

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVIII

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1942

NO. 47

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Hard-Fought Battle for Air Supremacy Holds Key to Control of North Africa; Italians Fret Over British Air Raids; Gains in New Guinea Mark Pacific War

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



United States soldiers cross a stream in the Gona-Buna area of New Guinea. The occupation of Gona by Allied forces, directed by General MacArthur, left the Japanese pinned down in a narrow strip of coast in the Buna area, 12 miles south.

#### NORTH AFRICA:

##### Air Battle Grows

Cheering word of ever-increasing Allied air strength in North Africa came from London and the Morocco radio as swarms of American and British planes in Tunisia provided cover for land operations.

Press reports tell of ground commanders telephoning for air coverage "as casually as calling for a taxi."

Chief battleground for the opposing forces had been Tebourba, a strategic junction 20 miles west of Tunisia and 35 miles south of Bizerte. Here a series of rapid action tank battles took place, with the key town changing hands as battle fortunes shifted.

Continuing efforts were made to extend and equip new airfields from which Allied planes could operate. Reports reaching the United States stressed the importance of the many American Commando transport planes now available. They are described as 50 per cent faster than the JU-52s and are capable of moving jeeps, small field guns and up to 98 soldiers.

On the opposite side of Africa, the British Eighth army was reported allowing Marshal Rommel's army no rest in the El Aghella area. The official communique spoke of patrol and artillery action. British military sources in London had warned that the "real" offensive was not yet under way and that when the Eighth army strikes, the blows will leave no doubt as to its strength.

#### RUSSIA:

##### Central Front

Although Nazi forces have been hard pressed in Russia, military observers were quick to warn against undue optimism. Despite a grave strain on their communications, German forces were said to be showing no signs of faltering in defensible positions.

Generally speaking, news was good. The Red army drove seven miles deeper into enemy lines on the central front near Velikie Luki, recapturing 13 settlements, while the Germans failed in their drive to regain the initiative on the Stalin-grad front.

On the central front the Russians attacked with ski troops supported by tanks painted white. This front extends northwest of Moscow, roughly from Rzhev to Velikie Luki.

Russian reports said the Nazis were trying not only to smash the Soviet offensive but also to start one of their own, evidently in the belief that the Red army is exhausted after their continuous attack.

#### STRATEGY:

##### Nazis First

Much interest throughout the United Nations has long centered on the broad or general plan for defeating the Axis. Always there have been theories advanced which often seem to have little basis in fact. Others again have a highly legitimate tone.

One of the most recent explanations of such strategy, and one of more plausible presentations of it is that advanced by Prime Minister John Curtin of Australia. In a current statement he declared that President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill decided even before the fall of Singapore (February 15, 1942) that the most necessary job was to beat Hitler and then take after Japan.

Thus the campaign in the South Pacific and on the Australian continent becomes one of a "holding" action. He warned his countrymen that they might have to endure strong air and sea-borne attack from the Japanese forces based on the island of Timor. He urged them to further prepare themselves for such action.

He pointed out that the closest co-operation exists between the Australian government, General MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander of the U. S. fleet in the Pacific.

#### CANNED FOOD:

##### New Restrictions

America's housewives are finding less and less use for their can openers.

Many canned foodstuffs are eliminated for civilian consumption for the duration upon a new order of the War Production board. The order was designed to save large quantities of tin, steel and rubber for war purposes. The saving in rubber would be made through fewer truck deliveries under the reduced output program.

Canned foods henceforth eliminated include apples, applesauce, apricots, numerous types of berries, grapefruit segments, orange juice, dehydrated vegetables, powdered skimmed milk, bacon and other meats, fruit for salad, okra, sucotash, various fruit juices, white asparagus, chili con carne, meat loaf, vienna sausage, sausage in oil, frozen and storage cream, various fats, syrups and sea foods.

#### CASUALTIES:

##### Total War

Well into the second year of World War II, U. S. citizens were pondering the official announcements from Washington which reported for the armed forces during the first 12 months of the fighting. There were 58,307 such casualties in that period according to the Office of War Information. This total includes killed, wounded, missing, interned in neutral countries and prisoners of the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, merchant marine and Philippine Scouts.

War department reports showed that army casualties totaled 35,678 and of this number 2,009 (including 480 Philippine Scouts) were killed; 3,332 were wounded; and 29,000 (including 10,500-Philippine Scouts) are missing in the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies and 1,119 are missing elsewhere in action; 112 are prisoners of war, not including those missing in the Philippines; and 106 are interned in neutral countries. Six hundred and nine of the 3,332 wounded have returned to action. As the majority of the army's missing were in the Philippines and Dutch East Indies, most of these are presumed to be prisoners of war.

Navy department officials said that they had reported or were in the process of reporting to the next of kin 22,629 casualties for the year. Broken down here is the picture: Navy—dead, 4,532; wounded, 1,579; missing, 8,636. Marine corps—dead, 1,123; wounded, 1,413; missing, 1,926. Coast Guard—dead, 40; wounded, 11; missing, 119. Merchant Marine—dead, 482; wounded, none; missing, 2,762.

According to Japanese and German figures 3,138 U. S. civilians are interned, said the OWI report.

#### 3-CENT COIN:

##### May Avert Shortages

If mint officials have their way new 3-cent coins may jingle in your pockets some day in the not distant future.

Officials asked authority to make such coins in case the copper shortage becomes so acute that there won't be enough pennies. The house passed legislation authorizing the new coin and returned it to the senate for action.

Director of the Mint Nellie Tayloe Ross has asked the nation's school children to undertake a "help win the war" campaign by putting idle coins, especially pennies and 5-cent pieces, to work meeting business demands, and thus save many tons of vital metals.

## News of 1942 Tells of Churchbells in England, Gray Hair, 'Steaming Stars,' and a Breath Holder

By CLIFF LANGE

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

During the past year news of the Allies battling the Axis, war production, conscription, wage-price-labor control measures, all have shoved many stories to the back pages. Stories that might have been "played up" more if they happened during peacetime. The following is a quick summary of some of those many news-shorts, and human interest stories.

#### JANUARY

Dr. Howard E. Wilson in an address in New York city said that most Americans are guilty of "geographic illiteracy" and that Hitler's successes were made possible because of his knowledge of the geography and economics of the nations he intended taking under his "protection."

Later on two Boston, Mass., doctors, Herbert D. Adams and Leo V. Hand reported that a man, operated on for a lung ailment, whose heart had stopped beating for 20 minutes, was brought back to life and in good condition. They had kept his brain and the rest of the body supplied with oxygen.

#### FEBRUARY

Many of you have seen in the movies, or heard on the radio the personality known as the "Voice of Experience." He was Marion Sayle Taylor. "Was" is the correct verb, for he died February 1 at the age of 53, from a heart attack, in Hollywood.

In a middle of the month meeting, Dr. John W. Studebaker, U. S. commissioner of education, told a meeting of 1,500 educators in the East that schools must modify their course of studies. Schools should add technical courses, stress health education and Latin America.

Down in Puebla, Mexico, the Astrophysical congress was told that the Milky Way system is 180 million billion miles from the sun. Scientists meeting at Columbia university, New York, were told by Prof. Roger Williams, University of Texas, that an abundant supply of vitamins promotes "intellectual keenness" and also are "capable of fostering morality."

#### MARCH

Hold your breath on this one: Eugene J. Frechette Jr., 20, New Haven, Conn., junior at Wesleyan university, Middletown, Conn., brought honors to his Alma Mater by establishing a record by holding his breath for 20 minutes, 5 seconds in a



These are said to be the graves of four of the six Nazi saboteurs who landed on Long Island and Florida beaches. Neither friends nor relatives claimed the bodies.

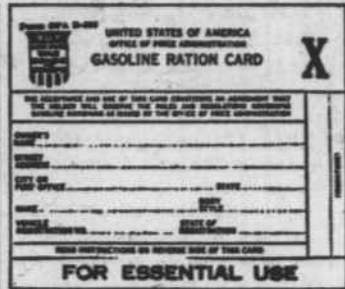
laboratory test. OK, let out your breath now. What did your wife say when you told her that one?

A New Jersey building contractor, Claude Habberstad, tried out some new wooden tires he had made. He drove 75 miles an hour on a concrete highway and said the tires should last for 12,000 to 15,000 miles if the speed was kept down.

#### APRIL

Somehow or other, as the files are scanned of this year's news, it seems that vitamins received more than usual amount of news-coverage. For instance: The para-amino-benzoic acid of the vitamin B complex known as paba, (easier to say, too) was given to 30 gray-haired prison inmates. It restored the original color of the hair in more than two-thirds of the cases in eight months. The "libido" in almost all of the cases, varying in age from 29 to 57, was greatly increased.

"In a marriage between German and Jew the German would get by far the better of the bar-



If you haven't got one of these cards, you aren't driving your car—at least legally.

gain." That is what Dr. Ashley-Montague, Philadelphia, had to say before a meeting of anthropologists at Harvard. Another blast at the Nazi racial theory "myth."

#### MAY

Here are a few of the Pulitzer Prize winners, as announced by Columbia university: Meritorious public service by a newspaper prize went to the Los Angeles Times; best national reporting award went to Louis Stark of the New York Times; local reporting prize to Stanton Delaplane of the San Francisco Chronicle; Ellen Glasgow's novel, "In This Our Life" also took first award.

On the 25th anniversary of his consecration as bishop, Pope Pius broadcast to the world, appealing for peace. He said, in part: "The family is sacred; it is the cradle not only of children but also of the nation, of its force and its glory. Do not let the family be alienated or diverted from its high purpose assigned to it by God."

#### JUNE

According to the U. S. census bureau, more than 38 million persons 25 years old, or older, completed at least eight years of grade or elementary school. More than 18 million in the same classification had finished high school.

And another thing, said Dr. McLaughlin of the University of Michigan, "exploding" stars don't actually explode. They just merely "let off a little steam." At the end of this month the nation faced a shortage of 50,000 teachers, especially in mathematics and physics. The draft, higher wages in industry were the cause of many schools deciding to close in 1943.

#### JULY

Russian composer Shostakovich's Seventh symphony which he dedicated "to our struggle against Fascism, to our future victory, to my native city, Leningrad" was heard for the first time in the U. S. when

played by the NBC symphony orchestra conducted by Arturo Toscanini in New York city.

Dr. Grinnel Jones, and co-worker Dr. Juda, both of Harvard, announced the perfection of a new fire-resisting chemical which can be sprayed or painted on wood to make it practically fire-proof. OK for plastic planes?

#### AUGUST

This sounds as though it is not meant to be, but it is all in earnest. A witness, known only as Mr. Murray, testified before a senate military sub-committee on making concrete cargo-carrying submarines to save steel. In case you have doubts, remember that Sen. Josh Lee said he is convinced of the plan's feasibility.

Yale university announced the award of 10 scholarships to labor union leaders. They'll start to school next February and undertake a research project on the development of trade unions. There was no statement as to whether the "continuous membership" and "check off" clauses were in the awards.

#### SEPTEMBER

Along comes this month and you are told, according to London AP reports, an unpublished Sherlock Holmes story, "The Man Who Was Wanted," was found by Adrian Conan Doyle, son of the writer. He said his father didn't want it published because it just wasn't up to "scratch."

You old-timers remember the Police Gazette, don't you? It has been barred from the mails by the post office department. Lascivious, lewd material was the reason given.

#### OCTOBER

The Sister Elizabeth Kenny method of treating infantile paralysis by hot applications, massage and exercise, which has caused so much furor in the medical world, is to be taught in six New York hospitals. Sister Elizabeth Kenny, an Australian, is director of a University of Minnesota clinic.

#### NOVEMBER

As for Stalin, over in war-torn Russia, things might have seemed a little brighter when he was told that Sergei, acting Patriarch, has conferred the official blessing of the Russian Orthodox Church on him. Sergei is a native of Polish territory taken over by the Russians. Josef Stalin was called "the divine anointed leader of our armed and cultural forces."

Celebrating the British victory in Egypt, church bells in England rang between 9 a. m. and noon on Sunday, November 15. Some of them rang for the first time since Dunkerque in June, 1940, when it was decreed that they should be rung only as an invasion warning.

#### DECEMBER

Charles Van Hefty, a Chicago war plant engineer, served as an example to hundreds of other motorists in that city, and cities all over the nation. He had hoarded 85 gallons of gasoline just before the recent gas rationing went into effect. Neighbors kicked. Police investigated. Firemen supervised his pouring the gas down the sewer while they shot streams of water after it. Hefty was out 18 bucks.

## Amazing Ways to Do Amazing Things Shown in Record of 1942 Accidents

In the topsy turvy year of 1942 one bit of Americana remained unchanged. Unusual accidents kept on happening as usual.

A roundup by the National Safety Council, Chicago, Ill., of dizzy mishaps for the year reveals that war or no war, a lot of people found time to do amazing things in amazing ways. For instance:

Saleslady Bessie Swank of Bridgeton, N. J., tried valiantly to fit a small girdle on a plump customer. She tugged so hard she was taken to the hospital with a severe back injury. The customer took the girdle.

Eugene B. Grabbe of Denver has never been a circus trapeze performer, but he could be. Washing windows on the seventh floor of the U. S. National Bank building, he started to fall as the buckle on his safety belt gave way. Grabbe hurried himself backward with such force

that he floated through the air with the greatest of ease, cleared a 16-foot space and landed on his feet atop an adjacent four-story building. He broke both legs, but considered himself lucky.

Joe Konecny of Great Bend, Kan., had stored his car in a garage at Little Rock, Ark., to make an auto trip with a friend. As he and his friend were driving along near Mountain Home, Ark., their car collided head-on with another machine. Both cars were wrecked. When Konecny crawled from the wreckage and looked at the other car, he saw that it was his own. It had been stolen from the Little Rock garage. Joe got legal "revenge."



## WHO'S NEWS This Week

By Lancelotti F. Parton

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—Critics of Maxwell Anderson, the playwright, have sometimes suggested that he has his head in the clouds. That might ac-

count for his persistence in saving the highest eminence of the Palisades—making the world safe for cloud-fanciers and rainbow fans. However, he doesn't make the mistake of Ibsen's brand, which led his people up so high they froze to death. High Tor is to Mr. Anderson the symbol of resistance against totalitarian quarry companies which would grind the cosmos through their rock-crushers, and also the symbol of certain ideas with which he garlanded it in his play, "High Tor," of 1937. It has high visibility and has rallied behind Mr. Anderson citizens far up and down the Hudson, and we know that remotely heard thunder is not Rip Van Winkle's elfin bowling team.

As head of the committee to save High Tor, Mr. Anderson is engaged in an effort to prove himself a poor prophet. In his play, he prophesied that the man who owned it ultimately would sell it to the quarry company, to be hacked down. Old Elmer Orden, the owner, died last April and High Tor was thrown on the market. Mr. Anderson's neighboring poets, artists and playwrights are swarming out of their remote hideouts to save the mountain.

Among them are Amy Murray, much beloved poet, who two years ago published a book of verse, poignantly beautiful, much of it about the mountain, and worthy of more attention than it received, and Henry Poor, the artist. Mr. Poor's painting of the mountain hangs in the Metropolitan museum. He and Miss Murray head the fund-raising subcommittee to buy the mountain and turn it over to the Palisades Interstate Park commission as a permanent bird and game sanctuary and a high hurdle for hikers—for Pegasus, too, it would seem as many a chaplet of verse has been hung on the mountain.

Somewhat farther downward sea level, Mr. Anderson is promoting a prizefight for the Fighting French Relief committee. He seems always to be asking himself "What price glory?" Just now he is gathering in slathers of money from his hit play, "Eve of St. Mark," rising up \$300,000 for the movie rights alone, and such glory always drives him to unforeseen endeavors. When he hits a jackpot he is apt to summon relatives and friends and say: "Have a farm or an education on me."

Mr. Anderson and his fellow craftsmen of the arts have led the old-timers up our way to conclude that poets and artists are all right if they behave themselves. The latter meet them halfway. There has been a new community solidarity in Rockland county, New York, which has stirred it to more than its population share of war-winning activities. Mr. Anderson has made High Tor a symbol of a common endeavor.

WITH college boys being pulled out of school, business men are sent back in. It is Dean Donald K. David of Harvard university business school who opens Harvard to 150 business executives, between the ages of 35 and 40, for a tuition-free course to retrain business executives for war work. He says the aim is to aid in the "production of goods necessary to win the war."

In 1922, Harvard university set up a consulting staff in Europe, which included Sir William Beveridge of London, for guidance of business in the reconstruction years. Sir William has been working in this field ever since, and is just now out with a ten-pound report and recommendation which is mainly a conclusion that there won't be any business after this war—all will be socialized.

Nothing like that for Harvard university this time. Dean David, who was named head of the business school last May, has staked out his curriculum on the old ground rules and the tradition that the pursuit of an honest dollar still will be a stimulus to enterprise.

## HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

WASHINGTON: Newspaper men coveting this wartime capital now need about 40 press passes to get them into the various buildings and offices around the city. Up until stricter measures were taken—to guard against spies, saboteurs or traitors—one pass, that admitting the bearer to the White House, would get newsmen almost anywhere they wanted to go.

CHICAGO: Three Nazi sympathizers, under sentence to die January 22, were granted a stay of execution while the U. S. circuit court of appeals studies the findings of their recent trial. They are Hans Max Haupt, father of Herbert Haupt, executed Nazi saboteur; Otto R. Wergin and Walter O. Froehling, friends of the Haupt family.