

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Nazis Put Homeland to Torch As Russians Sweep into Reich; Yanks Gain in Drive on Manila

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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.)



As huge Allied pincer squeezes Germany from three directions, map indicates disposition of Nazi troops, with majority concentrated in East.

#### EUROPE:

##### Reach Reich

Having severed the rich agricultural province of East Prussia from Germany, the Red tidal wave of upwards of 4,000,000 men rolled clear up to the eastern border of the Reich itself, with the Nazis desperately trying to check the drive.

Biggest threat to the Reich lay in the Russian advance on Silesia, the "little Ruhr" of southeastern Germany, where Red columns closed in on the rich coal, zinc and iron resources and the industrial centers built around them. Once able to produce about 700,000,000 tons of coal annually during the height of her conquests, defeats in both the west and east, coupled with severe aerial bombardment, are said to have reduced Germany's output to around 200,000,000 tons.

From Silesia northward, the Germans fell behind the flat, forested banks of the Oder river in an effort to check the Russian tide, relying on defenses reportedly in the making as far back as two years ago, when the Nazis foresaw the probability of being forced to fight alone. Reaching the river, the Russians boldly exploited their initiative, throwing armor across its frozen expanse, and bitter fighting raged as the Germans attempted to contain their bridgeheads.

##### Fanatical Resistance

Having given no quarter during their invasion of Russia, the Germans asked none as the Red tidal wave swept onto their own soil, with the army putting their own villages and factories to the torch to deny the Reds the use of any facilities.



Himmler

Reich from East Prussia and Warthegau province, which Hitler took from Poland after the latter's fall in 1939, further straining the already burdened transport system. As the German army fell back, women and children were hoisted onto tanks and other military vehicles and carted to the rear.

Rushing to the eastern sector, Home Front Commander Heinrich Himmler was given sweeping powers to complete the organization of the "people's army" (the Volksturm) for military as well as labor service, evacuate civilians and industrial facilities, and confiscate or dispose of personal property.

##### Hold in West

Despite the seriousness of the Russian attack, the Germans continued to resist Allied pressure in the west in strength as they once again found their backs to the important industrial Rhineland.

As the enemy pulled back into the Siegfried Line, reconnaissance showed extensive Nazi troop movements inland, with conjecture that the high command was sending reinforcements to the east. But even as the shifts were being made, the Germans themselves expressed concern over a new Allied drive in the west, with claims that General Eisenhower was massing troops above Aachen.

Meanwhile the British maintained their pressure against German lines above Aachen, while the U. S. 1st and 3rd armies, having ironed out the Belgium bulge, proceeded to

punch to the Reich border. In Alsace to the southeast, the Germans continued to harass General Patch's 7th army, extended by the original withdrawal of elements of the 3rd from this sector to relieve the threat of the enemy's Belgium breakthrough.

#### PACIFIC:

##### Sight Bataan

With mountainous Bataan hovering ahead in the distant haze, U. S. motorized elements, followed by the 40th division, swarmed onto Clark Field's airfield, 40 miles above Manila.

Eager to avenge the gallant Yanks who stood their ground so steadfastly on Bataan in the early weeks of the war, the advancing U. S. troops encountered but little stiff opposition, but farther to the north, on their left flank, their comrades faced strenuous enemy resistance.

It was here that the Japs continued to put up their stiffest fight from entrenched mountain positions, in an effort to check the Yanks' drive to cut off their forces on the northeastern neck of Luzon. As the Americans crept forward against the embattled Japs, U. S. warships were called upon to train their big guns on the enemy fortifications, also being heavily pounded by field artillery.

#### MANPOWER:

##### Channel Workers

"Even as congress considered 'work or fight' legislation for 18,800,000 men in the 18 to 44 year age group, the War Manpower commission tested a new voluntary plan for channeling employees from unessential to essential industries in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Under the WMC's new plan, the number of workers unessential plants can retain is reduced, with men released then offered suitable jobs in essential industry. If they refuse to accept, the United States Employment service will not give them a referral card, necessary for obtaining work elsewhere.

Under the work-or-fight legislation shaped by congress, workers in less essential jobs would be asked to shift to more critical employment by their local draft boards, with the latter then ordering them to transfer if they failed to act voluntarily. Physically fit men violating the order would be inducted into the army while the physically unfit would be liable to fine and imprisonment.

#### CLOTHING:

##### Shape Controls

In an effort to increase the output of more essential apparel like work clothes, children's wear and underwear, the War Production board revealed that it would grant priority assistance to manufacturers producing such goods from cotton, wool and rayon.

At the same time, the Office of Price Administration announced plans for reducing present clothing prices from 6 to 7 per cent by fixing costs at the average level of the first half of 1943. In reporting its plans, OPA said that better than 100 per cent rise in the nation's clothing bill from 1939 to 1943 threatened the whole anti-inflation program.

Although the effect of the WPB's program will eliminate luxury clothing, medium-priced apparel, along with essential grade, will continue to be made, it was said. Quality of cheaper garments will be controlled to provide maximum serviceability.

#### CABINET CHANGE:

##### Wallace Bucked

When President Roosevelt asked Jesse Jones for his resignation as Secretary of Commerce to make way for the appointment of Henry Wallace, he precipitated a political turmoil, which saw the senate first take up consideration of a proposal to divorce all of the multi-billion dollar lending operations from the department before considering the confirmation of the ex-vice president.

Long at the head of the Reconstruction Finance corporation and its many subsidiaries before its incorporation into the commerce department in 1942, bluff, big-businessman Mr. Jones made no bones about the fact that he thought only an experienced businessman with traditional American ideals of free enterprise should be entrusted with the handling of billions of dollars of government funds available for credit, and his huge investments in factories, facilities, etc.

Upon being apprized of his nomination, lank Mr. Wallace, long the bellwether of New Deal liberalism and favorite of the CIO, declared: "... The Department of Commerce and federal loan agency provide an opportunity... for intelligent work in behalf of the producing and consuming public. Roughly, the job is to promote a maximum of national employment by private business. Government must accept the duty of seeing that all men in health have jobs..."

#### RATION COUPONS:

##### Find Fakes

Breaking into a west side apartment in Chicago, Ill., early in the morning, government agents found 50,000,000 fake red meat coupons worth 500,000,000 points, distribution of which would have thrown the whole rationing program out of kilter and necessitated the issuance of new books.

Valued at \$2,500,000 at the prices at which they were being sold to meat markets and restaurants in Chicago and elsewhere, the coupons



James Polito and Gaetano Polito.

were but a part of a total with an estimated worth of 2,000,000,000 points in the possession of a nationwide ring of counterfeiters, OPA officials said.

Held on \$25,000 bail apiece were alien Gaetano Polito and his wife, in whose apartment the fake coupons were found, and sons James, 22, and Gaetano Jr., 19, both medically discharged war veterans. Twice convicted for operating a still, the elder Polito, who said he was a cook at a north side cafe, has a minor police record.

#### WAR FREIGHT:

##### Emergency Control

With severe winter weather continuing in the northeast, with temperatures in many parts of New York and adjacent states down to 32 degrees below zero and blizzards piling up snowdrifts, temporary stringent regulations were maintained on rail traffic in 10 states both east and south of the Great Lakes in an effort to move war freight.

Although originally permitted to move into the congested area, live stock and poultry, fresh and frozen meat, coal and coke were later temporarily barred from shipment along with less essential civilian freight. Passenger service also was curtailed in the original regulation.

Requested by the Office of Defense Transportation, and voluntarily complied with by the railroads, the restrictions were expected to serve as a model for future regulation of rail traffic in emergencies to provide for the movement of goods for overseas shipment and necessary material to vital industrial plants.

#### JOB PLAN:

##### Full Employment Goal

In the first legislative proposal to provide full employment in the postwar period, four Democratic senators introduced a bill under which the President would be empowered to furnish full employment if private industry failed in the goal.

Sponsored by Senators Murray (Mont.), Wagner (N. Y.), Thomas (Utah) and O'Mahoney (Wyo.), the bill would require the President to estimate possible employment by government and industry each year, and then institute measures for taking up any slack.

According to provisions of the bill, these measures could include proposals for encouraging private investment, or a federal spending program, primarily consisting of the construction of public works.



#### Notes of an Innocent Bystander:

**The Radioats:** Fred Allen shelved his regular once-a-week program because the rigorous routine taxed his health. But during one week Allen gueststarred on three different shows—and improved them all... The new Danny Kaye program is bound to click. He rates a tip of the hat for avoiding the gag files and for trying a unique brand of microfun with original stuff... Henny Youngman's gagging is funnier than it has ever seemed before... The "Two on a Clue" CBSession rates attention. A welcome relief from the usual afternoonsense... Radio stations may be forced to suspend their round-the-clock (all night) recorded programs—if skilled technicians are drafted. It would save electricity, say Gov't execs, for both stations and tuner-inners.

**The Magazines:** Mr. Justice James F. Byrnes has turned out an incisive blueprint via American Magazine, which should serve as an excellent guide for taking Congressional procedure out of its coverd-wagon rut and converting it into a legislative streamliner. This article is a model of constructive criticism... Harper's contains a plague-by-plague report of the Argentinazi malady... In Vogue, Harriet Van Horne takes apart radio listening gullibles who write letters of condolence when a character in a soap opera dies. Difficult to believe that people with their mentality can write... W. Davenport's "The President and the Press" in Collier's is a must for editorialists, too... The Page 121 cartoon in Esquire shows two penguins looking at a deserted shack marked "Byrd", with one saying: "Wonder whatever happened to him?"... FDR decorated him last week!

**Midtown Favorite:** This one will amaze his pals—not that Frank Farrell would run from a fight, but none of us ever saw him in one... He is better described as a mild guy... Slim, good-looking and we all like him very much... A Life artist (who drew a picture of Farrell in action last year) told this story last night... Frank was posing for the artist, nonchalantly (with a gun over his knees), in one of the South Pacific islands... Suddenly Frank (Cap't, pod'n me, sir) Farrell of the Marines looked up and said: "Look at that over there!"... The artist looked across to the other side of the atoll and saw nothing but jungle... But Frank had spotted a camouflaged Jap... And fired four times in rapid succession... Later when Frank and the artist walked over—they found four very dead Japs there... Pretty good shooting for an ex-Night Club editor.

**The Intelligentsia:** Walter Davenport, associate ed. of Collier's, is flying with the Air Transport Command in the Pacific for a 6 weeks' tour... Paul Hunter, publisher of Liberty, says Marshall Field was interested "about a year and a half ago" in the purchase of the weekly, "but it never came to anything." The recent rumors came from staffers... Perfect name for a critic: Motion Picture Herald's London movie embalmer is Peter Burup... Bing Crosby's top songs for 1945 are expected to be his recordings of Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine" and "Night and Day"... Philip Wylie was unimpressed by an item concerning a Marine's children who were born on the same day in various years. Wylie was born on May 12, 1902. His late brother on the same day in 1904, and his late half-brother, Ted, on May 12, 1913.

**The Grandest Canyon:** Faces About Town: Jimmy Durante, in the ailing room between broadcasts, prepares this financial report: Owe \$50—you're a piker. Owe \$50,000—you're a tycoon. Owe \$50,000,000—you're a guv'nimint... Harold Lloyd, the clown prince, near the City Center Theatre, unrecognized by autographers—who were searching for him... In Reubens, Frank Conville (the No. 1 man of the U.S.O. entertainers—three years overseas) handing his butter to a civilian at the next table, who was making such a do-do about "only one piece"... Bea Lillie of the flawless diction pausing outside Theodore's to chat (in rich cockney) with a lonely-looking British tar... Ann Sheridan, bound for South America, where she has a job at \$2,000 per week.

**Broadway Confucius:** The Trouble With Dream Girls Is That They Keep You Awake All Night.

## Women's Bureau of Labor Department 25 Years Old; Busy With Present and Postwar Needs of Workers

### Agency Watches Over Rights and Security Of Eighteen Million

By C. V. PETERS

Eighteen and a half million women are now working for wages, mostly in jobs essential to war. Some five million of these are new to the labor markets; they have gone into factories and fields since 1940, when the nation began to buckle down for the great conflict. All in all, women have been doing a magnificent job. No task has been too dirty, or dangerous or difficult; they have cheerfully accepted all discomforts and hazards.

In World War I, when, as now, millions of women were called upon to replace men in a thousand occupations, the department of labor became interested in the special needs and problems of working women. In 1920 a permanent subdivision, the Women's bureau, was established, which superseded the temporary Woman in Industry Service, set up in 1917.

Miss Mary Anderson, director of the war agency, was appointed head of the Women's Bureau. After developing the Bureau to its present impressive status, she retired last June at the age of 71, with 25 years of service to working women accomplished.

Under the guidance of Miss Anderson, the bureau made intensive study of conditions and problems of women workers in various types of employment—professional, business, industrial and domestic. She was responsible for calling two important conferences of women in industry, in 1923 and 1936, attended by representatives of all important women's organizations. The principles she advocated were:

1. Complete equality of opportunity for men and women on the basis of their individual merit, skill and experience.
2. Wage rates based on job content without regard to sex.
3. Establishing of precise and objective standards for determining job content as a basis for determining wage rates.

In 1918 there were eight and a half million women workers. In the



Mrs. Nora T. Sterns, outstanding member of a class of "Tractorettes" pilots a big machine on the 260-acre Sterns farm. She is a Triple-A woman, and organizer of her class of women tractor operators.

spring of 1940 there were 13 million. Now there are 18 million women in the labor force. These 18 million women make up 38 per cent of the total nonagricultural labor force, and 20 per cent of the agricultural labor force of the United States.

**Machine Age Changes Life.** The amount of gainful work done by women at home has decreased steadily, while the amount of their gainful work outside the home has increased. At the beginning of the 18th century women were spinning at home, but the yarn was brought for weaving to large rooms where looms were in use. The earliest cotton mill was established in 1814, and thereafter weaving became a factory occupation.

In 1831 there were 30,000 women employed in various cotton factories in the United States. By the middle of the century, the sewing machine came into effective use, usually operated by women.

Thus into a world of gardening and raising sheep in the back yard, of grinding flour, of weaving cloth in the "front room," the first machines appeared and revolutionized our whole manner of life. Since many of the earlier machines did work that had always been done by women at home, manufacturers



This specially trained girl makes some adjustments on the nose assembly of a P-39 Airacobra. There is scarcely any task in aviation manufacture that women have not mastered.

looking for factory operatives turned to women.

The factories, located with a view to available power and future marketing, soon developed communities, and these attracted other workers in various lines of activity. As towns grew in size, many of the older household occupations became impossible.

The entrance of women into wage-earning occupations was tremendously speeded up by the Civil war and World War I. Of the role women played during the first World war, we have a dramatic picture. The war itself wrenched the whole industrial machine. In the quick shift from peace to war, women as well as men were rapidly absorbed by the iron and steel mills, metal factories and foundries; they were practically drafted to make munitions and other war supplies. Aerial warfare created a new industry, in which women were indispensable, and it expanded the industries that made the material necessary for aircraft manufacture. Meanwhile the army of 4,000,000 men had to be fed and clothed, and in addition the nation's industries had to continue to supply the needs of the people at home.

There are striking parallels between the first World war and the present one in regard to women workers. In steadily increasing numbers, then as now, women entered fields which had been regarded as men's exclusive province—although thousands of women carried on in traditionally feminine food and fabric industries. Experienced women who were already in manufacturing in 1917 were utilized largely for munitions making. They helped to train new groups formerly otherwise employed, such as school teachers, who joined their ranks, as well as the large numbers of inexperienced women never before in the labor force. Growing numbers of women were hired in such industries as iron, steel, lumber, transportation equipment, chemicals, metal and metal products and others.

The Women's Bureau had recorded World War I experience in the use of women labor, so it was natural that the bureau should be recognized as the official agency for all matters relating to women's employment in the present war effort. On March 15, 1941, the Undersecretary of War indicated that he would take measures to see that the War department take up all matters of concern to women workers with the Women's Bureau, and there has been close cooperation since that date. Cooperative relationships have been established with the Navy Department, with other Government departments, and with state organizations and war contractors.

**Can Do Any Job If Trained.** The peacetime work women were doing on punch presses, drilling machines, milling machines, lathes, grinders, and polishers, as well as their high record of achievement in inspection, assembly, filing and other bench work in metal and electrical industries was well known to the bureau. The extent to which these developed skills would be useful to war-implemented industries was easily demonstrated. In the last war women had proved themselves able in an emergency to make good on any job if adequately trained.

The transfer of vast numbers of agricultural workers to the war industries, as well as the rapid induction of others into the armed forces, resulted in a growing demand for the employment of women in agri-

cultural work. In interesting women in such work, the bureau cooperated with other government agencies concerned, and in addition formulated and helped put into practice standards for women's employment on farms.

Today, women are being utilized in three broad categories of jobs:

1. Those that women have always done, now multiplied by the demands of war.
2. Those where they have been used as substitutes for men, either as replacements or in expanding industries.
3. Those that are new processes never performed by either sex (some of these are the result of subdivision of skilled operations to facilitate mass production, while others are the result of manufacture of new kinds of equipment).

Though men are still found in most of the top and highly skilled industrial jobs, women to an increasing degree are doing the more skilled, difficult and disagreeable jobs, as well as certain dangerous and sometimes inappropriate types of work.

During World War I the question was: Would women remain as workers when the war ended? Many people thought this question would be answered by the return of women to their homes or their old occupations. This time the question is: How may we best organize and carry out the shift from wartime to peacetime employment?

#### Three Million Will Quit.

The Women's Bureau believes that at least 3 million women will voluntarily withdraw from the labor market—young girls will go back to school; older women at retirement age or past, will retire; many of the 3,710,000 housewives who joined the labor force for the duration only, will be glad to take over full time homemaking duties. This will leave a force of about 15 million women workers for the immediate postwar period.

Miss Frieda S. Miller, who became Director of the Women's Bureau on August 17, 1944, believes the shift to peacetime jobs is a manageable thing, if we are both forehanded and farsighted as to planning. She believes this planning must begin at local levels, and provide for advisory counsels for all groups, and facilities for training and retraining of war workers for peacetime employment.

After the last war, the Assistant Secretary of War, acting as the Director of Munitions at that time, paid this tribute to women.

"For the successful carrying out of our program for the production of vast quantities of explosives and propellants, as well as shell loading, the women of America must be given credit on account of the highly important part they took in this phase of helping to win the war. Fully 50 per cent of the number of employees in our explosive plants were women, who braved the dangers connected with this line of work, to which they had been, of course, entirely unaccustomed, but whose perils were not unknown to them."

Miss Miller believes that women's contribution has been much more extensive in World War II. In the postwar world, she says, "Let us dovetail the skills and experiences of men and women workers so as to produce all the varied and numerous goods and services needed for a well-balanced economy and well-rounded living for all our people."

With the war still far from being won, women of America give every indication of surpassing all previous goals in war production.