

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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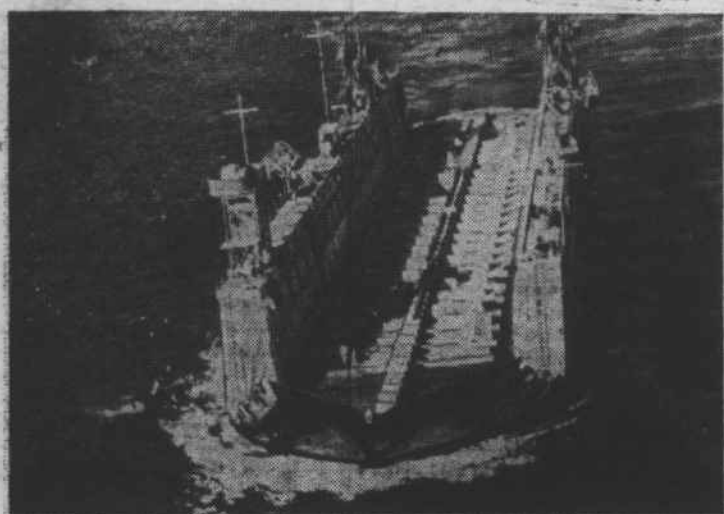
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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Japs Fight to the Last on Iwo; Lend-Lease Aids Russ Assault; 9,000 Planes Pace Push on Nazis

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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.)



Floated to wherever it is needed, this huge drydock submerges to permit entry of vessel, which is then secured to keel blocks. Upon rising, the drydock lifts the ship from water and allows workers to service the vessel.

## PACIFIC:

### To the Last Man

Entrenched in caves, well equipped with light and heavy guns and ordered to fight to the last man, Japan's 20,000 defenders of tiny Iwo Jima island put up a fanatical, though hopeless, fight for this tiny stepping-stone to Tokyo in the face of an overpowering marine assault supported by the thundering bombardment of U. S. naval vessels and aircraft.

Far to the south, U. S. army troops, mopping up remnants of Japanese opposition in Manila, encountered equally fanatical resistance in bitter close-quarter fighting, typified by the wild action inside the Manila hotel, where Yanks shot it out up stairways, through corridors and in rooms to clean the enemy from the top floors.

Iwo Jima's airfields, from which the Japs threatened the advance U. S. base in the Marianas 800 miles away, were the prize objectives of the marine assault, which carried clear across the southern end of the island in the early fighting. Holed up in the rolling country, and wiped out only after intensive fire, the Japs exacted a heavy toll of the invaders, with losses far above those suffered at Tarawa.

## Inside Japan

From inside Japan came reports of a lowering wartime living standard of a country noted for frugal accommodations in peace, and of a rigid civilian discipline.

With 20 per cent less food than before the war, each Jap has been restricted to monthly allotments of a half pound of sugar, four pounds of vegetables and 20 pounds of rice. Matches, medicine, gasoline, fuel and clothing are rationed, and the nation's women are asked to cut off their kimono sleeves and wear overalls to ease the apparel pinch. All men between 12 and 60, and unmarried women between 12 and 40, must register for compulsory labor, and employees must report for work in war plants despite air raids.

## WAGE BOOSTS:

### Held Up

Inter-governmental wrangling complicated recent War Labor board decisions boosting worker incomes within the framework of the stabilization program pegging general wage increases to 15 per cent of January, 1941, levels.

In the cases involving 145,000 packing-house and 50,000 textile workers, WLB grants were held up until settlement of WLB's dispute with office of Economic Stabilizer Director Vinson over necessity of OPA to determine whether any pay boosts would require a markup in distributors' costs, thus affecting the price control program.

In passing on the packing-house workers case, WLB called upon the companies to bear the cost of employees' clothing, tools and upkeep of implements, and also directed that the guaranteed work week must be extended from 32 to 36 hours. In the case of the textile workers, the WLB increased the minimum wage from 50 to 55 cents an hour and granted a flat 5 cents an hour boost to preserve present geographical and job differentials.

## LEND-LEASE:

### Over 35 Billion

With lend-lease reaching an all-time high in the first half of 1944 due to preparations for D-Day and the great Soviet winter offensive, such aid for the whole year reached almost 15 1/2 billion dollars and a grand total of over 35 billion dollars since going into effect.

In recounting lend-lease aid, Foreign Economic Administrator Leo Crowley pointed out that the U. S. has shipped 362,000 motor vehicles alone to Russia, and that on some parts of the eastern front American trucks are carrying more than one-half the supplies for Red troops. In addition, Crowley said, Russia has received 12,000 planes.

Compared with Russia, Britain has received 80,000 vehicles and 8,500 planes, Crowley revealed, but other shipments have made the United Kingdom the largest recipient of lend-lease, with 43 per cent of the total. With the opening of the new supply road from India to China, the U. S. expects to materially boost deliveries to the latter, with plans calling for shipment of 15,000 trucks.

Mentioning that it took only 1 1/2 per cent of cigarette production, and less than 1 per cent of the beef supply, Crowley said that lend-lease was not a determining factor in civilian shortages.

## EUROPE:

### Air Help

Massing almost their entire strength, Allied air chieftains threw upwards of 9,000 fighters and bombers at Nazi targets on both the western and eastern fronts in support of ground troops hacking forward against stubborn opposition.

Disruption of enemy communications feeding their embattled forces in the west and Italy was the objective of the 7,000 planes the U. S. and British sent out, with the heaviest cascading tons of explosives on rail yards and the fighters swooping down out of the skies to shoot up locomotives, freight cars and motor vehicles.

Fortifications as well as communications were the targets of some 2,000 Russian planes in the east, concentrated against the enemy in East Prussia, where the Nazis put up a stiff fight to hold open the Baltic port of Pillau above besieged Königsberg.

In the ground fighting in the west, the whole front was as firm as the U. S. 9th and part of the 3rd armies drove for the Rhineland with its all important industry, while the other part of the 3rd and the 7th armies clamped a tightening vise on the Saar basin with its rich coal and iron deposits.

As the Yanks slugged forward, in stiff fighting, British and Canadian Tommies continued to make slow, but steady, progress at the far northern end of the Siegfried line, enveloping the vital road hub of Calcar, upon which German defenses turned for preventing a sweep to the rear of their whole Rhine land front.

In the east, German women, in furs and plain clothes, were put to work building barricades in Berlin as Marshal Ivan Konev's First Ukrainian army drew up from the south on a line with Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian force for the grand assault on the Nazi capital. Meanwhile, the Reds continued to press their attacks against German forces threatening the flanks of Konev's and Zhukov's armies.

## LABOR DRAFT:

### Weaken Bill

With compulsory work legislation bitterly opposed by labor and industry alike, a weakened labor draft bill received careful senate consideration after hasty house passage of a sterner measure.

With the senate discarding the house measure under which local draft boards could order registrants from 18 to 45 into essential war jobs at the risk of induction or fine and imprisonment in case of refusal, it took up a substitute empowering the War Manpower commission to limit employment in establishments and channel excess workers into war industry.

Though milder in form than the house measure, even the substitute bill ran into strong opposition because of the stiff fines and imprisonment provided for violation of the WMC rulings. In helping draw up the bill for whole senate consideration, Kentucky's Senator "Happy" Chandler said he favored the incorporation of stiff punishment "... so any senator would be justified in voting against any manpower bill before the committee."

## Nurses Face Call

With recent recruitments falling below needs, the house moved to draft unmarried nurses from 20 to 44 years of age, with some members seeking to provide sufficient safeguards to maintain essential hospital services at home.

Under the bill's provisions, drafted nurses would be commissioned second lieutenants in the army and given comparable rank in other services, but they would be subject to duty in whatever kind of nursing most needed.

Of the nation's 240,000 registered nurses, approximately 60,000 are now in the services. There was recent need for an additional 20,000 to help meet needs occasioned by mounting casualty lists.

## Late Delivery



Countering scoffers, Dr. Daniel Belts, the attending physician, declared that careful examination had first indicated birth by last November. "... I am convinced there definitely was a stoppage of growth between the third and sixth month of pregnancy," he said.

Closest approach to the case in his records, Dr. Belts said, was a pregnancy of 359 days.

## CURB NIGHTERIES:

### Seek Revision

As War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes' order closing night clubs, saloons, road houses, theaters, dance halls and other places of entertainment to conserve fuel went into effect, operators planned a counter-proposal under which they would shut down on Sundays and keep open to 2 a. m. weekdays.

In pushing the proposal, operators claimed that it would not only accomplish the purpose of saving 25 hours a week of fuel use, but also permit them to keep their doors open by appealing to the late theater crowds and the merry-makers who start spending money around midnight.

In anticipation of the shorter hours and smaller crowds, New York night clubs released 5,000 of their 50,000 employees as the order went into effect, and the famed Diamond Horse shoe proprietor, Billy Rose, wailed: "The way it stands now, this will put us all in bankruptcy."

## OIL:

### U. S. Reserves

While taking over 1 1/2 billion barrels of oil out of the ground in 1944, the U. S. discovered reserves of 2 billion barrels during the year, the American Petroleum Institute reported, to bring the country's known surplus pools of this vital mineral to over 20 billion barrels.

In discussing the reserve situation, the institute cautioned against trying to estimate the period of time known surplus pools would last, explaining: "... Known oil can be recovered only over a period of many years and at gradually declining rates."

Leader in 1944 production with an estimated 747,790,000 barrels, Texas also leads in reserves with 11,375,480,000, or half the total. Next in line is California, with output of 311,771,000 barrels and reserves of 3,344,552,000.



## Notes of a Newspaper Man:

This, they tell you, happened at the Big 3 conference. ... One evening after dinner Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin started speculating on what nationality they'd prefer to be if they couldn't be their own. ... Churchill said: "If I couldn't be British I'd want to be American." ... Roosevelt said: "If I wasn't American, I'd be British." ... Stalin said: "If I wasn't Russian I'd be ashamed of myself!"

During the recent run of the Theater Guild's "Embezzled Heaven," the star, Ethel Barrymore, was rushed to the hospital with pneumonia. She was placed in an oxygen tent. ... President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were among the many who sent posies and telegrams, and for a few weeks every one despaired of her pulling through. ... Finally, the worst was over and the star was permitted to sit up in bed and answer the phone. ... The first caller was the Guild's Theresa Helburn. "Hello," she cheerily said, "how's your cold?"

The other night a Hungarian playwright was told an actor had arrived from Hungary. ... "Do you know him?" he was asked. "Know him?" was the retort. "He's my best friend. I hate him!"

Our recent paragraphs about misplaced commas brought the one about the London Daily Mail, which has a reputation for making fewest errors. ... All sorts of editorial supervision was employed—bonuses were offered the staff to maintain the highest standards, etc. But the Mail was still less than perfect.

Finally, the editor summoned the staff and announced: "Hereafter, the first copy will be printed on special stock and sent to the King of England." Editorial blunders dropped 90 per cent.

A Texan in London was trying to impress some Britishers with the size of his home state. "Do you know," he said, "that in Texas you can hop on a railroad car at 8 in the morning and still be in Texas after riding 24 hours?" "We," replied a Britisher, "have trains like that in England, too."

It happened at the premiere of "One Man Show." ... The curtain was up and a woman was making a big to-do as she got into her seat, huffing and puffing. ... Seated near her was George Luddy, the Indian-born author. ... He polished her off neatly by audibly remarking: "Don't worry about her. She's so used to the second balcony—that sitting in the orchestra tonight has given her the shakes."

The exciting stories from Manila included the one about an American radio reporter who was freed after three years as a Jap prisoner. He was forced off the air one day as the Japs entered the city. The other morning, said the papers, he resumed broadcasting this way: "As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted—"

De Valera of Eire was arrested while speaking at a street meeting several years ago. When he was freed years later, his first statement was: "As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted—"

Margalo Gillmore, the actress, was anxious to become a nurse's aide but found she didn't have enough stamina for the work—being frightened by the sight of blood, etc. So she compromised by becoming a Grey Lady (one who reads to the convalescent servicemen, etc.) ... Margalo was telling Carolyn Burke about her duties. ... "Just what is a Grey Lady?" asked Carolyn. ... "A Grey Lady in my case," said Margalo, "is a yellow nurse's aide."

There was the time the late Alex Woolcott was the victim of a typesetter's error. ... The critic once referred to a famous recitalist as "a popular disease."

When critic Rascoe covered the new play, "Hope for the Best," he was a little flattered that the principal comedy line (used intermittently throughout the three acts) was something he wrote many years ago. It was: "Something no wife can ever understand, no matter if she lives with the man for 25 years, is that a writer is working when he is staring out of the window."

## War Surplus Property of 103 Billion Dollars Will Be Made Available to Public

### Some Goods Earmarked For Farmers, Balance to Enter Trade Channels

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Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Approximately a half billion dollars worth of consumer goods from surplus war stocks will be offered for sale during the coming year through the medium of the procurement division of the United States treasury, according to reliable sources here.

Treasury procurement, however, is only one of six governmental agencies involved in the sale of surplus war properties, so the total may run to double that sum. The other agencies are Reconstruction Finance corporation and its subsidiaries, handling capital goods, lands and war plants; War Food administration, selling food and foodstuffs; the Maritime commission, handling all marine equipment; the army and navy, disposing of materials abroad and certain small stuff here at home; and the Federal Housing administration, which will handle sale of government-owned housing projects.

Estimates are that the total potential value of surplus war properties will run approximately 103 billions of dollars, or more than the total sales of Sears, Roebuck & company for a hundred years at their present annual rate of sales.

During the first six months war properties have been on sale, only \$135,164,000 was realized out of a total declared surplus valued at \$986,000,000. From this fact it can readily be seen that sales must be stepped up considerably if the government is to realize a high percentage of the appraised value of the property. Of the amount already sold, receipts were approximately 75 per cent of appraised value.

For this reason treasury procurement, which will handle about 60 per cent of the total declared surplus, is planning increased activity during the coming fiscal year and is now asking an appropriation of \$20,750,000 to virtually double its present personnel of about 5,000 employees in its 11 regional offices throughout the country.

This surplus material will cover every conceivable item of goods and commodities from small hardware items to defense plants and shipyards. It must be borne in mind, however, that the government is not in the retail business and the general public is not eligible to purchase this stock direct.

### Farmers to Get Break

Intent of the law governing sales of surplus properties is that farmers are to get at least an even break in opportunities to buy these commodities which are in demand and applicable to farm usage. In some cases farmers are given preference. For instance the Defense Plant corporation, a subsidiary of RFC, has held several auctions for the particular benefit of farmers, of commodities left over after war plant construction. This property included hoes, shovels, spades, paint, construction hardware and other items.

Treasury procurement, too, holds some direct auctions of livestock, such as horses and mules for benefit of farmers, but otherwise all commodities are sold through bona fide dealers.

Any dealer, including farm cooperatives, hardware stores, general stores, grain elevators, is eligible to bid on any of the commodities offered for sale in his region. Twice each week treasury procurement sends out a publication called the "Surplus Reporter" from each of the 11 regional offices listing items to be up for sale, method of sale, etc. Dealers can readily be placed on the mailing list by writing to the nearest procurement office in their territory. Procurement offices are in the following cities:

Region 1—Boston; covering Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Region 2—New York, Empire State building; covering Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

Region 3—Washington, D. C.—Covering Delaware, Maryland and North Carolina and Virginia.

Region 4—Cincinnati; covering Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

Region 5—Chicago, 209 N. LaSalle street, covering Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Region 6—Atlanta; covering Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Region 7—Fort Worth; covering Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.



A large number of horses are being sold as surplus.

Region 8—Kansas City, Mo.; covering Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Region 9—Denver; covering Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Region 10—San Francisco, 30 Van Ness avenue, covering Arizona, California and Nevada.

Region 11—Seattle, 2005 Fifth avenue, covering Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington.

### Large Assortment Given

In advertising the products for sale treasury groups them under eight general heads as follows: furniture, general products, machinery, automotive, paper and office supplies, medical and surgical, textiles and wearing apparel, and hardware.

Furniture may include mattresses, bedsprings, household furniture, to office, shop, beauty parlor, barber shop, tables, stools and numerous other furniture supplies.

General products may include anything from live animals, lamps, water coolers, lighting fixtures, photographic goods, storage batteries and thousands of other items.

Machinery may include powered trucks, tractors, agricultural machinery and implements, farm trailers, farm service tires, wagons, dairymen's, poultrymen's and apiarists' supplies.

Automotive includes all sorts of motor vehicles and trucks, automo-



Surplus army mattresses.

bile parts and accessories, tires, motorcycles and other automotive equipment.

One of the largest stocks is surgical and medical equipment including drugs.

Textiles and wearing apparel may include shoes, rubber goods, shirts, raincoats, sleeping bags, gloves, coats, pins, needles and dozens of other articles.

Other items include thousands of hardware articles such as kitchen supplies, wire, screens, nails, wheelbarrows, pushcarts, saddles, tableware, jewelry, musical instruments, small arms ammunition and others.

These lists merely give an idea of the thousands of different commodities which will be offered for sale on bids—and important to know—bids under ceiling prices which have been fixed by the OPA. On some occasions OPA has not fixed a ceiling until after the articles have been sold, so what happens then the treasury doesn't know.

Even dogs, trained in warfare, carrier pigeons and monkeys have been sold as surplus war property. A large number of monkeys have been sold to zoos after they have been used by the air corps to test altitude in compression tanks. Through these tests the lives of thousands of our aviators have been saved.

Some of the objectives of the regulations governing the sale of this

tremendous volume of surplus war property as set out by the war properties board seek to foster wide distribution of surplus commodities to consumers at fair prices; to achieve prompt and full utilization of the property with due regard for the protection of free markets; to prevent dislocation of prices from uncontrolled dumping; to avoid dislocations of the domestic economy; to encourage and foster postwar employment opportunities; to assure the sale of surplus property in such quantities and on such terms as will discourage disposal to speculators or for speculative purposes; to prevent insofar as possible unusual and excessive profits and to afford returning veterans an opportunity to establish themselves as proprietors of agricultural businesses.

This last objective brings up the regulations regarding the sale of lands by the RFC. All government owned land which is declared surplus will be offered for sale to the original owner, from whom it was purchased by the government at the price paid. If sale is not then made, it is offered to heirs or assigns. Then the property is divided into family sized plots and war veterans are given preference as buyers.

Thus farmers will have an opportunity to buy back their land and if they do not, war veterans are given preference. Although much of this land is farm land, hundreds of acres are included in suburban plots near or adjacent to cities and towns.

### How Farmers Can Act

Procedure for farmers to obtain a military vehicle, either truck or automobile is as follows: Make application to your local triple A office. The farm transportation committee, WPB, PAW, or ODT regional offices are authorized to issue letters of certification to essential users. After the certificate of need has been obtained sales must be negotiated through a dealer who has purchased the vehicles from procurement. No trucks, autos or other vehicles will be sold direct to consumers. There has been some complaint from farmers about the indirect method of purchase, but the procedure outline is about as direct as possible under the regulations.

A trip through the sample room of the treasury procurement division in Washington is a revelation. It's the most amazing collection of commodities imaginable: overalls, khaki shirts, fleeced-lined sleeping tents and blankets, rubber lifeboats for five people; rubber and leather overshoes; nurses' shoes; tarpaulins, all-steel tool boxes, table ware, kitchen ware of all descriptions; medical supplies; surgical and dental instruments; snow shoes, jungle knives, imitation rifles; hardware of all descriptions, such as nuts, bolts, chains, hooks, and metal gadgets; saddles, signal lights, flashlights, spotlights, all-steel boxes which would be suitable for mailboxes or for locking away valuable papers; all-rubber suits; woolen mittens, leather gloves, photographers' supplies, even cameras.

Patently, it is up to the dealers in the 15,000 small towns of 5,000 or under population throughout the country, if farmers are to be able to buy this surplus war property. The dealer who is alert and watches for the sales dates may be able to lay in a stock of commodities. Farm Cooperatives particularly, who deal in most everything the farmer needs, might well be able to stock up on surplus commodities at prices which would be favorable to their customers or members.

In an effort to further inform these dealers about prospective sales and commodities for sale, the procurement offices in each region notify newspapers of an impending sale through intermittent releases.