

annually, only 2,114,892 tons were produced in 1944. It further states that 10 mines are now idle and that those operating worked only an average of 232 days in 1944. A similar situation exists in adjoining St. Clair County where dozens of mines have been closed and junked in recent years. These two counties lie directly across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Mo.

Geologists estimate that Illinois fuel beds contain approximately 200,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, and although it has been mined commercially since 1828, only 6 percent of the total has been removed. Illinois mines experience difficulty in disposing of lump coal during the summer months, and as a result, miners do not have full-time employment during that period. This coal could be stored in dealers' yards and used to meet fuel emergencies, if existing smoke ordinances were eliminated and Illinois coal accepted for use in hand-fired equipment. Illinois coal sells in St. Louis for approximately \$5 per ton, compared to \$9 per ton for eastern bituminous and Arkansas semi-anthracite coal.

Coal Mine, located at Belleville, Ill., 14 miles from St. Louis, are contemplating junking that property because of their inability to reopen and operate at a profit. This mine is known as one of the best in southern Illinois but has not been operated in recent years because of the inability to find a market. This condition is due largely to the St. Louis smoke ordinance.

Trusting you will investigate this matter thoroughly, and that this ordinance can be set aside during the emergency, thus utilizing to the fullest, the existing manpower and facilities of the Illinois coal fields, I am,

Sincerely,

CALVIN D. JOHNSON,

Former Congressman from the
Twenty-second District of Illinois.

Army Backs London Poles

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. THAD F. WASIELEWSKI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 1945

Mr. WASIELEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following article from the Milwaukee Journal, of February 27, 1945:

ARMY BACKS LONDON POLES—SHOCKED BY YALTA FACT

(By L. S. B. Shapiro)

WITH THE POLISH FORCES WITH CANADIAN FIRST ARMY, February 22.—The Polish formation under Gen. Maczek fighting with the Canadian army remain bound by voluntary loyalty and solemn oath to the Polish emigre government in London. Under no conditions will they take direction from Lublin, and the troops are determined never to return to Poland as long as the Lublinites retain power. No matter how the Allied powers dispose of the London government, these troops will follow its direction to the end, even if it means a lifetime of exile.

It is this correspondent's unmistakable impression that if the London government is bankrupted, the Polish troops will seek their release from the armed forces of the Allies.

Though their hatred of the Germans is unflagged, they have no wish to continue as mercenaries which is what they would consider themselves if they fought under

any auspices other than the London government. They say they now are fighting for Poland and they consider the Lublin government bears no relation to true Polish interests. Shocked at first to the point of despair by what they had read of the decisions made at the Crimea meeting of the Big Three, their attitudes now are hardened into firm determination to stand by the London government, no matter how bitter the consequences to them.

I was told the attitude of the Polish forces in the Mediterranean is even more uncompromising than that of Maczek's formations—if this be possible. It was pointed out that only 25 percent of Maczek's troops come from the territory east of the Curzon line.

In Italy, 65 percent of the Polish troops have their homes in annexed portions. Gen. Maczek's home town, Lwow, now is in Russian territory. Thus the world is faced with an emigre population of 300,000 Poles, which is the approximate number of soldiers, sailors and airmen fighting with the western Allies. They will be, they said, like Jews—a wandering race everywhere in the world.

The principal reason for the determination of these men not to return to Poland seems to be fear. They unashamedly admit this.

Pvt. (1st cl.) Felix B. Mestas, Jr., of La Veta, Colo.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. J. EDGAR CHENOWETH

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 1945

Mr. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, when the heroes of this war are tabulated the name of Pvt. (1st cl.) Felix B. Mestas, Jr., of La Veta, Colo., will be high on the list. Private Mestas was killed in action on the Italian front on September 29, 1944. However, before he met his death he gave one of the greatest exhibitions of courage under fire that will be recorded in the entire war.

Private Mestas was a member of the Three Hundred and Fiftieth Regiment, known as the Battle Mountain Regiment. For its valor during the battle of Battle Mountain his battalion was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation. It was also during this battle that Private Mestas distinguished himself when the Nazis made a fanatical charge on Montebattaglia.

Members of the battalion took up positions on the mountain 2 days before the attack and stood off a number of counterattacks on September 29. During one particular vicious attack the official record contains the following notation:

One unknown hero was seen standing on the crest of the hill in full view of a charging group of fanatical Germans, and firing his Browning automatic rifle from the hip in order to get a better field of fire down the slope. With the heavy rifle he killed 24 of the advancing Germans and accounted for two more with grenades.

The name of this hero was not at first learned. His accomplishments became the talk of the regiment. It was Sgt. Cleo Peek of Arvin, Calif., who finally established his identity. He was with Private Mestas just before he was killed.

Peek and Mestas were at an advanced post on the height. They were almost out of ammunition and knew they would have to leave. Standing up in his position and starting to fire Mestas insisted that Peek leave first. Peek says that the Germans were charging up the hill like wild men, and that Mestas killed at least 24 with his last clip. Peek crawled back, stiff and lame, after 2 days of exposure. He and two riflemen were the only survivors of their entire squad. Peek referred to Mestas as Cowboy, and states:

The cowboy was never scared. Why just 10 minutes before I left he was singing a little song.

Pvt. (1st cl.) L. C. Burnett, of Floral, Ark., one of the surviving riflemen, was in a place where he could observe the final stand of Mestas. His version of the incident follows:

After Peek left the entrenchment I saw Cowboy stand up again and fire that last clip. Then I saw his steel helmet fall back and he stooped to pick it up. That's the last I saw of him. I have never seen a better man with a B. A. R.

The parents of this brave soldier are Mr. and Mrs. Felix Mestas, of La Veta, Colo. I have a letter from Mr. Mestas and wish to quote therefrom:

Felix made the supreme sacrifice for his country and his buddies. We are proud of his unselfish deed. The kind expressions we receive from friends help ease the ache in our sorrowing hearts, but as you can appreciate, to us he was our little boy.

He died as he lived, with a smile and a song, as that was his nature. The last time we saw him I told him since you are to be a soldier I want you to be a good one, and he answered, "I will, Dad," and he was.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Private Mestas was a real soldier, and I am proud to relate his accomplishments to the House. I am sure his heroism will be duly and appropriately recognized by the War Department.

The Farmer Faces a Tough Year

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. GEORGE W. GILLIE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 1945

Mr. GILLIE. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following editorial from the Saturday Evening Post of March 3, 1945:

THE FARMER FACES ANOTHER TOUGH YEAR

That record buster, the American farmer, is being asked for a repeat performance with this year's output of food. Livestock and crop-production quotas, set by the War Food Administration, are based on a continued heavy war and relief demand. They ask for a 363,685,000 crop acreage, 3 percent more than was planted last year. "Better to have too much than too little," is the view expressed by one official.

It is a justifiable precaution. But in the light of contradictory policies, many people in the farm areas wonder if the Government really means it. For the farmer is having to tackle the job with still less to do it with than before.