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Heavy Losses Are Sustained by Navy In Solomons Area

At Least Fourteen American Ships Sunk and Others Are Damaged

After paying a big price to gain them, American forces are now hard pressed in an effort to hold to the Solomon Islands in the south Pacific, late reports stating that the defenders are under heavy attack by land, sea and air. At least eight heavy land attacks have been beaten off by the Marines and soldiers, and possibly the defenders are more than holding their own in the air, but on sea our Navy has sustained heavy losses. Even there the fighting is not one-sided, but American losses are mounting.

Last night the Navy Department reported the loss of the plane carrier "Wasp" and about 180 of its 1,800 crew in mid-September. The announcement also revealed the sinking of the destroyer "Porter." According to official reports, American ship losses in the Solomons area now stand at 14—three cruisers, six destroyers, four transports and one carrier. Other American ships were damaged. Unofficial reports state that Tom Skinner was on one of the transports when it was attacked. He was saved along with all others aboard.

On the other side of the ledger, the Japs in two days of fighting beginning Sunday lost 22 planes, had three cruisers and two plane carriers damaged and other enemy ships were believed damaged.

Apparently the main sea fight is about over, for the present any way. The losses have apparently been so heavy on both sides that the tempo could hardly be maintained. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox stated today that the outcome of the battle is not yet clear. He denied reports emanating from Tokyo and claiming that four Allied plane carriers and a battleship had been sunk in the recent fighting around Guadalcanal. The Navy man referred to the claims as constituting just another "fishing expedition" — fishing for information."

Meager details have been heard from the land fighting on Guadalcanal, but the last reports stated that the defenders were still holding their own after the Japs had made eight attempts to regain the air field.

The seriousness of the situation in the Solomons is evidenced in Washington where President Roosevelt called the naval high command into conference late yesterday and where it was recognized American forces in the distant area are now facing one of the most "terrific ordeals in American history."

With reinforced Japanese obviously bent on throwing everything they have into a drive to overwhelm the Marines and Army men, an atmosphere of tense expectation was apparent in some Washington quarters.

Conferring with the President was Admiral Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the fleet, and Mr. Roosevelt's personal chief-of-staff, Admiral William D. Leahy. The conferees said nothing to newspapermen, but it was considered probable that the conference dealt with strategic and combat problems in the Southwest Pacific, particularly in the Solomon Islands.

Representative Maas (R-Minn.) who saw more than four months of duty as a Marine Corps colonel in the Southwest Pacific, was another White House visitor and gave the President a report on conditions.

Maas would not say what the general tenor of his report was, but there was nothing to indicate it was optimistic.

Activity, while partly overshadowed by reports from the Solomons, continues at a rapid pace on other fronts. The Allied offensive is rolling forward against Rommel's army in Egypt and Allied bombers are active in nearly every part of the world. The Japs have been blasted in the Southwest Pacific and fields on the Burma front have been attacked. The Jap submarine base at Kiska in the Aleutians was pounded yesterday by American bombers.

Allied troops swarming through widening gaps in the north, central and south sectors of the Egyptian front, have captured 1,450 Axis prisoners, routed Nazi tanks in the first armored clash, and are pulverizing the enemy line with the greatest British artillery blasts since the battle of the Somme in World War I.

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Coffee Rations Are Fixed; Canned Good Rations Soon

Effective November 29, coffee will be included in the list of rationed foods and articles. One pound for five weeks will be allotted each person over 15 years of age. No new registration will be necessary, the authorities stating that the sugar rationing cards will be used, starting with Stamp No. 27 and working back to No. 19. The system will allow the adducts a little over one cup a day.

Following the official coffee rationing announcement, it was rumored that rationing of canned goods would follow in due time, possibly during the early part of next year.

Father of Nine Enlists in the U.S. Army



Raymond Kelley, 40, of Pittsburgh, Pa., poses with wife and nine children whom he'll soon leave to join the U.S. Army. Upon Kelley's induction, the family will be eligible for \$142 a month in Government allotments and allocations. He has been on WPA and relief rolls. Members of the Kelley family are left to right: Paul, 3; Clarence, 6; Harry, 7; Michael, 8; Dorothy, 9; Tommy, 11; Anna, 12; John, 14; Raymond, Jr., 15; Mrs. Cecilia Kelley, 33, and Raymond Kelley. (Central Press)

Local Tobacco Market To End Current Season Next Tuesday

The Williamston Tobacco Market will end the current season upon the completion of sales next Tuesday, it was announced yesterday following a meeting of the tobacco board of trade. Virtually all the tobacco in this immediate area has already been marketed, the market operators reasoning that another week would afford ample time for the marketing of the remainder of the crop.

Sales on local floors continued fairly heavy up until the past weekend, but comparatively little activity is being reported this week. The selling organization will be maintained in its entirety until the last pound is sold, and the buying companies will have their representatives on the job until the last bid is heard.

A complete review on the market activities for the season is not available at the moment, but as a whole, the season has been possibly the most successful one since 1919. There was very little variation in the prices, the market maintaining an upward trend during most of the season or until about two weeks ago when the demand for some grades slackened. The reduction followed a week of rain, and it is possible the large amount of damaged tobacco had something to do with prices. However the better grades held their own.

The price situation was far better than the quality of the crop in this immediate area. Nearly every farmer, admitting that his crop was badly damaged by the dry growing season, received more for his crop than he expected. This section was possibly the hardest hit in the entire belt, but even then prices were satisfactory.

MAILING TIME

Saturday of this week is the last day for mailing Christmas packages to the boys overseas. Already more than 100 packages have been mailed in the local offices for delivery in widely scattered parts of the world.

Disappointment for many young men in foreign service is almost certain at Christmas time, the government announcing this week that 4,986 sacks of gift mail had been sent to the bottom of the ocean. The mail was on a cargo ship that was sent to the bottom apparently some time after October 3rd. As far as it could be learned no packages were mailed for overseas delivery during the latter part of September and up to October 3rd.

Shortage Of Copper Bobs Up In County

Unable to get copper for making kettles and with the rationing program making sugar almost unavailable, illicit liquor manufacturers continue to carry on in this county despite the obstacles. Turning to honey for sweetening and using a common old gas drum for a kettle, the manufacturers had just about solved their problems when ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant, Roy Peel, came along and wiped out the crude outfit.

It was the first time in his long years of enforcement work that Officer Roebuck had found a gas drum in the Free Union section of this county. The officers wrecked the plant and poured out about 200 gallons of honey beer during recent raiding activities.

Truck Registration Believed Far From Complete In County

Mileage Forms for Automobiles To Be Made Available About Nov. 1st

The complicated registration of motor trucks in this county is progressing slowly, unofficial reports gathered from some of the registration centers indicating that the task is far from complete. The tedious task of filling in the forms was started last Thursday, and it is understood that hardly more than half the estimated 750 trucks in the county were registered at that time. The registration of farm trucks is still underway in the offices of the county agent in the agricultural building, but how long it will be continued there could not be learned.

According to instructions coming from the Office of Defense Transportation, the applications must be in the agency's office at Detroit in time for certificates of war necessity to be mailed back to the truck owner. It is understood that quite a few truck owners did not receive the application forms. What action, if any, will be taken in those cases could not be predicted. The names and addresses of those receiving no application forms were taken by the county committee and are being forwarded to the national office.

Puzzled by the apparently complicated application form, a few farmers were quoted as saying they

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Rationing Causes Belt-Tightening

With wider rationing of scarce commodities, particularly foodstuffs, near at hand, a lot of belt-tightening is in prospect. Signs of what is to come already are evident. Coffee has become a will-o'-the-wisp. Meat is harder to obtain and milk shortages are reported in some areas. Currently, of the foodstuffs, only sugar is being rationed. But others will follow, say Washington reports — as soon as the necessary machinery can be established. Meat rationing has been promised — two and a half pounds a week to a person. In fact, some cities are experiencing it with meatless days in restaurants. Thus a swing from abundance to scarcity is taking place. Although there's little likelihood of the nation going hungry on the war-time diet that's taking form, one thing is certain: the dinner plate isn't going to look the same.

POSTPONED AGAIN

The registration of fuel oil dealers in this county and State has again been postponed, the county rationing board was advised here yesterday. No date for holding the registration was mentioned and no reason for the second postponement of the task was offered.

As far as it could be learned here today the registration for individual consumers will not be held until after the fuel oil dealers register.

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All tobacco farmers are being urged to surrender their marketing cards immediately after completing their marketing, a spokesman in the office of the county agent's office said this morning.

The cards are to be checked against the warehouse receipts, and the immediate surrender of the cards will make it possible to correct any errors. Quite a few farmers have already surrendered their marketing cards to the office of the county agent in the county agricultural building.

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War As It Relates To Home Front Is Reviewed for Week

Transportation and Manpower Constitute Major Problem for the Nation

The war we are fighting is war on the vastest of scales. It involves vast numbers of men, vast quantities of weapons and materials, vast distances. In its earlier stages the Axis aggressors, fanning out along interior lines that radiated from Berlin to Tokyo, were aided by the relatively short distances to their fronts. As the enemy's lines of communications were extended the odds no longer were as overwhelming in their favor, and yet distance is still the Allies major problem.

But whereas the Axis means of transportation and supply are approaching definite limits, those of the United Nations are steadily increasing. The phenomenal growth of our "external" system of war transportation—new ships launched at an average of three a day, thousands of motor vehicles and cargo planes heading for overseas—is evidence that we shall solve that problem of distance as we shall solve our other problems. We may not hope, however, that this external transportation growth can be matched by a corresponding expansion of our continental transportation systems. We've about come to the end of our production of new railway freight and passenger cars, streetcars, buses, commercial trucks—materials used to build these carriers and conveyances are more needed for war uses. The wartime burden of the carriers has been staggering this year, and will be even heavier next year.

Hope to Get 10,000,000 Tires

Much of our transportation rolls on rubber wheels—about 86 per cent of all travel in the U. S. is by passenger automobiles. In 2,300 cities and towns they constitute the only available means of transportation. And were millions of farmers, war workers and others engaged in vital services to be deprived of the use of their cars, the extra load could not possibly be absorbed by buses, streetcars, and railroads. If we were to use up our existing tires recklessly, all the steps so far taken to save rubber might not avert a great transportation disaster. For we must save our stocks of crude and synthetic rubber for our armies—they also roll forward on rubber wheels.

Here's the answer—from November 22 on, we'll have to get along with only one spare tire for each passenger car. All others must be sold to the Government, and it is hoped that by this means some ten million tires may be obtained. Some of these will be good only for scrap rubber, but the greater part will serve as a reservoir from which tires may be drawn to meet essential needs.

Manpower Situation to Be Critical

The program will not alter the necessity to keep autos within the 35 miles an hour maximum speed limit, in fact, we'll be more than ever obligated to take the best possible care of the five tires we keep. The Railway Express Agency will collect the "idle" tires at no cost to owners. While motorists may keep their five best tires, they must note down the serial numbers of those they keep—these numbers must be given on your application for gasoline mileage ration.

By the end of next year we'll need at least 20 million workers for direct war production—five million more than we now have—and there'll be about nine million in the armed services, several million of them drawn from war jobs. In June, 1943, about 47 1/2 million persons were employed, only a small percentage of them in war industry. During 1943 we can count on about 32 1/2 million people to carry on all civilian work and services other than direct war work and fighting. In the face of such a critical manpower situation local labor of all kinds, without prejudice as to employment, must be found for farms and local industries. And every business and factory must examine its roll of employees to see whether workers are doing the job for which they are best fitted, whether they can be trained on the spot for more highly skilled jobs, and

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C. H. Hollowell Is Reported Missing

ROUND-UP

C. H. Hollowell, III, former auditor of the State Department of Revenue and who worked in Williamsburg and this section for some time, was recently reported missing in action presumably somewhere in the Southwest Pacific. The young man, a native of Elizabeth City, made many friends during his visits to Williamson.

It is understood that he was a member of the Wasp airplane carrier officers' staff, the carrier having been reported sunk the middle of last month.

Young Hollowell resigned his post with the State department to enlist in the service. He was schooled at Northwestern University and had been in the Navy only a short time.

Church Group Urges Ban on Liquor Traffic

Ranger Honored



Corp. Franklin M. Koons, a former Iowa auctioneer now a U.S. Ranger, is the first American soldier to win a British army decoration in this war. Koons was awarded the Military Medal for "conspicuous gallantry and admirable leadership" during the raid on Dieppe. (Central Press)

Holiness Conference Holds Final Session Monday Afternoon

Marked Growth Is Made By Church Last Year, Bishop King Tells Conference

The North Carolina Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church brought to a successful close its 32nd annual session in the local church yesterday afternoon, the expanding religious group, represented by approximately 300 delegates from all over eastern North Carolina and several states, taking a firm and compromising stand for things spiritual and strongly condemning the forces of evil in an "ungodly world."

Headed by Bishop J. H. King, the conference carefully reviewed the work of the Church during the past year and with equal care formulated plans for an expanded work for the new year. Encouraging reports came from every quarter, and the conference, attended by prominent national leaders and returned missionaries from India and China, was recognized as the most successful held in recent years.

Ten ministers, passing guests for admission, were licensed and enrolled as the conference got underway last Saturday, following an informal opening the evening before. Making his formal report, Conference Superintendent W. Eddie Morris, of Kenly, announced that three new churches had been organized at Benson, Raleigh and Roper, and that mission points had been established at Thompson's Chapel, near Lucama, at Moore's Creek, near Wilmington, and at Spring Lake, near Fort Bragg. New parsonages built during the year and improved church plants were noted in reports submitted by the lay delegates.

The business program was abandoned Sunday when a full worship schedule was held.

Bishop King in the conference sermon said Christians must be examples of Christ-centered life in a sin-darkened age, holding up Christ as a sure foundation for those groping for a firm faith.

"Sacrifice, service and self-denial are essential if one live according to the Christian ideal," the Bishop asserted.

Church Extension
Reaching the unchurched millions in the United States is not the task of one denomination, but of all Christians, declared the Rev. G. H. Montgomery, church editor and director of general evangelism, in a Church Extension rally.

"May God help the church to rise above the sins of this age and ungodly world, with her enthusiasm, her initiative, her Christian personality, power and possessions, with a mighty message of full salvation for this world," the editor concluded.

Returning to its business to mark the close of the sessions, the conference yesterday announced the assignments to the eighty-two churches and took a firm stand against the liquor traffic, condemned the ever-increasing number of divorces and pleaded for a return to worship around the family altar. A resolution seeking to ban the sale of alcoholic beverages in and around army camps, naval bases and other military areas was approved, and the conference overwhelmingly voted to continue to fight the sale of intoxicating liquors, calling upon churchmen to support a program of "education, legislation and salvation" against the business of selling alcoholic beverages anywhere.

The proposed transfer of the Falcon Orphanage, valued at \$96,000 to the Pentecostal Holiness Church, was advanced in the orphanage committee report submitted by Mr. J. A. Culbreth, superintendent and one of its founders. During his stay here, Mr. Culbreth, now 71 years of age, stated that the first two children to enter the orphanage came from Parma, in this county. Hundreds of children have been cared for by the institution since it was founded back in the early part of this century.

A resolution thanking the people of Williamson for their hospitality, the local and state press for their coverage of the session, and Williamson churches for opening pulpits to visiting ministers was adopted.

Visiting Ministers In Local Churches

Receiving special invitations, visiting ministers to the 32nd annual North Carolina Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church just concluded here, appeared in several pulpits throughout the community last Sunday morning and evening.

"We are all striving for the same goal and trying to make this a better world in which to live," one of the ministers was quoted as saying while handing the special assignment in one of the churches.

The assignments were as follows: Bethany, Rev. W. Harvey Morris, of Goldsboro; Rehoboth, Rev. C. B. Strickland, of Falcon; Memorial Baptist, Rev. A. H. Butler, Falcon; Methodist, Rev.