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Farmville Enterprise

VOLUME THIRTY-SIX

FARMVILLE, MITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1945

NUMBER ELEVEN

KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS

TOBACCO AVERAGES \$44.50 IN SALES ON BORDER BELT

Ceiling Average Paid as Auction Season Opens; Common Leaf Selling High

Raleigh, Aug. 2.—Tobacco Farmers of the Carolinas began exchanging their golden weed for crisp greenbacks yesterday as the sales season opened on the 16 markets of the Border Belt with a price average of approximately \$44.50 per hundred pounds.

Opening sales were regarded as considerably better than in 1944 both in regard to price and volume. The opening day average last year was \$43.12, while the opening in 1943 was \$41.23.

Sales began yesterday on seven markets in North Carolina and nine in South Carolina. Although the opening was a week earlier than last year, when a fruitless effort to obtain a higher OPA ceiling was made, the volume was reported to be considerably larger than that of the 1944 opening. Farmers generally reported that the crop of 1945 was about three weeks earlier than the crop last year.

Higher Ceiling.
The ceiling of \$44.50 per hundred in effect this year is \$1 higher than the ceiling in effect last year. A number of growers offering tobacco on the North Carolina markets of the belt yesterday expressed the opinion that the increased ceiling price reflected the approximate boost in the opening averages, while others thought the increase yesterday was more than the OPA allowance. The growers generally were well-pleased with the opening day prices. Very few notes of dissatisfaction were heard, and few tags were turned.

Common Leaf Sells High.
A large volume of common tobacco was offered yesterday, and as in the opening last year growers and tobaccoists commented at length concerning the very slight variance in price between common and good tobacco. Much of the tobacco marketed yesterday at high prices would hardly have been considered worth selling in previous years.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, the N. C. Department of Agriculture, in a combined report, said the opening prices yesterday were \$1 to \$4 per hundred higher than the opening last year. The report revealed that best nondescript showed an advance of \$11, averaging \$37. Bulk sales ranged from \$44 to \$46, with a few lots selling up to \$48. The lowest price reported was \$22 for poorest thin nondescript. There was a larger proportion of lower qualities and less choice and fine. Offerings were composed principally of fine to fair lugs and fair to low primings and cutters. Lugs predominated.

Because of recent rains, damaged tobacco appeared on some floors.

Lt. Lewis S. Bullock Injured In Florida

Around Camp Blanding friends of Lt. Lewis S. Bullock are congratulating him for not "losing his head" while out on a recent night problem. He and a companion were traveling in a jeep (without lights) deep in the combat area in search of two lost platoons. Rain, steady and incessant, made the going even more dangerous in the stygian darkness of the night. They ran into a single strand of barbed wire, throat high, and both were badly cut, his companion dangerously so. Had they not been able to stop so quickly, both would have been decapitated. Lt. Bullock has been discharged from the hospital, but his companion will have to remain for several weeks.

Lt. and Mrs. Bullock send greetings to their friends in this section and would welcome a line from them. Their address is 1475 Avondale Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida. — Standard-Laconic.

Debnam Gets Citation For Covering Attack

Snow Hill.—War Correspondent W. E. Debnam of Radio Station WPTF has been presented a citation for "courage and bravery" in accompanying members of a parachute and glider assault unit in an attack upon Jap-held air strip in northern Luzon on June 21. The citation was presented by Gen. Walter Kruger, commanding general of the 11th Airborne Division on Luzon.

Debnam's story of the mission, from take-off to the actual jump by the paratroopers, was broadcast by transcription over WPTF at 12:45 p. m. on Wednesday, July 26th. Debnam's reports were transmitted by wire reports in the hills of northern Luzon in late June, and retransmitted in Manila, from where they were flown to this country.

WAR IN BRIEF

Greatest air raid of all time is delivered against four Japanese industrial centers by monster force of 800 Superforts carrying 6,000 tons of incendiary and high-explosive bombs. All of targets had been given advance warning of attack.

Carrier planes and warships attack bypassed Wake Island as radio blackout shrouding the Third Fleet extends to 60th hour.

Far Eastern Air Force planes blast targets on Kyushu and in adjacent waters despite bad weather.

Chinese troops capture Shanghai as they continue drive.

Japs claim their war industries have been moved to rural areas to escape bombings.

Momentous "Big Three" conference ends at Potsdam and long-awaited statement will be released today.

President Truman flies to England Thursday to meet King George.

Former G-Man Melvin Purvis is revealed to be helping in hunt for war criminals in Germany.

Pierre Laval is placed in Paris prison to await trial as traitor.

Letter of Admiral Leahy is presented in defense of Marshal Pétain.

Army's new P-80 "Shooting Star" flies from Dayton to New York at speed of more than 500 miles per hour.

Churchill Moves Out

London, July 31.—Winston Churchill today moved out of No. 10 Downing Street, resident of Britain's Prime Ministers, after five years of occupation.

The war premier, whose party was defeated in the July 5 general elections, went to spend a few days at his country house at Westbury, Kent, his secretary said, and was feeling "quite fit and well."

Give Release To Roosevelt

Will Retire From Army Air Force On August the 15th

Washington, Aug. 1.—Brig. Gen. Elliott Roosevelt will return to civilian life August 15.

His release from the army air force was arranged, however, the army insisted last night, before the recent headline flurry that led to a congressional inquiry into reported loans made to the late President's second son.

It follows Roosevelt's own request for retirement, completion of two assignments growing out of his European war experiences and the fact, the army said, that "there was no requirement for his services in the Pacific which could not be filled by another available and qualified officer."

The youthful general became a new storm center early in June with published reports that he had borrowed \$200,000 to finance a Texas radio enterprise in 1939 and that the loan later was settled for \$4,000. The reports said John Hartford, president of the great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company listed the remaining \$196,000 as a bad debt in his 1942 income tax return.

The statement said Roosevelt asked for his release on May 14 "if there was no need for his services in the Pacific."

SURRENDERS

Frankfort on the Main, July 31.—Pierre Laval, expelled from Spain, flew to Austria and surrendered today to U. S. occupation authorities who arranged to hand him over to France at once.

The swarthy former chief of the Vichy government, who is charged with collaboration with the Germans, arrived with his wife in a Junkers 188 manned by two German pilots.

The plane landed at Hirschbach airport, Linz, Austria, where United States troops immediately took Laval into protective custody. French army headquarters were notified, and Laval and his party left later in custody of U. S. Maj. Gen. John Cope, and for the French occupation zone.

His plane landed before noon, after a flight from Barcelona.

France already has condemned Laval to death in its absence.

UNLESS STOCKINGS

Recently announced is a new fabricating chemical which will make sheer stockings run-resistant, remove the shine from serge suits, and make any textile wear longer. The new treatment may be applied by spraying, padding, or immersion.—Rotarian.

Plane Crash Toll Is Placed At Thirteen

Empire State Building Reopened For Business Today

New York, July 30.—Business was resumed today on 76 floors of the 102-story Empire State building, where Saturday a B-25 bomber crashed into the 79th floor, killing 13 persons and injuring 26 others.

Some confusion was reported in the lobby, because only four of 10 elevators serving the 66th to 102nd floors were operating. Other elevators operated at reduced speed.

Preparations were being made to set up temporary headquarters for those offices closed above the 76th floor. Offices of the National Catholic Welfare Council, where the plane struck, were closed, as was the observation tower.

Workers continued to clear away rubble at the scene of the crash.

An Army board of inquiry checked the wreckage on the 79th floor of the building—913 feet above Fifth Avenue—for causes of the spectacular crash.

Army officials made no definite statement regarding damage to the building, which Gen. Drum at first believed would amount to \$500,000 but later said could not yet be accurately estimated.

However, Army Public Relations officers said that in similar cases the Army ordinarily has assumed all responsibility.

Gen. Ira Eaker, deputy commander of the Army Air Forces told Mayor F. H. LaGuardia in a letter made public yesterday of the sympathy of the AAF for "all your citizens killed, injured or disturbed by the disaster."

Eight of the 13 crash victims had been identified yesterday, including the three aboard the B-25 two-engine "Billy Mitchell" bomber bound for the Newark, N. J., airport.

The three men were Lt. Col. William F. Smith, Jr., 27, Watertown, Mass., the B-25 pilot; T. Sgt. Christopher S. Domitrovich, 31, Granite City, Ill.; plane engineer, and aviation machinist mate Albert G. Perina, 19, Brooklyn, who had hitched a ride on the plane.

Most of the remaining victims were women stenographers employed in the 79th floor offices of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, caught beneath falling office partitions when the heavy wreckage of the plane hurtled through the building. Flaming gasoline flooded the 79th and adjoining floors, burning victims and making identification difficult.

The pilot had been in radio communication with LaGuardia Field a few minutes before the crash, and was told by the control tower that it could not "see the top of the Empire State Building." The B-25 continued southward along Fifth Avenue, hitting the huge building squarely just before 10 a. m. Saturday.

Three More Weeks Of Meadows Trial

Greenville, Aug. 1.—The defense in the trial of Dr. Leon R. Meadows for false pretense and embezzlement, neared the end of its direct examination of Frank P. Wall today. Wall, a certified public accountant of Raleigh, was employed by Meadows to make an audit of funds handled by him while President of East Carolina Teachers College. In his testimony Wall has given an item by item explanation of entries in Meadows' memo books and declared that he allowed Meadows' credit for them on the basis of substantiating documents of Meadows' satisfactory explanation.

Practically all the same items had been disallowed by M. L. Widenhouse, of the state auditing department, one of the chief prosecution witnesses.

Wall's direct testimony was expected to be concluded late today or by noon tomorrow. Solicitor D. M. Clark is scheduled to conduct the cross examination.

Defense counsel indicated today it probably would conclude its evidence by the end of this week or by next Monday. After the defense rests the prosecution will present rebuttal witnesses that will require probably a week or more after which the lawyers will get the case for argument.

Based on the previous trial the case could hardly be concluded before Saturday, August 18, and it is very probable that it might be a week later before the end is reached. The trial is now in its ninth week.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is offering crop insurance on wheat covering the crop years 1946, 1947 and 1948. Full information may be obtained at the county AAA office.

World Leaders End Historic Potsdam Session

Statement To World Now Expected Friday; Truman To Meet King George Today

Potsdam, Aug. 2.—The historic conference of the "Big Three" has ended, an announcement at 2:15 a. m. today said, and a report on their decisions was expected to be made to the world tomorrow.

The final meeting of President Truman, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Attlee was concluded half an hour after midnight, the official statement said.

At the same time, it was disclosed that the conference sessions had been held at Cecilienhof, former residence of the German Crown Prince.

To the end, the leaders of the world's three most powerful nations adhered to the self-imposed secrecy behind which they have worked here since July 7.

Tomorrow.

An Army public relations officer said the official communique covering the actions of the conference would be made available to correspondents sometime tonight (Thursday) for study, but that release would be made simultaneously Friday in Washington, London, Moscow and Berlin.

Correspondents were excluded from tonight's colorful finale in a roccoco hall where the Hohenzollern princes once entertained. A request from a press conference with the "Big Three" or their foreign secretaries was declined.

There was as yet no announcement that the final ceremonies had been concluded.

The three chieftains held a long plenary session this afternoon.

Planes Wait.

As they moved through the closing diplomatic formalities, a fleet of transport planes waited at a nearby military airfield to whisk Truman to Plymouth and a meeting tomorrow with King George VI, and to return Attlee to London to take over the reins of the Laborite government.

Stalin and Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov may depart almost immediately by special train on the long journey across the Polish and Russian plains to Moscow.

Surrounded by the mystery which is created in human imagination by things unknown, the "Big Three" worked intently and forcefully through 12 protracted business sessions.

The full score of what they accomplished may not be disclosed for a considerable time—perhaps not before a decisive turn is reached in the Japanese war.

In that respect, the Potsdam talks may be akin in tone to those at Tehran two years ago, where the coordinated blows from East and West against Germany were agreed upon.

Yalta Continuation.

For affairs of the European continent and the Mediterranean, the Berlin conference represented a direct continuation of the discussions at Yalta last February, although President Roosevelt's death and Prime Minister Churchill's political defeat had left Stalin the sole survivor of the original "Big Three."

Stalin, by lending the prestige of his physical presence to the Truman-Churchill-Chiang Kai-shek ultimatum from Potsdam to Japan, and by consenting to the disclosure that he had talked in the palace here to Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Britain's highest commander in the Far Eastern struggle, gave strength to the widespread belief that he actually was coordinating Soviet military forces with those of the United States in the Asiatic theater.

That development would surprise neither the Japanese, who desperately fear Russia, and who deeply suspect Stalin's strategic ability.

Among the little body of United States officers and soldiers who worked side by side with the Red Army men in operating the shuttle bomber bases around Poltava last year, there never has been doubt that Japan ultimately would feel the impact of Soviet power.

There, on the dusty Ukraine fields where a sudden German attack once destroyed 71 United States bombers, a blood brotherhood between Americans and Russians was created in which confidence—later to seek realization among statesmen—first was exchanged.

From European Theater
Frd Curtis R. Magee is spending a 30 day furlough with his family here after seeing 7 months duty in the European Theater, where he received the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge and three Battle Stars.

NEWS OF OUR BOYS IN SERVICE

James Leland Flanagan, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Flanagan, stationed at Point Montara, Calif., has been promoted from S 2/c to S 1/c.

In The States

Pfc. Lester Skinner, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Skinner, arrived in the States, July 30, after twenty-eight months duty in the European Theater. He was stationed in Italy with the Fifth Army. Pfc. Skinner has received a discharge from the army and expects to be home within a few days.

Home From Pacific
Pfc. Lyman Bass, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bass, arrived at the Moore General Hospital, Asheville, July 10, after twelve months duty in the Pacific Area. Pfc. Bass is now spending a thirty day furlough visiting relatives here and at Greenville. He will report to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., following his furlough.

Awarded Bronze Star
T/Sgt. James M. Gibbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gibbs of Farmville, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service against the enemy in operations in France and Germany. Gibbs served as personnel sergeant with a field artillery battalion, and is credited with the excellent handling of his unit's administrative functions. The commendation covers the period from August 1944 to April, 1945.

Awarded Medical Badge
With the Fifth Army, Italy.—Private First Class Ashley R. Wainwright of Farmville, N. C., recently was awarded the Medical Badge in recognition of his having daily shared with the doughboys the hazards and hardships of combat while serving with an infantry unit on the Fifth Army front during the Italian campaign.

Wainwright is a litter bearer with the 360th Infantry Regiment of the 88th "Blue Devil" Division. His wife, Mrs. Mattie R. Wainwright, lives in Farmville.

Aboard The USS Guam In The Pacific

James B. Bailey, 28, pharmacist's mate, second class, USNR, 210 West Pine St., Farmville, N. C., served aboard this unique battle cruiser while she was proving her worth during nearly six months of combat from Okinawa to the fringes of Japan's Inland Sea.

The Guam, under the command of Capt. Leland P. Lovette, USN, made her battle debut on the morning of March 18, during the now historic two-day air strike against the Ryukyus and the Inland Sea area of Japan.

Guns of the big battle cruiser were credited with shooting down two Jap planes as they attempted suicide dives of a nearby aircraft carrier. In addition, she is credited with assisting on six attacking enemy planes, while her 12-inch guns have poured tons of steel on two Jap-held islands.

The Guam, the American version of the pocket battleship and a comparatively recent addition to the Pacific Fleet, cruised with her task force off Japanese shores for 61 days. In recent operations, supporting the Okinawa invasion, she protected carriers of her escort in a series of battles.

Local Boy Decorated

Finney General Hospital, Ga.—Pfc. Joe T. Baldree, of Farmville, N. C., has been presented the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman badge at Finney General Hospital, it was announced recently by Col. S. M. Browne, commanding officer.

Pfc. Baldree is convalescing at Finney following his return from overseas service.

The presentation was made by Col. Browne at retreat ceremony while members of headquarters detachment looked on.

The presentation was made in recognition of the Oak Leaf Cluster was awarded for wounds received in action, the Bronze Star for heroic or meritorious service in action, and the Combat Badge for exemplary conduct in action.

Local Boy Making Good

ATC Air Base, Cairo, Egypt.—Cpl. Jack Yelverton, of Farmville, N. C., was recently assigned to John H. Payne Field, Cairo, Egypt, for duty as an airplane mechanic.

Payne Field, the huge air terminal at Cairo, is the center for NSAAF Air Transport Command traffic movements through the Middle East to the Asiatic Theater of Operations. With redeployment of material and manpower from Europe to the war against Japan, Corporal Yelverton will play a big part in increased activity of the North African Division of the Air Transport Command.

The North African Division under the command of Brigadier General James S. Stowell is currently engaged in a two fold program—rushing vital supplies and materials to the China front and at the same time moving 40,000 veterans a month to the States. In this redeployment of troops, the greatest air transport movement in history, many hundreds of veterans will pass through this base daily on their way to the United States where some will be discharged.

HISTORY'S GREATEST AIR ATTACK MADE BY B-29's ON FOUR CITIES

Local Storms Have A Freak Element

From one of a series of thunderclouds, that have visited the community this week, comes a report from David Harris, young R. E. A. superintendent, who saw a bolt of lightning strike the Gregg home on the Farmville-Fountain highway on Wednesday afternoon.

As Mr. Harris walked out on his lawn across from the Gregg home, the lightning struck a bell-like ornament on the roof and knocked Mr. Harris three feet. The shock was only temporary and watching for effect of the bolt on the house of his neighbor, he afterwards saw a ball of fire come out of the hole, blasted by the lightning, roll down on the roof and into a gutter pipe to the ground. Making an inspection later, Mr. Harris was unable to find any sign of a blow or damage other than the hole. Dr. Gregg, a former veterinarian of Farmville, is now serving in the United States Army as food inspector at the Newton D. Baker General Hospital, Martinsburg, W. Va., with the rank of Captain. The house has been unoccupied since the Greggs left two years ago.

A tornado-like wind in the same cloud, Wednesday, blew over trees and did some damage to buildings on the Pierce farm four miles from town.

Mr. Harris was about a half mile from the tobacco barn struck by lightning on the C. L. Beaman farm, Tuesday afternoon, and assisted in removing curing equipment from the barn, which was burned.

A weather forecast for this area states that scattered afternoon and evening thunder-showers may be expected through August 4, with normal to slightly above normal temperatures prevailing.

Coal Famine Is Forecast

Army Asked To Release Men For Coal Pits

Washington, July 31.—A government fuel expert testified today "I expect all industry, including steel mills, to be on a four-day week this winter" due to a prospective 87,000,000-ton coal deficit.

Only two things could prevent such a development, Dr. C. J. Potter, deputy solid fuels administrator, told the Senate War Investigating Committee.

1. The army could agree to furnish 30,000 coal miners to go to work by October 1.

2. The war with Japan could come to a sudden end.

Secretary of the Interior Ickes first testified that next winter will be the coldest of the war for Americans unless enough miners are released to make up the prospective deficit.

"This would be true even if we did not send a pound of bituminous coal to Europe," Ickes told the Senate War Investigating committee which is looking into the possibility of getting miners discharged from the armed forces.

Ickes has recommended, however, that 6,000,000 tons of coal be shipped to liberated and neutral European countries before next January 1.

"If immediate steps are not taken to increase the coal supply in the liberated nations of Europe to a point that will sustain human life next winter," he cautioned the senators, "we must expect rioting, bloodshed, and the destruction of nearly all semblance of orderly government."

The Interior secretary, who is also solid fuels administrator, told the committee "we cannot produce coal without coal miners."

Colonel Turnage Gets Bronze Star

For developing and supervising training programs, Colonel Benjamin O. Turnage, Jr., of 173 Broad street, Charleston, S. C., has been awarded the Bronze Star medal by General Walter Gruenger, commander of the Sixth Army on Luzon.

Colonel Turnage was responsible for training the units which participated in operations at Admiralty Islands, Attapeu, Hollandia and Bikan.

Mrs. Benjamin O. Turnage, Jr., is the former Miss Adelaide O'Neill, and lives at 172 Broad street.

Colonel Turnage is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Otto Turnage, of Farmville.

and others will move on to the Pacific.
Cpl. Yelverton is the nephew of Mrs. Nannie T. Lewis, of Farmville, N. C. Prior to entering the service he was employed by the Newport News shipbuilding and D.D. Co., at Newport News, Va.

Eight Hundred Giant Superforts Drop 6,000 Tons of Bombs on Fore- warned Japanese In- dustrial Centers; Car- rier Planes and War- ships Attack Bypassed Wake Island; Third Fleet Radio Blackout Goes Into 60th Hour; Record Superfort Raid First Made Under New Strategic Air Com- mand of Gen. Spaatz

Gusm, Aug. 2.—In the greatest single air raid of all time, 800 Superfortresses today dropped 6,000 tons of incendiary bombs and two-ton blockbusters on four forewarned Japanese cities and a petroleum center in the first B-29 strike executed under command of Gen. Carl L. Spaatz, United States Army Strategic Air Forces.

A gigantic sky train of Superforts stretching more than 150 miles over the enemy's homeland spread fiery devastation through the Honshu industrial and transportation centers of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Kyoto.

The tonnage of bombs exceeded the weight dropped in the largest previous single raids by both United States and Royal Air Force bombers, making it the greatest individual aerial blow struck in history.

Meantime United States Pacific Fleet carrier planes and warships attacked long bypassed Wake Island yesterday as Adm. William F. Halsey's Third Fleet remained under a security blackout now almost 60 hours old.

The tiny island where a few Marines held off the Japanese in a heroic 14-day stand at the start of the war was blasted by warplane bombs and battleship shells, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced.

Attack On Wake

The attack, first in months by major fleet units on Wake, was designed to harass the hunger-weakened garrison cut off from its homeland by the Allied advance to the threshold of Japan.

Several weeks ago United States warship intercepted a Japanese hospital ship carrying troops and civilian workers suffering from malnutrition back to the homeland. The Japanese were permitted to continue the voyage after the Americans inspected the ship to make certain no important military personnel were being evacuated.

Nimitz said a United States battleship steamed up close to the island and battered it with heavy shells while warplanes were attacking.

The Japanese offered "slight opposition" from shore batteries and anti-aircraft guns. There were no American casualties and damage to our ships was "extremely minor," Nimitz said. Warship damage was caused by shell fragments, indicating that the Japanese did not score any direct hits, with their shells exploding in the water.

With more than 900 Japanese evacuated from Wake a month ago aboard the hospital ship, it was believed that only about 2,000 of them remained on the island.

Nimitz' bulletin did not disclose whether Halsey's fleet was still proving off Japanese waters continuing the devastating assaults which started July 10 and cost the Japanese 1,477 planes and 957 ships destroyed or damaged. The last action by carrier planes was against Tokyo and Central Honshu on Monday, although warships bombarded Shimizu, 80 miles southwest of Tokyo, early Tuesday morning.

Nimitz disclosed that light Pacific fleet units evacuated 233 natives from Jaluit Island in the Marshalls yesterday. Some opposition from the bypassed Japanese garrison was encountered, but the United States force suffered no casualties.

Privateer planes of Fleet Air Wing One from Okinawa meanwhile battered Japanese installations in Korea on Tuesday. They blew up the span of a large railway bridge near the mouth of the Seisen River in northwestern Korea, damaged another railway bridge and two trains and strafed airfields and small coastal craft.

The Seisen River is only 80 miles south of the Manchurian border and destruction of the bridge was another severe blow to Japanese overland supply routes from Manchuria's arsenal.

Headquarters also disclosed that Thunderbolt fighters had joined the assault along with Mustang fighters yesterday against the Nagoya-Kobe area.

I'd rather serve myself than sit by while the fire hose hoses the food to me and serve other people.