the Nazis systematically destroyed railroads and rolling stock behind them as they retreated; the Allied air forces systematically blew bridges and burst locomotives. The result is that in Greece, for example, there were for months no railway lines operating. Even now, when some of the tracks and bridges are repaired, there are less than 20 locomotives and less than 500 good cars in the country. More are being rushed there, but the railway transport will be far below even the wartime normal. The highway service has disintegrated and the bridges are

blown. Trucks are so scarce that they are number one priority in the relief schedules of UNRRA and of the countries which pay for their own imports.

An UNRRA worker in Yugoslavia reported that he saw girls 12 and 15 years old carrying hundred pound sacks of grain on their backs for five kilometres. In Greece, women and children hitched themselves to carts of supplies and hauled them over mountain roads that were so full of bomb craters that trucks could not travel them.

100 Million People Hungry on Continent

In the face of this situation, it is evident that, as Colonel Llewellyn told the British House of Commons on June 13, "There are a hundred million hungry people in Europe today." Hope for relieving hunger is in imports this summer and next winter. Will the imports be forthcoming from the world outside?

The best answer that can be given at present seems to be "not in the volume desired." To provide enough food to bring the populations of liberated Europe and the Far East up to the prewar level — or even to a rather low minimum level for full health and strength — would bring the civilian food supplies in the major nations down considerably from their present level. The British ration has already been reduced in a number of items — and it was a tight ration before the reduction. Australia has cut down butter and meat rations still further within the last 90 days.

A good part of the answer to the plea of hungry Europe and the Far East depends on how much sacrifice the civilians in the United States and Canada are willing to undergo. President Truman, in issuing the report of Judge Samuel Rosenman on relief needs in western Europe, pointed out that the American people need to understand the dire plight of the people in these Allied countries in order to be prepared to accept continued control on our consumption here. The coming months will give the answer to the extent and severity of controls that are imposed.

Food—Not Money—Remains Scarce

Relief for liberated countries is not a matter of financing. The countries of western Europe have their own financial resources and are seeking in vain to buy — particularly such items as canned meats, dairy products, fats and oils and sugar. The liberated countries of eastern Europe which do not have the foreign exchange resources to pay cash for their supplies are receiving them from the uninvaded United Nations through UNRRA. UNRRA has financial resources contributed by the uninvaded nations. The trouble is that supplies are not forthcoming in the scarce food lines at a desirable rate.

Incidentally, the director general of UNRRA, in a somewhat justified didactic vein, has lately pounded home in his public utterances the fact that if UNRRA fails to provide supplies, it is not because of UNRRA's shortcomings, but because the member nations do not come through with the supplies.

"UNRRA," Director General Lehman says, "is not a superstate with resources and powers of its own. Far from it. It is the servant of the governments which created it."

There is one bright spot amid the encircling gloom of the food situation. This is the fact that the world has plentiful supplies of wheat. This member of the bread grains has been produced in bumper quantities for several years in succession by the farmers in the U. S. and Canada. The crops have been average in other exporting countries. The result is that wheat is not even under allocation and the full amount needed for a normal diet can be supplied to the people of liberated Europe. But man doesn't live by bread alone. For health and vigor, you and I and everyone need some fats and proteins in our diets. Will we be willing to cut down on our—by the standards of Europe—rather lavish consumption of these things so that our liberated Allies can come through the next winter with a minimum loss of health and strength?

Allied Hero Returns to a Grateful Country



General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower is shown in upper circle as he was welcomed home by his wife. To his right is his father, David, and his mother is to his left. Lower left shows the hero and his bride in 1915, shortly after he married Mamie Doud of Denver. Lower center shows him as he finished his training at West Point. Lower right shows the Eisenhower family taken in 1902 at their home in Abilene.

Blind Vets Learn to Play and Work Again



At the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, navy men and marines who lost their sight in the service of their country are engaged in a baseball game, as shown in the upper photo. They follow the movement of the oversize ball by sound. Lower, from left to right, archery, radio repairing and bowling.

Market Lamb Show Pen Winner



Award for best pen of three at the Chicago Junior Market Lamb show went to Sherwood Stouffer's beauties of Mount Morris, Ill. Entries were received from every state in the Midwest. Young Stouffer, who is 17, was awarded second prize for his pen of five lambs at last year's show. The prizes are a trophy and cash award.

G.I.s Drive Strike-Bound Trucks



Soldiers took over the job of driving trucks in Chicago as members of the truck drivers' union walked out. Thousands of soldiers were shipped to Chicago to keep essential trucks moving, carrying food and war supplies. Photo shows the M.P.s assisting an army driver into the cabin of one of the trucks loaded ready for delivery.

Twin Brothers Meet



Sgt. Granville J. P. (left) and Cpl. Martial Harris, twin brothers, are shown when they met for the first time since babyhood days. They were separated by death of both parents and did not learn of each other until the army located them and brought them together.

Youngest U. S. Citizen



Charles Franklin Cohen becomes the youngest person to be sworn in as a citizen in the United States. His father, Sgt. Max Cohen, is in the Canadian army.



NEW WHITE HOUSE TEMPO

Harry Truman has now been President of the United States for a little over two months—two of the most historic months in the nation's history. These two months are sufficient to get a fairly accurate gauge of how the new President will function for the rest of his term.

On the surface there is a new atmosphere in the White House when you walk into it these days. If, for instance, you drop in on White House Secretary Charlie Ross, he is cordial, courteous, but brief. There is no invitation or inclination to sit down and gossip. This business-like atmosphere prevails throughout the entire White House staff.

If you go on in to see Ross's boss, you get in on time. There are few waits. And the little man on the other side of the big, broad, shiny desk listens intently. He wants to hear what his visitors have to say. These are two definite innovations.

Truman gives the impression of having a firm grasp on all domestic problems. He knows them thoroughly—undoubtedly better than Franklin Roosevelt during his latter years, when he was devoting all his time to the war.

One of Truman's frequent replies to callers when they urge sanction on some special idea is:

"I realize that. But it takes time to do all these things, and seldom have so many important things confronted us all at one time. I'll get around to that just-as soon as I can."

One thing that worries him most is our foreign affairs. The new President frankly realizes it is his main weakness. He does not have Roosevelt's international background, therefore has to rely almost wholly on his diplomats.

Truman's method of running the government is that of picking good men and giving them free rein. This is a good system, and we could have had more of it in the past. But it breaks down when the President is not sure he can rely on the men picked to perform the most important job we now face — building up the peace after the war. Truman told Stettinius, for instance, that he was to be his own boss at San Francisco. But he found that Stettinius called him on the phone once or twice a day to get his approval of almost every decision.

Unlike Roosevelt, Truman does not hesitate to fire a man who doesn't produce. He let Leonard Reisch go back to his radio job in Atlanta the day after he handled himself badly in a press conference. He transferred Edward D. McKim, his administrative assistant, after it became known that the genial and likeable McKim seemed too engrossed in Mrs. "Hope Diamond" McLean's dinner parties and the social whirl of Washington.

MacARTHUR ONCE FIRED EISENHOWER

Sometimes it is from quirks of fate or personal jealousies that heroes are born.

Old army friends of General Eisenhower couldn't help but remember this as they gathered to pay him tribute.

For, it had not been for a personal row with General MacArthur in the Philippines, Eisenhower probably would be in a Jap prison camp today instead of receiving the plaudits of millions.

When MacArthur retired as chief of staff and began the reorganization of the new-Philippine army, he took with him to Manila one of the bright, up-and-coming men of the army, Col. Dwight Eisenhower. But, after some time in the Philippines, things didn't go well, and MacArthur fired him. Eisenhower went back to the U.S.A. to climb to fame and the top command of the American army.

If he had remained with MacArthur, he probably would now be with Gen. "Skinny" Wainwright and the 16 other American generals taken prisoner by the Japs.

BASEBALL AND UNITED NATIONS

In San Francisco, a delegation of Philadelphians called on Australia's External Affairs Minister Herbert Evatt to ask that the city of brotherly love founded by William Penn become the seat of the United Nations in the future.

Dr. Evatt listened carefully. Then he replied:

"I can't vote for Philadelphia until the Phillies get out of the cellar. I'm afraid it would give the United Nations a defeatist attitude if both Philadelphia baseball teams were at the bottom of their leagues."

CAPITAL CHAFF

New Hampshire's one-time isolationist Senator Tobey has got religion. He is so anxious to avoid another war that he has become one of the most ardent advocates of international co-operation. Tobey even blasted (indirectly) his old friend and colleague, ex-Senator Danaher of Connecticut, who, while an executive of the Republican national committee, used his position as ex-senator to go on the senate floor and lobby against the reciprocal trade agreements act.

New Uses for an Old Fashioned Knife Box

THESE old fashioned knife boxes are popular as a quaint touch for serving food or drinks or to fill with plants or cut flowers. They are useful for sewing, knitting or reading matter too. And here is good news—you don't have to rummage in antique shops to find one. It may be made right at home without any complicated



CARRY YOUR WORK OR READING FROM PLACE TO PLACE OR USE FOR SERVING HOT BEANS, FRUIT OR DRINKS.

THE ACTUAL SIZE PATTERN GIVES YOU COMPLETE DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING THE KNIFE BOX WITH OR WITHOUT THE ATTACHED STAND WHICH HAS TWO PULL-OUT LEAVES. TOTAL HEIGHT 22"

tools. Even the little stand with handy pull-out leaves is of such simple construction that it can be made by any amateur. It may be attached to the knife box and carried right along with it.

It is fun to cut these pieces out of good clear pine or maple. The joinings are of the simplest type made with quick-drying plastic glue which gives the modern wood-working enthusiast an advantage over the long-drawn-out methods used in grandfather's day.

NOTE—Pattern 281 gives actual-size patterns for all parts of the knife box and for the sides of the stand. Illustrated assembly directions, a complete list of materials and directions for an antique finish for both pieces are included. To get Pattern 281, send 15 cents with name and address direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills New York
Drawer 16
Enclose 15 cents for Pattern No. 281.
Name _____
Address _____

Mount Plasma

Mount Plasma is a volcanic mountain on Iwo Jima, formerly called Mount Suribachi. So much plasma was used on the slopes of this mountain that after Old Glory was hoisted to its top, our Leathernecks rechristened the place Mount Plasma.

Your Baby May Have Good Reason to Cry

After a night of lost sleep, it is hard to be patient with baby; but maybe poor baby suffered from stings and burns of diaper rash. Sprinkle on Mezman, the soothing, medicated powder—relieve this misery. Family favorite for itchy of minor skin troubles. Demand Mezman.

A Dab a Day keeps P.O.* away!

(*Underarm Perspiration Odor)



YODORA DEODORANT CREAM

—Isn't stiff or sticky! Soft—it spreads like face cream.

—is actually soothing! Use right after shaving—will not irritate.

—has light, pleasant scent. No sticky smell to cling to fingers or clothing.

—will not spoil delicate fabrics.

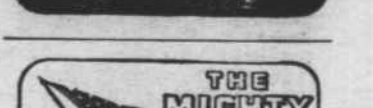
Yet tests in the tropics—made by nurses—prove that Yodora protects under trying conditions. In tubes or jars, 10c, 25c, 60c.

McCusson & Robbins, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

STRAINS, SORENESS CUTS, BURNS

A favorite household antiseptic dressing and balsam for 83 years—Balfam of Myrrh! It contains soothing gums to relieve the soreness and ache of over-used and strained muscles. Takes the sting and itch out of burns, scalds, insect bites, oak and ivy poisoning, wind and sun burns, chafing and chapped skin. Its antiseptic action lessens the danger of infection whenever the skin is cut or broken.

Keep a bottle handy for the minor casualties of kitchen and nursery. At your drugstore—trial size bottle 25c. Household size 60c, economy size 125c. B. C. HANFORD MFG. CO., Syracuse, N. Y. Sole makers of



THE MIGHTY



WAR LOAN

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The Dome! (official news agency) broadcasting station in Tokyo reported transmitter trouble. Static or B-3s?

Importers of French lace ordered and paid for before the occupation of France will be assisted in locating it by the foreign economic administration. The firms will help pay for the necessities.

Slide fasteners, hooks and eyes, buckles and other closure items will soon reappear and then we'll be all fenced in again.

A large increase in the production of bicycles in the third quarter of 1945 is doubtful, according to the WPB. So you will have to use your pedal extremities and not your pedals for a little longer.