

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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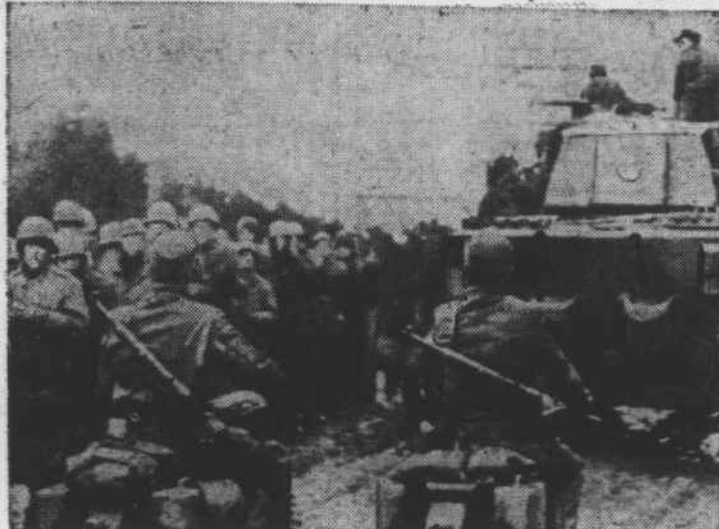
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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Yanks Strike Back at Germans; Move to Step Up War Effort; National Income Sets Record

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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.)



Taken from roll of captured German film, picture shows American prisoners being taken to rear as German rifle roared through Belgium.

EUROPE: Patton to Rescue

On the western front, it was big, blustery Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton to the rescue, as U. S. forces smashed into the flanks of the Germans' great drive into Belgium and Luxembourg and compelled Von Rundstedt to divert strength toward meeting the threat to his whole position.



Gen. Patton

Called upon to thwart the German drive shortly after it got underway, General Patton, then attacking in the Saar basin, pulled up his offensive in that area and shot major forces to the north to rip into the lower wing of Von Rundstedt's offensive. Charging over the snow-capped Ardennes hills on a 35-mile front, General Patton's Third Army soon bit deep wedges into the enemy's lines, forcing diversion of his strength from advanced spearheads within four miles of the Meuse.

While General Patton attacked from the south, Lieut. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First Army smashed at the northern flank of the German bulge, reducing the enemy threat to important supply lines around Liege. Faced with these strong twin U. S. thrusts, Von Rundstedt concentrated the bulk of his strength in the center of his bulge, meanwhile probing Allied lines behind the First and Third armies for a blow at their rears.

Intelligence Slips

Knocked out of complacency by the great Nazi winter drive, Allied quarters cast about for the reason of the setback, with opinion general that the fault lay in an underestimation of German military strength and failure to detect substantial Nazi troop movements.

Although Allied chieftains expected a German attack, they felt that the enemy needed more time to reassemble his shattered forces, and they also overlooked the Ardennes forest as a possible ground for Nazi operations because of the rough character of the terrain.

Biggest slip, however, occurred in the Allied intelligence department's failure to observe Von Rundstedt's massing of 200,000 men in the Ardennes sector, an operation which ex-U. S. Chief of Staff of World War I, Gen. Peyton C. March, likened to the movement of the population of Richmond, Va., toward Washington, D. C., without our knowing anything about it.

Lucky Winnie

Having come to Greece to untangle the knotty political problem in that embattled country standing athwart Britain's Mediterranean life line, Prime Minister Winston Churchill twice cheated death in Athens within a week.

First, caches of explosives were found in a sewer below Britain's headquarters where Churchill was expected to visit, and then a sniper's bullet whistled past the prime minister and struck a woman 300 yards away as he was entering the British embassy.

That Lucky Winnie's presence in Athens served to force a settlement of the Greek political crisis was seen in the report that the radical and conservative elements had agreed upon the formation of a mixed council to rule the country in behalf of the king.

NATIONAL INCOME: Record Level

With wartime economic activity reaching its peak early in the year, the total of goods and services produced and income received in 1944 set all-time records, the U. S. department of commerce reported. At the same time, the department stated that activity in 1945 can be expected to level off.

Value of goods and services of 1944 approximated 197 billion dollars compared with 88.6 billion dollars in 1939, the department said, while income received by individuals for crops, wages, salaries, dividends, interest, social security and military dependency reached 155 billion dollars against 70.8 billion in 1939. Farm income alone totaled over 20 billion dollars.

Of 197 billion dollars in goods and services produced in 1944—85 billion dollars were for war; 96.6 billion dollars for consumer spending; 13 billion dollars for governmental non-war spending, and 2.6 billion dollars for industrial investments.

HOME FRONT: Pull in Belt

With the war bringing new demands upon the nation, the government moved for fullest utilization of both manpower and resources.

War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes appealed to the country's 80 race tracks to suspend operations in 1945, thus making their 40,000 employees available in the labor pool, and also answering complaints that absenteeism was being caused by workers from nearby plants patronizing the sport.

In a move designed to make most efficient use of labor, the War Production board announced that it would withhold priorities or allocations of material from plants found guilty of violating War Manpower commission regulations governing employment ceilings or hiring of help.

With civilian supplies of many food items reported at the lowest point since the war began, OPA reestablished rationing on utility beef, better cuts of veal, bacon, pork shoulders, spare-ribs, beef and veal liver and meats in tin and glass, and also on such canned vegetables as peas, corn, green and wax beans, asparagus and spinach. In addition, individual sugar allowances of five pounds were extended to three months, and point value of butter was raised from 20 to 24 per pound.

PACIFIC: Philippine Battleground

Though Leyte and Samar island have been lost, and U. S. troops speeded conquest of Mindoro, the Japanese indicated their determination to fight to the last ditch in the Philippines and make the gangling archipelago the battleground of decision in the Pacific.

Even as War Minister Sugiyama urged that the issue be decided in the Philippines, B-29 Super-Fortresses roared over Tokyo, smashing aircraft factories, refineries and docks, and continuing their sustained drive to seriously impair the delivery of war material to enemy forces in the field.

No less than 112,000 Japanese were killed in the 67-day U. S. conquest of Leyte, featured by a climactic north, south and east pincer squeeze on the enemy after he was cornered on the northwestern tip of the island.

MONTGOMERY WARD: U. S. in Again

The government's second seizure of Montgomery Ward, unlike the first, headed for settlement in court as the U. S. again took over the huge corporation on charges that its disrespect of War Labor board orders threatened vital war production.

With the legality of the second seizure scheduled for judicial review, the government contended that Montgomery Ward's importance in the war effort was attested by its sale of farm machinery and supplies and manufacture of military products, while the company replied its major operations did not directly affect the war and it would be unconstitutional to accept the War Labor board's order for a closed shop denying individual workers the right to decide on joining a union.

In filing suit in court for affirmation of its right to take over Montgomery Ward, the government declared that the company's persistent refusals to abide by War Labor board settlements led other parties to defy WLB directives and threatened a wave of strikes and lock-outs.

LABOR: Stay in Unions

Apparently sold on the strength of organization in the achievement of better working conditions, the great majority of union people have retained their membership when given the chance to quit, the U. S. bureau of labor statistics reported.

Covering 21 plants and 75,000 union members, the BLS discovered that only 395 of these workers, or less than 1 per cent, withdrew from labor organizations during the 15-day period allowed for such action before maintenance of membership contracts went into effect.

Industries covered by the BLS study included shipbuilding and ship repair, textile, radio, auto parts, chemical, electrical machinery, steel products, transportation equipment, and tobacco.

Postwar Projects

With wartime income remaining substantial, and projects postponed because of manpower and material shortages, many states are accumulating huge balances to be used in the postwar period, when their expenditure should help bolster the economy.

Although far from possessing the biggest surplus, Oregon, with \$61,535,000 available, already has completed \$190,000,000 of postwar construction plans, far more than any other state. Although possessing the largest of all balances at \$344,000,000, Oklahoma has only \$114,000,000 of projects in the ready to go stage.

Other states with big surpluses and the dollar value of completed postwar construction plans include California with \$195,000,000 balance and \$75,000,000 projects; New York with \$163,000,000 and \$85,400,000; Pennsylvania with \$150,000,000 and \$25,000,000, and Illinois with \$100,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

WAR RELIEF: Buy Clothes

In the largest purchase so far undertaken for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation administration, the U. S. treasury will buy \$15,000,000 worth of outmoded but warm and durable clothing.

In making the purchase, a treasury official said, the government hopes to obtain the major share of the clothing from manufacturers' and dealers' old stocks, and to speed up the procurement, it appealed to these businessmen to take a rapid inventory of such supplies.

With 170,000,000 people looking to UNRRA for relief, a treasury spokesman said, the present purchase program is but a drop in the bucket.

STEEL: Peak Output

Hitting its peak in March before gradually leveling off, U. S. steel production for 1944 reached a record 89,400,000 tons of ingots and castings, 80 per cent over maximum output in World War I and 1 1/2 times over Axis Europe's probable turn-out last year.

Because of the industry's heavy output during the first part of the year, it was able to top 1943 production by 600,000 tons. Output in the last part of the year dropped more than 600,000 tons over the same period in 1943.

"Despite higher production, earnings, after taxes, for 1944 probably will approximate 170 million dollars, compared with 201 million in 1943," a spokesman for the industry said.



'Nothing Can Stop the Army Air Force'

With B-29s ranging over Tokyo almost daily it's tough for the imagination to conceive that three years ago our air forces' only asset was the moxie of its men. . . . Bataan was saved at least once by the wizardry of our air force personnel, who had plenty of ingenuity as well as courage. . . . Enemy ships were trying to land troops on the shore one night. Though there were no bombers with which to stop them, our airmen weren't fazed.

Mechanics rigged up three pursuit ships with a device whereby two 300-pound bombs could be attached to the wings and released by pulling a wire. . . . The three ships made three trips that night and bombed and strafed the Jap boats, preventing the troops from landing. . . . What made their feat of stalling the Japs and gaining time for us even more of a miracle was that most of the pilots had never before flown at night!

The newspapers not long ago carried a story telling how there were no trees in the far Aleutians and that pilots had brought in a single tree, planted it and labelled it "Umnak National Forest."

What the news story failed to mention was why the tree had been flown in—for the exclusive use of a flier's pet dog.

A flier who had been stationed on an island for too many months developed a crush on a half-native girl, who looked very beautiful after months in the South Pacific. . . . In his barracks one day he was getting poetic about the girl—when his buddy, thumbing through a movie magazine, suddenly turned to a photo of Betty Grable in a bathing suit. . . . "How's this?" excitedly asked the buddy, holding up the picture.

The pilot took a brief look and snorted, "White trash!"

On a recent bomber mission over Germany the flight ran into serious opposition from both fighters and flak, and a B-17 was hit. A 20-mm. shell struck the top turret, and the gunner fell to the floor covered with blood.

A colonel who had come along as an observer rushed back to give first aid and, seeing the lad's rigid form, thought he was either dead or dying. . . . He was about to administer a hypodermic when the gunner opened his eyes. . . . The colonel bent over him, putting his ear close to the lad's lips, expecting some last feeble words. . . . "Colonel," was the gunner's comment, "I'm beginning to think there isn't much future in this racket."

Despite popular misconception, boys of the AAF aren't as pin-up happy as people think. . . . This verse was penned several months ago by a B-17 radio operator-gunner who failed to return from a mission over Italy: "Oh, Hedy Lamarr is a beautiful gal. . . . And Madeleine Carroll is, too. . . . But you'll find, if you query, a different theory. . . . Amongst any bomber crew. . . . For the loveliest thing of which one could sing. . . . (This side of the Heavenly Gates). . . . Is no blonde or brunette of the Hollywood set. . . . But an escort of P-38s."

Pet story of Gen. Hap Arnold, chief of the AAF, concerns the Wright brothers, who had repeatedly tried to fly a heavier-than-air craft. Finally, one December day, at Kitty Hawk, N. C., they did what no man had ever done before. They flew! . . . Elated, they wired their sister, Katherine: "We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas" . . . Katherine ran down the street and breathlessly handed the telegram—the news scoop of the century—to the city editor of the local paper.

He read it carefully and smiled: "Well, well! How nice—the boys will be home for Christmas!"

A fighter pilot (veteran of the famed Flying Tigers) took on half a dozen Jap planes in a dogfight and downed two. Then his ammunition ran out. . . . Ramming his plane into a third he bailed out and managed to land safely near the wreck. Removing the one undamaged machine gun from the debris he carried it to his base—where he promptly reported to his commander, Gen. Claire Chennault: "Sir, may I have another airplane for my machine gun?"

Students of 'Foxhole University' Do Homework Between Battles

A Million Servicemen Continue Education By Correspondence

A few months ago an American doughboy lay concealed in an advance scout post among Italy's hills, walkie-talkie strapped to his chest and straining every faculty to catch any sound from the Germans just over the crest of the rise.

Suddenly he heard a guttural voice, speaking authoritatively in German. The Yank frowned in concentration, trying to catch a few words. Fortunately, he had been studying German in "Foxhole University" in his spare time, and the knowledge of it he had already gained proved sufficient.

Snapping open the circuit of his walkie-talkie he raised his own command post in the rear, and warned: "They're going to move behind the hill to the right, and send a few men to the left as a feint. Watch out for tricks."

He had understood the German word correctly. American gunners ignored the feinting movement, fired when the flanking maneuver had been almost completed, and practically annihilated the enemy company.

This time the soldier's German studies paid a timely dividend, but this is not unusual as Foxhole University's courses frequently improve the student's military efficiency at the same time that they improve his chances of success upon his return to civilian life.

Founded early in 1942, "Foxhole University," formally known as the United States Armed Forces Institute, is now the world's largest educational institution. In November, 1944, approximately 1,000,000 men and women in uniform were studying individually in correspondence of self-teaching courses or in groups in locally organized classes.

Far-Flung Student Body

Wherever Americans are stationed throughout the world, men and women of the army, navy, coast guard and marine corps are studying subjects ranging from economics to sociology. And the students themselves are just about as varied as the curriculum.

For instance, there's Pvt. Arnold Brewer, an Eskimo member of the Sixth Supply Squadron, who is based inside the Arctic circle. In his off-duty hours he is studying USAFI's Elementary English course.

A corporal in a medical battalion, William H. Lindley had completed three years pre-medical study at Indiana University when he entered the Army. After completing his Army basic training, he enrolled through USAFI in an extension course given by Indiana University. He is accumulating credits toward his M. D. degree.

Salvatore J. Ezzo, Philadelphia, left high school before he had completed his senior year. A sergeant in a fuel control office at an air base, Ezzo became the first soldier in the North African, Italian or Middle East theaters of war to obtain a high school diploma for in-service training.

Scarcely a month after Americans had established a beachhead on Bougainville in the South Pacific, while the island was still under con-



Perched on the hood of his jeep, Sergeant Hoffman employs a few spare minutes to study during a lull in firing on the camp rifle range, somewhere in the Middle East.

tinuous bombing, strafing and shelling, T/Sergt. Donald N. Roberts, Coshocton, Ohio, a machine gunner, completed and sent in to USAFI another in his series of automobile mechanics lessons.

Spanish Class on Bougainville

Bougainville is considered one of the wettest islands in the world, with 11 feet of rainfall a year. Despite weather conditions, another soldier, T/Sergt. John Alcorn of San Francisco, conducted nightly Spanish lessons for his mates under the USAFI group study plan. He also studied Japanese by himself.

Because he had missed elementary physics 10 years before while in high school, Pvt. Richard E. Gunnerson, Kansas City, Mo., stationed in North Africa with an operations office attached to an engineer unit, studied USAFI's elementary physics course.

While in a North African battle area, S/Sergt. Donald L. Clement continued his bookkeeping lessons. Returning his papers for correction to USAFI he wrote: "Red ink has not been used on these bookkeeping lessons, as I do not have any available and the local foxhole does not carry it in stock."

From Anzio beachhead, when American forces were pinned down for months, an infantryman wrote of his USAFI course: "It's funny but I can concentrate best when I'm driven into my hole by artillery fire and have to stay there for hours. I keep my books and a typewriter in the hole and just start studying when the shelling begins."

Nearly Three Years Old

Established in April, 1942, as the Army Institute, to give Army enlisted personnel a chance to continue study that the war had interrupted, to aid them with their military duties, and by adding to their education, improve their citizenship, USAFI's services were extended to Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel in September, 1942. The following February the name was changed to United States Armed Forces Institute.

An official Army and Navy school, its headquarters a former mail-order company store overlooking the Wisconsin capitol at Madison, USAFI is operated by the War Department (Information - Education Division, Army Service Forces) with the cooperation of the Navy Department (Educational Services Section, Bureau of Navy Personnel).

At first USAFI offered only correspondence courses. Now, however, self-teaching courses and off-duty classes have been added. Self-teaching study and off-duty group studies have been particularly fea-

sible for soldiers stationed in all sorts of places, sometimes near and inside battle areas.

USAFI now offers a complete academic program in high school, technical and college subjects. More than 250 subjects may be studied through the institute's own correspondence classes. Hundreds of similar subjects may be studied in extension courses offered by the 85 colleges and universities, located in more than 40 states, as well as Hawaii and Canada, which cooperate with the institute.

In November, 1944, nearly 400,000 men and women were enrolled in correspondence courses, some working for high school diplomas, others taking technical subjects to perfect skills or increase their knowledge, others picking up university credits that would lead to degrees. Approximately 600,000 were enrolled for self-teaching or off-duty classes.

Enrolled with USAFI in September, 1944, among the thousands of others, were: 311 members of the armed forces who had left school be-



Corporal Schwarz gazes proudly on her certificate, proclaiming that she has completed the course in Arabic with distinction.

fore completing the sixth grade; 35 with PhD degrees; 26,573 high school graduates; 2,211 with bachelor's degrees; 191 with master's degrees.

Follows Its Students

USAFI has kept pace geographically with its students and there are now nine overseas branches in operation. The first branch was established in Hawaii in the fall of 1942. Others were opened in rapid succession in England; New Caledonia, Alaska, Egypt, Australia, India, North Africa (now located in Italy), and Panama.

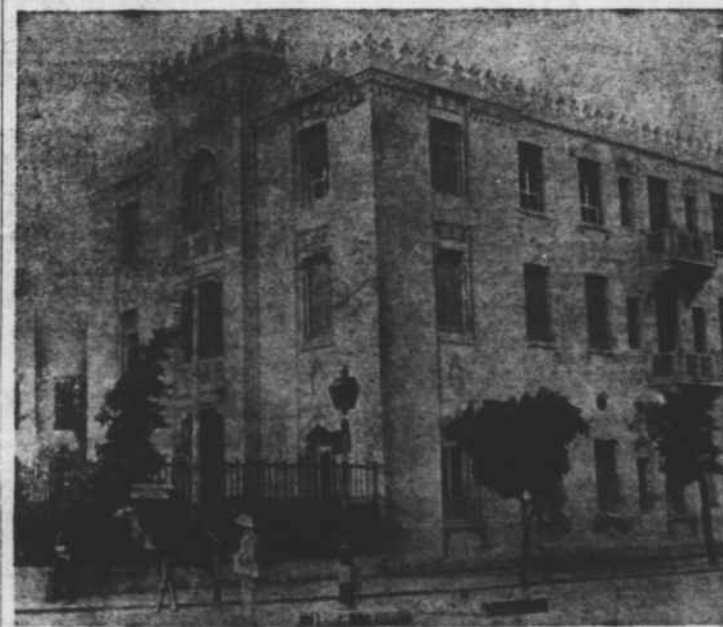
One fee, \$2, enrolls any member of the armed services (except Army officers who pay the entire cost of any USAFI course or examination they require) for any course or service offered by the Institute. As long as the student continues to "pass," he may continue to enroll for additional self-teaching and correspondence courses given by the Institute.

Except for commissioned and warrant officers, and flight officers of the Army, the Government will pay half the text and tuition fees up to \$20 for each university correspondence course. Army officers must pay for their own courses.

Former musicians, salesmen, lawyers, farmers, mechanics, bike racers, clerks, engineers, chemists, professional basketball, football, and hockey players are taking USAFI courses. More than half of the students are stationed overseas. Every week USAFI ships 60,000 textbooks abroad, a freight-car load of learning.

"Now that all the Japs here are dead ones, and we are getting lights, I have started reviewing my lessons and will send No. 3 to you as soon as possible," wrote S/Sergt. Arthur Davis, with a weather squadron, stationed on a Pacific Island.

Corp. Edward A. Wittenhauer, granted an extension in the time allotted for his course, wrote: "I find it very difficult to keep my lessons up to date. I am at a bomber station in England. This should explain why I am so busy."



This handsome building with its Oriental decorations houses the Middle East branch of the USAFI in Cairo. Notice the camel in the foreground, and the British policeman in white uniform and helmet.