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WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY MAY 20, 1941.

FINAL EDITION

ESTABLISHED 1867

Rent Level **Is Adopted** By Group

Will Use Scale in Effect Here on May 1, 1940, To Prevent Increases

PROCEDURE IS GIVEN

Action Is Taken by Fair Rents Division of The Housing Committee

The Fair Rents sub-committee of the Wilmington Housing committee yesterday adopted the rent level in effect here on May 1, 1940, "cardinal principle" on which it will operate in an effort to prevent excessive increases in rents in this defense-congested

The group held that the normal rental rate for Wilmington is the one charged on that date and "that no rents should be increased due to the fact that the law of supply and demand is no longer operative due to the abnormal conditions" resulting from defense program activity

Following a meeting yesterday afternoon, the committee issued a statement outlining the procedure by which a strict control of rents will be sought.

The statement, pointing out that maintenance of fair rents is vitally necessary to the national defense program, and that a curb on rent hiking will tend to control other commodity price levels in this

"As an underlying principle in connection with the maintenance of fair rents, the Community Housing committee wishes to point out that rents are only a part of the cost of living and that a disproportionate increase of any portion v restrict the money available for the purchase of other commodities and services necessary for decent

Serious Problems

"Rising rents and an inadequate will, however, not always be possible to secure a sufficiently large additional housing supply with sufficient speed and store have to be ken in the meantime to maintain lowering of living standards.

"Maintenance of fair rents is required by the defense program for several reasons. In addition to those stated above, it is necessary that we undertake to prevent an excessive labor turnover in defense ndustries in order to prevent rent

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

WALLACE FESTIVAL GETS UNDER WAY

Thousands Attend Opening Of Community's Annual Strawberry Fete

WALLACE, May 19. - Swelled with thousands of visitors, Wallace presented an atmosphere of gaiety onight as its seventh annual Strawberry Festival opened its five day program of fun and pageantry paying homage to this section's hief money crop.

Tonight was designated "Farmlarmers and strawberry growers vere on hand to hear W. Kerr Scott, state commissioner of agriculture, deliver an address on their favorite subject, the problems and methods of growing and marketing strawberries successfully. Scott was

Dr. Charles Dearing, one of Eastern Carolina's best known farmers, at Sunset Park and equipping Continued on Page Two; Col. 5) | (Continued on Page Two; Col. 6)

Aliens Seized By U. S.



Striking with sudden swiftness all over the nation in the first country-wide move to round up aliens who failed to comply with the 1940 registration act, government officials seized thousands of non-citizens and held an unannounced number for deportation proceedings. The sullen group above are German seamen shown as they were taken from the German Seamen's Mission in Hoboken, N. J., for questioning on Ellis Island.

County Adopts Resolution For School Bond Election

IS \$500,000 ISSUE

of the cost of living will undoubted- Further Participation In Development of Airport Is Argued at Meeting

Approval of the resolution callhouse supply, present serious probing for a special bond election lems in many defense areas. The early in July to pass on the New only real remedy for such condi- Hanover county school board's retions is, of course, the most effi-quest for \$500,000 to expand overcient use of the suitable housing crowded school facilities was voicalready in existence and the con- ed yesterday by the board of counstruction of needed new homes. It ty commissioners, meeting in reg-

ficient speed and steps have to be Gardner, came after the board ad flatly rejected the proposal air rents, in order to avoid serious of a New York bond attorney that increases in living costs and the the school bond issue be submitted to the voters simultaneously with a proposed \$100,000 bond issue representing the county's share of the city-county auditorium-arm-

ory. Opposition to submitting the two separate issues in the same election developed from Commissioner Gardner, who warned that linking of the two proposals "would seriously jeopardize" the school

"In Bad Shape" "The schools are in bad shape, and this board has gone on record

expansion program. I feel that to link the two issues would unnecessarily jeopardize the school bonds," Gardner declared.

for legal publication notice of public protest hearings on the school the hearing-date.

By state law governing bond elections, the bond issue cannot be submitted to the voters until a minimum of 30 days after public defense. hearing; thus, in all probability, ers' Night", and several thousand fixing the first week in July for the election.

The half-million dollar issue will enable the school board to increase its present facilities to adequately care for more than 3,000 additional grammar, junior and senior troduced by Mayor Aubrey Har- high school students. Specifically, t provides for:

Erecting a new school building

WEATHER

of the month 0.85 inches.

Tides For Today:

(From Tide Tables published by U.

S. Coast and Geodetic Survey).

Wilmington 5:16a. 12:31p.

Masonboro Inlet 3:24a. 9:30a.

Sunrise 5:07a.; sunset 7:10p.; moon-rise 2:'05a: moonset 2:21p.

FourArmy French Batteries Fire On British Fliers Die **InCollision**

Two Light Bombers Collide **High Above Little Town** Of Rains, S. C.

ON TRAINING FLIGHT

One Craft Shattered by Explosion and Other Is Destroyed by Fire

RAINS, S. C., May 19.-(AP)-A collision of two light army bombers high above this little eastern South Carolina town, followed by fire and fliers today. Army authorities at the Savan-

Plane Shattered atop a deserted tenant house, and rich, strategic Iraq. thoroughly consumed that eyewitnesses at first 'were certain there had been six men killed.

Lieut. Moore jumped in his para chute but it failed to open and he died of a broken neck while being taken to a hospital at Mullins near Seemingly, witnesses said,

parachute.
Witnesses said the two planes leading a flight of six bombers, apparently were thrown together, as if by a gust of wind, just as they emerged from a cloudbank almost directly above the Rains school house. Both appeared to be out of control immediately thereafter.

Another Burned open field near Arial's Cross Roads, was pouring from the plane, indi- Ali. cating it was on fire before it reached the ground. As it struck. flames shot up and consumed it which reported the firing said no quickly. The bodies of the occu- hits were scored.

wreckage several hours later. ing the empty house and exploding. que said. The plane and its occupant were

The flight began from the Savannah air base at 10:30 a. m., and it was 11:40 when the accident occurred. Two of the remaining four bombers continued on to Langley With the implied approval of Field, while the other returned to the Savannah base.

Moore was married and had esurged congress today to stiffen the tablished a home in Savannah since his assignment to the base there His body was found a half mile from the shattered wreckage of

Mrs. Inez Smith of Mullins took started for the Mullins hospital but full support of the school board's by means of such a levy and 6 per he was found dead upon their ar-

Guards were posted around the wreckage to keep back the curious new \$3,500,000,000 tax program pending arrival of army authorities

WASHINGTON, May 19. - (P) senate approved today a origin. \$174,409,630 urgent deficiency apities which do not compete with propriation bill which includes housing. The measure was returned to the eral fires.

house for consideration of \$660,000 in senate increases.

KILLED BY TRACTOR CHADBOURN, May 19.-Jerome near here this afternoon when the tractor he was operating overturned, pinning him under the heavy hurt, of course, having lived on these to the British after enduring a 40-

Planes Over Syria, Nation May Open Drive On De Gaulle's Forces

Fate of France's Colonial Empire May be at Stake In Middle East War

NAZI PLANES DAMAGED

Britain's Status in Syria Remains in Question; Consuls Stay at Posts

LONDON, May 19.-(R)-With the nah, Ga., air base, from which the British bombing Syrian airdromes lanes had taken off on a training as bases for the German air force light to Langley Field, Va., said and the French high commissioner the victims were: Second Lieut. in Syria accusing his ex-allies of Frank B. Ralston, Pittsburgh, Pa., "criminal aggressions," 'the fate of Second Lieut. Allen J. Moore, Reno, France's whole colonial empire Sergeant David L. Boyd, may be at stake in the conflict Frost, Texas, and Corporal Herbert taking shape in the Middle East O. Pruitt, Collinsville, Miss. The British generally accepted this as the fateful implication of One of the planes was shattered the reported German domination to bits by an explosion as it landed of Syria, next door neighbor of oil-

Ready to Fight General Henri Dentz, high commissioner for the Vichy government, declared by radio last night that "the army of the Levant is ready to oppose force with force. He called upon Syrians to resis 'criminal aggressions" of the Brit ish who are "attacking our air when he pulled the cord of the dromes without warning." German planes, he added, landed in Syria under terms of the 11-months-old

> armistice. "I have been ordered to defend inflexibly."

The first to fall crashed into an planes yesterday when they again citizens, might be safe. bombed airports at Palmyra, Daabout a mile and a half from here mascus and Rayak—airports which radio was heard to state that the on the Mullins highway. Some the British charge are being used Zamzam had sunk "en route from spectators said the pilot seemed to as stopping stations for German Pernambuco (Recife, Brazil) to be trying for a pancake landing warplanes going to the aid of Capetown." but this report was in the field, but, they added, smoke Iraq's rebellious premier, Rashid substantially the same as the one

pants could be seen in the charred A large sky transport and a big Heinkel bomber were destroyed at The other, from which Lieut. Palmyra and other Nazi aircraft Moore leaped, fell a mile and a were bombed and machine-gunned half farther to the northeast, strik- at other fields, a Cairo communi- word that the Zamzam had been

British status in Syria remains (Pernambuco), Brazil, April 9 for in question. As far as is known in Capetown, where she was

(Continued on Page Four; Col. 5)

MARINES PATROL WOOD FIRE AREA

the flier into her automobile and Major Challecombe Says Some of Fires Have Been 'Rather Suspicious'

> JACKSONVILLE, May 19.—(A)-Major Arthur D. Challecombe, com mander of the advance Marine units at the base being built near here, Approved by Senate said today a day and night patrol by Marines had been ordered following AOSTA, TROOPS said today a day and night patrol by the outbreak of nearly a dozen forest fires, some of them of "suspicious

Sheriff B. F. Morton reported the recent arrest of two men who had \$150,000,000 for national defense been placed under \$200 bond each on charges of deliberately setting sev-

"Some of the fires on our lands have been rather suspicious," Major Challecombe said, "but I would not attempt to say that any of them were deliberately set and I do not Britt, about 30, was fatally injured believe the people moving from the of Aosta and his troops defending back-to-work movement among the area were responsible.

machine. He died shortly after the places all their lives, but I have day siege, the Italian high comaccident in the Columbus county been impressed by their cooperative mand announced today.

Fishing Boat Explosion Is Termed 'Unavoidable'

sons—all North Carolinians—to lose Fourteen persons were injured. their lives 12 miles at sea off the

the history of northeastern South Carolina, and one, villagers here feared today, that would seriously cripple the town's principal industry-chartering fishing parties.

night, absolved Capt. Douglas Sabis-Railway Conductors of America, (Continued on Page Three; Col. 5) (Continued on Page Three; Col. 5) ton. owner and skipper of the ill-

tle place discussed the accident, re- 280 miles northeast of Addis Ababa, the board of county commissioncounting testimony presented to the in terms of heroism and said the ers jury last night and re-telling again British had paid military honor to and again tales of heroism of the the soldiers and the Duke of Aosta, tee are R. B. Page, defense council tion budget would provide a \$4,000 escuers.

under a former owner, one of the

early this morning after a hearing fastest rum-runners on the coast- the war bulletin said, "after hav- sion, and Louis T. Moore, acting sonnel and travel. The county was that lasted the greater part of the the Nightingale put to sea out of ing resisted beyond all limits and secretary of the Wilmington cham- asked to appropriate \$5,000 toward (Continued on Page Two; Col. 3) The proposal that the position of requested of the city.

BRITISH BOMB BASES VICHY MAY GRANT PASSAGE TO NAZIS

LONDON, Tuesday, May 20 .-(A)-France may hand back the former German African colonies of Togoland and the Cameroons and then grant Nazi troop passage across French territory to strike at the "Free French" forces of Gen. Charles De Gaulle, an authoritative source said early today.

Commenting on a Vichy an nouncement implying France was ready to begin action in an effort to regain French Equatorial Africa now under the De Gaulle banner, he said. "Only a small force could

march across the French Sahara desert, but even a comparatively small, mobile force could be a devil of a nuisance in those

French headquarters here saw German instigation behind the Vichy announcement. While reticement about this new development, the "Free French" earlier had charged that Vichy collaboration with Germany was "neither free nor legal, and consequently cannot be considered as binding on the French peo-

The former German colony of Togoland was split between France and Britain after its unconditional surrender during the World war. The French obtained about two-thirds of the territory located between the British Gold Coast colony on the west and French Dahomey on the east.

Headed Back to N. Y.

PALESTINE, Tex., May 19 .-

(P)-Dr. W. R. Minter, a Pres-

byterian minister, said today he received a confidential report

through congressional channels

last Thursday that the Egyp-

tian freighter Zamzam had

changed its course and headed

back toward New York rather

than risk attack by Nazi

The ship, with 150 Americans aboard, is long overdue at

Dr. Minter said his source

disclosed the ship turned for

New York after having head-

ed for Cape Town, South Af-

Minter's daughter, Mrs. Tins-

ley Smith, is believed to be a

passenger on the vessel with

her husband, Dr. Smith, and

Yards of American Ship-

building Company Quit

(By The Associated Press)

affecting defense production develop-

One was a walkout of AFL work

ers at the Lorain. Ohio, yards of the

which is constructing six submaring

\$7,000,000 order for Navy mine

The other was a CIO strike at the

Apollo Steel company, Apollo, Pa.

affecting 900 men and stopping work

on \$100,000 of defense orders, includ-

ing galvanized sheet iron for the

It appeared that a crisis might be

reached tonight in the strike of

ed yesterday.

sweepers.

Two major labor disputes directly

Cape Town, South Africa.

rica, from Receife, Brazil.

their 16-month-old son.

raiders.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)

London Radio Indicates Zamzam Might Be Safe

AMERICANS ON BOARD Zamzam Is Reported

Berlin Radio Claims Large Liner Sank En Route From Brazil to Capetown

NEW YORK, May 19 .- (A)-Two he sky and the land of the Levant London radio broadcasts heard states. That mission I'll carry out here tonight indicated the possi bility that the Egyptian liner Zam-Even before the high commis- zam, 26 days overdue on a voysioner had spoken, French anti- age to Africa with 322 persons aircraft batteries fired on British aboard, including 138 United States

A short time later the Berlin the German station broadcast No Hits

The Beirut, Lebanon, dispatch York dateline. At that time the source was given as the official British announcement that the ship was "presumably lost."

"May Be Safe" Although there was no official heard from since leaving Recife informed quarters, British consuls April 23, a commentator on the still are at their posts and no rep- British radio said at 7:59 o'clock

be safe after all." The commentator, in the broadcast recorded at the Columbia Broadcasting System's short wave listening station, said:

"It's good news by the way that has just come in that the Zamzam may be safe after all. We were not less sorry than you about the presumed fate of the Americans American Shipbuilding company on board; let's hope it's true that the gallant band of disinterested net tenders for the Navy and has a workers have in fact escaped the fury of those modern pirates, who took their orders from Berlin." There was no explanation of the

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

source of the "good news."

Force Defending Ethiopian worth of defense orders. Stronghold Surrenders After Long Siege

ROME, May 19 .- (AP)-The Duke the Ethiopian mountain stronghold "Some of these people are a little of Amba Alaji have surrendered

north to Asmara was hopeless, the Italians said, but the beleaguered garrison held out as long as it Defense Coordinator Here could to tie up British forces need-

ed on other fronts. When capitulation was arranged, posed and untreated on the sum-

Meanwhile, still dazed and talking Italian reports described the de-

"The garrison at Amba Alaji,"

Admiral Darlan Leaves For

Paris to Continue Negotiations With Nazis

PRESS ASSAILS U. S.

WILL FREE PRISONERS

Germany Believed Asking France to Re-Establish **Control Over Colonies**

VICHY, France, May 19 .- (A)-French anti-aircraft batteries were reported tonight to have begun firing on British warplanes over Syria and official sources here indicated an imminent French offensive attempt to regain empire territory now held by "De Gaullist

These swift and significant developments came as Admiral Jean Darlan left suddenly for Paris presumably to continue Franco-German collaboration negotiations and the German-controlled Paris press again assailed American diplomacy as "flour blackmail."

"France cannot permit a foreign power to intervene" against her efforts to get back the territory held by Gen. Charles De Gaulle and his followers, an official French information office statement said.

Messages Cited

The statement particularly cited messages written by "rebel French" military leaders and dropped by English planes on Syrian towns as proof "that one of the objects of English politics is to separate Syria from metropoli-

an France.' A dispatch from Beirut, Lebaion, said French batteries had fired at British planes yesterday ollowing a warning by French General Henri Dentz, Syrian high commissioner, that Syria would

neet force with force. (The British have been attacking yrian airdromes where German planes admittedly have been landing with French approval enroute to aid Iraqi forces battling the

To Release Prisoners

Germany already has agreed to release approximately 100,000 of war, and Telemondial, an official news agency, said "still more im-Workmen at Lorain, Ohio, portant results of the negotiations vould be announced soon.'

Just what France is going to concede to Germany is not publicly known, but there long have

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 7)

GERMANS ATTACK BRITISH VESSELS

Claim Action Off Island Of Crete Throws Light On **Expected Developments**

BERLIN, May 19.-(A)-Heav. German air attacks on British ships off the Greek island of Crete "throw a significant light on exgreatest concern to defense officials pected military developments" in the eastern Mediterranean, the FALL TO BRITISH —that by CIO and AFL machinists which has shut down 11 shipyards German commentary Dienst aus Deutschland said tonight.

and drydocks in the San Francisco. The high command reported that area and halted work on \$500,000,000 a British cruiser of the York class Governor Culbert Olson of Califor and two destroyers were damaged nia will address a meeting of the by direct hits and two small mer-1,700 strikers and ask them to re- chantmen were sunk. Six large turn to their jobs. AFL metal trades merchant ships including a tanker leaders have indicated that if the also were "so severely hit that strike is not settled then they will further loss of shipping space can go past the picket lines leading a be reckoned with."

German planes also attacked 15,000 other employes of the yards. British air bases at Crete, and The machinists want \$1.15 an hour Dienst aus Deutschland accepted stead of \$1.12 and time and one-half. (Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

Defense of the towering fortress on the road from Addis Ababa Group Is Named To Seek

Appointment of a special four-|defense coordinator be given to it was said, food and water had man committee to collaborate with some person already in the embeen exhausted, the injured lay ex. agencies of the city, county, state ploye of a governmental agency-

with double time for overtime in

ber of commerce.

and federal governments in find- either city, county, state or federal mit, British forces were growing ing a public official familiar with -came after the board of county activities was effected yesterday further consideration, a request for at a joint meeting between the county participation in a \$10,000 As outlined to the board of com-

missioners by representatives of To serve on the special commit- the defense council, the coordinaviceroy of Ethiopia, who command- chairman; Hargrove Bellamy, a year salary to a full-time coordimayor-elect; Addison Hewlett, Sr., nator, and \$6,000 a year for stimuchairman of the county commis- lated expenses such as office per-

abor organizations — the Brother-Brotherhood of Locomotive Fire rents and taxes imposed upon ammen and Enginemen, the Order of

fates of their 350,000 members.

\$560,000,000 for the classes of per-

their pay envelopes.

HICAGO, May 19.—(P)—Declarthat the cost of living was ristive big operating railroad ons decided today to seek a 30 cent increase in the basic pay 38 of their 350,000 members.

Dokesmen calculated that, on basis of the 1939 payroll of basis of the 1939 payroll of control of basis of the classes of per
ON THE UNION OF THE PROPRIES CHICAGO, May 19 .- (P)-Declar- | the Switchmen's Union of North ng that the cost of living was ris: America, and the Brotherhood of unions decided today to seek a 30 per cent increase in the basic pay

Five Rail Unions Decide

Spokesmen calculated that, on and current agreements, planned to quests on the nation's railroads or sonnel involved in the move, the June 10. Representatives of the unions is mands-if granted-would put an

A minimum raise of \$1.80 a day are rapidly dropping below wages Was set as the goal of the five paid to men in other industries. lood of Locomotive Engineers, the increased cost of living, including

To Seek Increase In Pay

additional \$168,000,000 a year in sued a statement which set forth: Wilmington "The wages of railway employes

oaid to men in other industries.

Sunrise 5:07a.; sunset 7:1

Soaring prices and the general rise 2:05a.; moonset 2:21p.

ANKARA, Turkey, May 19. aid for Iraq was discussed for an hour today by Soviet Am-bassador Vinogradov and Iraq Minister Kamil Djailani at the Iraq legation. The results of the meeting were not disclosed

To Iraq Is Discussed

Possible Russian Aid

Treasury Offers Proposal To Help Finance Large

Defense Program WASHINGTON, May 19. - (A)-President Roosevelt, the treasury excess profits tax to help finance

the defense program. John L. Sullivan, assistant secretary, estimated before the house as in complete accord and for the ways and means committee that cent corporation surtax previous- rival. ly proposed, \$1,096,000,000 of a

As a result of its action, the com- could be raised from the earnings to take charge. mission instructed County Attor- of corporations. He said that if ney Marsden Bellamy to prepare the new departmental recommendations were adopted congress bond proposal, fixing June 2 as might be able to readjust excise taxes, in such a way as to soften proposed levies on some commod-

> At the same time, the official department spokesmen concurred in recommendations by other administration officials ten days ago that heavier levies might be applied to such consumer durable goods as automobiles and mechan-

ical refrigerators. Both a stiffer excess profits tax (Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)

North Carolina — Partly cloudy and continued warm Thesday; Wednesday increasing cloudiness, showers and cooler in west portion.

(Meteorological data for the 24 hours enoing 7:30 p. m. yesterday).

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)

Cape Fear river stage at Fayette-ille on May 19, at 8 a. m., 9:25 feet.

LITTLE RIVER, S. C., May 19 .- A fated Nightingale, of responsibility coroner's jury early today returned for the explosions and fire that forca verdict of "unavoidable accident" ed 35 men, women and children pasin the tragic fishing boat explosion sengers into the sea, seven men and stronger and the isolated Italian local conditions to serve as co-commissioners, meeting with the which yesterday caused seven per- boys to lose their lives by drowning. strength gradually was being de- ordinator of all Wilmington defense council, rejected, pending

It was the worst sea accident in 'The coroner's jury verdict, reached

pleted. in hushed tones, villagers of this lit- fense of the 9,000-foot high fortress, Wilmington Defense Council and defense coordination budget.

A 61-foot sea-going yacht-once. ed them.