



NATION AROUSED TO NEED OF CURB OF WAR STRIKES

Wounded Soldier Says That Acts Less Treasonable Than War-Plant Strikes Punishable By Death in Army; Other Capital City News.

(Special to the Democrat.)

Washington, D. C., March 9.—“We who have lain in shell holes watching the skies for bomber and fighter plane help which failed to arrive feel pretty bitter about the whole thing. In the army, acts less treasonable than this are punishable by death before a firing squad.”

That statement, issued by a group of American soldiers wounded in Africa and now in the Walter Reed Hospital here, following a walkout of workers in a Boeing Flying Fortress plant, has aroused the whole nation, as well as congress, to demand immediate action to make strikes or slowdowns subject to severe punishment for the duration of the war.

Senator Connelly, who introduced a bill in the last session to outlaw strikes and then withdrew it at the request of the White House when the unions pledged themselves to a no-strike agreement, immediately re-introduced his measure. His bill provides for army seizure of plants where strikes occur and calls for heavy penalties for those involved. No matter what action the President takes, unless he issues an order which is just as stringent as the Connelly measure, it is expected that this bill will now be enacted.

It is true that the war labor board has delayed for many months in taking action on the demands of the airplane workers for increased pay—and the union probably felt that the only way to get action was to create an emergency—but it is clear from the present attitude of congress that this was the most unfortunate step labor has taken since the war began. It is even considered probable that the President, who has so far bent over backwards to give in to labor's demands, will now make no further efforts to restrain congress from enacting whatever stringent legislation it deems necessary. If it becomes a question of taking sides with the armed forces (Continued on page eight)

CITY TO OBSERVE DAY OF PRAYER

All the residents of the community are invited by the Missionary Societies of the our town to attend their rendition of the World Day of Prayer program at Grace Lutheran church Friday March 12, at 8:00 p. m.

The World Day of Prayer Theme is: “Father, I pray that they may be one.” The theme is subdivided into the following topics, to be presented by the various churches:

1. “Out of the Depths.”—Baptist.
2. “Glory Be to God.”—Episcopal.
3. “Oh Lord, Forgive.”—Methodist.
4. “Love Never Fails.”—Advent Christian.
5. “We Offer Unto Thee.”—Lutheran.
6. “The Lord Reigneth.”—Presbyterian.

On March 12, says Rev. Edwin F. Troutman, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, around the world, the women of the earth will join hands in prayer to the God of the nations beseeching Him to hasten the day when the “knowledge of the Lord shall cover the face of the earth as the waters cover the sea.”

Let all come and join with them in this hour of World Day of Prayer.

Allied Forces Grasp Initiative In Tunisia

Allied forces in Tunisia seized the initiative on land and in the air over Tunisia Tuesday, as Marshal Rommel dragged his battered panzer column out of the clutches of the British eighth army, leaving 50 wrecked tanks on the battlefield.

American Flying Fortresses and Lightning Fighters, lashed out at an powerful German air formation over the Sicilian strait, accounting for 19 out of an estimated flight of 50 German warplanes, to hand Goering's forces the same kind of thumping that Rommel had received from the British artillery.

While Rommel is noted for his daring, it is difficult to see how he can hope to take the initiative in the south with a new attack in the face of a decisive defeat suffered in his initial try.

Honored For Capture Of Jap Officer



General Alexander Patch, commander of the U. S. forces on Guadalcanal, is shown congratulating four of his men to whom he has just awarded silver stars. The four captured the first Jap officer to be taken alive on this island. The men are, left to right, Private Theodore William Pavlovich, Uniontown, Pa.; Private James W. Zummalt, San Antonio, Texas; Private James W. Hale, Danville, Va.; and Private Nathaniel Watson, Newcastle, Delaware. At the extreme right is General Joseph L. Collins.

BEAN MARKET IN W JEFFERSON

Secretary New Organization Visits Boone In Interest Of New Venture.

Mr. J. E. Roland, former sheriff of Ashe county and secretary of the recently-organized Farmers Bean & Vegetable Market, of West Jefferson, was in town Friday, conferring with agricultural leaders in regard to the new bean market, which is established for the purpose of serving the people of Ashe, Watauga, Alleghany, and contingent areas, where vast quantities of snap beans are grown commercially every year.

Mr. Roland, county tax collector, has long been interested in farming as has W. G. Vannoy, president of the market, whose extensive experience in the produce business has made him see the urgent need for such a market.

Mr. Roland is anxious that Watauga county farmers plant large acreages of beans this year, as they constitute a vital war crop. Due to the conditions of the soil and the climate in this area, beans have long been grown in large quantities here, and farm leaders believe that lack of nearby marketing facilities has retarded the further expansion of this phase of mountain farming.

It was explained that farmers should make plans now for their bean crops and secure the needed seed and fertilizer in plenty of time. Indications are that incentive payments are to be offered as an encouragement to farmers to grow more beans.

Mr. Roland bespeaks the full cooperation of Watauga county farmers in the new market venture, which has been launched on a scale large enough to handle all the beans that can be grown in the area.

SLICED BREAD BAN HAS BEEN LIFTED

Order Issued on January 18th Is Rescinded By Wickard.

The government ban on bakery-sliced bread has been removed, to the delight of housewives who have risked thumbs and tempers slicing it themselves for nearly two months. Sliced loaves are now back on the most of the grocery shelves.

The prohibition against bakeries slicing bread took effect January 18, and never was popular with the housewives, particularly those who found themselves unable to buy a good bread knife. Bakeries also urged its revocation.

This dissatisfaction was not mentioned by Food Administrator Wickard in rescinding the order. He explained that its disadvantages were found to outweigh its advantages.

“The order prohibiting the slicing of bread was aimed at effecting economies in the manufacture of bread and in the use of paper,” Wickard commented. “Our experience with the order, however, leads us to believe that the savings are not as much as we had expected and the war production board tells us that sufficient wax paper to wrap sliced bread for four months is in the hands of paper processors and the baking industry.”

The ready-sliced loaf, officials explained, must have a heavier wrapping than the unsliced one if it is not to dry out.

BOONE SOLDIER LOST IN STORM ON GULF OF MEXICO

Private First class, Henry G. Proffit of Boone, R. F. D. 2, was one of fourteen soldiers drowned in an accident which occurred during night maneuvers in the storm-tossed Gulf of Mexico, off Florida, the U. S. army's fourth service command has announced at Atlanta, Ga.

A landing barge with 19 persons aboard ran aground on a sandbar near Carrabelle, Fla., on Friday night after a storm hit the north-West Florida Coast. The landing ramp was accidentally lowered, the announcement said. The men were members of the Garrison of Camp Gordon Johnston, located at Carrabelle.

Five persons, including two officers and three men, were rescued. The body is being returned to Watauga, and funeral services will be conducted Thursday at 2 o'clock from the Hopewell Methodist Church in Mead Camp township. A relative, Private Monroe Winebarger was sent as an escort for the body.

Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr. states that the flag at the post-office building will be at half mast throughout the day of the funeral out of respect to the deceased soldier.

RAT CAMPAIGN IS FINISHED TUESDAY

The rat eradication campaign conducted by the city government, with the cooperation of Mr. Harry S. Webster of the health department, was ended Tuesday, when poisoned food had been distributed about all buildings in the city, as well as the city dump, creek banks, and other places inhabited by the rodents.

Mr. Webster, who took leave of his usual duties to give his full time to the direction of the campaign, is highly pleased with the comments reaching him as to the success of the effort. The people, says Mr. Webster are giving daily reports of dead rats, and felicitating those responsible on greatly abating the rat menace.

Mr. Webster expresses appreciation to the people generally for their fine spirit of cooperation during the campaign, and especially thanks the Appalachian College for the donation of stale bread to be used for bait, and the use of their food-grinding equipment.

Mr. Webster says Perkinsville, a suburban neighborhood, is planning to institute an eradication campaign at once.

State Assembly Plans To End Session Today

The General Assembly, whose current session has been marked largely by peace and harmony, and by a determination to get the business at hand taken care of with the utmost dispatch, is expected to adjourn this (Wednesday) afternoon.

AREA CHAIRMAN WAR SAVINGS STAFF TO MEET SATURDAY

The area chairman of the War Savings Staff are to meet Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the REA offices in Boone, according to Mrs. J. A. W. Davis, chairman, who insists that there be a full attendance.

WOULD GIVE LOCAL UNITS DISCRETION IN BEER LICENSES

Senator Farthing Would Give to County Commissioners Right to Refuse to Issue Beer License; City Governing Body Given Same Discretionary Privilege.

Senator Grady Farthing has introduced a bill in the upper house of the general assembly to give the Board of County Commissioners of Watauga County the power to decline to issue licenses for the sale of wine and beer. The same right is given by the measure to any municipal government in the county. The text of the bill follows:

A Bill to be entitled an act to authorize the Board of County Commissioners of Watauga County and the governing bodies of the municipalities therein to refuse to issue wine and beer licenses. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the Board of County Commissioners of Watauga County and the governing body of any municipality in said county are hereby authorized and empowered in their discretion, to decline to issue the wine and beer licenses provided for in Sections five hundred and nine and five hundred and nine and one-half of the Revenue Act of one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, as amended.

Section 2. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

Prize Of \$10 To Be Given In Stamp Drive

The merchants of the city during the present month are encouraging their salespeople to suggest to customers that they take all or part of their change in War Stamps, and a prize of ten dollars is to be given to the clerk who sells the most stamps during the period.

Mr. Bus Crowell is the chairman of the committee handling this particular phase of the War Sales effort.

FAMOUS PEAK MAY BE PARK

Bill Authorizing Purchase By State of Grandfather Is Approved By Senate.

Raleigh, March 8.—A substitute bill for a Senate measure authorizing the State to acquire the Grandfather Mountain for park purposes was approved by the Senate today.

The substitute empowers the Governor to appoint a commission to investigate the feasibility of purchasing from 500 to 1,500 acres of land in Avery, Caldwell and Watauga counties for the park, but sets a limit of \$10 per acre on the land.

The commission would make its report to the Governor and Council of State, and if the purchase is agreed upon, funds would be made available from the emergency and contingency fund.

The original bill, introduced by Senator Wade of New Hanover, would have authorized an appropriation of \$150,000 and would have permitted the payment of up to \$100 an acre.

The bill was sent to the House.

Reclassification Of War Tires Cited

Effective March 1, all war tires known as grade 3 have been classified as grade 2, states the local War Ration Office, which explains that such tires may not be transferred by suppliers in exchange for grade III certificates unless actually shipped prior to March 1.

Dealers may not deliver war tires to consumers on grade III certificates on or after March 1, even though the consumer placed order prior to this date.

J. Pierpont Morgan Lies Gravely Ill

John Pierpont Morgan, head of one of the most famous banking houses in all history, lies gravely ill of a heart attack which struck him as he vacationed at Boca Grande, Fla.

No change was expected soon in the “very grave” condition of the 75-year-old financier.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Watauga County Passes \$3,500 Red Cross Quota On Eighth Day Of Drive

WATAUGA MAN IS CITED FOR BRAVERY IN TUNISIA BATTLE

Private Stanford Coffey, resident of Shulls Mills, was one of 16 officers and men to be awarded Silver Stars and 29 others were cited by their commanding general on March 1, for outstanding courage under fire in recent fighting in Tunisia, as well as heroism during the American landing at Oran last November 8.

A medium tank crew was cited for destroying a German plane, a wheeled vehicle, six anti-tank guns and a pillbox, killing or wounding all enemy personnel in them during a single engagement.

Three privates, including Wilbur Craft, of Cherryville, N. C., were cited jointly for remaining at their post under heavy machine gun fire, ready to dynamite a bridge which three German tanks were approaching. The tanks withdrew when the Germans realized they would be destroyed with the bridge if they attempted a crossing.

GIVES AIR RAID INSTRUCTIONS

All Blackouts Now Without Any Advance Notice; Warden Explains Signals.

Russel D. Hodges, chief air raid warden, calls attention to the fact that blackouts are liable to be called at any time now, and that there will be no further advance notices as to when they may occur. Mr. Hodges gives out also some information as to the signals now being used.

What is known as the “blue” signal consists of one long blast of 2 minutes on the siren. When this signal is heard, cars may proceed with dimmed lights, and pedestrians may proceed to their homes.

The “red” signal is a long intermittent blast, and calls for a complete blackout. People are to get inside the house, cars are to stop and lights put out.

The public is asked not to become confused if there is another “blue” signal during a complete blackout. This would not indicate “all clear”, but would mean that cars could proceed with dimmed lights and pedestrians return to their homes.

There will be no further all-clear signals. When street lights are turned back on the blackout period will have passed.

APPS WIN OPENER IN TOURNAMENT

Telegraphic information Wednesday morning is to the effect that the Appalachian College basketball team won the first game of the national tournament in Kansas City from Simpson College, by the score of 48 to 31.

R.A.F. Squadrons Strike Out At Northern France

The Royal Air Force sent squadrons of Spitfires and speedy mosquito bombers out to attack northern France Tuesday afternoon and there were indications that other British planes were on the prowl over axis-held Europe again tonight.

The Spitfires made several sweeps and destroyed two enemy fighters at dusk, the air ministry announced. The Mosquitos attacked a railway center near Le Mans. The communiqué said bursts were seen on the main building, and that one bomber failed to return.

PINAFORES AN PINS FOR HOME NURSING STUDENTS

Mrs. J. A. W. Davis, chairman of home nursing for the Red Cross locally states that all those who have finished these courses may secure a pin and an approved pinafore. The pins cost 15 cents, and patterns for the pinafores may be obtained locally. All those interested are asked to get in touch with Mrs. Davis.

More Than \$4,000 Already Raised in Whirlwind Red Cross Campaign; Many Districts Are Unreported as Chairman Insists on Early Reports; A Partial List of the Contributors.

On Tuesday, the eighth day of the scheduled 30 day Red Cross War Fund campaign, Watauga County had already reached and passed her quota of \$3,500 by the tune of something like \$500, with just exactly nineteen work-days left of the prescribed solicitation period.

Clyde R. Greene, war fund chairman had \$3,579.79 actually in hand Tuesday evening, and regional solicitors had at least another \$500 in their hands which had not been turned into headquarters here.

Mr. Greene asks that all the neighborhood leaders make their reports to him at once, and asks those who have not contacted all the people in their communities, to go right ahead with their solicitations, regardless of quotas, as oversubscriptions are to be desired in the present emergency.

Following is a list of some of the most recent contributors:

- Silverstone Neighborhood.**
Worker, Russell Greer.
John Hagaman \$1.00, Filmore Greer 1.00; Cicero Greer 1.00; Chas. Mitchell 60c, Mrs. Lena Greer 1.00, Ralph Greer 40c, Charles Perry 50c.
Worker, Mrs. William Greer.
C. M. Greer 1.00, Mrs. Wm. Greer 1.00, Ruby Greer 50c, Boffie Greer 50c, Mrs. Clara Geach 1.00, John Beach 1.00, Mrs. Bell Reece 1.00, Mrs. Hardie Reece 1.00, Mrs. W. T. Vandyke 1.00, McD. Ward 1.00
Worker, Ernest Dancy
Harley Perry 1.00, Raby Wilson (Continued on page eight)

Russians Thrown Back In Nazi Counter Drive

Russian forces have been thrown back up to 80 miles, with the loss of eight important bases on the Kharkov-Dnepier-Donets front, by a counter-offensive into which the Nazis have thrown 25 divisions totaling possibly 375,000 men, the Russian Tuesday midnight communique said.

A Stockholm dispatch from Istanbul said without confirmation that Marshal Josef Stalin had left for the front to direct the Red army defense against what was now a real threat to Kharkov, with the Germans claiming to be only twelve miles west of the city.

In an acid, if only implied answer to statements that United Nations aid to Russia has not been acknowledged the communique said that 12 of the Nazi divisions were drawn from Western Europe—toward which the Red army, after a historic campaign of nearly four months, has looked in vain for a second front.

THIS IS THE LAST EDITION OF THIS NEWSPAPER

you will receive, if your subscription has expired and has not been renewed by Wednesday of next week.

The overwhelming majority of our readers renewed promptly when first notified, but there are some who have not responded. They must do so immediately, if they wish to further read the county newspaper.

The Democrat goes on a strictly cash basis to everyone with the next edition. This it MUST DO. The date on your label is the date your subscription expires. Watch your expiration date as in the future the paper will not be extended to anyone after expiration.

This cash-in-advance rule will positively be adhered to, so please don't ask us to break it.

If you have renewed recently and your address label date hasn't been changed correspondingly, it doesn't mean the credit hasn't been entered. The corrections will be made as rapidly as is possible.