

War News

London—Thundering tons of high explosives showered on battered London and suburbs last night and early today from a steady increasing force of Nazi attackers who left heavy damage and a mounting list of casualties in the empire capital.

The raiders violently strafed the center of London, dropping fat, blasting oil bombs in an effort to set fire in the city to guide them to their targets.

More planes took part in the raid—the 12th overnight attack since Germany began her "all-out" assaults on London—than in the Tuesday-Wednesday overnight raid which caused heavy casualties.

But while the Germans dumped their bombs on London, British bombers were visiting destruction on German bases on the Nazi-held French and Belgian coasts in violent attacks against "invasion ports."

The German bombers caused great destruction in the slums of East London in the early phases of the raids. Now they have turned their attention to the fashionable sectors of the capital as well, subjecting them to heavy bombing.

In the latest punishing attack, coughing men and women stumbled from fashionable apartments after direct hits were scored by incendiary bombs in central London.

From All Directions Big bombs were hurled at the metropolis from the north rim to the south, east and west.

The shopping area, long the home of many of the world's famous fashion stores, was hit again and again by high explosive projectiles.

Registration For Conscription To Be On Oct. 16th

President Signs Bill Authorizing Registration And Draft In Nation

President Roosevelt yesterday made peacetime conscription the law of the land and proclaimed October 16 as the day on which all men from 21 to 35, inclusive, must register for selective military training.

The first peacetime draft of manpower in American history became law at 3:08 p. m. (e. s. t.) with a stroke of the presidential pen. Mr. Roosevelt proclaimed registration day a moment later.

The momentous action came two days after Congress gave its final approval to the legislation. An estimated 16,500,000 men—citizens and alien alike—must register at polling places throughout the country. From this number, the nation will build up over the next five years a reservoir of 5,000,000 trained men for its land and sea forces.

Sees Nation at Crossroads "America stands at the crossroads of its destiny," Mr. Roosevelt said in his proclamation fixing the date of registration.

He took cognizance of the current world situation and served notice in direct language that the United States is ready and able to defend at any cost the heritage of its freedom.

"Time and distance have been shortened," he said. "A few weeks have seen great nations fall. We cannot remain indifferent to the philosophy of force now rampant in the world. The terrible fate of nations whose weakness invited attack is too well known to us all."

"We must and will marshal our great potential strength to fend off war from our shores. We must and will prevent our land from becoming a victim of aggression."

"Our decision has been made. It is the will of our people."

Conscription became law on the day that the first contingent of national guardsmen—60,500 militiamen from 26 states—were mobilized for a year of intensive training with the army.

To Be Called in November

The first group of conscripts—about 400,000—probably will be called to the colors about November 15. Then, for the next five years, about a million men will be inducted into the army annually for a year of training.

They will be drawn by lot and selected for service from the list of 16,500,000 registrants.

The call to the colors of guardsmen and conscripts is designed to build a trained civilian army capable of meeting any emergency.

In proclaiming registration day, Mr. Roosevelt observed: "...our young men will come

Public Assistance Funds This Month Totaled \$7,405.00

Needy Aged Receive \$5,034; Dependent Children \$1,922, And Blind \$449

Public assistance grants to needy people in Wilkes county this month totaled \$7,405, according to figures released today by Charles McNeill, Wilkes county welfare officer.

Of this amount \$1,922 went to 150 families with 321 dependent children, \$5,034 to 563 needy aged and \$449 to 35 blind.

The number still leaves 133 aged persons on the waiting list for old age assistance, that many having been approved but who are not being paid because of lack of funds appropriated by the state.

During the past month the welfare office has distributed foods from the Surplus Commodities corporation to about 900 families. In addition to the usual number about 200 families were added because of flood losses and will continue to receive food twice monthly as long as they need it.

A month's supply of several staple foods was given to each family who registered because of flood losses immediately after the flood August 14.

Shorthand, Typing Courses Offered

Out-Of-School People May Receive Commercial Training In Afternoons Here

Paul S. Cragan, superintendent of North Wilkesboro high school,

announced today that shorthand and typing courses for out-of-school persons will open at the school on Monday, September 23.

The courses will be conducted by Miss Lilyan Miller, commercial teacher in the school, and will begin for out-of-school students at three p. m.

The course will be offered by the school in cooperation with the North Carolina State Employment Service and the state Board of Vocational Education. Only a nominal fee will be charged because a great part of the cost for such vocational instruction is furnished by the federal government. Further information relative to the course can be obtained from Supt. Cragan or the employment service office here.

HYBRID Hybrid corn, being grown on 25,000,000 acres in the North Central states, constitutes more than half of the total corn acreage, reports the U. S. Agricultural Marketing Service.

Mr. J. Horton Doughton, of Statesville, spent several hours in the city Wednesday.

Will Be 35



Here is one of the most recent photos of Greta Garbo, famous Swedish film actress who will pass her thirty-fifth birthday on September 18. Safe in the United States while her native Sweden remains the sole independent state in the Scandinavian peninsula, Garbo retains her traditional reticence and dislike for personal publicity.

McNeill Speaks At Meeting Of Young G. O. P.

Candidate For Governor Blasts Administrations Of State And Nation

Robert H. McNeill, Republican candidate for governor, returned to his native county and delivered an address Monday night before an organization meeting of Young Republicans in the Wilkes court-

His address, a scathing denunciation of what he termed waste and inefficiency of national and state administrations, was enthusiastically received by the crowd, which almost filled the auditorium.

Paul Osborne, of Wilkesboro, called the meeting to order and presided in the absence of A. A. Triplett, county Young Republicans chairman for the past two years, who could not attend because of illness. High tribute was paid to the work of Chairman Triplett during the past two years in organization and activity among young Republicans.

Officers of Young Republicans were elected as follows: Max Foster, of North Wilkesboro, president; Attorney Ralph Davis, of North Wilkesboro, vice president; Miss Cora Caudill, secretary; A. A. Triplett, member of county executive committee.

President Foster named an organization committee as follows: Paul Osborne, chairman; E. R. Eller, Dewey Minton, S. R. Laws, Clifton Prevette, Mrs. Louise Tait, Mrs. Jack Hoots, Miss Ruby Blackburn, Carl Church and T. (Continued on page four)

Agricultural Planning Meetings Announced

Singing September 29 At Bethel Church

The next meeting of the Ronda singing convention will be held at Bethel Church, five miles southwest of Elkin, Sunday, September 29, beginning at ten o'clock.

The public is invited to attend and all gospel singers are asked to attend and have a part in the days program.

W. H. Jones is chairman and Rev. R. R. Crater, secretary.

Annual Drive For Membership By Legion Under Way

Goal For Wilkes Post Is 125; Over 70 Per Cent Of Former Members Enroll

Wilkes post number 125 of the American Legion is now in the midst of its 1941 membership drive and the goal is 125 members to equal the number of the post. L. M. Nelson, post commander, said today.

There are more than 400 ex-service men in Wilkes county, Commander Nelson said, and a cordial invitation is extended each one of them to join the post—without any strings attached—any person who had active service in the army, navy or marines and who has an honorable discharge during the period of the World War being eligible.

The annual dues are \$2.00 per year, which includes the American Legion magazine. Commander Nelson has asked that veterans who wish to join contact Adjutant W. C. Grier, John Hall, membership chairman, the post commander or any other Legionnaire. "In these times of crisis the American Legion needs you," Mr. Nelson said.

Over 70 per cent of last year's membership in the Wilkes post has already been renewed. Commenting on the membership in the nation, Commander Nelson said that over 1,000,000 have already joined and the membership is growing rapidly.

Further discussing the Legion, Commander Nelson cited the following ten reasons for continued membership:

1. Continued Service—The blue and gold button of The American Legion testifies to your honorable service for God and Country in the World War; to 22 years of loyal service to community, state, and nation in time of peace; to emergency service, and in combating fifth column activities during world crises.

2. Rehabilitation—You are making it possible to attain our (Continued on page eight)

Alien Registers



Frank Higginson, 77, a Canadian now living in the United States, makes a close scrutiny of the alien registration blank before filling out the form at the Brooklyn post office. Millions of aliens now living here must be registered and fingerprinted within the next four months.

Forester Is Elected President Young Wilkes Democrats

Organization Perfected In Fish Fry Meeting In This City Tuesday

F. D. Forester, prominent young business man here, was elected president of Young Democrats' clubs of Wilkes county in the organization meeting held Tuesday night at the American Legion and Auxiliary clubhouse in this city.

Mr. Forester succeeds Sheriff Claude T. Doughton, who has headed the organization of Young Democrats in Wilkes for the past few years.

Other officers elected at the meeting were Miss Clyde Shepherd as secretary and Claude Johnson, treasurer.

The meeting Tuesday night was described as very enthusiastic and a large number attended. A fish fry added to the enjoyment of the occasion and the crowd was representative of all parts of the county.

Principal address of the meeting was delivered by Attorney John McLaughlin, of Statesville. President Forester said today that he had not completed plans for organization of clubs but indicated that the organization may play an important part in the fall election campaign.

Triplett Infant Dies

Funeral service was held Friday at Lewis Fork church for Alvin Blaine Triplett, infant son of Oscar and Estella Shepherd Triplett, of Purlear. He died Thursday.

Engineers Trying To Find Location For Spur Tracks

Industries Want Sites Above Flood Danger But Must Have Railroad Track

Engineers of the Southern Railway company have been working here this week seeking a route for a spur track to an elevation above the danger of Yadkin floods.

While details have not been made public, it is understood that several prospective sites for a spur track have been gone over by engineers in an effort to find a place for construction of industrial plants above flood danger.

Two large plants, the Home Chair company factory and the main plant of the International Shoe company tannery, were totally destroyed by fire in the flood on the Yadkin August 14 and other industrial plants here suffered losses upward of one million dollars. The heavy losses and the expressed desire of the companies not to rebuild in the flood danger zone have spurred efforts to find safer industrial sites, provided a railroad spur track could be constructed to the desired locality.

J. D. Moore, president of Home Chair company, and officials of the International Shoe company have stated that available sites not in the flood danger zone will definitely influence decisions of their companies relative to reconstruction here.

In furtherance of the movement to offer every cooperation to industries affected and for future progress of the city along industrial lines, the Wilkes county commissioners have offered to make available part of the county farm lands in close proximity to the town at "nominal" cost provided a railroad track could be constructed to that locality.

Officials of the Southern Railway company have expressed a desire to offer every reasonable cooperation in efforts to solve the problem of finding desirable locations and the construction of a railroad spur track.

Home Chair Co. Has No Definite Plans At Present

Purchase Or Lease Of Cotton Mill At Ronda Under Consideration

J. D. Moore, president of Home Chair company, which lost its plant here by fire in the flood on August 14, said today that the company has made no definite plans for rebuilding and has not closed any transaction for purchase or lease of any existing plant.

Rumors had been rampant here this week that the company had already acquired the vacant cotton mill factory building at Ronda, fifteen miles east of this city, and had made definite plans for installation of machinery immediately.

While purchase of the property at Ronda has been considered and proposals have been advanced to the company by the owner, Mr. Moore said definitely today that no business transaction had been made by the company for that plant or on any other proposal and that at the present time he was undecided about future plans.

He did say, however, that early action is necessary and that the company will formulate plans to resume operations at some location as soon as possible.

Mr. Moore lost a plant in the 1916 flood and the loss of the Home Chair company factory in the August 14 flood this year prompted his expressed decision not to rebuild on the old location.

American Legion Square Dance Friday

Pat M. Williams, recognized as the best square dance caller "in these hazy hills," has announced that the Wilkes post of the American Legion will sponsor a square dance at the Legion and Auxiliary clubhouse Friday night, September 20, 8:30 until 12. A colored band from Lenoir will furnish music and a good time is assured all who attend. Dues \$1.00 per couple.

Happenings On Stony Fork During The Night of August 13

By DWIGHT NICHOLS

More than a month has elapsed since the most disastrous flood in the history of northwestern North Carolina left destruction and death in its wake but the residents of western Wilkes and eastern Watauga, where slides combined with high waters to spread terror, will never forget that awful night of August 13.

Determined to get at least a straight forward, second hand account of what people experienced amid the slides on the mountain, I went to the headwaters of Stony Fork creek just west of the Wilkes county line into Watauga and tried as best I could to find out from the few remaining residents just what happened on the west prong of the creek near Deep Gap.

Slides left destruction in their paths at several points but at no other place in the flood area did they wipe out four homes within a space of one-half mile. There were five homes, all occupied by Greens, and out of the five the residence of Lawrence Green is the only one left except the house of Mrs. Bessie Green and it was moved 300 yards.

The west prong of Stony Fork Creek there in normal weather would run through a three-inch pipe. On the night of August 13



Some idea of what happened when slides went down a prong of Stony Fork Creek on the night of August 13 can be gained by a study of this picture, which shows the home of Mrs. Bessie Green. The house, which was built by the people of Stony Fork Baptist church for

Mrs. Green and children after the death of her husband, was moved about 800 yards by the slides in the valley but was not demolished. It lodged against the trunk of a maple tree six feet in diameter. The tree was uprooted and broken. (Staff photo by Dwight Nichols)

about nine o'clock it took the entire valley to hold the water, the boulders, the dirt, trees and debris of one kind and another. It had been raining frequently and heavily for three days but it began to pour above five o'clock on the afternoon of August 13. Wind and lightning added to the horror of that awful night when nine were killed and others injured in that little community. "The rain didn't fall in drops, it was in sheets of solid water," one man who survived the tragedy said in describing the weather.

The steep mountainsides were already soaked and the sod was water logged before the rain began to fall in its greatest intensity and for four hours "the rains fell and the floods descended" without letup. Great masses of earth slipped from their moorings 4,000 feet above sea level and rushed with destructive force down to the ravines below. When they hit the ravines they didn't stop but thundered on down the beds of what had been little streams in a mad rush for the valleys below. In the valleys the onrush of multiplied thousands of tons of water, dirt, rocks and trees slackened but little until they disintegrated into drifts, a little at a time, many miles from (Continued on page four)