

THE ALAMANANCE GLEANER

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Armies Squeeze Nazis As Big Three Map Knockout Drive; AFL, Industry Buck Labor Draft

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 (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.)



With one member carrying cumbersome anti-tank weapon, Berlin home-guarders mobilize for action as Russ march on capital.

EUROPE:

Plan Knockout

As Swedish reports played up a big shakeup in the German government in an effort to form a more respectable regime for approaching the Allies for peace, the Big Three conference continued in the Black Sea area, with Messrs. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin announcing completion of plans for the knockout of the Nazi military machine.

Although Hitler would remain as the head of the German state under the reported shakeup, actual power would pass into the hands of wily Fritz von Papen, ace diplomat and Reich chancellor before the Fuehrer's ascension to dominance. Although a conservative in tone, Von Papen, reports had it, would have as Finance Minister Hjalmar Schacht, who devised the Reich's



Chieftains Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill in confab.

complex prewar barter system, by which the Reich attempted to do business without formal exchange.

In agreement on military plans, the Big Three also were reportedly in harmony on postwar occupation of Germany, with Britain taking over the northwest, the U. S. the southwest and Russia the east.

Twin Thrusts

While the Russians drove in from the east, the U. S. and British undertook a large-scale offensive in the west, with Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's Tommies attempting to outflank the Siegfried line terminal of Klevé on the northern end of the front and move down the Ruhr valley.

Following 11 hours of intensive aerial and artillery bombardment, Montgomery's forces, paced by tanks and flame throwers, fought deep into the Reichswald forest screening Klevé, while the Germans rushed up reinforcements in an effort to curb the offensive. Not only would a British breakthrough imperil the industrial Ruhr valley, but it would place the Tommies at the rear of Nazi troops holding a line against the U. S. First and Third armies farther south.

While Montgomery's offensive mounted, the First and Third armies continued to chew deeply into the once formidable Siegfried line, with the battering Yanks encountering new earthwork defenses beyond the west wall's concrete bunkers, pill-boxes and tank-traps. Strongpoint after strongpoint in the Siegfried line fell as the Nazis appeared to be falling back into the earthwork system, stretching as far back as the Rhine in some places.

Attack in West

While a great battle raged for the battered Prussian stronghold of Berlin, another great and equally important fight flared for Silesia's interior industrial district.

In pressing their great offensives along the sprawling eastern front, the Reds threw numerous bridge-heads across the Oder river, whose ice-packs were thawed by warm winds. With artillery laying down heavy barrages, Red armored columns, backed by waves of in-

WORK OR FIGHT:

Bill Bucked

Still strongly opposed by labor and industry, the administration's "work or fight" bill forcing men between 18 and 45 to accept essential jobs or face induction or fine and imprisonment received close senate consideration after house passage.

As the solons took up the bill, the AFL's executive council meeting in Miami, Fla., declared that no actual manpower shortage existed, but that some plants were hoarding labor to keep up production costs and allow them a greater percentage of profit, and contracts were being let in tight labor areas while establishments were forced to lay off help in others. The AFL recommended a substitute under which hoarded labor would be drafted.

Claiming that only 150,000 workers were needed, the National Association of Manufacturers said that voluntary cooperative efforts of industry, labor and government had largely been successful in recruiting needed help, and said that lower employment ceilings in unessential plants could "flush out" surplus workers. Reductions in absenteeism, elimination of wasteful labor practices and shifting of skilled help would serve to draw the most from available manpower, the NAM said.

PACIFIC:

Manila in Flames

Overwhelmed by American forces moving from the north, and squeezed by other U. S. units moving in from the south, Jap defenders of Manila destroyed all bridges over the Pasig river dividing the city in two and put the business district to the torch.

As the Manila business district's reinforced concrete, streamlined and air conditioned buildings billowed in flame, winds blowing in from the bay spread the fire, forcing the removal of freed prisoners and internees by truck to outlying suburbs. As U. S. troops worked their way through the barricaded streets, they came under heavy sniper gunfire.

In telling his troops that they " . . . have redeemed a country's pledge to recapture its lost land, . . ." General MacArthur said that the conquest of Manila marked the end of one phase of the war and the opening of another. Declaring that his command was ready to carry on the campaign against the Japs, in what was interpreted as his bid for continued leadership of Allied forces in the Pacific, MacArthur proclaimed:

"On to Tokyo."

fantry, pressed into the fortified zones before Berlin.

Farther to the south, the Russians headed for Silesia's interior industrial district around Schwiednitz and Wuenscheiburg, nestled deep in the shadow of the towering Sudeten mountains rimming Czechoslovakia. Capture of this region would add to the conquest of the eastern Silesian industrial district and further impair Nazi industry.

SURPLUS GOODS: Investigate Sales

With congress announcing its intention to go into the whole question of surplus property disposal now to develop fair practices rather than to wait until most of the goods had been sold, the senate war investigating committee "ranged over the whole matter, with emphasis on operations of an auctioneering firm allegedly soliciting business through high officials.

During the course of the committee's inquiry, it was learned that purchasers bought surplus materials at bargain prices and then resold them to the government at big profits, and that test tubes, stopper corks and surgical dressings were being classed as surplus while factories worked around the clock turning out more of the same items.

In investigating the affairs of Surplus Liquidators, Inc., it was brought out that Herbert Bayard Swope, consultant to Secretary of War Henry Stimson, had written to Jesse Jones, former secretary of commerce, asking for the latter's consideration of the firm's plans for disposal of surplus goods. There not only was pre-arranged bidding at Surplus Liquidators' auctions, it was charged, but sales were made without any competitive bidding at all, and in some cases buyers later were asked to pay higher prices for goods they had previously bought.

COURT-MARTIAL: Stirs Nation

In a case that stirred nation-wide interest and created a flurry on the floor of the U. S. senate, the army's sentencing of Pvt. Henry Weber, 27, of Vancouver, Wash., to hanging for refusal to bear arms in a drill was changed to life imprisonment at hard labor.

As Weber's wife said that his deep personal conviction against killing in war should have entitled him to consideration as a conscientious objector before his induction, he, himself, declared: "I am interested in a world in which all men can live peacefully. To be a good soldier you have to learn to hate and to kill. I am willing to do anything I can to get the war over as long as I do not have to kill other people."

Exclaiming " . . . It is inconceivable to me that army officers would sentence a man to death because he refused to drill," Senator Wheeler (Mont.) threatened to press a congressional inquiry into the case when it was first announced. "Whoever sentenced that boy to hanging ought to be discharged," he said.

CANADA: Draft Trouble

Reaffirming its traditional privileges of self-government under the British North America act (the Canadian constitution), French-speaking Quebec's 22nd legislature convened in the same week as English-speaking voters in the Grey North district of Ontario repudiated the dominion government's compromise overseas draft policy.

Strongly opposed to an overseas draft, the Quebec legislature's firm declaration of self-government, coupled with the assertion that the minority's interest in any change in the dominion's constitution should be respected, indicated that French-Canadians aimed to maintain their position on conscription.

Meanwhile, repudiation of the government's compromise overseas draft policy to avoid a head-on collision with Quebec meant that Premier King may be compelled to call a general election to thrash out the question publicly and strengthen an administration's hand on dealing with the touchy problem.

RAIL TRAFFIC: Car Shortage

One great artery linking the nation into a whole, the U. S. railroad system's operations in one section must strongly affect activities in another as the recent heavy snowstorms and frigid weather in the northeast have proved.

Because of the delay in returning rolling stock from the storm area, and the necessity of giving important military freight the right of way, an acute shortage of box cars has developed in the middle west, it was said. The situation has been all the more complicated by the fact that terminal mills and grain elevators have made a heavy demand for box cars in the face of a record 1944 harvest and a large carry-over.

Freight difficulties have been equally matched by passenger service troubles, it was also said, what with the severe winter weather delaying the arrival of many trains in midwest terminals and resulting in travelers missing connections on lines leaving for the west.



Notes of a Newspaperman:

Story of a Song: Once upon a time (March, 1943) songwriter Johnny Burke dined at the home of Harry Lillis Crosby. . . Gary, oldest son of Crosby, was spouting monosyllabic thumb-noses at the principles of American education. In sum, he hated school. . . Burke waved a worldly finger. . . "My boy," he said, "you should be glad you're going to school. How would you like to be a fish? A fish can't read or write or go to ball games. All he can do is swim around and when he gets tired of swimming one way, he turns around and swims the other. If you like that sort of life, you might grow up to be a fish." . . . Mr. Burke was impressed with his own philosophy. . . He hastened to his partner, Jimmy Van Heusen, and repeated the dissertation on fish. . . As a result, "Swingin' on a Star" was born and cast in "Going My Way," starring Bing. . . Soon after the picture premiered the ditty made The Hit Parade and stayed on it for 20 straight weeks. . . It became a minor national anthem with kids who asked kin if they'd like to be a fish or a mule. . . Clergymen used the theme in sermons, and Joe E. Lewis parodied: "Would you like to hang on a bar, with a dame like Hedy Lamarr?" . . . Very soon a book on the theme will be published. They may make a film based on its story, too. . . Anyway, that's what came of a kid saying he didn't like school and why J. Burke and J. Van Heusen pay surtaxes.

Ambassador to Brazil A. A. Berle's wife is known for her frankness. Recently at a dinner in Washington Mrs. Berle cornered a Russian General and asked him a few pointed questions. The dialog went something like this—his answers are in parentheses: "What is Russia's present aim?" (to defeat the enemy). . . "What are you going to do with Germany?" (Conquer her). . . "And with Poland?" (liberate her). . . "And what will you do when you arrive at the Rhine?" (Take a swim).

We have just finished Noel Coward's "Middle East Diary," and the following paragraph in it belongs here, considering Coward's recent "jam" over his comment in the book about Brooklyn soldiers. . . "At ten o'clock," he observes, "I went to call on General Eisenhower. He combats untiringly the little cracks and lampoons and jokes spread by the British against the Americans and vice versa. I believe he even sacked an important member of his staff for making a minor contribution to this dangerous, subversive racket. One silly little man with one laborious joke can cause an incredible amount of damage."

Frank Munn called the American Album of Familiar Music cast together and said: "I just wanted to tell you a little story. Frank Hummert once approached me and offered a spot on this program. . . I asked, 'For how long do you want me?' " 'Maybe 13 weeks,' he said, 'maybe 13 years.' " "I just wanted to tell all of you that tonight is the anniversary of my 13th year on the American Album of Familiar Music."

Munn holds no contract. A handshake cemented the deal.

The colyum's recent experience (because of an omitted comma in a telegram) recalls this one about a refugee college prof. dining in a restaurant near Columbia University. . . Speaking English with that acquired precision which so often shames the native born, he ordered "figs and cream." . . The waitress brought a dish of figs covered with cream. "I ordered figs and cream," he protested. "Well," she said, "there they are." "But," he persisted, "this is figs WITH cream!" "So what?" she so-whatted. "What's wrong with it?" "Madam," said the professor icily, "would you say a woman and child were the same as a woman with child?"

Newspapermen will tell you that corrections sometimes are worse than the original story. . . This is a concrete example: "Our paper carried the notice last week that Mr. John Doe was a defective in the police force. This was a typographical error. Mr. Doe is really a detective in the police force."

Army and Navy Turn to Rocket Weapons As Answer to Need for More Fire Power

Munitions Schedule Greatly Stepped Up To Meet Demands

War rockets are not new. The Chinese used crude projectiles in 1232 against the Tartars; the British fired them at American troops in the War of 1812, during the battle of Blandensburg, when they routed Stansbury's American brigade, and then marched on Washington. Francis Scott Key, going aboard a British prison ship in the Chesapeake to discover the fate of a friend, was obliged to stay aboard during the British rocket ship attack on Fort McHenry. On the basis of this experience, he wrote the rocket references in the American national anthem: "And the rockets' red glare, The bombs bursting in air."

Rockets, however, were never used before in 20th century warfare. In this war these projectiles have become important and destructive weapons. Their considerable use in combat is one of the principal weapon innovations of this war.

Amazing expansion of use and production of American rockets, since the bazooka was invented in 1941, has been reported by the army, the navy and the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

The increase in rocket production, of course, based on increased requirements for rockets to use in combat, is shown by these facts:

In November, 1944, the navy's bureau of ordnance reported that by the end of the first quarter or early in the second quarter of 1945, the navy would be spending approximately \$100,000,000 per month on rocket ammunition alone, which is as much as is now being spent per month on all types of naval ammunition.

In December, 1944, however, the navy's bureau of ordnance said that in a few months navy rocket production would be stepped up by nearly 300 per cent.

The army, which placed its first rocket orders of this war in 1941,



Most all pursuit planes are now being equipped with bazookas. This P-47 has six tubes, mounted under the wings. The rocket projectiles are fired electrically by the pilot. The picture shows a ground crewman loading one of the bazookas. Three of the big rockets are standing on end in front of one of the wheels in the foreground. This plane is also armed with eight .50-caliber machine guns.

Fourth of July skyrocket, these new rockets are artillery type weapons, with the rockets being equivalent to shells and the launching devices equivalent to guns. Fired from tubes that vary in length and diameter according to the type of rocket, the weapons have warheads carrying explosives, or smoke, or incendiary chemicals. The tube that extends to the rear of the warhead contains the propellant, a material that, after being electrically ignited, generates expanding gas. The gas, pushing against the head, forces the rocket forward.

The M-8 rocket, that was developed after the bazooka, is a 4.5 inch projectile that equals in firepower the 105-mm. medium artillery gun. The M-8 rocket weighs only 38 pounds. The M-8's launcher, M-12, weighs 35 to 40 pounds, while a 105-mm. gun weighs approximately 12 tons. The M-12 launcher costs only \$104, while a 105-mm. gun complete costs \$8,406.

M-8s Clear the Way.

The navy put M-8 rockets to their first real test in the Pacific amphibious operations. By the time the Eu-

ous operations is the rocket weapon that was used successfully in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France, in the landings on Arawe and subsequent landings in the Pacific.

Blast Shore Installations.

LCIs (landing craft, infantry) attacked with rockets at Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Guam. Several thousand rockets were hurled at Japanese shore installations by LCIs on Guam. These rockets were fired by electrical control from multiple banks of launchers that had been welded to forward well decks.

Operational and tactical reports of rocket successes from field commanders and in various theaters of war have increased markedly over 1942. After analyzing the wide destruction of enemy ground targets by rocket-firing P-47s of the Ninth air force, the operational research section of the force recommended more extensive use of airborne rockets.

Since 1941 American rocket research and development have been forwarded by the war and navy departments, working with scientists of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. The latter is responsible, among other things, for initiating and supporting scientific research on weapons of war. The air technical service command technicians, the army ordnance department, and civilian scientists of the N.D.R.C. group, developed airborne rockets for tactical use in the war after only two years of research at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, and other proving grounds.

While rockets have great fire power and mobility, and may be fired without recoil, which increases their adaptability for use where guns cannot be employed, only when fired from high speed aircraft are they of pinpoint accuracy. Ground forces' rockets have great possibilities as a barrage weapon. Rocket launchers, as compared with guns, are relatively simple and cheap to manufacture in mass production, according to the National Defense Research council and the army and navy.



Two men with a bazooka can blast a hole in a medium tank. This strange weapon, nevertheless, is light to carry and easy to handle. The forward man holds the tube and aims it, while the rear man loads the rocket missile. There is no recoil, since the tube is open at both ends. The rocket pushes against the air instead of a breech block.

had approximately \$1,000,000 in rocket contracts during 1942. During 1943, the expanding rocket production program had shot up by 2,400 per cent over that of 1942. And in 1944 the program was further increased by another 400 per cent over 1943 production, according to the army ordnance department.

During 1945 the army will be spending approximately \$12,000,000 per month on rocket ammunition alone, while the navy will produce rockets for all branches of the armed forces and will be responsible for loading and testing the projectiles. The army will be responsible for the manufacture of a rocket propellant charge that will not dissolve in ordinary solvents, such as water, and of rockets of sizes not produced by the navy.

New Types More Powerful.

Rockets used by the American armed forces today, including the navy's latest type airplane rocket and the latest plane type used by the army air forces, are even more potent weapons than the bazookas, which was the army's anti-tank rocket first put into production in 1941, and first used in combat in the North African invasions. According to the National Defense Research committee, rockets are accurate weapons when fired from high speed aircraft. And the navy reports that rockets fired from planes can be pinpointed on the target.

In this war American rockets are fired from naval craft, aircraft, and from the ground or from ground vehicles. Similar in principle to the

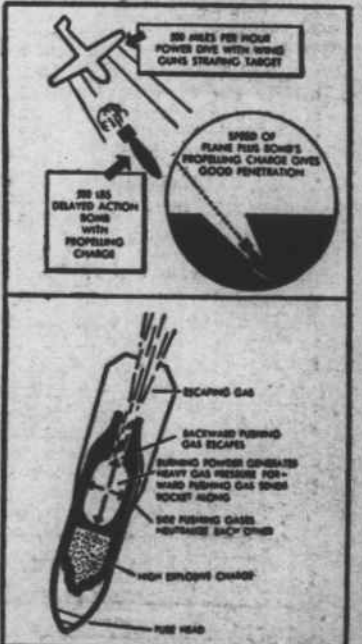
ropean theater invasions began, rocket-firing craft had become essential equipment for landings on hostile beaches. On the China-Burma-India theater M-8 rockets, fired by army air force P-51 Mustang fighter planes, carrying six rockets each, destroyed in 290 rounds of firing six large warehouses, 12 medium-sized warehouses, one foundry, four locomotives, 10 Japanese aircraft, two river boats and four native shacks; and damaged two medium-sized warehouses, five medium-sized buildings, one locomotive, and 13 Japanese aircraft.

P-38 Lightnings, P-39 Airacobras, P-40 Warhawks, P-47 Thunderbolts, as well as the Mustangs, are the fighter planes equipped with rockets by the army air forces. Grumman Avenger torpedo planes and such lighter navy fighter planes as Hellcats have been armed with rockets. Navy carrier task forces are using rockets in ever-increasing quantity.

Army air force fighter planes, carrying rockets slung in underwing mounts, have combined rocket fire with bombing to destroy concentrations of armored vehicles, rail lines, rolling stock, trucks and troop convoys, light field fortifications such as bunkers, pillboxes, artillery emplacements, radio installations, and light naval and cargo craft, both in Europe and in the China-Burma-India theater of war.

For more than two years the navy has been using a type of rocket weapon against Axis submarines. Now standard for all navy amphib-

Rocket Bombs



For greater penetration, as well as more accuracy, a rocket bomb has been developed. A propelling charge is set off just as the bomb leaves the dive bomber. This added impulse speeds up the missile's descent and consequently its impact with the target is more forceful.