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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazi Defenses Crack in West; Batter Japs' Industrial Belt; OPA to Tighten Price Control

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



Waving white flag, German troops surrender to doughboys on Aachen front during Allied offensive.

PACIFIC: Hit Jap Fleet

As U. S. troops punched forward on Leyte island in the Philippines, with a driving rainstorm slapping them in the face, huge B-29 superfortresses blasted the great industrial district in Tokyo feeding enemy armies all along the far-flung Pacific front.

Flying from newly established bases in the recently conquered Marianas, 1,500 miles to the southeast, the B-29s took the first crack at Tokyo since Lieutenant General Doolittle's carrier-based medium bombers raided the Japanese capital in the spring of 1942. Successful development of the B-29 attacks would imperil the major portion of enemy industry, concentrated in the Tokyo district.

Speaking of the operation, U. S. air chief, General H. H. Arnold, declared: "The battle for Japan has been joined . . . (it) will be carried on relentlessly . . . until the day of land-sea invasion . . ."

Although enemy resistance on Leyte continued stiff, U. S. forces continued their encircling advances, with General MacArthur stating that our superior artillery and infantry firepower was cutting deeply into Japanese strength, which had been feverishly reinforced in an effort to hold up the Yank drive.

As a result of persistent U. S. attacks, the enemy has been unable to concentrate his forces on Leyte for counter-attacks, General MacArthur said, rather being compelled to throw in his troops here and there in an effort to check the U. S. offensive.

STABILIZATION: To Hold Prices, Wages

With living costs already estimated at 30 per cent above January, 1941, levels, OPA Administrator Chester Bowles moved to check recent small price increases, especially in clothing and textiles.

Vigorous action to halt further advances was seen as part of the government's indicated policy of retaining the disputed "Little Steel" wage formula, under which pay boosts have been kept within 15 per cent of January, 1941, levels.

Because of the permissible 15 per cent wage raises, plus large overtime earnings, it has been felt that workers' weekly incomes have balanced price increases. But with further rises in living costs threatening that balance, the government was expected to press hard to maintain present price levels.

Although the National War Labor board's recent findings that living costs have gone up 30 per cent since January, 1941, was expected to bolster the CIO and AFL's campaign for wage increases over the 15 per cent limit of the "Little Steel" formula, the government has shown no inclination to give in to their demands.

On the other hand, it has been suggested, with the President's favor, that as long as overtime earnings are being paid, current wage rates be retained. With a trim-off to the 40-hour week, however, it has been proposed that wages be boosted to allow workers to "take home" the same average income as they now do.

Under such a plan, workers would get about a 30 per cent raise in pay, thus assuring a continued high purchasing power with a resultant stimulation of employment.

As part of its program to maintain the present cost level, OPA was expected to take a firmer stand on manufacturers' requests for higher prices.

MEAT: 1945 Prospects

More veal, about the same amount of beef, but 15 per cent less pork—that's the meat prospect for 1945, the War Food administration revealed.

The continued stringency in beef will continue because 31 per cent of the supply will go to the armed forces, it was said.

Increased supplies of better grade beef were in prospect for domestic consumers, with reports that midwestern farmers were aggressive buyers of stockers for fattening, what with feed stocks at high levels. Much of the beef on sale this year was of the utility type coming from grass-fed range cattle.

Meanwhile, cattle slaughter remained heavy during October, with an all-time record of 1,450,572 animals put on the block, along with 919,599 calves. The total of 4,223,210 hogs butchered was 1 per cent below the 5 year average.

Farm Income

U. S. farm income has continued its rise in 1944, with the department of agriculture now figuring that the total return for the year will run to over 20½ billion dollars for the nation's 6,000,000 operators.

The USDA's estimates were based on cash marketing and government benefit income of 14½ billion dollars for the first nine months of this year, a little less than a billion dollars more than for the corresponding period in 1943.

Combined with steady debt reduction, wise utilization of the farm plant without undue expansion and the accumulation of large liquid resources, the continued high income further strengthened the farmers' position for the uncertain postwar period.

Thieving Craze

Latest of the wartime juvenile problems to plague authorities was a shoplifting spree among teen-aged "bobbysock" girls in Portland, Ore.

Carried on by girls stealing for personal use rather than resale, the spree reached alarming proportions, with losses so heavy in one big department store that auditors first thought there must have been a bookkeeping error in the amount of merchandise originally listed.

One 12-year-old was caught with \$150 worth of sweaters, beads and bracelets. A 17-year-old said she had stolen \$700 worth of goods in seven months for her sailor sweetheart.

Sobbed one tearful culprit: "I guess it is stealing, only I didn't think of it that way. It was an adventure sort of. The other girls were doing it."

CHINA: Japs' Progress

Even as Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek shook up his government to revitalize the Chinese war effort, and Donald Nelson arrived in Chungking with a group of steel and alcohol experts to build up war production, the Japanese tightened their hold on the whole eastern coastal section of the country.

Object of the Japanese drive, which covered 750 miles in six months, was to eliminate the bases of the 14th American air force, whose planes had harried enemy ground forces, shot up communications and ranged a-sea to blast coastal shipping.

The shift in Chiang's government followed the row over giving Gen. Joe Stilwell command of Chinese forces to stimulate their prosecution of the war after it was hinted that the Generalissimo was using much of the army for the preservation of his own political party against the encroachment of the Communists.

Nelson's return to Chungking followed a previous visit during which studies were undertaken as to what kind of industrial development would fit into Allied aid to help the Chinese war effort.

SAVINGS: Well Heeled

What with total savings estimated at \$100,000,000,000, Americans should find themselves able to meet a short period of adversity in the postwar world.

Of the huge amount of savings, \$36,885,900,000 are in war bonds, it was revealed. About 51,900,000 people, or 80 per cent of the population, held these securities in comparison with about 25 per cent in World War I.

Next to war bonds, bank and postal savings deposits constitute the largest source of savings at over \$36,000,000,000. Of this amount, over \$34,000,000,000 were in bank deposits held by about 33 per cent of the people.

Life insurance forms the third largest source of savings, what with 50 per cent of the people paying in over \$33,000,000,000 on their policies, it was revealed.



Musicians Are the Funniest People:

Adelina Patti asked \$100,000 for a certain three-month tour. "But," objected an impresario, "that's more than the President gets!" "Well," shrugged the diva, "then get the President." . . . Liszt was a character who wore the same kind of clothes whether the weather was rainy or fair. . . . "I never," he declared, "take notice of that which takes no notice of me." . . . Handel composed so fast, they say, that the ink on the top of the page of his manuscript had not dried by the time he reached the bottom. . . . Another gag of the day: "Do you like Brahms?" . . . "I don't know. What are they?" . . . "After Strauss—what?" an English journalist once queried. "For one thing," music oracle Leonard Leibling noted, "the critics."

A journalist objected to the 7 a. m. piano playing in the room next to his in a Milan hotel. "Do you always allow that?" he asked. . . . "Not as a rule," they told him, "but we make an exception with Mr. Verdi." . . . It was the late Alexander Woolcott who deflated a famous soprano boasting of her execution of an aria she described as "difficult." . . . "Difficult!" groaned Woolcott. "I wish it had been impossible!" . . . At a Peabody concert President Grant once observed: "I know only two tunes. One is 'Yankee Doodle' and the other isn't."

When Rossini heard Wagner's "Lohengrin" for the first time, he said: "One cannot judge a work upon a single hearing—and I have no intention of hearing this a second time." . . . A German critic once wrote that "Wagner was a good musician, but he left behind the Wagnerites, which was most unkind of him." . . . "In order to compose," said Schumann, "it is just enough to remember a tune which nobody else has thought of." . . . When Albert Spaulding toured through the West one winter, he told a theater manager that his violin was 200 years old. . . . "Don't say anything about it," replied the impresario, "and maybe the audience won't know the difference."

Paderewski, when still quite unknown, went to London armed with letters of introduction to influential Britishers. "Dear Prince," one said, "the bearer, Ignace Paderewski, is a fiery young Pole and rather charming when he doesn't play the piano, for which he has little talent." . . . Paderewski, unless a press agent of the day is fooling us, once accosted a polo player with the question: "What is the difference between us?" The other shrugged. "You," grinned Ignace, "are a good soul who plays polo. I am a good Pole who plays solo." . . . Grunfeld was caught by the father of one of his pupils kissing the girl. "Is this," stormed the parent, "what I am paying for?" . . . "No," replied the famous tutor, "I do this free."

A young man approached Mozart and asked him how to write a symphony. "You're a very young fellow," the composer told him, "why not begin with a ballad?" . . . "But," pointed the youth, "you composed symphonies when you were ten." . . . "Yes," smiled Mozart, "but I didn't ask how." . . . Dr. Samuel Johnson admitted once he did not care for music. "But of all noises," he added, "I think music is the least disagreeable." . . . A young lady auditioned on the piano for Rubinstein. "What," she asked him at the end of the selection, "should I do now?" Snapped Rubinstein: "Get married!"

Chopin, whose life Columbia brings to the screen in "A Song to Remember," could give more than the piano "the finger." He was a dinner guest in a Parisian home one night and, after the meal, was asked by the hostess to play some of his compositions. "But, madame," said Chopin, "I have eaten so little!" . . . He once cracked to Liszt: "I prefer not to play in public; it unnerves me. You, if you cannot charm the audience, can at least astonish them." . . . When DePachman mislaid his false teeth someone appropriately observed: "His Bach is better than his bite." . . . To a young pianist, Nellie Melba remarked: "You have talent, presence, charm. All you need now to make a success is a nice hot scandal."

When War Came to the United States

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

IT WAS on a Sunday morning three years ago that war came again to the United States.

The story of that "day of infamy," when Japan made her sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, is too fresh in the minds of all Americans to need retelling here. But how many of us know of those other tragic days when were made the fateful decisions which meant that more American lives were to be sacrificed on the altar of Mars?

This article is a page from the past which tells how war came to America in other years before 1941.

The first war which we, as a nation, waged was an "undeclared war," that is to say, there was never any formal declaration of war. As a matter of fact, we weren't even a nation when it started.

The American Revolution began as a rebellion—the revolt of the English colonies in America against their mother country, England. It continued as a rebellion and as a civil war—Patriots against the Loyalists and the regularly constituted authorities—for nearly a year before we became a nation. For the United States of America did not come into existence until July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In the meantime there had been fighting and bloodshed—at Lexington on April 19, 1775; at Concord, where was "fired the shot heard 'round the world,'" on the same day; at Bunker Hill on June 17 and at Quebec in December. For six years this "undeclared war" dragged on until, at last, the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, meant that the independence, declared five years earlier, was an accomplished fact.

However, this didn't mean the end of the war, which was destined to last for nearly two years more. It wasn't until November 30, 1782, that the preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and the United States were signed in Paris; two more months were to elapse before articles proclaiming the cessation of hostilities between the two nations were signed on January 20, 1783; and it wasn't until September 3, 1783, that the definitive treaty of peace was signed in Paris. Thus this "undeclared war" had lasted for eight years, four months and fifteen days, making it the longest in our history.

During the next 20 years we were involved in two more "undeclared wars," both of which brought fighting and bloodshed. The first was with our former ally, France, and was the result of the humiliation and insults which our envoys in Paris had suffered at the hands of the Directory and the attempt of Talleyrand to blackmail us into buying France's friendship. Although there was no formal declaration of war, Pres. John Adams ordered commerce with France stopped in 1798 and our treaties with her abrogated. Then our infant navy put to sea to prey upon French shipping and for the next 18 months there was considerable naval warfare, marked by the victories of the frigate "Constitution" over French men-of-war. When Napoleon Bonaparte came to power, he immediately took steps to stop the conflict and in September, 1800, a convention was signed in Paris which ended this "war."

Meanwhile American shipping, like that of other nations, had been suffering from the raids of the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean and, despite tribute paid to the bey of Algiers, the pasha of Tripoli and the bey of Tunis, American vessels were being seized and American seamen held prisoners until ransomed. When Thomas Jefferson became president in 1801 he resolved to put an end to this early-day racket.

The first two naval expeditions against the pirates failed but in 1803 when Commodore Edward Preble sailed against the corsairs it was a different story. His expedition against Tangiers, the daring attack of Lieut. Stephen Decatur on Tripoli the next year and the combined naval and military expedition—the latter led by Gen. William Eaton—which captured Derna in 1805 broke the power of the Barbary states and resulted in treaties which guaranteed the future safety of American shipping in the Mediterranean.

The remainder of Jefferson's administration was peaceful but by the time James Madison entered the White House, the second war with England was brewing. For the first time in our history there was a formal declaration of war—on June 18, 1812. For the first time, too, our

Seventy-seventh Congress of the United States of America: In the First Session.

Organ and held at the City of Washington on Friday, the third day of January, one thousand nine hundred and forty-one.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Declaring that a state of war exists between the Imperial Government of Japan and the Government and the people of the United States and making provision to prosecute the same.

Whereas the Imperial Government of Japan has committed unprovoked acts of war against the Government and the people of the United States of America: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the state of war between the United States and the Imperial Government of Japan which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and the President is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Imperial Government of Japan; and, to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States.

Charles McNair
Speaker of the House of Representatives

W. A. Wallace
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate

Approved: Dec. 8, 1941 4.10 p. m. E. S. T.
Franklin D. Roosevelt

shores were invaded by a hostile force, and on August 24, 1814, Americans suffered the humiliation of seeing the capital of their nation in the hands of the enemy and the home of their president in flames.

Despite this disaster which came as the climax of other defeats on land—offset, however, by many a brilliant victory at sea—America continued the struggle which ended on December 24 of that year when the treaty of peace was signed in Ghent, Belgium, by representatives of the two belligerents. This war had lasted two years, six months and six days.

The next war with a foreign power was even shorter than the War of 1812. When the United States annexed Texas in 1845, Mexico (from whom Texas had won her independence nine years earlier) regarded this as a hostile act. There was a series of "incidents" down on the Rio Grande and Pres. James K.

origin in American sympathy for the Cuban patriots who for several years had been trying to throw off Spanish rule but it is doubtful if there would have been a war had it not been for the event which took place in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. That event was the explosion and sinking of the U. S. S. Maine. The excitement over this resulted in diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States being broken on April 21 and the declaration of a blockade of Cuba the next day. Her "national honor" thus assailed, Spain declared war on April 24 and our declaration followed the next day.

The overwhelming victories won by our navy—at Manila and at Santiago—and by our army—in the land fighting in Cuba—soon demonstrated what the inevitable outcome of the war would be. So on August 12 a peace protocol was signed and hostilities ceased after 100 days of fighting. The war, however, did not end officially until December 10 when the peace treaty was signed in Paris.

Although the period of actual combat by our fighting men was relatively short (one year and 15 days), World War I was our second longest war with a foreign power. Here is the sequence of events to validate that statement:

On February 1, 1917, Germany began unrestricted submarine warfare and as a result we broke diplomatic relations with her two days later. On April 6 congress declared war on Germany and on June 26 the first American troops landed in France. However, it was not until October 27, 1917, that American soldiers fired their first shots at the enemy. Hostilities ended on November 11, 1918—one year and fifteen days after they had begun on October 27 of the previous year.

The cessation of hostilities on Armistice Day did not mean the official end of the war. The treaty at Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, but when it came up for ratification by the senate on November 19 it was rejected. That meant that, officially, we were still at war with Germany. It was not until July 2, 1921, that President Harding signed a joint resolution of congress (passed by the house on June 30 and by the senate on July 1) declaring peace with Germany. On August 25 a peace treaty was signed in Berlin by representatives of the United States and Germany. This was ratified by the German national council on September 17 and by the United States senate on October 18. Then, and not until then, was the war between these two countries officially ended—four years, six months and twelve days after the American declaration of war back in 1917.

As for World War II, it began officially for the United States on December 7, 1941, when Japan declared war against the United States and Great Britain and before the declaration reached Washington by air or cable, made an attack on Hawaii, the Philippines and other American possessions in the Pacific. Our declaration of war followed the next day. Four days later Germany and Italy declared war on the United States and on the same day congress, in joint session, issued our declaration of war against those two nations.



APRIL 2, 1917 — Pres. Woodrow Wilson reads his war message to congress.

Polk asked congress for a declaration of war. It came on May 13, 1846, and 10 days later Mexico declared war on the United States. Hostilities began soon afterwards, our armies under General Taylor and General Scott invaded Mexico and within a little more than a year (September 14, 1847) they had captured the Mexican capital. The war ended with the signing of a treaty of peace on February 2, 1848—one year, eight months and twenty days after it began.

The next war in which we engaged was another "undeclared war" for, like its predecessor, it was a "rebellion" and a "civil" war. Just when the War Between the States began is a matter of definition.

The usual view is that it was April 12, 1861, when Confederate batteries in Charleston, S. C., fired on Fort Sumter and the Union troops in that fortification fired back. At any rate, it was this act which prompted President Lincoln three days later to call for volunteers to "suppress the insurrection" and which resulted in four years of the hardest and bloodiest fighting the world had ever known up to that time. Just as this war had no "official" beginning, so it had no "official" ending. But the surrender of Lee on April 9, 1865, sounded the death knell of the Confederacy and organized resistance by the men in gray ended. From Sumter to Appomattox it was four years—minus three days.

Shortest of all our wars with a foreign power was the "100-Days War" with Spain in 1898. It had its