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Allied Forces Gain In Tunisia But Lose On Diplomatic Front

Terrific Fighting Reported as Allies Push On Toward Bizerte and Tunis

Despite terrible opposition offered by select German troops, Allied forces are steadily marching, slowly to be sure, toward Tunis and Bizerte in Northern Tunisia today. Terrific fighting is in progress, and preliminary reports indicate that losses are heavy on both sides. The four groups—the Americans, the British First and Eighth Armies and the Fighting French—are handling equal and daring roles in tightening the noose around Rommel's neck. Late reports state that the Germans are retreating before the Americans in the north, that the British First Army is threatening a breakthrough on the central front, and that the Fighting French are making progress in their drive toward Pont Du Fahs, not so many miles from Tunis.

The Americans are about ten miles out of Mateur, a key junction town just a few miles from Bizerte. German resistance, anchored in the hills, is gradually softening before the onslaught in that sector. Allied artillery is pounding the enemy positions, one report stating that the Germans were pounded with 15,000 shells from Allied artillery within a short time during the week-end.

While the Allies are making progress on the actual fighting fronts, they have suffered what some describe as a serious setback on the diplomatic front. Russia has broken relations with the exiled Polish government, and it appears from here that German propaganda is outdistancing Allied diplomacy. Swallowing Axis propaganda, hook, line, sinker, boat and all, the Poles recently charged the Russians with killing 10,000 Polish officers in the Smolensk sector months ago. Russia reported the murder of the Polish officers by the Germans at the time, but German propaganda now apparently succeeded in splitting two of the United Nations. Similar propaganda is being swallowed in this county and throughout the entire world despite the fighting record of Russian against a common enemy.

The break on the diplomatic front is just so much more evidence supporting charges that diplomatic relations on the Allied side are being bungled. While Franco's Blue Division is in action against the Russians on the Eastern Front, the Allies are coddling Franco on other fronts, and are still holding prisoner those men who fought Hitler and Mussolini and the Vichy crowd from

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County Colored Man Is Fatally Injured In Car Wreck Saturday

Robt. Lee, 24 Years Old, Dies In Hospital Last Night From Broken Neck

Saturated with liquor and wine, Robert Lee, 24-year-old Bear Grass colored man, drove to his death on the old Bear Grass-Williamston Road last Saturday afternoon. His neck broken, the man died in the local hospital last night at 11 o'clock, the third person in the county to lose his life in a highway motor accident since the first of the year.

Said to have consumed a pint of wine on top of a liberal supply of liquor, Lee picked up a young fellow named Rogers and started to Williamston. Driving an old model car, Lee was literally flying when he reached a small bridge in the road near the Mobley Cemetery. He struck the bridge with such force that the car hood flew up and off. From there to Farmer Mack Leggett's home, he travelled all over the road, darting first to one side and then to the other. When in front of the home, he made a last turn, one so sharp that it caused the car to turn over. The door flew open and the man's neck was caught between it and the standard where he was held until Mr. Leggett and others could get the car off him.

"I begged him to slow down, to let me out, but he continued the wild ride," Rogers, his companion, was quoted as saying. "Just as we were starting off, Lee wanted to know how long another car had been gone. I told him the boys were half an hour ahead of us. 'We'll catch 'em before they get to Williamston,' he told me, and the chase was on," Rogers added.

Lee was apparently so drunk it was impossible to determine the extent of his injuries at the time, but Patrolman W. S. Hunt had him brought to Dr. Early's office here in an ambulance. A few hours later the man had sobered up some, answered questions and apparently was not seriously hurt. A short time thereafter he was removed to the hospital where he was treated for a broken neck. Soon after he was admitted to the hospital, doctors stated that the man did not have a chance to recover, that it would be a matter of only hours before the end.

County Men Are Scattered In Nearly Every Part of World

Martin County young men are being scattered all over the world to take part in the global war. It is well established that the county is represented on every battle front in the world, that one or more are in nearly every county in the world outside of Germany and a few of the Balkan States. If there isn't one in every state in the United States now there will be one or more when the distribution is completed within the next few days.

Most of the boys leaving the county on April 13 for active service were sent to Keesler Field. In that group was Jimmie Watts. Another youth, Orlander (Jack) Green was sent to Florida, and one or two remained at the induction station, possibly for the duration.

A majority of the group leaving the county on Tuesday of last week

for active service also went to Mississippi, but four, J. Paul and Reginald Simpson, R. Edwin (Flip) Peola and Shelton Hall, showed up in Miami last Saturday or about the time some of their wives were discussing plans to visit them at the induction station on Sunday. Several were still at Fort Bragg Sunday, Franklin Bruce Whitley, former key man in the Enterprise aggregation, sending word from the Fort Sunday that he had already gained sufficient experience in housecleaning and kitchen work to make some man a good "wife." A report coming from the soldier following the first two days he spent in camp stated that he had done more work in that time than in any two other days during the past twenty years. It was pointed out that he was not complaining, that he was feeling the best in his life and getting along fine.

Officers Are Checking Alleged Law Violators

NO NEW ELECTORS

Williamston had a registration period for the last three Saturdays for the town election to be held next Tuesday, but not a single new name was added to the books, Registrar John E. Pope said yesterday. Next Saturday was set aside for the challenge of new electors, but since none was added there'll be little reason for the registrar to keep open house that day.

There have been listless elections here in years past, but the one scheduled for next Tuesday apparently will hardly attract enough voters to give it the proper legal standing.

Wm. Jesse Cherry Passes at Home in Williams Township

Funeral for Respected Farmer To Be Held at Holly Springs Today

William Jesse Cherry, respected farmer and citizen of Williams Township, died at his home there Sunday evening at 9:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. He had been confined to his home for some over two years, spending the last seven weeks in bed. Death was attributed to a complication of ailments.

The son of the late William Andrew and Louise Gurganous Cherry, he was born near Williamston 65 years ago, the 27th of last November. When a young man he was married to Miss Loretta Roberson, of Williams Township. Two children, Mrs. W. L. Manning and Mrs. Lillian Long, both of Williams Township, survive the union. Some time after his first wife's death in 1912, he was married to Miss Bettie Young, of Kinston. She died in 1915 and in 1919 he was married to Miss Della Holland, of Greenville. No children survive those marriages. Besides his two daughters and his last wife, Mr. Cherry leaves one brother, Mr. N. S. Cherry, and a sister, Mrs. Annie Roberson, both of Williams Township, and Mrs. Lydia B. Thompson, of Robersonville.

Possessed of a quiet and unassuming character, Mr. Cherry was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He lived peaceably with his fellowman and was valued as a friend and neighbor. He was interested in the welfare of his community, and served as a school committeeman for several terms as a member of the old Sandy Ridge School before its consolidation with the plant in Williamston. As a member of the Holly Springs Methodist Church, he was a loyal supporter of its activities during the greater part of thirty-five

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NOTED SPEAKER

Dr. E. H. Crossfield, former president of Transylvania College in Kentucky and a noted lecturer, will deliver a public address in the local grammar school this evening at 8:30 o'clock. His topic will center around the Orientals, principally the Japanese. The speaker has traveled extensively in the Far East, and is qualified as a student of Japan, China and Russia.

An added feature on the program will be the dedication of a new stage curtain and equipment ment to the memory of Mrs. W. H. Harrell, a faithful teacher in the schools for nearly a quarter of a century. Pupils and teachers are responsible for the marked improvement.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

(A weekly news digest from the rural press section of the OWI news service)

Ration Reminder
Gasoline—"A" book coupons No. 5 good for three gallons each until July 21.

Sugar—Coupon No. 12 good for 5 pounds, must last through May 31.

Coffee—Stamp No. 23 (1 lb.) good from April 26 through May 30.

Fuel Oil—Period 5 coupons now valid and will be until Sept. 30th.

Shoes—No. 17 stamp in War Ration Book One good for one pair through June 15.

Red Stamps—Red stamps lettered "E" became valid April 25. Expiration date to be announced. Unused A, B, C or D stamps good through April 30.

Blue Stamps—D, E, F expire on April 30. G, H, J, became valid April 24, and are good until May 31.

War Ration Book No. 3

War Ration Book No. 3 will be distributed through the mails to more than 120,000,000 individuals beginning late in June and ending July 1, the OPA has announced. Mailmen will leave postcard application forms at every home between May 20 and June 5. The postcard, properly filled out by the head of the house and mailed to OPA, will bring Ration Book No. 3. Prentiss M. Brown, Price Administrator, emphasized that Book No. 3 is a replacement book only, containing a new supply of stamps to take the place of those now being used up. He said if any more rationing programs were necessary there would be official notices by the government.

Poultry Price Violations

The Office of Price Administration in North Carolina is starting an intensive drive to wipe out black markets in poultry, and to end sales at higher than ceiling prices. Sweeping changes in poultry price ceilings were recently announced as part of the campaign to stop illegal sales, with prices reduced from one cent to 10 cents per pound on expensive birds and raised one or two cents per pound for cheaper poultry. Revised prices are expected to effect substantial savings to consumers.

Loans for Conserving Fuel

Virginia home owners who want to convert their oil heating equipment to use other fuels or to install inside insulation, weather-stripping, storm doors, or storm windows may get FIA loans on a delayed payment plan. Initial payments on loans made between April 20 and September 1 may be deferred until November 1, 1943, if the entire loan is used for such work.

Live Hog Ceiling Threatened

State livestock producers and packers were warned last week by Chester C. Davis, food administrator, that a ceiling would have to be established on live hogs if prices did not adjust themselves in line with wholesale ceilings. He remarked, however, that the recent course of the hog market has been most satisfactory.

More Soya Foods

Edible soya products—the high protein foods soon to have an important place in both military and civilian diets—are expected to reach 1-2 billion pounds annually. The quantity available for civilians will be many times as large as in the past year. Soya products have already played a significant wartime role. Rich in valuable proteins, minerals and vitamins, they are readily adaptable to large scale use as a human food to supplement meat, milk and eggs.

Scrap Drive Lagging

In spite of the fine cooperation given to the farm scrap drive by the Virginia rural press, reports indicate that the farmers are failing to get out all their scrap, which is so vitally needed for the prosecution of the war. Reports on the sinkings of American ships show what an enormous amount of scrap is needed.

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Funeral For Mrs. Grimes In Hamilton Saturday

Funeral services for Mrs. Wm. T. Grimes, a native of Hamilton but more recently a resident of Albany, Ga., were held in St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Hamilton, last Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Saturday is the cemetery there.

The services were to have been held Friday afternoon but late train schedules made it necessary to alter the original plans.

ROUND-UP

With the high sheriff, patrolmen and local police cooperating, the law rounded up and jailed nine persons in the county hoghouse here last week-end. Two of the nine were booked for drunken driving, three for public drunkenness, one for larceny and receiving, one for murder, one for non-support and one for assaulting another with a deadly weapon. It was Easter time, but crime took no holiday.

Three of those arrested and jailed were white, the ages of the group ranging from 18 to 40 years.

Varied Schedule of Activities Observed Here During Easter

A varied schedule of activities marked the observance of Easter here, the period seeing a mad scramble for wearing apparel in the shops, a mixture of religious worship, a continuation of many business operations and a fling at pleasure.

Shop owners and employees last Saturday were reminded of a Christmas eve, the shoppers crowding the stores and clamoring for merchandise. Easter stocks, in many cases, were depleted, and even though the feminine finery was not as noticeable as in days past, no one was ill clad, and a joyous day was joyfully spent. Traffic started increasing late Friday, and during the two days that followed the movement of cars approached normalcy and set a new record for volume in war time.

The weather was ideal Sunday and the day saw possibly the great-

est of the year. The sun came up on hardily a good 100 worshippers at the sunrise service in the cemetery, but the ministers preached to large congregations during the regular morning hours. With the several ministers of the town participating, the service in the cemetery was an impressive one. The religious program for the day was climaxed when Rev. B. T. Hurley, Methodist minister, delivered the commencement sermon in the high school to a large congregation. Declaring the future did not look bright for the seniors, the minister pointed out that an opportunity to do good awaited them. He urged them to have faith and courage.

Fishermen, coming from quite a distance in some cases, were seen in numbers on the river Sunday, and others were seen going to routine jobs.

Forty-six Seniors Are Graduating Thursday

Graduating Class Is Largest In History Of the Local School

Closing Event To Be Without Feature Speaker for First Time in Many Years

Forty-six seniors will receive their diplomas at graduating exercises to be held in the Williamston High School auditorium Thursday evening, April 29, at 8:30. Twenty boys and twenty-seven girls comprise what will be the largest graduating class in the history of the local school.

The special commencement program will have a patriotic theme, "America Marches On," and will be a student program entirely. Richard Margolis and Bill Peele, valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, will be the principal speakers. It is the first time in many years that no outside speaker has been given a part on the program. The streamlined program is traceable to the war, Principal Hix explained.

Awards to be presented during the student program are the W. C. Manning Valedictorian's Cup; the Sarah Manning Home Economics Cup; the Goodman Athletic Trophy; the Civic Cup; the Kiwanis Debating Medal, and the B. S. Courtney Science Medal.

Joseph Wynne, chief marshal, will lead the procession. School days for the pupils of the Williamston community will officially end next Friday morning with the distribution of report cards. The local school will remain closed on Thursday to give teachers ample time to grade examination papers and complete school records. Buses will operate on Friday, and the school will remain in session only a part of the day.

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Firemen Shortage In Local Company

With its ranks decreased by one-fourth as a result of war calls, the local fire department is now facing a serious manpower shortage. Urgent invitations have been extended to quite a few to join, but so far only three places have been filled, leaving the strength of the department below normal.

W. Clyde Griffin, John Cherry and Henry Griffin were added to the department personnel by a unanimous vote at a meeting of the volunteer group last evening.

Local firemen are paid \$2.50 per month if they attend all regular meetings. If they miss the meetings they are fined \$1.00.

Still expressing a desire to serve the town to the best of their ability, the firemen as a group last night considered tendering their resignations. The discussion was prompted by recent criticism the firemen considered unjust as far as they were concerned. "It is a bad time to withdraw now, and we are willing to stand by and do the best we can, but any time some one is ready to re-leave us we are ready to get out," one fireman volunteered, his words expressing the sentiment of most if not all of the group.

Airplane Recognition School For Observers

Beginning next Tuesday evening, May 4th, at 8 o'clock, "Professor" John D. Biggs will conduct a series of classes in airplane recognition at the Legion Hut on Watts Street. The classes will be held each Tuesday and Friday evening during the next three weeks. All observers at the local spotters' post are urged to make arrangements to attend the special school.

Tribute Is Paid To Memory Of Hero Who Made Sacrifice

"He Gave His Life . . . What Are You Giving?" Is Show Window Display Theme

Howard Hancock, writing in a recent issue of the Roanoke Rapids Herald, tells how a firm in the Halifax County town dedicated a display in its show window to the memory of Roland Moore, Martin County lad who made the supreme sacrifice for his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps.

Devoid of any commercial theme, the display urges the purchase of more bonds. Young Moore was an employee in the store before volunteering his services.

Hancock writes: "A nice window display—was featured over the week-end by McCrory's 5-10-25c Store dedicated to the memory of Roland Moore, who served as stockroom manager of the city store up to his entering the Marines about a year ago, and who was killed overseas sometime during the month of March.

The window display advocated the purchase of War Bonds in the Government's Second War Loan Drive, and was very effective, with clippings of the account of the death of young Roland. A mound of earth in the window indicated a miniature grave, and inscribed on a placard nearby was:

"He gave his life . . . What are you giving?"

"I believe Roland would be glad if he knew that window display influenced more people to buy war bonds.

"I knew Roland pretty well during his brief stay of a year in our city and he was a fine young man.

"The war comes closer home to us when we read of such casualties. It seems only yesterday that Roland was bringing my little girl a toy, or a piece of candy when we went in McCrory's . . . and now he is gone . . . a mound of earth in a show window reminding patrons of the store where he worked that he died in the service of his country . . .

"Roland never needed a build-up, for those who knew him instantly recognized in him qualities not to be found in the average youth of his age, but had he needed one he certainly got it in a letter his dad, who lives on a farm near Williamston, received from Colonel James Roosevelt, son of the President, when he said:

"Roland has been my orderly and friend ever since the formation of the battalion. He had exhibited a high degree of devotion to duty, an intelligent application of initiative

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Colored Farmer In County Killed His Young Wife Sunday

Sheppard Spruill Claims the Shooting Accidental, But Delayed Calling Doctor

Sheppard Spruill, 50-year-old colored tenant farmer on the Mizelle farm, near Palmyra, shot and fatally injured his 21-year-old wife, Katherine, at their home last Sunday noon. She died a few hours later without medical attention being summoned to her side.

Arrested by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck at the home early Sunday evening, Spruill maintained that the shooting was accidental. He went on to explain that he was shooting at a snake, missed and that the entire load of gun shot struck the woman in the abdomen. Details could not be learned, but it is believed he picked her up and placed her on the bed where she apparently died to death in the course of a few hours. Neighbors went to the home that afternoon and when told of the shooting they called a doctor, but she died before medical aid reached her. Called to the home, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck found the man sitting on the front porch and the body untouched on the bed.

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MOSQUITOES

Relishing and thriving on human blood here last season, mosquitoes are making an early return visit for more. The advanced guard arrived some few weeks ago, and Sunday they were followed by swarms of their brethren and sisters.

Their victims are already convinced that the bite is equally as bad as it was a year ago. Battered by the attacks last year, many local people are wondering if they will be able to drag through another period when their laziness is aggravated by spring fever and malaria.

More than one is pleading for a report on the mosquito control program, telling how many ditches have been cleaned out, how many private lots and yards have been cleaned up, and what other steps have been taken to protect the people from a dangerous plague.