

### AIR CENTER SEEN FOR WILMINGTON

#### Chairman Of County Commissioners Envisions Future For City

Envisioning Wilmington as one of the greatest air centers in the country following the war, Addison Hewlett, chairman of the board of county commissioners, said Thursday that he saw no reason why the giant Army Air Base field, also known as Bluebonnet airport, now nearing completion would not be devoted to civilian uses when peace comes.

The land on which the field is located is owned by the county. "Yes, we're building thousands of planes and training thousands of boys to fly them," he declared, "and it stands to reason that aviation won't go into a slump after the war, because almost everybody will be flying. Of course, I don't expect there'll be so much military aviation, but if there is, that shouldn't prevent Wilmington from becoming one of the largest air centers anywhere." He went on to explain the huge field is being enlarged by the army to include runways 7,000 feet long, nearly a mile and a half large enough to accommodate the greatest dreadnaughts now being built.

#### 50 To 75 High School Pupils In Draft Age

Between 50 and 75 senior youths at New Hanover High school will be in the age bracket subject to draft at the time of their graduation on June 4, Principal T. T. Hamilton revealed Thursday. The school head explained that most of the boys will be 17 or 18 years old when they graduate.

At the same time, officials of city Draft Board No. 1 revealed that induction of all High school youths who are 18 years old or above has been postponed until June 6.

#### Minister To Australia To Remain At His Post

WASHINGTON, March 25.—(AP)—Secretary of State Hull made clear today that Nelson T. Johnson, minister to Australia who was to have been replaced by Edward J. Flynn, former chairman of the Democratic national committee, and would continue to serve where he is.

#### INCREASE IN LOANS

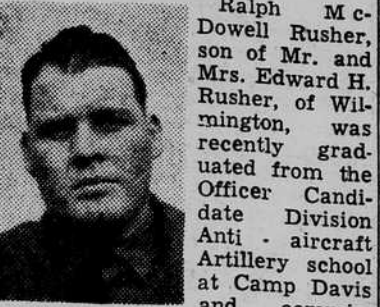
WASHINGTON, March 25.—(AP)—The Federal Reserve Board reported today that loans to brokers and dealers in securities held by reporting member banks in New York City totaled \$471,000,000 compared with the previous week. Loans for the corresponding week a year ago totaled \$258,000,000.

#### SUIT FILED

TOPEKA, Kas., March 25.—(AP)—A suit alleging contractors on the Sunflower Ordnance Works of eastern Kansas defrauded the government of "millions of dollars" was filed in U. S. district court today.

### OUR MEN IN SERVICE

#### GRADUATES



Ralph M. Dowell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Rusher, of Wilmington, was recently graduated from the Officer Candidate Division Anti-aircraft Artillery school at Camp Davis and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army of the United States. He was rated a technical sergeant before being commissioned. As a civilian, Rusher was a salesman for the Gate City Life Insurance company of Greensboro.

#### COMPLETED ADVANCE TRAINING

Lieut. John W. Loughlin, 143 Forest Hills Drive, has completed advanced pilot training at Lubbock Field, Texas, a unit of the Army Air Force Gulf Coast Training Center.

#### ATTENDING OCS

O. Noland Sanford, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Sanford of 16 Hudson Drive, has completed his basic training at Camp Croft, S. C., and is now attending Officer Candidate school at Fort Benning, Ga.

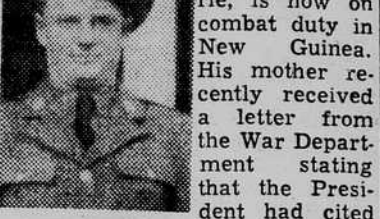
#### VISITS PARENTS

Pvt. Bailey Wells, of Burgaw, recently spent a week at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Wells. Private Wells is a military policeman stationed at Camp Sibert, Ala.

#### RETURNS TO CHARLESTON

Cecil V. Butler, g. m. third class, has returned to Charleston, S. C., after spending a few days with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Butler, 709 North Fifth avenue.

#### IN NEW GUINEA



Cpl. Norman Turner, son of Mrs. W. H. Turner, of Currie, is now on combat duty in New Guinea. His mother received a letter from the War Department stating that the President had cited his entire squadron for meritorious conduct in line of duty. Corporal Turner received special mention.

#### PROMOTED

Pvt. Charles S. Hewitt, a student in Keesler Field's B-24 (Liberator Bomber) mechanics school, was promoted recently to the grade of

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