

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Yanks Advance on Two Fronts As German Resistance Stiffens; B-29s Blast Steel Mills in Japan

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(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.)



Top American military leaders are pictured during their visit to the Normandy beachhead. Left to right: facing camera, Adm. Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the United States Fleet; Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the army; Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme Allied commander, and Rear Adm. Alan G. Kirk.

#### THE INVASION:

##### Steady Progress

Supported by the greatest air fleets in battle history, Allied forces continued to expand their beachhead area in Normandy in the face of stiffening resistance on many fronts. U. S. forces to the northeast of Cherbourg surged past Montebourg, which was still being contested, and captured Quineville on the east coast of the Cherbourg peninsula. Hammering to the west across the peninsula on a 10-mile front, the Yanks met stiff resistance from crack grenadiers of the fifth German tank division thrown into the Normandy fighting. A communique from General Eisenhower's headquarters said that steady progress had been made west of Carentan across the base of the Cherbourg peninsula, and between the Elle and Vire rivers toward St. Lo, key junction 15 miles southeast of Carentan.

##### Battle Westward

All along a 10-mile front, units of the American Fourth division and the 9th Air-Borne division were battling westward against strong resistance in a drive to pinch off the peninsula, and with it the prize port of Cherbourg. Nazi Field Marshal Erwin Rommel had thrown approximately 700 tanks into the fighting on the eastern sector and appeared to be using far more infantry than the German command intended to use for the defense of one comparatively small section of the invasion coast. Despite early successes on the invasion front, a word of warning came from Secretary of War Stimson who said that Allied troops in Normandy soon must face fiercer counter-blows "than any we have ever met." At the same time he predicted they would smash ahead until France is liberated and Germany crushed.

While the troops on the Normandy coast were fighting off the German counter-attacks on land, residents of England itself were dealt a serious "anti-invasion blow" when a fantastic stream of pilotless Nazi bombers rained fire and explosives across the island. This was Hitler's long-awaited "secret weapon" and no attempt was made by the British authorities to minimize the effectiveness of these robot, radio-controlled bombing plane attacks.

#### CONVENTIONS:

##### In Chicago

As the advance guard of the Republican party convention delegates began arriving in Chicago, political dogsters had all but awarded the Presidential nomination to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, but friends of Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio would not let their candidate be counted out without a battle. They said that the contest for the nomination would go to the convention floor. Bricker sources could not see a first-ballot victory for Dewey. However, the New York governor entered the convention with more delegates actually pledged to him than any other candidate, including Governor Bricker. Officials in charge of arrangements for the Chicago meeting revealed that the candidate selected would probably make his acceptance speech from the convention floor on the day after his nomination. Meanwhile the Democrats announced that Gov. Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma would keynote their convention scheduled for July 19, also in Chicago.

#### PACIFIC:

##### Action Here, Too

U. S. citizens got a breath-taking indication of the mighty striking power of their vast armed forces when within ten days of the European D-Day, terrific blows were dealt the Japanese on the opposite side of the globe. Day before the new Super-Flying Fortresses bombed Japan proper, a powerful navy sea and air force blasted the outer defenses of the island of Saipan in the Marianas to prepare the way for the landing of American troops on that strategic Jap base only 1,500 miles southeast of Tokyo.

To wrest Saipan from the Japanese, Americans had a job which combined the worst factors of Tarawa and Guadalcanal. For like at Tarawa they had to land over a well-defended coral reef and like on Guadalcanal, the Jap had himself well entrenched in good fortified positions which extended all the way across that jungle island. When the beachhead on Saipan was established there was still a long way to go but word from Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' headquarters indicated that the Yanks were advancing. Initial reports listed moderate casualties while the official bulletin revealed that: "Virtually all heavy coastal and anti-aircraft batteries on the island were knocked out by naval gun fire and bombing." While these no longer worried the Americans, they knew their test would come in the inner jungles as they faced the Jap artillery, mortar and machine gun fire.

#### Super Raid

From secret bases in China, not from an aircraft carrier this time, American planes dealt Japan proper a smashing air blow, when a squadron of the new Super Flying Fortresses bombed Japan's homeland. Tokyo radio said industrial areas of Moji and Shimonoseki were hit. Only a drizzle of official news came from American sources on the raid but announcement of aerial task force attack of the giant B-29's indicated that they flew from the China-Burma-India theater land bases. This raid also revealed the formation of a new air force, the 20th, which would serve the United Nations cause as a roving, globe-circling task force much like a naval fleet. This air arm will not confine itself to attacks on Japan but is "able to participate in combined operations, or to be assigned to strike wherever the need is greatest."

Before any official announcement of the targets was made by the army, a report in congressional circles hinted that Tokyo itself was one of the main objectives.

#### ITALY:

##### Allied Drive Continues

German defenses on a broad front 50 to 80 miles above Rome were shattered when Allied Fifth and Eighth army troops drove north in a plunge which netted them hundreds of prisoners. German resistance had cracked all the way from the Tyrrhenian sea-coast around the northern end of Lake Bolsena and down to Terni, 70 miles east of the Allied advance coastal columns. The enemy was in full retreat from the entire Adriatic sector. Their retreat was so fast that speedy Eighth army flying columns were unable to contact Nazi rear guards. Even fresh German reinforcements, hastened from the north to halt the Allied advance, were routed after joining the Nazi 14th army in a furious three-day battle.

#### PRICE CONTROL:

##### Parity for Farmers

Under terms of the bill extending the price control machinery of OPA as passed by the House, processors who fail to pay a parity price for any farm commodity would be allowed to charge only 90 per cent of the OPA ceiling for the finished article.

(Parity is a price calculated to make farm purchasing power equal to that prevailing from 1909 to 1914.)

Farm leaders had the support of the administration in putting through the measure in this form after the controversial cotton ceiling adjustment provision had been knocked out of the bill as passed by the senate.

This cotton provision and the parity issue were the main problems between the house and senate conferences.

Once in the President's hands the bill still faced the threat of a veto because of amendment to it which would throw all OPA regulations open for legal tests in the regular federal district courts.

#### WOUNDED YANKS:

##### Death Rate Cut

Of every 100 American soldiers wounded in battle, 97 are saved, according to Maj. Gen. Norman Kirk, surgeon-general of the U. S. army. The navy has an equally impressive record. In World War I the death rate of the wounded was 8 per cent. Now it is less than 3 per cent. Abdominal injuries are among those most often fatal, resulting in death in 25 per cent of the cases. This, however, is a great improvement over 25 years ago, when 50 per cent died. Penetrating chest wounds are now fatal in less than 25 per cent of cases, while in the first World war more than half the men so wounded succumbed. A still greater advance has been made in treatment of head wounds. Now only 4 per cent die, as compared with 14 per cent in the last war.

#### Umberto of Italy



Closeup of Crown Prince Umberto of Italy taken after all Italian powers had been vested in him by his father, King Victor Emmanuel, who abdicated after the Allies had taken Rome.

#### PROGRESS:

##### In Bond Drive

Treasury officials announced that in the first two days of the Fifth War Loan drive, individual buyers purchased almost a half-billion dollars worth of bonds. Goal for individual buying in this drive is six billion dollars. At the same time the treasury translated bond purchases into equipment various sums would purchase for the army and navy. Bonds bought now will pay for more and better equipment than a year ago. For example: A heavy bomber, listed at \$500,000 last year, is now available for \$250,000. A fighter plane costs \$50,000 as compared to \$150,000 a year ago.

#### SECOND SCANDAL:

##### At Pearl Harbor

A second Pearl Harbor scandal, revealing neglect and delay in the army's defense preparations prior to the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, has been reported to congress by a house subcommittee on military affairs. Responsibility was pinned directly upon Col. Theodore Wyman Jr., district army engineer at Honolulu. Hans Wilhelm Rohl, California contractor, who sought naturalization in 1941, 28 years after coming to the U. S. from Germany, was named as Colonel Wyman's collaborator. The report stated that Wyman constantly discriminated in awarding \$125,000,000 in contracts to Rohl's firm. Rohl was to have built a permanent aircraft warning system. The contract was let on December 7, 1940; Rohl was to complete the job in six months. One year later the job was only partially completed. The subcommittee reported that the approach of Japanese planes would have been detected if the system had been operating. Colonel Wyman and Rohl were frequently companions on wild drinking parties, the report stated.



#### Behind-the-Scenes Staff:

Newspapermen's shop-talk includes the alleged reasons for the unpopularity of De Gaulle in certain high political places. One statesman said: "He is arrogant, hard to get along with, stuffy." . . . Another revealed that De Gaulle "likes to make an entrance" (especially in swanky hotel dining rooms; when a trumpeter too-tootles his approach with some ta-da, dee-da, dah, dee, da, dahing). This got on the nerves of Allied bigshots. It is said Mr. Willkie will certify to the last item. . . . De Gaulle is called "the bride" when Roosevelt discusses him with Churchill via trans-Atlantic phone. . . . Once FDR asked the Prime Minister: "How's the bride?" . . . "All right," Mr. C. is said to have answered, "but I am having trouble with the groom!" . . . Meaning Giraud. . . . Americans and others should not forget De Gaulle was the first to yell: "We Will Fight!"

The Squeal Proper: Radie Harris relays the one about the feud between Jane Cowi and Philip Merivale when they appeared in "The Road to Rome" hit. Their quarrel finally aroused director Lester Lonergan, who succinctly said: "I just want to remind you, Miss Cowi, that the billing on this play is Jane Cowi and Philip Merivale, not Jane Cowi vs. Philip Merivale."

Oop: Recently a Nazi prisoner of war escaped from the stockade at Camp Crowder. He learned the location of the camp's supply warehouse and got there without being detected. He broke in, shed his PW uniform, put on an American uniform that draped him perfectly. But then he made the bones resulting in his capture. Hunting through a stack of hats he put one on that fit him. Then he stepped out across the camp grounds and was seized almost at once. He had on the hat of a WAC.

Ouch: It happened before Supreme Court Justice Aaron J. Levy. The man before him said: "I would like to change my name. It's been a source of great embarrassment to me." "What is your name?" asked Hinzoner. "Levy," said the fellow. "Rarely in the life of any jurist," was the caustic retort, "comes there a motion which he can grant with such pleasure."

Shawt-shawt: Returned bomber pilots have a favorite story not new to some of us on the papers. It deals with the U. S. bomber crew flying over Switzerland, which was hailed via radio by the ground crew of a Swiss anti-aircraft battery. "This is neutral territory. Get away or we'll open fire." "Yes, we know," replied the Yanjys, to which the guns ack-acked. "Hey," radioed the Americans, "your shells are exploding 1,000 yards below us." "Yes," was the reply, "we know."

Newspaperman Staff: Editor and Publisher reports that Lowell Mellett (who recently quit his post as asst. to the President to do a syndicated column) has just been granted a \$1 raise by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch—a raise he requested 40 years ago. At that time, Mellett asked his managing editor for the pay-hike and when turned down he quit. The P-D was among the first to buy his colyum. It pays him the wage he got when a reporter. As a matter of principle, Mellett asked the present editor to pay \$5 extra. He got this reply: "Okay. Sorry you had to wait so long for it."

Merciless Truth: John Erskine recalls a college dean who used to say you couldn't teach a man mathematics if there was a girl in the room, or if you could, he wouldn't be worth teaching. Hefshsh: The editor of This Week convulsed the column with the one about the sentry who heard a noise and called out: "Who goes there?" A voice from the darkness answered: "Lieut. Jones. Let me through." "I can't let you proceed, sir, without the password," said the sentry. "Oh, for goodness sake," said the officer, "you know me well enough. Let me through."

No can do," was the retort, "gotta have the password, sir." Just then a bored-with-it-all soldier in the nearby guardhouse yelled: "Oh, don't stand there arguing all night—shoot him."

## Boom in Farm Prices and Rapid Turnover Prompts Fears Collapse Will Follow Peace

### Memory of Drop After World War I Still Is Vivid to Many Farmers

When GI Joe comes back to his farm home from the war he may find a lot of new faces around the neighborhood. And he may miss a lot of the old familiar ones. The family up the road may have moved bag and baggage to Oregon. A new owner may be tilling the bottom lands on the back eighty.

Rural America is on the move. Farmers, like their city cousins, have been shifting their base of operations at an ever-increasing tempo in the months since Pearl Harbor. More farms are changing hands this year than at any time in the past generation. They are changing for scores of reasons, but back of almost every sale is the chance to strike pay dirt—to realize a profit on the old homestead.

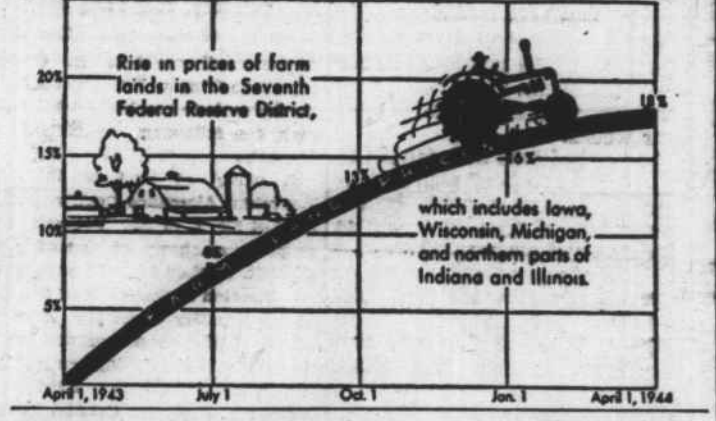
Many farm folks are frankly concerned over this trend. They are troubled not so much about the migration as they are about the steady increase in farm real estate transactions. They fear that the long threatened land inflation is under way. And they are asking themselves: "Will the old cycle of boom and bust be repeated?" Every previous war has brought its own land boom that left a wreckage of deflation behind. The collapse of the speculative era following World War I is painfully fresh in the memory of many a farmer.

considered fairly representative, it is estimated that farm land prices have risen about 17 per cent between April, 1943, and April, 1944. From the beginning of the year until April 1, the advance has been about 3 per cent. The increases have been largest in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, in which states the per cent of purchases by city investors was largest, being 30 to 37 per cent of all sales.

It is true that farmers have been using much of their larger incomes to buy bonds and to pay off debts. The steadily decreasing volume of farm mortgage debt is evidence of this trend. But now reports indicate that heavier debts are frequently being assumed when farms are bought. This is especially true of tenants who are buying on contract or with relatively small down payments.

All Sorts of Buyers. Surveys by county banks indicate that all types of farm buyers are now in the market. Tenants are acquiring their own farms. Owners are expanding their present units or are taking on additional acreage, perhaps for sons now in the service. Even large commercial farms in some instances are changing hands at increasing prices. Local business and professional people and city investors bent on hedging against inflation or higher income taxes are buying land. War plant workers, too, are making purchases, expecting to turn to farming when their munitions jobs are ended. All these conditions are reminiscent of what occurred in World War I, for that too, was a story of agricultural upsurge. Farm income rose from \$1 billion in 1914 to \$4 billion in 1919.

### Midwestern Land Prices Climb 18% in Year



Symptoms are already evident suggesting that history could repeat itself in World War II, unless brakes are applied to the fast-moving upsurge in farm land buying.

For instance, land values have risen 38 per cent above their 1935-39 average and are already up to 100 per cent of their pre-World War I levels. Farm sales during 1943 were at a record volume, surpassing even the previous high reached in 1919. Sales in 1944 are forging ahead of last year's record.

#### Plenty of Money Floating.

Three factors are believed to be immediately responsible for the urge to acquire additional holdings: 1—Both farmers and nonfarmers have large and increasing funds available for land purchases. 2—Present high income and the rosy prospect of more to come make the purchase of farms seem especially attractive not only to farmers but city-dwellers as well. 3—Long term credit at low interest rates makes it easy to acquire land.

Speaking of income, nearly 20 billion dollars—\$19,764,550,000 to be exact—flowed into farmers' pockets from the 1943 bumper harvest. Last year's total was more than four times the low-ebb depression income of \$4.6 billion dollars in 1938. It was about \$3,750,000,000 in excess of the 1938 total. When operating costs, including taxes, interest, wages for labor, machinery and other items are deducted, farmers were left with a spendable income that was almost double that of 1939. Meanwhile, the cost of living had advanced only one-fourth.

U. S. department of commerce estimates of individual savings indicate an increase of 7.5 billion dollars for 1940 to 26 billion dollars for 1943. A very large part of these savings is in highly liquid assets of currency and bank deposits. Whenever an industry does as well as farming has done, there is a tendency to speculate. Those already in the business seek to expand their operations. Others seek to get in on the good thing. And thus a spiraling boom can be born. In the midwestern area, comprising the Seventh Federal Reserve district, for instance, which may be

proposed in the future before endorsing them. "The land boom of the first World war and its awful consequences throughout 20 years have been credited by some to unwise land ownership policies," he declared. "Upsurges of prices with the second World war have engendered the fear that another boom was in the making and that its consequences would be the same as the first."

"Buyers have been warned repeatedly. Still, reports of advancing prices multiply. Some believe that voluntary action would be ineffective. So legislated remedies are proposed."

Most drastic proposal is the permit system advocated by William G. Murray of Iowa and others: It would require a prospective purchaser to appear before a board and show reason why he should be allowed to buy a farm.

Limited Loans. Another proposal is credit control. First provision is that no loans should exceed 50 per cent of the value of the land. Presumably value would be established by appraisal. Such a regulation might be legislated, and it might stick. Presumably, also, lending agencies would establish a policy of refusing to lend to men who paid long prices. An approach to this is already in effect. The land banks, mortgage trust and insurance companies have been discouraging borrowers both from paying too much and from borrowing too much of the purchase price. But they don't have any control over folk who are prepared to pay cash, or the private money lender who is willing to take a long chance for a high interest rate, or the owner who can finance his own sale.

Mildest of these proposals is to impose a stiff federal capital gains tax. Such a bill was placed before congress by Senator Gillette of Iowa. It is directed at speculators by providing a tax amounting to 90 per cent of the profits if the land is resold before the end of two years. Each year thereafter the tax would be decreased until the end of six years, when none would be levied. There is no doubt as to the class of transactions which the legislation is intended to curb. But would a farmer who was obliged to sell within the limits specified be subject to the tax?

All the schemes thus far advanced seem to be pointed toward keeping the buyer from making a fool of himself, but of course every sale must have two parties. So the man who wants to quit farming; the man who wants to retire on proceeds from sale of his land; the fellow who wants to sell and move elsewhere; the widow who has been hanging on until she can get the family equity out intact; the non-operator who is sick of wrangling with tenants and who has been longing for the time when he can get out and save his shirt—all these welcome the upturn of prices.

Now lots of farmers who have no desire to sell, who think their troubles are caused by folks they don't believe should be allowed to own land, applaud these proposals. And they may be right, but it will be well to look into them, their implications, what else may be proposed in the future before endorsing them. This country can have control of land sales and purchase in two ways. First by doing nothing; second by whopping it up for the proposals. Farmers will be more vitally affected than any other group. If they want a Federal agency empowered to say who may own land, they can have it. If they don't care, they can have it anyway. Forces sponsoring the change in land policy will see to that. But if farmers don't want it, they may be able to forestall it by protest.

### Bankers Say Land Is Selling Above Normal

Average prices at which farm lands are now selling in the seventh federal reserve district as compiled from reports of 599 country bankers are shown in the chart. The seventh district includes Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin and the northern parts of Illinois and Indiana.

| STATE              | "Better" lands |                 |                         | "Poorer" lands |                 |                         |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
|                    | Present values | "Normal" values | Per cent above "normal" | Present values | "Normal" values | Per cent above "normal" |
| Illinois . . .     | \$202          | \$124           | 63%                     | \$109          | \$82            | 31%                     |
| Indiana . . .      | 143            | 88              | 63%                     | 72             | 47              | 53%                     |
| Iowa . . .         | 180            | 118             | 53%                     | 81             | 56              | 45%                     |
| Michigan . . .     | 107            | 79              | 35%                     | 51             | 35              | 46%                     |
| Wisconsin . . .    | 105            | 82              | 28%                     | 51             | 39              | 31%                     |
| 7th District . . . | 153            | 103             | 49%                     | 76             | 51              | 49%                     |