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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

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

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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.



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

EUROPE:

New Front

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

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

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

The twin offensive in Yugoslavia doubly imperilled the harried legions of Adolf Hitler. First, the U. S., British and Russian drives promised to link the Allied armies for a concerted attack against southern Austria and Hungary, and, also to outflank the Nazis manning the Gothic line in Italy to the west; and second, an Allied junction would cut off an estimated 250,000 enemy troops remaining in lower Yugoslavia, Greece and the Aegean islands.

Stiffen at Border

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

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

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

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

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

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

Costly Fighting

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

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

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

CIVILIAN GOODS:

Postwar Formula

Manufacture of civilian goods will begin in earnest with the fall of Germany, with war output due to drop about 40 per cent, and 4,000,000 workers freed for other jobs, the War Production board revealed.

At the present time, a limited re-conversion program has been instituted, with emphasis placed upon preparation for the eventual resumption of civilian production.

Because of the U. S.'s record-breaking production of 79,350,000 tons, world steel output rose to 146,500,000 tons in 1943. While production increased here, it dropped from 23,000,000 to 20,000,000 tons in Germany and from 18,000,000 to 12,000,000 tons in Russia.

Under current regulations, manufacturers are permitted to develop working postwar models and order machinery for civilian output.

In allowing those manufacturers not engaged in war work to start turning out civilian lines after the Nazis' downfall, the WPB will maintain priorities for military production alone and will relax most of its controls-over materials. Furthermore, it will provide assistance for manufacturers in switching over to civilian work.

DEMOBILIZATION:

Discharge Plans

Total length of service, time served overseas, combat record and dependency will govern the demobilization of soldiers following the defeat of Germany, the army announced.

Under the army's plans for releasing surplus men, each of the first four mentioned factors will be worth a certain number of points, with release going to doughboys with the highest ratings. However, it was pointed out, men with qualifications needed for the war in the Pacific will be transferred to the Far East regardless of their status.

Because the war in the Pacific will receive first call on shipping, it may take many months for men eligible for demobilization to return to this country, the army said. Since men in camps here are expected to have the lowest priority ratings, they will constitute the principal pool for replacements.

Since the U. S.'s full seapower will be needed in the all-out war against Japan, there will be no demobilization of the navy when Germany falls.

Future Army

Declaring that "... a large standing army has no place among the institutions of a modern democratic state," Gen. George C. Marshall told officers planning the postwar military organization to work on a small, efficient force with a reserve of well-trained citizens.

In issuing his directive, General Marshall assumed that congress would pass legislation requiring every able-bodied American youth to undergo training before placement in the reserves.

By advocating a small, efficient force with a large pool of reservists, General Marshall said that there was more opportunity for advancement in such an organization than there was in a big standing army, where the size made it necessary to maintain a large, professional officers' cast at all times.



Gen. Marshall

PACIFIC:

Tougher Going

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

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

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

CANNED FOODS:

Remove Rationing

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

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

Charts Quake



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

CATTLE:

War Prices

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

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

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

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

FURLOUGHS:

Shipping Factor

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

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

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



Man About Town:

Eric Johnston, Chamber of Commerce chief, has been cracked down by his superiors over the Russian boosts. They feel he was too pro. As of today, no postwar trade agreements between U. S. industry and Russia have been set up. One of the biggest shipping deals, however, is being readied without their help. . . . Paul McNutt's receptionist at the WPB has become the hottest model on the Conover list. She is Ann Bell. . . . The newsprint shortage may be over by mid-December. Wood pulp is waiting for shipment from Scandinavian ports. . . . Pals of Steve Early hear that his sinus agony (caused by Washington's climate) may force him to quit against his wishes.

Faulette Goddard and her groom, Buz Meredith, have asked the FBI to probe the poison-pen writers who have landed divorce rumors in various columns. . . . The reason the planned new mag Pageant has been held up is that it planned to ape Coronet and then decided not to. After spending a mint, too. . . . Overheard at the White House: "Clare Luce is the Almee Semple McPherson of the Stork Club." . . . John Edgar Hoover was so ill recently he thought he would die.

"Going My Way" will gross 8 million. Producer Leo McCarey will get about two million dollars for his bit. . . . Sec'y of War Stimson is mending now. He went to the Adirondacks recently where a nurse remained in attendance. . . . Jesse Jones, whose condition worried pals, is better.

Notes of a Newspaper Man:

Damon Runyon and a New York newspaper apparently disagree on the hobby of some Americans who enjoy telling quips on well-knowns. . . . Mr. Runyon, in his column, complained: "It is always bad taste for people to sit around and make odious remarks about any national leaders of respectability and integrity." . . . The same morning a respectable New York newspaper featured a report (in a box) quoting a Washington columnist. . . . The story dealt with the argument: "Who Was the Strongest President?" . . . One arguer said Lincoln—because he split rails. Another said Washington—because he tossed a dollar across the Potomac. But FDR was declared the strongest. "He threw the U. S. Treasury across both oceans!"

Now that is a pretty good gag. But it is also pretty stale, too. . . . It was used often during the second campaign of Woodrow Wilson in the war debt issue. . . . The quips and barbs about Mrs. Roosevelt are still being swapped by anti-4th Termers, and the President is often the butt of devastating jokes. . . . We do not recall hearing that they complained. . . . Mr. Runyon probably will admit that it isn't so bad to tell a joke as it is to elect one.

Governor Dewey isn't immune from the jokemiths these days. . . . The current quip has him suffering from fierce insomnia which "keeps him up all night pacing up and down under his bed!" . . . The New Dealers go into spasms over that one. But it was funnier 20 years ago when Al Jolson told it after an overnight trip from Boston. . . . "I didn't sleep a wink," he groaned. "One of Singer's Midgets drank some coffee and paced up and down his upper berth!"

Col. Carlos Romulo, who helped MacArthur and Quezon escape to Australia, didn't know that persons addressing Congress must not do so in uniform. He has been in his army uniform for years. . . . An hour before he spoke in the House the other day Romulo was informed that he must wear civvies for the event. . . . His staff hastily borrowed civilian apparel. . . . On the way to the Capitol he realized he was wearing his army sox. . . . He paled. . . . "I am wearing the wrong sox!" he exclaimed. "Oh my goodness, wot'll I do?" . . . His Girl Friday solved matters right there on the Capitol steps. . . . He wore her bobby sox!

A New Yorker just back from Argentina alleges that the majority of the people there are not anti-U. S. or pro-Nazi. . . . Most of the people, said our informant, do not even take the government leaders seriously and openly quip: "If I thought my son would ever grow up to be President of Argentina, I'd have sent him to school!"

Have You Any Ideas for 'Secret Weapons'? Inventors' Council Wants To Know Them

Many War Machines Were Developed by Civilian Amateurs

Want to help finish winning the war?

Well, just settle down some night in that favorite easy chair, light up the old pipe, take out pencil and paper and figure out an easy way of generating an artificial fog—one that can be laid just where you want it and really do the business.

Sounds simple, doesn't it? But the army would give a great deal for a practical solution to the problem of covering advancing troops this way. It can be done. A number of methods have been tried out; but most of the equipment is too big and cumbersome for effective action at the front. The army is still looking for a simple, effective way of providing this cover.

And while it is looking for a way to create an artificial fog, it is also on the alert for any new methods of dispelling such a fog laid down by the enemy. Here, too, a number of methods have been suggested, some have been tried with a degree of success; but the problem hasn't yet been really licked.

This is where the National Inventors' council comes in. It was set up within the framework of the department of commerce in 1940 to serve as a clearing house for just such ideas that military men might find valuable. Headed by Charles F. Kettering, a past president of the society of Automotive Engineers, and composed of the nation's leading scientists and engineers, it serves as a funnel between the American ingenuity of the man in the street and the proper military authorities.

The council is dedicated to the principle, widely accepted both within government and outside, that all modern warfare is largely a battle of inventive ideas. The heavily gunned and armored tank, the superbomber, the aircraft carrier and the robot bomb—all have been responsible for major changes in strategy as well as tactics in the battles of this war.

Civilian Contributions

Another thing the council keeps firmly in mind is the fact that many of the weapons of modern war, or the key principles which go into them, were the product of the civilian mind—the submarine, the torpedo, the motor driven airplane, the internal combustion engine.

Naturally, most of the major improvements on the weapons of war come from expert technicians or outstanding engineers, thoroughly familiar with the particular field in which they lie. But many of the 200,000 ideas or inventions that have been submitted to the council since its inception have come from the rank and file of the people.

From farmers, teachers, factory workers, business men, youngsters in school, and even a few women, have come suggestions that have proved of considerable assistance to



The army is still looking for a simple method of generating artificial fog to cover advancing troops.

the armed forces. And these inventive suggestions follow a definite pattern in volume with each new phase of the war or introduction of new weapons by the enemy.

For example, when the submarine menace was at its height, the council was receiving an average of 100 letters a day describing how torpedo nets could be used to keep the "tin-fish" from blasting the sides of merchant ships. Now that the submarine menace has been licked, such suggestions are rare. Right now, suggestions for combatting the robot bombs are on the upswing;



Can tanks be equipped with explosive-absorbing rollers to lessen the effectiveness of minefields?

but none as yet has furnished the complete solution.

When the soldiers and marines first began landing on Pacific beaches in the face of heavy enemy fire there were scores of suggestions that infantrymen be equipped with shields. This idea had to be discarded, the council says, because the weight of such a shield, if it were to prove capable of stopping a military projectile, would be too great for a fully-equipped infantryman to handle.

Ideas from Soldiers. Some of the suggestions, too, come from men at the fighting fronts and in army camps. A lieutenant-colonel on duty in Italy wrote in with an idea for equipping tanks to blow up enemy mines without danger to the tank-crew. His suggestion was equipping a heavy tank with a gigantic explosive absorbing roller, to be pushed ahead of the vehicle as it waded through the mine field.

An army sergeant, Lauren N. Elkins Jr., figured out an improved design for a field kitchen, tested it himself on maneuvers, found out it worked and submitted his idea to the council. Within 24 hours it had won acceptance of the army quartermaster corps and test models were constructed. Along with the new type field kitchen, Sergeant Elkins submitted an idea for a shipping case for the kitchen, which broke down into two benches and a table.

Another invention which has saved scores of lives is a simple signaling mirror which can be directed straight into the eyes of pilots searching for crews of sunken ships or airmen down at sea. This mirror, cheap, light and easy to construct has been known to send a shaft of sunlight into the eyes of a pilot up to 10 miles away 36 times in a single minute. And there is no trick to focusing it.

Value of Milkweed Floss

From the floss of the common milkweed, the researches of a civilian scientist filled one of the most pressing of military needs at the outset of the war. Supplies of kapok, used in the heavy jackets of high altitude fliers and in life belts, had been shut off by the advancing Japanese. This scientist showed that milkweed floss could do the job better and that it could be used, too, for insulating and soundproofing.

Many of the ideas adopted, the council's records show, have served to speed up quick repairs in the field, to get planes and guns back into the battlelines faster than they could have been readied previously.

But not all of the inventive and mechanical problems of the armed forces have been solved. Many new ideas still are urgently needed, even in fields where considerable improvements have been made since the start of the war.

For example, there is a crying need for some means of controlling fires in tanks until the personnel have had time to evacuate. At present, the council's records show that carbon dioxide under pressure in a small metal container is being used with some success. But the carbon dioxide treatment doesn't serve to prevent the live oxygen-carrying ammunition from exploding within the tank as the fire soars past the burning point of TNT. An improvement over this method would be widely welcomed if adapted to the peculiar needs of the tank, where interior space is so limited.

Tanks Need Improvements

The cramped quarters of the present-day tank make it a fertile field for improvements. The operator's vision is extremely limited when the tank is "buttoned-up" for battle. He can see only ahead. Performance of gyroscopic compasses and other instruments on the control panel could be stepped up. Improvements already have been made, through

ideas submitted to the council, in methods of ventilating the tanks to reduce the extreme heat under which its crew must operate. At present a roof-suspended unit that takes in air through a bullet-proof enclosure is in use in many types. But the field for improving the comfort and fighting ability of the men who man the tanks has by no means been exhausted.

Another invention the council would like to put its hands on is a voice-transmitting gas mask which would permit its wearer's voice to be heard clearly. At present the new type masks are using a flexible diaphragm. Others combine the features of a lip microphone and a portable transmitter. But the field is still wide-open for improvement.

Keenly needed, too, as a protection to fliers, is a means of inflating carbon dioxide life rafts more speedily at high altitudes. Fliers forced to bail out in cold North Atlantic areas at 30,000 feet find that their carbon dioxide supply has been burned to dry ice by temperatures ranging as low as 60 below. In the rapid parachute descent, the carbon dioxide doesn't have time to resume its gaseous state and shock of the icy water, if the life raft isn't immediately available, is often fatal in far northern latitudes.

Range finders, too, are important factors in directing artillery fire at enemy positions. Delicate optical instruments, they are subjected to hard usage in the field and reflect sudden temperature changes. A method of providing more sturdy construction and at the same time reducing the width without reducing the accuracy of operation is a real need. Right now, the council is particularly interested in homely ideas that might aid in destroying or removing obstacles to landing op-



This signalling mirror can be directed into the eyes of pilots who are searching for crews of sunken ships or airmen down at sea.

erations that have proved so costly in lives in the far Pacific and on the beaches in Normandy. A simple idea from a mechanic or a farmer might develop a technique that would preserve the lives of the men who must go out ahead of the main landing parties and clear the way.

Japs Clever, Too

The council cited the report from Saipan that men, clad only in bathing suits and armed with rifles and detonating charges, had to swim to the obstacles off shore and blast them individually from the path of the oncoming troops.

The Japanese, too, have shown themselves ingenious in adapting simple decoy devices to battle-front use in attempting to confuse or mislead attacking forces.

One Japanese sniper had rigged up an over-sized "puppet show" to harass American landing forces. He concealed six dummies in trees surrounding his position and attached them to his own station with ropes. When his shots attracted American fire in his direction, he would jerk the cord, let one of the dummies fall from a tree. Each time the American troops were confident they had eliminated his sniping post. Then he'd wait his chance and open fire again.

Some ideas along that line, developed by Yankee ingenuity from close experience from hunting and fishing, from work around farm machinery, or from bench and lathe, the council believes, might go a long way in saving the lives of our fighting men and give them opportunity to develop tactics of surprise that could come in handy in many a close encounter.

The American people have responded tremendously to the need for wartime inventions of all sorts and character, the council believes, but there are still hundreds of ways in which American "know-how" can be applied to the problems of a mechanized war.