

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Allies Storm River Barriers To Mount Twin Drives on Reich; Thousands Homeless From Floods

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 (EDITOR'S NOTE: When captions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



Flood waters spilling over the banks of the Ohio river and its tributaries again made thousands homeless and threatened war production. Aerial view shows Newton, Ohio, with a population of 2,000, isolated by the inundation.

## EUROPE: Span Barriers

From the west and from the east the great battle for Germany was begun, with a sorely pressed Nazi command, which once marshaled its legions in triumph, desperately attempting to stem the Allied tide.

Most significant of the Allied moves was the U. S. crossing of the Rhine in pursuit of a disorganized enemy, who had broken off the battle to the west of the river and attempted to flee to supposed security behind his broad span, previously uncrossed since Napoleon's time.

Smashing quickly through enemy rear-guards, who tried to slow up the U. S. and British advance and give the main body of their troops a chance to escape across the Rhine, Allied spearheads not only reached the historic river in short time but also spanned it with the intention of affording the disorganized enemy no opportunity to reform his ranks for a stiff defense of the waterway.

To Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' 1st American army went the honor of being the first Allied unit to jump the Rhine below Cologne. Crossing where the river measured a quar-

ter mile in width and its banks flattened out, Hodges' men steadily expanded their bridgehead for a thrust across the rolling hill country lying just below the vital Ruhr valley.

As Hodges' troops poured across the Rhine in the wake of Germans straggling inland, the enemy tried to chop up the American beachhead with mortar and artillery fire, and armored elements launched limited counterattacks in an attempt to trim the expanding foothold.

While Hodges' famous 1st attained the singular honor of becoming the first military force to cross the Rhine since 1813, the U. S. 9th and British and Canadian armies to the north and the U. S. 3rd army to the south also drew up to the river in record time, poised for the leap after having cleared huge pockets of enemy troops to their rear.

Meanwhile, the Russians launched a broad all-out assault on Berlin, with Red infantrymen, paced by armored columns, smashing deep into the enemy defenses west of the Oder.

Thus did the Allies breach the Germans' two river barriers guarding both ends of the Reich to carry the battle into the flatlands lying beyond, where the comparative levelness afforded their armored columns opportunity to wear down an enemy, whose recent strategy had called for extended use of terrain to economize dwindling forces.

From S/Sgt. Thomas J. Deilbaugh of Cumberland, Md., came the latest story of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's personal inspiration of his troops under fire. During the Allied comeback against Von Rundstedt's offensive in January, Yanks reached the swift and icy Sure river, and faced the task of crossing it to reach the strategic town of Bettendorf, commanding the countryside. When Patton saw that boats offered a perfect target for German gunners while it would be difficult to draw a head on a man swimming across, he jumped into the swirling water and swam over to prove to his troops it could be done. Inspired, they followed, capturing Bettendorf.

## PACIFIC: Stubborn Foe

Despite the loss of over 225,000 men in the Philippine and Iwo Jima campaigns, the Japs continued to offer stiff resistance to American clean-ups in these sectors.

Indicative of the tenacity of the enemy was his withdrawal to the hulks of battered ships in Manila Bay to continue the fight with small arms fire after having been driven out of Manila itself. Although they already had lost over 212,000 men on both Leyte and Luzon, an estimated 60,000 Japs fought on from natural strongpoints against Yank attempts to compress them in the mountains lying to the east of Manila.

With more than 12,000 Japs already killed on Iwo Jima, marines still were forced to inch forward on the northern part of the tiny island to flush enemy remnants from the rocky hill positions. Because the Japs could retire to underground shelters during heavy aerial or artillery bombardment, the Leathernecks were compelled to root them out in close-in fighting.

## FLOODS: Thousands Homeless

Familial but tragic scenes were reenacted again as the Ohio river and tributaries rose over their banks to flood surrounding lowlands and send thousands of homeless refugees scurrying to safety.

Operations of war industries in the river's paths were seriously affected as the waters rose, and residents of the great cities of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Portsmouth and Louisville anxiously viewed the broadening crests, which threatened to spill over and flood their environs.

Of all the big cities, Portsmouth, with its 40,000 people, was most seriously endangered, with rising waters lapping at the 63-foot flood wall while state troopers and volunteers struggled to reinforce it with a sandbag levee.

With rain-swollen rivers flooding acres of low-lying farm land in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi, thousands of residents of these areas also were forced to move to the uplands.

## MANPOWER: Showdown Near

With the senate still strongly opposed to compulsory labor, "work or fight" legislation headed for a showdown in conferences with the house, with sentiment strong for the grant of additional power to the War Manpower commission to continue to exert pressure toward the channeling of workers into needed industry.

At the same time, congress moved to draft unmarried nurses to provide the 20,000 needed to attend the growing battle casualties. Under legislation considered, nurses would be given the right to appeal induction, would be offered commissions even if drafted, and would be eligible for benefits under the G. I. bill of rights.

Vigorously opposed to the house's "work or fight" measure providing for army induction or fine and jail for failure of 18 to 45 year-old men to accept war essential employment, the senate pushed a substitute bill under which the WMC would set the limit on the number of employees any establishment could have, and regulate the hiring of people.

## CIVIL AVIATION: On Upgrade

Reflecting the nation's increasing air-consciousness, and the prospects for greatly expanded civil aviation after the war, no less than 51,000 student pilot certificates were issued during 1944 as compared with 35,000 the year previously, the Civil Aeronautics board revealed.

Interested in aviation because of some relation's service in the air forces or because increased income has permitted training, women represent 15 to 35 per cent of the new students, the CAA said. Most youths from 16 to 21 years of age intend to enter the air forces later while the majority of men over 30 plan to use their planes for business travel.

As a further indication of the future employment of the airplane in American life, CAA said, country doctors and priests have become interested in aviation as a means of serving larger areas and thus overcoming the limits of vehicular travel.

## CLOTHING: More for Kiddies

In addition to cotton fabric previously allotted for low and medium-priced children's clothing, additional yardage has been allocated for the manufacture of about 6 1/2 million more kiddies' garments, the War Production board revealed.

Outing flannel, print cloths, broadcloths, poplins, lawns and chambrays will be among the material allotted for the extra children's dresses, overalls, coveralls, toddlers' dresses, jacket type pajamas, one piece pajamas, two piece button-on pajamas, infants' gertudresses, infants' kimonos, infants' gowns, creepers, rompers and crawlers.

WPB's allocation of the cotton fabric was part of its program to increase the output of cheaper clothing and thus help cut rising apparel costs, which OPAdministrator Chester Bowles called one of the most dangerous wartime inflationary threats.

## These Gifts Are Different!

With the President himself not permitted to receive gifts from foreigners without congressional approval, Mrs. Roosevelt has been the recipient of a wide variety of such presents.

Already the recipient of a jewel-encrusted gold crown and a harem costume, Mrs. Roosevelt lately was given an \$8,000 mink coat from the Quebec Fur Breeders' association—the only one of the presents she planned to use, she told newsmen.

Speaking of the gold crown, which she received from an African potentate following the Casablanca conference, Mrs. Roosevelt declared: "It's the most terrific thing you ever saw. No body could wear it. It's too heavy."

## FARM DEBT: Cut Sharply

At its peak in 1923 when it totaled over 10 1/2 billion dollars, the nation's farm debt dropped to 5 1/2 billion dollars by January, 1945, with a 20 per cent reduction taking place within the last 5 years.

As a result of the war-stimulated economy, farmers have enjoyed high income, as reflected in the big increase of both realty and plant value. Since 1940, worth of livestock was nearly doubled, machinery and equipment was up one-third, and land values rose about 25 per cent. In addition, farmers' holdings of currency, bank deposits and war bonds increased nearly 8 billion dollars during that time.

In reviewing the farm mortgage picture, the Federal Reserve bank showed that federal land banks and other agencies substantially increased their investments during the 1930s while those of individuals declined. The proportion of farm mortgages held by life insurance companies has risen slightly while commercial banks have experienced only a slight drop.

## U. S. INVESTMENTS: Foreign Holdings

American investments in foreign countries totalled over 13 billion dollars in 1941 while foreign holdings in the U. S. approximated 8 1/2 billion dollars, the National Foreign Trade council reported in an exhaustive analysis based upon treasury department testimony at recent congressional hearings.

Of the American investments, almost two-thirds were divided between Europe and Canada. Of the 4 billion in Europe, 1 1/2 billion were in Germany, and over 1 billion in Britain.

Besides the 4 billion dollars in Canada and Newfoundland, U. S. investors put more than 1 1/2 billion in South America and more than 1/2 billion in Asia. Of the amount in Asia, 170 million dollars were in the Philippines, 165 million in China and Manchuria and 90 million in Japan, it was revealed.



Things I Never Knew 'Til Now:  
 That Uncle Sam lost 10,500 soldiers, sailors and marines in 1944—not by Jap or Nazi bullets, but by accidents in the U. S. . . . That when soldiers and sailors actually take heed of their superiors' accident warnings, the accident rate in camps drops 60%. . . . This column is dedicated to saving the life of some soldier, sailor, marine or worker in the war effort—and the statistics prove that it probably will. . . . Every life lost to this country is one less fighter against Hitler. Your country needs your life—to protect its own. . . . This is the breakdown of your chances of living this year:

That 30,000,000 Americans have been injured in home-front accidents since the war started. . . . Work accidents last year caused the loss of 900,000 man-years of labor, and more workers were killed OFF the job than on the job—25,000 to 18,000.

That drinking on the part of either the driver or the pedestrian is involved in one out of every five fatal traffic accidents, and that, even in wartime, one or both drivers in fatal accidents violate a law in two out of every three cases.

That about 7,000 persons were drowned in the United States last year. . . . Smokers cause nearly a fifth of all fires in the U. S. A. . . . Accidents kill one out of three school-age children who die. . . . Three out of five fatal traffic accidents occur at night. . . . Nearly 2,000 persons were killed in grade crossing accidents last year. (So, Look, Listen and Live!)

That thousands of hunters will be maimed this year—and nearly 1,000 will be killed in hunting accidents unless the hunter is extra careful. . . . 17,000 people in farm families were killed by accidents last year—and only mining, construction, transportation and public utilities are more dangerous industries than agriculture. . . . About 80,000 hospital beds are occupied today by persons who have suffered accidents. (This is roughly 10% of all beds, and the pity of it is that accident cases usually require the immediate attention of several doctors and nurses, as well as the use of anesthesia apparatus, operating rooms and hospital beds. And this at a time when they're talking about drafting nurses!)

That Benjamin Franklin was one of the first safety advocates to go around. Remember? He said: "Haste makes waste" and "Carelessness does more harm than want of knowledge."

That the Chicago fire of 1871, the Johnstown flood of 1889, the Galveston tidal wave of 1900, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, the Boston night club fire in 1942, and all the other major disasters since 1865 have killed less than 25,000 Americans. (And yet day-by-day accidents killed 94,000 in 1944 alone!)

That accident figures prove the safest people in the U. S. are little girls between the ages of 5 and 14. . . . There is an accidental death in the U. S. every 5 1/2 minutes—and an injury every 3 seconds! . . . Accidents are the fifth cause of deaths in the U. S. . . . And cost \$14 per year per family in America.

That the Seaford Nylon plant of E. I. duPont de Nemours & Company has the best no-injury record in American industry, having gone nearly 17,000,000 man-hours without a single lost time injury to one of its employees. (And at the last report, the record was still running.)

That even if more than 700,000 women drivers were involved in traffic accidents in 1941, there is no conclusive evidence that women are more reckless than men when it comes to driving automobiles. . . . A speed violation is a factor in about 1/4 of all fatal traffic accidents. . . . Approximately 4% of drivers involved in fatal accidents are hit and run drivers! (The rest!)

That communications is the safest industry and mining the most dangerous. . . . One person in 14 will have an accident in the United States in 1945, if the 1944 pattern prevails. . . . Nearly 19,000 pedestrians are killed in traffic accidents yearly. (And walking is so easy.)

## Agricultural Tools Rationing Called Off, But War Demand Will Limit the Supply

### Big Increase in Parts, However, Will Be Available

The farmers of America are continuing, as usual, to do a magnificent job of producing foodstuffs. In 1944, for the eighth successive year, they produced a record food total despite a steadily dwindling manpower supply that reached its lowest point in 35 years.

Agricultural tools are no longer rationed, but that doesn't mean that the farmer, though he has the money, is going to be able to get that new tractor or combine he wishes so he can improve on the production miracle he has already accomplished.

It's the same old trouble we've had since Pearl Harbor. There's a war on! Manufacture of farm machinery, although recognized as an essential civilian "must" program, has to be balanced in relation to direct war production.

Here is the way the government sums up the situation: During the 1945 crop year it is expected that American farmers will obtain approximately the same amount of new farm ma-



A Potato Digger That Handles Two Rows at a Time.

chinery supplied 20 per cent of the food eaten by American troops stationed there. Australia has supplied nearly all the food for American troops in the South Pacific.

as cast iron, rubber, zinc, copper, that had gone into farm machines in pre-war days, had to be diverted to make tanks, military trucks, landing craft, guns and other war goods.

In 1939 American farmers were able to buy 161,000 new tractors. But that was a year when this country made only 2,141 planes. In the calendar year of 1943, when American farmers were able to buy a mere 85,000 new tractors, the United States manufactured more than 85,000 planes—mainly for war.

The critical shortage of raw materials that put a ceiling on manufacture of new farm machines in 1942 has been superseded by a shortage of manpower and components. During the first quarter of the 1945 farm machinery production year, manufacture of new machinery—exclusive of wheel tractors, repair parts and attachments—was approximately 25 per cent behind schedule.

This lag in production was caused by manpower shortages and the difficulty in obtaining components, chiefly malleable and gray iron castings. In the Middle West, where most of American farm machinery is made, the labor supply is inadequate, a condition that will not change while war goods are still urgently needed. One concern, that before the war made approximately 35 per cent of American farm ma-

ITEM	1945-46		1944-45
	Actual Production	Schedule B (Planned)	1944-45
Tractors	222,000	188,896	158,128
Corn pickers	11,436	20,936	27,511
Mowers	110,413	116,965	99,695
Rakes (side delivery)	28,053	27,309	28,952
Hay loaders	22,977	21,333	25,506
Pick-up balers	2,047	14,315	19,792
Grain drills (plain and fertilizer)	32,248	37,826	42,951
Manure spreaders	49,425	49,731	59,940
Disc harrows	113,830	107,637	107,146
Irrigation pumps, turbine	4,900	5,333	4,710
Moldboard plows, tractor:			
One to three bottom	112,472	71,852	85,221
Four and five bottom	2,509	2,966	3,859
Tractor mounted:			
Two bottom	23,250	35,909	14,535
Deep-way disc plows	14,214	9,665	12,232
Buc and shallow well systems	233,105	240,323	238,416
Combines	42,816	42,816	42,763
Milking machines	21,536	65,983	57,825
Cream separators	82,635	59,682	70,446
Tractor-mounted cultivators	146,361	178,922	209,338
One row, horse-drawn cultivators	36,232	29,422	32,585
Planters, horse and tractor-drawn	81,520	67,050	73,038
Planters, tractor mounted	14,166	9,152	11,111
Planters, potato	4,143	3,729	4,590

chinery and attachments as they did in 1944. There will be, however, nearly \$20,000,000 more in repair parts.

In other words, there is still not enough new farm machinery to go around. Farmers, in many cases, are going to have to conserve and repair and get along the best they can with what they have, rather than buy new replacements.

Approximately 90 per cent of the new farm machines (except tractors) that will be made in the United States during the 1945 production year July 1, 1944, to June 30, 1945, will be available to American farmers. About 10 per cent will go abroad—approximately 7 per cent in commercial exports and 3 per cent through Lend-Lease, according to the Foreign Economic Administration.

Lend-leased farm machines (that totaled only 2.5 per cent of the entire production of U. S. farm machinery from the start of the Lend-Lease program from March, 1941, to June, 1944), had to be sent abroad to step up food production for our boys fighting overseas. This farm machinery export not only helped to feed our boys, but saved urgently needed shipping space for munitions instead of thousands of tons of food grown on the wrong side of the ocean. The chief recipients of Lend-leased farm machines have been Australia, New Zealand and the British Isles, the latter hav-

ing reported in October, 1944, that by March, 1945, it would probably be short 6,000 workers needed to keep production up to schedule.

In effect, during the war this country has asked its farmers to raise more crops with less men to do the work, to keep their farm equipment in working order somehow without counting too heavily on replacements, and to share their machines with other farmers whenever and wherever possible.

To help farmers keep their machines going, manufacture of repair parts and attachments has been increased considerably. In 1944 the scheduled production of repair parts and attachments amounted to approximately 28.3 per cent of the total farm machinery output, as compared with 14 per cent in 1940.

Twenty-one per cent more farm commodities were produced in 1944 than in 1940 with 5 per cent fewer workers.

The annual employment on American farms decreased from 10,585,000 in 1940 to 10,037,000 in 1944. Approximately 4,000,000 workers have left agriculture for war industries or the armed forces.



Hay Baler Saves Labor.