



# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

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LOST AT SEA

# 17 ESCAPE

## CASE AGAINST T. W. MULLEN NON-SUITED

Action Against Draft Board Chairman Quickly Withdrawn By Warren County Doctor

Suit for slander against T. W. Mullen, chairman of Halifax County Draft Board No. 1, brought by Dr. L. H. Justis of Littleton, was non-suited Monday after a hearing before Clerk of Warren Superior Court W. K. Newell.

Mr. Mullen had filed an answer denying utterance of the alleged slanderous and false statements charged by the plaintiff with being made by the defendant about June 6th to Bat Crawley of Aurelian Springs.

Upon finding that Dr. Justis believed the answer to be true and on his consent that judgment of non-suit be entered, the Court ordered the action dismissed, with the plaintiff, Dr. Justis, paying the costs.

The suit, which called for damages of \$25,000, was filed in Dr. Justis' home county of Warren by Joe Pippin, Littleton attorney, on July 14. Mr. Mullen was represented by Allsbrook & Benton of Roanoke Rapids and Julius Banzet of Warrenton.

The alleged statement which caused the suit was supposed to have been made by Mr. Mullen to Bat Crawley, in the presence of "divers" witnesses, about Mr. Crawley's son who is now in the army. Mr. Mullen's denial of making any such statement was accepted by Dr. Justis and the Court and the non-suit followed.

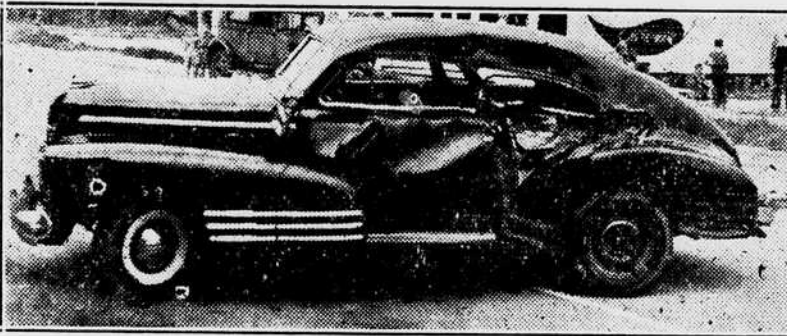
## MRS. WHEELER RESIGNS AS COUNTY AGT.

Quits Post Because Of Ill Health; Her Successor Is Named

Mrs. Hazel E. Wheeler, County Home Demonstration Agent of Halifax County for the past several years, has resigned her position due to her health.

Mrs. Wheeler's resignation will go into effect Aug. 31. Miss Florence Cox, of Hertford, will succeed Mrs. Wheeler and will begin her new duties Sept. 1. Miss Cox has been Home Demonstration Agent of Hertford County for the past seven years.

## MATTHEWS' WRECKED CAR



\*ABOVE is the wreckage of the automobile driven by Clayton Matthews, city police officer. Practically the entire left side of the rear part of the sedan was crushed in when it was hit by a lumber truck and trailer on the new Weldon road last week. Matthews was bruised considerably and has not yet returned to his beat in the city, tho he is said to be recuperating from the accident. —Staff Photo

## CAPT. ROBERT McCOMMONS LOST AT SEA WHEN SHIP SINKS NORTH OF ICELAND

Second City Man Lost In War Was Old Football Star

Roanoke Rapids lost its second man to the war with the news received here this week that Captain Robert H. McCommons of the U. S. Merchant Marine was lost at sea on July 5th as his ship went down somewhere North of Iceland.

The news came to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. McCommons, 1022 Jackson St., in a letter from the Captain's wife in Philadelphia. His wife had been officially notified by the U. S. Navy Dept. that Capt. McCommons had been "lost at sea in line of duty". From her letter, it is apparent the wife had also received some information from rescued members of the crew.

The ship, part of a convoy, had been to Russia and was returning to the U. S. It was the Captain's first ship, he having received his Captains' commission the first of this year after having worked up from 1st Class Seaman.

It is not clear whether the ship was sunk by a submarine or lost in the heavy storm which was raging when the ship went down. All the crew had left the ship and were in lifeboats. Captain McCommons was the last man to leave the ship and just before he stepped into a lifeboat a huge wave swept him from the deck and he was never seen again.

The weather was bitterly cold, 30 degrees below zero, and four members of the rescued crew were so badly frozen that their legs had to be amputated. So far as is known, Capt. McCommons was the only one lost.

In a letter to his wife, one of the crew told of the Captain having a heart attack in Russia but he refused to leave his post. The crew member said Capt. McCommons was the only one lost. (Continued on Page 12, Sec. A)

## ANOTHER AIR RAID DRILL TO BE HELD

Seek Elimination Of All Delays In Hours Test Here Wednesday

The Roanoke Rapids Civilian Defense Council announced that there will be a test air raid in Roanoke Rapids some time between the hours of 5:00 and 8:00 P. M. on Wednesday, August 19. The drill will last approximately one hour.

One change in procedure has been indicated by the last drill. Air Raid Wardens who note incidents of air raid damage are requested to call in the information directly to the Control Center. Then they should report it by runner or telephone to their Sector Warden, with a note that the incident has already been called to the Control Center. In the past the procedure was slightly different. The Air Raid Warden noted the damage and called it to the Sector Warden and the Sector Warden in turn reported it to the Control Center. This duplication caused possibly 60-90 seconds delay. In order to eliminate all delays possible, this new procedure is recommended by the State and Federal Civilian Defense authorities.

Another slight change for the Air Raid Wardens is that they should NEVER recommend a type of service to be sent to the scene. They should dwell entirely on their telephone message of the incident, describing it and the casualty. (Continued on Page 12, Sec. A)

## STATE HIWAY PRISON CAMP BREAK TODAY

One Man Captured By Weldon Police After Few Hours of Liberty

Seventeen prisoners, all white men, escaped from the State Highway Commission Prison Camp about 1½-miles from Jackson shortly after one o'clock this morning, and at press time sixteen of the fugitives are at large although they are the object of one of the most intense man hunts in this section in years. Prison guards, state highway patrolmen and deputy sheriffs are combining in the hunt and are carefully tracing several definite clues as to their whereabouts. It is expected the arrest of more of the men will be accomplished momentarily.

The break was made possible when a group of prisoners in one cell block at the Northampton County camp sawed through the bars enabling them to capture and overpower J. L. Daughtry, the lone guard on duty at the time. R. F. Ricks, the other night guard at the camp, had gone to the dining room, which is in a separate building, to get a cup of coffee. After binding and gagging Daughtry they captured Ricks upon his return to the cell block. They trussed up the two guards along with a trusty who was serving as cook for the camp and locked the three men in the sick room. It was then an easy matter. (Continued on Page 12, Sec. A)

## TRY MEN WHO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE JAIL

Thirteen Negroes and one white man were tried in Recorders Court Tuesday for an attempted escape from the County Jail in Halifax, which was discovered Saturday, August 1st.

The case was tried by Judge Daniel, Judge of Recorders Court, and the following sentences were given:

Timothy Mills, 12 months on county road; May Patterson—11 months in jail; William Allen—10 months on road; Marion Foy—6 months on road; Wilson Harrison—9 months on road; Nat Patterson—9 months on road; Ray Wade—6 months on road; Dawson Faison—6 months on road; Owen Zack Wiggins—6 months on road; and Otis Forbes, Frank Cain and Frank Brown were given 6 months suspended on payment of \$15 each and on condition that they violate no criminal statute for 2 years.



CAPT. ROBT. H. McCOMMONS  
His Story On Right

PROMOTED



W. G. CHERRY, JR.  
Story On Page 12—Sec. A

LIEUTENANT



HENRY AKERS  
Story On Page 12—Sec. A