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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allies Shift Weight of Attacks Against Nazis to Belgium Front; Vital Issues Face New Congress

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Democratic leaders leaving white house after pow-wow with President Roosevelt before opening of 79th congress included (left to right) Vice President Wallace, Speaker Rayburn, Senate Majority Leader Barkley, Vice President-Elect Truman, and House Majority Leader McCormack.

EUROPE: Tables Turned

With U. S. forces having reacted quickly to Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's great winter offensive, which carried deep into the hilly Ardennes forest, the big German bulge in southeastern Belgium shrank under the steady hammering of the American First and Third armies ploughing forward in swirling blizzards.

As elements of the First and Third armies punched at the western nose of the Nazi bulge, other units of these tried battle forces gouged into the north and south flanks and advanced within a dozen miles of each other, threatening to cut the German sack in two.

But even as the First drove southward from Malempre and the Third northward from Longchamps, Von Rundstedt was reported setting up a new defense line half-way back from his deepest penetration, with strong Nazi armored formations throwing in constant counter-attacks in a deadly battle of attrition to cover up the move.

With both sides bringing their heaviest weight to bear in the withering battle of Belgium, and with Von Rundstedt seemingly determined to continue the fight in the hilly Ardennes, the enemy appeared to have temporarily succeeded in turning the struggle away from the vital Ruhr and Saar valleys, heart of his heavy industries.

As the Allies threw their full weight into the battle, it was revealed that elements of the British Second army joined the U. S. First in the attacks on the northern flank of the bulge, and Field Marshal Montgomery was given overall command of forces in this sector. Not only the British Second but elements of the U. S. Ninth and Seventh armies also were moved into the line to mount increasing pressure, the Nazis said.

With the withdrawal of the major strength of the Third army from the southern end of the western front, U. S. troops dropped back from extensive holdings in the Saar and Palatinate in the face of heavy German pressure designed to exploit the realignment of forces.

New Regimes

Europe's troubled political affairs took two new turns, with the formation of a liberal government in Greece expected to end civil strife, and the Russian - sponsored Lublin committee's establishment of a provisional government for liberated territory looked upon to further complicate the Polish problem.

Although Gen. Nicholas Plastiras assumed leadership of the new Greek government, principal attention was focused on Foreign Minister John Sofanopoulos, 57-year-old agrarian liberal, whose inclusion in the cabinet foreshadowed a sufficiently liberal policy to attract revolting Leftists.

In declaring itself the provisional government of liberated Poland, the Lublin committee, which favors territorial concessions to the Russians and a regime friendly to Moscow, clashed with the Allied - backed Polish government-in-exile in London, which contests Red land claims and radical internal social policies.

PACIFIC: Step Up Attacks

With General MacArthur's forces consolidating their positions in the central Philippines, U. S. airmen stepped up their attack on enemy shipping and installations about the main island of Luzon to the north. At the same time, carrier - borne aircraft blasted the Japs' big air bases of Formosa and Ryukyu, serving as reinforcement centers for the Philippines.

The anxious Japs themselves looked nervously to an American invasion of Luzon, with the enemy trying to comfort himself with the assumption that he had sufficient forces to meet a thrust there, and shorter supply lines favored him.

Not only did U. S. bombardment of shipping about Luzon hamper the movement of materials about the main island itself, but it also imperiled the movement of material to the southern islands.

CONGRESS: Rolls Up Sleeves

In assembling for its first session, the 79th congress faced a stiff job on both foreign as well as domestic issues relating not only to the successful prosecution of the war, but to permanent peace as well.

In international affairs, of course, recent incidents in Poland, Greece and Italy are expected to lead toward congressional pressure for a stricter definition of our foreign policy, while attention also will be devoted toward the development of an organization to preserve the peace with proper respect toward the interests of all nations.

On the home front, the manpower problem will remain foremost, with need for maintaining an adequate production force and at the same time meeting military demands for more men. The line against inflation also will have to be held in the face of higher wage and price demands.

FARM DRAFT: Seek Youth

Asserting that War Food Administrator Marvin Jones had advised him that no critical reduction in farm production would result, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes called for the induction of deferred farm workers between 18 and 26 years of age.

There are approximately 364,000 young men in this group, it was revealed, and Byrnes asked Selective Service to apply the most crucial standards in the further deferment of any of them. With the army calling for young men, he said, the only alternative would be to induct 26 to 29-year-olds in war industry, a move which the War Production board warned might hamper munitions output.

Farm state senators were quick to protest Byrnes' action, Senators Reed (Kan.) and Johnson (Colo.) citing department of labor statistics to show that the average work week in industry dropped to 46.1 hours in one year ended September, 1944.

Said Johnson: "From these statistics, it doesn't take a smart man to discover ways and means of decreasing the manpower shortage. . . ."

CIVILIAN GOODS: 1945 Prospects

With the European war having taken an unfavorable turn, and the nation's total resources needed for continued record production of war materials, there will be little improvement in stocks of civilian goods through 1945, the War Production board predicted.

With the frozen stockpile down to 45,000 units, and resumption of production unlikely until after the European war when almost six months will be needed for reconversion, mechanical refrigerators will remain practically unavailable. If manufacturers can start on production of 375,000 all-steel ice-boxes, civilians will receive about 56,000 a quarter in 1945.

Of 35,000 electric ranges authorized for 1945, civilians are to get 65 per cent, while about 1,200,000 electric irons will be assembled. Some aluminum kitchenware will reach the market but output of cast iron, enamel and galvanized utensils probably will remain down, primarily because of manpower shortages.

Although WPB authorized production of 319,492 vacuum cleaners in 1945—a fraction of the peacetime output of 1,903,000 annually—actual manufacture may fall short of goal. Because of the increasing scarcity of lumber, the supply for furniture is expected to remain short. Production of innerspring mattresses will be negligible for at least six months. Only for small electrical appliances are prospects described as brighter.

House Wanted

Having literally sung himself into the senate, Idaho's crooning solon, Sen-elect Glenn Taylor sought to sing himself into a home in crowded Washington, D. C.

Gathering his attractive brunette wife and two children about him on the cold steps of the capitol, and



Sen. Taylor With Family.

plunking on his battered banjo, Senator Taylor purred:

"O, give us a home, near the capitol dome, With a yard where little children can play— Just one room or two, any old thing will do— O, we can't find a place to stay!"

Until the Senator's song strikes a responsive chord in some landlord's heart, the Taylors will live in a hotel.

UN-AMERICANISM: To Resume Inquiries

The new house had barely settled into its seats before Rep. John Rankin (Miss.) set in a row by pushing through the formation of a new committee on un-American activities to succeed ex-Rep. Martin Dies' defunct investigating committee, bitter target of liberal elements.

Representative Rankin resorted to a legislative coup in having the house approve the organization of a new committee, suddenly inserting his proposal as an amendment to the rules being considered for the current session. Seventy Democrats joined 137 Republicans in voting for the proposal while 186 votes were counted against it.

Unlike the Dies committee, which concerned itself with investigation, the new committee on un-American activities will have the power to draft legislation for correction of abuses and submit it to the house for passage.

BANKS: U. S.'s Biggest

Biggest bank in the world, the Chase National of New York wound up its 1944 business with a record-breaking total of \$5,160,004,000 in resources, of which \$4,835,219,000 were deposits. Holding of government securities reached almost \$3,000,000,000.

Not far behind Chase's was the National City Bank of New York, with assets of \$4,469,686,465, of which \$4,205,072,012 were in deposits. Also of New York, the Guaranty Trust company finished the year with resources of \$3,826,161,882.

Biggest bank west of the Alleghenies, the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust company of Chicago wound up 1944 with \$2,619,821,039 in resources, of which \$2,447,740,085 were in deposits. The bank held over 1 1/2 billion dollars in government securities.



Notes of a Newspaperman:

Peter Donald forwards the story about three GIs just back from overseas who went into the automat and found that the only available table was one that was occupied by a spinsterish female. Wanting a little privacy, they decided to sit down, hoping by means of conversation to make her finish up and leave in a hurry. . . . The first GI said: "Boy, life overseas sure was tough. I didn't have a bath in eight months."

"Think that's bad?" said the second. "I couldn't even wash my hands in four weeks."

"We were so busy," the third added, "I couldn't change my underwear in five months."

At that point, the old gal looked up and said: "Would one of you stinkers mind passing the salt?"

The government has stopped horse racing in America. We wish it were as easy to stop America's Trojan horses.

An American citizen of German ancestry was walking down Powell Street, in San Francisco, when he was stopped by a soldier who asked: "Can you tell me the way to Chinatown?" . . . He replied: "Yes, of course, it is two blocks over and two blocks to the left, but you don't want to go there because you are a Jap!" . . . The soldier replied: "And you are a German?" . . . The citizen said: "How did you know?" . . . The soldier replied: "I know because I've killed a lot of them the last two months in Italy and I'm on my way home to Seattle!" . . . The citizen of German ancestry looked at the uniform of the soldier and saw on it a Presidential citation, the Purple Heart and a few other campaign ribbons.

Telling this story about himself, he said: "Boy, was I embarrassed! The soldier was of Japanese ancestry and a member of the famous 100th Infantry Battalion!"

Edward Stettinius, who is certainly the most modest and democratic of our Secretaries of State, used to visit the Broadway night clubs occasionally a few years ago. One night he went into the old Paradise with a male companion. . . . Headwaiter Albert Berryman scanned them with an appraising and unrecognizing eye. . . . "Hello, Albert," said Stettinius, "don't you remember me?"

"Oh, yes," fibbed Albert (trying to place the man), as he showed him to a none-too-good table.

The part I like is that Stettinius (who was then only chairman of U. S. Steel) knew headwaiter Albert, but Albert didn't know him!

Ernest Hemingway went to Chicago years ago after working in Kansas City. He had lived in Oak Park, Ill., and was an old schoolmate of Ted Tod's, now working for Warners. . . . At the time, Tod was working for the Chicago Herald-Examiner as a reporter, and Hemingway-hoped Tod would try to get him a job on the paper. . . . Tod went in to speak to Frank Carson, the city editor. He told him all about Hemingway—what a good writer he was. . . . He said: "He hasn't worked in Chicago, but he knows it, knows names, etc." . . . Carson looked up and ho-hummed: "Does he know any Chicago coppers?" . . . "No," said Tod. . . . "Well, I don't care how good a writer he is," replied Carson. "Our reporters have to know the Chicago coppers." . . . So Hemingway didn't get the job. Instead he went to Canada—worked on a Toronto paper and from there started his climb.

If it hadn't been for his not knowing any Chicago policemen, Hemingway might still be working on the Chicago paper.

All this talk of what to do with Germany—and, of course, it is more than talk, it is a grave, great problem—reminds me of this tale. . . . An apostle of conciliation once asked the late Georges Clemenceau if his hatred of the Germans was based on knowledge. "Have you ever been to Germany?" he inquired.

"No, Monsieur," replied the Tiger. "I have not been to Germany. But twice in my lifetime the Germans have been to France."

This isn't as good as the "Westinghouse-I'm westing" gag—but it's going the rounds among the icky set—and makes me lick: "We're broom-mates. We sweep together. Dust us two."

Our Japanese Foes Are Proving Themselves to Be Original, Sly, Progressive and Fanatical Fighters

Sons of Nippon Educated And Trained for New Type Of War Now Being Waged

By WALTER SHEARD
WNU Washington Correspondent.

WASHINGTON. — When you read that "all organized resistance has ended" on Leyte, Samar, Mindoro or any other of the thousands of islands in the Philippines or the Micronesian or Melanesian archipelagos in the Southwest Pacific, you will know that General MacArthur's Yanks have met and beaten a well-trained, well-equipped, fanatical foe that meets the American soldier on equal terms in almost every fighting quality.

These sons of Nippon are hardened in endurance, trained in repression, wild and cunning, steeped in militarism from early boyhood and brought up under a system of feudalism which has disciplined them into acceptance of the conviction that to die for their emperor is the highest duty of a good soldier.

What the Japanese soldier lacks and what the American soldier possesses is resourcefulness and individual initiative. When the Japs are committed to a plan, they always follow it to the end. . . . even if it becomes apparent within a short time after the fighting starts that some other plan would be more effective. When an officer is killed, the initiative of the entire unit is impaired unless some other officer of equal rank appears to take his place.

The system of feudalism which characterizes Japanese life would be incomprehensible to most Americans. His station in society and his every act are predetermined for him. Contrary to the common fallacy that Japs are more stolid than other persons, he is a highly emo-



This captured Jap 70-mm. howitzer bears a model number prior to 1936. Nippon's major weakness is in its artillery, especially in variety construction and in marksmanship of crew. This howitzer was used as a booby trap.

tional person, and this system of feudalism which trains him in repression accounts for his tendency to "blow up" in tight places. It also accounts, in part, for the futile death charges which seem to have become characteristic of the Japanese when they are admittedly beaten. The life-long repression and the resultant inhibitions also account for the arrogance of the Jap soldier in victory and, conversely, for his tendency to fly to pieces in defeat.

Hara-kiri is in no way a sign of cowardice on the part of the Jap soldier, for by this peculiarly painful method of committing suicide, he is actually, in his own mind, telling his emperor, a semi-divine personage, that he has done all he can for him and is now presenting him with his own life.

The most widely believed popular fallacy concerning the Japanese is that they are an imitative rather than a creative people. Japanese inventiveness is considerable and is limited only by a scarcity of technically trained manpower and by machine power.

The army endorses the viewpoint that the Jap soldier is a good fighting man and the belief that he is a stupid, insensate peasant is, according to the war department, completely erroneous.

Japanese Army Reduced.
The Japanese army today numbers approximately 4,000,000 men. To date, American troops have killed almost 300,000 Japanese troops while sustaining about 25,000 casualties themselves. Total Japanese losses in killed alone since 1937



Jap fighters will tenaciously and fanatically hold on to a defensive position without thought of the cost in life. Here it was necessary to use a flame thrower on the Nips. Note the GI in the left foreground with rifle poised to knock off the first one who pops up.

total approximately 850,000. More than 250,000 Jap soldiers are now isolated through action of General MacArthur and the Pacific fleet in island pockets, removed from battle, relief or rescue. The war department says that the Japs are nowhere near the bottom of the barrel in fighting reserves, and can equip and train 2,000,000 more soldiers without seriously affecting war production manpower reserves. This does not include the added millions who might be "recruited" from subject nations.

Comparison of the average Japanese soldier with the average American shows the Jap a much smaller man physically. He is 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighs 117 1/2 pounds. He can lift 150 pounds with his feet together, bringing the weight to his knees, to shoulder and then to his back. The average American soldier is about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighs 145 pounds.

Military training of the Jap soldier begins at the age of eight years along with his regular education, if at that time he is mentally and physically fit. Educationally the background of the typical Japanese professional soldier is as high as that of the typical American fighting man. The regular professional Jap soldier has had the equivalent of two years of high school education, which equals the median level of the average American soldier in this war.

able to read and write in Japan is 99.6 per cent of the adult population and between 40 and 50 per cent of all Japanese soldiers have studied English, while between 20 and 25 per cent speak English efficiently.

The cunning of the Japanese is indicated in their employment of ruses in their operations. A few encountered to date include employment of lighted cigarettes, firecrackers, barking dogs and moving vehicles to lead defenders to believe the main attack would be made; use of the English language to confuse our soldiers; use of the name of certain individuals and when the person addressed showed himself he was shot; use of booby traps on dead Allied and Japanese troops to detonate when the body was moved; placing a dead Allied soldier in a conspicuous place with an automatic weapon covering it. Thus when Allied troops attempted to remove the body, they were shot; when badly wounded, or apparently dead, Japanese troops have produced hand grenades from their clothing and attempted to kill medical personnel going to their aid; use of the white flag of truce to get close to Allied troops.

Japanese Conscription Laws.
Peacetime conscription of Japanese calls for two years of military service for all males between the ages of 17 and 40 except for physically unfit and those guilty of certain crimes. Military training begins with physically able-bodied children at the age of eight (third grade pupils) who get at least two hours of drill weekly. Army youth soldiers, 14 and 15 years, begin an apprenticeship in military training and when they become of age they are rated by the army as superior privates. Later they are made into lance corporals and, upon graduation from school, become corporals. After six years' service the corporal may become a sergeant-major and upon ten years' service he is promoted to warrant officer.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Japanese soldier is his hardness, and special patrols, starting at midnight, have been known to cover 60 miles by the next

afternoon, marching constantly without rest periods. An entire battalion can march more than 30 miles a day. The principle of "no retreat" is a part of this training and a small detachment, caught in a tight place, cannot appeal for reinforcements. The officer in charge may make a report of his predicament, but the matter of insisting upon reinforcement is beyond his prerogatives.

The unwritten law of the Japanese army is that any soldier captured by the enemy must "atone" for his disgrace later by committing suicide.

Rigid training of commissioned and noncommissioned officers is carried out at several army schools and although the system is narrow and arbitrary and inflexible in its system of indoctrination, it is progressive, thorough and modern. However, its rigidity often has inhibited originality in thought and action. The schools include the Military Academy, six military preparatory schools and four noncommissioned officers' schools.

The Japanese constitution provides that the emperor is commander-in-chief of the army and navy; that he determines their organization; and that he declares war, makes peace and concludes treaties. He is advised by two military councils, the board of marshals and admirals, and the supreme military council.

To date a major Japanese weakness has been in artillery, especially in variety, concentration and marksmanship. Weapons over 47-mm. captured to date bear model numbers earlier than 1936. Japan has had access to German designed weapons for some years and it may be assumed that guns embodying German features may soon be encountered.

Japanese engineers are well equipped and have shown outstanding ability both in construction and demolition of bridges. On the other hand, airfields and roads so far encountered have not been up to Allied standards in speed of construction or serviceability. Construction of field fortifications has been highly developed and even at remote points, Jap engineers have been successful in constructing first class defense positions from material immediately available.

Weight of the ration for Japanese soldiers as compared with Americans is about two-thirds, or slightly over four pounds. The average ration in active theaters is about 3 1/2 pounds and, because of supply failure, this ration has often been reduced to a half or a third of that amount. The standard or normal ration consists largely of rice and barley, fresh meat and fish, fresh vegetables, and various condiments and flavorings.

Every American soldier has learned by experience that the Japs are hard, fanatical fighters and in defensive action will often hold out to the last man. They place a low value on human life and do not count the loss in taking an objective. Our war with the Japs has further taught us that the Japs know of no such thing as impassable terrain, that speed is one of their cardinal tactical principles. They take full advantage of natural cover and understand thoroughly the importance of camouflage.

One thing, however, although they believe strongly in sudden offensive action they often attack prematurely, and despite their extensive training and confidence in the bayonet, they have not been outstanding in close combat.