

Europe's Political Tangle A Tremendous Factor In Achieving Victory

By SIGRID ARNE
(Associated Press Staff Writer)

The war's end won't necessarily bring actual peace to Europe. The continent is faced with bitter political antagonisms which may burst into sporadic guerrilla fighting.

Bread and jobs may calm the backwash of bitterness. But no one is certain how soon the people of Europe will be eating regularly again or how soon they'll have the tools for work.

Poland's future is tangled by her two "governments": (1) the exile Polish government in London since the beginning of the war, and through which the United States and Great Britain has dealt despite "thumbs down" from Moscow; (2) the Moscow Poles, now known as the Lublin Committee, which is acting with Moscow's blessing as the provisional government in the Russian "liberated" area.

The scales seem tipped in favor of the Lublin Poles, since they returned home with the Russian armies. But it is generally conceded that Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, until recently head of the London Poles, probably has the strongest following in the Polish underground.

Everywhere, the underground is the unpredictable element. Its members lived through the horrors of occupation. They'll likely demand a voice in reconstructing the country.

That fact also complicates guessing on Yugoslavia. Marshal Tito, by dint of rallying Yugoslavia's liberation army, held such an upper hand that he forced King Peter to accept a regency until elections could be held. But, rather surprisingly, Tito agreed to a provisional cabinet which would include some of Peter's supporters in London.

No one knows the numerical strength of Gen. Mihailovic's group which was shown out of the war picture by Tito and his forces. Presumably there will be other dissident groups which might try to combine with Mihailovic and the men surrounding the king.

They will be much weakened if Tito is able, quickly, to give bread and jobs to the Yugoslavs. It is a good bet that he will remain in the government, even after the elections.

Throughout central Europe, Russia's stand is the big question mark. She signed the Moscow pact, which said none of the Allied military would be used on the soil of other nations except to bring security and law and order.

The Soviets signed a pact of cooperation with Czechoslovakia, and they conveyed reporters through Romania who then wrote that the Russian military have not interfered with the civilian government.

However, European diplomats, talking off the record, wonder whether Russia, although withdrawing her armies, may refuse to deal with any neighboring governments of whose personnel she disapproves — thereby creating "puppet" governments.

France has her de Gaulle. With the aid of Allied armies, he quelled French rioting in short order, but much of the F.F.I. forces held out in pockets in southern France.

De Gaulle faces a general election. It remains to be seen whether he retains his popularity back home and under the close scrutiny of underground leaders who stayed on French soil through the war.

Greece appears to have settled down under a coalition provisional government to await the promised free elections. But the extreme bitterness of the recent Athens battles boded ill for any government that failed to restore order and jobs quickly.

In Belgium King Leopold's future hangs in balance. Since the war he has married a commoner, daughter of a man arrested as a collaborator. The relationship may give rise to irremediable suspicion from the underground leaders.

The Netherlands will probably accept the return of Queen Wilhelmina, who promised a "commonwealth conference" in the East Indies for the purpose of granting greater autonomy to her subjects there.

There seems little doubt that both the Danes and the Norwegians will welcome back their king, and little doubt they will set about energetic and orderly returns to peace-time trade.

But aside from the two small Scandinavian countries, diplomats feel "anything can happen." It is a good bet that he will remain in the government, even after the elections.

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A PITCH THAT MEANT



VICTORY

After five long years, years that saw the United Nations wage a grim struggle, Nazism and all the cruelty and hatred that it has stood for has been conquered and beaten into the dust. In this hour prayers of thankfulness will go up for the victory that has been attained. The price of victory has been a heavy one but today hearts will be lighter as they await the return of loved ones from the battlefronts. And let us see to it that the world he is returning to may be a peaceful and happy one.

The Fashion Shoppe

Offer a Prayer for Peace

CONGRATULATIONS A Good Job Well Done



Time has reaped a harvest of blood and tears during the years just past, but there has been good things too. There has been the conviction that the effort, the material goods, the precious human lives that have been sacrificed have been given for a profoundly worthy cause. There has been the feeling of brotherhood in working together toward a common aim—the disappearance of petty selfishness—the growing realization of the meaning of a large view, a world view. Now with VICTORY here it is our privilege to strive to bring these good things into even greater prominence, to fight a hard fight with a goal in sight that is richer, finer, because of knowledge that the struggle has been won.

Let us therefore in this hour of rejoicing pledge ourselves to attain the ends for which our gallant boys and girls gave their all—namely the making secure of the world peace so that there will be no repetition of the five years which we have just passed through.

KENNEDY'S Ladies' Wear

have claimed as high as 10,000,000 Russian casualties.

Nazi Dream

(Continued from page 7)
The Allied invasion of Europe really began with the attack on Sicily by Gen. Eisenhower's British and American forces on July 10, 1943. Fifteen days later Mussolini was ousted in Rome—the first serious break in the Axis structure. Striking swiftly on Sept. 3, after completion of a 38-day campaign in Sicily, Gen. Montgomery's troops invaded the toe of Italy. The 5th Army of Gen. Mark W. Clark landed at Salerno below Naples and after a bloody battle with the Germans, established a beachhead six days ago. Almost simultaneously the British launched an offensive which relieved Tobruk shortly before the last Italian stronghold in Ethiopia surrendered.

Not long thereafter came Pearl Harbor, and Hitler declared war on the United States. His ultimate extermination began to loom on the horizon then, for he had turned the spigot which was to produce a flood of Allied war material and men.

But there were still black days in store for the Allies, and Sunday, June 21, 1942, ranks with the blackest of them all.

60 Miles From Alexandria
On that day Marshal Erwin Rommel's Africa corps took Tobruk in a surprise thrust which carried him to within 60 miles of Alexandria. A junction of German and Japanese forces on the shores of the Indian Ocean threatened. The Germans were preparing the summer offensive which might break the Soviet Union and which was to take them from Kharkov to Stalingrad. The Allies had lost Singapore, the Philippines, Burma, the Dutch East Indies and parts of the Aleutians. Australia still was menaced, despite two Japanese air-sea demerits on the Coral Sea and at Midway in May and June.

Almost the brightest spot in the Allied picture was that three weeks before the British had carried out their first 1,000-bomber raid against Sicily.

Air and tank forces rushed to Africa eventually turned the tide, permitting Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Army to score its great victory at El Alamein in Egypt on Oct. 23, 1942, and begin its march to meet the Dwight D. Eisenhower which landed in Morocco and Algeria on Nov. 7.

Trapped on Cape Don in Tunisia, the German and Italians finally surrendered on May 12, 1943, and the stage was set for the invasion of Italy. Axis casualties in Tunisia were placed at 341,000.

Russia
Until Sunday morning, June 22, 1941, everything went well with Hitler's war. That was the day he loosed his invasion of Russia.

Joined by Finland, Romania, Hungary and Italy, Hitler boasted of the greatest front in history—2,000 miles from the Arctic to the Black Sea. Stories from Berlin said the Nazis believed they would crush Russia in three to six weeks.

Swiftly the German armies sliced through Russian—annexed territories of Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Karelia, Bessarabia, swept across White Russia and the Ukraine.

Before the summer campaign was done Hitler had trapped one huge "kettle" of Soviet soldiers after another, thrown an iron ring about Leningrad, reached the suburbs of Moscow, captured Kharkov.

Russia "never again will rise," he declared in October, launching a "final assault" on Moscow. Another final assault was ordered in November. Moscow did not fall. Then, at the right time, the Russian counter-offensive was launched. The Germans were caught in the worst Russian winter in years, and the retreat along the Napoleonic road to disaster was begun.

In August, 1943, the Germans reached their highwater mark of conquest at Stalingrad, 1300 miles from Germany's eastern border, 2,200 miles from Hitler's western front on the French coast.

The second great Red Army counter-offensive began on Nov. 22, 1942, at Stalingrad. It has been underway ever since, with pauses. Official Russian figures place Russian dead, captured and wounded at 5,200,000. German dead and captured at 7,800,000. The Germans

VICTORY HAS COME



It's hard to believe but it is a fact and we bow our heads in thankfulness that the past five years are now behind us, years that saw the United Nations wage a grim struggle for their very existence until finally the tide turned and the Axis hordes started their retreat that has finally wound up in a glorious victory for the United Nations.

Today there is a new lift to one's step as he or she envisions a world that is once more free to live in. Not only is there rejoicing but in the moment of victory let us not forget the lads who gave their all; the boys that won't return. Through their sacrifices are we enabled today to rejoice; let it not be in vain.

Let us strive with all our might and main to make this a lasting peace, a peace that they fought and died for so that those of us left behind may still retain our own way of living and our freedom of worship.

THE GLORIA

drive the 50 miles to Arnheim in time to exploit the position gained by the British 1st Airborne Division. After eight days of heavy fighting from their encircled position, the airborne "Red Devils" were forced to withdraw across the Neder Rhine.

The campaign to clear the German front from south of the Waal in Holland lasted to Nov. 4 and cost the British and Canadians heavy casualties.

November Offensive
Two days later, came the Allied November offensive, which was intended to hammer the Germans everywhere until they were compelled to give way somewhere. Gen. Patton's Army went into action below Metz first. In quick succession the U. S. 7th and 1st French 1st and 9th armies went on the offensive, with help from the British 2nd Army at the extreme northern end.

Paris Liberated
The underground in Paris rose in battle. The city was liberated on Aug. 25 just a month after the break-through at St. Lo.

On Aug. 15 the army of France under Gen. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny and the U. S. 7th Army under Lt.-Gen. Alexander M. Patch invaded southern France from the Mediterranean in a huge surprise attack which was met with speedily won control of the whole coast. The Germans began a precipitate withdrawal from all southern France, but by September 1, the German 19th Army was fighting for its life up the Rhone valley where it had been intercepted by two armored columns slicing across the French Alps.

While Allied forces in the north and south neared a junction, the American 9th Army began a series of amazing dashes toward the Rhine. Old battlefields along the Marne, the Aisne and the Scheldt were reached with bewildering rapidity. Belgium was invaded Sept. 2 along the road to Mons, Namur, Liege and Antwerp.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Miles G. Dempsey's British 2nd Army tanks made an astounding march of more than 200 miles in four days, roaring through the Belgian capital of Brussels, the big port of Antwerp and into the Netherlands.

On Sept. 6, just three months after the invasion and on the 44th day of the offensive, and with more than 60,000 casualties inflicted upon the Germans who had lost 25 divisions and suffered heavy casualties to at least 18 others, Gen. Eisenhower proclaimed the battle of Germany about to begin. The liberation of France and Belgium was all but complete, the freeing of the Netherlands not far off.

Battle Of Siegfried Line
The men around Gen. Patton believed that if they had received enough gasoline to keep their armor rolling four more days, they would have rolled completely through the Siegfried Line and then could have driven straight to the German coast.

Patrols penetrated the Siegfried Line and entered Metz on the Moselle, but had to retreat for lack of support. When Patton's supplies caught up with him, the Germans had re-entered Metz and spread along the Moselle. Progress thereafter was slow and costly.

Lt.-Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' U. S. 1st Army, which had spearheaded the drive across Belgium, and destroying a huge pocket of Germans at Mons, entered Germany below Aachen Sept. 13. A narrow hole was driven through the concrete and steel works of the Siegfried Line in the first seven days. When he too lacked supplies and force to exploit his gains, the Allies turned their attention to gaining a large supply port.

The 1st Canadian and British 3rd Armies began the costly campaign to root out the Nazis south of the Waal in Holland and free the mouth of the Scheldt to permit supply convoys to enter the relatively undamaged harbor of Antwerp.

On Sept. 17 there opened a huge ground and air attack in which the first Allied airborne army went into action and parachute troops were dropped at Nijmegen and Arnheim in an attempt to seize the bridges across the lower Rhine.

The strategy, if successful, would have paved the way for a possible flanking of the northern end of the Siegfried Line, but Field Marshal Montgomery was unable to

drive the 50 miles to Arnheim in time to exploit the position gained by the British 1st Airborne Division. After eight days of heavy fighting from their encircled position, the airborne "Red Devils" were forced to withdraw across the Neder Rhine.

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OFFER A PRAYER FOR PEACE

This is a day to say a prayer for final Peace and to thank God for the Victory that has been won over Germany. Let us receive the Peace of God into our hearts and accept the heritage given to us by our Redeemer during his last days on earth, "My peace I leave with you; My peace I give unto you." May His spirit pervade the entire world so that once more peace may be ours.

TOMORROW.... PEACE

TODAY... LET US PRAY

MAURICE MILL, Men's Wear, Summerside