WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS—

Manila's Fall Sets Stage for Next Phase of War in Pacific, Russ Press Assault on Berlin

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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.

U. S. and Chinese troops view huge marble buddha in Nanhsan, Burma, following capture of town in drive to link newly opened road with Burma road leading to China.

PACIFIC:
'Mac' Looks Ahead

"On to Tokyo!"

Thus called General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as U. S. forces freed the Philippine capital of Manila and strengthened their hold on the main island of Luzon.

In a statement as jubilant as the march of his gallant army across Luzon's central plains, MacArthur proclaimed:

"The fall of Manila was the end of one great phase of the Pacific struggle and set the stage for another. . . . We are well on the way, but Japan itself is our final goal. . . . We are ready in this veteran and proven command when called upon. . . ."

With all eyes turning toward Tokyo itself now, MacArthur's statement was looked upon as his bid for continued leadership of Allied forces in future operations against the Japs, who are expected to put up their stiffest large-scale resistance in Asia proper, thus dodging the necessity of trying to run the supply blockade of the powerful U. S. navy.

EUROPE:
Beyond Oder

Even as German military commentators told their people that 45 additional territory would have to be given up before the great Russian drive could be stopped, powerful Red forces maintained the initiative and smashed across the Oder river in strength at numerous points.

By going over the Oder on a broad front to the southeast, Marshal Ivan Konev's 1st Ukranian army not only bit deeper into the rich Silesian industrial district, but also menaced seemingly at another important production center around Dresden to the west, and threatened to develop a wide outflanking movement on Berlin to the northeast.

Meanwhile, Marshal Georgy Zhukov's 1st White Russian army pressed its advance-guard units to within 40 smouldering from a giant-size U. S. and British air raid that ripped up transport and communications in the battered capital. As Zhukov's armored columns and infantry drew up for the assault on the outer cover of a fierce artillery bombardment, the Germans rallied for a desperate defense planned to carry right into the city itself and make it another Koenigsberg and Budapest.

Yank Push

With their lines already strained in the east, the Nazis looked anxiously to the west, where they said General Eisenhower had massed large forces along the Roer river for a breakthrough attempt to the Rhineland, with Cologne as the immediate goal.

Nazi apprehension was publicly expressed as strong elements of the U. S. 1st and 3rd armies pushed deeper into the Siegfried defense belt, encountering moderate opposition as the enemy apparently withdrew to stronger rearward positions.

In a further effort to economize their dwindling forces, the Germans were moving from Alsace in southeastern France, with mixed U. S. and French units exerting strong pressure.

Historic Meeting

As the "Big Three" met in one of history's epochal conferences, Nazi propagandists feverishly sought to steel the German people against the consideration of Allied offers of surrender, with declarations that U. S. and British statesmen would be unable to fulfill "Wilsonian promises."

Meanwhile, rumors were rife over the "Big Three" meeting, with reports that the Allied leaders discussed the question of French claims to German territory west of the Rhine; Poles angling for East Prussian territory to Denmark as part of moves to internationalize the Kiel canal.

The "Big Three" reportedly were in agreement on plans to occupy the reich, with the British taking over the northwest, including the Ruhr and especially the U. S. the southwest, and the Russian the east and northeast. All three powers would jointly occupy Austria. Dateline: Moscow, Russian censors gave the press permission to cover German industry to prevent future armaments.

MANPOWER:
Discuss 'Work or Fight'

Fresh boosts in the armed forces manpower needs were announced by the house on a 246-155 vote, the vote to reject the senate-approved 17 and 18 year treats between 18 and 45 not otherwise deferred by law, or engaged in farm, can be frozen into essential jobs or ordered to take entire physical examination, or face induction into armed forces.

Opponents contended "Pearl Harbor" would be repeated if reserves were called from essential war jobs.

Supporters maintained "Pearl Harbor" would be repeated if reserves were not called from essential war jobs.

Johnson measure would work both ways, he said, by drafting men for essential war jobs in the Southwest, as they now are drafted for war jobs in the north.

SURPLUS FOOD:
U. S. Sales

Charging the policy of dumping of surplus foods in ready export markets was destroying domestic security and prices, extending into the post-war period the disastrous effects of the huge agricultural amounts of fresh foods canned during the war, Senator Johnson (D., Colo.) demanded that the senate investigate the department of agriculture's administration of the surplus commodities program.

Johnson asserted that 40,000 pounds of hard candy, with 40,000 pounds of chewing gum, were shipped to Italy, and that 2,216,317 pounds of hard candy were shipped along with 43,000 pounds of chewing gum and 1,000,000 pounds of shell eggs.

Other critics reported 119,000 tons of canned peas; 67,195 boxes of sardines; 1,000,000 pounds of canned tomatoes; 40,157 cases of canned sea bass; 8,225 cases of canned mackerel; 1,756 gallons of concentrated orange juice; 24,650 pounds of dried fruit; canned jams and jellies; 200 pound barrels of dry onions, etc.

William Green

FRANCE:
U. S. Aid

Knocked out by the Germans, and a battlefield of World War II almost from the start," France will receive appreciable assistance from the U. S. in the reconstruction of her military might and civilian economy so that she may become a stabilizing force in European affairs.

Navies equipped eight full divisions and about 200 supporting units of the French army at a cost of $700,000,000, the U. S. has agreed to outfit eight more divisions, it was revealed. In addition, substantial numbers of planes have been delivered and over 100 warships turned over.

The U. S. Military aid to France is on a lend-lease basis, it was said, so that she may be expected to pay for civilian supplies, including food, stuffs, clothing, industrial materials and transportation equipment.

LIQUOR TAXES:

Over 2½ billion dollars was laid out last year by consumers of alcoholic beverages in the form of federal, state and local taxes, according to an analysis prepared on the basis of treasury data and made available. Despite the increase in tax collections alcoholic beverage per capita consumption showed no change last year as against 1941, the last prewar year, consumption in both years being the same, or 1.19 gallons per person, studies showed.

BUY U. S. WAR BONDS

Prices of most major farm crops were up during the month, raising the all-crop index 4 points to double the 1910-14 average. Most pronounced increases were in truck crop prices, 252 points to 269; and fruit 2 points to 169; feed grains and hay 3 points to 163. The fruit index declined from 206 in December to 205 in January. Supplies of all farm crops, although seasonally lower than in December, were available in larger quantities than in January, 1944.

FARM PRICES:

Prices received by farmers in mid-January averaged more than twice their pre-World War I level for the first time since August, 1920, the USDA reported. At 201 per cent of the August, 1909-July, 1914, average, the January index of prices received by farmers was 3 points above a year ago. Parity prices were at the highest level since 1921, 117 per cent of parity on January 15, the same as a month earlier and a year ago.

—ADVERTISING PAYS—

CANADA:
Political Crisis

In a crisis which Premier Mackenzie King said he wished to avoid during the present critical stage of the war, the Grey North parliamentary district of Ontario, Canada, voted down as its representative in commons Defense Minister G. L. McNaughton, who conceived the idea of the limited overseas draft to appease bitter French-Canadian resistance to general conscription for foreign service.

With the revolt of the voting indicating that English-speaking Canada might favor unlimited overseas draft instead of the government's compromise program, King declared that a general election may be necessary in order for a clear-cut decision on the question, to strengthen officials' hands in dealing with the situation.

Adopted with the aim of preserving unity in the dominion, the government's compromise conscription policy would call a selected overseas draft sought to partially meet the French-Canadians' cherished traditional privilege of self-government.

SPORTS:
Fight Gambling

With the gambling fraternity reportedly looking for new fields of operation with the closing of the state's race tracks upon government order, big college and professional sports are moving firmly to prevent bettors' activities in basketball and baseball.

With the danger brought into the open with disclosure that Brooklyn college basketball players took money to shave game scores officials tightened secret policing of stands and locker rooms, and will release pre-game information on players' conditions, etc.

Especially touchy over the gambling question since the notorious "Black Sox" baseball scandal of 1919, baseball was reported taking particularly drastic steps to safeguard players' operations, with officials advising clubs to withhold such information as strategies, etc., likely to provide the basis for wagering. Said Happy Chandler, baseball czar:

"With a lot of youngsters in the big show this year, I'm afraid we will have to be extra careful. . . ."

Noted Dry Dies

World famous as a crusader against "demon Rum," and with 5 others who are quick on the trigger against bootleggers, moonshiners and dealers in Indian servants at the turn of the century, "Pussyfoot" Johnson died at 72 in Bethesda, Md., hospital.

Upon retiring as his home in Smith Lake Park, N. Y., in 1929 after 20 years of active anti-saloon league life, the group including a round-the-world tour, Johnson declared: "I'm glad to be an American was" . . . nowhere near ready to die.

Supposedly sentenced "Pussyfoot" because of his nickname, which he denied and upon which, Johnson asserted, he acquired while fighting booze interests in the Southwest, in less than half an hour, he was dead.

TIDBITS of Kentucky Folklore

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DOUBLE-DOG DARE

It has been so many years since I was a boy that I do not know just how boys talk now. But we used to do some fancy talking, especially when we got angry and pretended that we wanted to fight. Usually we would draw a line in the dirt with our grubby toes and "double-dog dare" your opponent to cross it. If he did, we usually retreated to a safer distance and threw another line, shouting equally loudly that we were ready for battle. Sometimes we used to nearly all of the playground in this pretense, and then we found our backs to the wall, as a military man would say, and really fought, fists and nails. But in general we were not such dangerous people as to get loud and angry threats would indicate. Fighting was frowned on by our elders and usually brought instant and dire punishment from the teachers, hence we escaped the cruel task to plug-like we were brave when we were actually cowardly.

Just why a double-dog dare is worse than the common or garden variety is not