

WEATHER FORECAST

Rain today, ending tonight; Friday, fair and mild, with somewhat higher temperatures.

The Monroe Enquirer

PUBLISHED ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

MONROE MARKET

Table with market prices for Cotton, Cotton Seed, Eggs, and State Library.

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR

MONROE, N. C., UNION COUNTY, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1944

3-MONTHS, 75c; 6-MONTHS, \$1.25 SEMI-WEEKLY, \$2.00 A YEAR

Great Burma Battle Looms

Jap Offensive Aimed At Invasion Of India Believed Developing

ALLIES WATCHING ENEMY

A Japanese offensive from remote bases of the upper Chindwin aimed at an invasion of India and disruption of the Allied supply line over the Burma hump to China apparently is developing into the biggest battle in this theater since 1942.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's Southeast Asia headquarters announced yesterday that the Japanese had crossed the Chindwin in force at several places, and today it was disclosed that a hard battle lasting two days had been fought in the Tiddim area on the southern flank of the Japanese thrust.

Although the communique said the Japanese were forced to withdraw after severe casualties in the Tiddim action, it reported the general situation unchanged.

The Japanese objective obviously was to break through the jungle wall along the Assam frontier of India and strike into the rail, air and river line which feeds Allied supplies not only to the Chinese but also to the Chinese and Americans in northern Burma but also to Maj. Gen. Claire I. Chennault's U. S. Air force in China.

Striking northward along the west bank of the Chindwin, one Japanese column evidently was aimed at Diphai, British base in India. Another column striking from Komalin and Tl-manthli farther north, was headed westward.

Allied headquarters gave no further news concerning the Air Commando invasion which set British and Indian troops down on a jungle "beachhead" southeast of Myitkya, 240 miles behind the enemy line and comparatively near the Chinese border.

The Chinese and Americans of General Stilwell, having completed the conquest of the Hukawng valley at a cost of 4,000 enemy lives, were making progress southward into the Mogaung valley on a mile route toward Myitkya, however.

The communique said the Japanese were retreating from the mountains east of Jambu Bum, at the entrance to the Mogaung, after being outflanked, and that the Chinese had taken Tsau Bum to the west.

Union County's Men In Service

Cole Bleese McManus left for the Navy March 8th and is taking his boat training at Bainbridge, Md.

Pvt. John H. Williams who has been stationed at Miami Beach, Fla., has recently been transferred to Chippewa Falls, Mass. He would like to hear from his friends at his new address which is: Pvt. John H. Williams, 471st Bomber Group (H) 897th Bomber Sq. (H), Westover Field, Chippewa, Mass.

Cpl. Henry C. Rape has recently completed a mechanical course at Fort Benning, Ga., and has been promoted to sergeant. He is now stationed at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. He would like for all of his friends to write him. His address is: Sgt. Henry C. Rape 34 306506, Co. D 322nd Infantry, APO 81, Camp San Luis Obispo, California.

Coast Guard Specialist Second Class Franklin M. Frazier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. C. Frazier, of Charleston, S. C., is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Parker on Lancaster road.

Garrison Medlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Medlin, of Monroe, has been promoted from the grade of private first class to that of corporal. It was announced at a 1943 AAF Bombardment Division Headquarters, England, recently by the commanding general, Corporal Medlin, who was inducted into the Army at Camp Croft, S. C., in November, 1942. He is a member of the Signal Corps, and has been serving at this headquarters in the telephone section ever since going overseas more than six months ago.

Pfc. Moran F. Helms of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., has just spent a 13-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zeb S. Helms of RS, Monroe. He has just spent three months manuevering in Louisiana and was transferred from there to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Lieut. Claude A. Morrison has cabed his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Morrison that he has landed safely overseas.

With General Clark's Fifth Army, Cpl. Ney C. Price of Mobile, Ala., Dates Field Art Transport Command, has returned to camp spending a five-day furlough with his mother, Mrs. C. J. Price of Charlotte.

Mrs. Price has another son, DeWitt Talmadge Price, in Italy in the Fifth Army with Gen. Mark Clark. Cpl. Price writes often, saying he is O. L. and hopes to be back in the States soon. Cpl. Price has been overseas since last June and in combat duty for the last eight months. He says he hopes things will make a change for the better soon. He was in the battle of Cassino and it was a very interesting event. The Price boys would be glad to hear from their friends in Union county and the States.

Sgt. James P. Holloway is now at Urbana College, Ill., where he is attending a signal corps school.

Lt. E. Frazier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Frazier of RS, Monroe, has

"A" Gas Cards Remain Same In This Section

General misunderstanding seems to exist in this section relative to the change in gasoline rationing which is to be put into effect by the OPA at the end of this week in other localities of the United States, but not on the Eastern Seaboard, officials of the local OPA office stated this morning.

"The misunderstanding has led to a useless run on some filling stations by motorists, anxious to use their "A" coupons which they believe are to be cut in value."

There is to be no change whatever in the value of "A," "B" and "C" ration coupons in the states that were in the restricted area before, and North Carolina is one of them, the official stated.

Motorists will recall that coupons have been worth more in certain areas of the country, and the new OPA ruling merely brings a uniform value all over the country for "A" coupons. They are good for three gallons each, but their expiration dates are so arranged that motorists with an "A" book is allowed only two gallons of gasoline per week. This has been true in this area for some months. Coupon Number 9, currently valid, must last till May 8 as it was issued to do. There is no change in value in the "B" or "C" books.

Hunters Given Shell Promise

WPB Plans To Release 26,000,000 For Civilian Use In April

MORE PROMISED LATER

Senator Maybank, Democrat of South Carolina, said yesterday he was informed by the War Production board that 26,000,000 shotgun shells would be released for civilian use on April 1.

A proportional distribution would be made monthly thereafter, Maybank said he was told, the amount depending on production from material available.

Meanwhile, in the House, the nation's hunters received a pat on the back from Representative Robertson, Democrat of Virginia, who said they contributed approximately 225,000,000 pounds of meat to the food supply last year.

Robertson, chairman of the committee on wildlife conservation, reiterated an appeal that Federal agencies make available to hunters as large a supply of ammunition as could be done consistent with the war effort.

He told the House there had been an "astounding recovery" in the game population of the national forests. There were 3.6 times as many big animals in the forests in 1942 as in 1921.

Deer were by far the most numerous, followed by elk, black bear, antelope, mountain goat, big-horn moose, bison, grizzly and Alaska brown bear and wild boar.

Robertson said the hunter take of deer could be doubled and deer population maintained.

FI-Y CLUB TO CONDUCT FORGET-ME-NOT SALE

Proceeds Of Sale This Saturday Will Aid Disabled War Veterans

The department of North Carolina Disabled American Veterans will conduct their annual Forget-Me-Not sale on the streets of Monroe on Saturday March 25th. The sale will be conducted by the girls of the FI-Y Club of the Monroe high school, with Martha Cook in charge.

Proceeds from these sales are used by the disabled veterans organization to carry on rehabilitation work among the disabled veterans of all wars.

The work this year is very heavy on account of the disabled veterans of the present war. So many of these men are coming back disabled that the department is being hard pressed for funds and office force to carry on the work.

The citizens of Monroe are urged to give these girls every consideration possible.

landed safely, somewhere in North Africa. He was inducted on March 9, 1943. He would like to hear from his friends back home. His address may be secured from his parents.

Pfc. James E. Moore came Friday for a 15-day visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Moore, R2 Matthews. Pfc. Moore is in the medical detachment and is on duty at the hospital at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Pvt. James William Grantland arrived Friday night to spend a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Grantland. He is in the armored command at Fort Knox, Ky.

Ensign Samuel W. Secret, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Secret of RS Monroe, was one of seven men completing specialized training at the Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center at Charleston, S. C. They learned the latest methods of combating under sea raiders and will no doubt be assigned at once to active sea duty.

Sgt. James E. Richardson, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Richardson of Oakboro, who has been stationed in California, has been transferred to Camp Park, La.

Sgt. A. H. Winchester, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Winchester, has been transferred from Salisbury, Md., to the following address: 293-21-12, USN AFB, Camp 2, Fort Pierce, Fla.

Beachhead Nazis Taken For a Ride



ITALY—Captured in the savage fighting on the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead, these German soldiers are going aboard a big U.S. landing craft, entering by the gaping bow gates, to be shipped to a prisoner of war camp. Latest German attempts to wipe out the beachhead met with no better success than previous attempts.

Soldier Voting Plan Outlined

Procedure For North Carolina Men In Armed Forces Explained

SAYS THE PLAN IS SIMPLE

The State Board of Elections has issued instructions on absentee registration and voting by North Carolina men and women in the armed forces.

"It is the desire of everyone that the privilege of voting be exercised to the fullest extent by our men and women in service," said Chairman William T. Joyner of Raleigh. "The procedure is simple. Any member of a soldier's family can fill out the application form and deliver it or mail it to the chairman of his county board of elections. The chairman will do the rest."

"And application by the soldier on a card furnished by the United States government, addressed to the Secretary of State who will forward it to be chairman of the proper county board, is sufficient application for registration and general election ballots."

"One application is all that is necessary. It will secure for the applicant all the registration or voting privileges to which he is entitled in both the primary and in the general election. For example: If an applicant makes application prior to the primary and is found to be entitled to be registered, he will be registered for the primary and general election, and will be sent ballots for the primary and for the general election."

"After a proper application has been filed giving the necessary information, there is nothing further for the applicant or for his family to do either for the primary or the general election. The chairman of the county board of elections will do the rest."

LT. TURNBULL ORDERED BULLDOZER ATTACK

Son Of Mrs. R. J. Turnbull Of Monroe; Well Known Here.

Somewhere in the South Pacific—(Delayed)—The fighting Navy Seabee who killed a dozen Japs by running a 20-ton bulldozer into a pillbox has been identified as Aureo Tassone, 28-year-old fireman first class, of Millford, Mass.

The episode was one of the highlights of the invasion some time ago of the two main islands in the Treasury group, Mono and Stirling. With a New Zealand unit leading the beach attack in support of American naval bombardment, Fireman Tassone went in with the Seabees.

An hour after the landing, the pillbox was located near the shoreline. Although men and equipment had passed the location many times no report of the pillbox had been drawn from the Japanese position.

Tassone was busy clearing a road with his bulldozer when the coconut-logged bunker was spotted. Lt. Chas. E. Turnbull, 45, USNR, of 1623 St. Mary's street, Raleigh and a son of Mrs. R. J. Turnbull of Washington street, Monroe, located a blind spot approach from the rear and ordered Fireman Tassone to make the unique attack.

The fireman from Massachusetts made a cautious approach, lowered the plow in front—and roared up over the pillbox. As the structure gave way, he pulled levers and spun around several times. Backing off, he returned again and piled a huge mound of earth over the demolished Japanese gun position.

The one-man attack was a complete success. Not one Jap escaped. Twelve bodies were found, plus a Japanese gun.

Fireman Tassone later crashed his way through the jungle with the bulldozer. He regarded his feat as part of the job.

For days his identity was not known, but verification of the bulldozer assault and identification of the "driver" was made available through Lieut. Turnbull, Seabee officer in command.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our many friends for the kindness shown us during the illness and death of our dear husband and father. May God bless each and every one of our loved ones.—Mrs. Eugene Gordon and Family.

Montgomery implies that European war may last until 1945.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

Aerial—American heavy bombers rain explosives on Berlin again, witness report attack "severest yet." Germans hit at London.

Italian—Allied infantry, using knives and flamethrowers, battle doggedly for ruins of Cassino, ejecting Germans from a few buildings; Germans announce withdrawal from Rome planned, but Allied sources skeptical. Vesuvius eruption continues.

London—With Hungary occupied and a puppet government established, Germany was reported last night extending a stranglehold over neighboring satellites in a feverish rush to construct a fortress-within-a-fortress against the Russian westward surge and other Allied threats.

Allied Headquarters, Southwest Pacific—A Japanese destroyer and two small merchantmen have been sunk by Allied bombers off Alaipe, New Guinea, northwest of Newak, headquarters announced yesterday.

London—German raiders returned to London tonight while the sprawling British capital still was cleaning up the damage caused by the attack of more than 100 Nazi planes early Wednesday. The return visit, however, was of minor consequence and the alert, early in the night, lasted only half an hour. Flares dropped in one district of the capital and in southern England, indicating the small-scale effort may have been an armed reconnaissance mission, since Nazis seldom brave daylight for "spying" on the island.

London—The Red army hurled back the Germans at the southeastern end of the Ukrainian battle-line—the Nazis' easternmost extension in Russia—yesterday by capturing the important fortified railway junction of Pervomak, driving to the approaches of Voenesensk to the southeast, and reaching a point eight miles from Nikolaevo on the Bug estuary, Moscow announced today.

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Rome Gesture Causes Alarm

"Open City" Talk May Be Used By Germans As A Ruse

MAY NOT SPARE CITY

The Germans said yesterday they would completely demilitarize Rome in an effort to place responsibility for bombings on the Allies, but it was regarded as unlikely here that the Allies would take any cognizance of this unilateral declaration of an "open city."

The Nazi-controlled Rome radio said the Germans would, within the next few days, withdraw all military installations and divert all military traffic from the Eternal City "so that responsibility for the bombing of Rome will remain entirely with the Allies." The statement said everything would be removed "which could serve as the slightest pretext for air terror."

Rome originally was declared an open city August 14, 1943, by the Badoglio government before the Italian surrender.

Military men were skeptical of German intentions, because they believe the supplying of Nazi troops in the Anzio beachhead south of the city would be almost impossible without the use of Rome's highways and rail lines. All worthwhile routes from the north funnel through Rome or its outskirts.

The Germans seized Rome after the Italian capitulation, and centered north and central Italian defense communications there.

REFLECTIONS

I strolled today by a woody hill That was studded with violets and daffodils; That proved the frost of a chilly night To shed their radiance and give delight.

While the birds they sang with peculiar charm, Nor flew away in swift alarm; As I with cautious steps drey near, The better to see, the better to hear, I love to stroll by a woody rill; Or mount the Craig of a sunlit hill; Communing with self in silent thought Of the wonders in nature that God has wrought.—Contributed.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Nash, of Waxhaw, a son, Jimmy Nelson, on Thursday March 16, at the Ellen Fitzgerald hospital. Mother and child are doing nicely.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our friends for their kind sympathy during the illness of my wife and death of our baby. Joyce.—R. B. Montgomery and Family.

College Receives Check For \$2300

The above picture shows Rev. W. O. Link, Jr., pastor of the Wingate Baptist church, presenting a \$2,300 check to Rev. C. O. Burris, president of Wingate Junior College. The check is a contribution of the church to the College in the campaign now going on to raise \$60,000 for enlargement of the activities of the Wingate Junior College. The presentation took place in the College chapel at 2 o'clock this morning. This is the home church of the College and the presentation around which it is built, and the fine donation shows the hearty and generous support which has always been given to the college.

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One-Third Of Quota In Red Cross Drive Reached

Union county's drive for the Red Cross war fund had reached one-third of its quota today as reports continued to be received at Red Cross headquarters.

Up until this morning, R. E. Lee, chairman of the drive, reported a total of \$11,708.51 had been received in contributions to the fund of the county's quota of \$34,900, leaving approximately two-thirds of the amount still to be raised.

Of the amount already received, much of it has come from schools, special gifts and the up-town business district, with canvassers still busy covering every bit of territory in the city and county, that has not as yet been canvassed.

Several individuals have generously sent in their checks, although not solicited and such donations are much appreciated. Officials of the drive stated this morning, that any one who wishes to make a contribution and has not been called on, can bring either bringing or mailing their check to Red Cross headquarters here.

Much work remains to be done before the county's quota is reached and those in charge of the drive are anxious that the county reach its goal by the time the drive closes the last of next week.

Appearing elsewhere in today's edition The Enquirer is a page advertisement in behalf of the campaign, sponsored by Bell's Department Store. It carries a message of vital interest to all, concerning the Red Cross drive and deserves careful reading and thought by every citizen of the county.

Would Revise Price Control

Group In House Drafts Law Calling For Many Drastic Changes

MAY ALTER OPA POLICY

A House committee which has been especially critical of OPA yesterday drew up a revised price control law which members said makes many drastic changes in policy, including the abolition of so-called "kangaroo courts."

The legislation was drafted by the group headed by Representative Smith, Democrat of Virginia, and assigned to determine whether government agencies exceed the authority delegated by Congress.

It is in the form of amendments to the current price control law which expires June 30 and may figure considerably in the discussion of efforts to continue the rationing program for another year, at least.

Committee sources said the most important provision of the new plan would facilitate court appeals of OPA decisions and would require that the judicial review be conducted in the district where the offender was indicted.

Critics of the Office of Price Administration have hit sharply at what they call "kangaroo courts" whereby the OPA conduct hearings on violation and issues orders on the basis of the testimony.

There are about a dozen major revisions involved in the legislation. Committee counsel said the group on the rough draft. A conference with Price Administration Chester Bowles will be sought, perhaps next week, before the committee takes a final vote on the proposal.

MINERAL SPRINGS GIRL SCOUTS HAVE MEETING

Girl Scout Troop 1 at Mineral Springs is progressing nicely. While working for second class rank, we decided to make our meeting place more attractive. Using the colors yellow and green, we made curtains and flower boxes for the windows.

The Red Rose Patrol, under the direction of patrol leader Oleme Tyson, made the curtains, using the yellow trefol on the green ruffle at the top. The window boxes were painted green with the yellow trefol on the sides.

The Dogwood Patrol, Jean McCorkle, patrol leader, has planted petunias to make our window boxes complete. We hope they will grow fast, and soon have beautiful flowers.

The Cloverleaf Patrol, Patsy Haywood, patrol leader, is arranging pictures in the room. We are also using the Girl Scout Pennant, Promise and Laws.

Last Friday we made pictures of the troop. Everyone was present except one. Two members of the troop committee were present. They were Mrs. Haywood and Mrs. Moser. Miss Collins, assistant leader, and Miss Howey were present also.—Reported.

The Senior Class of Marshville high school will present the play, "Dora Dean," on Friday night, March 24, at eight o'clock in the school auditorium. This is a comedy-drama by Virginia Mitchell based on the novel by Mary J. Holmes. The admission is twenty-five cents for adults and fifteen cents for school children. The hand is going to play. Come on out and hear the band and see the play and enjoy an evening of real entertainment. The money made will be used for the new cafeteria.

Sgt. David Collins, who has recently returned to the States, is spending a 31-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Collins, while overseas. Sgt. Collins was an aviator engineer in the Air Corps, serving in Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Another Lawrence, is a private in an engineering regiment in England. Another brother, McKinley Duncan, lives in Kannapolis. Two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Helen and Miss Gladys Duncan, reside in Charlotte.

Fugitive says lack of ships bars Japan's riches from Japan.

Berlin Struck Another Blow

Big American Bombers With Great Escort Blast The Nazi Capital

FOLLOW-UP IS INDICATED

American heavy bombers, escorted by powerful fighter formations, struck Berlin through heavy flak yesterday, losing 13 bombers and nine fighters, and the R. A. F. followed up with a strong smash at Frankfurt and unsuspected other German targets in the night.

The Berlin station said in a broadcast shortly after midnight that "strong British bomber formations last night bomber places in the Rhine-land." This enemy report was promptly confirmed by the major objective of Frankfurt was intense.