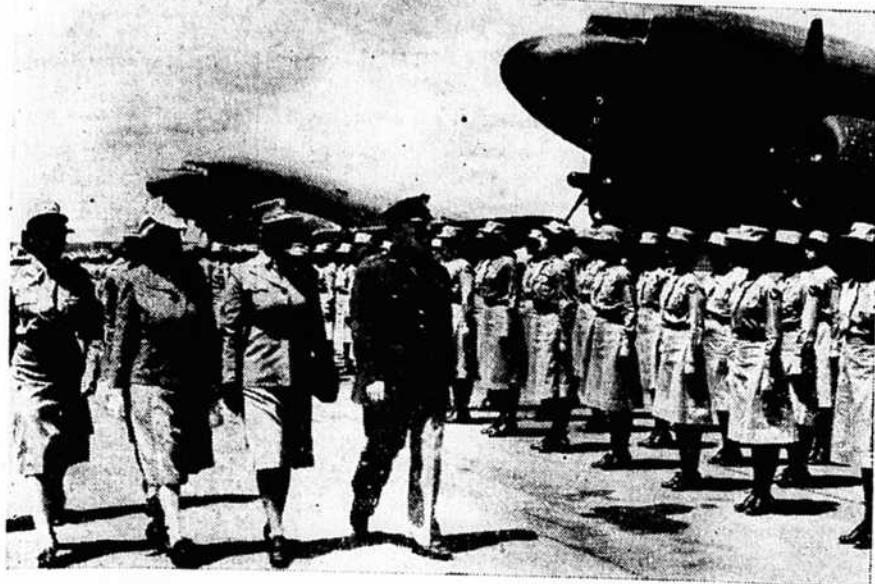




## REVIEW MARKS WAAC'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY



FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps is marked at Bolling Field, Washington, D. C., by a review of the WAAC assigned to duty at the field. The group is shown being inspected by Col. Orveta Culp Hobby, WAAC commander. In the inspecting group are, left to right: Capt. Helen Westerdale; Rpt. Edith N. Rogers, of Massachusetts; Colonel Hobby and Brigadier General T. J. Hanley. (International)

## Ickes Vies With WLB Over Strike

### Claims To Have Answer to Coal Mine Snarl; WLB Refuses To Be Bypassed

Washington, May 18—(AP)—The soft coal walkout scheduled for midnight has been averted by renewal of the truce until the end of the month. John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, answered an appeal of Fuel Coordinator Harold L. Ickes by requesting the miners to continue work under the existing retroactive extension agreement until midnight May 31.

Postponement of the coal crisis for another fortnight brought signs that a strong rivalry has sprung up over the coal industry. Ickes, reportedly ready to negotiate between the United Mine Workers and the operators was Secretary Ickes. However, the War Labor Board, which yesterday charged Lewis with challenging the sovereignty of the United States in wartime, and giving aid and comfort to the enemy, left no doubt that it still considered itself the only "agency of the government" authorized to handle the case.

From highly placed sources came reports that Ickes had prepared a formula which he believed would be acceptable to both sides, and was ready to propose it, providing the board would let him step in.

Some members of the board were reported ready to resign if Lewis, who had encouraged the WLB with prejudice, were permitted to bypass the board through intervention of Ickes or any one else.

But the miners made it clear that they still stood behind Lewis and their demands for a \$2 a day wage rate, portal to portal pay, and other concessions in any new contract.

## Senate Group For 25 Cents Cotton Peak

Washington, May 18—(AP)—The Senate Agriculture Committee voted 8 to 2 today to recommend passage of legislation by Senator Thomas, Democrat, Oklahoma, designed to prohibit the fixing of a ceiling price on raw cotton at less than 25 cents a pound.

Specifically the measure would prevent the sale of any cotton owned or held by the government at less than 23 1/2 cents until its value reaches 25 cents.

Opposition to the measure was voiced by Senators Gillette, Democrat, Iowa, and Willis, Republican, Indiana, on the ground that it is directed at only one commodity.

J. E. McDonald, commissioner of agriculture for Texas, chief spokesman for the bill, asserted its purpose was to bring the price of cotton up to 25 cents, which he said would give the farmer "some return for his labor" in the price structure.

## Governor May Close Tobacco Markets If Food Crops Demand

### Looks Things Over



THE DUKE OF WINDSOR, Governor of the Bahamas, holds some freshly cut asparagus during a visit to a migratory farm labor camp at Swedesboro, N. J. Several hundred laborers from the Bahamas work the farm. (International)

## Reid Monfort, AP Chief, Dies In Charlotte

Charlotte, May 18—(AP)—Reid Monfort, chief of the Charlotte bureau of The Associated Press, died at almost ten years, died suddenly after a brief illness. He was 46 years old.

He appeared in his usual health as he attended to his duties yesterday, but complained of feeling ill about 11 o'clock last night, some two hours before he died.

Monfort, a native of Greensboro, Ga., had been with The Associated Press since 1926.

Surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Virginia Monfort; his mother, Mrs. C. E. Monfort, of Greensboro; a brother, Clarence, who is now in the engineer corps of the Army; and a sister, also of Greensboro.

The body will be taken to Greensboro for burial. Funeral services will be held at a Charlotte mortuary at 5 p. m. today.

## BRITISH SUBS SINK ITALIAN DESTROYER

London, May 18—(AP)—British submarines torpedoed and sank an Italian destroyer and at least five supply ships during a recent series of Mediterranean encounters, the Admiralty announced today.

# ATTU VICTORY IS NEAR

## Nazis Strike on Kuban Front

### Reds Claim Assault Is Driven Off

#### May Be Focal Point For German Summer Offensive; Nazis Lose 27 Planes

Moscow, May 18—(AP)—The Kuban front flared into action again today when German troops stole through the forested hills and sprang upon the Russians in a violent effort to regain important positions lost weeks ago. Latest Russian reports said that German infantry, which attacked several times, supported by tanks, planes and artillery, was thrown back each time with heavy losses. The German counter attacks are aimed at driving the Russians back from the inner positions of the Black Sea port of Novorossisk.

From the figures mentioned in dispatches, it is obvious that the Kuban activity is hardly the prelude to the expected German summer offensive, but it is the most vivid action on the long Russian front in several days.

Sharp fighting also was in progress on the Donets river front where recent tank and infantry engagements gave way to hot artillery duels. The big German guns were firing almost non-stop in an effort to prevent the Russians from consolidating newly-occupied positions on the west bank of the river below Kharkov.

In air attacks, the Nazis lost 27 planes during a two-day raid northeast of Kharkov, it was reported.

Military observers consider the attacks may indicate a possible point where the Germans intend to loose an offensive.

### Traffic in Ration Coupons in State Is Now Extensive

Raleigh, May 18—(AP)—There is a widespread illegal traffic in detached rationing coupons of all kinds, the Raleigh district Office of Price Administration said today in announcing that investigators are being assigned to the job of apprehending both sellers and buyers involved.

OPA said that merchants have reported numerous instances in which their customers have insisted on using food ration and shoe coupons that had been removed from ration books "because other stores let us use them."

OPA said that traffic in loose T gasoline stamps "has gotten almost out of hand."

District OPA director T. S. Johnson said the only instance in which detached stamps could be used was in mail orders of shoes or food.

the marketing of other crops. A committee of sixteen men representing both growers and the industry will meet later today to discuss the proposal.

## Millions Of Deferred Men Are To Be Called

Washington, May 18—(AP)—Plans to draft several millions of men in classes deferred for physical defects and others heretofore deemed "necessary" to industry may operate to delay the induction of fathers.

The War Manpower Commission announced last night final replacement schedules providing for the gradual drafting of some 3,000,000 workers now employed in essential industries had been filed by 5,500 employing firms.

Earlier yesterday Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey told a Senate committee that "a good many men" now classed as 4-F because of minor physical defects will be drafted.

### RAF Continuing Violent Attacks Upon Continent

London, May 18—(AP)—British bombers, returning again last night to the air offensive on Europe, attacked targets in southern Germany, fighters swept northern France and Belgium, and coastal aircraft damaged five ships in an enemy convoy. It was announced officially today.

The coastal command planes attacked a convoy off the Dutch coast which was initially attacked by fighters yesterday. Two of the supply ships, in a convoy of eight merchantmen and three escort vessels, were left sinking, and were seen to be abandoned by their crews, it was stated.

Axis radios on the continent began going from the air this morning, indicating that Allied air raiders were continuing to blast European strong-

holds by night. First to go silent was that at Calais.

The targets in Germany were not immediately named. The new attacks were a continuation of the smashing Allied aerial offensive of the night before in which two of Germany's largest dams were breached, and devastating floods loosed, and the daylight attack of United States bombers yesterday against Lorien, Bordeaux and the U-boat base of Kiel.

During the night, enemy planes again struck at London. At least ten persons were known to have been killed.

An Allied headquarters communique announcing that Alghero, in Sardinia, was bombed again last night, indicated that the air offensive also was being carried on relentlessly against the south of Europe.

### Jap Atrocities At Peak In Hospital Ship Loss

Washington, May 18—(AP)—Japan's record of atrocities hit a new peak today with the disclosure that a Japanese submarine torpedoed and sank a brilliantly lit Australian hospital ship, with a loss of 299 lives. Attacked without warning at 4:10 a. m. last Friday, forty miles off Brisbane, the ship capsized and sank in flames within three minutes.

Sixty-four of the 363 persons aboard, mostly Australian and British medical staff men, were rescued. Only one of twelve women nurses sur-

vived. There were no Americans on board.

Survivors said huge red crosses had been newly painted on the vessel, the S. S. Centaur, and Australia's Prime Minister John Curtin announced that the Japanese had been notified on February 5 that the Centaur was to be used as a hospital ship.

Curtin denounced the "wanton de- liberation" of the attack, and a similar expression of revulsion over the "unlimited savagery" came from General Douglas MacArthur.

### Attu Casualties Fewer Than Had Been Expected

Washington, May 18—(AP)—American troops, driving to top of the head of beetle-shaped Attu island, have captured a main ridge and may already have joined forces in a two-way thrust across the east end of the island, Secretary of the Navy Knox disclosed today.

Knox said American columns which landed on the north and south side of the key Japanese-held outpost were now very close together, if they had not actually joined.

The maneuver apparently pinched off the most important Japanese po-

sitions, and perhaps left only the task of mopping up isolated pockets. Knox declared that despite bitter Japanese resistance, "our casualties are much lighter than had been expected."

The secretary's announcement, indicating that the end of the eight-day battle was near, came shortly after the Navy reported that the Americans had firmly established themselves on the island, but that Japanese forces entrenched on a jagged ridge were putting up stiff resistance.

### RAF Presses Assaults On The Italians

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, May 18—(AP)—Carrying on an unrelenting attack on Italy's Mediterranean islands, Allied air force Wellingtons, or the R. A. F., bombed the airfield and port of Alghero on the west coast of Sardinia last night. Bomb bursts were seen in the town and port areas and one large fire in the center of the town appeared to be spreading beyond control, pilots said.

The Wellingtons topped off their raid by machine gunning the targets from low altitudes.

In routine patrols, the only other air activity reported by today's encounter, a single fighter encountered two Junkers 52 transports yesterday off the coast of Sardinia, and shot down both of them. No Allied aircraft were lost.

### Losses Are Terrific In Africa Area

London, May 18—(AP)—Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced today in the House of Commons that Axis casualties in Africa and the Middle East were nearly triple since Italy entered the war on June 10, 1940.

British, Commonwealth and Empire forces have lost approximately 230,000 men in killed, wounded and missing, Attlee declared.

German casualties in Africa and the Middle East, he said, total 227,000 and Italian casualties 400,000.

Attlee gave the figures in introducing a resolution of pride and thankfulness for the Allied Tunisian victory.

### Sharp Gains For Cotton

New York, May 18—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to fifteen cents a bale higher. Noon values were ten to 60 cents a bale higher. July 1944, October 1943 and December 1935.

	Previous Close	Today's Open
July	19.82	19.83
October	19.58	19.59
December	19.43	19.43
March	19.35	19.36
May	19.25	19.26

### Expect Decisions Soon as to Drive On the Japanese

Washington, May 18—(AP)—Washington quarters said a "beat Japan first" slogan voiced by Senator Chandler, Democrat, Kentucky, might have been suggested during conferences with United States military leaders, pending the outcome of President Roosevelt's council of war with Prime Minister Churchill.

Chandler himself said a decision might be forthcoming soon, pointing to a powerful American offensive against Japan, and declared he was "encouraged" to make the appeal.

### Chief Jap Defense In U. S. Hands

#### Machine Gun Nests Irritate Americans; Navy Describes Landing in Aleutians

Washington, May 18—(AP)—American forces have captured a ridge which apparently is the main Japanese defense position on Attu island, Secretary of the Navy Knox announced today.

Washington, May 18—(AP)—"Stubborn enemy resistance from numerous machine gun nests" is meeting American troops fighting the Japanese on Attu island, the Navy announced today, but officials added that the outlook is still good.

Issuing its first communique containing any details on the campaign to drive the enemy from the western Aleutian islands, starting with Attu, the Navy also disclosed that the original lands were at two opposing points at the eastern end of the island, and that the American forces apparently are attempting to close the gap with their move inland.

The Navy communique said: "The military situation now permits the announcement of some of the details of the landing of United States forces on Attu island on May 11."

"The occupation began with scouting parties landing at Blind Cove, Holtz bay, located at the northeast- United States troops were effected at two points: One in the Holtz bay area, and two, at Massacre bay, located at the southeastern end of Attu."

"The landings were made under the cover of United States naval surface forces, which bombarded enemy installations in both areas, and United States Army planes, which attacked enemy positions in the vicinity of Chicagooff harbor."

"Both groups of United States troops advanced inland, encountering stubborn enemy resistance from numerous machine gun nests. Japanese forces on the island have entrenched themselves along a rocky ridge."

"In spite of unfavorable weather conditions, United States Army planes have carried out several bombing and strafing attacks since the initial landings were made. Our troops had established the positions on the island, and operations against the enemy are continuing."

The Navy's description of the operations disclosed that the forces ad-

(Continued on Page Two)

### Army Bombers Blast Japs On Wake Island

Washington, May 18—(AP)—Army heavy bombers, ranging more than 1,000 miles from their base, attacked Japanese installations on Wake Island Saturday, the Navy reported today.

The communique said: "On May 15, a force of Army Liberator heavy bombers attacked Japanese installations on Wake Island. Bad weather prevented observation of results. United States planes were engaged by 22 Japanese zero fighters, of which two were definitely destroyed and one additional was probably destroyed."

### Recoveries In Stock Market

New York, May 18—(AP)—Stock market favorites shifted to the recovery column today. Issues touching new highs for the year included Colgate and DuPont. Ahead at intervals were U. S. Steel, Sears Roebuck and United Aircraft. Laggards included General Motors, Chrysler, International Harvester,

## WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.  
Little change in temperature this afternoon or tonight.