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Allies Established Firmly on Sicily in Second Major Drive

Greatest Combined Action of Air, Land and Sea Forces in All History

In one of the greatest combined air, land and sea operations the world has ever known, Allied forces moved in on the strongly fortified island of Sicily just off the toe of the Italian boot last Saturday morning at 3 o'clock, Sicilian time, and today the invaders are firmly established with their forces gradually spreading out in what is described as the first major invasion drive and the second greatest action since the fall of North Africa.

Detailed accounts of the operation are yet to be had, but the Allied high command has officially announced that casualties were much smaller than had been expected, that the campaign is progressing favorably and that success is assured.

Gathering a total of 2,000 ships—the greatest single fleet ever assembled by any power or group of powers—the Allies started moving across the Mediterranean last Friday. British glider troops and American paratroopers, including possibly Billy Biggs of Williamston, preceded the armada and dropped behind the enemy lines to disrupt communications and attack the 10,006-square-mile island outer defense. That they did an able job is evidenced in the confused resistance offered by the Italians along the 100-mile bridgehead formed by American, Canadian and British troops. After opening the invasion drive, the glider-borne troops and paratroopers were followed within three hours by the land armies, including those of Generals Montgomery, Alexander and Patton. The invasion leaders and the ground troops soon joined, and losses were surprisingly small, one report stating that three Allied soldiers marched 300 Italian prisoners back to concentration centers. One unofficial report claims that the invaders were welcomed by the officials of one town and that the Italians joined the invaders and helped unload the steady streams of supplies and equipment pouring into the island.

Landing a few miles west of Licata, the Allies have extended their bridgehead around the southeastern tip of the island to include the important port of Syracuse where General Montgomery and his Britishers have already started a drive toward Messina almost 100 miles away and just across the straits from Italy's boot toe.

While the invasion is progressing quite successfully, a warning of counterattacks has been heard. Already the Americans have engaged in fierce fighting off Gela where they launched a drive to cut off the southern tip of the island. The British and Canadians have also encountered some strong resistance in the Syracuse area, but the main opposition is expected only after the enemy is certain of Allied strategy and movements.

At least thirteen towns have been taken, an air landing taken, and a landing at the capture of Trapani on the west coast have been reported. General Montgomery and his Britishers are now launching a drive northward toward Augusta with Messina just off the Italian boot toe as their objective.

While the land forces are mop-up (Continued on page six)

Seven Cases Before Ration Board Panel

Three cases charging violation of the gas ration laws and four others making no specific charges were before the County War Price and Rationing Board panels in the agricultural building last Friday evening.

C. M. Anderson, charged with speeding, was found not guilty, the defendant explaining that he was out of the state when the charge was originated, that it was an apparent case of mistaken identity.

The case charging Roland Holliday with speeding was continued.

Called before the board to explain the exchange of a "T" gas ticket Charlie James explained that a former co-worker was home from the Army, and needed a little gas, that the soldier, a colored boy, had been a good and loyal worker and that he merely wanted to help him. The case broke when Harris went to the rationing board and asked for a five-gallon allotment. When asked for his tire inspection record, he reached for his pocket book and the loose "T" coupon dropped out before a ration board employee. A clean front of the case was offered, and only a stiff warning was issued, but at one time it looked as if someone would drink soup on the jailhouse menu.

Four persons were called before the board to have their tire records inspected. Action was dismissed in all four cases. The following were called: John H. Best, RFD 1, Bethel; Lonnie Lee, of RFD 2, Williamston; John E. Bland, RFD 1, Robersonville, and Lester Bess, of RFD 1, Palmyra.

Recorder Supports Campaign Against Vagrancy In County

calling upon everyone to work or else was supported by Recorder J. C. Smith in the county court this week when the first cases were placed on the docket and tried by him. In taking a definite stand for support of the order, Judge Smith still recognized the rights of the working man, and hesitated to go beyond the law. It has been pointed out that the new drive against idleness and indifference should be condemned, so should unfair practices of management be condemned. However, little trouble is expected from that quarter, and the drive in this county is to get every vagrant a job and to urge workers to hold to their jobs regularly.

There are cases where laborers are being held to jobs that are limiting their production. In those cases, the worker is at liberty to seek another.

One of the defendants facing Judge Smith this week was Ben Ben-

32 hours a week on an average. Judge Smith ruled that he was not guilty of vagrancy, and under the present law that was the only verdict the jurist could render. In Bennett's case he would work extra hours one week and remain idle two or three days the next week. Judge Smith warned against the practice, and it is quite likely that the governor will exercise his emergency powers and rule it unlawful for a man to work only a few days each week, and when there is an apparent indifference he shall be subject to prosecution. Briefly stated, the labor law is in an experimental stage just now.

In the second case, guilt was established and the defendant, Oliver Bonds, was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending judgment upon the payment of the costs and a \$40 fine.

As a general rule, indifference to work and vagrancy are fast disappearing on a voluntary basis.

Eleven-Cent Cut In Special Road Tax For This Township

Twenty-one Cent Reduction Is Certain For District For 1943-44

It turns out now that the 10-cent county tax rate reduction effected by the commissioners last Thursday is hardly half the relief Williamston Township taxpayers will get when they get ready to pay their 1943-44 tax accounts. And possibly the ten-cent reduction represents only a third of the relief town of Williamston taxpayers will get. And the reduction comes, so to speak, on a silver platter without the prodding of any taxpayers' league or high-powered organization which often goes into action with poverty and financial reverses threaten.

While the county as a whole will have to be satisfied with the flat ten cent reduction in the county-wide rate, Williamston Township property owners can knock off another 11 cents from their tax bills. This reduction is traceable to that aged township road bond debt. Last year a 15-cent special township road bond rate was in effect. This year, the authorities figure that a rate of four cents on the \$100 assessed property valuation will wipe the slate clean. No official word has come from the town commissioners, but a reduction in the town tax rate is reasonably possible, one official estimating that a 10-cent reduction is to be expected. Should the estimate prove correct, then town property owners can slice 21 cents from their combined tax rates.

Back in 1912, July of that year to be exact, Williamston Township voted and floated a \$20,000 bond issue for "good roads." Six months later on January 1, a \$10,000 issue was floated and a year later a second \$10,000 issue was saddled on the taxpayers. The rate ranged from 35 cents down to 15 cents last year and four cents this year. The first issue—the one for \$20,000—was matured in 1941 after the taxpayers had paid the \$20,000 plus \$34,800 in interest. The second issue was retired in 1934 after the principal and \$11,000 in interest had been paid. The remaining issue was to have been retired the first of this year, but bad collections and a depression back in the early thirties upset the schedule, and a 4-cent rate was deemed necessary. When the four-cent rate is applied and the money is in hand, the last of the "good roads" debt will have been retired, but not until the taxpayers will have paid a total of \$102,300 in principal and interest for the "good roads" experiment.

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Unusual Case Is Set For Trial Monday In County's Court

Milton James, Colored, Is To Be Brought Bodily Before Judge Smith

Hiding behind his deformity, Milton James, aged colored man of Jamesville Township, has defied officers and the law on several occasions in recent months. He will have an opportunity to carry that defiance into the court room next Monday for Judge J. C. Smith issued an order directing the high sheriff to get from one to forty men and bring the man in for trial. Arrangements for carrying out the order have not yet been completed, but positive action is to be expected. Advised that it wasn't likely that the man could be brought through the door of his home on account of his enormous size the judge ordered that the door facing be removed.

The history of the case had its beginning some months ago when ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck raided the invalid's home and found a quantity of liquor. The officer talked with the old man and warned against the practice. A second raid was made and liquor was found, and again the officer tried to reason with him. His defiance grew, and now the county judge has entered the picture. It remains to be seen what course James will choose to follow, but after all the law has the upper hand, and it is possible that the old man will lose some of his property.

During the recent raid, the officers found 15 gallons of liquor in readiness for the Fourth of July trade. James stated that he paid \$10 a gallon for the raw product, that he sold it at 25 cents a drink, or about \$16 a gallon.

Warned that his case might be turned over to the federal authorities and that he would be subject to a term in the federal prison at At-

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Navy Recruiter To Be Here Two Days

Seventeen-year-old men now have an opportunity to enlist in the United States Navy—not tomorrow or next month—but today! D. R. Taylor, Navy Recruiter, will be in Williamston at the post office on July 14 and 15 to aid all seventeen-year-old men in making application for enlistment in the Navy.

Navy trade schools have been opened wide to the 17-year-old youngsters, in order that a large group of young potential petty officers will be available soon. Never before in the history of the Navy have opportunities for the younger men been so great, and a national drive has been inaugurated to obtain thousands of youngsters for the training schools.

There are 55 different Navy trades from which the youngsters may choose, and they range from medical training to carpentry. An effort is being made to place the youngsters in the fields they prefer, on the theory that they will do better work in the type of trade they like best.

GAS REBATES

Martin County farmers, entitled to tax rebates on gasoline used by tractors and for the operation of other farm machinery, must file their claims no later than Wednesday, July 15, according to Mr. G. H. Harrison, of the Harrison Oil Company here. Claims to tax refunds on all gasoline used by farmers during the months of April, May and June will be considered by the State Department of Revenue.

The offices of the Harrison Oil Company have willingly offered to assist farmers in preparing their claims.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

Maternity Care For Servicemen's Wives

More than three-fourths of the states have received approval by the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, of programs for medical and hospital maternity care for wives of men in the four lowest pay grades of the armed services. The programs also include medical care for babies. A serviceman's wife may make application for complete medical care during pregnancy and childbirth, and for six weeks after childbirth. She may also apply for medical care for her child to extend throughout the child's first year of life. To get such care, all that the wife needs to do is to fill out simple forms, which, if her own doctor is unable to furnish copies, she can get from the State health department.

Co-ops Can Replace Stocks
Farmers' cooperatives and any other dealers who sell farm supplies at cost or at a markup of not more than three per cent, are permitted to replenish stocks on farmers' certificates on a dollar-for-dollar basis, under a recent amendment of Priorities Regulation No. 19. Previously, the dealer could use the farmer's certificate to get supplies only up to 75 per cent of his sales. The amendment enables farmers' cooperatives which sell approximately at cost to make full replacement of their stock.

Can't Send Recordings Overseas
Discs or recordings containing personal messages cannot be sent to soldiers stationed outside the continental limits of the U. S., the War Department has announced. There is no objection to sending discs of personal messages within the continental United States.

Grower Prices for Berries
Grower prices for seven types of berries canned or frozen in 1943 have been announced by WFA. Processors will pay growers the following prices (cents per pound): red raspberries, 15; black raspberries, 13; youngberries, boysenberries, loganberries, and blackberries, 12; gooseberries, 8. Ceiling prices for frozen strawberries have been established on the basis of a grower price of 12 cents a pound for stemmed berries. For all other berries each processor will pay 3 cents per pound more than the average price he paid under the OPA price regulations for the 1942 pack. The highest price processors may pay for red sour pitted cherries is 8 1/2 cents per pound.

Vacation Trip for Motorists
Motorists in the Northeastern gasoline restricted area may use their "A" rations, beginning July 15, for one round trip to a summer home or other vacation place, in the absence

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Wheeler Martin Named To Attorney Committee

Wheeler Martin, secretary of the Martin County Building and Loan Association, received word today of his appointment as a member of the 1943 Attorney's Committee of the United States Savings and Loan League. This group is composed of 44 lawyers for savings and loan associations chosen from all parts of the country.

The chief function of the committee is to act as a clearing house for matters of particular interest to the attorneys in savings and loan associations. They will also advise with the staff of the United States Savings and Loan League on the Legal Bulletin which is published periodically by the national organization.

Former Local Boy Out Of Hospital In Africa

Injured or suffering some trouble with his back, Wheeler (Duke) Martin Ward has been in a hospital somewhere in Africa. A recent letter stated that his condition was much improved and that he was able to be out.

LITTLE WORLD

It's a little world, after all. Reports from across the pond state that three Martin County young men, Oscar Anderson, Jr., Fred Taylor and Garner House, had arranged a meeting in London. No details of the meeting could be had immediately.

On several occasions, Martin County boys have met in the most unusual places. Billy Watts and Tom Skinner met in a hospital down in Australia. O. J. Winborne and John Bland, Jr. met in North Africa. S. E. Perry and Atwood Gurganus, too far away to get home, spent their furloughs together somewhere in the Pacific. Billy Biggs was walking down the streets of an African city and bumped into "Fug" Price. And there isn't the first word about any one of them trying to borrow money from the other.

One Hundred Tires Allotted In County By Rationing Board

List Includes Forty-seven Car And Pick-up Truck Tires Of First Grade

One hundred and two tires were issued by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board at its regular meeting in the agricultural building last Friday night. Forty-seven Grade I tires, thirty-three Grade III tires and twenty-two truck tires were issued.

Passenger car and pick-up truck tires and tubes, Grade I, were issued to the following:

H. A. Johnson, Robersonville, two tires and two tubes.
George James, Parmele, two tires and one tube.
Claude Nelson, Oak City, one tire and one tube.
R. R. Thompson, RFD 1, Palmyra, one tire.
A. L. Oakley, Robersonville, one tire.

H. A. Haislip, Hamilton, two tires.
Arch Mobley, Everetts, two tires and one tube.
J. R. Williams, Jamesville, one tire.
H. M. Ayers, Everetts, one tire.
J. O. Keel, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire.
Lester Terry, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.
Elmer N. Modlin, RFD 1, Jamesville, one tire.
Dallas Mizelle, Williamston, one tire.
H. Brinkley Lilley, Williamston, one tire.
W. B. Daniel, Williamston, one tire.

Mrs. H. L. Hopkins, RFD 1, Oak City, one tire.
Sam Godard, Jamesville, two tires.
J. B. Whitfield, RFD 1, Hobgood, one tire.
Evan Perry, Jamesville, one tire.
R. A. Critcher, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
V. G. Taylor, Everetts, one tire.
Noah R. Cherry, Williamston, one tire.
J. M. Saunders, Williamston, one tire.
T. H. Wynn, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
Frank Hopkins, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

Mrs. John B. Roberson, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
Jesse T. Price, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
John Henry Mizelle, RFD 3, Williamston, two tires.
W. C. Bailey, Williamston, one tire.
Mrs. Alice B. Tyson, RFD 1, Hobgood, one tire.
Jesse M. Matthews, Williamston, one tire.
Charlie Whichard, Williamston, two tires.
L. A. Croom, Robersonville, one tire.
C. T. Gaines, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.
J. J. Bennett, Everetts, one tire and one tube.
Harry G. Jones, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
Hillard Mathewson, RFD 2, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.
F. S. Scott, RFD 1, Oak City, one tire and one tube.
W. B. Peel, Williamston, one tire.
H. G. Harrison, RFD 2, Williamston, one tube.
Larry Bunting, Robersonville, one tube.
John Eber Manning, Williamston and Athens, Ga., one tube.
Alonza Revels, RFD 2, Williamston, one tube.
Town of Williamston, one tire and one tube.
Lindsley Ice Co., Williamston, one tube.
W. I. Skinner Co., Williamston, one tire.
Ralph Peel, RFD 1, Jamesville, one tube.

The following received truck tires: Railway Express Agency, Williamston, five recapped tires.
B. F. Lilley, RFD 1, Williamston, two recapped tires.
R. L. Chance, RFD 1, Bethel, two tires.
John W. Gurkin, Williamston, two tires and two tubes.
Warner Bailey, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.

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Home Brew Making A Belated Return

Hardly recognized as anything more than a fad and finally disappearing for a long period, home brew is making its belated return possibly to offset beerless Sundays.

Crawford Howard, local colored man and a recognized artist when it comes to concocting home-made spirits, was trapped in his home on Washington Street last Saturday morning by Officers Roebuck and Roebuck, of the ABC enforcement bureau and the town police. The trapped victim had forty bottles of the brew in various types of bottles or possibly a brand to suit the most exacting taste. It was the second time that Howard had bumped head on into the law with a mixture of brew.

Given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell, the defendant is scheduled for trial in Judge Smith's county court next Monday.

More Registrants Are Placed In "C" Groups

ON WET SIDE

Following a fairly dry season in June, the heavens have opened up during the current month to threaten crops with repeated downpours. During the first thirteen days in July rain has fallen on eleven of them, but the wet season is not as serious as some believe it to be. However, there are certain sections and even small communities where excessive rains have fallen and the crops are soaked. Tobacco is flopping in some of the fields and the crop, it is admitted, has been damaged in some areas, especially in Beaufort, Nash and Wilson counties. Ever in the upper part of this county and between here and Jamesville, the crops are believed to have been damaged.

Locally it is getting on the wet side, but the amount of rain falling here is less than it is in other sections. In May, 4.63 inches of rain fell here, followed by 4.19 inches in June. So far this month 3.74 inches of rain have been recorded at this point.

Seaman S. E. Perry Writes from Island Station In Pacific

Declares Service Men at Home Having Swell Time and Don't Know It

Writing under the date of June 20 from the Southwest Pacific, S. E. Perry, seaman first class, points out that things are quite different when pressed into foreign service. His letter to The Enterprise follows:

"I have seen lots of letters that the men from around home have sent in explaining how much they really enjoyed The Enterprise, so I am sending you a letter to let you know just how much I enjoy it. I am like one of the fellows that wrote you a while back, there's not but one thing wrong with it, and that is we don't get it but twice a week. One doesn't really know how much news from home means to him until once he gets away.

"The Enterprise really does help take a lot of lonesome and blue hours off of one's mind. I look for it just as hard as I do mail from home. I hear my friends that are in the Army speaking about how it helps them. Well, you just wait until they cross that big 'pond' as I did and a lot more of my friends and then they will really enjoy The Enterprise a lot more.

"Some of the boys I have read about were speaking of how they they had to work. Well, I can't tell anything about my work or what I am doing, but I will say this pal, as long as you are in the good old U. S. A. you have got it swell, but after you cross you will know that we have got a war. I haven't seen a street light or any kind of light burning since I pulled out of port. All of our work or writing and such things, you have to do it in daylight, or else you don't do it. It will really seem funny to come home once more and see street lights, cars and such things travelling up and down the streets. But I will say this for my friends, I hope that all of them won't have to cross, for it is much better back in the States than it is across, so pals, just keep up the good work in training and maybe after this war Martin County will be equal with any in the country that are serving with Uncle Sam.

"Since I have been here on this island, one of my best friends from back home came over and paid me a visit, and we really had one swell time. He was Atwood Gurganus. I hadn't seen him in two years or more, or at least I hadn't seen him since he entered the Army in 1941, and it had been so long that we didn't know each other when we first met, but after a few seconds we recognized each other. He stayed over five days with me, and we talked a lot.

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Business Brisk On Crime Front Here

Business was brisk on the crime front here for a short while last Saturday night. A review of the jail turn-key book shows that five persons, four white and one colored, were arrested and jailed for public drunkenness.

The flare-up in the round-up came about 11 o'clock that night when a young soldier went crazy on a dozen bottles of beer in front of a main street cafe. Pedestrians, disturbed by the young man's cursing and threats, called police. Officer Chas. Moore counseled the young man, and patiently reasoned with him, but the advice was rejected. The two soon thereafter locked horns and the officer's shirt was partly ripped off. The man was floored and jailed a few minutes later, but not until a showase had been broken. Beer-soaked sympathizers circulated unfounded reports and boasted what they would do behind the officer's back. No black jack or weapons were used on the young man, but his forehead was slightly scratched by a fingernail. It was rumored that the officer hit the boy over the head several times with a blackjack. It was officially learned that the officer never removed his blackjack from its holder.

When released in a sober condition Sunday, the soldier expressed his regrets, begged the officer's pardon and the money offered to replace the torn shirt was refused.

While there were five arrests, several fights were said to have escaped attention in the round-up, and some few drunks staggered out of the path of the officers and managed to avoid arrest.

MARKET CLOSES

The local Irish potato market closed a hectic season last Saturday, dealers describing it as one of the most unusual since the depression.

Starting out firm during the first few days, the market slumped a short time later and the government moved in and maintained a "floor" price of \$2.25 per hundred less grading and bagging fees amounting to 30 cents. Only a year ago, the price fell below \$1 per hundred on some markets.

During the season just ended, the local market handled fifty-three carloads or possibly three or four times the expected volume.

Over Four Hundred Martin Farmers Get Preferred Ratings

Classification of Farmers Is About Complete in This County for Draft

Many Martin County farmers are in the registration lists, but few are being called for military service, according to a recent report coming from the draft board. The latest report released by the draft authorities shows that 421 more farmers in this county have qualified for "C" classifications in the draft. The list of names of those failing to qualify for a "C" classification could not be had immediately, but the current number will run hardly more than forty or forty-five, it was learned.

The names below are those of registrants who qualified for "C" classification under the crop utilization plan:

Louis E. Ruffin, Andrew Purvis, William C. Slade, Joe H. Purvis, Leon Brown, James D. Bullock, Elmer H. Swain, Robert L. Bryant, Charlie M. Bullock, Ranson Whitehurst, William H. Whitfield, LeRoy McNeal, Elnor Smith, Cleo Ebron, James A. Bowen, Ben L. Stevenson, William R. Kirkman, Johnny Williams, Henry Keel, Millard J. Holliday, Elsworth Andrews, Grover A. Wynn, James O. Bullock, Raymond Williams, Lester Bland, Norman Council, Haywood Whitaker, Virgil Manning, Arthur Spruill, John H. Taylor, Jim Haislip, Roland Harrison, Coleman C. Cross, Nannie M. Haislip, Darrie Slade, Luther L. Whitfield, Rudolph Goff, LeRoy Brown, Tom Outterbridge, Samuel L. Purvis, Thomas J. Sessom, Willie Ampey, William Bess, Robert L. Evans, William R. Johnson, Israel Jenkins, Roan Stancil, John H. Brown, William Clemons, Judious Roberson, Noah D. Griffin, Joseph L. Wynn, John H. Rogers, Felton Whitfield, Joseph R. Fisher, Jesse L. Williams, Johnnie Scott, Charles A. Hough, Hubert L. Roberson, Joseph B. Wynn.

Singleton J. Moore, Matthew H. Peel, LeRoy Rodgers, Willie N. Roberson, Lorenza Salsbury, Robert L. Cochran, Leslie H. Robinson, John A. Mizell, Wilmer Biggs, Edward Rawls, Willie H. Modlin, John A. Stokes, Lonnie Whitfield, Vergil U. Bunting, Charlie Evans, Samuel H. Roebuck, James Brown, Will Roberson, Homer B. Bowen, Irvin D. Coltrain, Johnnie T. Moore, John D. Williams, Walter Williams, Rufus Gainer, Berlin Briley, Willie W. Williams, Alonza Dempsey, James J. Little, Tom E. Perkins, Hardy Wilhitley, Tom E. Oakley, John Williams, Aubrey L. Thomas, Robt. T. McClaren, Sr., Paul A. Johnson, Walter M. Oakley, Starling Bell, Briscoe Davis, Tom Stelis, George Richardson, John M. Andrews, William L. Lassiter, John S. Moore, Booker T. Staton, Dennis R. Barber, Lewis T. Winberry, John H. Coburn, John R. Nelson, William E. Early, Frank Johnson, Mack D. Leggett, Charlie H. Ballard, Henry Little, William A. Haislip, Johnnie L. Griffin.

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