

Market Opens With Prices Highest In Quarter of Century

War As It Relates To Home Front Is Reviewed for Week

Home Front Must Redouble Its Efforts in Handling The Assigned Task

Now we are doing what we said we would do—We're fighting the enemy wherever he is to be found, afloat, ashore and aloft, on all the Seven Seas and in the far places of the earth. Our troops roared through the surf at Dieppe with their brothers of Canada and their cousins of Britain, and on that day our bombers were over the Egyptian Desert, our planes were fighting the Japanese in China, our marines were fanning out from beachheads in the Solomons and our envoys were mapping grand strategy at Moscow.

We are entering upon that time for which we have impatiently waited, a time in which we carry the offensive to our enemies. We do not have our enemy by the throat—not yet—but we have come to grips with him. The fight remains to be won, but the fight is underway.

Home Front Must Not Falter

From now on, then, we here at home must redouble our effort, triple our vigilance in the tasks assigned to us. The soldiers who make good our beachheads in Asia and in Europe are upheld and supported by the united efforts of all of us. Let one of us falter or fail and the structure which maintains our arms is weakened.

The mechanism of the Home Front is a complex mechanism. Materials, production, distribution, the system of rationing and of controlling prices, the program for salvage—all these and much else, too, combine to make the cogs and gears and wheels which keep us rolling.

For weeks and months, now, it has been increasingly apparent that one vital part of this complicated machine is not working properly. We are short of materials and that shortage becomes more disturbing apparently every day. That shortage extends beyond the mere need for civilian restrictions, it is affecting the armed services. A short while ago the War Production Board issued an order forbidding use of rubber in many military products, including cartridge clip boxes and gun grips. And last week WPB restricted military uses of aluminum to "combat end-products for field or combat use" in order to insure that there will be enough aluminum for combat instruments.

Home Front Rallies for Salvage

The shortage of materials again emphasizes the need for saving materials and for salvage. You may be tired of hearing about salvage, you may be weary of collecting scrap—and yet we cannot close our ears to the crying need for salvage, we cannot stop hunting out the scrap, without risking failure and defeat. WPA workers, beating the back roads of the farm country and digging old rails from city streets have turned up 100,000 tons of scrap metal—44,900 tons of it in the form of steel rails. Scrap rubber, 454,155 tons of it, is moving to reclaiming plants at the rate of 4,000 tons a day. In Washington, the lure of brass bands and Hollywood screen stars set a pattern for "Scrap Rallies" to be held throughout the country. WPB's Conservation Division announced plans for a "Junior Salvage Corps" of school children—more than 30,000,000 of them—to conduct a nationwide, house-to-house scrap canvass for two weeks beginning October 5. And the American Legion is discussing with local governments a proposal so that old cannon balls and cannon and the howitzers of 1918 may be scrapped to make the guns and tanks and planes of 1943. Legion veterans have offered to give their own war relics—relics which, melted in the furnaces and refabricated in the arsenals, will help arm their sons who fight today.

All these enterprises will help but

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Native Of Hamilton Commands Air Raid

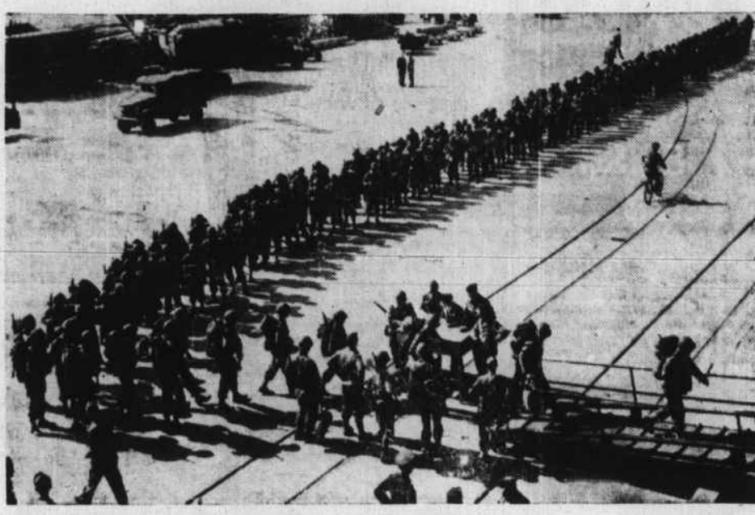
Frank Armstrong, a native of Hamilton and a colonel in the United States Army Air Corps, has been awarded the Silver Star decoration for his part in the first all-American raid over Europe.

Young Armstrong, a grandson of the late Clerk of Martin County Superior Court and Mrs. J. A. Hobbs, was the commanding officer of the "first all-American squadron to bomb enemy-occupied territory in this theatre," a communique from the U. S. Army headquarters announced.

The Silver Star decoration for the officer was awarded by Major General Carl A. Spaatz, commander of all American air forces in the European sphere.

Colonel Armstrong, commanding a dozen flying fortresses, directed the successful bombing of Rouen, the important railroad center occupied by the Nazis in Northern France the early part of last week.

U.S. Troops Embark to Fight Somewhere Abroad



Official U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo
These fully equipped American troops are shown lined up on a dock, somewhere in the United States, ready to board a transport bound for undisclosed foreign shores. The photo was released with the War Department announcement that the troops have arrived safely at their destination.

Postal Receipts At Record Figure in Williamson Office

Income During Second Quarter Largest Ever Reported For the Period

Postal receipts at the local office for the three months period ending last June 30th were the largest ever recorded for that period, F. E. Wynne, assistant to the postmaster, announced recently. No explanations for the record business could be pointed out. Possibly tire and gas rationing caused many persons to transact business by mail rather than make personal visits. It is an established fact that the postal receipts reflect an increase while general business in this immediate section was hardly holding its own against the call of men to the armed forces and to defense industries of the north and to the south.

The last quarter stamp sales amounted to \$5,576.90, a gain of \$313.18 over the sales for the corresponding quarter in 1941. Handled on a fiscal year basis, the stamp sales for the 12 months ending last June 30th amounted to \$24,014.40 as compared with \$21,951.97 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941. The biggest single gain was recorded during the quarter ending last March when sales reflected an increase of more than \$1,000 over the corresponding period in 1941.

While stamp sales were increasing, the money order business boomed, but to no record high figure. Money orders, valued at \$25,143.08, were handled during the months of April, May and June of this year as compared with \$23,410.01 in the same months, a year ago. But while that much money was being sent away, mostly to mail order houses, the local office cashed money orders in the amount of \$14,898.18 as compared with \$7,511.93 in the same months of 1941. It is apparent from these figures that many of the defense workers are sending some of their earnings back home.

A report from the office this week indicates that the receipts are continuing to hold up.

Name School Bus Drivers In County

Faced with a shortage of bus drivers, school authorities personally scoured the county last week-end and rounded up a number believed sufficient to handle the forty busses this coming term. Many of the applicants have already taken the required driving tests and examinations, but the list of drivers will not be announced before the latter part of the week or not before reports on all of the appointments have been certified by state highway safety examiners.

It is estimated that twenty-five new drivers will be added to the list in the county this year, about that number having been graduated last spring. A few are quitting school to enter private employment.

While it is quite certain that the bus schedules will be altered, the total bus route mileage will remain virtually unchanged.

Uncertainty Surrounds Calls To Armed Service In County

Uncertainty surrounds the draft status of many registrants in this county, but despite the advanced reports it is not very likely that many Martin County married men will be called within the next few months or hardly before the early part of next year, at the earliest. The size of the calls between now and then, of course, will change the status of the registrants and other factors may hasten the call to the men with dependents. But the size of the calls will have to be materially increased and more men will have to be rejected before the draft board has to dip deep into the married group. A complete picture of the registration and draft status of the available manpower in this county could not be had immediately. It is well known however, that in some counties the draft has been taking married men for months, that Martin still has a

reserve of single men. If the draft is not materially increased before December, it is quite possible that a few calls can be answered by single men who were granted occupational deferments. An unofficial report states that the draft board is having a difficult time in rounding up enough men for the September call, but the shortage, if any, will be traceable to the draft machinery itself rather than to any actual shortage of single 1-A men. The draft machinery is heavily taxed with its duties at the present time. Dr. James S. Rhodes, the examining physician for the board who is without a single assistant, has been working night and day to handle the Army examinations, but even then it has been almost impossible to handle the hundreds of men who must be examined before 1-A classifications can be definitely assigned.

PEACEFUL

There were a few arrests, but compared with the record for the previous week-end period, last week-end in this section was quite peaceful. The usual roundup of drunks was effected, the jail record showing that six persons were jailed for public drunkenness last week-end as compared with seventeen arrests made during the previous week-end. One other person, charged with larceny, was arrested and jailed.

Agas of the alleged violators ranged from 18 to 62 years of age, Ollie Bumpus, colored, led the age group. Three of those jailed were white men. The opening of the tobacco market here this morning found the large crowd orderly for the most part, but police are holding their breath as the money starts circulating.

Having Fine Time In Uncle's Navy

Entering the nation's armed service just a short time ago, John Hatton Gurganus, Williamson young man who was refused entrance into the air corps on account of his "advanced" age, is now vacationing in a plain old Navy style out in Illinois, according to a very encouraging note received a short time ago. John Hatton wrote, in part: "This is a great country up here, and I am glad now that I was sent here for my training. We were the first group to come here from Raleigh in twenty years. Most of the boys are from the western part of North Carolina and I know it was the first trip away from home for some of them. I laughed nearly all the way at some of them, and some times I want to book some of the things they said on the train."

"I know I am going to like the Navy because everything is the best, including food, living quarters and what not. Our dormitory is new and you can see yourself in the hardwood floors. We have a large radio, but one thing we are not used to is sleeping in hammocks. I laughed half of one night during our first night there. About every fifteen minutes some one would turn over in them and you would hear him hit the floor. I fell out only one time the first night, but some of the boys just could not stay in them. I never knew it was so hard to stay in one of the things before. We sleep under a blanket nights, but the days are really nice and warm."

To Mail Christmas Parcels for Armed Forces In October

Restrictions on Mailing Packages To Men Overseas Cited By Authorities

Every effort will be made by the authorities to get Christmas cards and packages to members of the armed forces in foreign service this Christmas, but certain rules and regulations must be observed by the senders if delivery is to be expedited.

It is pointed out that no perishable matter should be included in any parcels, and such articles as intoxicants, inflammable materials (including matches of all kinds and lighter fluids) and poisons, or compositions which may kill or injure another, or damage the mails, are unavailable. Proper addresses are to be typed. All parcels are subject to censorship, and they should be wrapped securely but at the same time in such a way as to enable the censor to open them for inspection without damaging the contents. Greeting cards wishing the recipient Merry Christmas or printed cards conveying best wishes may be included, but no formal written messages may be placed in the box. Return addresses should also be printed on the box. Postage rates, available at the nearest postoffice, must be prepaid.

The following rules and regulations are taken from a current Postal Bulletin:

Time of mailing: Christmas parcels and Christmas cards should be mailed during the month of October, the earlier the better.

Size and weight: In view of the urgent need for shipping space to the war effort, Christmas parcels shall not exceed the present limits of 11 pounds in weight or eighteen inches in length or 42 inches in length and girth combined. Nevertheless the public is urged by the War and Navy Departments to cooperate by voluntarily restricting the size of Christmas parcels to that of an ordinary shoe box, and the weight to six pounds. These departments have pointed out also that members of the Armed Forces are amply provided with food and clothing, and the public is urged not to include such matter in gift parcels. Not more than one Christmas parcel or package shall be accepted for mailing in any one week when sent by or on

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Situation In Russia Approaches Critical Stage At Two Points

Drives Toward Stalingrad and Grozny Oil Fields Make Much Headway

Driving within forty miles of the all-important industrial city of Stalingrad and to within seventy miles of the Grozny oil fields, the Germans have created a new and critical situation for the Russians at two points in the long battle-line. Sweeping over a fifty-mile course yesterday, German tanks are now at the gates of the great Grozny-oil fields and approaching Stalingrad where they are nearing a point that will sever connections between the southern and northern armies of the defending Russians.

The Soviet high command announced the new Russian setback in the North Caucasus, revealing the Red army defenders of the Grozny oil wealth were fighting German tanks and infantry in the area of Prokhladnenski. The strategic rail junction is 50 miles below Pyatigorsk and 85 miles northeast of Grozny in the heart of the oil fields.

The late communique said the Red army was battling desperately along the northwestern and southwestern approaches to Stalingrad, where German gains had posed a critical menace to the great industrial stronghold on the Volga.

Semi-official Soviet sources conceded that German tanks and motorized infantry had stormed across the Don Bend in force southeast of Klet'skaya. They were reported driving on toward the Moscow-Stalingrad railroad, which roughly parallels the river some 13 miles to the east.

Another huge German armored force, advancing across the steppes northeast of Kotelnikowski, jammed a wedge into the outer rim of the Soviet defenses, threatening to bypass Stalingrad in a push to the Volga south of the city.

On the Don Bend front, the high command said, hostilities were especially violent between German infantry forces and the Russians in the 40-mile-wide corridor between the Don and Volga. Fighting for one fortified place, the Russians destroyed eight German tanks and at least 400 troops, it said.

While the Russia area continues as the main center in the world struggle, other developments are in the offing nearly all the way around the globe. Brazil has cast her lot with the Allies, and a movement for solidarity in South America is making progress.

A new threat to the Allied forces in the Solomon Islands is being talked, one report stating that the Japs are moving up reinforcements for a concerted counter-attack there.

Much attention is being centered in Africa even though little action has been reported along the Egyptian front during recent days. It is predicted, now that weather conditions are improving for fighting, that General Rommel will within the next two or three weeks, make another bid for the capture of the Suez Canal.

A bright spot in the fighting comes from China where the weary defenders are driving the Japs back and recapturing important territory in Central China. However, it is reported that the Japs are withdrawing considerable forces from China and moving them to the south for a possible drive on torn India and to

Current Market Prices Reviewed

Raleigh—Old crop peanuts are gleaming up rapidly according to the U. S. and North Carolina Departments of Agriculture in the Weekly Market News Service Review. This is especially true in North Carolina and Virginia where many mills even those that are large, have closed down for the season, having completely exhausted their stocks on hand. It will be late October or early November before new crop peanuts can be placed on the market.

A few lots of farmers' stock Virginia are still being offered and bringing growers 7-3-4 cents per pound for jumbos.

There was only a limited number of changes that took place in the Chicago hog prices this week. However, the trend was weak to lower and weights under 240 pounds sold Thursday 10 to 15 cents lower than the previous Friday. The week's top of 15.30 was paid last Monday; the closing top was 15.00. On the Carolina and Virginia hog buying stations, swine prices were unevenly 25 cents lower to 5 cents higher. When compared with last week's levels, tops for good and choice hogs were steady at 14.35 in Clinton and Lumberton; 5 cents higher at 14.40 in Fayetteville and Florence; 10 cents lower at 14.25 in Whiteville; 14.35 at Windsor; 14.50 in Richmond; while in Rocky Mount the price dropped a full quarter to 14.10.

Early Morning Sales Average Right At 40 Cents on Market Here

BLACKOUT

The people of the Williamson Air Raid Warning District, including those in the towns and communities all the way from Columbia in the southeast to Oak City in the northwest are again asked to cooperate in making the blackout test a success on Friday night of this week.

The blackout, to last about 30 minutes, will be ordered by the office of the interceptor command some time between 8 o'clock P. M. and 1 A. M. Five blasts of the fire siren in Williamson will be the signal for the blackout in Williamson.

The all-clear signal will be one long blast of the siren.

Large Number Men Rejected In Last County Draft List

Eight of Those Accepted For Service Pass by Narrow Margin

Seventeen of the last group of Martin County white draftees reported for induction at an army camp were rejected, sixteen on account of physical ailments and one on account of low literacy standards, according to a reliable report heard this week. Eight of the group passing the tests did so by narrow margins and will likely be subjected to limited military service.

Four of the group scheduled to report for service in the Army and previously joined the Navy and a fifth one, Carlyle Lanneau Cox, had joined the Marine Corps. Those joining the Navy were John H. Gurganus, Edmund Davis Harris, Grady Hloyd Davenport and Clyde Buie Bailey.

Names of the men rejected out of the last group going to the induction center from this county, are, as follows: Eugene Betha Ange, Benjamin Barber, Lester Franklin Bailey, Geo. Wallace Cowan, Ira Marvin Coltrane, Rannal Taylor Gardner, Major Barber, Browne Whitehurst, Clifford Neville Mobley, James Garland Barnhill, Thad Mayo Roberson, Louis Henry Gardner, Mack Wynn, Jimmie Jackson Sills, Joseph Peyton Sykes, James Norman Hollis, Earl Leamon Ward.

The men accepted out of the last call are now at home on their four-teen-day furloughs. They will be leaving within a few days for active duty. Their names are: Donnie Harold Folsom, John Ben Hardison, Henry Joe Peck, Heber John Coltrane, William Albert Harrison, Willie Whitfield, Howard Edwin Whitehurst, Clyde Hugh Hines, Dennis Mayo Harrison, Harvey Holleman Yates, Robert Urban Gurganus, Jim Brown Holliday, Charlie Birt Wynne, Henry Herbert Pope, Jr., William Clayton Whitley, Rupert Russell Rawls, Alonza Hassell, Chester William Edmondson, Lester Sylvester White, Dayton Bryant, Luther Gordon Leggett, Jr., Leandrew Hardison, Frank Saunders Cherry, Edwin Horace Carson, Simon Coltrane, Verner Walter Harrison, Ellis Saunders White, Lyman Lucian Britt and Jesse Wed Curtis.

Farm Life School Principal Named

The assignment of principals to the various county schools stands complete again following double resignations in some of the plants. Professor Tommie Gaylord, young Jamesville man, has been named to head the Farm Life school during the coming term. The position in the school was made vacant by the resignation of Professor Russell Martin last Spring. A successor to Mr. Martin was named, and plans for the coming term were virtually completed when Mr. Martin's successor resigned because a tenant on his farm was called to war.

Professor Gaylord, a graduate of Elon College, taught school for three years at Altamahaw-Ossipee in Alamance County before accepting the Farm Life position.

A complete line-up of the various school faculties is still not available. A late report from the office of the superintendent states that several of the contracts pending last week had not been executed, that additional contracts were mailed to other applicants this week. It is apparent that there are still several positions vacant in the schools.

Prices Range From About Twelve To A Peak Of 47 Cents

Quality of Offerings Is Only Fair: Average 11 Cents Higher Than Year Ago

Reaching what is believed to be the highest price peak in nearly a quarter of a century, tobacco sales on the Williamson market this morning brought broad smiles and created cheery dispositions among the hundreds of farmers crowding into the warehouses for first-hand information. There was not dissatisfaction heard in any corner, and farmers were really jubilant as their medium-quality offerings went for around \$40 a hundred, some individual averages exceeding 45 cents a pound.

The first 16,682 pounds sold on the market this morning averaged right at 40 cents, or \$39.34 to be exact. The price range was from about 12 cents to 47, a few piles, possibly two dipping as low as four and two or three going for seven. The main figures were in the high thirties with all companies showing interest in the bidding. As the sales progressed, the price trend varied slightly, but very slightly, and was traceable to the quality of the tobacco. At the close of the first forty minutes' selling period, the price trend was equally as strong as it was when the auctioneer officially opened the new season with the old familiar chant.

Compared with the opening a year ago, the sales during the early morning were about eleven cents higher, with certain grades of the inferior types showing possibly an even greater gain over the 1941 opening-day price averages. It is apparent that the inferior types as long as they have any body and can meet the smoking demands are selling for new high figures. On the other hand the bright and apparently superior quality types are not bringing very much more money than those medium types. There is some difference in the price, of course, but the variation is limited.

Farmers are really jubilant over the opening prices. J. H. Biggs, colored farmer of Griffins Township, asked about his sale, said, "It was fine, it was 'all right.'" Asked what he was going to do with all his money, Biggs explained that he planned to pay all his debts and then if any was left he would buy war bonds. Oddly enough, it was mentioned that the bond sale in too many cases would be of the bottled in bond type. But there was little sign of the bottled type this morning as farmers milled in and out of the warehouses observing the sales and waiting for the buyers to advance row by row to their offerings.

It is estimated the market will sell right at 200,000 pounds before the sales are suspended at 3:30 this afternoon, leaving a fairly sizable block for tomorrow.

General Belt Report

Offering the first of the current crop valued at about 200 million dollars, farmers over the belt, as a whole, received price averages ranging from 36 to 40 cents a pound.

Tarboro sold 17,000 pounds during the early morning for an average of 38 cents with prices ranging from 10 to 46 cents.

The first 100 piles sold on the Rocky Mount market averaged \$38.35.

Wilson, basing its report on the first six rows sold, averaged \$36.35 with prices ranging as low as 4 cents a pound.

Greenville averaged \$38.75 for its (Continued on page six)

Young Girl Badly Hurt In Accident

Carrie Louise Perry, 13-year-old daughter of Farmer and Mrs. Colon Perry, of Williams Township, was painfully but not critically hurt last Saturday morning when she was struck by a hit-and-run driver as she walked along the highway in Williams Township. She suffered a six-inch cut on her head and was badly shocked and bruised. She was treated in the local hospital.

On her way to Hardison's filling station, the little girl was walking near the hard surface when she was struck. She did not know who or what struck her. It is possible that the driver of the vehicle never knew he hit anyone, reports stating that apparently a protruding body of a truck hit her. Highway Patrolman Saunders is investigating the accident and is working on one or two minor clues but no late developments have been reported in the case.