

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXX

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1944

No. 12

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Russian Blitz Clears Crimea Path as Allied Bombers Pound Western Europe; 'Stop Aiding Nazis' Neutrals Warned; Japs Press 3-Pronged Drive in India

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—New Zealand troops close on German sniper in Cassino ruins.

#### EUROPE: Invasion Path

While Russia's land armies carried the war into the Balkans, Allied bombers continued pounding Axis military and industrial installations throughout Fortress Europe, concentrating on the invasion path in the west.

As the Russians stormed into Rumania, other Red forces drove ahead in the Crimea, huge chunks of land thrust into the Black sea and guarding the water route to the eastern Balkans. As the Russians approached the Rumanian rail junction of Jassi, they encountered stiffening resistance from native troops, fighting by the side of German soldiers, strengthened by shorter defense lines.

In continuing their whirlwind assaults to smoothen an invasion path, Allied bombers struck at airfields, railroad junctions and military defenses throughout the French and Belgium area. Far to the southeast, U. S. bombers based in Italy hammered Nazi airplane factories in the Vienna and Budapest regions. In ground fighting below Rome, both sides were reported making extensive troop movements in preparation for a resumption of bitter fighting.

#### Warn Neutrals

Having suspended oil shipments to Spain and announced restriction of steamship service to Ireland, Great Britain and the U. S. next demanded termination of Sweden's ball-bearing trade with Germany in a determined campaign to halt the neutral countries' commerce with Axis Europe.

At the same time, it was announced that the Allies would look into Turkey's increased chrome shipments to Germany during the last three months, with a view toward limiting the traffic through a curtailment of our own trade with the Turks, whose lend-lease aid already has been cut down.

In hearing the Allies' demands, the Swedes said they were in no position to comply without breaking their formal agreement with Germany, which, they said, the Allies approved last September. Although there was objection to the ball-bearing shipments, Sweden's iron ore deliveries to the Nazis were not emphasized.

#### WOOL: Big Stocks

With an all-high stock of foreign and U. S. wool, the Commodity Credit corporation was directed to go into the market to support the 1944 domestic clip estimated at 450,000,000 pounds.

Whereas U. S. stocks stand at record levels today, there were prospects of serious shortages when the Japs launched their South Pacific drive, threatening the Australian and New Zealand producing areas. Approximately 400,000,000 pounds of foreign wool is now owned by this country, with the Defense Supplies corporation holding 330,000,000 pounds and dealers and manufacturers the rest. At the same time, 550,000,000 pounds, is being held in this country for British account.

Because the U. S. clip sells about 12 cents a pound above foreign wool, the CCC has encountered difficulty disposing of the domestic stock, although the army now specifies its use in purchases and about 10 per cent of navy orders are expected to call for it.

#### WHEAT: Good Prospects

Because of improved prospects as a result of a recent rainfall, the U. S. Department of Agriculture predicted a winter wheat crop of 601,759,000 bushels for 1944, 72,153,000 more than 1943 production.

Based on official returns, the domestic supplies of wheat for 1944-45 were estimated at 1,130,000,000 bushels, compared with last year's 1,440,000,000 bushels.

Although moisture deficiency in western Kansas and the adjoining wheat sections in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado was offset by rainfall, Nebraska was reported in need of precipitation.

#### U. S. ACES: 'Rick' Topped

To army air force Captains Richard I. Bong of Poplar, Wis., and Don S. Gentile of Piqua, Ohio, went the honor of breaking Capt. Eddie Rick-enbacker's famed record of shooting down 26 enemy aircraft, established in World War I.

Operating in the South Pacific in a Lightning fighter with the portrait of his fiancée, Marjorie Vattendahl of Superior, Wis., painted on the nose, Captain Bong was credited with destroying his 27th enemy craft in the air on April 12.

Previously, Captain Gentile had been credited with bagging 30 enemy planes in Europe, but seven of them were shot up on the ground. During World War I, Captain Rick-enbacker's total of 26 included five observation balloons, so that Captain Bong paced the field in the number actually knocked out in sky fights.

Of all of war's experiences, few were as harrowing as Sgt. James A. Raley's, who was trapped in the tall section of a Flying Fortress when it broke off from the rest of the plane during a bombing mission and fell 19,000 feet down to earth.

When the tail section finally landed miraculously on a tree top, the 27-year-old sergeant from Henderson, Ky., emerged with only a slight cut on the chin.



Sgt. Raley.

#### POLITICS: FDR, Dewey Lead

With the Democratic and Republican conventions still two months off, the candidacies of President Roosevelt and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, N. Y., have picked up steam as a result of the popular favor shown them in the selection of nominating delegates.

As of April 12, 46 delegates were openly pledged for the President and 157 others claimed for him, for a total of 203 out of 236 already picked. At the same date, 25 delegates stood pledged to Dewey and 123 others were claimed for him, for a total of 148 out of 356 selected.

While the President polled a large vote in the Nebraska preferential primary, big highlight was the heavy write-in vote Dewey obtained.

#### U. S. NAVY: Plan Bigger Growth

To provide for the heavy fighting ahead, congress was asked to pass a naval appropriations bill of \$32,647,000,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

By July of 1945, the navy will have 10,244 self-propelled ships, 74,925 other craft, including landing vessels, and 37,735 airplanes.

Also by July of 1945, naval personnel is expected to reach 3,657,000 officers and men, including women. Biggest planned expansion is for the marine corps to a total of 478,000.

#### LABOR: Hit Power Politics

Asserting that territorial and frontier problems of Europe should be settled by popular vote of the affected people, the American Federation of Labor's Vice President, Matthew Woll, assailed Soviet Russia's alleged alteration of the continent in defiance of principles of the United Nations.

Taking his place beside Woll, David Dubinsky, president of the AFL's International Garment Workers Union, deplored the development of policies designed to divide the world up into spheres of influences, in which the big nations would dominate militarily and politically.

Decrying the proposal to compensate Poland for the loss of territory to Russia by giving her part of eastern Germany, Dubinsky declared: "... This means that Poland, or what remains of her, will remain a center of bitter and constant struggle—a football for the powers."



Candid Shot of a Man Doing a CoM:

Harold Lloyd is no sissy, but he plays with a doll. The toy has an interesting and tragic history. Harold was a long-time friend of Lillian Leitzel, the lovely circus aerialist. She fell to her death in Copenhagen several years ago while performing her famed act. Her mother took the costume in which Lillian was killed, and cut it up into mementos for the star's closest friends. Some received pin-cushions, others got similar tin-cushions. Lloyd was sent a little doll from the material. It is one of his treasured possessions.

Groucho Marx was singing the praises of one of the movie firms recently. "They're absolutely tops!" he said. "When they make a lousy picture—none of the other film companies can come near it!"

Have a Debunker: Novelist Rose Wilder Lane told a reporter she isn't earning money because she doesn't want to pay income tax to support government agencies, including the Writer's War board. Lady, the writers who work for that board take no fees for their work. The taxes may pay salaries of people you dislike, but taxes also support the army, navy and marine corps, which protect Americans such as Rose Wilder Lane.

Have some irony: "Strange Fruit," the exciting novel which has been banned in Boston (the cradle of Yankeeism), was written by a Southerner and preaches equality. The current Magazine Digest credits Sid Sheldon with the anecdote about "Tootsie Rolls" being on a Russian menu. "Tootsie Rolls" asked the guest, "What's Tootsie Rolls?" The reply: "Lend-Lease!" When it appeared here months ago the locale was Italy. Will Mr. Sheldon kindly forward the check he took for that one to the Red Cross? ... That's peachy.

"The Adventures of Mark Twain" movie makers had considerable material to go on because Mark Twain is one of the few modern authors who had more books written about him than those he wrote. Mr. Twain wrote 24 volumes. He had 305 written about him. Bert Six, the movie photographer, was taking a likeness of a character. "Okay," said Bert, "I've finished. You can look unpleasant again." Jimmy Starr's book, "The Corpse Came C. O. D.," is a click. Paul Hendreid and Hedy Lamarr were rehearsing love technique for scenes in "The Conspirators." Mrs. Hendreid was watching with others. She got a howl when she called out: "Paul, you ought to try that kissing technique at home some time!" Of all things: Radio station KPAS in Hollywood interrupts their midday preacher with rapt results!

Love Letter Dep't: The colyum thanks the Poly Spotlight's Instructor of Journalism (of Riverside, California) for the press pass. It reads: "Press Club, Poly Spotlight, Reporter's Pass. This certifies that Walter Winchell is a member of the Journalism classes of The Riverside Polytechnic High School, and a staff reporter for 'The Spotlight.' All courtesies extended for obtaining or forwarding news will be appreciated. Signed: F. Wayne Coons (Journalism instructor) and Bill Cornwell, editor." The pass expires in 1950. Thank you very much. But by 1950 you boys and girls will be making and writing the news. However, I will always treasure it, and tuck it on the back of my wheel chair.

Bob Dunn, one of the better cartoonists, sends this Bed-time Story to Keep the Baby Awake: A Big Front Door who was a Daddy Door had a Little Son who was a Little Door. So the Daddy Door wanted to measure the Little Door to see if he was growing. So he stood the Baby Door up against a Boy and marked on the Boy's neck, how high the Baby Door was. And that's why all children should wash their necks. Now go to sleep, d'ya hear?

At a stuffy motion picture party, Rosalind Russell was approached by a grande dame who said maliciously, "What lovely pearls! Are they genuine?" Rosalind nodded. "Of course, you can always tell by biting them," said the cat. "Here, let me see." "Gladly," said Rosalind, proffering the jewels. "But remember, you can't tell real pearls with false teeth."

## Handicapped Made Self-Supporting, Happy Through Employment in Industries for Blind

### Sightless Can Make Many Things, Such as Sheets, Belts, Mops

By AL JEDLIKA

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

On September 8, 1942, the Illinois Industries for the Blind, incorporated four months earlier as a non-profit organization, opened operations in an old four-story structure at 1310 South Newberry St., on Chicago's historic east side.

Established by Edward S. Molineaux, the institution was designed to provide regular employment for the blind, partially blind and crippled, rather than the usual devices for passing away time or meriting a dole.

By May 1, 1943—nine months after having been opened—the success of the Illinois Industries for the Blind was confirmed when the United States maritime commission awarded the plant an "M" pennant for outstanding production of sheets and pillow cases for Liberty ships, the first ever given to an institution of this nature. Six months later, the maritime commission added to the honors with the presentation of a gold star, for bettering the previous production and absentee record.

The enviable performance of the Illinois Industries for the Blind merely established Mr. Molineaux's long-time conviction on the capabilities of the blind, partially blind and crippled if properly encouraged. Partially blind himself, Mr. Molineaux's conclusions probably were inspired by his own experience of over 25 years, dating back to his education at Illinois' Jacksonville State School for the Blind, and his subsequent life work among the sightless.

Leaving Jacksonville, Mr. Molineaux took up the task of placing blind switchboard operators in Illinois, and then he went to the east, where he joined the Brooklyn Association for Improving Conditions for the Poor. Over 100 years old, this institution specializes in the assistance of the blind and crippled.

#### Eight Institutions in U. S.

Among those in the forefront of the work to restore the blind, partially blind and crippled to useful positions in society, Mr. Molineaux has seen the idea take a slow but sure hold throughout the U. S., where eight such institutions now operate, some under state supervision, others, like the one in Illinois, under private management aided by popular contributions.

The restoration of the sightless and disabled to useful citizenry received its greatest impetus in 1936, when congress passed legislation setting up a list of products for the government to purchase from blind workshops. To facilitate the program, the American Foundation for the Blind inspired the organization of the National Industries for the Blind, to act as a clearing house for contracts to the various blind workshops.

In passing the legislation, congress set up certain production standards to be met by the blind plants, and in



Blind John Dent has learned to punch, assemble and rivet small leather goods, such as belts and suspenders.

cases where such institutions are partly financed by private contributions, like the Illinois Industries, they are not expected to sell their goods below the market price, although they can sell above it.

#### Employment for 125.

A visit to the Illinois Industries for the Blind plant in Chicago at once impresses one with the capability of the 125 blind, partially blind and crippled employees. At one time, the factory had a peak employment of 230 people, many of whom have since gone to accept positions in various war industries.

On all three of the floors, one will find the handicapped busily engaged in different forms of work suited to their capacities, with the blind chiefly employed on jobs where some form of mechanical guides are provided, the partially blind on objects large enough for their limited sight, and the crippled on tasks not requiring complete freedom of movement.

On the second floor, one sees the blind engaged in folding paper caps for permanent wave outfits, and in assembling wooden doll sets.



On the third floor about 40 women turn out sheets and pillow cases at good speed, despite their handicap. After two months of training, a woman can put seams in about 66 dozen pillow cases a day. The hemmers, who must have 10 per cent or better vision, can finish about 90 dozen cases daily.

An "electric eye," shown below, protects the operators from injury by stopping the sewing machine when fingers get too close to the needle and interrupt the beam of light that must shine constantly while the machine is running.

Those proficient in folding paper caps can turn out as many as 988 a day and average around \$5.50 for eight hours' work. There is not so much skill required in cap making, as there is a familiarity, or feel, of the paper.

Turning from the paper cap folders, one comes to a long assembly line of blind filling little cardboard boxes with parts of wooden dolls, and then packing these along with containers holding different water colors into single sets. Holes in the body of the wooden dolls into which the head, arms and legs are inserted are drilled by blind on mechanical equipment up on the fourth floor of the plant. Ten workers can assemble about 1,000 sets a day.

#### Sheets and Pillow Cases.

One of the most interesting and important of the plant's operations is on the third floor, where blind and partially blind women produce sheets and pillow cases. Under a full-sighted supervisor, 40 impaired women keep the latest type sewing machines with necessary adjustments buzzing at top speed.

First, there are the women who put seams into the pillow cases, being able to turn out about 66 dozen daily, after two months of training. Machines are equipped with a "seeing eye," which stops their operation when the workers' fingers stray too close to the needle.

Then there are the hemmers, with partially blind with at least 10 per cent vision being preferred for this more exacting work of turning the material over, smoothing and then securing it. After six months' training, a good hemmer averages 90 dozen a day, but a blind person could produce only half of this.

At the time the plant was visited, a young woman was being broken into the overlocking process of over-stitching on the outside to give better strength and appearance. Time and again, she practiced guiding the material to the needle, patiently

training her partial sight on the work.

Because the blind could not inspect the finished goods and the bright glare of the white material could not be withstood by the partially blind, full-sighted people are employed for this work.

Since undertaking government work, the Illinois Industries for the Blind has delivered over 2,000,000 sheets and pillow cases to the services.

#### Make Wooden Mats.

Up on the fourth floor of the plant, one sees a cripple and the blind combine to produce colored wooden mats under the supervision of a partially blind foreman, Gerard Harold, Canadian born and English educated, who once ran a coffee importing business in Africa.

Cut to size by a cripple, the wood



en rods forming the skeleton of the mat through which the different colored pieces are strung, are drilled by a blind person, who possesses a remarkable mechanical touch, according to Mr. Harold. Because of this touch, Harold said, the blind man can sense any imperfection in the operation of the machine, and then go about correcting it.

The mats themselves are strung by the blind, who figure how many pieces go into each one, and thereby are able to judge just where the colored beads are to be placed. Trained in three or four weeks, a blind person can average about 40 mats daily.

Also on the fourth floor is the leather department, worked by crippled and blind. Using discarded leather scraps from shoe factories, the crippled punch out fancy strips, while the blind make holes, as for the insertion of elastic bands for suspenders.

Also on the fourth floor, the plant had received old looms, which it was contemplating setting up for the future production of yarn for mops, using handles produced by the Illinois Industries, Mattoon, Ill., broom factory.

In the office of the plant, one met Ethel Heeren, blind executive secretary, and Earl Barrett, partially blind general manager. One also met partially blind Wells Mori, active little public relations officer of the plant.

#### Earn \$25 a Week.

From Mori, one learned that ambitious employees of the plant average about \$25 weekly, which with their useful work, gives them position in society.

"Younger handicapped people coming to us who are broken in early into useful social occupations, develop a healthier point of view than the older people who have always more or less been felt to be a burden," Mori said.

"Sometimes, the most difficult problem is inculcating the work habit into some of the older people," Mori continued. "Laziness in coming down on time, or sometimes not at all, and of not producing at their capacity are shortcomings of many handicapped people which can only be ironed out by careful handling, since you cannot push them."

"We do not take all of the handicapped, of course," Mori continued, "but most of those that we do take develop the work habit and become proficient workers."

"Because of differences in aptitudes and the need for stimulating their efforts, workers are paid on a piece-work basis," Mori said. "But even though their production rates are high, they still usually fall below the sighted standards. In those cases, our products must sell at higher levels on the market."

As an indication of the skill and earning power of many of the Illinois Industries for the Blind employees, some have been hired by the nation's busy war plants to assist in the battle of production, while a goodly number were only too proud to take their place in line and pay Uncle Sam an income tax for the first time out of their wages.