



U. S. DECLARES WAR

Congress Takes Action Against Germany and Italy

War Declarations Find Rutherford Countians Ready To Do Their Part

Recovering From First Shock, Local People Have Buckled Down to Grim Seriousness of War

Following the sensational report of the attack on Pearl Harbor last Sunday and the rapid fire turn of events that developed since, bringing a declaration of war on Japan Monday and a similar declaration against Germany and Italy today (Thursday) at noon, Rutherford countians have recovered from their first shock and have buckled down to the grim seriousness of war. Many spent Monday huddled around radios, but as the realization was born that a great deal must be done, like other Americans throughout the country, they resumed the trend of their everyday life—not as usual, however—but with a strong determination to do their part, to give all aid and to cooperate in every way possible in the defense of their country.

DRAFT BOARD AWAITS INSTRUCTIONS

B. D. Wilson, chairman of Local Draft Board No. 1 at Rutherfordton, stated that no instructions have been received following the declaration of war, but that the board is prepared to carry out any changes that might be made in the Selective Service Act especially in regard to reclassification, etc. Neither of the two boards in the county have called for December. Mr. Wilson stated that all men in Class 1-A are being examined so they will be ready when needed.

TAKE MEASURES TO GUARD VITAL POINTS

Precautionary measures have been taken to safeguard the Duke Power Company's big electric generating steam plant at Cliffside; also other vital points in the county are protected. None but employees are allowed in the water plant at Spindale, which also serves Rutherfordton.

RUTHERFORD HOME GUARD ON THE ALERT

Captain Robert Hampton has received orders from the War Department to have the Rutherford county unit of the State Home Guard on the alert and ready for instant duty. The telegram, which was sent by J. Van B. Metts, Adjutant General of North Carolina, was as follows: "The Governor directs that State Guard organizations maintain a state of readiness for any eventuality. No immediate activities anticipated. Letter follows."

Citizens Prepare To Aid Defense

O. J. Mooneyham, of Forest City, chairman of the Rutherford county defense council, has been ill for several days and was taken to the Rutherford hospital for treatment Tuesday. Since he could not be reached for a statement concerning future activities of the council now that war has been declared, Charles Z. Flack, chairman of the council's executive committee, was contacted. Mr. Flack stated that excellent work has already been done by the council under Mr. Mooneyham's direction. An office has been opened in the court house, in Rutherfordton, with Miss Christine Link in charge. Air raid observation posts have been organized and observers are prepared to go on duty on short notice. A meeting of the council will probably be held next week, when Mr. Mooneyham is expected to be able to preside. At this time war-time activities will be outlined and plans made to meet any emergency.

WAR BRINGS RUSH FOR DEFENSE BONDS

Patriotic-minded citizens have been quick to buy Defense Bonds since the Japanese aggression of last Sunday. They are on sale at the Spindale postoffice and the local branch of the Union Trust Co., these two institutions selling \$400.00 worth of bonds this week. This is remarkable when it is considered that nearly every person in Spindale is buying bonds through the local mill offices.

AIR RAID WARNING SYSTEM PERFECTED

The 18 observation posts, organized by the American Legion in cooperation with the Rutherford county defense council, and which received actual training during the recent war maneuvers, have been made permanent and the posts can be manned at almost a moment's notice. Prof. J. J. Tarlton, of Rutherfordton, was chief organizer for the Fred Williams Post, and Dr. R. R. Howes, of Forest City, chief organizer for the Willis Towery Post.

SCOUTS OFFER SERVICES IN CRISIS

The Spindale Boy Scouts, along with other troops of the county, are ready to perform any duty or service asked of them in the aid of civilian defense, according to the Scoutmasters of the three troops: Russell Northey, J. U. Grose, Hugh Armstrong and Lance Cole.

POLICE OFFICERS ATTEND F. B. I. SCHOOL

Several Rutherford county police officers attended the recent F. B. I. school held in Charlotte, and the training they received should well equip them to meet any emergency that might occur. Those attending

Nation Enters "Shooting War" Against Axis Powers In Today's Declaration

Less Than Fifteen Minutes Required By Congress to Pass Resolution Calling For War Against Aggressors

NATION ENGULFED IN TOTAL WORLD WAR

The Congress of the United States shortly after noon today declared a state of war exists between the German and Italian Governments and the United States. A message from President Roosevelt, calling for such declaration, was read to Congress at noon and without debate a resolution to that effect was immediately passed in both branches of Congress. The vote was unanimous. Congress Monday voted war on Japan.

The United States of America was engulfed in the rapidly-spreading total world war Sunday when Japanese air and naval forces, without warning, attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

No official announcement has been made of the damage caused by this attack, but President Roosevelt in his broadcast to the nation Tuesday night, stated that it was considerable. Several hundred soldiers, sailors and civilians were killed at Pearl Harbor and at Hickman Field, Hawaii, and Pearl Harbor itself was damaged. United States Navy vessels were damaged, while a number of military planes were destroyed at Hickman Field.

The attack Sunday on Hawaii came unexpectedly and at a time when special Japanese ambassadors were in Washington conferring with United States officials on plans for maintaining peace in the Pacific. The stab in the back by the Japanese carried with it the element of surprise which made the raid a very successful one from the Japanese viewpoint.