



RUSSIAN BATTLE TO OPEN WAY FOR EARLY INVASION

Reds in Great Battle to Collapse Nazi Center and Pave Way For Eventual Invasion Of Germany Proper; Nazi Admit Reverses in Eight Sectors.

Russian forces drove west of isolated Gomel and Zhitmir today in a great battle to collapse the Nazi center and open an avenue for the eventual invasion of Germany itself.

Gomel was virtually surrounded. Only one escape railroad remained open after the Russians captured Demekhi, thirty-four miles west of the railway to Warsaw and Red artillery is already pounding that route. At Demekhi, the Russians were within three hundred miles of East Prussia and in the Nevel area farther north, the German border was only two hundred and seventy-five miles from Russian field guns.

The Berlin radio asserted that the massed Russian forces had dented the German lines in eight sectors. The Russians were said to be driving west of Smolensk with 250,000 men.

The Red Army swung sharply to the north along the eastern edge of the Pripet marshes today, ripping out another important section of the German communications system and covering the flank of the great Russian bulge west of Kiev.

The general line of attack shifted at least temporarily, from the former westward thrust to a new drive to the north apparently designed to eliminate any possibility of a major German counterattack in White Russia.

The most immediate effect of the newest turn in the campaign was the cutting of the railroad and highway running west from Gomel, the southern anchor of the German White Russian line. The strong German garrison which has been holding out in Gomel, was thus virtually isolated and that White Russian City was in imminent danger of falling.

Lions Club Members Hear War Veterans

The Boone Lions Club met at the Gateway Cafe Tuesday evening November 16, with Lion Frank Payne presiding.

The program consisted of talks about phases of the war by visitors. Chief Petty Officer Homer Brown, veteran of the Salerno Bay invasion, spoke geographically of the experiences of American boys on the fighting fronts in the Mediterranean theatre. Following his talk, he answered questions asked by Lions concerning enemy morale and attitudes. Lions were impressed by his tribute to our great allies, Britain and Russia.

Mr. Joe E. Huffman, recruiting officer for the Navy and new resident of Boone, spoke to the Club in regard to his work. In his remarks, he stressed the importance of woman's contribution to the war effort, and expressed his interest in seeing the ranks of the WAVES grow.

Mr. Phil Hudson, former athlete at Appalachian College, who is now a physical education instructor in the pre-flight school at Athens, Ga. spoke on the attitude of the men in the services toward the Jap and inhuman methods of making war.

Other guests were Lt. Ben Miller, U. S. Maritime Service; Mr. W. L. Bradsher, marketing specialist of the U. S. government, and Mr. Edgar Brown, of Boone.

District Governor W. Amos Abrams and District Secretary Robert R. King, invited members of the Club to go with them to Maiden, North Carolina, to attend charter night exercises of a new Lions Club there Thursday night.

After the meeting, members of the Club were guests of Mr. Ted Norman to see "Bombardier" at the Appalachian Theatre.

CAMERON MORRISON INTIMATES HE MAY BE IN SENATE RACE

Charlotte—Representative Cameron Morrison, of the tenth district, intimated to reporters here that he would probably run for the U. S. senate, but said his final decision would not be announced for two weeks yet.

"It is true that I have taken under most serious consideration becoming a candidate for the United States senate," Morrison said. "It is my purpose in a formal statement to the people of the state to make known my final decision immediately after Thanksgiving."

Morrison, former governor and senator, announced some time ago that he would not seek re-election in the house of representatives.

Bahama Torch Murder Principals



Count Alfred de Marigny as he appeared during his trial for the torch murder of his father-in-law, Sir Harry Oskes, Bahama multi-millionaire. Nancy de Marigny, right, wife of the defendant and daughter of the victim. American police experts were taken to the islands to testify in the sensational trial which ended in the Count's acquittal.

LOSES LIFE



Roger W. Stokes of Sherwood, N. C., who recently lost his life in the service of his country in the South Pacific war area.

27 TEACHERS WILL GRADUATE

Mid-Year Graduating Exercises An Innovation at Appalachian Teachers' College

An innovation at Appalachian State Teachers College this year is the mid-year graduation exercises, just before the Christmas holidays, on the evening of December 21, at 7:30 o'clock. Twenty-six women and one man will receive degrees at that time, marking the culmination for these students of the accelerated program put into operation a year ago. Another group of students will be entering on November 22 to take up the accelerated work. The young man goes directly into military service, the young women, most of them directly into teaching.

The names of the graduates and the fields in which they will be certified to teach, are:

Grammar grade education: Naomi Broyhill, Boomer; Hope Franklin, Crossnore; Virginia Goodman, West Jefferson; Elizabeth Hutebinson, of Cycle; Louise Kiser, Kings Mountain; Edith Lucas, Greensboro; Inez Robbins, Harris; Helen Sherwood, Sugar Grove; Lena Smith, Linwood; Mae Tucker, Mount Holly; Helen Winkler, Boone.

High School: Margaret Berrier, Lexington; Marjorie Call, Mocksville; Holton B. Cornette, Creston; Janette Forbes, Gastonia; Betty Gerald, Statesville; Jewel Graham, Todd; Violet Graham, Todd; Rosalind Page, Boone; Evangeline Poole, Bakersville; Dorcas Sigmon, Newton; Thelma Taylor, Westfield; Robert Warren, New Orleans, La.

Primary education: Lucille Templeton, Olin; Rachael Tucker, Monroe; Anna Von Oessen, Wilmington; Henrietta Weddell, Rockingham.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK BEING OBSERVED HERE

This is National Book Week, the motto being "Build the Future With Books." "One thing we must not forget—it is the children of today who will live in the postwar world. What better equipment can they have than the imagination and the broad tolerance which the right kind of reading cultivates?"

Young people, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Cubs, and Blue Birds, get acquainted with your county public library. There is a book for every reader. Your library is open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

LAST VETERAN OF UNION ARMY DIES

William H. Blackburn, Watauga's Last Follower of General Grant, Succumbs at Age of 97.

William H. Blackburn, Watauga County's last follower of General Grant in the Civil War, died Monday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. M. Day of Laxon. Mr. Blackburn was 97 years of age.

Mr. Blackburn was said to be the second oldest man residing in Watauga county, having fought with the union armies in the War Between the States. Mr. Blackburn was a native of Ashe county, but had spent most of his life in Watauga county, where he was held in the highest regard by his wide circle of acquaintances.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Day of Laxon; and one sister, Mrs. Nettie Harmon of Elkharts, Ind.

Funeral services were conducted at Laurel Springs Baptist Church at Laxon, at 3 p. m. Tuesday, the Rev. R. C. Eggers and the Rev. H. M. Winkler, being in charge of the rites. Reims-Sturdivant funeral home was in charge of the burial arrangements.

Three Wataugans Kill Deer in Recent Hunts

Mr. John Gragg of Blowing Rock, Mr. H. Grady Farthing and Mr. B. W. Stallings of Boone, each killed fine bucks in the deer hunts now being conducted in the Mount Mitchell Co-operative Wildlife Management area. The deer taken by Mr. Gragg weighed 184 pounds, being likely the largest animal taken from the refuge thus far this year. Mr. Farthing's kill tipped the scales at 135, and Mr. Stallings' at 120.

A number of Boone and Blowing Rock people are participating in the hunts this year, which will end next Tuesday.

Allied Bombers Sink Jap Warship Daily

Allied bombers constantly searching for Jap warships in general, and cruisers in particular, have sunk or damaged better than one a day during the northern Solomons offensive.

On October 12, a record load of 250 tons hit Rabaul, New Britain. It was the opening blow of the current drive. Three destroyers were among the ships sunk during the raid.

Beginning with that raid, Allied fliers in their favorite hunting ground for enemy warships, Rabaul and Havieng, New Ireland, have sunk or damaged more than forty to date.

Three cruisers, at least ten destroyers and a gunboat have been sunk. At least eleven cruisers, fifteen destroyers, a destroyer tender, a submarine, a submarine tender, and a corvette have been damaged. Two additional cruisers were listed as probably hit at Rabaul.

The air blows to the cruisers have been so heavy that Navy Secretary Knox said Japan has been seriously impaired in that category for future operations in the Rabaul area. Adding to the Jap cruiser losses during the period were one sunk and two damaged in a naval battle off Bougainville.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S CLINIC ON THURSDAY

Dr. Gaul will have the crippled children's clinic at the County Health Office, Thursday afternoon, November 18th.

COMMERCE GROUP TO HOLD BANQUET TUESDAY NIGHT

Important Matters To Be Discussed at Chamber of Commerce Dinner; Representative Standard Oil Company to Be Principal Speaker at Dinner Meeting.

There will be a dinner meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at the Gateway Cafe at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday November 23, it is announced by H. W. Wilcox, chairman of the organization.

Some very important matters, of concern to the entire community, are to come up for discussion, and a full attendance of the membership is requested.

In addition to other distinguished guests, Mr. G. F. Ball, in charge of public relations for the Standard Oil Company in this State, will address the assembly on radio and on News. Through the medium of talking motion pictures, will take his hearers around the world and behind the scenes that we might actually see the titanic struggle of skilled news reporters, working day and night at every strategic point to bring the latest news with lightning-like speed and unerring accuracy.

"News in the Air" is the title of this exciting presentation which brings you the actual pictures of the bombing of "Panay" near Shanghai and shows how the news of this grim disaster was flashed across seven thousand miles of space, in just four minutes.

Prior to showing the sound film, Mr. Ball will speak briefly on how newspapers and the radio bring the news of the world quickly to readers and listeners, and how the large news-gathering organizations perform their work in the news field equally as well and with the same dispatch and accuracy.

CHRISTMAS SEAL SALE STARTS 22nd

Appointments of local chairmen of the Christmas Seal Sale Committee of the Tuberculosis Association were announced today by Mrs. J. E. Holshouser, county chairman of the committee. The Seal Sale will open on Monday, November 22, and continue until Christmas. The funds from the sale finance the year-round work of the association.

Accepting appointments are: Mrs. M. R. Maddux, Boone; Miss Margaret Vance, Blowing Rock; Mrs. Stanley Harris, Sherwood; Mr. G. E. Tester, Sugar Grove; Miss Nannie Smith, Valle Crucis; Mrs. Virginia Smith, Deep Gap and Meat Camp sections.

Each chairman will appoint a local committee which will be responsible for all local arrangements for the campaign.

"We are happy," said Mrs. Holshouser, "to have so many of the workers of other years volunteer for the campaign this year. As soon as possible, we expect to hold our Christmas seal conferences and plan our campaign. Our local chairman will follow the procedure of past years in asking for help from local clubs and other organizations. Too much credit cannot be given to the groups, which year after year, assist in the work of the tuberculosis association."

Those who will volunteer to help in the local arrangements are urged to call the local chairman.

Watauga Current Bond Quota Is \$20,000.00

The War Bond quota for Watauga County from now until December 7, is \$20,000, the largest quota that has been set for the county thus far, according to Mrs. B. W. Stallings, chairman of the women's division of the War Savings staff.

Mrs. Stallings was recently named as head of the Women's Division to succeed Mrs. J. A. W. Davis, when the Davis family moved to Roanoke, Va.

RAF Hits Burma Hardest Blow Of War

RAF medium and heavy bombers Tuesday carried out the most concentrated attack on Burma since the war in the east began, it was announced at Calcutta.

The target was the railway station, freight yards, and barracks at Pegu, forty-six miles northeast of Rangoon.

A large number of aircraft dropped a heavy tonnage of high explosives, completely shattering the target.

Banquet Speaker



Mr. G. F. Ball, special representative of the Standard Oil Co., of N. J. who will speak at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at the Gateway Cafe Tuesday evening.

BURLEY MARKET PROSPECTS GOOD

Coleman Expects Sale of More Than Two Million Pounds for Average Above 40 Cents.

Mr. R. C. Coleman, operator of the Mountain Burley Tobacco Warehouses here, arrived last week from Tabor City, and is very optimistic about the prospects for the market this season. Mr. Coleman confidently expects to sell considerably more than two million pounds this year for an average of more than 40 cents a pound.

Mr. Coleman, who is touring the tobacco producing regions of Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, together with Messrs. W. B. Gragg and S. C. Eggers of the local warehouse staff, states that the quality of the weed this year seems to be considerably better than a year ago, and that an increased number of farmers are expected to come to Boone this year to sell their leaf.

The warehouses here will be open for receiving tobacco on Monday, November 29th and auction sales will start on December 8.

Mr. Coleman will be joined the latter part of the week by a son, R. C. Coleman, Jr., who will again assist him in the operation of the local houses.

Watauga Farmers To Name AAA Committee

Watauga County farmers will go to the polls from November 29 to December 3 to elect 100 AAA Community Committeemen to represent them in AAA matters, it is announced by W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga C. A. C. A.

In each community farmers casting ballots elect the following representatives:

Three regular county committeemen, two alternates, a delegate to the county convention, and an alternate delegate. The County convention will be held Saturday, December 4, at which time county committeemen and officers will be named. See next week's election for places and dates of your community election.

Late Soldier and Escort



Fig. Glenn H. Dishman, right, son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Dishman of Mabel, who lost his life at Camp Adair, Oregon on October 24, when a boat in which he was crossing a river, was capsized. At the left is Pfc. Jack Proffit, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Proffit of this county, who acted as escort when the body was returned to Watauga for interment.

ABOUT HALF OF WAR FUND QUOTA IS RAISED HERE

Campaign for Important Relief Fund Lags in This County; Organization Leaders to Meet Thursday Night to Map Plans For Reaching Quota of \$2,600.

The National War Fund Campaign in Watauga county is still far short of its goal, according to Mrs. M. R. Maddux, chairman, who states that slightly less than one-half of the county's quota of \$2,600 has been raised.

In order to stimulate interest in the successful culmination of the campaign, the county leaders of the organization have been invited to meet at the Gateway Cafe Thursday evening, when plans will be made for intensifying the effort.

The national war fund, it is again explained, has nothing to do with War Bonds or the Red Cross. Its monies are divided between a number of relief organizations, and besides bringing aid and comfort to our own fighting men, alleviates the miseries being visited upon the people in war-devastated lands. It is highly important that this money be raised at once, to forestall undue suffering, and to make the paths easier for our own men fighting to save us from experiencing the grim realities of war.

Everyone in the county is invited to aid in this campaign. Those not seeing a solicitor may mail or bring their contributions to Mr. Alfred Adams at the Northwestern Bank, Boone, N. C.

Permits Required For Burning Brush Under State Forest Laws

Mr. Pat McGuire, county fire warden calls attention to the fact that it is unlawful to start a fire in any of the areas of the woodlands under the protection of the State Forest Service during certain periods of any year, without first obtaining a permit. Mr. McGuire states that these permits may be secured from him, or from Ernest Bolick, Boone, N. C., or Lee Roark of Reese.

The following excerpts of the state forest laws are cited by Mr. McGuire in this connection:

"It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to start or cause to be started and fire or ignite any material in any of the areas of woodlands under the protection of the State Forest Service or within five hundred feet of any such protected area, between the first day of February and the first day of June, inclusive, or between the first day of October and the thirtieth day of November, inclusive, in any year, without first obtaining from the State Forester or one of his duly authorized agents a permit to set out fire or ignite any material in such above mentioned protected areas; that no charge shall be made for the granting of said permits.

"This section shall not apply to any fires started or caused to be started within five hundred feet of a dwelling house.

"Any person, firm or corporation violating this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than fifty (\$50) dollars or imprisoned for a period of not more than 30 days.

Condemnation Papers Filed on Parkway From Deep Gap, Grand View

The State Highway and Public Works Commission on the ninth, filed condemnation proceedings on land for the construction of the Scenic highway on section 2 F-1, extending from Deep Gap to the Grand View Service Station, a distance of 5 3/4 miles.

This is the last section of right-of-way to be condemned between the county line and Blowing Rock.

The condemnation proceedings were filed by Attorney Ernest Gardner, of the Highway Commission legal staff, who will be in the county for the next three months, taking care of the details necessary for the transfer of the property to the State.

STORES OF CITY WILL CLOSE FOR THANKSGIVING

As usual the stores of the city, with but few exceptions, are to close their doors Thursday of next week in observance of Thanksgiving. Public offices are also expected to close for the holiday.