

War News

Italians Now Admit African Reverses

Rome.—Italy's desert legions, beaten back into Libya in the bloodiest hand-to-hand and mechanized fighting they have known since the World War, drew Sunday on reserves to stem Britain's Egyptian counter-offensive. Observers in Rome, analyzing official reports of the Italian withdrawal, believed that the fate of the Fascist African empire hung by the outcome of the war in the wastelands—a week-old struggle between land, air and sea forces. Official communiques indicated that the three-month-old Italian invasion of Egypt had been turned into a stubborn defense of Italian-held Libya, at the sand-storm-swept northern junction of the Egyptian-Libyan frontiers.

British Soldiers Now In Libya

Cairo.—British mechanized forces, invading Libya through a desert sandstorm to carry the war to Italian soil, last night were reported driving upon the Fascist coastal base of Bardia which already is ablaze under terrific siege by warships and bombing planes.

The sinking of the 787-ton Italian submarine Naiade with a normal complement of 41 men and the repulsing of "abortive attacks" by Italian torpedo boats in defense of Bardia were described in a communique by the commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean fleet.

Both Bardia, 10 miles across the border from Egypt, and the port of Tobruk farther west were reported in flames after British air and sea attacks.

The big Italian naval base of Tripoli was bombed during Friday night, it was stated officially, and two ships were hit directly.

France Forbidding Passage Troops

Bern, Switzerland.—A reported German attempt to send Nazi troops through France to Libya and Greece to help Italy without disturbing the Italian home morale was declared early today to have been rebuffed by France with a flat "no" from Chief of State Marshal Philippe Petain.

Petaim and a majority of his ministers were said in advices from Vichy to diplomatic sources here to have considered the German move, reportedly made through Vice-Premier Pierre Laval before he was ousted last week from the French government, as an axis attempt to gain a foothold on the French Mediterranean bases.

The Germans, it was reported, sounded out Laval while he still was "No. 2 Man" in France, as vice-premier, in an effort to find means of getting aid to the Italians, hard pressed by the British and Greeks, without passing through Italy.

Leaflets Dropped On Berlin

Berlin.—British planes swept upon Berlin last night for the first time in 19 days, causing consternation among tens of thousands of persons caught by surprise in the streets, but the raiders "merely dropped leaflets" on one suburb, it was stated.

The British raiders, taking advantage of layers of clouds, were said in an official communique to have met heavy German anti-aircraft fire which drove them off to the north and south.

Squadrons of German bombers were said to have dropped out of heavy clouds Sunday night upon an important town of Britain's industrial midlands, starting 30 large fires which "colored the clouds red."

The communique did not reveal the number of British planes which came over Berlin but from the United Press office on Unter Den Linden in the heart of the capital the raid appeared to be an uneventful one.

R. O. Adams, 82, Is Taken By Death

Funeral service was held Friday, December 13, at Covenant church for Reuben Oliver Adams, 82-year-old citizen of the Dehart community who died Wednesday. Rev. Monroe Dillard conducted the last rites, assisted by Rev. Jimmie Bryant.

Surviving Mr. Adams are his widow, Mrs. Sullina Blackburn Adams, two sons, Shober and Wheeler Adams, and one daughter, Miss Ila Adams, all of Dehart.

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Library Board Named Friday At Meeting Here

Mass Meeting Names Executive Board Of Wilkes County Public Library

Wilkes county library association was organized at a mass meeting here on Friday night by the election of an executive board of six members, who will complete the organization by election of a chairman and secretary.

Named on the board were C. B. Eller, county superintendent of schools, Mrs. J. C. Reins, W. K. Sturdivant, Mrs. L. B. Dula, Mrs. Fred Gaither and Mrs. L. G. Critcher.

The meeting was reasonably well attended, although inclement weather kept many from rural sections away from the meeting. Several talks concerning future growth of the library were made during the meeting and much interest was shown in the institution.

The principal talk was by Miss Margaret Gilbert, a field worker for the North Carolina State Library commission. Others who talked included Miss Ila Holman, supervisor of the Woman's division of WPA, W. D. Haffner, Mrs. Frank Johnson and Mrs. Jones, a district supervisor.

Miss Hazel Horton, librarian, gave a comprehensive report of the activities of the public library and the rapid growth in circulation of library volumes.

The Wilkes county Public Library has grown rapidly since it was established only a few years ago with a small number of donated books and books loaned by the state library commission.

Two New Home Clubs Formed In The County

Mulberry and Mt. Pisgah Communities Enter Home Demonstration Activity

Two new home demonstration clubs have been organized in Wilkes and will enter the regular program of work in January. Miss Elizabeth Williams, Wilkes home demonstration agent, said today.

The two new ones are Mulberry and Mt. Pisgah. The others are Ronda, Mountain View, Gilreath, Roaring Gap, Roaring River, Boomer, Moravian Falls, Pores Knob and Ferguson.

Officers of the newly organized club at Mulberry are: Mrs. John R. Jones, president; Mrs. C. M. Elledge, vice president; Mrs. W. D. Elledge, secretary.

Mrs. R. L. Prevette is president of Mt. Pisgah club. Mrs. Ray Felts is vice president and Mrs. Ben Collier is secretary.

Miss Williams said the clubs in the county will enter a two-year study of foods and nutrition in January. The first year's work will be centered on "Foods For the Home" and the second year will be devoted to more advanced phases of the topic.

Griffin Is Held On \$1,000 Bond

Wilkes Man Charged With Manslaughter In Auto Accident At Winston-Salem

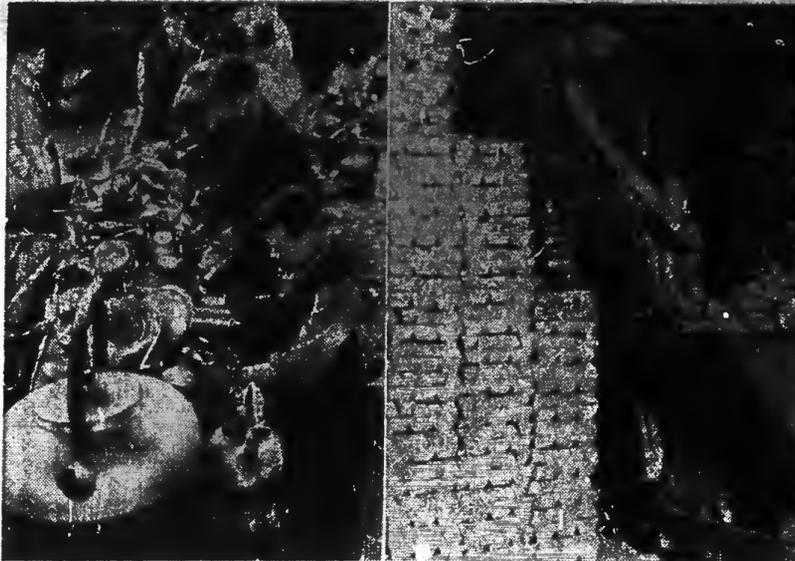
Winston-Salem, Dec. 13.—Mack Griffin, of Crickett, Wilkes county, driver of the car in which three persons were killed October 26 in a collision at Reynolds Road and Polo Road, was bound over to superior court Thursday on a charge of manslaughter. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Preliminary hearing of the case was held before Judge Bailey Lipfert in municipal court.

Griffin's wife, Mrs. Pauline Ross Griffin, and two children, Jo Ann and Jean Griffin, lost their lives when their car collided with that of W. P. Grubbs, of High Point. At the time of the accident Griffin was driving across the Reynolds Road on Polo Road.

Griffin himself did not testify, but Grubbs went on the stand to present his version of the accident. Deputy James Ziglar also described the circumstances as he found them after the collision.

From 'Sit-Fires' to Spitfires



A government appeal for aluminum pots and pans brought thousands of tons of these kitchen utensils from all over England into the rapacious maw of Britain's war machine. From sitting on fires these pots and pans will go to cloud-hopping in defense of the tight little island. At left, workmen are cleaning the aluminum scrap. Right, tons of ingots, once stewpots, on their way to become "Spitfires" and Hurricane planes.

Rev. J. S. Stokes Plans Made For Poultry School In Wilkes; Poultry Organization Talked

Is Speaker Before Kiwanians Here

"Situation In The Far East" Subject Of Address Before Club Here

North Wilkesboro Kiwanis club held an interesting meeting Friday noon, featured by an address by Rev. J. S. Stokes, missionary in Korea.

Program Chairman Jimmie McCartney asked Rev. A. L. Aycock to introduce the guest speaker, who has been a Missionary under the auspices of the Methodist church for the past 27 years and had just arrived home from Korea.

Rev. Mr. Stokes spoke on the subject, "The Situation In The Far East." It is just the situation that is going on around the world. It is the struggle or the conflict between the two opinions, those favoring autocracy against those favoring Democracy.

He said, Mr. Stokes reviewed his work in the Far East, speaking of the progress he has made among the Korean people. The situation has become so strained there that the missionaries have been required to return home. He things, however, that the work will go on, inasmuch as the churches there are already 75 per cent self supporting and a recent law of the Government requires that they shall be entirely self supporting.

The Japs are bogging down in China. They have as it were a tiger by the tail. He thinks they are gradually trying to get out of China and will probably before long attack Indo China and the East Indies, which would bring in the United States.

There is the appearance of plenty in Japan. However, rice is scarce as well as coal and gas. One can only buy 15 gallons of gas per month and must buy with every pound of rice some other sort of cereal. Their apparent show of plenty means they are bleeding China.

No one knows just how strong Japan is. No one knows how large their army is or how many planes or ships they have. They have never fought a major war. No one knows how well they will fight against a real foe. However Japan may be counted as one of the strong countries of the world.

Milk Fund Dance Here Is Success

The dance sponsored by the North Wilkesboro Dokies club and held Thursday night at the American Legion and Auxiliary clubhouse for the benefit of the milk fund was an outstanding success from every standpoint, members of the club said today.

A considerable sum was raised to help pay for milk for underprivileged and underweight children in the nutrition classes in the schools here and the dance was largely attended.

Music and entertainment skits were furnished by the Arizona Ranch Hands and the Oklahoma sweetheart, popular radio and stage artists.

Large Number Of Schools Will Close Wednesday and Re-Open Dec. 30

Schools of Wilkes county have set dates for the Christmas holidays. It was learned today from C. B. Eller, county superintendent of public instruction.

With the exception of Wilkesboro and Mount Pleasant districts, the larger schools will close on Wednesday, December 18, and open on December 30.

Mount Pleasant will close December 20 and open December 30. Wilkesboro district schools will close on December 20 and open on January 1.

Hill Is Speaker Football Banquet

Former All American Center Shows Pictures Of Duke-Georgia Tech Game

The annual football banquet of the North Wilkesboro high school took place Thursday evening at the Woman's Club building and was featured by an address by Dan Hill, former Duke All-American football center and now assistant director of athletics at that well known university. Mr. Hill also showed a motion picture of the Duke-Georgia Tech football game played at Durham the past season.

The meeting opened by invocation spoken by Zane Foster, after which all present thoroughly enjoyed the two-course dinner served by members of the local Woman's club.

Supt. Paul S. Cragan, of the city schools, served as toastmaster, and after expressing his gratitude to the business men for making the banquet possible, and (Continued on page four)

Dates Of School Holidays Fixed

Final Arrangements Being Made Today For Classes To Train Workers

It is expected that final arrangements for opening of defense training classes will be made here this afternoon at a meeting of the city school board with other interested parties.

Paul S. Cragan, superintendent of North Wilkesboro city schools, has conferred with Q. E. Mathis, supervisor of defense training division of the North Carolina department of vocational education, and other authorities, relative to the establishment of classes and assurance was given that classes may be established here.

The classes will be under supervision of the schools and the department of vocational education. Instructors will be skilled craftsmen in local industries co-operating with the program.

Training Classes In Defense Work To Be Established

Persons between the ages of 17 and 25 who desire to take courses in machine operation, sheet metal work, carpentry and other trades should register with the Employment Service office here for the course, which will be for 12 weeks with 30 hours of instruction per week.

After completion of the course, the employment service will endeavor to place persons who received adequate training.

Sponsors said the cost of the courses will be paid by the federal government and no charge will be made the students.

Defense classes are being organized in order to train an adequate number for work in defense construction, airplane factories, munitions making and other defense work where a reasonable degree of skill is essential.

ESTIMATE

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has estimated the 1940 cotton crop at 12,888,000 bales, nearly a million bales above the 1939 crop of 11,817,000 bales.

Over \$470,000 In Social Security Spent In County

Unemployment, Compensation Heads List Of Ten Division Social Security

Approximately \$470,146.00 has been distributed in Wilkes county through operation of nine of the ten divisions of the Social Security Act, from its beginning and through June 30, 1940, it is estimated, on a basis of official figures, by Charles G. Powell, Chairman of the N. C. Unemployment Compensation Commission.

Normally, Unemployment Compensation, or benefits to workers temporarily out of jobs, is the largest item in the program, except in agricultural counties. The more and larger the industries a county has, the more jobless benefits it gets. In the 2 1/2 years of benefit payments, through June 30, these benefits reached \$156,813.34, included in 24,369 checks issued to residents of Wilkes county.

Chairman Powell reports that State agencies handling phases of the Social Security Act cooperate with him in supplying figures of their activities, which gives him an accurate picture of distributions in counties of the State. These include the State Welfare Department, Mrs. W. T. Bost, superintendent, and Nathan H. Yelton, director of public assistance; Dr. Roma S. Cheek, secretary of the State Commission for the Blind; Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, State health officer; and the Department of Public Instruction, particularly T. E. Browne, director of vocational education.

Old Age Assistance, help for needy residents past 65 years of age, in the three years of distribution, through last June 30, amounted to \$125,448.00 in this county.

Aid to Dependent Children, help for those deprived of their normal breadwinners, amounted to \$41,797.00 in the same period in this county.

No county figures are available for Old Age and Survivors Insurance. Monthly payments in this division started after January 1, 1940, due to a 1939 amendment, after lump-sum payments for three years. This will, in due time, become one of the most important of the five major divisions of the Social Security Act.

With practically accurate figures, it is evident, Mr. Powell points out, that about \$338,686.00 was distributed in this county to July 1 in four of the five major divisions of the Act, exclusive of Old Age and Survivors Insurance.

In the other five divisions, classed as "services," approximately \$131,460.00 has been distributed in this county, including about \$2,630.00 in Child Welfare Services and about \$5,115.00 in Vocational Rehabilitation.

Disbursement of funds in the other three "services" is made through county or district health departments, and only 76 of the 100 counties having such departments June 30, 1940, participated in this distribution. (Three other counties—Gates, Lincoln and Rockingham—started organized health work as of July 1, 1940, but did not share in the funds in the period considered). Twenty-four counties, therefore, received practically no funds in these divisions, and what they would have received, and didn't, increased the funds to counties with health departments.

Wilkes county, with a health department, received \$23,360.00 for Maternal and Child Health services; \$20,250.00 for Services to Crippled Children; and \$80,105.00 in Public Health Work.

These five "service" division reports are approximate. The 1940 Census figures of 3,561,194 for the State and 42,917 for this county were used in prorating the funds, made up of Federal allotments, matched by the State and counties.

Wilkes county, Central UCC office records show, has 64 resident employers subject to the Unemployment Compensation law and 2839 workers protected by it. Liable resident employers paid \$177,341.10 into the State fund in 1 1/2 years, ending last June 30, as compared with \$156,813.34 in benefits drawn in 2 1/2 years, also ending June 30, by resident workers in the county.

The records show that in 1939 the State fund received \$177,341.10 and paid out \$156,813.34. (Continued on page four)

'Colleagues Cheer'



"Colleagues cheer as one of their comrades takes a swipe at a ball during a baseball match" was the way an English newspaper described this Canadian soldier's besting efforts during a camp game in Britain.

Want Volunteers To Help Needy At Christmas Time

Welfare Department Knows Several Families Who May Have Blue Christmas

The Wilkes county welfare department knows of at least 15 needy families whose children will not know the joy of Christmas unless some help is received, a spokesman of the department said today.

The welfare department is making a call for volunteers who wish to spread Christmas cheer and any member of the welfare office personnel will be glad to give full information relative to those families and where they live. In the event any person wishes to make a Christmas donation to any of the families and cannot deliver it personally, a case worker will make the delivery immediately before Christmas.

The welfare office knows of one family which consists of a widow and four children. At present the widow is confined to her bed with a broken hip. She has no source of income and there will be no toys, no candies, nothing extra for the children at Christmas time unless some one agrees to play the part of a big-hearted Santa Claus.

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Chief Walker knows who all the needy families are and will be glad to furnish names to any person or group who wishes to spread Christmas cheer this season. Purchases for the families may be made and delivered to Chief Walker, who will deliver them before Christmas.

Robert Posey's Body Removed To Tennessee Town

The body of Robert I. Posey, age 36, who was found dead in his automobile trailer near this city on November 26, was removed from the funeral home here to Elizabethton, Tennessee, yesterday—there to be claimed by relatives.