

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVIII

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1943

No. 51

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Jap Armada Repulsed in New Guinea; Russians' Rostov-Caucasus Offensive Wins Back Vital Areas From Germans; FDR Cites 'Miracle' of War Production

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.



First picture of an American officer questioning German prisoners is shown above, as Maj. William Yarborough (bareheaded) of Seattle, Wash., interrogates two German prisoners taken in Tunisia. Fighting French troops look on. Major Yarborough is liaison officer between the advanced U. S. forces and the French in Tunisia.

## ROOSEVELT: Better World Ahead

Bad news for the Axis, good news for the United Nations and the assurance of victory followed by post-war economic security were the three most significant elements in President Roosevelt's annual message to the 78th congress.

In delivering his bad news to the Axis on all fronts, the President bluntly announced: "Now our aim is to force the Japanese to fight. Last year we stopped them. This year we intend to advance." In the African area he promised that the last vestige of Axis power would be driven from the south shores of the Mediterranean. Concerning Europe, he said, "We are going to strike—and strike hard."

The good news for the United Nations was contained in Mr. Roosevelt's enumeration of the "miracle of production" at home, as well as the evidence of close co-operations between all Allied leaders. In his summary of accomplishments during the last year, the President listed the production of 48,000 airplanes, 56,000 tanks and self-propelled artillery weapons, and 10,431,000,000 rounds of ammunition and the transporting of 1,500,000 men of our 7,000,000 armed forces overseas. Significantly, he revealed that more supplies are now being flown by American planes to China than were ever transported over the Burma road.

In his approaches to postwar planning and domestic policy, the President succeeded in promoting good will for the administration in a congress now closely balanced in political faith. He suggested principles rather than specific recommendations for legislation that might stir up factional disputes.

## NORTH AFRICA: Allies Coil

Five and take operations continued on the Tunisian front, with the Allied forces steadily recruiting their strength until superior air and land power aided by more favorable weather would enable them to smash ahead in the all-out assault for Bizerte and Tunis.

As American troop concentrations were speeded in the new U. S. fifth under Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark, British infantry units wrested important heights from the Germans west of Bizerte.

The British, however, were dislodged from these positions by fierce German counter-attacks indicating the enemy's determination to contest every remaining foot of African soil. British and American bombers were active in the air, while Allied submarines harassed Axis shipping in the Mediterranean, sinking two enemy ships believed to be carrying troops to Africa.

In the east, General Sir Bernard Montgomery's British eighth army had been sparring for an opening for a new push on Tripoli.

On the diplomatic front it was reported that Gen. Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Fighting French, and Gen. Henri Giraud had agreed to a discussion of North African problems designed to speed French action against the Axis in collaboration with their Allies.

## SOUTH PACIFIC: Japs Are Stubborn

Although General MacArthur's forces had cleared the enemy out of the Papuan peninsula, the Japs still held an area in New Guinea as large as Texas and Oklahoma combined. That the Nipponese intended to stubbornly hold this area was evident from their naval operations to reinforce it.

First Jap efforts in this direction were frustrated when United Nations bombers attacked a convoy of 10 enemy ships off Lae, 160 miles up the eastern New Guinea coast from Buna. The Allied airmen sank two ships, one a 15,000-ton vessel loaded with troops, scored hits on a third and shot down 18 Jap planes, according to a communique from General MacArthur's headquarters.

Meanwhile other Allied airmen roved as far as Gasmata and Rabaul in neighboring New Britain, where unusually heavy concentrations of Jap troop and supply ships and war craft had assembled.

In the Solomons, American fliers continued to assert Allied air supremacy by attacking Jap airfields at Munda and Kahili on Bougainville island. Meanwhile in Burma, British planes strafed the area northwest of Akyab and damaged enemy shipping off Burma's west coast.

## RUSS STEAMROLLER: Gains Momentum

Best news for the United Nations' cause continued to come from the far-flung expanses of south and central Russia.

The Reds' two-pronged threat aimed at Rostov, vital city at the mouth of the Don, grew more menacing to the Nazi defenders, as both the northern and southern arms of the pincers continued to make new gains, capturing 61 villages in the Middle Don and rolling up impressive advances in the Caucasus.

The Caucasus offensive was especially significant, for after expelling the Nazis from Mozdok, gateway to the Grozny oil fields, and from strategic Nalchik, the Russ pressed the retreating Germans hard, advancing toward Mineralnye Vody, center of a network of Caucasus railroads. The capture of more than a dozen Caucasus towns indicated that the Nazi front in the area was breaking up faster than in any previous battles.

The seriousness of the German plight in the Caucasus was emphasized by the fact that for the first time the Berlin radio conceded that Axis troops were retreating in the east Caucasus, explaining that their troops had carried out "a shortening of the front, according to plan by giving up advanced strong points."

## PETROLEUM RATION: East Curbed Again

The OPA cut deeper into the use of rationed petroleum products in 17 eastern states, when an order banned pleasure driving and slashed the amount of fuel oil that schools, stores, theaters and non-residential establishments may consume to 25 per cent below present rations, giving them about 45 per cent of normal requirements.

## CONGRESS: Farm Bloc Program

Increasing strength of the farm bloc's influence in the 78th congress was evident as leaders mobilized their forces in both houses to modify administration farm policies and to seek release from the armed forces of drafted farm youth as a means of relieving the agricultural manpower shortage.

That the farm bloc had support for its efforts in rural America was indicated by the action of five major farm organizations in uniting behind the program. These groups include the National Association of Commissioners, Secretaries and Directors of Agriculture; the American Farm Bureau Federation; the National Grange; the Milk Producers Federation and the National Co-operative Council.

Speaking for the farm bloc, Senator John Bankhead of Alabama said that preservation of the farm labor supply should figure in a complete redistribution of manpower. Indicating the farm bloc's support of the farm organizations' appeal for release of drafted farm youth, he asserted that the estimated 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 men scheduled to be drafted in 1943 might well be diverted to production of both weapons and food.

## CONSUMER GOODS: Fewer Purchases Ahead

Purchases of consumer goods and services by American civilians will register declines of 10 to 15 per cent in 1943, while production of goods will show a 15 to 20 per cent dip, according to a prediction by the Office of Civilian Supply of the War Production Board.

The OCS estimated that the lag in production would be offset by the absorption of 25 per cent of the inventories on hand at the beginning of the year.

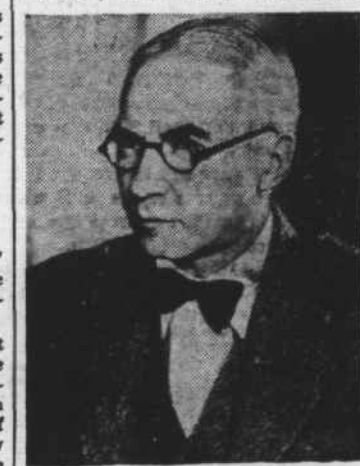
Largest drop in buying is expected in durable goods, continuing a trend started in 1942 when purchases by civilians declined 45 per cent below 1941. This year's decline is estimated at 35 per cent below 1942. The OCS said that production of consumer goods from steel would virtually stop.

## VICTORY PREDICTIONS: Premature, Says Davis

White-haired OWI Chief Elmer Davis, who prides himself on being realistic, exercised that trait when he took exception to Admiral William F. Halsey's prediction of a United Nations' victory this year.

Commenting on the naval officer's forecast, Davis said: "I have no information to support such a prediction, although I have been trying to get some."

Davis pointed out that the Germans are still building submarines faster than the Allies are sinking them and the U-boats' toll is creat-



ELMER DAVIS

ing "heavy losses in ships and the cargoes that go with them and sometimes trained men on them."

The director of war information tempered his pessimistic views, however, by stating that the Allied nations, particularly the United States, for some months past have been building more ships than Axis submarines have been sinking.

## POSTWAR CARS: To Cost \$400

Radically new light-weight passenger cars that may sell for as little as \$400 were envisioned by F. C. Crawford, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, as a postwar development resulting from amazing strides in metallurgy.

Mr. Crawford said that motorists in the coming peace era will have better gasoline than the 100-octane fuel now used for combat aircraft. The superior gasoline, plus greater use of light metals developed during the war, will give the American people far greater mileage on their cars and the cheapest all-around automobile transportation in history.

The NAM president said automobile companies expect to start production on some cars immediately after the war, but that the new postwar models probably will not appear for 15 to 18 months afterward.

## 1943 Will Test America's Production Strength As Axis Armament Plant Capacity Is Left Behind

Before this year ends the present 15,000,000 war workers will be increased to 20,000,000 or more in the nation's all-out, everybody-aboard war effort that will produce something like 125,000 planes, 75,000 tanks, 35,000 anti-aircraft guns, and over 10,000,000 tons of shipping to put Adolf, Hirohito and little Musso in their respective places.

This is the year when American industry and labor will show that it can do next to, or even, the impossible in turning out the weapons for victory over the Axis.

For some time the gigantic machinery of American industry was slowly gaining speed. There was temporary confusion.

Soon, though, the might and power of America hard at work began to be felt as the armed forces of the nation began to make glorious use of weapons rolling from unusual production lines, steel mills, automobile plants, and converted peace-time manufacturing plants. Today there is hardly a person whose work is not at least closely tied up with the national armament production plan.

Speaking in the nation's Capitol, Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones said: "We are already outproducing our Axis enemies and are only now approaching peak production in certain essential military categories. While 1943 will be a real test of the ability of American productive genius to supply our own armed forces and those of our Allies, past performances give us every ground for confidence that the high goals fixed by the President will be achieved."

That program, which was shown in part at the beginning, calls for a total expenditure of at least \$53,000,000,000 by June 30, this year.

Where 5,000 planes a month was the schedule for 1942, the 1943 output will be more than twice that. (In 1940 only 500 a month were produced.)

During 1942 the shipbuilding industry produced over 8,000,000 tons of shipping. The goal for 1943 is twice that amount. A total of 16,000,000 tons would be equivalent to 25 per cent of the entire merchant marine of the world when the war broke out.

Over a year ago it took almost 180 days to construct a "Liberty ship." American inventiveness, ingenuity and efficiency have whittled that time down to 56 days, and there is no doubt even that time will be further cut down.

Not so long ago Donald Nelson spoke before the National Association of Manufacturers and said: "At this moment the United States is producing combat armaments in as great a volume as all the Axis powers combined. A year from now (this year, '43) it will be producing twice as much; and the United Nations as a whole will be out-producing their adversaries by a margin of three to one."

The automobile industry, after re-tooling for war production, began to get in its main stride toward the middle of 1942. Even then, before it was in complete working order, it turned out war equipment valued at \$6,600,000,000, equivalent to 8,500,000 passenger cars and trucks, or 3,000,000 more than it turned out in the historic, prosperous year 1929.

Farmers of America, as Secretary of Agriculture Wickard said elsewhere on this page, are making superhuman efforts to make 1943 a greater production year than was the giant 1942.

This year farmers will have fewer farm hands than last year; more of his family will be helping. Labor shortages have already shown in various sections of the nation, but Manpower Commissioner McNutt has come to the aid by bringing in transient farm help whenever and wherever possible. About the only commodity farmers are not asked to produce more than they did in 1942 are grain cereals for bread and foodstuffs. The granaries of America are filled to the overflowing. There will be plenty of bread, and similar products not only for Americans, but neighbors who need it, Allies and lend-lease friends.



The men behind the men behind the guns, such as those shown here, are the ones that are keeping the production line humming.

## 'Notch by Notch'

Secretary of Commerce, speaking of what is ahead in '43, said: "Our people have tightened their belts and will further tighten them notch by notch if and when war developments make it necessary. They know that no matter what hardships we must endure at home those suffered by our courageous armed forces and their gallant Allies on distant fighting fronts will be infinitely greater."

standable. Bond buying, Victory tax on payrolls, increased income taxes, and probably compulsory savings might take some of this excess spending power away. But the force of what remains will still be greater than it was in 1942.

The record farm income of 1919, according to statisticians, was exceeded last year by over a billion dollars, with the 1942 gross income being \$18,500,000,000; cash income, including benefit payments, being \$15,600,000,000. The national outlay in salaries and wages was at least \$80,000,000,000 in 1942, an increase of 80 per cent from 1939. It is assumed, despite certain counteracting forces, that salaries and wages will be more than that in 1943.

The consciousness with which the armed forces, rural and urban workers, went about their respective jobs during 1942 gives an idea of the might which this nation will achieve during this present year.

Poet Walt Whitman wrote, "I hear America singing . . ." This year Americans will continue to hear the nation's industry humming—humming a tune of Victory which will soon—everyone hopes—break out into a mighty song celebrating the victorious defeat of the enemy.



Smoke Gets in Their Eyes ("Hider-Hirohito-Musso.")

## Farm Production Job This Year Not Easy One, Says Sec. Wickard

Because one-fourth of all the food that is going to be produced here during 1943 will go to U. S. armed forces, and outside of its boundaries to feed the peoples of the United Nations and those peoples in lands occupied by the Axis which may be taken from the enemy, that doesn't mean that Americans won't be well fed or healthy.

In England, after the nation went on a point rationing plan and many of the frills of the diet were cut out, it was found by public health officials that the average Englishman's diet was far more nourishing than before, and also that public health had improved.

The food goal for 1943 stresses the need of foods of most dietary values for wartime. Every effort will be made by the farmers of America to achieve them. A greater production of milk, meat, eggs, feed grains to support the increased livestock production is called for. Besides that there is an increased demand for

more dry beans and peas to supplement the proteins needed in our diets, more poultry to supplement our supply of meats, and more of the vegetables so necessary and essential because of their high food value.

Speaking to the farmers of America, Claude R. Wickard, secretary of agriculture, said: "The 1943 farm production job will not be easy." But he added that "it was not easy in 1942 . . . in general farmers met the goals, and exceeded by 12 per cent the previous high records set in 1941."

For months food officials have been at work figuring out how much the country can produce and have fixed what they believe to be attainable goals. They also know what the minimum needs of this nation are, besides the minimum for United Nations countries, outside of what they can supply by themselves.

What has them in doubt is the amount of territory recaptured from the Axis and the number of persons within such territories who will have to be fed. North Africa is a part example of feeding natives in territory wrested from the Axis.

The point rationing plan which is to begin next month is said to provide a means of manipulating public demand and also compelling public adherence to a predetermined balanced diet. Each month, or every six weeks the OPA will announce various "point values" of various type canned goods. Current point-value rates will be prominently posted in all grocery stores and households can decide from an inspection of the list what are the best "bar-gains" or "buys."

### WHO'S NEWS This Week

by Lemuel F. Parton

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—Effervescent Utopians talk now and then of the day when homes will be traded in as freely as automobiles. Cheap, demountable and having a resale value according to age they will, it has been predicted, be swapped for new and slicker ones as owners tire of them or spurt up the economic ladder from the business coupe to the town sedan rung. When, if and as this happens, happy buyers will do well to toast the memory of John B. Blandford Jr., for it cannot happen without a strong drift away from present-day housing and Blandford is the lad whose bellows helping that drift nowadays.

Thirty thousand war workers move into public housing accommodations each month. That's Blandford, the national housing administrator. In the past 12 months 278,000 new war-housing units have flown the green cap that means "finished" in the symbolism of builders. That's Blandford, too. And if plans now on the griddle cook to the right turn there will be thousands more. And the old-fashioned house that a man bought to raise and marry his children in, and shelter himself in his slippered retirement will have tough competition.

Blandford, only 45, is the graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, called by President Roosevelt a man of "amazing executive ability." A thick, solid amster with perky ears he smiles his way along as a man should under such praise.

EVERY home could use a Dr. Walter H. Eddy these none too cheerful days. It is luck that he is only professor emeritus of physio-

logical chemistry at Columbia university. Off the active list, he has

time on his hands as well as "a kind and gentle heart—to comfort friends and foes." War rationing will make us all pull in our belts but, Dr. Eddy says, we need not worry because the health of Americans should not suffer. Well! Maybe "foes" carries the comfort farther than even the doctor would have it go. The Nazis won't be comforted. Not much!

A while back Dr. Eddy was comforting a crowd only a little less needy than today's butter-meat - canned-goods - and - sugar-shy nation. He told a conference that both tea and coffee made for vim and vigor and also helped as much toward sleep as counting sheep. Both, he said, were stimulating morning drinks but at night tended to induce sleep, when taken in moderation. These happy conclusions, and his grand one touching on war rationing, are not those of a Johnny-come-lately, but of a fellow whose record in his own field almost matches Babe Ruth's.

Now the newly-appointed chairman of the Institute of Dietetics, Dr. Eddy was a major in the last war and is an expert consultant to the quartermaster general of the army in this one.

COL. MERIAN C. COOPER is back from China, and Washington correspondents are left in no doubt about his admiration for his chief, Brig. Gen. Claire Chennault. Colonel Cooper knows just what he wants to say, and says it. Twenty-odd years ago, while the rest of the newspaper reporters were wavering in front of the steam table at Hannon's restaurant in Minneapolis his mind was always clear. Roast beef! And a good dish, too, for 15 cents.

He has eaten better, and worse, since, and China, like Minneapolis, is just another way station in a succession of bounces which have taken him around the world and to spare. When he was in Abyssinia, Haile Selassie gave him a palace and wanted to throw a hunting party for him, but Cooper didn't have time. Before that he flew a fighting plane in France with the AEF, and later headed up the barnstorming photo who rolled across Europe in boxcars to join the Poles, then fighting Red Russia. Afterward he went exploring in Asia and India.