

Europe Food Supply In '45 Seen Lower

WASHINGTON — European agriculture is increasingly feeling the effects of war, an agriculture department survey reports.

Continental Europe, with the exception of Russia, will have a somewhat smaller food supply during 1944-45 than last year and only 85 per cent of the prewar supply, the department report showed.

"The 1944 harvest was poorer even than the subnormal harvest of 1943," the office of foreign agricultural relations said, with a decline in the production of grains, sugar beets and vegetable oils. Meat production increased slightly but no improvement has occurred in the output of milk and eggs, OFAR said.

German Imports Down

If Germany must live exclusively on home-produced food in 1944-45, the average caloric intake per person will drop 15 per cent. The deterioration of the German food situation was attributed partly to an adverse season and partly to decreased imports, which have furnished 12 per cent of the nation's food supply.

"The extent to which Germany may be able to offset reduced crops and losses in supplies from abroad by withdrawals from stocks and by a discontinuance in food shipments to Finland, Belgium and Norway cannot be predicted," the department said.

The Russian food situation is improved over 1943-44 but will remain tight for the civilian population, according to the survey. Responsible for the improvement were a good harvest, termination of German requisitions and prospects of obtaining food surpluses from the Danube basin which formerly went to Germany.

Countries Listed

The outlook in other European countries:
France—Larger supplies from home-produced food. However, unless transportation facilities are restored, substantial imports will be required if present low rations

are to be honored.
Italy—More food than last year but domestic supplies still will fall short of quantities needed to cover even small wartime rations.

Greece—The food supply situation "remains bad" and large imports will be required if low consumption levels in cities and deficit farm areas are to improve.

Belgium—Imports will be needed if low-level consumption of war years is to increase.

The Netherlands—Food supplies may be sufficient for same consumption level as last year. However, flooding and military operations are likely to have serious effects on distribution.

Finland—The difficult situation resulting from the cessation of German imports has been offset somewhat by relief shipments from Sweden.

Polish Outlook Bad

Poland—"An already extremely unsatisfactory food situation is likely to be aggravated further" by increased German requisitioning of farm products.

Denmark—Food supplies should be near last year's high level unless increased exports to Germany are required.

Danube basin—Food situation as a whole "on the favorable side."
Sweden—As much food as last year when food imports needs were small.

Spain and Portugal—Supplies somewhat better than last year.
Switzerland—Continued dependence on imports.
Egypt and Turkey—"The food outlook is good."
Austria and Czechoslovakia—Supplies will run "somewhat below" last year.

Shipbuilding Program To Decline In 1945
 PORTLAND, Jan. 1.—Rear Admiral E. L. Cochrane, chief of the bureau of ships, says that construction of new ships for the navy will decline this year.
 Cochrane told a press conference here Saturday that while the navy will continue needing replacements, the building program reached its peak last May and is now on the wane.
 He said the floating drydock being built at the Kaiser Vancouver yard will be installed at Swan Island in February, and the second drydock to be built at Vancouver will go to Los Angeles.

Damaskinos Plans New Greek Cabinet

ATHENS, Jan. 1.—Archbishop Damaskinos, new regent of Greece, conferred with Greek political leaders today preparatory to selecting a new cabinet, and prospects for peace in the Greek civil war brightened perceptibly.

Damaskinos, named regent by King George Saturday, was sworn in at noon yesterday and immediately began a series of individual conferences with George Papandreou, resigned premier, Themistocles Sofoulis, leader of the liberal party, and others.

Associates said Damaskinos probably would not select the new premier for several days. The cabinet, when formed, was expected to be made up largely of "dark horses," men previously not identified actively with politics.

Hope for an early peace rose, not only with the resignation of the Papandreou government, but with reports from British sources that the revolutionist ELAS has accepted the conditions laid down by Lt. Gen. Ronald Scobie, British commander in Athens, for cessation of hostilities.

Crews Clearing--

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 Sparks, Nev., their two daughters, Peggy, 14, and Mary, 8; and Jack and Delpha Francis of Carlin, Nev., brother and sister-in-law of Mrs. Porter.

Run Completed
 The engine and 10 of the passenger train's 18 cars were undamaged, and proceeded west to complete its Chicago-San Francisco run as soon as the injured were treated and placed aboard.

Medical corps detachments assigned to the army hospital cars were declared the heroes of the tragedy.
 "Had it not been for their efforts, the toll undoubtedly would have been much higher," said one of the injured survivors, Clarence Heberer, chief steward of the passenger train, of Alameda, Calif.

Heberer suffered head cuts and was knocked unconscious. He revived to a "nightmare of screams and groans" which crescendoed out of the darkness.

The temperature was 20 to 25 degrees below freezing and many passengers were wandering about half-clothed.

The first rescue train left Ogden one and one-half hours after the crash. Rescuers arrived at the pileup half an hour later to find passengers still milling about the scene, doing what they could to ease the suffering of the injured.

Lloyd George Named Earl On King's List

LONDON, Jan. 1.—David Lloyd George, British prime minister during the first world war, was named an Earl on King George VI's new year's honors list today.

It was learned that the famous British elder statesman, who will be 82 years old this month, would take the title Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor.

Dwyfor is the name of the mountain stream passing his farm of Ty Newydd at Llanystumdwy, Caernarvonshire, Wales, where he spent his boyhood. For 54 years he had represented Caernarvonshire in parliament.

His London home also is named Dwyfor.
 Lloyd George's elevation to an earldom was made possible by his retirement from parliament, which was announced last week. He could not receive a title and hold a seat in the house of commons at the same time.

Last week, Lloyd George announced that in accordance with his physician's advice he had decided not to run again for parliament in which, as a liberal party member, he had served continuously for the past 54 years.

His career began in 1890 when, as a young solicitor, he was elected to parliament by a slim margin at a by-election. He never lost an election after that.

Japanese--

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 dromes and sank seven Japanese ships ranging from a sizable freighter to tugboats.

Two Jima Hit
 Iwo Jima, midway between the Saipan B29 base and Tokyo was bombed for the 23rd successive day, while rocket firing Mitchell bombers raked other islands in the Bonin and Volcano group. Aleutian-based Mitchells attacked the Kurile islands north of Japan.

Superforts from Saipan gave Japanese on Honshu island a restless New Year's eve. From mid-evening until dawn, B29s flying alone or in pairs raided the industrial cities of Tokyo, Nagoya, Yokohama and the Okosuka naval station. Others were reported on the west coast of Honshu, heretofore untouched by American bombs.

British To Fight
 Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz who directed the American 1944 advance across the Pacific said 1945 would see British naval forces in action in Japanese waters and they "will carry their share of the load."
 Unopposed British troops occupied Rathedaung, 25 miles north of Akyab, their objective on the west Burma coast. Other imperial forces crossing the Chindwin valley in a pincers move on Mandalay advanced to within 16 miles of Yeu. The town is 70 miles north of Mandalay.

53 GERMANS DOWNED
 PARIS, Jan. 1.—Allied air forces, flying in great strength in the best weather since the beginning of the German counteroffensive, had shot down 53 German planes by 4 p.m. today, an official tally revealed.

The Emperor Tiberius of Rome made an edict against marriage by women over 50 or men over 60, but it was soon repealed.

War Year of 1944 Marks Progress For Allied Forces

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
 Associated Press War Analyst
 Despite the dampening effect of the German counter-offensive, we can approach an assay of the year-end military position from the rock-bottom fact that the allied cause—on balance—is going well the globe around.

A pencil and paper, with a modicum of unemotional figuring, are all one needs to demonstrate that the United Nations are on the broad highway to victory both in Europe and in the Orient. That conclusion makes allowances for military setbacks like the present in western Europe and the recent Japanese successes in hard-hit China. It takes into account short-comings of the home front.

When you've added up and made subtractions, the answer is that the allies can't lose excepting through their own folly.

Bloody Business
 Having arrived at this point, however, we find that at the best we still face a tough and bloody business which calls for all-out efforts by both the home and military fronts, unless the conflict is to drag on interminably. We must profit by the lesson the Germans are giving us—that the wounded beast fights hardest at the kill. We may find this doubly true with the savage and fanatical Japanese.

One of the burning questions in all minds is how long the European war will last. There's no satisfactory answer to that. It depends first on the outcome of the titanic battle which is growing out of Nazi Marshal von Rundstedt's counter-offensive.

General Eisenhower still has his chance to administer a knockout to Von Rundstedt and so force an early peace. On the other hand, if the German survives his terribly dangerous thrust into the midst of great allied strength, then we may find him retiring slowly and resuming his fight in the powerful Siegfried defenses west of the Rhine, thus protracting the war.

Hard-Bolled Theory
 Our safest course is to adopt the hard-bolled theory of the war production board that the Hitlerian war will go on indefinitely. That's not an invitation to pessimism but a safeguard against over-optimism.

One element in shortening the war remains in anticipation—a full-dress Russian offensive against the Nazi Vistula line in Poland. That might change the complexion of things quickly by putting the Nazis between two mighty millstones. It's unlikely that the Reich could long withstand wholesale major offensives on both eastern and western fronts.

The length of the Japanese war depends largely on when peace comes to Europe. Many experts figure it may take eighteen months or so to finish the Japs off after Germany surrenders.

Conclusion of the European war will release vast striking-power to be employed against the Nipponese.

GOP PARTY LEADER DIES
 CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—Mrs. Ruth Hanna McCormick Simms, 64, republican party leader, former congressman at large from Illinois and publisher of the Rockford (Ill.) Register-Republic and Morning Star, died yesterday from a pancreatic ailment.

Divorces Higher Than Marriages In Multnomah

PORTLAND, Jan. 1.—For another year, quarrels went faster than romance in Multnomah county.

A new year's high of 4872 couples were divorced here in 1944, while only 3465 pairs married.

Up until 1943, there were always more marriages than divorces in Multnomah county.

Allies Recapture Lost Italian Soil

ROME, Jan. 1.—Fifth army troops pressing forward in the Serchio river area of the Italian front, have recaptured all the ground taken by the Germans east of the river in their recent heavy attack, allied headquarters announced today.

Advancing from Barga, which

was retaken yesterday, the American forces drove a mile and a half and occupied the hill town of Somocolonia, which had been one of the first strongholds to fall before the abortive enemy offensive.

On the Po valley front eighth army troops continues to move forward north of Faenza, capturing several localities against strong enemy resistance.

Fifth army troops also made small gains west of the Serchio river under fire from Germans entrenched in the hills overlooking Galliano.

The allied advances on the east side of the river amounted to about four miles in the past few days.

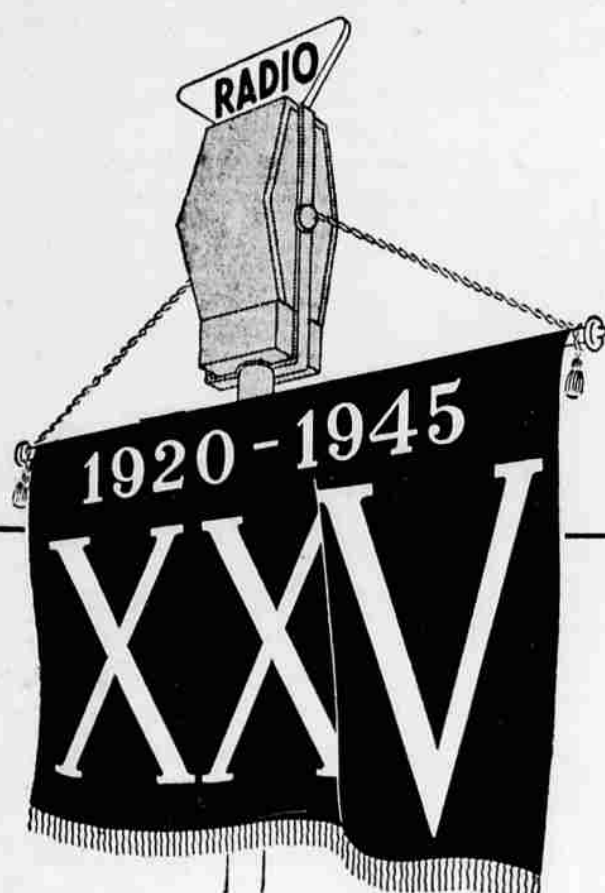
MORGENTHAU TERM LONG
 WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., today completed his 11th year in office, the longest term of service in that post in history. He took office New Year's Day in 1934.

Brooks Man Held After Slaying

SALEM, Jan. 1.—Charges were filed today against George Elmer (Bud) Harris, 33, Brooks, who was arrested yesterday in connection with the slaying of Charles Batchelor, 36.

Harris told state police he returned early Sunday morning from a hunting trip, and found Batchelor in bed with his wife. A violent quarrel ensued, Harris said, and he and Batchelor fought, at first with their fists, and later Harris picked up a pistol, struck Batchelor with it and then fired two shots. One bullet entered Batchelor's side and he died 45 minutes later, Harris said. He denied trying to kill Batchelor.

There was evidence that a drinking party had been under way at the house, state police reported. Mrs. Harris said that she "did not know there was a man in the house" until Harris returned.



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