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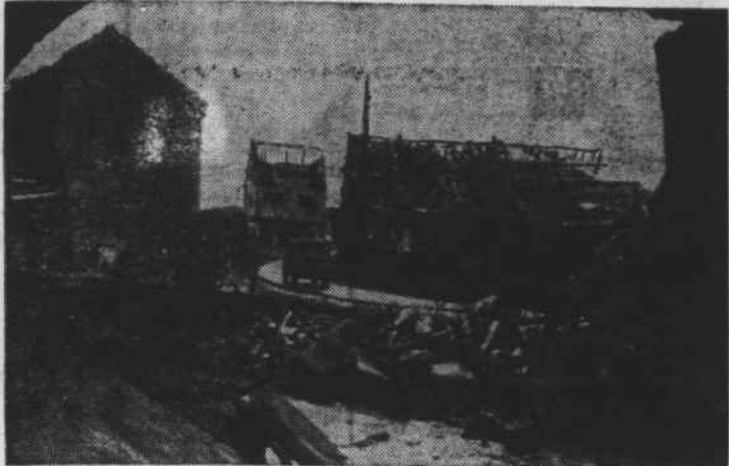
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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazis Gird for Counter-Blow; B-29s Rip Japs' Home Industry; Approve Huge Waterway Bill

(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.)



Converted into fortress by Germans, the town of Langerwehe was reduced to rubble by Allies in advance into Reich.

EUROPE:

Nazi Hopes

Fighting now with its back to the wall, a desperate Germany is drawing up its dwindling strength for one great counter-blow next year in the hope of yet winning the war, according to advices from London. The reports came through even as the enemy struggled to retard U. S. armies' steady advances on the Rhr, Rhineland and Saar, and the Russian march on the Austrian gateway.

In Hungary, the Nazis retreated to mountainous terrain both in the north and south, in an effort to slow up the Russians' steady advance upon Austria, 100 miles distant.

In reputedly preparing for a counter-offensive, the badly mauled but fanatical enemy apparently was placing his hopes in a still strong army, whose forces have been carefully husbanded; in new weapons, and in short supply lines.

With 4,000,000 Germans in the field in both the east and west, the Nazis have been fighting a defensive war from strongly fortified positions in recent months in the hope of inflicting maximum losses on the Allies and keeping their own casualties to a minimum. Because of the employment of many foreign workers inside the Reich, they have been able to draw heavily on their own manpower.

Now being used against Allied troops in the west, the V-1 buzz bomb and V-2 rocket are two of the new weapons the Nazis intend



to utilize in any counter-assault. They have hinted at the production of two other destructive weapons, but the only other one that Allied authorities have knowledge of is a submarine with new devices for underwater breathing, which they intend to unleash against shipping.

Finally, the enemy hopes that his short supply lines in contrast to our longer ones will enable him to feed his armies with much greater rapidity, but here concerted Allied bombings can be expected to play havoc with his land routes.

Whatever the German plans, Allied armies were giving the enemy no chance to dream, as they maintained their terrific pressure both in the west and east.

New Political Crisis

To the complicated European political scene was added another disturbing incident in the Russian sponsored Polish National Council's announcement that the new year would see the formation of a provisional Polish government independent of the U. S. - British backed Polish exile regime in London.

Declaring that it would be the new provisional government's concern to break up large estates for the distribution of land to 8,000,000 propertyless tenants, a National Council spokesman assailed the present exiled regime as being representative of the powerful nobility bucking Soviet influence in Poland because of a fear of reform in ownership.

In Greece, the British moved to patch up differences between radical and rightist elements and restore order in that country fronting Britain's Mediterranean lifeline.

PACIFIC:

Fear B-29s

Aimed at knocking out the great industrial centers of the Japanese homeland, supplying enemy forces on far-flung Asiatic fronts, super-fortress air raids were stepped up, with one force of over 100 B-29s setting fire to the Mitsubishi twin-engine bomber and fighter plant at Nagoya below Tokyo.

As a result of the growing B-29 attacks, Japanese officials, who once described the assaults as attempts to lower enemy morale, took a more serious attitude toward the bombings, claiming that their steady extension presaged wide damage, necessitating the evacuation of civilians from danger areas.

As the giant superfortresses winged their way over the heart of Japan's loosely knit Asiatic empire, U. S. forces in the Philippines moved steadily ahead in reducing that great stronghold protecting the enemy's supply lines to the Indies. On Leyte, the Japs were faced with slow strangulation, as General MacArthur's forces continued to compress them in the northwestern corner of the island, with their lines under attack from the north, east and south.

WATERWAYS:

Huge Program

Large-scale development of U. S. waterway resources was authorized by congress in a \$1,000,000,000 flood control bill, while conferees from both houses met to iron out differences for approval of expenditures of an additional \$500,000,000 in projects.

Part of the country's job creating program when peace comes, the two bills provide for flood control, navigation, reclamation and hydro - electric power, with the \$1,000,000,000 measure calling for an initial appropriation of \$400,000,000 for the development of the Missouri river valley by army engineers and the bureau of reclamation. In acting on the bills, the senate rejected the effort of Senator Aiken (Vt.) to push through the \$421,000,000 St. Lawrence seaway and power project as an executive agreement requiring a majority vote rather than as a treaty calling for a two-thirds margin.

EGGS:

WFA Program

With demands of the services and the Allies expected to account for approximately 28,500,000 cases, there will be little surplus of eggs in 1945, Lieut. Col. R. W. Olmstead, deputy director of supply for the War Food Administration, told a trade meeting in Chicago.

Colonel Olmstead spoke after the WFA announced that beginning January 1 it would support prices at 27 cents a dozen for producers of candled eggs and 24 cents a dozen for current receipts to represent 90 per cent of parity as required by law.

About 25,000,000 cases will be needed for the processing of 365,000,000 pounds of dried eggs for the services, Russia, Britain, Belgium, Holland and France, Colonel Olmstead said, and, in addition, Britain is expected to take approximately 1,500,000 cases of shell eggs. What surplus remains may be disposed of through school lunch programs, institutions or for tankage.

In revealing that WFA has reduced its 1944 holdings to 150,000 cases of shell eggs, Colonel Olmstead said that no stocks would be dumped on the market in 1945, with prices tending to reflect production costs which are expected to remain high through the year.

WORK ORDER:

New Draft Rule

With 300,000 workers needed for critical war industries, the nation's draft boards checked through their files to offer those in the 26 to 37 age group not presently engaged in essential production the alternative of "working or fighting."

Reversing a previous Selective Service policy of granting liberal deferments for the group over 30, local boards are expected to adopt a more stringent attitude toward considering the essentiality of a registrant's employment, it was thought. Registrants who left deferable positions for less important work will face a return to their old or similar position or induction.

While the latest crackdown principally was prompted by the move to provide manpower for essential industry, Selective Service Director Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey declared that increased military activity called for a greater amount of replacements, with the result that a 10 to 20 per cent increase in inductions could be expected in the next few months.

Output Lags

Although production of critical war material rose 6 per cent in October over the previous month, a greater increase for the remainder of the year is necessary to assure required deliveries to the services, the War Production board reported.

In reviewing October production, the WPB said the following programs were below schedule: aircraft, 3 per cent; ships, 1 per cent; guns and fire control, 4 per cent; ammunition, 2 per cent; combat and motor vehicles, 5 per cent; communications, 6 per cent; and other equipment and supplies, 1 per cent.

Particularly critical, it was reported, are the tire and cotton duck production programs, what with 500,000 vehicles in operation on the western front alone, and the Nazi destruction of shelter in the bitter scorched earth fighting necessitating much tenting.

Rehabilitate Vets



Adjustment to new conditions through practice, known as occupational therapy, is one of the means being used to rehabilitate disabled U. S. war vets.

At the Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D. C., Pfc. William L. Harris develops dexterity in the movement of artificial right arm by playing checkers with counters of different sizes, with Occupational Therapist Susan Pohland.

SMOKES:

Plan Allocations

As long as manpower shortages will persist and wartime conditions will make extension of facilities difficult, manufacturers will not be able to increase their already record production of cigarettes, the trade told a congressional committee.

Meanwhile, tobacco distributors announced plans for the adoption of nationwide rationing of supplies among retailers to assure equitable stocks for all smokers, with efforts made to readjust deliveries to shifting populations.

Speaking at the congressional hearing, Col. Fred C. Foy said that the army will have procured 88,000,000 cigarettes by the end of 1944, but movements of the smokes to the front line areas were impeded by limited facilities for unloading and the need for rushing more vital materials like food and gasoline to the combat zones.

AGRICULTURE:

Boost Ceilings

In a move designed to reflect parity to producers, the OPA hiked ceilings on cash wheat 4 cents, and at the same time raised the top on all hogs except sows, stags and boars to \$14.75.

In announcing the ceiling boost on wheat, OPA revealed that the increase affects all levels of distribution, but could not disturb the cost of bread. The present subsidy of 19 cents a bushel to flour producers will stick until the first of the year, OPA said, when new rates will be established.

With official admission that the boost in the hog ceiling to \$14.75 was effected to increase feeding of corn, the market for that grain spurred, although heavy country offerings tempered activity. At Chicago, hog prices were especially strong, partly because inclement weather kept large supplies on farms.



The Red Man and the White House

John Collier, commissioner of Indian affairs, says there is no reason why an Indian should not be President of the United States. In years of knocking around with the Red man, he says, he has found him notable for probity, complete patriotism, extreme loyalty and humanitarianism.

But we can't help doubting that any good Indian with a proper respect for his backgrounds and traditions would take it. We often wonder what an Indian, driven out of his native land as a savage, thinks of the setup with modern civilization in control.

We took the matter of the presidency up with Chief Loping Gazelle, an old friend, today with the following results:

Q.—John Collier says the Presidency of the United States is open to an Indian.

A.—Chief Loping Gazelle very puzzled. John Collier never scare Red man this way before.

Q.—You don't understand. The presidency is the highest gift within the hands of the American people.

A.—Indian take smaller gift.

Q.—White men are very happy to be president.

A.—White men no look it.

Q.—Think of what it means: you can live in Washington!

A.—Indian do nothing to deserve such hard punishment.

Q.—As president you can be looked up to as the man to whom the people bring all their troubles.

A.—Ugh.

Q.—As president you would have the opportunity to give the people good government.

A.—White man have too much government. Indian happier behaving self of his own accord.

Q.—You don't seem to appreciate the offer. Yours would be the great privilege of bringing greater comforts to all the people.

A.—White man got heap funny ideas what he needs to be comfortable. Red man comfortable with tepee, pipe, few feathers, one pony and chance to enjoy nature. White man have to have auto, gas, first mortgages and time payments.

Q.—As president an Indian would be among those world leaders charged with preserving civilization.

A.—Civilization today not look so hot to Indian.

Q.—Why not?

A.—Savagery of early Redskins on much higher level.

Q.—Don't you think it would be a good thing if an Indian got a right to be president?

A.—Only if Indian refuse.

Q.—It would mean \$75,000 a year, free lodgings, eminence and white influence.

A.—Indian think it no bargain.

Q.—But try to realize the honor of being the first Red man to be president.

A.—Indian no make good president.

Q.—Why not?

A.—Squaw too busy to write for newspapers.

Q.—It is not necessary for squaw to write for newspapers and make speeches.

A.—Indian read newspapers. He know better than that.

Now the OPA has taken to radio jingles, more's the pity! This comes over the air now and then:

Potatoes are cheaper, tomatoes are cheaper—
Join in with your OPA;
The butcher, the baker, the candle-stick maker
Are under control today.

We expect any day to hear:
Cucumbers are lower and spinach is lower,
Fresh turnips are now quite a buy;
Beans very extensive are not too expensive—
It's a regular meal that is high!

THE SHORTAGE GROWS
Elmer Twitchell insists he saw a half dozen vice presidents of one of America's great financial institutions scouting for cigarette butts the other day.

The OPA announces that it has come out for the return of the nickel cigar at a price of 7 1/2 cents. What this country needs, in other words, is a good 7 1/2-cent nickel.

It looks as if the only chance American sailors have to see the Jap fleet is to get hold of an old Jap newsreel.

Governments of Many Nations Changed As Liberating Armies Advanced in 1944

Common People Get Chance to Establish Democratic States

Governmental changes that shared world importance with the war news marked the year 1944. Iceland became a republic; five Soviet Socialist republics again took their places in the U. S. S. R.; four Nazi-shackled countries were liberated; and three Axis satellites deserted. A year-end bulletin from the National Geographic society reviews these momentous events.

On June 17 Iceland became a modern republic. On that day the Althing—an 11-centuries-old legislative body sometimes called the "Grandmother of Parliaments"—elected the nation's former regent, Sveinn Bjornsson, president. In a national election held in May the people had voted to dissolve their union with Denmark.

First settled in 874 and organized as a republic 56 years later, Iceland was independent until 1263 when it joined with Norway. Both Iceland and Norway came under Danish rule in 1381. Norway was separated from Denmark by cession to Sweden in 1814, and the two countries formed a union which lasted until 1905 when the union was ended by mutual agreement. Icelanders had long agitated for independence, but it was not realized until 1918. Iceland was then recognized as a separate kingdom with unlimited sovereignty.

Germany tried in prewar years to get control of this strategic North Atlantic island by establishing commercial routes. British forces were stationed on the island shortly after the beginning of World War II. They were replaced in 1941 by American units.

Re-enter U.S.S.R.

Five other republics, 1,500 miles or more to the east, resumed their prewar status. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, freed from Nazi occupation, again became a part of the Soviet Union as Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republics. All three had first entered the Union in 1940.

The Karelo-Finnish Republic, farther to the north, was the fourth to be added to the Soviet family. It also had first entered the Union in 1940. Its border city of Viipuri guards the western approach to the city of Leningrad. Russia's new Arctic port of Pecheng (Petsamo), acquired from Finland in September, extended Russian boundaries westward to Norway.

The fifth state restored to Russia in 1944 is the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, a slice of territory lying between the Ukrainian Republic and Romania. Once known as Bessarabia, this area has experienced a round of governmental changes. Before World War I it was Russian ground; from 1918 to 1940 it belonged to Romania. It was turned back to Russia in 1940 and set up as a republic of the Union, only to be reoccupied by Romania the next year.

To four German dominated nations—France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Greece—freedom came toward the close of the year. France, whose liberation was heralded by Allied landings on the Normandy coast, June 6, was almost completely free by the middle of September.

General Charles de Gaulle's Committee of National Liberation was recognized on October 23 by the U. S. state department as the de facto government of France. On September 21 President Roosevelt appointed



Gen. Charles de Gaulle, head of the provisional government of France, reviews the 1944 Armistice day parade in Paris, flanked by Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden of Great Britain. France was formally invited to become a member of the European Advisory committee by the British statesmen.



The president of the newly established Icelandic republic, Sveinn Bjornsson, addresses the nation by radio on June 17, 1944, the day the island dissolved its union with Denmark.

ed Jefferson Caffery, former United States ambassador to Brazil, as ambassador to the French government now established in Paris. On Armistice day France was formally invited to become a full-fledged member of the European advisory commission meeting in London.

Belgium's Regent

Belgium, whose national liberation released its own governing agencies, immediately took steps to restore its prewar standing. In the ab-



Crown Prince Umberto was named Prince Lieutenant General of the Realm of Italy by his father, King Victor Emmanuel, who abdicated when Allied troops entered the capital in June, 1944.

sence of King Leopold III, held in Germany, 41-year-old Prince Charles, brother of the king, became "Regent of the Realm," to act until the king returns.

In September, the tiny Duchy of Luxembourg, neighbor of France, Belgium and Germany, celebrated its freedom from four years of Nazi tyranny.

Allied fighting men landing in Greece in October helped Greek patriots to oust the Germans. Internal political problems had divided the people into factions, some opposing the return of the monarchy. The cabinet decided to inform King George II, in London, that resump-



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tion of his powers was conditioned on popular will.

Late in the year, Netherlands saw the beginning of the Allied attempt to smash the western anchor of the German defense system, prelude to liberation. From the southwest Pacific came more good news—for the first time in more than four years the nation's flag flew over Hollandia in Netherlands New Guinea.

Axis-satellites Finland, Romania and Bulgaria broke their ties with the Nazi government, and moved toward agreements with the Allied powers.

Shifts in Italy

King Victor Emmanuel III stepped aside in favor of his 99-year-old son, Umberto, designated "Prince Lieutenant General of the Realm." Premier Ivanoe Bonomi and his Italian cabinet contributed a novelty when they took office in June. They did not take the customary oath to the crown; instead they pledged themselves to fulfill their duties according to the constitution. The United States resumed diplomatic relations with Italy in October when Alexander G. Kirk was named ambassador. On November 10 the presidency of the Allied Commission for Italy was transferred from military to civilian direction.

The fledgling republic of Syria, liberated from the Vichy-French in 1941, added to its territory the independent mountain-kingdom of Jebel Druz. Its people, dwellers in southern Syria, voted to yield their administrative and financial independence, and merge the management of their affairs with the government of Syria. President Roosevelt appointed George Wadsworth minister to the republics of Syria and Lebanon.

Closer bonds between the United States and its African protégé Liberia were assured by the December, 1943, treaty, the provisions of which were made public on October 30, 1944. The treaty stipulates that all naval, military and air installations will be supervised by the U. S.

Significant changes took place in 1944 in the New world. Argentina abolished all political parties and instituted strict censorship of the press. The tiny Atlantic island of Bermuda modernized some of its ancient laws. For the first time in the three centuries of its history women were given the same voting privileges as men.

Philippines to Be Free

Events in the Pacific area were highlighted by the return to the Philippines of President Sergio Osmena and his cabinet with the invasion forces of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The presence of the official was only suggestive of the resumption of authority on home soil, for it was understood that island affairs will continue to be administered from Washington.

The future status of the Philippines was defined in two resolutions adopted by the U. S. congress, and signed by President Roosevelt on June 30. These resolutions grant independence to the islands as soon as the Japs are ejected, and provide for defense by the construction of United States military and naval bases.