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Improvement Noted In the News Coming From Battle Fronts

Report from Reported Big Three Conference Is Eagerly Awaited

While it is still plagued by dark spots, news from the battlefronts these past few days is a bit more encouraging. At the same time, the diplomatic front is in the picture in a big way, and news from the Big Three—Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin—conference is eagerly awaited.

The high spots in the news on the progress of the war are in Italy where the British Eighth Army scored a victory after a four-day battle along the Sangro River line, and where the American Fifth, after making limited gains, has launched an attack apparently on a big scale.

The British Eighth was reported to have trapped large numbers of Germans and to be driving the enemy remnants in full retreat toward new defenses twenty miles beyond the broken winter line.

According to a German broadcast, the Fifth Army has opened a major drive in western Italy and the British, without quoting any source, said that the advance of Lt. General M. W. Clark's troops is "going well."

The Germans had lost 2,000 men as prisoners, hundreds more killed and most of their equipment on the Adriatic front, and late front reports indicated that their losses would run far higher.

By battling into the outskirts of Casoli, 15 miles inland from the Adriatic, General Montgomery's men outflanked and left high and dry the considerable German force defending a mountainous 12-mile section of the lower Sangro valley. Their escape to the southwest was barred by Eighth Army troops who had cut across the lateral road near Castel di Sangro.

Paving the way for a possible coordinated offensive in the west by General Clark's Fifth Army, swarms of Allied planes blasted out a 20-mile section of the Nazi lines around the Rome road below Casoli. American troops opened up with artillery after throwing back five counterattacks in 48 hours in the crucial sector north of Cenafro.

On the Eastern Front, the situation is still considered critical for the Russians in the Kiev sector, but in other areas, the Red Army is tightening its grip at Zholbin and are apparently aiming at the important city of Minsk. Bitter fighting continues in the Dnieper bend where the Russians are gradually pushing the Germans back. The recent recapture of Kiev reveals the most horrible atrocities of the war. The approximately one million inhabitants were reduced to a few hundred thousand, and most of them were reduced to skin and bones. More than 100,000 were machine-gunned to death in a ravine in a three-day slaughter task. Their bodies were later recovered and burned, the German murderers then killing the Russian prisoners in an effort to clothe the atrocity in secrecy.

In the Pacific area, the Allies continue to improve their positions, but

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Young Girl Dies In County Tuesday

Myrtle Louise Simpson, thirteen years old, died at the home of her parents, Mr. Arthur Simpson and wife, Mrs. Betty Tyre Simpson, in Williams Township last Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock. The young girl, a pupil in the Farm Life School, had been ill for about two weeks.

Residing with her parents, she is survived by two sisters, Rachel and Loretta, and three brothers, Garland, Dewey and Wesley Simpson. Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment was in the Tyre Cemetery, near the home.

First New Auto Tags Sold By Carolina Motor Club Bureau

The new office of the Carolina Motor Club operated this year by Harrison and Carstarphen in the George Reynolds Hotel building two doors from The Enterprise office on Main Street here has been opened only a few minutes last Wednesday morning when the first 1944 state automobile license tag was sold. Hoke Smith Roberson, of RFD Robersonville, bought the first tag, and by late yesterday afternoon thirty-seven other car owners had bought the new yellow and black tags. Licenses were also issued to owners of four trucks and four car trailers.

The numbers of the new automobile license tags start at 369,001. Only 1,000 of the car tags have been delivered to date, Manager W. H. Carstarphen explaining that the State prison where the tags are made was short of labor and that approximately 6,000 more tags would be de-

More Martin County Men Called By Army

GINNINGS

The answer to the government's call for more fiber crops is apparently coming up a bit short according to the latest available report on cotton ginnings released for this county by Streisa Griffin, special agent for the Bureau of the Census.

According to the report, 3,123 bales of cotton were ginned from the 1943 crop in this county up to November 14 as compared with 3,900 bales ginned from the 1942 crop in the corresponding period. Ginnings last year climbed approximately 5,000 bales, while this year, it is believed that a large portion of the crop has already been made ready for market or has been marketed already.

Gives Facts About Use of Gasoline in Waging World War

Summary of Reports Prepared by Office of War Information

American motorists have mumbled and grumbled, lied and cheated about gasoline rationing, knowing little about the necessity for cutting down or out the pleasure trip and unnecessary driving. Few facts could be revealed, but now a comprehensive report prepared by the Office of War Information and giving a few facts, is being released by the Office of Price Administration.

The second installment follows: Planes, tanks, trucks, jeeps, ambulances, motor boats and portable engines are all fueled with gasoline.

In addition, gasoline is used to heat sterilizers for surgical instruments—to light lamps in field operating rooms—to refrigerate blood plasma—to heat soldier quarters and fire cook stoves.

Sixty per cent of all the ship tonnage used to invade North Africa was tankers carrying gasoline.

It takes 12,500 gallons of gasoline to train one pilot.

An Army light tank in action burns one gallon of gasoline a minute.

An Army transport burns 33,000 gallons of fuel oil a day.

Meeting Emergency War Needs The fortunes of war can never be predicted exactly. Unforeseen emergency needs arise continually.

To prevent needless loss of life, to assure success in battle, reserves to quickly meet emergency needs of our highly mechanized army must be kept available at all times.

How the Armed Forces Obtain Gasoline It could not be revealed at the time but the sinking of 14 large tankers bound for North Africa was responsible for last winter's Eastern gasoline and fuel oil crisis.

East coast reserves originally intended for civilians were mostly quickly available. They were used. North Africa was won.

A mechanized division burns up 18,000 gallons of gasoline in 1 hour of combat.

Early in 1943, the Navy needed a 600 per cent increase in its East coast gasoline supply. Pipelines and tank cars, previously scheduled to carry civilian supplies, were used to capacity.

Sudden and unforeseen military needs will occur again, and facts about them cannot always immediately be made public.

Shipments to battle fronts cannot be made known to enemy agents.

For these reasons neither military needs nor the size of available civilian supplies can be controlled any more certainly than the fortunes of war.

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Sixty-Five Children Left Behind By Men Leaving This County

Only Four Single White Men Are Included in Draft Call for November

The real meaning of war, while known to quite a few already back home, was further advanced yesterday when thirty-five white fathers registered in this county were called to report for final examinations at any Army induction center. Sixty-five little children were left behind, not knowing whether their dads would be accepted or rejected. During the meantime about 41 families are facing an uncertain future, speculating on the possibility of breaking up house-keeping and crowding in with relatives here, there or yonder.

Only four single men are included in the number answering the current draft call, and only six of the married men have no children.

Five men called to report were transferred to other boards and have already left or will leave for the induction stations within the next few days. Only one man, Albert Roberson, of Jamesville and Norfolk, failed to report.

The names of the men called to report follow with their addresses: John Reginald Pierce, RFD 3, Williamston and Creswell, transferred to Plymouth.

James Thomas Uzzle, Jamesville and Greenville, transferred to Greenville.

Kenneth Geo. Curtis, Williamston and Miami, Fla., transferred to Miami.

David Graham Hall, Williamston and Winston-Salem, transferred to Raleigh.

James Albert Smithwick, RFD Williamston and Elizabeth City, transferred to Elizabeth City.

Joseph William Hardison, RFD 3, Williamston and Plymouth.

James Epps Bullock, Williamston. John Theodore Gurganus, Williamston.

Raymond Floyd Wallace, Jamesville.

Benjamin Alexander Daniel, RFD 1, Jamesville.

Milton Saunders Raynor, RFD 3, Williamston and Oak City.

Cecil Edgar Williams, RFD 1, Robersonville and Williamston.

Jesse Archibald Council, RFD 3, Williamston.

Darrell Simpson, RFD 2, Williamston.

Wm. Kader Lilley, RFD 1, Williamston.

Thomas James Blount, Sr., Jamesville and Elizabeth City.

Percy Station Cherry, RFD 1, Williamston and Robersonville.

Thelton Roy Alexander, Robersonville.

Joseph Raymond Whitaker, RFD 2, Williamston.

Alton Roy Keel, Everetts.

Ralph Edward Roebuck, Robersonville and Berkeley, Va.

Charles Audrey Lilley, RFD 1, Jamesville and Wilmington.

Harry Crawford Taylor, Williamston and Norfolk.

C. H. Branton, RFD 2, Robersonville.

Ellis Rudolph Donaldson, RFD 3, Williamston and Ashokie.

Robbie Leland Waters, RFD 1, Williamston.

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The Williamston Ministerial Association met in the study of the Baptist Church on Tuesday morning at 10:30 with all members present.

The association voted to cooperate with the plan of the high school in presenting a Christmas pageant on Sunday evening, December 12th, in the high school auditorium.

Colored Youths Are Accepted From This County in November

Marine Corps Drafts the First Colored Man From This County Last Month

Twenty Martin County colored men were accepted by the nation's armed services last month, according to an official report just released by the draft board. It could not be learned officially, but it was reliably estimated that thirty-one men from the county were rejected, twelve for physical reasons, seventeen on account of mental or low literacy standards, and two for other causes. In the last two cases, the men are believed to have remedial physical ailments and are subject to recall.

As far as it could be learned, the first colored man from Martin County was drafted for the Marine Corps last month. Noah Christopher C. Hargett, Jr., was signed up for service with the Marines, according to the "audit."

Curtis James and Booker T. Hooker failed to report for the trip to the induction center, but they later showed up and are likely to accompany the next group of colored men leaving for the reception center.

Two men were transferred, William Degraffroad to Warrenton, and Johnnie Cook to Norfolk.

Four men were accepted by the Navy and fifteen by the Army, as follows:

Navy: Hosea James, William Henry Person, William Purvis, James Oliver Williams;

Army: Harold Payton Chance, James Daniel Mizelle, transferred from Norfolk; Simon Peter Brown, Jasper Hilliard Lynch, Samuel Moses, David Griffin, James Arthur Sutton, Hudson Best, James Earl Purvis, Tilmon Richard Hodges, Willie Lee Andrews, William Warren Purvis, Solomon Boyd, Geo. Williams, Jr., William Seth Owens.

Court Adjournment Ordered Wednesday

Completing jury trials Tuesday afternoon, the Martin County Superior Court ended a scheduled two-weeks term for the trial of civil cases only last Wednesday morning after Judge Walter Bone heard a motion seeking permission for J. E. Smithwick and his mother to see their daughter and granddaughter at certain intervals. The motion was granted.

In granting a divorce to Shelbert Ores in his case against Esther Ores, the court gave the mother custody of their child and decreed that the plaintiff petition for dependency allotment awarded by the government where the father is in the service. Upon his discharge the court ruled that further petition may be had by either party.

In the case of Mrs. Fannie Whitfield against Walter Hales, the jury found that the plaintiff was not entitled to possession of eleven shoats. The jury also found that the plaintiff had agreed to give the defendant one-half of the increase in the value of the pigs and that the pigs were valued at \$50 at the time they were taken.

A judgment in the sum of \$602.60 was given the Standard Fertilizer Company in its case against Guy Shavender.

A voluntary non-suit was taken by the plaintiff in the divorce case brought by John Ester Riddick against Nina Bell Riddick. It was brought out that the plaintiff was a resident of the State of Michigan.

The case brought by Henry A. Johnson against H. C. Norman and involving ownership of certain property was continued.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Running wild, so to speak, Martin County motorists come through with several check marks for the accident record last week. The number of highway accidents is just one behind the figure reported for the first 46 weeks of 1942. Other columns in the record paint a pretty dark picture in the accident trend, especially is that so in the face of gasoline and tire rationing. It is doggone certain that not all the vehicles figuring in the latest accidents were being used strictly for business or on "A" gas. It is a sad commentary in the face of the needs of the day when more than one declares that there could hardly be an accident on the town's main street without so and so figuring in it.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

48th Week Comparison			
1943	1942	50	41
3	5	0	5
1	0	0	350
Comparison To Date			
1943	59	41	5
1942	60	36	4
		11,335	7,608

Deferment Claims Are Heard By Draft Board

Majority Of Cases Reviewed Given I-A Classification

Deferments Are Exhausted in Few Cases and Draft Hits Essential Industry

In a four-hour session here last evening, the Martin County Draft Board reviewed sixty deferment claims filed by the registrants' employers. A majority or 32 of the group were placed in the I-A classification. In some instances several deferments had already been granted the registrants, and the board members were of the opinion that others would hardly be in order. As a result, quite a few registrants now holding essential but not critical jobs were given I-A ratings and are now subject to call possibly by the latter part of January.

A few deferments were granted when the board found that the removal of the registrants at this time would adversely affect agriculture or other vital industry. It was pointed out that the removal of some registrants just now would cause a few repair shops to close. Registrants holding jobs of a critical nature were automatically deferred.

The following classifications were handed:

William Henry Bland, w, Hassell, 2-A, deferred for six months.

Hubert A. Satterfield, w, Williamston, 1-A.

Burnie Byron White, w, Williamston and Norfolk, 2-A, deferred six months.

Julian Clarence Peel, w, Hassell and Jacksonville, 1-A.

Leon Theopisa Brown, c, Williamston, 4-F.

Jesse Atkins, c, Jamesville, 1-A.

John Gray Taylor, w, Robersonville, 2-A, deferred until March 1, 1944.

J. S. Crandall, w, RFD 1, Robersonville, 1-A.

Willie Bonner, c, Everetts, 1-A.

James William Garrison, w, Williamston, 2-A, deferred six months.

Connie Bert Clark, w, Williamston, 2-A, deferred six months.

Navin Howard, c, Williamston, 1-A.

Joseph Adolphus Roberson, Jr., w, Williamston, 1-A.

Raymond Thomas Johnson, w, Hassell, 2-A, deferred six months.

Mathon Baldwin Dunn, w, Williamston and Chicago, 1-A.

Ernest Earl Cox, w, Williamston, 1-A.

Herbert Jasper Rives, c, RFD 3, Williamston, 1-A.

William Latham Thrower, w, Williamston, 2-A, deferred six months.

Herbert Edward Lee, w, Williamston and New Bern, 1-A.

Bernard Swain Harrison, w, Williamston, 1-A.

Willard Wrayvaughn Carson, w, Parmele and Rocky Mount, 1-A.

Lorenzo Leon Jackson, w, Robersonville and Wilmington, 1-A.

Murray Clemmons Liverman, w, Oak City, 2-A, deferred for 90 days.

Rudolph Elem Brinkley, w, Williamston and Leland, N. C., 1-A.

Alton Edward Grimes, w, Robersonville, 2-A, deferred six months.

William Alton Daniel, w, Williamston and Snow Hill, 1-A.

Meville Vernon Wynn, w, Williamston, 1-A.

CITATION

In recognition of their services rendered gratis during the past three years, the President of the United States issued the following citation to members of the Martin County Draft Board this week:

"The President of the United States of America has awarded this certificate of appreciation to Messrs. R. H. Goodmon, Jesse Ward and J. H. Ayers in grateful recognition of uncompensated services rendered their country in the administration of the Selective Service System."

The certificate bearing the system seal, carries the signature of the President, Governor Broughton, Lewis B. Hershey, director, and J. Van B. Metts, state director.

County Bookmobile Will Make Regular Schedule Next Week

New Books Have Been Added To Collection by Library Association

Among our new fiction three novels promise to be choice reading. They are by authors who need no introduction. Pearl Buck's latest novel, The Promise, takes the Chinese people on into the jungles of Burma. The theme of the story stresses the desperate need for the white man and the Chinese to understand each other. Again the author has drawn her characters from her intimate knowledge of the many groups of Chinese people. Most of the action centers around Lin Tang, one of the Chinese leaders, and American-educated Mayli, whom he loves and who goes with the troops as a nurse.

Those readers who enjoyed My Friend Flicka may enjoy another visit with the McLaughlins at Goose Bar Ranch. Mary O'Hara's Thunderhead goes further than the tale of a boy and his horse. It is the story of individuals battling for something they do not have which develops into a story of genuine love.

As the Earth Turns, by Gladys H. Carroll has been a favorite story of life in Maine for several years. Here is another such heartwarming story in Dunbrook. The Warrens are portrayed with astonishing reality only because they are Mrs. Carroll's own family and neighbors. The glamour, romance, and excitement surpasses the average novel because it is actually true.

A biography of outstanding quality is Katherine Butler Hathaway's partial account of her life which she tells in the Little Locksmith. It is the "deep and loving analysis of intimate family relationship" of a girl who never grew beyond the size of a ten year old. She records her struggle, both mental and spiritual, to find a place for herself in this world.

Harriet, a play in three acts, has been heralded as one of the great historical dramas of our times. It is based on the life of Harriet Beecher Stowe from her marriage to Calvin Stowe through the publication of her controversial novel and into her later literary life.

C-O Postmaster is a humorous and enlightening account in words and drawings of American soldiers aboard a transport bound for "destination unknown" which turned out to be Australia.

Another one in the lighter vein is Katherine Brush's Out of My Mind. She has expressed the things so many of us have felt but never put into words. Her sketches should be welcomed relief in this troubled time.

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Few County Farmers Ruined Non-Essential To the War Program

One Hundred and Fifty-eight Production Records Are Reviewed by Board

Comparatively few farmers—eight out of one hundred and fifty-eight, to be exact—lost their "C" classifications when the Martin County War Board reviewed the first of about 2,000 farm production records recently. The action marked the first check-up on those draft registrants who were given preferred ratings, and it is now quite plain that production efforts and the registrant's attitude in general will have much to do with ratings in the future. The authorities are "weeding out" those whose production records fell short of the goal, and those who met the production records in 1943 will be called upon to meet 1944 goals if they are to retain the preferred draft ratings.

It was unofficially learned that the authorities are basing their action on individual accomplishments as well as on production records. In other words, a registrant may have his production, but the board is considering how he meets the requirements. If he employs others from time to time to do most of his own work, the board is of the opinion that he is not deserving of a preferred classification, that he is possibly avoiding the draft and certainly is aggravating the farm labor problem.

Most of the men whose records were reviewed recently live in Bear Grass Township. Other records will be reviewed from time to time.

The names of those men ruled non-essential by the War Board will not be made public just now. They will be reviewed a second time and made public along with others, it was announced.

The following men apparently met production and other requirements and were ruled essential:

Slade Peele Revels, w; Johnny W. Rogers, w; Tobe Hopkins, c; Grover Woodard, c; Milton Goff, w; S. L. Rogers, c; J. Collin Griffin, w; Joe White, c; Carl R. Garrett, w; Joe Shepherd Holliday, w; Ralph B. Holliday, w; Raymond Bowen, c; G. Washington Manning, c; E. M. Mendonhall, w; Perlie Lee Rogers, w; and L. J. Peel, w, all of RFD 1, Williamston.

Hubbard Bullock, w; G. W. Cowin, w; Charlie Bullock, w; Henry O. Gurganus, w; Jasper Cowan, w; Robert H. Leggett, w; James Arthur Peel, w; Willie Bullock, w; Marvin S. Cowen, w; James G. Bullock, w; all of RFD 1, Robersonville.

Charlie Bowen, w; Lemuel Harrison, w; Cushing B. Bailey, w; Clinton Davis, c; Willie G. Mason, c; Charlie Rogers, w; Zack S. Cowin, w; J. Floyd Ward, w; William Godard, c; Ralph C. Mobley, w; Plum Jenkins, w; George A. Roberson, w; W. Bruce Whitehurst, w; Henry Felton Rogers, w; W. A. Bailey, Jr., w; Ralph Mason, c; Jesse Bowen, c; Elbert S. Harris, w; R. G. Rogerson, Jr., w; Luke Biggs, c; J. Melton Malone, w; Tommie L. Roberson, Jr., w; Henry White, Jr., w; Gussie Rogers, c; Leroy Hopkins, c; Andrew

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Starting from a trash pile in the backlot, fire charred the door facing and filled Rose's dime store with smoke here on Main Street early last Wednesday evening. It was reported that very little damage, if any, was done to the store stock and the door facing can be replaced without much cost. Firemen soon brought the fire under control, but as stated that much damage would have almost certainly resulted had the rear door of the store not been covered with tin.

It could not be learned definitely, but one report stated that the fire was started by a prowler in the backlot.

Backlot Fire Fills Store With Smoke

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County Authorities To Make Ready for the 1944 Tax Year

Starting a new fiscal year next Monday, the Martin County Commissioners will perfect their organization for 1944 and immediately lay plans for handling the tax program for the new period. A minute review of bonds for the various county officers is scheduled and renewals will be approved. A detailed review of the county's financial condition, which, according to preliminary reports, is very good, is on the agenda.

As far as it could be learned, no changes in the organization of the county's governing body is anticipated, one of the group pointing out that things were moving along "just fine" under the present set-up.

Routine matters will hold the attention of the meeting for quite a while, but the main business scheduled for the day will center around plans for handling the 1944 tax program. The rate was fixed some time ago, and now the authorities are scheduled to name a supervisor and confer with him in naming the list-takers for the ten townships. Not all of the list-takers serving last January have applied for the job to be handled next month, and it is quite likely that a few changes in the listing personnel will be made. Mr. John R. Peel who listed properties in this township last year will be out of the State on the tobacco markets and the appointment of a successor is almost certain. It is understood that one or two other list-takers are resigning, and as far as it could be learned no applicants have filed for the job.

No revaluation of properties will be made next year, and the work for the most part, will be of a routine nature.

In a meeting to be held on December 20, the tax authorities will determine a fixed schedule of values.