

# Wilmington Morning Star

North Carolina's Oldest Daily Newspaper  
Published Daily Except Sunday  
By The Wilmington Star-News  
At The Murchison Building  
R. B. Page, Owner and Publisher

Entered as Second Class Matter at Wilmington, N. C., Postoffice Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 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-News Program

- To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.
- Public Port Terminals.
- Perfecting 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 OF THE MORNING

"Live and let live" was the call of the Old —  
The call of the world and the world was old —  
But "live and help live" is the cry of the New —  
The cry of the world with the Dream shining through —  
The cry of the Brother World rising to birth —  
The cry of the Christ for a comradelike earth.

—EDWARD MARKHAM.

## New Registration

Anxious parents need have no fear that their sons of 18 and 19, who are called upon to register today will be inducted into military service immediately.

It may never be necessary to call them. We can only hope that it will not.

But it is a wise step by the government to register them, lest their services be needed at some future time and a costly delay be caused by failure to have this preliminary work done.

With today's registration, some 43,000,000 men will be on the lists ranging from 18 to 45 years. All may be required before this war is ended, but as suggested neither the boys nor the old men face the prospect of an early call.

## Last Day

Sale of automobile use stamps is reported slow throughout the country.

Wilmington has done as well as the average American city, but there are still many motor vehicle owners who have neglected purchasing the stamp which will give them the right to operate their cars during the coming fiscal year.

But Wilmington owners will have to do better in the single day that remains for buying them if they have any hope or intention of driving even the limited mileage that will be possible under the new rationing rule, for it is a part of the rationing program that gasoline will be sold only to owners possessing the stamps in addition to ration cards.

It may well be that the necessary \$5 is not at hand, in the case of many tardy owners. There have been exceptional demands upon the pocketbooks of citizens not only to meet the rising cost of living but to help support the campaigns for financial support of worthy organizations, and cash is generally low. But the fact that money is short will not excuse anyone for failure to have the stamp when

visiting a filling station for the few drops of gasoline allowed.

By some hook or crook it will be necessary to dig up the money for the stamp or put the family bus away. And the money must be dug up today.

## The Water Bonds

Tomorrow's bond election will decide whether Wilmington is to have an adequate supply of water free from salt infiltration or continue, perhaps for years, to be subject to periodical contamination from ocean water when deficiencies in the rainfall and simultaneous high tides lessen the flow in the Cape Fear watershed.

There is on hand at Washington an ample amount of federal money to pay for necessary expansion of the water system. It is to be available only when the people of Wilmington provide the money needed to develop a source of supply. The government's position is that the question of a water supply existed long before Wilmington became part of a defense area and while the government is ready to help meet the increasing need for more water as a result of the heavier population resultant from defense projects, the source thereof is still Wilmington's own problem and must be solved by the city itself.

When this attitude was revealed, the Wilmington authorities set to work to examine a variety of water sources, employing the best engineering skill to find the best. After an exhaustive survey, which included ground water at varying levels from eight to 300 feet, and the Northeast river at and above Castle Hayne, as well as the Cape Fear, the experts concluded that the only source capable of providing all the water needed for the growing community at all seasons was the Cape Fear river about King's Bluff, and wrote a comprehensive report giving the reasons for so deciding.

The proposed bonds, therefore, are to create a delivery system of Cape Fear water from King's Bluff to the city's filtration plant, the cost of which has been provided through an earlier bond issue.

Do Wilmingtonians want an adequate supply of water? That, fundamentally, is the only question involved in tomorrow's election. If they do not, they must be reconciled to have their plumbing corroded annually and to go to any of the few wells which private owners are in the habit of opening to public use during periods of salt infiltration.

As the cost of the bonds will be fully met by water department revenues, there is no direct expense to be levied upon taxpayers. On the other hand they will be put to the expense of renewing their plumbing yearly, if they can purchase pipe and fixtures, which is doubtful in this period of strict priorities.

## Rommel Forges Ahead

The situation in the Egyptian zone of battle becomes more desperate for the British with each succeeding dispatch. With Matruh taken, Field Marshal Rommel's forces must be stopped quickly or they will be hammering at the gates of Alexandria, and there is no assurance that the British are to be better able to hold that vital port than they were at Tobruk or Matruh.

The surrender of Alexandria would be as crippling to United Nations operations as was the fall of Singapore or of Java. Seizure of the Suez canal would be the next step and thereafter Syria, the oil fields of Iraq and Iran and either a sweep northward into the Caucasus or eastward against India. Even if these latter operations were blocked, the British would have lost their last weak hold in the Mediterranean and the chief life line of the British Isles be throttled.

The one chance of a British victory, as matters now stand, lodges in a large contingent of American bombers and fighter planes, which have thus far been able to fly to Africa under their own power. Whether enough can be rushed into action to stem the Nazi onrush remains to be seen.

It is admitted that bombers are not particularly effective against tanks, upon which Rommel is depending chiefly in his present operations. But they could tear his communications to pieces and wreak havoc among behind-the-lines troop concentrations.

The fighting in Egypt is at the crucial stage. Within a day or two it will be known whether Hitler is to dominate the Middle East with its great and rich resources, or be driven back.

## Rubber From Alcohol

The senate Agriculture committee makes out a strong case against dollar-a-year members of the War Production Board's chemicals branch, claiming they have held up a program for producing synthetic rubber from grain alcohol lest it create post-war competition with firms with which some of them had been associated.

This may show business shrewdness, says the committee, but "it likewise displays a serious failure to appreciate the necessity of keeping America on wheels and winning the war." The committee demands that the senate endorse a proposal for setting up rubber supply agency for producing rubber from alcohol, and adds: "There is no explanation by any responsible official of why this country, in setting up a program for the production of synthetic rubber, gave consideration only to untried laboratory experiments from petroleum, which will require twice the time and many times the critical material needed to produce the same synthetic rubber from alcohol."

The clearest implication of the committee's report is that men in key positions in gov-

ernment are nursing the belief that business as usual is possible during the war emergency and in the period immediately following re-establishment of peace. This is tragic.

## Chinese Take To The Air

What the infant Chinese air force has done to Japanese invading forces is exceedingly small in comparison with enemy air exploits over China, but it encourages the belief that with more planes and more experience, Chinese fliers will give a steadily improving account of themselves.

Trained by American fliers and obviously provided with American planes the Chinese bombers sank two enemy warships in their first adventure at Sinti, in Hupah province, and followed this with a bombing raid on Japanese positions in eastern Kaingsai two days later, blasting an enemy concentration near Kaingsai's capital and blowing up pontoon bridges on the Ru river, as they returned to their base.

Inasmuch as the Japanese have had their own way in the air for nearly five years of warfare in China, these exploits give promise of stiffening opposition in the months to come, and even justify a hope that the help America is now giving will prove sufficient to turn the tide of battle in the Chinese zone. This hope is the more justified by reason of the recent successes of the American Volunteer Group which is to be taken into the Chinese military force on July 4.

There is nothing to indicate a quick change, but that a change for the better will eventually come is a fair assumption.

## Washington Daybook

BY JACK STINNETT  
WASHINGTON, June 29—In spite of all that has been written or said, I doubt if the reading public, as a whole, is much excited over the appointment of Elmer Davis as chief of the Office of War Information.

If it isn't, it's one of those mistakes which democracies sometimes make. There hasn't been a man come to Washington since the war effort started who has had such whole-hearted support—in advance—as Elmer Davis. If he fits in his broad task, to give the public all of the news, clearly interpreted, which won't seriously damage us by providing information to the enemy, it will be because there is something incurably wrong with our information system—and not necessarily with Mr. Davis.

The press relations battle in our government is a four-cornered fight. The people, who after all are entitled to the first say, have as their No. 1 complaint that they are not being reliably informed; that much information is conflicting; and that too much of it is delayed.

There is a second group, centered in Congress but not exclusively there, which contends that the present set-up is costly, inept, and concerned principally with grinding its own agency axes.

A third faction in the battle royal feels that the public should be fed only propaganda—should be told only what is good for it in the light of our war effort, and that all press relations agencies should be coordinated with this in mind.

The fourth battalion is composed of certain "ins" and their supporters and some of these, sadly enough, would be willing to sabotage any change to prove their present set-ups are the most effective.

Davis enters the arena a topflight favorite with all but the last group and those who think the news should be buttered on both sides before it's handed over for public consumption. Davis, in his journalistic endeavors both in print and on the radio, has proved that he belongs to the tougher school which believes that the American people can take it —the good with the bad.

His only definite and conclusive statement of objective since his appointment has been that he hopes to give the public "more news, more clearly interpreted."

His powers, laid down by the definitions of the executive order appointing him and setting up OWI, are broad enough in print to permit him to do exactly as he desires.

But there is many a slip between an executive order and execution. If this is just another governmental spring house-cleaning which, as one correspondent expressed it, might consist only of sweeping the dust under the rug, then Davis has sacrificed in vain his \$1,000 a week job in private life for about one-fifth that in the service of his wartime government.

## Editorial Comment

SEVASTOPOL  
New York Times

On the north side of the Bay of Sevastopol is an inlet which is called, or used to be called, Severnaya Harbor. On its shores are buried 100,000 Russian soldiers who fell during the siege of 1854-55. A little to the east is the site of the "soldiers' battle" of Inkerman, where French, British, and Russian infantrymen butchered each other all one bloody day, with bayonets and clubbed muskets. On the southern side of the Sevastopol Peninsula is Balaklava, where the Light Brigade made the charge that was magnificent but not war. We have forgotten why that campaign was fought. Much more has been forgotten during the twenty-four centuries since the Greeks came to the Golden Chersonesus, the Cherson of the Romans, to trade in wine and olives. We do not know what deeds of valor were performed between the bay and the Black Sea, and the river and the cape, and not remembered.

Today, in a new war, we read of a ghastly battlefield in the suburbs of Sevastopol, "quaking under shells and bombs falling amid lilacs and poppies such as bloomed on Flanders fields" during the first World War. The fleet thunders from the sea, bombs and heavy guns over the land. Soldiers come to hand-to-hand conflict, as they did eighty-seven years ago. The Nazis want Sevastopol as a sop to the Austrian painter's vanity, and as a way station on the road to world dominion. What it costs in German lives is of minor interest to the High Command. The Nazis fight their way toward the city, toward the little squares surrounded by tall trees, toward the Southern Bay, which reminds an American observer a little of the Hudson opposite Manhattan.

They may reach their destination, fighting street by street, house by house, death by death. What one can say, at this distance, is just this: There has been no courage in this region in historic time that can match the courage that is being shown there now; if every position in the United Nation is defended as this is being defended, with the spirit not of defense but of impassioned attack, we need have no fears as to the outcome of this struggle. The Russian battle is not merely magnificent—it is war.

## SO RED THE ROSE!



## Civilian Defense Timetable

BASIC TRAINING COURSE  
All courses meet at 8 p.m. in High School room 109.  
Fire Defense A — Every Monday  
General Course — Every Tuesday  
Gas Defense B — Every Wednesday

SPECIAL COURSE  
Fire Defense B — Thursdays at 8 p.m., Fire Dept. Headquarters  
1st lecture — July 2  
2nd lecture — July 9  
3rd lecture — July 16

MEETINGS  
Auxiliary Police — Thursday July 2, at 8 p.m. in Recorders Court room, Court House.  
Casualty Stations — medical Corps, first aid assistants only.  
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Church of the Covenant and St. Paul's Lutheran church.  
"Before the Doctor Comes" High School Auditorium, Wednesday July 1, at 8 p.m. (First Aid training)

TRAINING FILM  
School Auditorium, Wednesday July 1, at 8 p.m. (First Aid training)

"Before the Doctor Comes" To Be Shown By Red Cross At High School Auditorium

A motion picture, "Before the Doctor Comes," sponsored by the American Red Cross, will be shown in the High School auditorium Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

The film demonstrates the proper method of rendering first aid and was loaned to the local Red Cross chapter by the North Carolina Shipbuilding company.

All first aid instructors and those having taken Red Cross first aid are urged to attend. The general public is invited.

The large auditorium will furnish a cool place in which to view the picture, it was pointed out.

But the heavy striking force that will be necessary unless air attack works a miracle must be much slower in building up. If air proves unable to smash Germany alone, then a heavy invasion will be necessary. Building up such a force is not an overnight job. Shipping must be available to supply the forces as they expand. Enor-

## The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY  
"DRIVIN' WOMAN," by Elizabeth Pickett Chevalier (Macmillan; \$2.75).

I first heard of Elizabeth Pickett Chevalier's "Drivin' Woman" in a New Haven railway train from the job of peddling the manuscript. The manuscript had everything, the agent declared. What was nicer for Mrs. Chevalier, it got everything: magazine serialization, Literary Guild choice, and before publication a nice fat sum out of Hollywood. The impression was aroused, somehow, that Mrs. Chevalier was a stary-eyed young thing just starting in the writing game.

She is, however, Wellesley '18, and has behind her a productive career in several fields, including movie writing. This has been a help in the production of "Drivin' Woman."

The book began, apparently, with a close analysis of an obscure book by Margaret Mitchell called "Gone With the Wind." Essentially, "Drivin' Woman" follows Miss Mitchell's formula with remarkable fidelity. There is a heroine with elastic ideas of the proprieties, poorer than she wants to be, determined to get along, in-

## Raymond Clapper Says: Not Yet Time To Expect Immediate Second Front

WASHINGTON, June 29—People may be disappointed if they try to read too much into the announcement that Maj. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower has arrived in London to take command of the European theater for United States forces.

The move works toward the offensive in Europe that has been planned for some time. But to expect it to blossom into an all-out offensive overnight could only lead to disappointment. General Eisenhower's arrival in England does not mean that arrangements for an offensive are completed but on the contrary that the organization still is in its early stages. Work has been going on for a long time here. Forces and materials have been moving across for some time. The assignment of a commander marks another stage in the preparation.

Announcements made when our air officers were in England recently suggest that the air offensive will be opened first. British authorities have indicated that a Commando operation will be inaugurated as another preliminary phase of the offensive. American forces naturally would be expected to play an increasing part in these raids. It is possible they can be expanded to the point where they will open the way for later invasion operations. Presumably American and British forces would be made ready to take advantage of any opportunity which might appear unexpectedly from Commando activities.

While we see now is the result of past decisions and past planning. For some time military men have pointed toward action in Europe, and have hoped to be able to move forward to that end without having too much of American force scattered in other places.

While such an offensive is being prepared we are taking opportunity to advertise it rather openly. General Marshall, Chief of Staff, announced at West Point recently that in time American troops would land in France. We are using the opportunity to encourage our friends and to worry our enemies. General Eisenhower's arrival in London is particularly timely because the loss of Libya has been a severe blow to the British public. It also serves to sustain the hopes of the Russians, who are at this moment engaged in what may be one of the decisive battles on the eastern front.

During such a time as this when the war news is bad, there is a natural tendency to indulge in the clamor, which if it were all heeded would result in dissipating our force by scattering it in so many places that no real blow could be struck anywhere. No reverse anywhere is unimportant. But military men here have to strike a balance and consider what is most necessary to win. They have pretty well agreed that Hitler must be smashed first even though it is the hardest task of all.

Once such a decision is reached preparations must be made over a long period of time. It is needless to say to the purpose regardless of the vessels at other points which may be serious in themselves but which cannot determine the outcome of the war. Every-thing one hears here indicates that the decision is fixed and that no attempted diversions by the enemy will succeed in forcing any important departure from the program which is highlighted now by General Eisenhower's arrival in England to set up the European theater of American operations.

## Kerr Scott To Meet With County Board

G. T. Scott of Raleigh, chairman of the state agriculture war board will meet here Friday night with the New Hanover county board, County Agent R. W. Galphin said yesterday.

Rationing as affecting farmers will be discussed at the meeting which is to be held in the county agent's office in the county town. Scott has also been invited to attend a meeting of the farmers club at 8 o'clock Thursday night at Wrightsboro school.

## Interpreting The War

Axis Desert Columns Closer To Alexandria With Fall Of Matruh

BY KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
Wide World War Analyst  
Egypt appeared still on retreat eastward as Prime Minister Churchill, back in London from his conferences with President Roosevelt, prepared to face critics in parliament.

With the fall of Matruh the Axis desert juggernaut has rolled an ominous step closer to Alexandria. That, too, at a moment when an expanded German offensive in Russia gravely threatens Marshal Timoshenko's lines at a critical point eastward of Kursk.

Churchill expressed calm confidence that Egypt could and would be held before he left Washington, but the basis of that confidence was not revealed. The situation has since he spoke. Nor is there any indication that measures devised in Egypt or in Russia have been yet readied for action.

London observers believe the Nazi lunge eastward from Kursk, 140 miles north of Kharkov, signifies the opening of the main Hitler offensive in Russia. They define the Nazi objectives as an effort to rip Russian armies of the spine and central fronts apart in preparation for a great southward turning movement aimed at Rostov and the Don crossings into the Caucasus.

Loss of Kupvansk, 60 miles east-southeast of Kharkov, had already seriously impaired Russian north-south communications. The new drive eastward from Kursk menaces Timoshenko's supply lines even more gravely.

Presumably the German attack from Kursk is grooved to the Kursk railroad to Voronez, 130 miles due east. If it should reach that junction point, it would virtually cut Russian armies in the south off from the Moscow region except for round-about and inadequate routes.

Russian danger is far less imminent than that of the British in Egypt, however. Unless the Kursk thrust is to be expanded on a wide front both north and south, there seems small prospect of an immediate crisis.

In Egypt, the speed and force with which Rommel is driving eastward despite the probable weariness of his troops and the strain of ever lengthening supply lines, hurried by British-American bombers, is startling. The implication is that British reinforcements have not yet come up in sufficient force to warrant a stand and that the remnants of the eighth army are falling back upon them to a shorter front some 100 miles or more from Alexandria.

If the German attack in Russia has now fully developed, it seems clear that rumors of German concentrations in Crete and in the Italian and Greek islands of the Aegean for an air-borne thrust at Cyprus, Syria or behind the British front in Egypt are due for early testing. Expectation of such a supplemental blow in the Middle East may have led the British to give more ground in Egypt in order to contract the defense area.

## As Others Say It

TOO TAME  
While the major reformers rave over their mighty projects to reform the world, while Hitler glares at his crystal ball and Vice President Wallace consults the Delphic oracle, we will content ourselves with the small matter of chasing "task force" out of the language. It does not stir our martial ardor.—Chicago Tribune

"BOBBED HAIR FOR WAACS"  
It looks like bobbed hair for the WAACS. "A neat and un-military appearance will be the objective," according to a training school officer. A not un-military bob means, it seems, "shearing all tresses at the collar-line level."—Charleston (S. C.) Evening Post

INDOMITABLE WILL  
The indomitable will of the American navy is expressed even in the navy boats. When nothing of the aircraft carrier Lexington was left but a blazing hulk and an American destroyer had to sink her with torpedoes.—The San Diego Herald

TONIC FOR AMERICANS  
There could be no better tonic for American alertness than the constant repetition of the phrase: "The war can be won or lost in the next six months." And this slogan, it is quite within the bounds of possibility that, within this period, events will have predetermined either victory or defeat.—Atlantic Monthly

ADVENT OF THE 'SKETER'  
It is said by an old citizen of Wilkesboro that he never saw a mosquito in this part of the county until about 30 years ago when a storm blew them up here from the coast. What annoys him is that he's never been able to find the never have any trouble finding him.—North Wilkesboro Hustler

ELECTION YEAR BAROMETERS  
There may be treasury watchdogs in Congress who don't catch a big about the soldiers' vote of the November election, but the record on the pay boost from \$21 to \$50 for buck privates reads like this: House, 363 to 0; Senate 6 to 0.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch