

# Wilmington Morning Star

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TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1942

With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.  
 —Roosevelt's War Message

## Star-NewsProgram

- To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.
- Public Port Terminals.
- Perfect Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities.
- Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.
- Extension of City Limits.
- 35-foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington.
- Paved River Road to Southport, via Orton Plantation.
- Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax.
- Shipyards and Drydocks.
- Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital.
- Adequate hospital facilities for white.
- Junior High School.
- Tobacco Warehouses for Export Buyers.
- Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

### TOP O' THE MORNING

It is impossible to have a lively hope in another life, and yet be deeply immersed in the enjoyments of this.  
 —ATTERBURY.

### Douse The Glims

It is not yet clear how Wilmington will be affected by new dimout rules to be put into effect along the Atlantic coast. But there is one measure that householders may voluntarily employ in the interest of community security and preservation of their property. It is to extinguish all lights in the house when absent during the evening, provided, of course, no member of the family is on hand to put them out in emergency.

This is necessary not only because a single light may be seen at great distance, particularly from the air, but to save doors and windows which would be hard to replace, priorities being what they are. Air raid wardens have authority to break into any building displaying lights after a raid warning is sounded.

### Nazi Punch Weakens

It is impossible to get a clear picture of what is actually taking place along the southern Russian front, but it would seem that neither the Nazis nor the Reds have gained an important advantage over the week-end. Undoubtedly the Germans have driven wedges into the Russian lines around Kharkov. It is quite as possible that they have been closed again. Probably the Russians have done the same thing to the defenses of Kharkov—with the same results.

If, as later Moscow dispatches indicate, the Russian forces have again assumed the offensive, after suffering a check, the fighting there has given them a hard won advantage, particularly as the Germans were reported to have at least a three-to-one edge in troops engaged. For the present it is apparent that the Russian dispatches are exaggerated and the battle is a give-and-take contest. Even if they have not actually succeeded in resuming the offensive, the Russian army is large enough to overcome the handicap of facing superior forces, and should be able to get into position for further advances within a very short time.

What is most significant in this fighting is the fact that the Nazi attack is much slower than when Hitler first sent his troops into Russia last summer. Two weeks were required for the capture of the Kerch peninsula

alone. When the Russian war was young the Nazis were taking more territory than was involved there daily. This, we take it, demonstrates that the punch of those early days is lacking now.

## The Battle Of Shipping

This country needs something more now than a good five-cent cigar. Specifically, it needs protected communication lines in the Atlantic the southwest Pacific and adjacent waters over which to transport the tools of war upon which we as well as our Allies must largely depend for victory. The United States had just about won the battle of production. Planes, tanks, guns are rolling off assembly lines in tremendous volume. The Axis cannot compete with our industrial output. But this will be of little advantage if we are unable to get them into action against the enemy. Neither Hitler nor the Japanese can be defeated if the planes and tanks and guns and munitions we are now manufacturing cannot be landed in the battle areas of Europe and the Orient in overwhelming quantities.

We must win the battle of shipping, as well as the battle of production, if we are to take our proper place in the conflict. China is in great need of warplanes to keep the Japanese from blocking her off and knocking her out of the war. Chiang Kai-shek is reported to have said that the difference between success and failure in the present increasing battle of China is 250 American big bombers.

More than that is involved, of course. But as air supremacy is essential to victory in the type of warfare now in progress it is obvious that this added air strength would materially reduce the odds against China. And it is vital to the United Nations' cause that not only this, but whatever other help China needs to survive, be given before the Japanese make greater inroads upon her territory. Especially is it necessary to uphold China's hands for victory now to prevent the enemy seizing and arming areas from which Japan itself might be attacked—territory within bombing distance of Japan and Formosa.

But to get planes and other equipment into position for greatest aid to China it will first be necessary to protect the sea lanes to the Orient against enemy attack. The difficulties are great because of the vast waters of the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian oceans, in all of which Axis naval operations are proving costly and among which our ships must be divided.

It would appear that we could concentrate greater effort for the protection of Pacific and Indian ocean sea lanes if we were able to free the Atlantic of the Nazi submarine menace. Thus far we have made small progress in doing so. It can only be hoped that present schedules for its accomplishment, which are being drafted but about which the government very properly has little to say, are adequate to the emergency.

## Listening Post Needs Workers

Ladies of Wilmington, what are you doing to do about manning the filter center? Are you willing to sacrifice a little in your domestic schedules or your social engagements so that you can stand a trick at the center, or do you intend to pass up this opportunity to give helpful service?

The choice is yours, and yours alone. There is no compulsion, nor is it possible to make more than a simple request for your help. But, as the security of your homes, your home city and all southeastern North Carolina may depend upon the efficient operation of the filter center, it would seem that nothing, not even for a perfect housekeeper, could under any circumstances be more important.

Ever since the center was established there has been difficulty in recruiting a sufficient force of women for its operation. At no time have there been enough workers. Of late the reluctance to serve has increased. This may be due to the strain of training and the burden of regular attendance. If so, it should be considered that if the center is not functioning at par at the moment of the enemy's approach the necessary signals cannot be given to defending forces in time to prevent attack and every home, every household, every individual will be under threat of destruction.

Isn't it better to make some sacrifice now than total sacrifice later? The filter center is the community's listening post. Wouldn't you rather be stationed there, where your listening can be of most account in emergency, than to be listening at home, in some terrible moment, for the explosion of an enemy bomb on the roof? It is no use to say that this is all impossible here. Wilmington is not exempt from attack. It can happen here, as surely as it happened in Holland and Belgium and France.

## "Summer School"

School will be over this week for one set of pupils. For others it will just be opening. Wilmington's schools will not be locked up this summer. On the contrary, they will be as busy as in regular mid-term. But the courses of study will be different. If present indications are borne out, hundreds of persons will receive training in skills essential in the war program. This work has been going on, and on a major scale, throughout the regular school term, through which many persons have fitted themselves for employment in vital industries. It will continue throughout the summer, under capable instructors.

Among the many steps taken in the educational program here, not only since the war began, but long before, none has been more important or capable of better results than

this training which will go on without interruption during the customary vacation period.

## Graduation Gasoline

With graduation time at hand and thousands anxious to attend ceremonies in which their offspring will receive diplomas it would seem to be up to rationing boards to ease their regulations to the extent of allowing parents to purchase enough gasoline to reach state lines on their homeward trips. Certainly the total of gasoline thus conceded would not seriously decrease the seaboard's stockpile.

Something of this sort has been done by the Georgia rationing authorities. An announcement to patrons has been issued by the Georgia Military Academy, saying that "parents who come (to the academy) for commencement will be allowed to get enough gasoline to get them out of the state after the . . . exercises are over."

It would bring comfort to parents with graduates in North Carolina universities, colleges and academies if the state rationing board extended the same courtesy.

## Washington Daybook

By JACK STINNETT  
 WASHINGTON, May 25—If the WAAC ever adopts a patron saint, it should be Deborah Sampson.

Why? Because aside from the Army nurses, who are "in the Army" as a matter of convenient bookkeeping, discipline and personnel, the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps brings women into the Army for the first time in history of the nation. AND, more than 200 years ago, Deborah Sampson was the first woman ever to serve with the United States armed forces; and according to the official record, the only one who ever did until Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby took oath of office the other day as chief of the WAAC. OF COURSE, Deborah stole a march on her

Of course, Deborah stole a march on her 20th century sisters by subterfuge. Instead of telling her recruiting officer in Massachusetts that she was just plain Deborah Sampson, she told him she was Robert Shurtleff.

The recruiting officer evidently took her word for it, because with no more ado than that, Deborah was mustered into the Continental army. That was April of 1781. Shurtleff proved a stout soldier, too. Nobody ever questioned his courage or his ability to swing one of those weighty old musket loaders down on the Red Coats. He was so well thought of by his comrades that when he caught a chunk of British lead at the battle of Tarrytown, they pulled him off the field of battle and rushed him to a dressing station behind the lines. The record here is a little obscure. How Deborah managed to keep her secret isn't made clear to the otherwise meticulous report. But she kept it sufficiently to rejoin her regiment, still as Robert Shurtleff, and she was shouldering a musket a few yards away when Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Gen. George Washington.

IF YOU are thinking by now that Deborah Sampson was one of nature's freaks, skip the thought. Honorably discharged from the Army in November, 1783, she married within a year one Benjamin Gannett and there is no record that anything but conjugal bliss prevailed for the next 43 years, when the Army's one and only (until sometime hence) grand old lady died.

Instead of being horrified, the Congressmen of those days tilted their bravos in courteous admiration. They even approved Deborah's pension—\$48 a year at first and finally \$76.80 a year.

When she died, Benjamin Gannett got a "widow's pension." It took a special act of Congress, but those who were close to the memory of the nation's first female soldier didn't argue long. With the notation that the history of the young nation "furnishes no similar example of female heroism, fidelity and courage," Congress voted the soldier's widow \$80 a year for the rest of his days. The WAACs will be hard put to find a more suitable patron saint than Deborah Sampson.

## Editorial Comment

### DISCIPLES OF CONFUSION

DURHAM HERALD  
 If people more or less on the inside of things develop the notion that the outlook is rosy and give voice to same in the presence of other persons whose job it is to collect and record the views of people supposedly in the know, then you have in semi-official dress the basis for the sort of optimistic outlook prevalent in some circles today.

Infant a few days of optimistic talk from folks who are willing to talk but insist that their identity be withheld, high officials, the President and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for example, deliberately move in with statements warning against overoptimism, as is now the case, you then have the people in something of a confused dither.

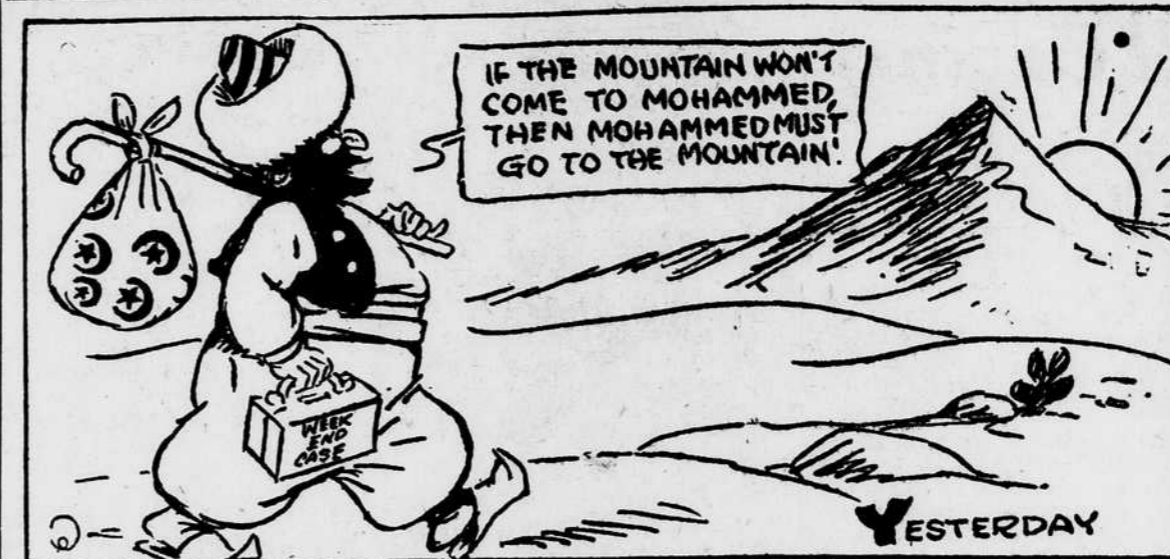
It is on account of that fundamental fact that occasionally we have insisted that chroniclers of news out of Washington should practice increasing care in quoting sources they are forbidden to identify and stop hanging speculative stories on such pegs as "informed sources," "high Administration officials," "reliable quarters," "trusted informants," etc.

We realize that to do that nearly every newsman, commentator and columnist would have to revise his approach to the job of reporting and interpreting news, and that the only hope of making it work in our sort of society without damage to that society is for the recorders of news voluntarily to practice restraint. And that isn't likely to happen to any great extent, partly because of the truth in the old saying "you can't teach old dogs new tricks."

Still, fact is that it is just as important that he who presumes to write the Government's estimate of the war outlook do so over his own name in the fullness of his official position as it is that only military news adjudged by official sources of no value to the enemy be released for publication. And if it takes some arrangement whereby official pronouncements, including those given in a color of officiality, are cleared through an official clearing house to accomplish that essential correlation, then it is by far better that be done than that the present haphazard system of positive jabber and negative jabber be continued.

What we mean is the Government should have but one official estimate of the outlook and that should be voiced by persons authorized and willing to be identified. There was a place, in other times, for the so-called behind-the-news dispensers. "Secret"

## 1,500 Years Doesn't Seem To Have Convinced Anybody



## As Others Say It

### COTON AGAIN KING

The resiliency of the cotton textile industry is shown in the manner in which it has managed to keep in step with changing conditions, variations which, in these swift-moving days, are constantly occurring.

No better illustration of this could be seen than in the new federal order that all textile mills convert at least 60 percent of their output to war goods within the next 60 days. The cotton mills of the country already, looked at from an over-all picture, are devoting half their output to war goods. These include vast amounts of such articles as bagging for sand, foods and agricultural products, millions of yards of camouflage goods and washables for the armed services.

Yet, at the same time, the industry has not only met, but even expanded, an unprecedented consumer demand, a demand based primarily on modern research which has made cotton style-worthy. Interesting in connection with what the cotton textile industry has done are the figures which show that during the depression years it consumed annually between five and six million bales. Last year the total amount of bales used was 10 million. And so far this year, consumption has been at even higher level.—Atlanta Constitution.

### MAKE IT "RASHUN"

The case for the defense is woefully weak—but we like it.

Governor Broughton deposes that the way to pronounce "ration" is "rashun" and not "rayshun." His Excellency was up in Washington the other day, and that's the way Leon Henderson, brash, rash, OPA rationer, pronounces it. And he ought to know.—Asheville Citizen.

columnists and just plain gossipers. But in our view there is no place for that sort of mischievousness now and we feel rather strongly that those who practice it under the cloak of freedom of the press are enemies of the freedom they assert.

## The Literary Guidepost

### By JOHN SELBY

"AND NOW TOMORROW," by Rachel Field (Macmillan; \$2.75).

The late Rachel Field is translating, in "And Now Tomorrow," two pressing problems into wholly feminine terms. One of these is the ancient problem of the haves and the have nots. The other is the problem of the "handicapped," particularly as it affects that old standby of the novelist—"love."

Emily Blair is Miss Field's heroine. Emily is one of those who have, not because she earned any thing, but because her Grandfather Blair built a mill which manufactured sheets and pillow cases and towels. Grandfather Blair's mill was successful, and gradually it collected people and a little city about it as a stone in a river sometimes becomes the center of a sandbar. But the mill was run largely by habit, its relations with the employees was paternal in the old sense, and there came a depression.

Just before the depression arrived, Emily became suddenly deaf as the result of meningitis. She was engaged, and with no real intention of doing such a thing, Emily found herself using her deafness to bind her young

## Raymond Clapper Says:

## Synthetic Rubber Means Nothing To Mr. Citizen

### By RAYMOND CLAPPER

WASHINGTON, May 25.—For you and me, the main fact about the big synthetic rubber program is that it won't mean the slightest easing of the tire situation for non-essential uses. Every pound of synthetic that can be made in the next two years must go to the military.

Officials want to emphasize that. They are afraid the public may think the situation will improve because we are going to have more rubber, or because efforts are being made to increase gasoline transportation into the east.

The situation won't improve so far as civilians are concerned. Rationing almost certainly will spread throughout the country within a few weeks—not to save gasoline but to save rubber. Gasoline rationing is the best method yet found for reducing the use of automobiles which is considered imperative.

The Government is trying to make the present stock of automobiles now in private hands last for the duration. No more tires can be supplied and present ones must run through. Furthermore it is easily possible that many private cars will be needed by the Government before the war is over.

For instance officials here have heard of one enormous war plant, 40 miles or so from the nearest city, which needs 12,000 passenger automobiles now to haul defense workers from their homes to the plant. Buses and other forms of public conveyance cannot be provided in sufficient form. That particular situation may be overcome without having to appeal to private owners to sell their cars. But others like it will be coming up from now on.

It might be desirable for the Government to begin now buying up automobiles from owners who wish to sell. Let it form a defense

workers' transportation corporation, buy up cars, assign them to local operating companies for filling gaps in defense plant transportation. I have a car in good condition that they can have. Thousands of people are in the same position. Certainly most two-car families might as well get rid of one car at least. It would be better to put such cars into needed use than to allow them to deteriorate while standing idle.

No responsible official takes anything but a grim view of private car transportation. Joseph B. Eastman, director of defense transportation does. He is even worried whether there will be enough rubber to keep buses going. Leon Henderson, in his capacity as WPB director of civilian supply, and Donald Nelson, the man finally responsible for war production, are in complete agreement.

It isn't a matter of seizing your tires. What we are short of is transportation. The tires go with the car and both need to be considered in the basic consideration. That is all over the country, whereas the gasoline shortage arises from oil transportation difficulty in the east.

We were vulnerable because the whole nation was transporting itself on rubber entirely supplied from the Southwest Pacific. When the Japs knocked that rubber out we were left on our uppers for transportation. If the Axis had deliberately planned how to immobilize the United States it could not have hit upon a more practical way to do it, as one official was saying here.

That we can produce synthetic rubber in enormous volume may be taken as a certainty. But time will be required to construct the plants. Some are under construction now. The technical processes are established. The pinch comes in finding steel, copper, special machinery such as compressors, and transportation facilities for the manufacture of 1,000,000 tons a year perhaps.

That requires delicate balancing of many other demands for these restricted materials. Large quantities of copper are needed and copper is so short that it is more valuable than gold in the sense of use. This synthetic rubber program for this year and next is the biggest job of chemical engineering ever undertaken in the world. To crowd it into the tight situation with regard to construction materials will require one of the most ingenious jobs of puzzle-solving that American industry ever faced.

## Factographs

King Nikita of Montenegro, who died in 1921, ruled over a kingdom of at least 150,000 men over 35 years of age. It was claimed that the king knew the name, age and occupation of each.

The farm woodlot is capable of providing a potential added income for the American farmer of 000,000 a year, the equivalent of a new major crop, it is estimated.

## Interpreting The War

## Kharkov Fighting Indicates Soviets Are On Even Terms

### By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Wide World War Analyst  
 Conflicting reports from the Kharkov front in Russia throw little light on the probable duration or outcome of the first pitched battle of the summer campaign; but they do reveal that for once the Russians are on something like even terms with their Nazi foes in modern war equipment.

The size of the armies involved can only be conjectured from the fact that an irregular fighting front more than 200 miles long appears to be aflame with attack and counter-attack. That means troops by the hundred thousand on both sides.

More than two weeks have elapsed since Marshal Timoshenko seized the initiative and struck out to hamstring an impending German offensive before it could get rolling. In that time, there has been no intimation that the Nazis have succeeded in gaining control of the air or breaking armored panzer columns loose to lunge deep behind Russian lines.

Lacking those two prime factors, which have figured in every preceding German victory in Russia, the battle of Kharkov may go down in history as the turning point in the war. Even Russian failure to take Kharkov or to break through to the Dnieper crossings and undermine the whole German southern flank could not be set down as a defeat if it delayed Hitler's promised master offensive.

If Timoshenko has succeeded in sucking into the blazing struggle any substantial portion of Nazi reserves behind the Ukraine front and worn them down by losses in men and equipment to the extent Russian official accounts report, he has already seriously short-circuited the Hitler offensive schedule.

Kerch peninsula, bridgehead to the Caucasus, is again completely in German hands. Heavy Red losses there are highly probable. Unless the Nazis can soon clinch an even greater victory in the Kharkov fight, however, and emerge from that conflict in shape to exploit it promptly, the value of the Kerch bridgehead to them will be doubtful.

It has seemed certain since Timoshenko's broad strategy became clear with the Red attack at Kharkov that he regarded the Kerch front as wholly secondary. He had opportunity to mass men and equipment there in sufficient strength to challenge the foe successfully had he so desired; but elected to make Kerch merely a holding operation while he concentrated for a counter smash at Kharkov.

Kerch peninsula in Russian hands was obviously only an outpost position covering the far best defensive terrain that Kerch strait and the area east of it afford. If its loss has cost the Nazis as heavily as indicated, it served its purpose well.

The cumulative attrition of Kerch and Kharkov on Nazi striking power is yet to be measured by events. If it has been any where near as great as Russian observers claim, in their tales of German tanks shattered by the hundred and Nazi planes shot down and bombed on the ground, the battle of Kharkov must be recorded as a Russian victory regardless of the status of the city itself or Russian failure to reach the Dnieper crossings immediately.

## Is That So!

ANANIAS ANGLER, just back from a winter in Florida, says he saw a couple of game fish so tough they were playing catch with a floating mine.

Recipe for a daytime radio serial: A sponsor and enough crying towels to go all around.

Grandpappy Jenkins says the Nazis are unique in gang history—instead of each other, they are taking the German people for a one-way ride.

A good thing to remember at this time is that the pioneer forefathers carried civilization to every corner of this country and they did it without benefit of a single gallon of gas or a set of pneumatic tires.

An European exile predicts a complete Axis collapse by the end of the year. Gosh, but isn't that asking Santa Claus for too much at one time?

Vaudeville is staging a comeback here while over in Europe every one is watching the Vichy boys in their ill-starred tight rope balancing act.

It will be a Victory garden, sure enough, says Grandpappy Jenkins, if he can figure out some way of defeating the neighbors' seed-burying chickens.

In after years the German soldier can always reminisce about the winter of 1940-41. That is, if he survived.

Many Italians, we read, have forgotten what coffee tastes like. So that can't be the reason so many of 'em can't sleep.

A trap door keeps mouse from reaching the bait so one piece of cheese should last for the duration.