

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allies Mount Drives to Smash Nazi Pockets for Early Win; Guerrillas Pare Jap Strength

Released by Western Newspaper Union.
 (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.)



Forced to view emaciated bodies of atrocity victims near Weimar, German civilians register conflicting emotions. Stories of brutalities have led congressmen to call for harsh peace.

EUROPE:

Trap Closes

With Adolf Hitler himself directing the city's defenses, Berlin stood as a burning symbol as combined U. S., British, Russian and French armies sought a speedy knockout of German remnants to bring the war to an early conclusion.

Of all the savage city fighting of World War II — fighting which left such historic centers as Warsaw and Vienna in ruin—none approached the ferocity of the battle for Berlin, where German women and even children reportedly joined the 500,000 army defenders in a fanatical attempt to curb the Russian steamroller.

With both Germans and Russians fighting with a burning hatred for each other, the battle swirled from house to house through rubble strewn streets, with massed Red artillery and air fleets steadily reducing enemy strongpoints. Said Russian correspondents: "Each stone of the city, each meter of street, is against us. We have to take them with our blood."

As the Reds' vise closed on embattled Berlin and Hitler exposed himself to one of the most dramatic captures in history, elements of the two Russian armies attacking the city swept beyond it westward for a junction with American troops along the Elbe and Mulde rivers. Meanwhile, still another Red force smashed past Stettin to drive westward along the Baltic coast and join British troops whittling Nazi pockets in the north.

Working together to finish off the Germans in the north, the allies also cooperated to K. O. them in the south, with two drives aiming to smash the Nazis' vaunted national redoubt in the Bavarian Alps and pinch off the great arsenal of Czechoslovakia.

In the first instance, the French 1st army, the U. S. 7th and 9th and the Russians rode hard on the enemy's mountain hideout from the west, north and east in an attempt to enter it before fanatical SS men could steady themselves for a stand. In the other instance, the U. S. 3rd army pushed into Czechoslovakia from the west while Russians moved in from the east, with the Yanks also swinging southward into Austria for a hookup with the Reds. Thus was a solid ring of steel forged around Hitler's last important industrial area.

In Italy, fast U. S. and British motorized columns and low-flying planes shot up retreating Nazi troop columns falling back on the Alps to the north. Italian partisans fast took over administration of this last stronghold of Mussolini's.

POSTWAR SECURITY:

Discuss Terms

As delegates from 46 United Nations fashioned a postwar organization to keep the peace at the San Francisco conference, they pondered amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks plan, serving as a basis for such a body.

Foremost among the amendments were those proposed by China and supported by the U. S., Britain and Russia calling for the application of justice and international law in settlement of disputes; the referral of changes or development of such law to the assembly of the security organization, and the addition of educational and cultural cooperation to the postwar body's responsibilities.

With the U. S., Britain, Russia, China and France dominating the organization through permanent

membership on the executive council, and with any of the five big nations able to check the use of force or economic sanctions for aggression, many of the smaller countries strove for greater representation of the smaller states in policy making.

PACIFIC:

Guerrillas Help

Effective in harassing enemy strength in Europe, guerrillas are playing an equally effective role in the Philippines, where their operations behind Japanese lines are helping to reduce their position.

While regular American army units tightened their hold on the Baguio district in northern Luzon, where the Japanese were putting up a last stand, Philippine guerrillas sallied far behind the front lines to capture the big port of Vigan and adjacent airfield and clean up the entire province of Ilocos Sur.

Meanwhile, Japanese defenses on bloody Okinawa crumbled under the terrific weight of U. S. naval, low-flying aerial and artillery bombardment, with the Yanks fighting forward through battered entrenchments. Japanese dead far outnumbered prisoners, again indicating the ferocity with which they resisted.

FRANCE:

Bombshell

With Marshal Henri Petain still commanding a large following, France seethed as the 89-year-old hero of Verdun of World War I and collaborationist of World War II voluntarily returned to his native country to stand trial on charges of plotting against the state.

Famed for stopping the Germans at Verdun in 1916 when they threatened to break the back of French resistance, Petain gained notoriety after his country's downfall in 1940 for a cooperative policy with the enemy which his followers aver was necessary for him to obtain fair treatment for the stricken nation.

Declaring that at his age one had only to fear a failure to perform his duty, Petain said he was returning for trial not only to clear his own honor, but also to protect all of his followers. The peculiarity of the Marshal's position is exemplified by the fact that some of his reforms have been carried over by the De Gaulle government.

MEAT:

Supply Cut

Ringed true to predictions that the meat situation would grow even tighter, OPA revealed a 2½ per cent cut in supplies this month from April, with slightly more veal, lamb, mutton and pork offset by about 9,000,000 pounds less beef.

At the same time, OPA announced that rationing would be extended to cover 99½ per cent of all available meat items, with only about 5,000,000 pounds of mutton left on a point-free basis. Cull and utility grades of veal and lamb and the breasts, shanks, necks and flanks of those meats were put on the red-point list.

So that the amount of red points would jibe with the available supplies of meat, point values were upped, with increases of from one to two points a pound for most cuts of all grades of lamb and veal and one point a pound on most beef steaks. Utility grades of veal and lamb will possess the same ration values as the better types.

SHOES: Tight Fit

Forced to renege on its promise of validating another shoe stamp for children this spring, OPA found itself compelled to go one step farther in conserving the tight supply of footwear by limiting vets to two stamps in a book and new babies to one—in the latter case, to prevent use of more stamps by adults.

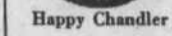
Though OPA later backtracked on its promise to increase children's shoe rationing in recognition of their greater use of footwear, it said 150,000,000 pairs of part leather or composition shoes would be produced for sale to both youths and adults without stamps. However, few of these shoes have reached dealers' hands.

Factor in the continued shoe shortage, OPA officials said, was the under-supply of full grown and fattened steers, which produce the best leather. Because stockers have trimmed their feeding of these animals on complaint of unfair ceiling prices, decreased amounts of this leather is available.

Happy Czar

When burly, bubbly, 46-year-old Senator Albert B. (Happy) Chandler was appointed commissioner of organized baseball to succeed the late Judge Landis, the game obtained not only an able executive but an enthusiastic sportsman as well.

Graduate of the Harvard and Kentucky university law schools, and former state legislator, lieutenant-governor, governor and senator of his native Kentucky, Chandler had played professional baseball in his youth, then coached high school basketball before entering politics. Pleasant and brimming full of energy, Happy soon made his mark



Happy Chandler as a politico, being first appointed to the U. S. senate after losing a close race to Senator Alben Barkley.

Indicative of Chandler's disposition is the story of his stopping off to watch a sandlot game in Washington, D. C., while on his way to see ex-Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Jumping into the game when one side became short-handed, Happy stayed to the finish, then rushed to keep his appointment, sweating and dusty.

WAR SURPLUS:

Wallace's Baby

Charged with the welfare of both domestic and foreign business, the department of commerce was given the responsibility of disposing of consumer and miscellaneous surplus war property formerly handled by the treasury.

Although over-all policies are determined by the Surplus Property board in spirit with the surplus properties act, administration of the regulations will lie with newly appointed Secretary Henry A. Wallace's commerce department, thus affording him the opportunity of proving his executive mettle on a difficult job which must be timed so as not to disrupt the normal economy and accomplished to obtain the maximum return for the government.

Surplus goods entrusted to Wallace's commerce department include machinery, automotive equipment, textiles and wearing apparel and hardware.

WHEAT:

Big Carryover

With surplus wheat stocks of the U. S., Canada, Argentina and Australia expected to total approximately 950,000,000 bushels on July 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported that this amount would be sufficient for world trade without compelling any of the countries to draw upon carryovers for 1945.

In the U. S. alone, the bureau said, surplus may reach 350,000,000 to 375,000,000 bushels in view of the difficulty of exporting sizable quantities because of the shortage of freight cars for shipment to ports.

Unless a great many more cars are available for movement of wheat which has piled up in country elevators and on farms during the last five months, it was said, not only the export program for lend-lease and foreign relief may be hampered but also the handling of the prospective large 1945 crop.

ARMY DISCHARGES:

Limited Releases

Even should German resistance continue through the summer, army plans call for the release of some vets with five years of service regardless of age, military officials disclosed.

At the same time, congress moved to preclude the use of 18-year-olds in combat without six months of training.

Under the army's plans, some men who volunteered as the military expansion program got underway in 1940 or were among the first inducted would be discharged, with releases dependent upon the availability of the individual from his unit.



Man About Town:

San Franciscans are talking about: The more than 200 G-Men (not including the numerous state department confidential agents and New York City, Chicago, New Orleans, etc., ace detectives) to guard the delegates and diplomats. The Big City "dicks" are assigned to spot well-known pickpockets, "dips," rogues galleryites and "cannons" — as big-time crooks are called by the gendarmes. . . . The heaviest protection is for Russia's Mr. Molotov. . . . As one John Edgar Hoover man put it: "He'll be guarded by nearly 200 Russian secret servicemen so an FBI agent won't get within 200 yards of him."

FDR's pal, Charlie Michelson (he was 75 the other day), raising eyebrows with the prediction: "Mayor LaGuardia may be the Democratic nominee for governor of N. Y." . . . John Metcalfe, the Washington correspondent, here for a New York gazette. He's finishing a book called "Tin Cup Diplomacy," which will please the underpaid working in our state department. . . . The return of Joe Rosenthal (this is his home burg). Joe is the AP hocus-focuser who took that wonderful picture of the flag being planted on Iwo Jima. . . . Kent Cooper, the AP boss, is offering reproductions of the famed photo at \$1—the profits to go to the Marines via Navy Relief



WALTER WINCHELL IN SAN FRANCISCO

The renowned rivalry between Los Angeles and the San Francisco correspondents, which George Polk carries on from his Washington beat for his L. A. paper. George won't refer to it as the San Francisco conference. He calls it the California conference. . . . The "real reason" Cong. Clare Luce returned to Italy. They say she wrote a book there in which she does "a job" on Edda Mussolini.

Mike McDermott, the popular special ass't to Sec'y of State. He arranged hotel rooms for over 900 newspaper men, newsreel cameramen, columnists and radio prima donnas and then wound up with no "decent" space in which to sleep himself. . . . The musical show, "Watch Out Angel," which folded at the Curran theater Satdee night after a three-week run. Too bad. Some of the score was very good and several people in it are talented. . . . The Alcazar theater renamed the United Nations theater. Its new marquee was arranged via the War Production board—via request of the state department. Glenn Allvine of the Will Hays zoo is in charge. The Hollywood films there will be changed daily for the delegates. "Going My Way," frixample, will be heard in Czech for the Czechs. In Portuguese for the Brazilians, etc.

Jack's for Big Town food, better than most spots in New York. . . . The two Stork clubs. And S. Billingsley can't do a thing about the name piracy, either. Seems they registered the name in Calif. before Mr. B. got hep. . . . Barbara Burke, ex-Follies dolly, recently divorced, who becomes a bride again shortly. She's the prettiest gov't worker in town. . . . Ralph Ober's comment: "The passing of FDR was the shock heard around the world." . . . Ernie Pyle, who died with the Americans he loved. But he will live in the hearts of Americans who loved him.

The plight of S. F. restaurateurs and swank hotels trapped between OPA rules and the confabbers. No butter, no steaks, etc. . . . But you have little trouble getting what you want in the small restaurants along Market street.

Breakfast Club Appeals To Millions of Air Fans

Audiences and Events Make Program of Ever Increasing Interest

By W. J. DRYDEN

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Radio stations and networks throughout the country revised their programs, cancelled outright or drastically revised all commercial broadcasts, when word was received of the death of President Roosevelt. Typical of programs undergoing complete revision was the Breakfast Club's broadcast on which Don McNeill, master of ceremony, paid tribute to the president:

"One of the qualities about Mr. Roosevelt that I always admired," said McNeill, "was his sense of humor. In the tremendous job in which he gave his life he needed a sense of humor for balance. In fact, if he could speak to us now, he might say something like this: 'Never mind the flowery language about me — when my time had come the Lord knew I was not an indispensable man, so get back in there and finish off the job in a hurry, and make a peace so binding, so secure, that this may never happen again. Get back to the days when you can quit worrying about your loved ones and when you can laugh and smile. Your face looks so much better that way.'"

Radio's favorite daytime variety show, the Breakfast Club, owes its popularity to its ardent fans in every city, hamlet and nearly every farm in America. It has been adopted and considered as a part of rural America. By making an appeal to those in rural districts as well as in metropolitan areas, it proved that a morning hour variety show could achieve immense popularity. Scripts have been entirely dispensed with and the cast depends on native wit rather than on gag writers.

Like the program following President Roosevelt's death, each program is created by circumstances and the audience itself. There is no monotony, for the program is life itself, the life as played by its many fans. They create the program, play the parts, give the questions and answers.

Audience's Contributions.

There are other reasons for this radio program clicking. Don McNeill, the genial m.c. of the program, which is carried over Blue

Network stations of the American Broadcasting company, would say that the audience's contributions are what makes for the remarkable success of the program.

Many fans find other reasons. Some 875,000 of them applied for charter membership in the club in one week.

Each program from Monday through Saturday at 8 a.m. will find 600 fans watching the program. Hundreds are turned away daily from the Chicago studios where the broadcast originates. Tickets are now required two weeks in advance. These people come from all the states in the union. They come to see Don McNeill, who has served as master of ceremonies on more network broadcasts than any other man, woman or child in radio. He has spent more than 4,000 hours before the microphone, and still gains in popularity.

They come to see Nancy Martin, the singing schoolma'm, or singer Marion Mann. They come to see Sam Cowling, the heckler, or Ed Ballatine, the orchestra director, or Ray Grant's Vagabonds.

They come to see Fran Allison's characterizations of genial, gossipy, gauche "Aunt Fanny," which are so realistic that Fran's mother, back in Iowa, is in a perpetual dither for fear that kinfolk might be offended. They come to make the program, their program.

Memory and inspiration time on the broadcast has reached the heartstrings of the Breakfast Club's

RADIO GARDENER



Don McNeill, M. C. of the Breakfast club program.

fans. The prayer and impromptu assignments for D-Day will go down in radio as a classic of the year.

When the program was started 12 years ago, no visitors were allowed. This rule was first broken in 1937, in response to a letter from a hopelessly tubercular marine, who wrote that seeing a performance of the club was chief among the things he wanted to do before his final hour. In 1938, the doors were thrown open to all comers. Since then half a million people have seen the program and watched the "gang" go through their paces.

The program has attracted national attention in its effective war work. They are given credit for hav-



When the entire cast takes the stage, things begin to hum over the air.

Hybrid Hogs Produce Super Meat

Development of a super meat yielding hybrid hog by the application of the same inbreeding methods that produced hybrid corn is the goal of farm authorities.

Thirteen state experiment stations are cooperating in what is known as the Regional Swine Breeding laboratory, George A. Montgomery writes in Capper's Farmer. They are inbreeding some of the more popular breeds with the hope of establishing superior types. In this they are following the methods of those who developed inbred parent stock for modern hybrid corn.

"The hog men are little further advanced in their program than corn men were 15 or 20 years ago," Mr. Montgomery points out. "They have their inbreds, but the work of

main in his herd: 1. Sows must be able to produce large litters of live pigs. 2. A high percentage of pigs born alive must survive to market age. 3. Pigs must gain rapidly from birth to market weight. 4. Feed requirements for each unit of gain must be low. 5. Body form must be such as to produce high yields of the most desirable cuts of pork.

"He has succeeded in fixing the last three characteristics so some of his lines and crosses of these lines excel purebred Polands that have been propagated by ordinary breeding methods. However, inbreeding lowers vitality and, to a lesser extent, fertility; and crossing two unrelated inbred lines of the same breed does not produce the hybrid vigor that comes when two breeds are crossed. Winters ex-



New type Minnesota hybrid hog.

combining them to see which ones nick has hardly started. Minnesota and Iowa, for example, have crossed inbred lines of Poland Chinas, with certain elements in the results highly encouraging; others distinctly disappointing.

"At the Minnesota station, Dr. M. L. Winters, working with Poland Chinas, has saved only individuals that best combine five economical desirable characteristics. To re-

plains that this is because the base is too narrow.

"Work done at the Minnesota station with ordinary purebred boars bears out this theory. A cross of a purebred boar of one breed with a purebred sow of another gave pigs that were superior to either parent breed. The crossbred glits, mated to a purebred boar of a third breed were still better than a two-breed cross.

After receiving his Ph.D. degree he decamped to Louisville, where he became one of the Two Professors, a comedy team over WEAS. In 1933 he went to Chicago, took over the not-too-well-known Pepper Pot program and developed the present Breakfast Club.