

ALLIES TO TAKE OFFENSIVE SOON

Declared President Roosevelt in His World-Wide Speech Monday Night

Washington, Feb. 23.—President Roosevelt tonight said that America had been "compelled to yield ground" to its enemies, but he added that, with constantly increasing war production, the Allies will take the offensive soon and drive on to victory.

"We and the other United Nations are committed to the destruction of the militarism of Japan and Germany," he said. "We are daily increasing our strength. Soon, we, and not our enemies will have the offensive; we, not they, will win the final battles; and we, not they, will make the final peace."

Despite the long distances involved, the President disclosed, "a large number of planes" manned by American pilots now "are in daily contact with the enemy in the Southwest Pacific." And he said, "Thousands of American troops" are also in the area.

The Chief Executive also said recent surveys had disclosed that the prodigiously high production goals established two months ago would be attained, and this, he emphasized repeatedly, was the key to victory.

But, in any event, the essential strategy of a war with Japan, the strategy which military men had contemplated for years, has not been changed by the events of the last two months, he said. It called for delaying battles and in the Philippines a retreat to Bataan Peninsula, with America meanwhile waging a war of attrition against the Japanese.

And in this war of attrition, the United States and her Allies have been taking a terrific toll of the enemy. Including losses at Pearl Harbor, he said, "we have destroyed considerably more Japanese planes than they have destroyed of ours."

The President was unsparring in castigation of "rumor-mongers and poison peddlers in our midst," who, among other things, had spread reports of losses at Pearl Harbor far beyond reality. It had been said, he asserted, that Japanese gains in the Far Pacific were made possible only by the success of the Pearl Harbor attack.

"I tell you that is not so," he added; and went on to give his denial of losses over and above those previously reported and to argue that the fleet in any event could not have opposed the Japanese advance effectively because of Japanese aerial superiority. This, among other things, he said, had prevented reinforcing General MacArthur's army on Bataan.

High Purposes

And the Chief Executive laid down "three high purposes" for Americans at home:

"1. We shall not stop work for a single day. If any dispute arises, we shall keep on working while the dispute is solved by mediation, conciliation and arbitration—until the war is won.

"2. We shall not demand special gains or special privileges or advantages for any one group or occupation.

"3. We shall give up conveniences and modify the routine of our lives if our country asks us to do so. We will do it cheerfully, remembering that the common enemy seeks to destroy every home and every freedom in every part of our land.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
PROGRAM AT THE LOUISBURG THEATRE

The following is the program at the Louisburg Theatre, beginning Saturday, Feb. 28th:

Saturday—Don "Red" Barry in "Arizona Terrors" and William Henry in "Pardon My Stripes." Also Dik Tracy vs. Crime, Inc. Sunday-Monday—Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Akim Tamiroff and Ruth Warrick in "The Corsican Brothers."

Tuesday—Robert Preston and Ellen Drew in "Night of January 16th."

Wednesday—Gracie Allen and William Post, Jr. in "Mr. and Mrs. North."

Thursday-Friday—Madeleine Carroll and Stirling Hayden in "Bahama Passage."

WAR NEWS

Moscow, Thursday, Feb. 26.—The Red army's strangulation of a German army trapped in the Staraya Russa area appeared today to be the first stage of a maneuver aimed at trapping all Nazi forces in the bloody northwestern corner of Russia.

"The German-Fascist forces are suffering great losses in manpower and equipment," the regular mid-night communique said. "During February 25 our troops continued to advance and occupied a number of populated places."

A Russian dispatch detailed Staraya Russa—indicating Red army possession of the strategically-located town itself—said the most furious fighting was continuing and intimated that new developments were imminent, following the smashing of the 16th German field army and the slaughter of 12,000 Nazis in a bloody trap about Lake Ilmen, some 140 miles south of Leningrad.

Staraya Russa in peacetime is only a summer resort, but militarily it can serve as the springboard for many-phased operations.

Allied Headquarters in Java, Feb. 25—Java is encircled completely and cut off from normal shipping communications with Australia, an official spokesman said today as United States and Dutch planes sank three more troop-laden Japanese transports in an intensifying battle for air and naval supremacy around this beleaguered island.

Japanese invasion of Bali and Timor islands east of Java completed the encirclement, the spokesman was quoted by the Aneta news agency, but he said, the Japanese now are spread over such a large area that "if more planes and ships are sent to Java, it will be possible to obtain local superiority and wipe out the invasion forces."

He reiterated that Allied forces were ready to make a strong stand on Java whether they got reinforcements or not, and a Dutch communique, bearing this out, announced that two Japanese transports were blasted out of a concentration near Macassar, on the southwest coast of Celebes, and that a third transport was plunged to the sea bottom by a load of bombs from a single attacking Allied plane at an undisclosed place.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Sharp-shooting United States Army fliers notched new victories in the Battle of the Dutch East Indies today, sinking two big Japanese transports and blasting at least three Jap planes out of the skies without a single loss to themselves.

The triumphs were announced by the War Department, which also reported that the all-quiet on the Philippines front had been broken by General Douglas MacArthur's indomitable.

Destruction of the transports was accomplished by six Flying Fortresses which roared across the Java Sea to Macassar—one of the enemy invasion nests on the southern tip of Celebes.

Greatly outnumbered American pursuit ships challenged swarms of enemy bombers and fighter planes in two separate actions over beleaguered Java. The Japs came out second best in both battles.

In the first of these dogfights, seven American P-40's took on nine Jap bombers and 14 fighter planes and forced them to flee after the Americans bagged two.

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EXPLOSIVE LICENSING AGENT

Clerk of Court W. V. Avent has just been appointed Federal Explosive Licensing Agent for Franklin County by R. R. Sayers, Director of the Federal Explosive Act of December 1941, which requires all persons using explosives after March 2nd, 1942 to first receive a license to do so from Clerk Avent.

World's Busiest Man



DONALD M. NELSON
Pictured in one of his contemplative moods, slowly puffing on a cigar for relaxation, as he directs dynamic production policies in America's mobilization of industry for war and victory.

Mrs. M. C. Pleasants Dead

The death of Mrs. M. C. Pleasants, which occurred at her home on East Nash Street early Monday morning following a long illness, brought sorrow to her many friends in Louisburg.

Mrs. Pleasants was one of Louisburg's older and beloved citizens and a staunch and devoted member of the local Methodist Church. She was always active in Louisburg social, religious and civic life before her health became impaired some time ago.

Before her marriage to Mr. M. C. Pleasants, one of Louisburg's well known business men, she was Miss Emma Lee Wells, of Wilson. Besides her husband she is survived by one brother, D. D. Wells, of Wilson, and two sisters, Miss Frances Wells, of Wilson, and Mrs. W. R. Mills, of Louisburg.

The funeral services were conducted from the home Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. Forrest D. Hedden, pastor of the Louisburg Methodist Church, and interment was made in Oakwood Cemetery.

Quite a large number was in attendance at both services and the floral tribute was especially large and pretty, speaking a devoted affection and esteem.

The pallbearers were: W. C. Stoward, W. A. Huggins, M. S. Davis, C. M. Howard, R. C. Beck, Alex Wood, L. E. Scoggins, R. A. Bobbitt.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
Recorder's Court

Franklin Recorder's Court held regular session on Tuesday and disposed of cases as follows:

Bernice Hobgood was found guilty of abandonment and non-support, defendant required to pay \$20 per month into Court for wife and child and costs of this case.

Robert Gentry plead guilty to motor vehicle violation and was discharged upon payment of costs.

Daphne House plead guilty to motor vehicle violation, prayer for judgment continued.

Noelle pros with leave was taken in the case of Gene Wright, charged with motor vehicle violation.

James Macon was found guilty of operating automobile intoxicated, and was given 60 days on roads, suspended upon payment of \$50 fine and costs, and not to operate a motor vehicle on N. C. Highways for 12 months. Appeal.

Dewey Adams was found not guilty of unlawful possession of whiskey and transporting.

Jim Radford plead guilty to unlawful possession of whiskey and drunk and disorderly, and was given 60 days on roads, suspended upon payment of \$10 fine and costs.

The following cases were continued:

Kenneth Steed, cw, to pay. Cliff Cradup, adw, to pay in three cases.

Elmore Dillard, operating automobile intoxicated, requests jury.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
NEGRO GARDEN MEETING

J. E. Tuck, Negro County Farm Agent, announces a Victory Garden meeting for negroes to be held in the Court House in Louisburg on Friday (today) morning at 11 o'clock Eastern War time. A large attendance is expected.

Youth of Louisburg Is Lost In Action

Mother of William H. Aycock Notified by Navy That Son is Missing

Mrs. Walter H. Aycock, of Louisburg, Route 1, was informed by the Navy Department Sunday that it is believed her son, William H. Aycock, who has been in the Navy two years, has been lost in action.

The message said he was believed lost while in action on February 18.

Before enlisting in the Navy Aycock was a member of the National Guard Company at Louisburg for four years.

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Draftees Leave

The following draftees left Friday for Fort Bragg to enter the Armed forces of the United States. This list of 25 colored draftees was given out by the Local Selective Draft Board: Wallace Edward Moore, R 3, Zebulon.

Rufus Albert Thomas, R 2, Louisburg.

Kenneth Delancy Mangum, R 2, Franklinton.

James Casper Keith, R 1, Louisburg.

Noel Clifford Hawkins, Jr., Louisburg.

John Theodore Winston, Jr., Youngsville.

Sidney Eulie Smith, Jr., R 1, Louisburg.

Lee Christmas, R 2, Franklinton.

Galther Watkins, R 2, Louisburg.

Eddie Lee Horton, R 2, Zebulon.

James Matthew Mitchel, R 2, Zebulon.

William McKinley Cooke, R 1, Louisburg.

G. W. Evans, R2, Spring Hope.

Forest Stone, R 1, Spring Hope.

William James Mitchel, Henderson.

Lonnie Harris, Jr., R 1, Kirtrell.

Willie Kearney, Jr., R 2, Franklinton.

Raymond Neal, Louisburg.

Namon Edward Durham, R 2, Louisburg.

John Thomas Dickerson, R 2, Louisburg.

Francis Lemuel Otulaw, Franklinton.

Burnett Tabron, Youngsville.

Robert Lee Davis, R 4, Louisburg.

Vernell Galle, R 2, Franklinton.

Edward Nicholson, R 2, Franklinton.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
C. B. Keller, of Oxford, Route 4, is planting 115,000 pine seedlings on eroded fields and on old stands of pines that have been clean-cut for lumber.

Enemy Submarine Shells California Coastal Area

Refinery Near Santa Barbara Apparently Target Of U-boat Presumed to Be Japanese; First Attack Made Upon United States Mainland

Santa Barbara, Calif., Feb. 23.—An enemy submarine, presumably Japanese, shelled a coastal area eight miles north of Santa Barbara tonight in the first hostile attack against the United States mainland of World War II.

No material damage, fires or casualties resulted from the shelling.

Santa Barbara police estimated that the submarine fired about 25 shells in the direction of a refinery near Goleta, a California coastal town, but there was no report of damage.

In Twilight

The submarine surfaced about half a mile off shore in the twilight at 7:18 p. m. P. W. T., eyewitnesses reported, and blasted away several minutes with its deck gun.

One of the shells landed in a canyon, another on a beach.

Whether by coincidence or not, the shelling was in the general location of the Banklin oil refineries and oil derricks.

The entire Santa Barbara area immediately was blacked out.

Morris Wheeler, who owns a roadside lunch stand one mile north of Goleta, told the United

Church Floor Collapses During Funeral Service

Three Caskets Fall Into Basement; Church Set Afire as Stove is Wrecked

Henderson, Feb. 25.—The funeral of three negro victims of a wreck was interrupted this afternoon when the church floor refused to hold up under the mass of humanity packed into the small building and crashed through to the ground some six feet below, carrying the three caskets, the hot blast stove of the church and part of the altar into the resulting hole. The stove door opened, setting fire to the parts of flooring about it and endangered the caskets.

No injuries were reported.

About 2,000 persons, both negro and white, were attending the funeral and the attendant commotion was of a high pitch. The funeral services were for Peter Davis, 75, Tom Davis, 20, his nephew, and a niece, Jessie Davis, all of whom were killed Monday night when the car in which they attempted to cross the Seaboard tracks within the city of Henderson was crushed by a troop train. Investigation of the accident showed that Tom Davis drove the car onto the tracks in the face of blinking red lights and the shouts of the Seaboard watchman in his tower.

The triple funeral today was being held at Dickies Grove Methodist Church near Henderson. The elder Davis was a highly respected negro and had worked on the farm of B. H. Perry, local attorney. He had for years been active in church affairs of his race and the services today were attended by many of his white friends as well as a great throng of negroes.

The fire truck from Henderson went out on call to the church, but the bodies had already been rescued from the hole into which they had crashed and most of the fire had also been put out. Fire Chief Cooper Ellis said that that was the second call the city fire department had answered in connection with the death of the trio. The first was when the fire truck went to open up the car in which the three victims came to their deaths, it being in such a condition that the doors could not open in the usual manner.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
AT HONOLULU

His many friends will be glad to learn that Ensign Richard F. Yarborough arrived at Honolulu, about February 13th. It is not known when or at what port he will next arrive.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
Getting the baby to sleep is hardest when its about 18 years old.

FRANKLIN COUNTY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BEGINS

SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY (TODAY)

4:30 P. M.
Bunn Girls vs Mills Girls.
7:00 P. M.
Franklinton Boys vs Edward Best Boys.
8:00 P. M.
Gold Sand Girls vs Edward Best Girls.
9:00 P. M.
Bunn Boys vs Youngsville Boys.

168 NAVY MEN SAVED

St. Johns, Newfoundland, Feb. 25.—Unparalleled heroism saved 168 men from the destroyer Truxton and the auxiliary Pollux when the two United States Navy ships broke up on the rocks of this storm-swept coast with a loss of 189 lives, the worst marine disaster in this area in 50 years, it was learned on reliable authority today.

(The official Navy announcement of the wreck of the Truxton and Pollux said that 189 men were lost and did not estimate the number of survivors or list the total crews. Lieutenant-Commander Ralph Hickox, Washington, captain of the Truxton, six other officers and 90 men were lost aboard the destroyer and the Pollux lost one officer and 91 men, according to the Navy announcement in Washington.)

The survivors, who owed their lives to their own cool courage and that of hundreds of shore residents who rushed to the scene, were reported making good recovery today from assorted degrees of shock, exhaustion, exposure and cold. One hundred and 18 bodies of those lost are understood to have been recovered.

Heroic Rescues

The survivors were not allowed to give interviews immediately, but from Newfoundland men who shared in the rescue came a graphic description of how scores were saved from the two doomed vessels despite the handicaps of an easterly gale, thick snow and fog which limited visibility to 100 yards.

It was established that the Truxton, an over-age destroyer, ran onto the rocks in Chambers Cove at 4:30 a. m. February 18 and that the new cargo auxiliary Pollux struck at almost the same time on Laron Head.

In the heavy sea and thick weather it was reported that lookouts on both ships saw the reefs only just before they struck, and there was no time to reverse engines.

Seas swept over the decks of the stranded vessels, taking every unfastened object and every member of the watch awash. Lifeboats were swept away and only rafts were left. Bridge officers of the Truxton and Pollux directed launching of the rafts, but only one reached shore and three men still clung to it. The others were washed away.

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Navy Using Old Shells

Navy Chief Declares 'Mere Age is No Criterion of Its Effectiveness'

Washington, Feb. 24.—Rear Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, chief of the Navy's bureau of ordnance, said today that the Navy was using some ammunition made more than a decade ago, but added that "mere age is no criterion of its effectiveness."

He appeared before the House naval committee at an inquiry ordered as a result of a radio report quoting an unidentified naval lieutenant as saying that anti-aircraft ammunition aboard his ship in the Pacific was made in 1930 and was only 30 per cent effective.

Blandy said that both he and Secretary of the Navy Knox were "very seriously concerned" over the report and added, "I am not going to stop until I get full information."

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
Richmond County demonstration poultry flocks led the State during December with 20.48 eggs per bird as compared with the State average of 12.89.

Semi-Finals To Be Played Today

Bunn, Mills and Edward Best Girls, Franklinton Youngsville and Edward Best Boys are Winners of First Round of Play; Gold Sand Girls and Bunn Boys Drew a Bye

The 14th Annual Franklin County Basketball Tournament got under way Wednesday afternoon in the Louisburg Armory. The features of the opening round of play was the shutout administered to the Youngsville girls by the larger Bunn girls by a score of 32 to 0, and the hard fought game waged between the boys teams of Mills High and Youngsville, which was won by Youngsville after an overtime play by the score of 23-26.

There were no games played on Thursday but the tournament will be resumed Friday when the semi-finals will be run off. A good sized bunch of fans and supporters of each team witnessed the games played on Wednesday afternoon and night and the officials are looking for a much larger crowd when play resumes Friday afternoon when the Mills High girls start the ball to rolling against Bunn girls Friday afternoon at 4:30.

Gold Sand girls and Bunn boys drew a bye in the opening round.

The following are the results of games played Wednesday:

Edward Best girls defeated Epsom girls by a score of 18-9.

Moore for Edward Best was high scorer with 9 points, while Wilson topped Epsom with 7.

Bunn girls triumphed over Youngsville girls by a one-sided high for Bunn with 12 points.

Franklinton boys defeated Gold Sand boys to the tune of 18-15 in a close game. Watkins with 5 points was high scorer for Gold Sand and Thompson topped Franklinton with 5.

Youngsville boys triumphed over Mills boys in an exciting game which went overtime. Both teams ended the regulation game with a 24-24 score. Youngsville won in the three-minute overtime play by the score of 28-26. Lancaster with 9 points was high for Mills, and C. V. Hill lead for Youngsville with 9.

Mills High girls won over Franklinton to the tune of 24-12. Hall was high scorer with 16 points while Lumpkin topped Franklinton with 5.

In the final game of the evening Edward Best won over Epsom in a hard fought game by the score of 17 to 14. Williams was high scorer with 7 points for Edward Best and McCauley topped Epsom with 6.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
Lions Hold Meeting

The regular meeting of the Lions Club was held Monday night, Feb. 24, at 7 o'clock with the following members present:

Bland Pruitt, Dr. R. L. Eagles, L. M. Word, W. B. Barrow, Dr. H. G. Perry, Dr. A. Paul Bagby, W. B. Tucker, C. R. Sykes, T. K. Stockard, S. C. Mattox, C. H. Yarborough and B. N. Williamson, Jr.

The club was delighted to have present the following new members: R. P. Barnes, W. C. Strowd, W. J. Shearin, G. M. Beam, E. D. Barnes and Edward Stovall.

The present membership of the club is now twenty-eight.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
FIRE

The fire Friday about one o'clock was in the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. K. T. White, in the Egerton's apartments on West Nash Street and was caused by the explosion of an oil stove. The fire department soon had control of the situation and confined the damage mostly to smoke and heat. Mr. White estimated his damage at \$200 and that to the building was slight and consists largely of discolored and blackened walls.

—For Victory: Buy Bonds—
Navy submarines could travel from New York to Yokohama and back without stopping.