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ESTABLISHED 1867.

Ample Meat Supply Forecast For U. S. Within A Few Days

OWI CHIEF TALKS

Elmer Davis Says Belts Of Nation Still Not Tightened Much

DUE TO BUYING SPREE

Shortages Declared Caused By Last Minute Rush Before Rationing

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(P)—Elmer Davis, declaring our belts still aren't "tightened much" by the food situation, said today that most places should have meat supplies equal to ration demands within a few days.

"The ration, of course, represents a diminished supply of meat for civilians as compared with 1942, though it is about as big as before the war," said the director of the Office of War Information. "The trouble we are in now seems relatively minor to me. We can hope that convoy sinkings or crop failures do not force us to tighten our belts even more. Certainly they haven't tightened much yet."

OWS Head Views Matter

Davis gave his views to a press conference on the eve of the inauguration of new price ceilings for pork, designed to be simpler than the ceilings now in effect and to help curb black market operations.

The OWI director said part of this week's shortages are due to the buying run last week-end when so many of us went out while hog for the last steak. Shortages are worst along the coast. Davis asserted, attributing this primarily to the failure of meat to move out of the Middle West and because of local supplies to black markets. Various governmental actions, he contended, will spread supplies more evenly across the country shortly.

The Office of Price Administration soon will follow up the uniform pork maximums, effective tomorrow, with similar regulations

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SEWER WORK STARTS

The construction of 6,000 feet of outfall sewer line to serve a portion of Maffitt Village, 4,000-unit Federal housing area here, was begun Monday by the contractor, A. H. Gulon and company of Charlotte, the Federal Works agency revealed Wednesday.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 90 days. It is financed by a Federal Works agency grant.

The PWA also announced that work on a \$63,940 water line leading from city mains at Front and Greenfield streets to Maffitt village would be started next Monday by the contractor, the Elliott Building company of Hickory. Plans call for construction of 13,000 feet of 12-inch and 16-inch cast iron pipe.

City Engineer J. O. Loughlin estimated Wednesday that when Maffitt village is completely occupied and the new line to the city mains completed, consumption of water would be increased by approximately 200,000 gallons a day.

WEATHER

FORECAST:
North Carolina: Warmer Thursday. (By U. S. Weather Bureau)
Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., yesterday.

1:30 a. m.	52	7:30 a. m.	54	1:30 p. m.	60
4:30 a. m.	52	11:30 a. m.	55	7:30 p. m.	55
Normal 57.					

Humidity
1:30 a. m., 99; 7:30 a. m., 92; 1:30 p. m., 82; 7:30 p. m., 86.

Precipitation
Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 0.00 inches.
Total since the first of the month, 5.29 inches.

Tides For Today

	High	Low
Wilmington	6:52a 1:31p	7:16p 2:00p
Masonboro Inlet	4:47a 11:30a	5:10p 11:25p
Moore's Inlet	4:32a 11:06p	5:15p 11:30p
New Topsail Inlet	4:57a 11:33a	5:20p 11:35p

(A. H. Time Eastern Standard)
Sunrise, 5:59 a. m.; Sunset, 6:32 p. m.; Moonrise, 4:01 a.; Moonset, 3:12 p.
Cape Fear River stage at Fayetteville on Wednesday, at 8 a. m., 10.65 feet.

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Now He's



In central Tunisia, Private Pat Bellingham (top), Duluth, Minn., told a war correspondent "now I'm really mad" at the Nazis because one stole his jeep—containing a picture of his best girl, Miss Phyllis Rubertucci (below) of Philadelphia, Pa.

BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY FANS OUT ABOVE GABES IN HOT PURSUIT OF ROMMEL'S BOMB RIDDEN TROOPS

GOUMS HIT ENEMY

Pigtailed Moroccan Fighters Strike Terror Into Italian Hearts

TAKE MANY PRISONERS

Native Allies Of French Hit From Dark Spots At Axis Positions

WITH THE BRITISH FIRST ARMY IN THE SEDJENANE SECTOR, March 31.—(P)—Coffee-colored Goums from the Moroccan hills, fighting on the seaward and right flanks of the British in this sector, advanced through bushy undergrowth today and took up positions six miles east and southeast of Sedjenane.

A large number of prisoners was seized by the Allies in a three-day battle which resulted in the capture of this little railway station and settlement at 2 P. M. yesterday, and one Italian Bersaglieri regiment no longer exists as a fighting unit.

Reach New Eastward Point

Goums (units of Goumiers), on the seaward flank today reached a point six miles to the east, while another detachment occupied Djebel Tabluna on the right flank.

It was not clear, however, whether the enemy would try to set up a defense in the immediate area or would fall back 10 miles to Green hill and Bald hill, the spots he used as a springboard for the offensive this month which carried him forward 24 miles, almost to Djebel Abid.

No small part of the success of the British First Army in this extreme left flank of the northern Tunisian front has been due to the aggressive patrols of the Moroccan Goums.

These stalwart pig-tailed warriors, wearing turbans and burnouses and fighting under volunteer French officers, specialize in ghostly patrols.

They moved out in the thickets before the battle began and were on the Italian positions before the enemy knew an offensive had been launched.

They struck cold terror into the hearts of many Italians who had been assigned a large part of the defense area, and some Italian units made a special point of surrendering to the British rather than risk battle with the natives roaming their flanks.

Artillery, in which the Allies greatly outclass the Axis in this sector, also played an important

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Important German Defense Point In West Caucasus Falls To Reds



THE REV. WALTER FREED

Reappointed Here

FREED RE-NAMED HACOW OFFICIAL

Prominent Local Minister To Serve New Five Year Term In Group

The Rev. Walter B. Freed, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church, was reappointed a commissioner of the Housing Authority of the City of Wilmington for a five-year term Wednesday by Mayor Edgar L. Yow.

The mayor said that the Rev. Freed, whose term of office as a member of the authority expired Wednesday, would be sworn into office for the new term at 11 a. m. Thursday.

Mr. Freed is the only commissioner of the authority whose term of office expires this year. He was appointed to the authority in July, 1938, to replace Henry R. Emory, the present executive director of the authority.

The housing authority, first to be established in the state, is responsible for the administration and maintenance of all Federal housing here. Completion of Maffitt village, huge shipyard worker housing project, will place a total of approximately 6,000 Federal housing units under the authority's control.

In addition, the authority operates two low-cost housing projects here, the Charles T. Nesbitt courts

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NAZI TROOPS MENACED

Drive Intended To Eject Foe From Last Foothold At Novorossisk

LONDON, Thursday, April 1.—(P)—Russian troops captured the "important German defense point" of Anastasevskaya in the western Caucasus yesterday in a renewed drive to eject the enemy from his last major foothold at Novorossisk, 33 miles to the south, Moscow announced early today.

Anastasevskaya is on the road running 55 miles westward to the Kerch strait opposite the Crimea, and is only 10 miles from a highways junction leading south to Novorossisk. Another ten-mile advance by the Russians would cut off sizeable German troops anchored in Novorossisk, former Soviet port for the Russian Black Sea fleet.

A tank-supported German infantry battalion also was hurled back in trying to break the Red army's defensive line along the northern Donets in the Ukraine, said the midnight communique recorded by the Soviet monitor. The enemy left 150 dead and two burning tanks on the battlefield in this early it said.

On the Smolensk front in Central Russia there was little change in an area where flooding rivers and clinging mud has hampered military operations, but the com-

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Sergeant York



On a tour of duty in Washington, D. C., Sgt. Caroline E. York, a fifth cousin of Alvin C. York, famous hero of World War I, is determined to live up to the glorious tradition of the name.

SEDJENANE TAKEN

First Army In North Drives On To Point Near Bizerte

PATTON BORING AHEAD

American Tank Forces Now About 45 Miles From Montgomery

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 31.—(P)—The British Eighth Army fanned out over the coastal plains more than 12 miles above Gabes today in a steady pursuit of Marshal Rommel's bomb-ridden troops, while the British First Army in the north recaptured Sedjenane and pressed on to a point only 35 miles southwest of the big Axis-held naval base of Bizerte.

An Allied communique also said that the American army of the center had bored farther into the flank of Rommel's coastal belt. The southern wing of the troops under Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., was believed to be only 45 miles from a coastal junction with the British Eighth Army.

Axis Runs Toward Sfax

Rommel's main forces appeared to be making a hurried flight in open country northward toward Sfax, 70 miles above the onrushing British vanguards, and the coastal road was reported strewn with many enemy bodies and wrecked machines—victims of a ceaseless shuttle-bombing by American and British airmen.

The Eighth Army captured Meuloua and Oudref, the latter 12 miles north of Gabes, early yesterday morning and advanced units swept on to contact "hastily prepared enemy defenses," the communique said.

Oudref is a junction of the road leading northwest about 45 miles to connect with General Patton's southern American wing moving down from el Guetar. Italian rear guards left by Rommel in between these two Allied armies appear to be cut off unless they make a precipitate withdrawal northeastward out of the pocket.

The progress of the U. S. troops was hampered by extensive minefields laid in the mountain passes. The Americans were reported to have bagged another 200 prisoners in their sector, however.

Lieut. Gen. K. A. N. Anderson's British First Army on the offensive in north Tunisia captured Sedjenane, 40 miles southwest of Bizerte, and a dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent William B. King at the front said Moroccan Goumiers, (their units are called Goums), had penetrated farther six miles to the east.

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PIPE LINE ROUTE PARLEY STARTED

Negotiations Proceeding With Property Owners For Right Of Way

Negotiations between the City of Wilmington and four owners for title to the right-of-way for the pipeline for the Hood's creek section of the city's projected King's Bluff water supply are now underway, City Attorney W. B. Campbell said Wednesday.

The city attorney said that the Seaboard Airline railway and three private owners were involved.

If the city is successful in obtaining the tracts, Mr. Campbell said, it will have enough right-of-way to construct the water pipeline eight miles from the present Toomer's creek pumping station to the new station on Hood's creek, plus three additional miles along the proposed pipe route to King's Bluff.

Work on a plant to be operated by the Lock-Joint Pipe company of Ampere, N. J., in producing 16-foot sections of 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe for the line, is expected to begin in the near future.

The contract for the construction of the entire project was awarded to Price Brothers of Dayton, Ohio, last fall but the War Production board recently decided to limit

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Enemy Inaugurates 'Softer' Policy In Chinese Treatment

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(P)—Japan has inaugurated a "softer policy" toward occupied China, Chinese Foreign Minister T. V. Soong said today, in an apparent effort to keep the Chinese quiet while new Japanese thrusts are prepared against British and American forces.

The Chinese statesman told reporters of this development after attending earlier in the day a meeting of the Pacific War Council with President Roosevelt at the White House. Members of the council said nothing new along strategic or military lines developed at this gathering.

Soong said the Japanese are resorting to various methods of mollifying the previously ruthlessly handled inhabitants of Japanese-occupied areas.

For one thing, the word apparently has gone out to the commanders of Japanese garrisons to treat the conquered Chinese more gently. Another recent move was to restore to the Chinese various concessions long held by Japan. Still another was Prime Minister Hideki Tojo's recent visit to Nanking, as a gesture of encouragement toward the puppet Chinese government and to create the impression that the Chinese, after all, are going to be allowed to have a voice in their own affairs.

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Walter Lippmann Says: America Now Reaching Another Turning Point

By WALTER LIPPMANN

We are passing through another of those turning points in our history where much depends upon how rapidly and how accurately public and official opinion takes account of what is really happening in the rest of the world. We were at such a turning point nearly three years ago in the early summer of 1940, and it took us over a year of fierce debate to understand even partially the actual situation. As a result, we were unprepared for the war when it came; in the October before the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor, Congress was still arguing on the assumption that the issue of war or peace was a question of whether we "intervened" in the Atlantic against Germany.

Now, again, the course of events has run ahead of the prevailing ideas about them. There are still some in Congress, though a diminishing number, who think of lend-lease as philanthropy in which we give up our treasure in order that others may fight their battles, not ours. There are many more in Congress, as the discussion of the Ball resolution discloses, who imagine that we can freely and at our leisure decide whether to accept or reject a continuing working arrangement with other nations.

And at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, there are signs of illusions arising from the same mistaken assumption. The other day an eminent newspaper and several well-known commentators, who try faithfully to reflect official opinion, announced that if our al-

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City's New Fire Station Opened By Mayor Yow

Mayor Edgar L. Yow officially opened the city's \$35,000 Fire Station Number six Wednesday night at a dedicatory dinner in the new station, at Third and Willard streets, attended by some 35 city officials, prominent citizens and members of the Fire Department.

"The City of Wilmington is proud of its fire department, and I think justly so, because of its record," Mayor Yow declared.

"That is why the council, with a great deal of pleasure, thanks you all for your part in providing this new station."

The dinner was served in the main section of the new station, built and equipped with federal funds. The station's \$10,000 fire truck, described by Fire Chief J. L. Croon as "the most completely equipped truck in the city" was parked outside for the inspection of the guests.

"I am well satisfied with the completeness of this plant," City Attorney W. B. Campbell commented in an after-dinner speech.

"The adequacy of it is highly beneficial to the city, but, in frankness, it is more beneficial to the

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United Nations Hammer At Morale Of Italians

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(P)—Hope appears to be rising in United Nations circles that Axis reverses in Tunisia will fray Italian nerves, perhaps to the breaking point, as the hour for invasion of the continent from Africa draws nearer.

Both here and in London officials emphasize that Italian troops in Tunisia are again being sacrificed to save German hides, and they were in Egypt. The officials obviously hope that their words will percolate through to the Italian public.

Prime Minister Churchill gave such a twist to his announcement to Parliament of the occupation of Gabes by British Eighth Army troops following collapse of the Mareth defenses. He said it "Italian early to say how many Italians had been left to hold the bag in Tunisia as at el Alamein while their Nazi masters escaped."

In Washington, Director Elmer Davis of the Office of War Information capped that today. Speaking of Rommel's retreat out of the Mareth trap, leaving sacrificial

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Big Water Main Break Deprives Many Of Use Of Liquid For 2 Hours

A large portion of Wilmington was without water for about two hours Wednesday night after a 24-inch main blew out near the water plant at Hilton.

According to the plant's engineers, the break took place about 9:15 P. M., and service was restored about 11:15 P. M. by utilizing another main to carry the supply to the affected part of the city. No estimate was made of the time necessary to replace the broken section of pipe but an adequate supply of water was assured.

Within a few minutes after the break occurred, Police Headquarters reported telephone calls coming in at the rate of two or three a minute from irate householders who were without water. The Star-News came in for its share of calls, with three telephones working at once.

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.