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Bombing Increasing Fighting Spirit Of The English People

Personal Letter to Relative in This County Tells of Murder and Destruction

Despite the cold-blooded murder of the defenseless aged and helpless children and the destruction of property that could be accumulated down the centuries, the fighting spirit of the English people is increasing, according to a personal letter received by Mr. E. C. Stone in this county a few days ago from his sister in Coventry, England. The letter, written at intervals, beginning on May 8, follows:

My dear brother, It is rather a long time since I wrote to you, so will try and write a few lines now. There seems such a lot to do these days, nothing straightforward and nothing certain and very often our nights are disturbed and one does not feel like any exertion after several bad nights.

It is 11:30 p. m. and we were just settling down for the night when we heard planes and the air raid warning moaning out into the night. Do not feel it is safe to try and sleep till we get the all clear, in Coventry now. We have just experienced two terrible raids again. It is three weeks ago tonight since the last, am thankful to say. We were kept safe and our house except a little damage to the roof, but all round us there is devastation of homes and buildings, and lives were lost.

The raid on the 8th of April was the first blitz since November. We got the warning early, before ten o'clock that night and immediately the planes were over, dropping incendiaries by the hundreds. Well, the raid lasted till 4 o'clock in the morning and we had a pretty bad time of it with shells of every description whistling over our heads. Some of them made a horrible screaming noise. They invent anything to make raids more terrifying.

Though it was hard for us, we realized that the other side of the town was getting the "worst of it." I have not been to see the damage myself but from reports it is very bad. Feel that I do not want to look at any more ruins. Oh, what a relief to get the all clear after that experience. We just fell into bed at 5 o'clock A. M.

On the day following Fred would go to work at his usual time. The street was full of people, as many young girls as anyone else, all hurrying along to their employment. Lots of them were soon back home again (no need to state the reason why) but they soon get over those troubles—but must not say too much or I shall have the censor on my track. Should very often like to tell you more news, but it is not wise, too many Germans in your country.

Well, Walter turned up on Wednesday evening to take us out to his place, but with it all we did not feel we could run away from home without making some arrangements for Fred and I had a good bit of work (Am so sleepy I do not know how to spell and Amy has put the straw mattresses on the floor so we are going to lie down and rest—it seems all quiet at present in this town, although the horrible creatures have gone somewhere else.)

It is several days ago since I started this letter and we have had warnings every night and heard all the planes going over but so far no bad incidents in this town.

I intended finishing this letter the other night before I got so sleepy and was going on to tell you how when it got to the night of April 10th, we wished we had gone with Walter. Before he left us he made up promise to go out to Will's to sleep (I told you how fortunate he was to get a house on the outskirts of the town after being bombed out.) Well, that night Coventry had the heaviest raid it has ever had and the barrage that was put up was terrific. The roar of the planes and the whistling of the bombs with the noise of the guns was deafening. It was terrible where we were but in St. George's Road, it was far worse. There were big fires and small fires all around. Fred with one of the neighbors, put out some incendiaries.

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To Start Widening No. 17 Next Week

The combined Works Progress Administration forces will start widening U. S. Highway No. 17 between here and the Beaufort County line about the middle of next week, possibly on Tuesday. Preliminary surveys of the road have already been made, and the workers are completing or rounding up other projects to center their entire attention on the defense project.

The plans for the project have not been officially announced, but it is understood that the road will be widened by four feet or two feet on each side. It is estimated that as many as 100 men will be employed on the project at times.

Drive Against Typhoid Fever To Get Underway Next Week

An annual drive to prevent typhoid fever in Martin County will get underway next Monday, the health department head, Dr. John W. Williams explaining that the campaign this year will be a bit different from the old method followed at regular three-year intervals during the past ten or fifteen years.

Described as more effective and less painful, the new attack against the spread of fever is centered in a single "shot" or dose of vaccine. The old method of preventing the fever called for three "shots". To determine the reaction and make certain of immunity against the fever, Dr. Williams called in a subject and administered the required dose for the subject and for himself. Both the subject and the doctor, while well aware of what had been done, felt no unusual pain and continued work without interruption. Typhoid

COMPLIANCE

Approximately half of the farm land in Martin County has been measured under the 1941 soil conservation program, but only a few hundred of the surveys have been checked to date. Unofficial reports state that many farmers overplanted their soil depleting crops "a little bit," but that only an almost negligible number had overplanted intentionally.

In nearly all cases where there is an apparent excess acreage, farmers are said to have expressed the desire to plow up or otherwise destroy the excess to comply 100 per cent with the program.

Grand Jury Submits Report For Second Quarter In County

Recommends More Careful And Rigid Listing of Property For Taxation

Receiving a big assignment last Monday morning from Judge W. C. Harris in the Martin County Superior Court, the June grand jury handled its duties with dispatch under the foremanship of R. L. Smith, of Robersonville, cleared its work calendar and submitted its report just before noon Tuesday.

The jury literally wiggled out of the storm now brewing over the non-listing of property for general taxation in the county when it returned to the court the names of 1,225 citizens who allegedly had not listed in accordance with the laws governing taxation. The drive to round up the non-listers was recognized and the jury also recommended more care in listing both real and personal property in the future.

While the jury conferred with the head of the county schools, and found some of the buildings in only fair condition, no recommendations were made.

The detailed report, appearing over the signature of Foreman R. L. Smith, follows:

All bills have been disposed of that came into our hands.

The following Justices of Peace have filed their reports and all fines have been paid to the County, J. L. Hassell, H. S. Everett, R. R. Rawls, J. A. Davenport, C. L. Nelson, and C. B. Riddick.

We inspected the county jail, prison camp, and county home, finding these in very good shape and to be kept very clean. We conferred with Mr. Ebb Edmondson, superintendent of the prison camp; Mr. John Bland, superintendent of county home, and Mr. Roy Peel, jailer, and found that the inmates were very well cared for in these places.

Upon visiting the county garage, we found that the school buses, 41 of them, along with three small trucks, two coal trucks, and one gas truck, were being put in safe condition for the coming school term.

All county schools were inspected and found to be in fair condition. We called in School Superintendent, J. C. Manning, who informed us that they were all being properly repaired and would be safe and in good condition at school opening.

We recommend to the county commissioners that they have the list-takers be more careful and rigid with the tax-listing of both real and personal property.

Travels Long Distance To List His Property

Forgetting all about it when he was home last January, a youthful property owner learning that drastic action will be taken by the county, traveled all the way from California to list his earthly holdings for taxation. The report stated that pending the completion of plans for handling the late listers, the youthful property owner was allowed to pay the tax amount with the understanding that he could list later.

has just about been stamped out in this county, and all citizens are urged to attend the one-day clinics next week. The dispensaries will be maintained during a few hours on one day only, except at the county health centers where the vaccine will be available any Monday at Jamesville, any Wednesday at Robersonville, any Thursday at Williamston, any Friday at Oak City. The one-day clinics will be held as follows: Monday, June 23: Jamesville, 9 to 12; Dardens, 1 to 3; No. 90 Filling Station, 3:30 to 4:30; Tuesday, June 24: Farm Life, 8:30 to 11; Easton Lilley's Store, 11 to 12; and Bear Grass, 2 to 4; Wednesday, June 25: Robersonville, 9 to 12; Gold Point, 9 to 11; Parmele, 1 to 2; Everetts, 2 to 4:30; Thursday, June 26: Williamston, 9 to 12; Cross Roads, 1 to 3; Friday, June 27: Oak City, 9 to 12; Hamilton, 9 to 12; Roebuck's Store, 1 to 3, and Hassell, 1 to 3.

Twenty-three Cases Are Awaiting Trial In the County Court

Two Drunk Driving Charges Are Lodged Against One Defendant

Taking a short holiday while the superior tribunal was in session this week, the county recorder's court is now facing an accumulation of cases for trial at its session next Monday. Twenty-three cases have already been placed on trial, and it is quite likely that others will find their way to the docket before the deadline is reached during the week-end.

Most of the cases on the docket were placed there by the Unemployment Compensation Commission charging the defendants with claiming compensation while they were gainfully employed. Charges have been brought against Lucinda W. Smith, Caesar W. Purvis, Robert Purvis, Joseph Wilson, William Livingston, Abram Jones, Elisha Speller, Willie Smith, Tom Clark, William Speller, James M. Speller, Clarence Purrington and Jordan Wynne. The warrants charge the defendants with "making a false statement and representation, knowing it to be false and did knowingly fail to disclose a material fact on each of certain days to an employee of the Unemployment Compensation Commission of North Carolina to obtain and increase benefits under the Unemployment Compensation Commission law of North Carolina in that they falsely reported their true earnings and wages for services rendered to certain employee."

The office in Williamston has paid out approximately \$200,000 and the cases are the first to be brought during the past three years charging any one with making a false claim to unemployment benefits.

Other cases on the docket: Howard Cherry, arrested on Sunday evening for drunken driving and again for the same alleged offense the following day, is to face trial next Monday.

Lester Jordan Whitehurst is charged with drunken driving.

Alexander Jones is to face trial for allegedly possessing illegal liquors.

Claude Spruill is charged with damaging property of A. P. Hyman, the warrant alleging that the defendant chopped down the prosecuting witness' fruit trees, cut off his potato and watermelon vines.

Charlie Manson Edmondson is charged with drunken driving.

Willie Clifton Davis is booked for trial for allegedly assaulting his wife.

The following three cases were continued from previous terms of the county court: Kelly Brilet, drunk and disorderly and assault; Fenner Respass, aiding and abetting in larceny, and Nelson Mason, larceny.

Dennis R. Biggs Dies In Hospital

Dennis R. Biggs, Bear Grass farmer and well known citizen, died in a Washington hospital yesterday afternoon at 4:35 o'clock following an illness of about two months' duration. His condition was considered improved Wednesday, but he was taken worse early yesterday morning and was moved to the hospital a few hours later. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of his death.

The son of Mrs. Mary Keel Biggs and the late S. S. Biggs, he was born in the Bear Grass community 39 years ago. He spent his entire life there and was recognized as a hard-working farmer. In early manhood he was married to Miss Marie Wynne and she survives with four sons, Hildon, Shirley, Billie and Dennis, and one daughter, Mollie Biggs, all of the home. He also leaves his mother, two brothers, Messrs. J. Herman and R. W. Biggs, and two sisters, Mrs. Robert Rogers and Mrs. Curtis Mabley, all of Bear Grass.

Outcome Of Russian And Nazi Situation World Still Awaiting

Russia Mobilizing Its Forces And Moving Children From Cities

The world today continues to await developments in the ticklish situation as it exists between Russia and Germany. While war between the two is believed almost certain, authorized spokesmen in Berlin strongly deny that an invasion had been started or that Russian and German forces had clashed along the border. It is generally believed that the rumors coming thick and fast from the Russo-German border are of German origin, and that they are being advanced in an attempt to force Russia to yield to certain German demands. It is a well established fact that Germany is making great demands on Russia for oil, wheat and other supplies. It is also well established that Russia is balking, but it remains to be seen whether the Red Army will offer to resist the odds of war or yield to Hitler's demands.

Reliable reports declare that Russia is rushing the mobilization of its forces, and that large numbers are moving to the several fronts. Children are being evacuated from a number of the big cities, and present indications point to war between the two countries.

A London report last night stated that increasing belief that war between Russia and Germany is drawing nearer was expressed by diplomatic observers at the end of a day of mounting reports and rumors.

Travelers from Finland were quoted by the Swedish radio as saying the calling up of reservists to the Red Army had been greatly accelerated in the last few days.

Railroad traffic on lines leading northward from Leningrad into the areas of Finland ceded to the Soviet at the conclusion of the Soviet-Finnish war were said to be given over almost exclusively to military transport.

Swedish newspapers carried dispatches detailing Moscow telling of "streams" of children being evacuated from large Soviet cities.

"Four thousand children from Moscow, 9,000 from the Latvian cities and thousands from Leningrad and Kiev already have left the cities," a dispatch said. "The official reason is given that the children are taking their summer vacations. Trade union councils have organized summer camps where 1,000,000 or 1,500,000 children will spend vacations."

Reports from Helsinki, Finland, said that British warships are patrolling Arctic waters off the harbor of Petsamo and blocking all shipping attempting either to enter or leave the Finnish port.

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Nearly 200 Martin County Men Subject To Call Next Year

First Year Quota Assigned This County Hardly More Than Two-thirds Filled

The complete details are missing, but according to reports coming from State Headquarters more men will likely be called into service from Martin County during the next fiscal year than will have been called at the close of the current fiscal year on June 30.

This county has been assigned a gross quota of 442 men under the new draft call. The county is to be credited with 168 enlistments, leaving a net quota of 274 men. In addition to that credit, the number of men actually inducted into the service from this county will further reduce the quota. To date, 104 men have been inducted from the county, leaving 170. Ten colored men are due to leave the county on June 30, further reducing the quota to 160 which number compared with the 147 quota assigned the county for the fiscal year ending week after next.

According to information received here, the Army may call all of the 160 men within six months or within a year or it may be within eighteen months. The State has a quota of approximately 24,000 men. If all of those men are called, Martin County's share will be around 160 men, it is understood.

To date, Martin County has sent 61 white and 43 colored men to the Army induction centers. This number will be boosted to 114 when ten colored men answer the June 30 call. So far 44 men or about one-third of those actually called for service have been rejected on account of physical disabilities. In the group were 24 white and 20 colored men. Eighty-four men were rejected for other reasons, such as criminal records and illiteracy. There were only ten white men in the group of 84.

Other than the June 30th call, the draft board in this county has no quota to fill at the present time.

The draft board office is making ready to handle the registration of all young men who have become 21 years of age since last October 16 or who will have attained that age on or before the first of next month.

Plans Go Forward For Early Completion Of The River Fill

Plans were virtually complete this morning until the State Highway bridge engineers intervened for rushing work on the Roanoke River fill at this point to a finish by the latter part of next week. The contractors brought in six special machines early this morning for moving dirt, but their operation was immediately delayed by highway authorities for fear the temporary bridges would break through under the heavy loads.

Designed to carry as many as 12 cubic yards of dirt and spread it with its own power on the fill, the machines or pans weigh as much as 35 tons when loaded. Superintendent Robert Rice, representing the contractors, expressed the belief that the bridges would hold up the light-

er machines, and that they were willing to operate across them until the permanent bridge are completed about the latter part of next week.

According to the last reports received here at 2 o'clock today, the highway engineers were making an hurried study of the problem but up until that time permission to travel over the temporary bridges had not been granted the dirt fill contractors, but the "wheelers" are being used in moving dirt on the far end of the fill. Travel over the last bridge is not expected for a week.

The last of the concrete on the fourth new bridge on the fill has been poured, and it is understood that traffic will be turned on it within about two weeks.

Calling Twenty-Seven Men For Army Service

Draft Board Rules Deferments Expire July 1 For Students

Draft Board Discusses Routine Matters In Meeting Here Last Evening

Beginning a new fiscal year in July, the United States Army is apparently settling down to serious business in making ready to meet any emergency, the Martin County Draft Board announcing today that a call for 27 white men had just been received. The call is the largest of any received in this county under the Selective Service Act, and as a result, draft board officials are sending notices immediately to registrants asking them to report for physical examinations within the near future.

Twenty or more men are to be examined for the call. The group is scheduled to leave for Fort Bragg on Wednesday, July 23. During the meantime, ten colored draftees and volunteers are slated to report to the induction center on June 30.

Martin County's new reserve quota has just been stepped up by Army officials, and it is believed that larger and more frequent calls will be in order during the next several months.

Meeting here last evening, the Martin draft board ruled, in accordance with the specific terms of the Selective Service Act, that deferments for students will expire as of July 1, 1941. Students pursuing courses in medicine and a few other branches of science will likely receive continued deferments, but such cases are few in this county.

The ruling was made after a detailed study of one test case. Benjamin E. Manning had been deferred while attending school in New York last term. Returning to the school to continue his courses this summer, he requested a change in classification, pointing out that he was trying to complete post-graduate work. After studying the case at length, the board was of the unanimous opinion that no continued deferments were possible for any regular student other than those pursuing special courses in science. As a result of the action taken by the board last night, all students in the draft list are subject to call in the order of their numbers. Of course, their classifications are subject to change following physical examination by draft board doctors or by those at the induction centers.

With approximately 400 men classified and now in reserve, the draft board in this county will hardly hold another meeting before some time in July. During the meantime, questionnaires are being placed in the hands of more registrants, and plans are going forward for the registration of all young men who have attained the age of 21 years since last October 16 or who will have reached that age on or between now and July 1.

Name Local Man On Tobacco Committee

S. Claude Griffin, prominent local tobaccoist, was named a director of the East Carolina Warehouse Association at a meeting of the organization held in Greenville yesterday. I. M. Little, another county man, was also named on the association's board of directors.

Addressing the group, James S. Ficklin, president of the Tobacco Association of the United States, predicted a price increase of from two to four cents a pound above the 16-cent level of last year. He also stated that normal tobacco shipments are moving to England now and that the huge stocks would be cleared by next February.

No bright picture was painted for tobacco, one speaker pointing out that if England lost the war, east Carolina farmers would lose fifty per cent of their market.

SUMMER TIME

Having already sent advance notice by the weather man, summer time is making its appearance here tomorrow by the calendar. To be exact, summer will begin promptly at 2:34 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

During this month the heat received by day far exceeds the loss through radiation by night, but it is not until July and August that the maximum temperature of the year is experienced.

Plans Go Forward For Second Draft Registration Here

Expected That Young Men Will Register Direct at the Draft Board Office

Tentative plans for handling the second draft registration in this county are being formulated by draft board officials. While no authoritative announcement has been made, it is expected that the registration for this county will be handled in the office of the draft board at Williamston.

Every man in the State of North Carolina who has attained the 21st anniversary of the day of his birth since October 16, 1940, must register with his local Selective Service Van on July 1, State Director J. Van B. Metts stated today.

Men required to register in this second registration are those who were born on or between October 17, 1919, and July 1, 1920.

Aliens as well as American citizens, who become 21 years of age before midnight July 1, 1941, must register, Director Metts emphasized. He also pointed out that aliens before the ages of 21 and 36 years, who have come to the United States since the first registration on October 16, 1940, and have not yet registered, must register on July 1.

Special arrangements will be made by local boards to register men who cannot appear before the local board because of illness or incapacity. Men subject to registration who are inmates of asylums, jails, penitentiaries, or other similar institutions on July 1 will be registered by the warden on the day they leave the institution.

Men subject to registration on July 1 who are away from home and cannot, except at great expense and inconvenience, return to their own local boards to register, may appear before the nearest local board and will be registered there. Such men should be cautioned, however, to give their permanent addresses when registering, General Metts said.

Men who are required to register on July 1 and fail to do so will subject themselves to severe penalties, including imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of not more than \$10,000 or both fine and imprisonment, General Metts emphasized.

Men who will register on July 1, are being cautioned by General J. Van B. Metts to be careful to give correct information as to permanent residence, name of township, and detailed address. In the last registration, there was much confusion as to residence and address, and every effort will be made to eliminate the confusion week after next.

Opening For Boys In Conservation Corps Camp

Openings for a large number of Martin County youths, both white and colored, in the civilian conservation corps were announced this week by Miss Mary Taylor, welfare department head.

All youths desiring to enter the service are directed to file their applications immediately. The group will report for service the first week in July, Miss Taylor said.

Defense Production Reviewed For First Year Of Emergency

Much Has Been Accomplished, But Leaders Are Not Satisfied With Progress

Director General Knudsen and Associate Director General Hillman of the Office of Production Management, in statements observing the close of the first year of the defense effort, said they were not satisfied with the first year's accomplishments.

Mr. Knudsen said, "We have made a start and production should increase with every month from now on. (but) we are not by any means satisfied with the progress made to date." Mr. Hillman announced nearly 6,000,000 workers have been enrolled in the program to increase, stabilize and improve the labor force but said "... the all-out participation of our nation's entire man-power in the defense effort has yet to be achieved."

Machine Tools

OPM Director of Production Biggers, in a summary of the year in defense, announced the annual volume of machine-tool manufacturing has increased 66 per cent over 1940 and 240 per cent over 1939. Mr. Biggers said May production this year is expected to be more than double that of May, 1940. He estimated that 1,000 machine tools are being delivered daily to defense industries.

Aircraft

Director Biggers reported production of 1376 military planes in April was more than three times what it was in June, 1940, and said manufacturers' estimates for May indicate quadrupled production within the year. The output of all types of military planes was almost 9,000 for 11 months, and with the addition of May's production, the year's record is expected to number almost 10,500, he said. Estimated May production of bombers and pursuit planes is more than two and a half times the July, 1940, figure, he said.

Ships

Major naval combat ships under contract or on order April 30th numbered 360, on 312 of which preliminary work actually has started, OPM announced. The Navy contracted for 629 vessels, large and small, during the current fiscal year, as compared with 23 in the preceding year. Total tonnage of major combat vessels on order last July 1 was 585,930 tons. By April 30, 1941, it was 2,226,950, OPM said. Auxiliary vessels under construction between the same months had risen from 74,938 to 282,507 tons.

Tanks

The Army has more than four times as many light (12 ton) tanks on hand as it had last July, and by July, 1941, the increase is expected to be six-fold, OPM reported. These tanks are now being produced at the rate of about 150 a month. Medium (26 ton) tanks were re-designed in the light of experience of the British and French armies in Flanders, and production was delayed purposely so that machine-tool-priority could be given more critical weapons. Quantity production of medium tanks is expected by late summer, OPM said.

Scout Cars

OPM announced scout cars, well-armed combat vehicles, are coming out at the rate of 400 a month. By July the Army will have its present requirements.

Ordnance

OPM reported the following progress in ordnance production over a year ago: powder output, increased 1,900 per cent; small arms ammunition, 1,200 per cent; Garand rifles, 200 per cent; .30 caliber machine guns, 300 per cent; .50 caliber machine guns, 400 per cent; field artillery, 40 per cent, and anti-aircraft artillery, 35 per cent.

Housing

The Office for Emergency Management announced the Army had prepared housing for more than 1,100,000 men by May 1, and expected to have accommodations for 1,350,000 by the end of June. Allocations for new housing projects aggregated 87,260 units in 47 states and territories on May 1, of which approximately 10,000 had been built, OPM announced. On May 3 Government funds were being expended in building.

(Continued on page six)

Assaults Man Over Insurance Premium

O. R. Boyd was arrested this week and placed under a \$200 bond for allegedly assaulting Z. T. Sawyer, special officer at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of this county last Monday. The officer was said to have been badly beaten about the face.

According to reports reaching here Sawyer sold Boyd an insurance policy a number of years ago. The first premium was paid, but the policy lapsed and Boyd was said, after these many years, to have demanded the repayment of the first premium.

After the warrant was drawn against him, Boyd procured a warrant against Sawyer, charging an assault with a deadly weapon. The case is to be aired in the county court next Monday.