THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXX — GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1944 — No. 10

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Increased Activity in Pacific Sector Marked by U. S. Blows on Jap Bases And Heavy Fighting in Burma, India; 4-Fs Get Study in Manpower Crisis

(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.)

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Italy—Against a background of war's ruin at Cassino, an Allied medical unit moves to the front to attend the wounded.

RATIONING:
Announce Changes

More gas, freer use of fuel oil and food coupons and ration changes in vegetables, fruits, meats and oils were announced by OPA.

To maintain the distribution business, it was announced drivers holding "B" cards will be allowed an additional 100 miles a month, while expiration dates for fuel oil coupons will be eliminated before the fall season of heavy consumption gets underway.

Because many shoppers cashed in their red and blue food coupons for tokens at expiration dates, OPA took off all time limits on the stamps.

While all frozen fruits and vegetables were taken off rationing, beef flank meat, pork liver, lamb and mutton hearts, liver, sweetbreads and tongue, beef tongue, cooked and barbecued pork spareribs and pork tongue were cut 1 point. Shortening, salad and cooking oil were slashed 1 point. Points on canned carrots and tomato juice also were reduced.

DRAFT:
Eye 4-Fs

To fill up the industrial and agricultural ranks left vacant by the drafting of all men except key workers under 26, the government called for the induction of all 4-Fs not engaged in essential occupations and a congressional committee moved to shape special legislation for such a program.

At the same time, it was revealed Selective Service was scrapping its unit system of deferring agricultural workers, only giving consideration to a man's regular employment on a farm and the problem of replacing him.

Under the government's proposal, 4-Fs doing nonessential work would be enlisted as reserves and directed to essential occupations at regular civilian pay, or they would be enrolled in labor battalions for employment at army pay if they refused to accept the assignments.

Of the nation's 3,500,000 4-F's it was estimated that about 1,000,000 were engaged in non-essential work.

PACIFIC:
Threaten India

As bold Japanese forces thrust toward the highway hub of Imphal in India, Adm. Louis Mountbatten rallied Allied forces to a stand to hold this key to land communications all along the 600-mile Burmese front.

Admiral Mountbatten

In the Southwest Pacific area, strong U. S. naval forces again challenged the Japanese fleet to come out and fight by attacking the enemy's sea base of Palau, 460 miles from the Philippines, but the Nips once more withdrew. On New Guinea, New Britain and Bougainville, Allied ground forces continued to press the Japs, as U. S. airmen impeded reinforcement of their battered troops by shooting up shipping and bases.

Seeking to capitalize on their surprise of the Allies in India when they burst from the Burmese jungle from three points to converge on Imphal, the Japs maintained heavy pressure in the face of stiffening British resistance. Beyond Imphal lay the Bengal-Assam railroad, supplying Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell's U. S. and Chinese troops pushing the Japs down the Mogaung valley in far northern Burma.

AGRICULTURE:
Food Subsidies

To peg consumer costs, War Food Administrator Marvin Jones ordered the $3,000,000,000 Commodity Credit corporation to use its powers and funds for subsidizing food prices.

In addition, the CCC was ordered to purchase, sell, store and transport food and farm products involved in the WFA's price-support and lend-lease programs.

Strongly bucked by the farm bloc in congressional debate but upheld by administration forces, the food subsidy program will cost the CCC between $650,000,000 and $800,000,000, it was estimated.

Farm Prices

Increases in returns on meat animals, feed grains, hay and oil bearing and fruit crops resulted in a one point advance in the general level of farm prices from mid-February to mid-March, the agriculture department reported.

Boosts in the above commodities more than offset declines in food grains, truck crops, and milk and egg prices, and brought the general income level to 196 of the 1909-'14 plane. A rise of one point brought prices paid by farmers to 176 of the 1909-'14 standard.

Prices received by farmers averaged 115 of parity, with only wheat, rye, flaxseed, cotton, hay, peanuts, cotton, lemon and oranges below the fair exchange value established by congress.

EUROPE:
In Balkans

While their lines held in northern Russia, German troops fell back to the Carpathian mountains in the south, where they were looked upon to make a stand with Hungarian and Rumanian forces recently incorporated into the Nazi armies.

As the Germans drew back in the east, Allied bombers headed over western Europe to drop their explosives over the expected invasion routes and hammer at Nazi production centers. In Italy, both sides traded punches at Anzio below Rome, while action tapered at Cassino, where Germans clung to their defensive posts.

In pushing the Germans back to the Carpathians, the Russians advanced to within 30 miles from the old Czecho-Slovak border, while farther to the southeast, they crossed the Prut river to lunge into Rumania.

Occupation Plans

From London last week came reports indicating Allied plans for postwar Europe shaped by the U. S., Russia and Britain.

With the reich's collapse, the authoritative London Sunday Observer said plans called for British occupation of western and north central Germany, U. S. control of the southern and south-central parts, and Russia of the eastern section. Symbol of Germany, Berlin would be occupied by all three powers.

Before establishment of stable government, the Big Three would also occupy Austria, and any movement for that country's union with Germany would be discouraged, with closer economic ties with the Balkans suggested.

Looking toward eastern Europe, information leaking from sources consulted on perfecting details of the Teheran agreements indicate Moscow will annex the Baltic states and eastern Poland and Balkan territory considered traditionally Russian, and exercise influence over Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary.

SURPLUS GOODS:
Consult Business

To prevent a disruption of ordinary business channels, U. S. agencies entrusted with the disposal of surplus war goods for civilian use have been instructed to confer with the War Production board's 750 industry advisory committees on distribution of material through established outlets.

Although most members of the industry advisory committees are manufacturers, some wholesalers and retailers have been included in the groups, and it will be their task to help determine normal outlets for certain goods, the amount of material to be released, and whether distributors should bid for the merchandise, negotiate for its purchase or buy it at auction.

While the new procedure was announced, Rep. Wright Patman (Texas) pressed for enactment of a bill under which retailers would be given equal voice in the disposal of surplus war goods along with the bigger manufacturers and wholesalers.

GERMANY:
Production Efficiency

Striving to stretch their human and material resources to maximum, Germany's production czars have reached into industrial and domestic activity alike.

In industry, the Nazis have spared men and metal by reducing locomotive models from 119 to 13, and they have economized on shipping space by extensive dehydration of foods. More efficient methods reportedly increased steel, copper and aluminum output while decreasing man hours.

To keep working women from performing house tasks at home, the Nazis have organized groups to mend their stockings and attend to other domestic functions. Persons from 65 to 70 have been enlisted to assist service men at railway depots.

Finds Long Way Back

Taken to St. Petersburg, Fla., by his master and then given to a resident there, an Irish setter, Duke, so longed for his old home that he traveled 1,200 miles back to it at Roann, Ind., where an old friend, Rev. Robert Collins, found him bloody-footed and exhausted.

Informed of Duke's plight, his master wired Rev. Collins funds to care for the dog until he should return.

ARMY AND NAVY:
Furloughs

Because of shipping difficulties and preparations for campaigns, the army will continue to grant furloughs on an individual basis rather than to whole units, Sen. Guy Gillette (Iowa) was advised by the war department.

With other midwestern senators, Gillette had queried the war department about the possibilities of furloughing the 34th division, which has been overseas for more than two years and is made up of men from Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

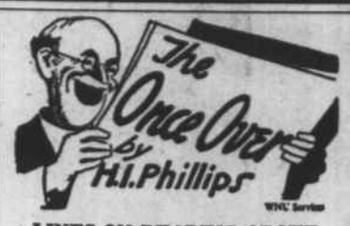
While the war department admitted many empty cargo ships were returning to the U. S., it added that there was a problem of shore handling once the vessels reached here.

New Construction

Heralding an intensification of the war against the Japanese, the U. S. navy asked for 1½ billion dollars for the construction of shore facilities, principally on the West coast.

Plans call for the building of fleet and cargo piers, supply depots, aviation training bases, harbor improvements and repair depots.

Expansion of present hospital facilities from 60,000 to 80,000 beds and provision for malaria recuperation centers also were included in the plans.



LINES ON READING ABOUT SOME FLYING ACES

"A hick-town guy" was the old time crack,
"He's fresh from the sticks, the boob;
You know what them small-town fellers lack—
Remember, a rube's a rube!"
But now the war it has changed all that—
Look up where the hot flak flies
Up there, with the aces who treat 'em rough
Behold all the small-town guys!

Lieutenant Ickard from Granite Falls . . .
Meroney from Pine Bluff Ark . . .
They're with the boys in the payoff brawls
With Murphy of Eastlake Park . . .
Captain Don Gentile of "Piqua O."
And Newman from Goose Creek, Tex.—
They're with the scrappers who blast the foe
And add to the Axis wrecks.

"Snowflake" — there's one that is new to you —
It's only a whistle-stop,
But from it Grant Turley is with a crew
That's making those Berlin hops;
Nicky Megura, Ansonia,
Joe Turner from Bartletsville . . .
There's Stuffy O'Hare of Sidonia
And Williams from Rickett's Mill.

Ridgewood, old Newton and Westbury,
Verona and Stony Creek . . .
From Milford and Bethel and Big Oak Tree,
Corona and Owlhead Peak . . .
From old Williamantic and Beaver Dam,
North Canton and Lebanon,
Missoula and Bingville and Cedarham,
Deep River and Rising Sun.

Afoot, on the seas, in the flaming skies,
Fight lads from some little town,
And tall are feats of the hick-town guys
Whenever the chips are down;
The villages there by an old millstream—
The towns by the forest deep—
The hamlets so far from a spotlight's gleam—
They're THERE when the task is steep.

In foxholes, in crashboats, in bombers great,
Wherever the fighting's hot
Are guys who have swung on a farmyard gate
And fished in a wooded spot;
The Hicktowns, the Gooseville and Spotted Cow,
East Birdville and Painted Sky—
They're up in the front with the big towns now
And writing their names up high.

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THE BOOK OF WAR ETIQUETTE

"Marvin Jones, war food administrator, urges Americans to sop up the gravy, squeeze the grapefruit dry and pick bones up in the fingers to get the last morsel from them. He says 20 per cent of our food is wasted."—News Item.

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Dear Mr. Jones:

I am a little girl anxious to do the right thing at the table. I read your appeal to sop up the gravy, and I think it is a fine idea. Is it all right for me to lick the platter? Some of my friends say it is not.

Kathie.

Dear Kathie:

Platter-licking in a crisis like this is a definite contribution to the war effort and a proof of patriotism. Your friends are Axis agents. Be a good girl and lick every platter you can, remembering the slogan: "Lick a platter and help lick the Axis!"

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Dear Jonesy:

I have been wellbred, but am by nature a rebel. All my life I have picked up most bones with my fingers, and fought it out on that line if it took all summer. Lately I have been grabbing up the main bone in the steak, gnawing the edges to a fare-thee-well. I have been widely criticized. Is there any way you could back me up more substantially than by a mere statement of policy?

J.B.J.

Dear Mr. J.B.J.:

The government is considering the adoption of a small tag for distinguished bone-picking. Any person picking bones in a resolute manner without regard for criticism or opposition will be eligible. In the meantime, keep picking away.

Penicillin, Latest Triumph of Medical Research, Marks Another Long Step Toward Distant Goal

'Magic' Germ Killer Was Discovered by Fortunate Accident

By AL JEDLICKA
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

It is back in 1929.

Prof. Alexander Fleming of London discovers that a mold growing in a container which he is using in research has killed certain germs. Although Professor Fleming does not enter into a thorough investigation of the phenomenon, he takes the time to make a note of it, suggesting that maybe the mold could destroy germs in human infections.

Other English scientists go to work on the mold and in 1940 find it effective in human treatment. Penicillin, the magic drug, has been discovered, and like so many great other discoveries, by chance.

Penicillin is not the greatest nor the final discovery in medicine, but it is the latest and among the most effective, momentarily climaxing medicine's long, steady march forward on the path of alleviating man's pain.

Sought by king and commoner alike, penicillin has proven its usefulness in the treatment of streptococcus pyogenes, a germ that causes pus and promotes diseases like septic sore throat, childbed fever and erysipelas; of staphylococcus aureus, another pus-forming germ found in boils and in infections of the bone; of the pneumonia and diphtheria germs; of the organisms that cause gonorrhea, gas gangrene, meningitis and syphilis.

In Chicago's modern Museum of Science and Industry at the foot of Lake Michigan in Jackson Park, Dr. Milan Novak, head of the department of bacteriology and public health of University of Illinois college of medicine, has established a public exhibit demonstrating the processes in the present production of penicillin.

The penicillin exhibit is just one of many in the museum's medical section, which is under direction of Dr. E. J. Carey, dean of the Marquette university medical school, Milwaukee, Wis. In this section, we are given a graphic picture of man's gradual development of curative remedies from the early uses of vegetable and mineral substances.

Seven Benefactors.

One exhibit pictures seven great men and their works which have given mankind boundless relief from its physical illnesses:

Karl Wilhelm Scheele (1742-'86), who discovered chlorine, the constituent of common compounds like salt; tartaric acids, which make fruits taste sour; manganese, the metallic element necessary for plant development, and oxygen, the most universal of all elements.

Pelletier and Caventou, who in 1820 extracted quinine, the active medicinal constituent of cinchona, the wrinkled brown bark found by the Spaniards in Peru in 1630, and most effective in treating malaria.

Louis Jacques Thenard (1777-1857) who found boric acid and hydrogen peroxide.

Frederick Belding Powder (1853-1927), who worked on development of oil of peppermint and wintergreen, and also oil of chaulmoogra, a source of certain chemical compounds for use in treating leprosy.

Bernard Courtois (1777-1838), who isolated iodine in 1811, when he observed that washings from seaweed ashes gave off purple vapors when treated with sulphuric acid, and then turned into crystals which contained the element, now so useful in medicine.

Antoine Balard (1802-'76), who discovered bromine in 1828.

Moderns as well as oldsters find the museum's replica of the 19th century American apothecary shop an interesting contrast to the present, streamlined drug store.

To say the least, the old apothecary shop ranked as a colorful spectacle as well as a popular medicinal center, what with its big, square jars of black zingiber, white zinc sulphide, reddish tincture of serpent and gold spirits odoratus. Drawers contained emery, talcum, manna, creta and iris.

Of interest is the 19th century doctor's bulky, varnished medicine case which he carried in his saddlebag as he made his rounds through the country. In the case, one can find quinine, turkey rhubarb, essence of peppermint, fire of magnesia, essence of ginger and tincture of orange peel.

On the counter of the apothecary shop stands a box of herbal smoking mixture for cure of catarrh, bronchitis, asthma, hay fever, lung disease, coughs, hoarseness, ulcerated throat and all pulmonary complaints, the customer merely being asked to smoke and inhale it.

Hard by the replica of the old apothecary shop, we find a drug exhibit depicting 19th century medicinal advances, from the discovery of alkaloids in 1816 to the development of hormones for treatment of glandular deficiencies in 1901, with the introduction of coal-tar synthetic drugs in 1884 and thyroxin in 1893 grouped between.

The 'Magic' Drug.

The climatic and currently most interesting exhibit, of course, is the one dealing with the growth of penicillin, from a mold to a refined liquid containing the drug which already has become an awesome, magical byword.

Step by step, the exhibit demonstrates the processes of producing penicillin:

First, there's the stock culture, with a mold similar to but not identical with green molds found on fruits or cheese, shown growing on jell-like base containing sugar.

Second, the spores (seeds) from the stock culture are transferred to a nutrient solution containing sugar, and they germinate into white woolly plants. In three days, the mold covers the surface of the liquid. This mold creates penicillin, which collects in the nutrient but not in the mold plants.

Third, as the mold plants mature, their color changes from white to gray-green because of the development of numerous spores (seeds). At this stage, the solution contains a maximum amount of penicillin and the culture is ready for collection. If allowed to become too old, the penicillin in the liquid loses some of its strength.

Fourth, the first step in collecting the penicillin is to remove the mold growth from the liquid by filtration, since the plant itself contains none of the drug. The liquid thus filtered possesses small amounts of penicillin. An elaborate process of extraction and absorption is used to concentrate and remove the penicillin from the liquid.

Fifth, the purification process removes objectionable substances. If left in its yellow-brown solution form, penicillin loses some of its strength, but is relatively stable as a powder, into which it is converted by commercial products.

When penicillin is to be injected into a patient, it is dissolved. A hypodermic syringe is used for intramuscular injection, and if intravenous injection is desired, a blood transfusion apparatus is used.

Penicillin must be tested regularly for strength. In the cup method, melted agar is uniformly inoculated with test bacteria, which cannot grow in the presence of penicillin, and is placed in a round dish to solidify. Small glass cylinders are put in the solidified agar and filled with a penicillin solution, which then seeps outward into the infected mold. The test bacteria grow and cloud the agar, except where their growth is stopped by the penicillin. The size of the clear zone is proportional to the strength of the penicillin.

If penicillin is hard to get, it's because its production is limited by its growth. From a large batch of the nutrient solution only a relatively small amount of penicillin is obtainable. As yet no synthetic method to produce the drug on a mass-scale has been developed, and until some such process is installed, the civilians' share will be strictly determined by the military and naval services' needs.

Prof. Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, is shown with a bottle holding cultures of penicillium notatum, as he converses with two visiting Turkish doctors in his London laboratory, where he made the remarkable experiments.

The first time the rare drug was ever released for civilian use was in the case of Patricia Malone, two-year-old New York city girl, who was suffering from the staphylococci type of septicemia. The army gave enough penicillin to halt the disease, when appealed to by a New York newspaper.