

OPA Bans All Pleasure Driving On East Coast

COMMERCIAL OIL CUT Non-Residential Users Of Fuel Get 25 Per Cent Reduction IS EFFECTIVE TODAY Both Orders Become Operative At Once; To Affect Many

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(P)—OPA today banned pleasure driving in the East and slashed the amount of fuel oil that schools, stores, theaters and other non-residential establishments may consume in the 17-state area.

Many such buildings face the possibility of curtailing their hours or days of operations under the order. OPA left it to the school boards, store operators and others in charge of oil-consuming buildings to determine how they will meet the reduced fuel rations.

Amusement Places Hit Amusement places were especially hard hit. The order forbidding pleasure driving in the East specifically banned motoring to theaters as well as race tracks. With this order certain to cut down amusement centers' patronage and the fuel oil order threatening to make theaters and night clubs cold beyond comfort, continued operation of some of the establishments seemed in doubt.

Use of fuel oil in non-residential establishments in the east was curtailed 25 per cent below present rations, giving them about 43 per cent of normal requirements. Under the strict against pleasure driving, effective at noon tomorrow, any motorist driving to amusement centers or to "purely social engagements" faces the cancellation of all or part of his gasoline ration.

OPA called upon state, county and local law enforcement agencies to carry out the new regulation in 17 eastern states and the District of Columbia where the oil-gasoline shortage is acute. OPA prohibited all pleasure motoring.

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MANY CONVERTING FURNACES IN CITY

Local Ration Board Says Public Responding To OPA Request Home-owners of Wilmington have responded well to the call for conversion of fuel oil heating officials of the New Hanover War systems into coal-burning devices, Price and Rationing Board declared Wednesday night.

However, business firms have been slow to indicate plans of conversion. On Wednesday the board could report that only one barber shop and one dry cleaning plant had taken steps to replace fuel-burning plans with coal furnaces.

Ration board heads pointed to an urgent telegram relayed from Washington through the OPA office in Raleigh to the local organization.

"In view of increasingly serious fuel oil supply situation, it is imperative that buildings other than private dwellings be compelled to convert or lose their fuel oil rations. Only most conclusive proof

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WEATHER

FORECAST NORTH CAROLINA: Slightly higher temperature today. (Eastern Standard Time) U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., yesterday.

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Congress Meets In Mood For United War Action

F. D. R. Will Deliver Annual Address To Congressmen Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—(P)—President Roosevelt will appear before a joint session of the Senate and House at 12:30 P. M., Eastern War Time, tomorrow to deliver his annual address. The address will be broadcast.

FORMER REVENUE COLLECTOR HELD

W. W. Pearsall, Jr., Bound Over To Superior Court Here

After a preliminary hearing before Recorder H. Winfield Smith here Wednesday morning, William W. Pearsall, Jr., former deputy collector here for the state department of revenue, was bound over to the January term of superior court here under \$500 bond on charges of embezzlement.

Pearsall, who was represented by Attorney David Sinclair, pleaded not guilty to the charge, brought by Assistant State Revenue Commissioner Ben Eaton of Raleigh, that he converted \$400 of the department's funds to his personal use during the month of December.

He was freed under \$500 bond to await trial in superior court which convenes here next Monday.

Assistant Revenue Commissioner Eaton was the chief witness put on the stand for the state by Solicitor J. A. McNorton.

Eaton testified that the deputy collector of the department were required to submit daily reports of collections.

Pearsall's daily report for December 7, he said, did not reach the department offices in Raleigh until December 16 and the night before the report arrived he received a long-distance telephone call at his home in Raleigh from Pearsall.

Pearsall, Eaton testified, told him that his December 7 collections had totaled \$811.87 and that he had mailed in the December 7 report with checks for \$411.87 and was retaining \$400.

"The state is due me that much money and I feel right about keeping it," Eaton quoted the former deputy collector as declaring.

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Gets 42 Prisoners



Corporal Murray Katzen of New York, an American Army Ranger, proved himself a hero in the invasion of French North Africa. In one action he wiped out a sniper's machine gun nest, and captured four to two prisoners in another, single-handed. Katzen has been recommended for a decoration.

Chinese Forces Slay 500 Japanese During Encounter At Lihuang

CHUNGKING, Jan. 6.—(P)—Chinese forces killed 500 Japanese soldiers in street fighting at Lihuang, western Anhwei province, and beat back the enemy in other scattered action during the past four days, tonight's Chinese communique reported.

Japanese rushed reinforcements into Lihuang and the Chinese withdrew from the city, but continued to fight from the suburbs.

In another skirmish, a Japanese force was driven back after attacking Kingkou in the Canton area, the communique added. The enemy also was reported thrown back at Yuh in the southern Honan province by a counterattacking Chinese force that at first had met stiff resistance.

COMMUNITY CHEST SETS NEW RECORD

Recent Drive Here Marks National High For Oversubscription

Receipts from the 1942 Community and War chest drive reached a total slightly in excess of \$110,000, \$60,000 above the \$50,000 goal set for Wilmington and a new national record for chest oversubscriptions, the official auditor's report on the drive, made public at a meeting of the board of directors of the drive Tuesday afternoon, revealed.

All 1942 officers of the Community and War chest, headed by Harris Newman, president, were re-elected by the board of directors Tuesday.

The audit also revealed that the expenses of the entire drive, approximately four per cent of the total receipts or approximately \$4,400, also set a national low for expenses in chest drives.

Both records are based on figures submitted to the National Association of War and Community chests and councils, George Stearns, executive secretary of the drive, said Wednesday.

The previous record for oversubscription had been held by Newton, Ohio, with an oversubscription of 173 per cent, easily surpassed by Wilmington's 229 per cent.

The board of directors unanimously approved the report.

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N. C. SOLONS OPEN 1943 LEGISLATURE

Receive Bill Today Establish Optional Nine-Months School Term

RALEIGH, Jan. 6.—(P)—The North Carolina legislature, opening a wartime session for the first time since 1865, received a bill today to establish a state-wide optional nine-months school term.

The measure, introduced by Rep. Gass of Forsyth after the assembly convened and near-perfect harmony, was sent to the education committee. It would lengthen the present eight-month term to 180 days but would allow the state and county boards of education to determine whether the longer term would be advisable.

That clause apparently was included to meet the wishes of the agricultural sections which are mourning a lack of labor. Where funds are not used for the extra month, they would revert to the state treasurer to be used by the public schools the following year. The controlling boards would be

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Bank Clearings In City \$140,000,000 Over 1941

Reflecting tremendous industrial development, increased population, and greater military activity in this area, bank clearings for the City of Wilmington during the year were \$40,000,000 in excess of 1941 figures, D. M. Darden, secretary of the Wilmington clearing house association, announced Wednesday.

1942 bank clearing totals reached \$362,603,183.62.

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BIG RUSSIAN DRIVE CLUTCHES 21 MORE TOWNS IN CAUCASUS; BRITISH TROOPS SIEZE JEBEL

BEGIN NEW ATTACK American Warships Batter Japanese Bases At Munda

Drive Intended To Oust Enemy From Ground Near Mateur

TUNISIAN PORT OF SOUSSE ALSO RAIDED BY ALLIED AIRMEN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Jan. 6.—(P)—Veteran British First Army troops captured Jebel Azzag and nearby points in an attack launched yesterday to drive the Axis enemy from high ground dominating Allied positions along a road about 15 miles west of Mateur, the Allied command announced tonight.

It was the first real fighting in two weeks in north Tunisia.

In the air, a headquarters spokesman said, Fortress bombers scored hits or near misses on a cruiser leaving the Tunisian harbor of Sfax and left the Sfax power station in flames.

Pounding Axis With Energy (The British and Americans were pounding the Axis with relentless energy from both ends of the Mediterranean, reports showed.)

(The Admiralty announced in London that British submarines had destroyed a large enemy troop transport and supply ship; hit and probably sunk two other vessels in the Mediterranean and bombed the Italian and Axis occupied Greek coast.)

(The British and Americans announced in Cairo that their bombers blasted the Tunisian port of Sousse yesterday. The Americans said their heavy bombers put all their explosive within the target in a daylight raid and bursts were observed on the commercial phosphate and southern quays. The British merely announced that hits were scored on quays and buildings.)

Mateur is 25 miles southwest of the naval base of Bizerte.

(Reuters, British news agency, said that a British force of Commandos and paratroopers won the battle over some of the best German troops in a three-hour fight.)

RAF Hurricane bombers and fighters supported the British on the ground. An RAF spokesman said that in battles yesterday four German Focke-Wulf 190 fighters and one Junkers 87 dive bomber were downed at the cost of one plane.

In addition to the Fortress attack on Sfax, American B-24 bombers struck at a Nazi airbase at Karouan, about 36 miles southwest of Sousse.

NATIONALS ARRIVE ROME (From Italian Broadcasts), Jan. 6.—(P)—The Italian liners Vulcania and Saturnia, carrying Italian civilians being repatriated from East Africa, have arrived at an Italian port, the Stefani news agency announced today.

French West Africa Head To Support Allied Cause

LONDON, Jan. 6.—(P)—The governor-general of French West Africa, Pierre Boisson of once-suspect Dakar, has given assurance that there would be no recession of his support to the Allies and that he favors alliance of the Giraud forces with the Fighting French, who attacked his capital with British

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2 STATIONS TAKEN Reds Claim New Pushes Have Cost Germans 330,150 Men

FOE NOW RETREATING Nazis Running From Soviet Forces To Avoid Entrapment

LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 7.—(P)—Russia announced the capture of 21 towns and two more railway stations yesterday in the middle Don and Caucasus offensives and said that these drives have cost the Nazis more than 330,150 dead and captured since November 19.

Two communiques broadcast by Moscow and heard by the Soviet monitor here listed one town as Marinsk, which may be a town of that name on the lower Don about 25 miles west of Tsimlyansk, which the Russians said fell to their arms on Tuesday.

Marinsk is about 92 miles from Rostov, Caucasian gateway whose fall would trap hundreds of thousands of German troops in the Caucasus.

One Area Not Located Another town was listed as Krem-Konstantinovskaya, which the Soviet monitor here did not locate.

Many of the newly-named points were in the Nalchik-Prokhladnenski sector deep in the Caucasus where the Germans were reported retreating hastily northward toward Rostov lest they be trapped by the Russian columns striking westward from Stalingrad and southward along the Moscow-Rostov railway in the middle Don area.

The capture of these cities was reported in the regular midnight communique. Before it was issued a special communique said that 26,500 Germans had been killed from January 1 to January 5 on the Stalingrad front, and the regular bulletin added approximately 1,050 more Nazi casualties during yesterday's operations to that figure.

The Russians admitted the Germans were counter-attacking heavily in the middle Don and southwest of Stalingrad, but did not acknowledge any sustained resistance in the Caucasus battle zone some 360 miles southeast of Rostov. This bolstered the belief of British military quarters that the Germans were withdrawing in that area without putting up an organized fight there.

The tremendous quantities of captured equipment listed by the Russians in the action southwest of Stalingrad was seen as further evidence of a Nazi withdrawal so precipitate that huge dumps of valuable stores fell intact into Russian hands.

Red army troops were "conducting engagements for the annihilation of an encircled enemy garrison" on the middle Don front, the midnight communique said.

This phrase has been used for several days by the Russians to describe action apparently along the Moscow-Rostov railway in the Millerovo area. The Russian columns pushing southward there have met heavy resistance from fresh German reserves thrown into the struggle.

One Russian tank unit was said to have driven the Germans from an unidentified town, killing 300 Nazis and capturing much equipment.

West of Stalingrad, presumably in the Don-Volga river pocket where the Russians are trying to annihilate the remnants of 22 Nazi divisions which they say they have encircled there, the communique acknowledged "stubborn resistance," but said Soviet troops had advanced to overrun a series of enemy trenches. Approximately 400 Germans were killed in this battle, the communique said, and Red airmen destroyed three grounded Nazi transport planes and shot down nine other aircraft in combat.

U. S. Admiral Scorns Jap Service Man's Ability

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan. 6.—(P)—Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., United Nations commander-in-chief in the South Pacific, who recently predicted the complete defeat of the Axis in 1943, has a low estimate of the Japanese service man.

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10,000 War Prisoners Now Interned By Japs

LONDON, Jan. 6.—(P)—A British War Office statement said tonight that 10,000 prisoners of war—half of them Americans—are interned in Japan.

It said a Red Cross representative in Tokyo had visited three prison camps and reported conditions "comparatively satisfactory" although some prisoners were suffering from tropical diseases.

The prisoners, he was forced to adapt themselves to the Japanese diet, consisting largely of rice, although there are some bread, fish and vegetables. It said the prisoners get very little meat.

WAR GROUP TALKS OF NEW AIR ROUTE

Pacific Council Discusses Strengthening Supply Lines

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—(P)—The Pacific War Council, meeting with President Roosevelt at the White House, discussed today the possibility of strengthening supply lines by opening up new air routes across the Pacific.

The British ambassador to the United States, Lord Halifax, disclosed that the matter had been discussed, but gave no hint where any additional routes might be located.

Richard G. Casey, British minister of state in Cairo, attended the meeting and reviewed operations in the Libyan campaign and the difficulties encountered there.

Halifax said Casey was in this country primarily on problems of supply, and that the principal problem of the British Eighth Army was one of obtaining adequate amounts of such essentials as gas, food and ammunition.

Halifax said he never made prophesies, but that he was "quite sure" that the Japanese would be defeated by the end of the year.

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RABAU SMASHED

MELBOURNE, Jan. 6.—(P)—Heavy bombers of the Allied air forces under General Douglas MacArthur's command have smashed again at massed enemy shipping in Rabaul harbor, leaving eight vessels afire or sinking and destroying a ninth with a direct hit by a half-ton bomb, it was officially announced today.

Probably a tenth vessel was destroyed, an Allied headquarters communique reported on the heels

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ALLIES BOMBARD JAPANESE AT LAE

Four Gun Positions And Grounded Enemy Bomber Destroyed

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Thursday, Jan. 7.—(P)—Medium bombers and attack planes of the southwest Pacific command yesterday (Wednesday) swept over the Japanese airdrome at Lae in New Guinea, destroying four anti-aircraft gun positions and a grounded bomber. Meanwhile, Allied ground forces pushed preparations for the final assault on the remaining Jap foothold in northeastern New Guinea—in the Sanananda area.

Except for an attack on the Gasmata airdrome on New Britain island by a Flying Fortress, General Douglas MacArthur's heavy bombers were out of the operations picture yesterday while B-25s and fighters carried on the job of softening enemy positions along the Sanananda trail with bombing and strafing attacks.

The communique reported concerning the raid on Lae, a point often bombed because of its proximity to the Papua battle field:

"Our medium bombers and attack planes bombed and strafed the airdrome and supply installations. A twin-engine bomber caught on the ground was set afire and four anti-aircraft positions were destroyed by direct hits."

Other Allied bombers paid an other visit to the airdrome at Gasmata, on New Britain island.

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NOTICE!

If your carrier fails to leave your copy of the Wilmington Morning Star, Phone 3311 before 9:00 a. m. and one will be sent to you by special messenger.