

Terrific Fighting Is Reported Along the Russo-German Front

Russia Given Priority in the Delivery of Strategic War Materials

Believed by some to be approaching a turning point one way or the other, the war in Russia is being marked by fierce fighting on the routes to Moscow and Kiev, with the bloody struggle in full progress around Smolensk, some over 200 miles from Moscow. Conflicting claims are heard in the reports from Russian and German sources, but the fact that Germany is now starting its seventh week in Russia would indicate that the invasion has not advanced "according to plan."

A Berlin report reads: German's slashing encirclement offensive has "destroyed" the bulk of Soviet defenders at the Smolensk gateway to Moscow and penetrated deep into the Ukraine, severing strategic Russian railroads, the high command claimed today.

The remainder of the Red forces struggling to free themselves from Nazi traps along the traditional Smolensk-to-Moscow invasion route are "nearing dissolution" under constant pounding by land and air, the communique said.

German and Hungarian troops on the Ukrainian front have battered their way far into the rich grain land in an encircling operation, it was reported, and disrupted operations of the Red army by cutting its railroad lines. No specific locations were mentioned, but German troops have been reported officially 125 miles south of Kiev.

And a report from Moscow reads: The Red Army reported today that gigantic battles are continuing along a ragged front from Porykhov, guarding the southern approach to Leningrad, far southward to a point 45 miles from Kiev on the Ukrainian front, where earlier reports told of shattering blows against two Nazi regiments.

For more than 600 miles along this front, the Russians and Germans were reported hurling great forces at each other, the Germans in attempts to break through stubborn Red resistance and the Soviets in a series of slashing counter-attacks.

Marshal Semyon Budenny's Ukrainian army, striking at the apex of a German encirclement attack on Kiev, was said to have driven the remnants of two German regiments into "panicky retreat" near the highway center of Zhitomir after killing and wounding 1,500 Nazi soldiers.

Possibly even more startling than the news coming from the war front, are the reports heard in the conquered countries and even in Germany itself. Revolts are growing in the conquered countries, and in Germany, the people, assured of a quick and successful war, are said to be going around with heads drooped and expressions of doubt and disappointment on their faces. Reports, leaking out of Germany, state that as many as 3,000 wounded German soldiers are being moved into Berlin daily, and that movements of comparative size are being made to

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Board Of Commissioners In Dull Session Here Yesterday

With little business other than that of a routine nature on their calendar, the Martin County commissioners held a dull and uneventful session here yesterday. The board formally adopted the \$1.35 tax rate for the current year and received a road delegation from Bear Grass in addition to handling the routine duties in the all-day session.

In addition to the \$1.35 rate, four townships face a road levy, ranging from 15 to 65 cents. The addition to the rate in Williamston is 15 cents; in Cross Roads, 65 cents; in Hamilton, 35 cents plus a \$1.05 poll tax, and in Goose Nest, 25 cents plus a 75-cent poll levy.

Appearing before the board with a petition carrying 13 signatures, Noah Rogerson asked that the road from Bear Grass to the Beaufort County line, known as the Greenville Road, be widened and improved to permit passing.

A contract was let to J. C. Norris for the installation of a new boiler in the county home. The contract price was \$66.42, the bids ranging from that figure up to about \$1,000.

A jury for the September Superior Court was drawn, and from the number a "permanent" grand jury will be drawn when the court opens its two weeks' term the third Monday in next month.

L. A. Thompson, purchaser of the old Dymond City tract, asked for a study of his acreage there. It was pointed out that he was taxed with 15,000 acres while the maps show only around eight or nine thousand acres. It is reported that the owner is planning to develop the property, that he has already constructed a house on the old city site and that he plans to place a large number of goats there to help clear the vast acreage.

Early Sales Average About 23c In Georgia

URGENT MISSION

Unofficial reports heard early this afternoon stated that Great Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, was flying to this country to confer with President Roosevelt. He may have already reached here, the report added. The flight and all details were held secret, the report adding that the mission must be urgent as Churchill withdrew from important debates underway back home to make the trip. It is possible that the Prime Minister is being accompanied by Harry L. Hopkins, lease-lend administrator.

Farmer Loses Third Curing Barn By Fire

Fire struck heavily on the farms of Mr. George Taylor, of Everetts, last week-end when three of his curing barns went up in smoke. One of the barns burned last Thursday morning, and the other two, joined together in construction, burned late Friday night. No estimate on the losses could be had immediately, but reports state that no insurance was carried on the property.

Mr. Taylor was said to have carried a barrel to the Leggett farm in Bear Grass Township, and the farmer had planned to put water in it the next morning. A report stated that had a bucket of water been handy, the barns could have been saved.

Sunday morning, fire destroyed a barn in Poplar Point belonging to Zeno Beddard.

To date, and as far as it could be learned, at least eight curing barns have been destroyed by fire in the county.

Quantity Of Tobacco Burns In The Fields

Harvest Season Is Fast Drawing To a Close In Section

Most Farmers in County Are Reporting Crops of Only Fair Quality

Martin County farmers chalked up an expensive loss in their tobacco fields last week when it was estimated that approximately one million pounds of the golden weed burned before the harvester's hand could touch it. Some estimates would indicate that the loss, placed at \$200,000 in monetary terms, will even exceed that figure; others stating that the loss will hardly be that great.

It is agreed that there has been a considerable loss despite earnest efforts to handle the tobacco as rapidly as it ripened or before it burned. Farmers have almost exhausted themselves trying to save the crop before it burned in the fields. Property and equipment for handling the crop have been taxed to capacity and over-taxed in many instances. Crowded conditions are believed to have caused a few of the several fires that destroyed curing barns in the county the latter part of last week.

The farmers are now beginning to see some signs of relief, Henry Johnson, supervisor of the Williamston market, stating yesterday following a general survey of crop conditions in the county, that quite a few of the growers will complete the harvesting of their crops before the week is spent. A few have already

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This Week In Defense

President Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress saying "we stand, as we did in the closing months of 1915, at the beginning of an upward swing of the whole price structure," and asked authority to set ceilings for prices and rents, to purchase commodities when necessary to assure price stability, and to deal more extensively with excesses in installment credit.

He said the "facts today are frighteningly similar" to the situation in the last war when the wholesale price index increased nearly 140 per cent between October, 1915, and June, 1920. In the past 60 days wholesale prices have risen more than five times as fast as during the preceding period since the outbreak of the war in Europe, he said.

"The whole production machinery falters under inflation," he said, and "the unskilled worker, the white-collar worker, the farmer, the small business man and the small investor all find that their dollar buys even less and less."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced its index of prices, as of July 26, stood at 88.8 per cent of the 1926 average, 15 per cent above a year ago. Price Administrator Henderson said the crisis in the Far East necessitates a price ceiling on raw silk and may make necessary a ceiling on tin prices. He asked dealers and consumers not to pay prices for high grade waste paper above those prevailing July 26 "pending an investigation of the price structure."

Marked Reduction In Crop Reported There This Season

Encouraging reports came out of Georgia this morning when seventeen auction centers handled their first sales of the season at prices above those of a year ago.

The first direct report, coming from J. E. Griffin, local man who is on the Valdosta market, stated, "prices ranging from eight to thirty-three cents. Average, 23 cents a pound. Quality fair."

E. P. Cunningham, reporting from the Vidalia market early this afternoon, said: "Market averaging 20 to 22 cents a pound. Medium to better smoking grades higher than last year. Large percent of sale common."

Nashville sold the first 15,000 pounds for an estimated average of 20 cents.

At Baxley the first few rows that were sold averaged 21 cents. Waycross reported price ranging from three to thirty-four cents.

As a whole, the quality of the crop is far inferior to that reported a year ago.

On the basis of the first report, the average price is ranging from four to five cents a pound higher than it did a year ago. The price range as reported on the Valdosta market is virtually the same as it was a year ago, with the lower grades showing a slight advantage this year and a corresponding reduction in the better qualities.

The early price averages reported today compared with an official average of \$18.04 reported for the first two days on the combined markets in Georgia last year.

The crop in Georgia this year is considerably smaller than a year ago, some estimates placing the poundage at between fifty and sixty million pounds, or a decrease of nearly twenty million pounds from the market figures for 1940.

As usual, nearly all of the markets stated the farmers were pleased with their sales.

Report Arrest In Jewelry Robbery

According to unofficial but reliable information received here today an arrest was made in Norfolk early this morning in connection with the robbery of the Peele Jewelry store here recently. The arrest was made after local and FBI officers went to Norfolk yesterday and reported the recovery of two of the watches stolen in the robbery week before last.

A warrant was issued in the case this morning, and local officers are returning to Virginia to press the investigation. Few details could be learned about the case, officers explaining that the name of the man, a Negro, was being withheld until finger prints could be checked. "We think we have the right man, but we aren't sure," Officer Allsbrooks said.

Officers, while believing both robberies were handled by the same person or persons, have not yet connected the two cases, it is understood.

R. Edwin Peele, proprietor of the store, was fired upon twice by the robber last Wednesday night when he caught him in the store.

Ten-Cent Reduction In Town's Tax Rate Effected By Board Of Commissioners In Regular Meet

Eleven Tax Cases Are Slated For Trial In County's Court

The round-up of alleged tax dodgers in this county is off to a slow but sure start, according to a report coming out of the sheriff's office today. It was learned that eleven cases have already been booked for trial in the county recorder's court next Monday, barring postponements or other possible delays. Two of the defendants, Phillip Thompson and James Walston, were unable to post bonds immediately when the warrants were served on them, and they were jailed. Bond was later arranged, and they did not have to remain in jail until their cases are called next Monday.

One non-taxpayer has since the first of the year answered the call of his Master, and will not have to answer the court call. Twenty-two others couldn't be found immediately. Thirty-four have moved out of the county since the first of the year.

Nine others have been called into army service. In four cases, the defendants had listed their property, the confusion resulted when they did not give their full names or when their names on the tax books did not correspond with the names given when registering under the Selective Service Act or when they voted in the last elections. Four of the defendants are now serving time on the roads for other alleged violations of the law, and the tax charges will be delayed pending their release.

In one case, the defendant was too sick to get to the list-taker, and in another case the defendant was crippled and is a charge of the county.

Several hundred warrants have been drawn, and the defendants will be brought into court to explain why they did not list for taxation as rapidly as possible.

Many Teachers Are Resigning Places In County Schools

Five Resignations Are Reported in Four Schools Over The Past Week-End

The withdrawal of young men from the school systems throughout the State and nation for service in the armed forces is having a telling effect in educational circles in this county, the office of the superintendent stating this week that five resignations were received over the week-end and that possibly others are to be expected. Several other teachers had resigned a short time ago, two of them in the Bear Grass faculty. Openings in the local schools including an elementary principal and a manual arts teacher, have not yet been filled.

While there are quite a few applications on file for the positions made vacant by the large-scale resignations, education authorities declared that it is certain to be quite difficult to find young men available for those places vacated by male teachers. It is reasonable to believe that in most cases members of the fairer sex will succeed the young men.

The resignations coming just about a month before the schools are scheduled to open, education authorities are not expected to delay the scheduled to open, education authorities

At Oak City, Miss Marjorie Dew, of Wilson, accepted the seventh grade work, but resigned before entering upon the duties there. Miss Mattie Lyons, after two years in the school there, resigned last week-end.

H. J. McCracken, science teacher in the Oak City school for three years, has resigned to accept the principalship of the school at Hobgood.

Mrs. Verda Woolard, after teaching the second and third grades in the Farm Life School, is resigning to make her home in Jacksonville.

B. B. Castellow, for several years principal of the Hamilton school, has resigned to accept a position in the Johnston County School System.

To Urge The Early Completion Of Fill

According to information reaching here last evening, civic leaders in Edenton tonight will appeal to Highway Commissioner Carroll Wilson for the early completion of the Roanoke River fill at this point. Mr. Wilson is to address the group at a meeting there this evening.

No official word has been received as to when paving work will be started. A Mr. Green, of the Ben Martin Paving Company, was to have reported here yesterday, but he could not be contacted. The dirt contractors have moved out, and no sign of the paving contractor moving in has been seen. Mr. Martin, in a special communication, stated that work was to have been started on the project last Friday. Other reports state that it will be two weeks or more before the work is started. No reason for the delay has been offered.

Respected Citizen Passes In County

Mrs. Harriett Louisa Edmondson, respected county citizen, died at her home near Spring Green, last Saturday afternoon at 1:35 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She had been confined to her bed for some time.

The daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ed Griffin, Mrs. Edmondson was born in this county 75 years ago. In early womanhood she was married to Nathan Edmondson who died in 1931.

Board Discusses Number of Matters in Regular Monthly Meeting

Rate Is Tentatively Fixed At \$2.50 For Current Fiscal Year

Williamston's current fiscal year tax rate was tentatively fixed at \$2.50 the \$100 assessed property valuation by the board of commissioners in regular session last evening. The proposed rate is ten cents below the old figure. Treasurer N. C. Green explaining that the reduction was limited by a \$3,000 increase in debt service obligations for the new tax period. Possibly a 20-cent reduction could have been effected had it not been for the added increase in debt service requirements. Mr. Green explained.

Based on a property valuation of \$2,049,671, the proposed \$2.50 rate will raise, it is estimated, about \$51,241.77. The tax income will be supplemented by approximately \$13,400 anticipated revenue from the water department. The new levy is based on a gain of \$315,000 in property values this year over those of a year ago. The tentative budget calls for the following expenditures: general administration, \$7,675; fire department, \$1,275; police department, \$7,147.50; street department, \$6,650.00; water department, \$7,299; swimming pool, \$1,335; and debt service, \$35,560. A detailed report on the budget figures will be released to the public just as soon as the estimate is submitted to the Local Government Commission in Raleigh, the treasurer explained.

Completing their study of the new budget figures, the commissioners handled a number of matters, touching on varied subjects. A further study of the Negro recreational project is expected, latest reports from the NYA indicating that the building near the cemetery can be completed for around \$1,450. A committee is to consider plans for completing the project. Tom Rivers, NYA engineer, appeared before the board in the interest of the project.

At the direction of the board, Mayor J. L. Hassell and the treasurer's office are to take action against those persons who failed to list their properties or polls for taxation. Proceedings, similar to those taken by the county in rounding up its delinquent listers, are being considered, and a list of the group is expected by the next meeting of the commissioners.

Mrs. L. U. James was named town tax collector at the meeting last night, the action relieving Chief W. B. Daniel of that duty. The chief will center his duties in the police department in the future, but will be subject to call by the tax office.

The board ordered the alley way between the property of J. L. Hassell and the property of J. L. Hassell to be widened to a width of 40 feet.

Three Local Young Men Enter Service

Three local young men, O. S. Anderson, Jr., S. W. Manning, Jr., and T. F. Davenport, reported for service in the U. S. Army Air Corps at Norfolk yesterday morning. They are leaving Norfolk shortly for Missouri where they will enter training. Relatives were advised here late yesterday. When the young men teach Missouri, Williamston will have five recruits in the service at that point. Each of them signed for three years of service.

A successor has not yet been named for T. F. Davenport who clerked in the county liquor store.

County Schools Will Open On September 4

The Martin County schools will open the new term on Thursday, September 4th, the Board of Education ruled in a regular meeting of their members here yesterday. Plans for opening the schools a day earlier were reconsidered, and the September 4th date was adopted. The session last year opened on the first Thursday in September. Holiday schedules were fixed for the entire term, the board allowing two days for Thanksgiving, and from December 19 to 31 for Christmas. No other holidays were considered in the schedule fixed by the board.

The gymnasium projects at Farm Life and Bear Grass were discussed, but action was again delayed, pending an official answer from the Works Progress Administration in early September. It is believed that the WPA will cooperate in the projects if men are available. However, the trend in the WPA in recent weeks has been from non-defense to strictly defense projects, meaning that if the projects are advanced to their completion the work will have to be handled without WPA cooperation. Patrons of the two schools have donated the lumber for the two buildings, and they are of the opinion

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DREAMER

Tired to the bone by day and night work in tobacco for several days, Farmer Willie Long took time out for a short nap at his tobacco barn last Saturday night, and he had a dream — a dream that was indeed realistic.

He had been sleeping only a short time when he dreamed several sticks of tobacco had fallen from their rack to the floor. He came out of the dream in a big hurry and excitedly rushed to the barn to find three sticks of tobacco on the floor. No, the barn did not catch on fire, but Farmer Long was not sleepy after that.

Large Number Of Planes Seen Here

The Marines, flying in 51 planes, passed over here last Saturday afternoon on their way to New Bern to engage in special maneuvers there during the next few days.

The planes, including several types, passed over in groups ranging up to 18 in number. A lone flyer led the way. He was followed by a group of eighteen fighter planes. There were sixteen in the next group and sixteen in the last.

One group of the fliers passed almost directly over the town, another group a little to the south and still another group to the north. The southern group flew close to the ground and it sounded as if a tornado was sweeping into the town.

Officers Capture Liquor Plant Near County Line

Raiding along the Martin-Edgecombe boundary line yesterday afternoon, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel found and wrecked a cheap liquor distillery. Three barrels of beer were poured out, and the old gasoline barrel, used for a kettle, was wrecked.

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