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Red Army Continues Push, Rommel Finds It Hot In Tunisia

Air Raids on Continent Resumed After Two-Day Rest Period

While the diplomatic front still sounds its discordant notes, actual fighting on the war fronts is going well for the Allies with the Russians putting more power in their push and with Rommel finding it extremely hot in Africa.

Admiral William H. Standley, ambassador to Moscow, started tongues wagging yesterday when he suggested that Russia was withholding facts from her people, that they had not told of the aid made available to the Soviet by the United States. While it may seem queer that the Russian people have not been apprised of United States aid, observers explain that there is a possible reason for withholding such facts. Red Army men who have used American equipment and the many thousands who have been reached by Red Army supplies and with Red Cross know something about the aid program and have expressed their gratitude. Led to believe they were entirely on their own resources, the Russian people, it was explained, would work harder and do more, accept their sufferings more readily than they would have if they thought aid was coming from other quarters.

Commenting on the aid program to Russia, Wendell Willkie said today that he knew of no Russian who was ignorant of American aid to the Soviet. A movement to create better understandings between the Russians and her Allies is being started, and it is believed that tangible results will follow.

Regardless of confusion on the diplomatic front, the Russian Armies continue with the task at hand, and they are turning in a magnificent performance in destroying Hitler's armies. The encirclement of Vyazma is progressing and Smolensk is not far away. Other drives are also progressing on the eastern front with marked gains being reported by the Russians in the Sevsk area, or the western section of a triangle forming at Kursk and Orel.

Late reports from the Russian front state that the Russians are closing in on both Vyazma and Smolensk, that the Germans are apparently making ready to vacate the first center.

Following a two-day recess, the Allies have renewed their air attacks on the continent. The Americans were busy over France industrial centers, and last night the British, despite the loss of seven bombers, struck machine plants used in the manufacture of submarine engines in Germany itself.

Defeated in six attempts to drive back the British 8th Army, Rommel was said to be withdrawing to the northern end of the Mareth line today in Tunisia. The Germans were said to have suffered heavy casualties and to have lost 50 tanks. In northern Tunisia, the Germans are retreating after tangling with and losing heavily to the British First Army. American airmen figured prominently in the Mediterranean area this morning when they were attacked by 50 Nazi planes. Nineteen of the enemy were shot out of the air without loss to the Americans.

In the Pacific, Jap communication lines are growing weaker, and in Burma, American planes just recently pounded important objectives north of Mandalay, to round out a fairly bright picture on the war fronts for the Allies.

Supporting the actual warfare, French guerrillas are active against the German invaders and are blocking efforts of Laval to force 400,000 Frenchmen into slave labor in German industrial plants. They are begging the Allies to land and open a second front in France with the assurance that large groups would join them.

Native Of County Dies In Virginia

Loren Waldo, native of this county, died of a heart attack following a short illness in a Portsmouth hospital last Saturday. Funeral services were conducted at the late home in Churchland, Va., yesterday afternoon, interment following in the cemetery there.

The son of the late Joseph Waldo and wife, of this county, Mr. Waldo was born in Hamilton about 62 years ago. After spending his early life in this county, he entered the employ of a lumber company and made his home in Portsmouth before locating in Churchland where he owned and operated a large dairy farm.

Mr. Waldo is well remembered in this county and was highly respected in his adopted community. He married in Virginia and is survived by six children, Loren, Robert, Billy, Harry and two daughters, Susan and Julian Ann. Three sisters, Miss Effie Waldo, Mrs. Hennie Ballard and Mrs. Nona Grimes, also survive.

Married Men In County Are Likely To Be Called In April

almost certain to be included in the list of draftees scheduled to leave this county for the Army in April, it was learned following a meeting of the draft board here last night. During the meantime, the board is expected to advise State Selective Headquarters that the current month quota cannot be filled, the county draft authorities explaining that the blanket deferment of farmers for at least a 30-day period had upset the draft schedule and that it would be impossible to get other men ready for the call. It is estimated that hardly half the original number of white draftees scheduled to leave this county the latter part of this month will be available.

Draft board officials, a bit weary over the rapid changes in regulations, hesitate to offer any guesses as to what will happen next or when this or that group will be tapped for service. It is reliably understood that a majority of the available single men with dependents will be thinned out by the board in answering

ing too early in the month to touch "deferred" farmers, will strike the married men without children. It is estimated that there are between 700 and 750 white married men in the county without children. Possibly 75 or more of that number had additions to their families before last September 8th but not before they prepared their draft questionnaires and were advised the draft board of any change in their status. They will find it advisable to inform the draft board. Of the remainder about 350 or 400 are farmers, leaving about 275 married men without children in the non-farm group to bear the brunt of the May draft calls. This group and a few deferred high school pupils are about the only barriers between the draft and married men with children. However, it is possible that the farm deferment plan will not prove as effective as many now think it will be, and some single farmers will fall into the net of the draftees to help relieve the pressure on the other groups.

County Boy Missing In Action In North Africa

SUCCEEDS

After many attempts to enlist, William (Billy) Fowden Clark is at last in the service. The young man offered his services back yonder before the draft law was passed. Defective eyesight kept him out of officer training schools. He was ruled out on a technicality when he tried to enter the National Guard. The young man then volunteered at Fort Bragg and succeeded in getting into the Army, but after five days of service he was honorably discharged on a technicality. He canvassed the recruiting stations a second time, and last December he was accepted. Last Sunday he left for Northwestern University, Chicago, to enter the United States Naval Reserve.

Combination Dance Hall And Apartment Is Destroyed By Fire

Owners Report \$4,000. Loss With Only \$1,200. Insurance

Starting from a flooded oil heater and fed by a 30-gallon supply of kerosene, fire destroyed the combination store-dance hall-apartment building belonging to and operated by Leon and Berdine Brown, colored, on West Gurganus Street here last evening at 8 o'clock. The floor had been oiled and other preparations had been completed for a big dance and party for a large group of colored draftees leaving for an Army induction center this morning.

The fire in the heater had gone out and Brown was trying to re-light it when the surplus oil caught fire and blazed up. He threw a blanket over the fire, and instead of checking it, he caused the fire to spread to the 30 gallons in a small drum near by. Finding time only to grab the children, the Browns ran from the building, leaving the front door open and with the flames following them out. Even before the alarm could be sounded, the fire was burning rapidly in all parts of the big two-story building. Volunteer firemen laid about 1,000 feet of hose and poured water on the fire until it burned itself out almost. The charred timbers caught again several hours later and when the sparks began falling on nearby buildings and homes, the department was called again. No general alarm was sounded, a few firemen taking the equipment out shortly after 2 o'clock.

The building, valued at \$2,000 and a complete loss, was insured for \$1,200. Furniture, valued at \$500, merchandise, \$200 and two nickelodeons, valued at \$500 each, were destroyed and carried no insurance.

One or two of the draftee guests were bemoaning the loss of their supplies of wine and liquors they had hidden to near the building in anticipation of a rip-roaring time later in the evening.

"We barely managed to escape the burning building with the children," one of the owners said this morning.

Resigns Place On The State School Commission

Elbert S. Peel, a member of the State School Commission for two years upon appointment by Governor J. M. Broughton, resigned a few days ago along with all the other members. The resignations were offered as a preliminary step in setting up a unified control for State education.

M. Melvin Whitfield Unheard From Since Middle of February

Is First Boy from County in Land Forces Reported Missing in Action

Marvin Melvin Whitfield, son of Mrs. Pearl Whitfield, of Gold Point, and the late Julius Whitfield, was reported missing in action in North Africa on February 14th, according to a message received by his mother from the War Department last Friday afternoon. Few details were given, other than those telling he was missing in action and that any future developments would be communicated immediately.

As far as it could be learned here, young Whitfield is the first Martin County boy of the regular Army to be reported missing in action. Six other Martin County men are known to have made the supreme sacrifice and three others are still listed as missing.

Volunteering his services as a lad of seventeen, Whitfield reported for duty about three years ago or soon after Hitler trampled Poland and long before Pearl Harbor. He trained at Fort Bragg and was moved overseas last spring. It is believed that he was among the first to land in North Africa last November.

Apparently he was reported missing about the time or soon after Marshal Rommel stormed Faid Pass and drove a twenty-mile wedge into the American lines in Central Tunisia. It is possible that he was taken prisoner or was lost from his regular unit and has not been able to report since February 14th.

Whitfield was 20 years old in February. He was born in Gold Point and was living there when he enlisted in the service. Besides his mother there are five brothers, Julius Whitfield, of Norfolk; B. F. Whitfield, of Williamston; Edward Earl, Vernon Dale and Bruce Whitfield, all of this county, and two sisters, Mrs. Kelly Davenport and Mrs. Walter R. Jones, both of Williamston.

Craft Recognition School At Oak City

Receiving special instruction at a regular army school at Virginia Beach recently, Mayor Nat Johnson, of Oak City, will offer a series of courses in aircraft recognition for approximately 80 airplane spotters for the Oak City observation post beginning next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The classes will be held at the school. A second class will be held next Monday night, the "professor" announcing that a second school would be held there just as soon as the first one is completed.

TOWN - FARM

(A weekly news digest from the OWI news bureau)

On the farm production front, the Department of Agriculture, in a roll call now underway, is calling on all North Carolina rural women to pledge every family to produce as much of the home food supply as possible. A good part of farm produce, especially in "one-crop" areas, either raise only a small part of the one garden supply, or do not raise a sufficient variety of fresh vegetables to give a well-balanced diet. With canned foods limited, it is essential to improve the diet and health of rural families through home gardens.

Davis To Broadcast
Elmer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, will begin a series of weekly 15-minute broadcasts on Friday evening, March 12. The series will be broadcast over NBC, CBS and blue networks each Friday evening from 10:45 to 11:00 P.M. Eastern War Time. They will be re-broadcast each Saturday at 4:00 p.m. over the network of the Mutual Broadcasting Company.

Ceiling Prices on Pork After April 1
On April 1, 1943, ceiling prices will be fixed on all retail sales of fresh and processed pork. Bigger markups are allowed to independent stores doing less than \$250,000 a year than are allowed to larger stores and chains. The maximum prices for five pork products are: sliced bacon (defined, smoked) grade A, 48 and 46 cents per pound; skinned, smoked ham, center slices, 61 and 58 cents; skinned, smoked whole ham, 41 and 40 cents; center cut pork chops (fresh or frozen pork loins), 43 and 41 cents; and salt pork (dry salt bellies), fresh, cured or frozen, 26 and 24 cents per pound.

On and after April 1, a retailer may sell only—(1) Pork cuts given dollars and cents prices under OPA 336, and (2) pork products whose prices are fixed under general maximum price regulation, including—Pork sausage, canned pork, pork variety meats or offal (including temple meat cutlets, brains, chitterlings, liver, plucks, kidneys, lips, tongues, snouts, ears, hearts, cheek and head meat, stomachs, weasand meat and heads), and quick frozen cuts which are delivered to the retailer in individual packages in which he sells them. Ceiling prices on pork must be posted in each store beginning April 1, and, upon request, the retailer must give a customer a receipt showing the date, name and address of retailer, name and weight of each pork cut sold, and the price paid for it.

Cookie Prices on the Rise
North Carolina housewives will soon be paying more for crackers, biscuits and cakes. The increase will be small in the case of cakes, but on crackers and cookies, where flour is a larger factor in production costs, the increase may eventually be great. Because rising soft wheat prices in the East have put a severe

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Last Call Is Made For Peanut Cards

All Martin County farmers who have sold their peanuts and have not yet returned their marketing cards to the county agent's office are urged to do so at once. Those farmers who have not sold their peanuts, are asked to report to the agent's office, surrender the marketing card they now have in exchange for another. These cards must be in before March 31, it was explained.

Martin County farmers having oil peanuts on hand for seed are warned that they must apply at the agent's office for a sales permit if any are to be sold by them. Oil seed peanuts are to be sold at the old market price—\$3.60 per 100 pounds plus handling charges—and sales must be entered on the peanut marketing card by a member of the AAA committee.

WARNING

Speaking before county agents, committeemen and fertilizer dealers in a district meeting in the Martin County courthouse Monday afternoon, C. J. Ball, representing the Food Production Administration, warned against the illegal sale by manufacturers and dealers and the use of fertilizers by farmers and others.

Drafting Of Farmers For War Is Delayed Pending Study Of Manpower Problems By Boards

Speeding Costs Motorist His Gas Ration Book for Duration

Drastic action designed to conserve rapidly dwindling rubber stocks was taken by the Martin County Rationing Board sitting as a board of inquiry here last night when a motorist's gasoline ration book was cancelled for the duration. Said to have been running about sixty miles an hour, Sam Henry Simmons, colored, of RFD, Williamston, lost his book for the indefinite period. Suspending the man's gas ration, the board issued against the meaningful warning against speeding. "Motorists must drive within the 35-mile limit or suffer the consequences," a representative of the board warned.

C. D. Bullock, of Williamston RFD 3, charged with speeding, lost his ration book for thirty days.

New Orders Likely To Complicate Farm And Draft Problems

Back to Farm Movement Possible, Shift from One Farm to Another Is Seen

The drafting of manpower from the farm for war has been halted temporarily at least, observers believing that it will be some time in May before a farmer in this county would be made subject to call to the colors. During the meantime, it will be up to the farm registrant to convince the War Board he is an essential farm worker and is in the 2-C or 3-C classification.

New orders received Monday morning have disrupted activities in the county draft board office and created new problems for the County War Board, the draft and war board members in a special meeting here last night admitting that they hardly knew how and where the new rulings would fit into the farm labor and draft picture. Draft calls for farmers have been delayed for thirty days, at least, and during that time the two boards are to study the problems. Just what the outcome will be is not quite certain, but it is apparent that the farm and draft problems will be far more complicated with the possibility that the situation will become more perplexing as the program progresses.

It is indeed certain that all farmers will not be placed in the lower classifications, but where the draft board has been passing on the eligibility of the farm registrant the county War Board will enter the picture and say whether a farm registrant is eligible for a lower classification or whether he should be made subject to the draft. The farm registrant's requirements, and those requirements call for the production of so many farm units. If the registrant is not producing the required number of units he will be given 30 days to alter his production schedule or make other plans. And that's where the farm problem can become complicated. If a farmer cannot produce the required units on one farm and he can produce them on another one, he will be directed to move and meet the requirements or answer the draft call. Briefly stated, the farmer who claims deferment or a lower classification must produce or answer the draft call.

All farm registrants recently classified in the 1-A group will have their cases reviewed by the War Board. If the War Board finds that the registrant is not meeting the production requirements, then the registrant will be notified that he is subject to call unless he makes other plans and arrangements to go into production on the required scale. If he meets those requirements, his classification in 2-C or 3-C will follow. If he does not or is unable to meet the requirements, the draft board will be so notified at the end of 30 days and classification in 1-A will follow.

The War Board, composed of Messrs. Jesse F. Crisp, of Oak City, chairman; Tom B. Brandon, secretary; J. C. Eubanks, H. F. McNight, all of Williamston; John L. Hassell, Oak City; E. V. Smith, RFD 1, Palmyra; and Willie L. Ausbon, Robertsonville, is holding its first meeting this afternoon. These gentlemen will nurse the farm manpower problem

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Red Cross War Drive A Success In Chapter

Chapter Only \$265 Short Of Its Goal Of \$3,900.00 Today

Four Townships Already Over Top; Chairman V. J. Spivey Greatly Pleased

Working in the name of suffering humanity and finding a liberal public, canvassers for the 1943 Red Cross War Fund in the Martin County Chapter yesterday submitted pleasing and encouraging reports. Four townships, Bear Grass, Griffins, Williams and Jamesville, are already over the top, the districts going over in the order named but with Jamesville submitting possibly the best one of all. The workers there, led by Mrs. Chas. Davenport and Mrs. Walter Brown and others, reported an amount nearly \$200 in excess of the assigned quota. It was this report and those from Williams, Bear Grass and Griffins, too, that pleased Chairman V. J. Spivey greatly as he surveyed the field this morning and announced that the campaign had been a marked success to date and that the quota would be reached and possibly exceeded by tomorrow or Thursday.

Assigned a quota of \$2,550, Williams has made splendid progress and is struggling toward the finish line now, Chairman Spivey stating that the goal would be reached.

The colored citizens are slow in reporting, but \$75.33 has already been turned in and more than twice that amount will be placed in the hands of the chairman today.

A review of the assigned quotas and amounts raised to date follows by districts and groups:

Jamesville	\$ 300	\$ 493.67
Williams	100	101.76
Griffins	250	296.72
Bear Grass	300	344.92
Williamston	2550	2,322.93
Colored Citizens	400	75.33
	\$3900	\$3,635.33

Taking charge in Bear Grass, the good women of that community, aided by a few men, exceeded expectations.

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Legislature Quits Raleigh Tomorrow

Steering around controversial matters for the most part, the North Carolina Legislature is scheduled to quit Raleigh tomorrow, the session now drawing to a close being a rather peaceful but eventful one.

County Young Man Commended For His Bravery Under Fire

Luther Cleveland Modlin Is Promoted in United States Navy

A Martin County young man, Luther Cleveland Modlin, was recently commended by the Commander of the United States Atlantic Fleet for "exceptional courage and fortitude when wounded in action against the enemy," according to a release just received here from the Public Relations Office, Sixth Naval District, Charleston, South Carolina.

"Despite the fact that he was seriously wounded, Modlin went to his battle station and assisted in making repairs," the citation added.

The message, announcing the citation, carried few details, and the place and conditions under which the recognition was earned could not be learned.

The young man, the son of Mr. Sam Modlin, of RFD 1, Jamesville, and the late Mrs. Modlin, was home for a short stay several weeks ago. If he had been wounded, he did not mention it during his visit, and apparently he received the injury and earned the citation since his return to service. The ship he was on and other particulars could not be divulged.

Modlin, 25 years old tomorrow, enlisted in the Navy three years ago, the 26th of last month. He now holds the rank of electrician's mate, second class, United States Navy. He was advanced to that rank for his bravery and fortitude displayed recently.

Martin County men on land, sea and in the air have displayed courage and fortitude and their bravery is accepted without question, but Electrician's Mate Modlin is the first county young man to be so commended.

He has a brother, Tilghman Modlin, who is now serving with the Marines.

Status Of 38-45 Age Group Up In The Air

The same day that the Martin County Draft Board finished moving its 38-45 year old registrants into the 4-H classification, it was notified to reclassify them into 1-A H or 3-A H as the case may be. Just what the order means is not exactly clear, but it is rumored that the group must get busy in some essential industry or face a call to the Army on or after May 1.

Highlights On The Red Cross Drive

Encouraging and pleasing reports marked the Red Cross War Fund drive throughout the Martin County Chapter as a whole, but the activities of Mrs. J. T. Harris and Mrs. Arthur Peaks, canvassers in Bear Grass, probably are the most unusual. In those homes where there was little ready cash on hand, the canvassers cheerfully arranged a visit to the chicken lot. When they completed their work they reported 99 pounds of poultry, the individual contributions in those cases averaging about \$1.14 each when converted into cash. Certainly, the chicken round-up was a bit troublesome, but what's a little trouble when it comes to financing a humane organization like the Red Cross.

A Red Cross drive is seldom held in the chapter but what the liberal response to a similar call back in World War I is recalled. The late Harry Stubbs spoke in the school house one night, and in short order, the farmers and other citizens of the community contributed in the neighborhood of \$700. Considering population and quota sizes, that record still stands.