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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1940

Star-News Program

- Consolidated City-County Government under Council-Manager Administration.
- Public Port Terminals.
- Perfected Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities.
- Arena for Sports and Industrial Shows.
- Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.
- Extension of City Limits.
- 35-Foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington.
- Paved River Road to Southport, via Orton Plantation.
- Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax.
- Shipyards and Drydock.
- Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital.
- Adequate hospital facilities for whites.
- Junior High School.
- Tobacco Warehouse for Export Buyers.
- Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TOP OF THE MORNING

Often I have been overwhelmed with gratitude for the sudden, sharp, blinding bolt that has stopped me in some mad course, but I should be just as grateful for the mellow light that filters down thro' the air so softly upon me in my daily walk. To-day, I must think of all the light that comes to me in my path. Surely I will be thankful if I realize that God in His love and tender compassion for me is holding a light for me to walk by.

—PELL.

Sidewalk Traffic

Now that street traffic has been brought under fair regulation, and with the holiday season approaching, when shopping throngs will infest the business district, it is appropriate to consider sidewalk traffic, and the need for pedestrians to remember that they and all others similarly abroad may go about their errands more easily if human barriers to progress are not created for conversational purposes.

There are always doorways at hand, available for friendly chats. Or the building lines offer convenient stopping places. Although suburban gossip is more or less taboo in polite society, the curbs are preferable to the middle of the sidewalk.

A little ordinary courtesy will keep Wilmington sidewalks passable at all times, however large the crowds. It will be well for everybody if the same spirit of consideration for others that prevails in homes is practiced on the streets.

An Able Secretary

Secretary of State Hull's reported decision to remain in the cabinet during President Roosevelt's third term will be welcomed by a great majority of his countrymen.

It is easy to understand Mr. Hull's desire to return to private life. He is no longer young; he has been on a difficult job for a long time during a period of acute international stress. No other secretary of state in history, in fact, has served longer than the eight years which Mr. Hull will round out next March.

But it so happens that no man in public life today has the complete confidence of so many men and women as the secretary of state. In an era of bitter political divisions he has remained largely above and aloof from partisan strife. Americans, by and large, re-

gardless of party, like and trust Mr. Hull and believe in what he stands for.

Nor is this feeling confined to citizens of this country. In the nations of Central and South America he is regarded as a great and good friend and the living embodiment of the good neighbor policy. They too would like to see him carry on in his present post.

Mr. Hull, we feel sure, does not regard himself as indispensable. But he must also be aware that his continued presence in the cabinet will be an important asset to the Roosevelt administration, both because of his close familiarity with foreign affairs and the confidence which voters of all parties have in him.

The Farmers' Meeting

Truck farmers of southeastern North Carolina have not only climatic eccentricities to fight, but often national opposition as well.

This was demonstrated last spring, when the National Vegetable Growers conference asked that no farmer without a truck quota be permitted to plant more than one acre of vegetables without penalty from the AAA. The maximum was placed at three acres.

The truck farmer, it appears from this, is outwitted at every turn and faces a handicap before he plants a crop. And this is bad economics. For when growers of other crops, tobacco and cotton, for example, may increase their truck plantings without let or hindrance, they impinge upon the rights of truck farmers — who have only their vegetables to depend on for a livelihood — and create market overstocking, which drives prices down, while still enjoying the benefits of AAA favoritism toward their own main crops.

These and relative matters are on the agenda of the mass meeting to be held on November 25 at the court house. As they concern Wilmington's business community nearly as much as the farmers themselves, it is to be expected that the city's commercial interests will be well represented and share in the discussions.

The Case For Democracy

At the recent conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women at Washington a resolution for the preservation of democracy was adopted. The text of the resolution is notable. It reads:

"Whereas: It is the duty of the women of America to be united in the democratic ideal, since their indifference to such an important matter would presuppose the abdication of their rights as an integral part of humanity, whose destiny is at stake; and

"Whereas: Great numbers of women gave their lives in the epochal struggles by which there was bequeathed to us a continent free of all oppression, and that it is our duty to preserve such a precious heritage intact for our descendants

"Resolved: To call upon the women of America to unite in the cause of true democracy.

2. To make a request to all the governments to encourage and aid initiatives tending toward the preservation and defense of the principles of democracy.

3. To consider the defense of democracy as their most noble and glorious task, and to work without respite for the indissoluble union of all the nations of this hemisphere.

Designed primarily for women, there is no real reason why the closing paragraph should not become the keynote of every loyal citizen. The defense of democracy truly is a "most noble and glorious task" in which every American ought to share, just as every American ought to "work without respite for the indissoluble union of all the nations of this hemisphere."

There is something fundamentally wrong with the Americanism of any citizen who would evade this obligation.

"You And Who Else?"

When Mussolini says that he will break Greece's back, the inevitable query is "You and who else?"

Greece's back may be broken, but Mussolini can't do it. His army has proved that. Save for an initial advance, before Greece got set to fight, Italian forces have been in constant retreat.

At no time, since the invasion was launched, have they displayed either striking power or military leadership. Now 30,000 Italian soldiers are in a trap at Koritza and their fellows on other battlefronts are hotfooting for home and mother.

Yet Mussolini shouts aloud that he will crush the Greeks. In the circumstances none save a megalomaniac could talk so foolishly.

Yes, Greece's back may be broken. But if it is, it will be in spite of Mussolini, and not because of his aid.

Doodling Decreases

One of the oddest items of news which has come out of the recent campaign is the report of the American Institute of Laundering that the spirited contest brought a boom to the nation's laundry business. Hundreds of thousands of linen tablecloths and napkins have had to be sent to the wash because luncheon and dinner guests have used pencils to add up figures or draw "doodles" on them.

This is unfortunately as far as the institute's report goes but it seems to us that this is a matter which would bear investigation. We,

for one, are curious to know what was behind all this luncheon-table penmanship and artistry. Did people doodle more at campaign luncheons because they were excited or because they were bored? Did they mark up huge quantities of table linen because their nerves were on edge or because they were trying to figure out who was going to get the most votes?

Unless some waiter or laundryman with a boundless curiosity and an analytical mind took the trouble to investigate and make a record of the doodlings we shall probably never know. We are inclined to mark it down to the heat of the campaign and let it go at that. But it all goes to show that you can't ever satisfy everyone.

Here while all the rest of us sighed our relief that the campaign is over, the laundrymen are probably mourning the fact that doodling is falling off and that there will be smaller bundles in the week's wash.

Centralized Purchasing

The National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers is authority for the statement that centralized purchasing in five states—New York, Virginia, Maryland, Missouri and Massachusetts—has resulted in lower prices paid for state supplies and greater efficiency in purchasing.

Economy was effected in these states by standardization of departmental supplies and by competitive bidding, a study made by E. E. Naylor of the federal treasury department, shows. A noteworthy practice is that of awarding contracts for supplies to the lowest "responsible" bidder rather than to merely the lowest bidder.

Most of these states have provisions for submission of estimates of needs from state departments, advertising, submission and opening of bids, award of contracts, inspection of goods, and the submission and approval of invoices for payment. Each state has a bureau, division or department for centralized purchasing. When open market purchases are permitted, they are controlled by the central purchasing agency.

By such systematic operations the taxpayers of these states reap a definite benefit. It is to give the taxpayers of this community equivalent benefits that the movement for consolidated city and county government under council-manager administration had been launched.

Editorial Comment

GIVE IT A REAL TRIAL
 Raleigh News and Observer

Even the skeptical must be impressed by the good results which have been obtained under a limited merit system among North Carolina State employees.

So far, the system has been tried only when it was required by Federal laws, which govern State employees paid from Federal funds. Even that trial has been incomplete, because the State, despite its large surplus, has not yet found the trifling sum necessary to provide for examinations among employees of the Health and Welfare departments. However, the critics appear to have been put to rout in the case of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, one State agency now under the merit system, despite vigorous protests from some quarters.

All State employees should be placed under a merit system and all should also be placed under a law forbidding political activity on their part similar to the Federal Hatch Act, which already applies to State employees paid from Federal funds. The two acts should go together.

Merit systems are not perfect. Flaws are easy to discover in such systems. Sometimes they bring about a complacency which is almost as deplorable as the incompetence which always flourishes under a strictly political system of appointment.

On the whole, however, the merit system is vastly preferable to the political system. The merit system should be given a real trial. Governor-elect Broughton is fortunately in a position to administer such a system successfully. The circumstances of his nomination and election were such that he will be under far less pressure than some of his predecessors to make his administration a political one. A merit system would not only promote efficiency, it would to a very great extent take State employees out of State politics and permit a free choice of the next Governor.

MARATHON AND THERMOPYLAE

(Washington Post)

We cannot know, yet, what the modern Herotus will write about the Greek war of 1940. Military experts appear to agree that only the most substantial sort of aid to Greece will be sufficient to keep the Axis forces long at a standstill—if both ends of the Axis move. But such ability as the Greeks have shown—to resist, and even to take the offensive—is an all-around surprise. And the Greek soldiers are being likened to the heroes of Marathon and Thermopylae.

The comparison is not only interesting but salutary. Marathon was a Greek victory over the invading Persians, Thermopylae was a defeat for the Greeks at the hands of the Persians. Both became proud landmarks in Greek history because of the heroism of the Greek forces that took part.

This was no less marked at Thermopylae than at Marathon. But at Thermopylae there was the ancient counterpart of a "fifth column." A traitor showed the Persians a mountain path by which they got behind the Greeks holding the mountain pass "a little above and a little below Thermopylae." And there were among the allies that made up the Greek front some groups that were partisans of Persia.

At Marathon the Greeks mustered some 11,000 men to bolt the second expedition launched against them by Darius in the summer of 490 B. C. The first expedition had met disaster in a storm off Mt. Athos, in which at least 20,000 Persian soldiers had perished. Now with a force much greater the Persians came again and landed on the plain of Marathon. The Greeks descended on the invaders, who in their overwhelming numbers regarded the Greeks as "madmen." When the fight was over, says the estimates of Herodotus, the Greeks had lost 192 men, the routed Persians, 6,400.

At Thermopylae neither a more complete mobilization of Greek allies nor a strategically strong position saved the Greeks from defeat. If Premier Mussolini was thinking of

Fair Enough

BY WESTBROOK PEGLE

The Star wishes its readers to know that views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not always harmonize with its position.—The Editor.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.—To the historic honors won at Adowa, Caporetto, Guadalajara and Lissa, the dashing invincibles of Benito Mussolini have now added new glories, inflicted by the Greeks in Albania and the British at Taranto, where the Duce's indomitable upheld the famous, if somewhat queer, traditions of their arms. To be sure, the flight of the irresistibles in Albania did not equal in magnitude the spectacular advance to the rear which has made Caporetto a name too sacred to be mentioned out in Italy, nor in speed and form with the magnificent feat of footwork achieved at Guadalajara in Spain. But, man for man, the forces which ran the Greeks to exhaustion over the mountains in recent days have no need to apologize to the survivors of Caporetto, and the heroes of Guadalajara will have to admit that they did their running on a faster and straighter track. After all, spirit counts for a great deal in Mussolini's scoring system, and the forces in Albania certainly deserved to be marked A in earnestness as they tore for home when the fighting started.

Blame Duce

If there was any blame at all, it belongs to the Duce, in selecting for this contest a terrain in which the roads were narrow and winding and the curves improperly banked. Reports from the Greek side agree that the track was not at all suitable for championship performances. The conquering legions were compelled to slow down on the turns to pitch over the cliffs and there were bottlenecks in which some of the slower members impeded men behind who were full of run and wanted only road room.

So, notwithstanding the fact that an extraordinary proportion of invincibles were caught, the forces involved doubtless will receive from the Duce the cherished right to wear the proud insignia of his forces. This device, unlike the battle honors of other nations, is worn in the space between the shoulder blades, where it is most likely to impress an enemy. If it were worn in front of course, no enemy would ever see it.

Undoubtedly, the Duce's quartermaster department will now be called on for a technical report on the efficiency of a type of running-shoe worn by his invincibles in the flight from the Greeks. After Guadalajara, when so many casualties were found to be suffering from hob-nail wounds in the rear, it was decided to do something to abate this hazard, and rubber spikes were substituted for a time, but were abandoned when the soldiers stewed them in gear grease and ate them for mussels, a great delicacy as long as they lasted. The more daring minds on the Duce's staff proposed long, wicked sprinters' spikes and a mere shell of a shoe for the utmost speed and a regulation issue of tin-body armor in the sole of the pants to reduce casualties from tramping. But, after all, the Imperial Legions of the All-Conquering Will are not mere sprinters. They are distance runners, too, so we do not know whether they were using spikes in Albania where they ran a marathon race.

It is hard to see how Mussolini can conscientiously honor the heroes of the naval engagement at Taranto on an equal scale with those of the old battle of Lissa. It is true that, on net results, they upheld the traditions of Lissa, but, after all, they didn't run away during the action. They had already run away and were hiding at the time, whereas, at Lissa, the Italian fleet not only achieved a historic defeat but followed that with a magnificent flight from the Austrians comparable, in sea warfare, to the most glorious feats of running ever recorded by the land forces.

If the Duce starts rewarding them for inartistic defeats he will cheapen his honors, and his imperial hosts will begin to sock themselves on the chin just to win medals for their shoulder blades.

In the Duce's hosts of land, sea and air, two elements should always be combined in any traditional performance, defeat and flight. Taranto was not entirely in the best tradition.

BATTLESHIP FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED

(Continued From Page One)

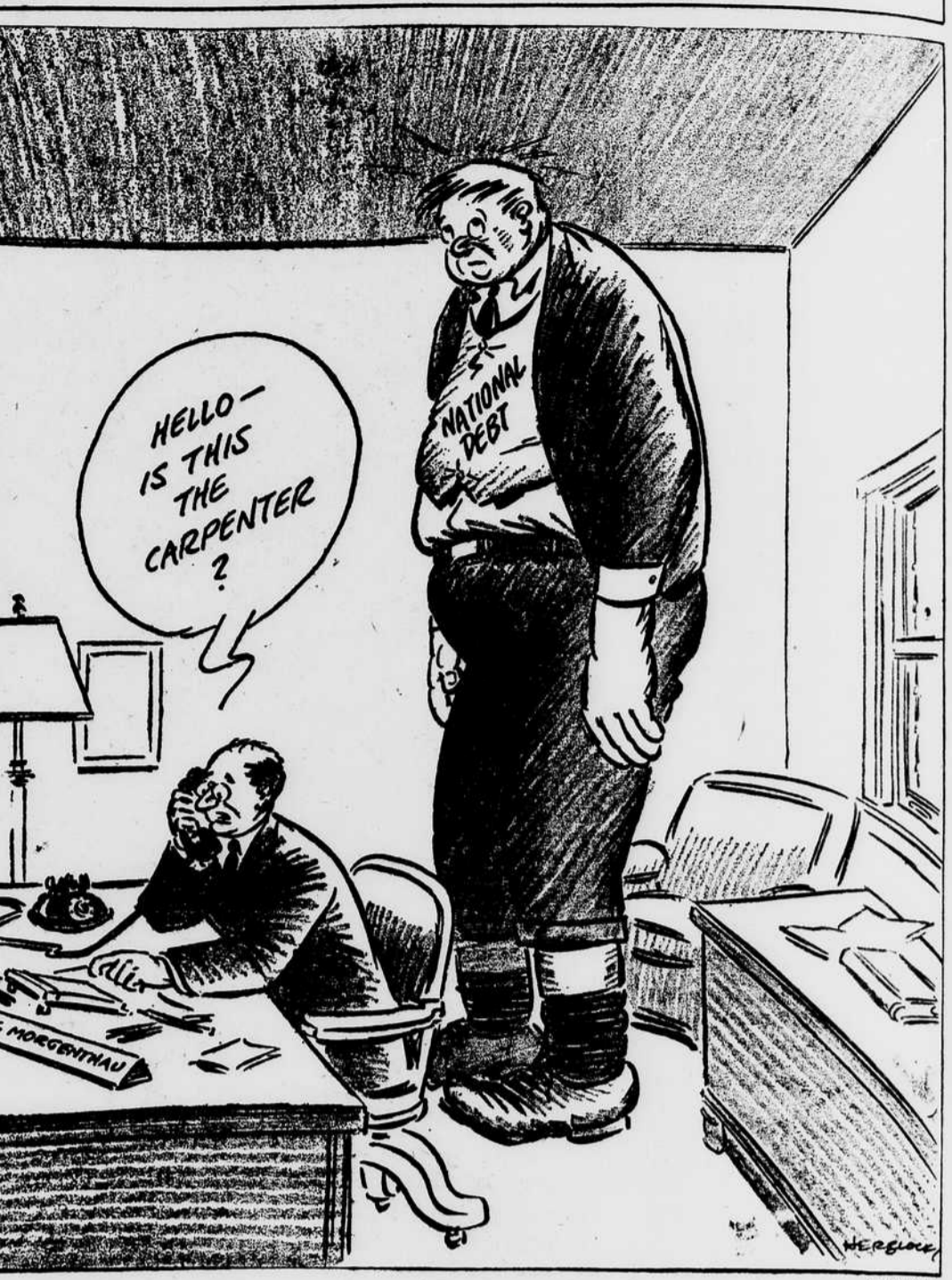
out aboard the destroyer Gwynn at Boston navy yard last night, the second blaze there in three days.

A New York Shipbuilding company spokesman said investigation indicated that today's blaze here resulted from an employee's welding torch which ignited rubbish in a forward part of the hold.

A previous blaze, on October 11, 1939, was ascribed at that time to a hot rivet or weldin g sparks.

history when he launched his attack on Greece, it must have been Thermopylae and not Marathon that held his attention.

CEILING-RAISING JOB



W. E. GLENN

NAZIS BOMB BRITISH INDUSTRIAL SECTION

(Continued from Page One)

The company discounted the possibility of sabotage in either case. Eighteen workmen were examined by yard physicians after the fire this afternoon—but only one required hospital treatment. His condition was reported as good.

Seven of the 18 were overcome by fumes within the hold and had to be helped out.

The first of two alarms sounded at 2:08 p. m. (EST). Company employees had controlled the flames with chemicals, however, before arrival of six Camden fire companies ten minutes later.

The fire was at no time dangerous, the company spokesman said, and damage was confined to "some scorched woodwork."

NATIONALIST BODY OUSTED BY SWISS

(Continued From Page One)

Swiss government's views, recently called the movement "a true copy of Germany's National Socialist party."

On Nov. 15 the organization had offered what some commentators called an ultimatum, demanding immediate permission for its press to resume publication, freedom for imprisoned members of the "National Circle," and restitution for the "moral and economic damage" done to the circle's members.

The order of the federal council, announced over the nationwide radio in Switzerland's three national languages, said that the movement "and all its subsidiaries" were dissolved. The dissolution is effective tomorrow.

The "subsidiaries" include the organization's newspaper.

A communique of the federal council said:

"The National Movement tried recently to transform by illegal procedure Swiss institutions and to compromise public order and create conflict."

LEWIS ASSAILS WILLIAM GREEN

(Continued from Page One)

crooks and racketeers of the or-walls and laments of the Amalgamated union.

"But there is no peace because you are not yet strong enough to demand peace on honorable terms."

Lewis brought the delegates to their feet cheering when he said he was not weary of the fight for industrial unionism he undertook to lead five years ago, and that those who had left CIO ranks to go with the AFL had "taken the easy way out."

With words that appeared to be slanted toward the peace advocates on the convention floor, Lewis added:

"If there is anybody else who wants to take the easy way out, let them take it."

Referring to Rosenblum's proposal for further exploratory conferences on AFL-CIO unity, Lewis declared:

"I've been an explorer for a long time. Do you want me to explore Bill Green's mind?"

"I've done a lot of exploring into Bill's mind and I give you my word—there is nothing there."

There are more than 420,000 miles of railway track in the United States.

YULE TOYS BEING DISPLAYED HERE

(Continued from Page One)

Merchants of City Decorate Windows in Preparation For Visit Of Santa

Merchants of Wilmington are lining their windows with toys of all description in preparation for the opening of the Christmas shopping season for Southeastern North Carolina Friday afternoon, when Santa Claus pays his annual visit to the city.

The toys on display are those of yesterday mixed with those of today and show windows of the city are beginning to look like Santa Claus' own private domicile.

Toy dealers are expecting that the old standbys of dolls, wagons and scooters will be in most demand, but added to this usually imposing array are a number of new toys of ingenious nature which are sure to appeal to the children.

Meanwhile, plans were being pushed yesterday to get the city in festive mood for the visit of Santa Friday afternoon, when the North Pole in his special airplane. Landing at the county airport, Santa will start from there on his tour of the city in a specially built float.

As he passes through each section he will give the signal for the Christmas lights to be turned on over the city and then the Christmas shopping season will be on.

All children and adults, too, for that matter, in Southeastern North Carolina, are extended an invitation to be in Wilmington Friday for the annual visit of St. Nick.

U. S. CONSIDERS GREECE'S APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

(Continued From Page One)

of the world for "planes . . . planes . . . planes" to defend herself against the next surge of the talitarian war.

Prime Minister Theo Nicoloudis, saying he spoke especially to Britain and the United States, urged that Greece's friends not be misled by her successes thus far in the Balkan war.

"We won't make the same mistake as heroic Finland which, content with her first successes, failed to ask for help from abroad," he told foreign newspaper correspondents.

(Greek spokesmen in Bern, Switzerland, declared the Greek high command already had taken a German and Bulgarian move to "all necessary steps" to meet any of the kingdom's Macedonian flank German and Bulgarian attack on the ward the Aegean sea, a and the Greek port of Salonika, diplomatic sources in Bern said, "may come at any hour now.")

Reviewing the situation at the front, Nicoloudis said, "I am happy to announce today, the 23d day of the war, that our heroic army is mopping up the last remnants of Greek territory which have been profaned by fascist Italy and is pushing the enemy back into Albania.

"Towns and villages of great importance are menaced and we are convinced that victory will be ours."

Koritza, Albania, Italian invasion base 10 miles from the Greek border, was a major objective

Sunset Park Gas Supply Restored After Stoppage

(Continued from Page One)

The gas supply in the Sunset Park area was restored yesterday afternoon after being cut off by the stoppage of a high pressure line at a point near Third and Queen street.

Officials of the Tide Water Power company said that the block in the line became apparent about mid-day. Gas service was restored about 4 o'clock.

Pretlow Named Head Of Cotillion Club Here

(Continued from Page One)

J. C. Pretlow, Jr., was elected president of the Inter-Se-Cotillion club at a meeting of the organization last night.

Other officers elected were: Monroe Hinant, vice-president; J. Arthur Brown, Jr., treasurer; and T. R. Ames, Jr., secretary.

Plans were made for a dance on the night of December 26.

CHOOSER

IRVINGTON, N. J., Nov. 19.—(AP)—Bernard Bernheim, who was given his choice between army enlistment and standing trial on a charge of selling illegal liquor, was certified yesterday for induction into the army by his local draft board.