



# THE ENTERPRISE



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## Spring Thaws Check Fighting Along Most Of The Russian Front

### Germans Stalled in Repeated Attempts To Cross the Donets River

Although the Russians are still pressing in two columns toward the important base held by the enemy at Smolensk, fighting on a greater portion of the Eastern Front has been checked by spring thaws and General Mud, late dispatches from Moscow admitting that there is little prospect of any considerable Soviet success in the Smolensk area at least until the ground dries.

The Red Army, having reached the main German defenses in an arc about forty miles north and east of Smolensk, is attempting to bring about a full junction between its columns, the one moving south from Bely and the other along the Moscow-Smolensk rail line. Some local progress is reported, but the Germans, strongly fortified and prepared to defend at whatever cost is necessary Hitler's Eastern Headquarters, are at the moment, sitting pretty, if uncomfortably, in swamp and forest land rendered impassable to tanks and troops by swollen streams and soggy ground.

The Russians are busy repairing communication lines thoroughly destroyed by the Germans. As they retreated, Axis demolition squads blew up scores of bridges, one report stating that between two railway stations west of Rzhev Soviet engineers had to rebuild thirty-seven bridges. A few days ago the first train direct from Velikie Luki ran into Moscow, an indication of the progress of consolidation.

Metropolitan Nikolai of Kiev, a member of the Soviet Commission on atrocities, returning to Moscow from a trip through Smolensk area, said the enemy had left a vast graveyard and wilderness in his wake, massacring thousands of civilians.

He added: "Across the entire Smolensk district, we saw dozens of villages and towns burned to the ground, with only fragments of brick chimneys testifying that once they were inhabited points. Vyazma was an enormous graveyard. Only about fifty small houses (the city had 5,500 buildings) were standing. I saw an enormous pit containing 3,500 victims who had been tortured and shot.

"Sichevka was a nightmare of death and destruction. The Nazis blew up the city's seven churches. On the outskirts of a torture camp, in a graveyard consisting of rows of deep pits, there lay about 6,000 corpses of mutilated soldiers and civilians."

In the Donets region, the Germans are stalled, late reports declaring that the enemy has been hurled back across the Donets time and again with terrific losses. Moscow patches report that the Germans had sent strong reinforcements of bombers and fighters to the Donets River front, but failed to gain superiority in the air. Yesterday, the Russians said 251 German aircraft were destroyed last week while they lost 95.

Some heavy fighting is underway in the Leningrad area where the spring thaws have not yet set in, but the gains were recognized as being of a local nature.

Anti-Russians in this country are trying to read "red" into the Russo-Japanese fishing treaty that was recently renewed. Briefly stated, the Russians agreed to let the Japs fish

## Few Married Registrants File Claims For Draft Deferment

Other than about fifty whose cases were reviewed the early part of last week, few married men without children have filed claims for draft deferment in this county, it is understood. The deadline for filing the claims is near at hand, meaning that the claims will have to be in the hands of the draft board on or before Friday of this week if they are to get any consideration at all. Apparently calls to report for induction will be issued within a short time to a large number of the married men without children who were given their preliminary physical examination week before last. It is understood that some few of the registrants recently classified in the 1-A group are planning to present claims for deferment.

Four appeals to the district board have been filed for registrants who were classified the early part of last week. It was learned that two of the appeals were filed with the Newport News Shipbuilding Company for James Elton Smith, of Robersonville, and Henry Lemay Taylor, of RFD 2, Williamston, and one by Wheeler Daniel for Harry Daniel, of Oak City, and R. D. Elliott, of Williamston. Regardless of the appeal board's decision, these registrants will hardly have their cases reviewed in time to be included in the April call and possibly not in time for the May call. It is possible that others will perfect appeals within the next day or two, but if action is delayed in this connection, the registrants will have no recourse whatever, it is understood.

Draft deferments, granted a short time ago for all farmers, will be the main problem before a joint meeting of the draft and boards here tonight. It is understood that about 100 cases have been prepared for final consideration. In those cases where the farmer is meeting production requirements he will be placed in either 2-C or 3-C depending upon his marital status. If the farmer registrant does not qualify under the unit system he will be placed in 1-A. In the latter case, the registrant will have thirty days before he receives his classification notice to alter his farming status in an effort to meet the production requirements, usually meaning that no registrants will be called from the farms before June. And it is possible that Congress will further change the draft law and again alter induction schedules for farmers.

## TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

(A weekly news item from the rural press section of the OWI news bureau)

### No Restrictions on Food in Lockers

Food in frozen food lockers may be used by North Carolina farmers and other consumers without rationing restrictions, OPA has stated. The total amount of perishable food stored in lockers in private homes, on farms, and in commercial plants is considered too small to justify the inconvenience it would cause all consumers either to have this food declared, or to place any legal restrictions on its use. This ruling covers frozen food only.

### Soldiers Back To Farms

The War Department has announced procedures by which North Carolina soldiers, as individuals, may obtain discharges from the army to return to their farms. Soldiers on active duty in the continental U. S. who are 38 years of age and over, may be discharged upon favorable consideration or written applications submitted prior to May 1, 1943. These requests must be accompanied by a letter or statement from local farm agents to the effect that the soldiers will be employed in essential agricultural activities if discharged from the army. Such requests are made by the soldier to his immediate commanding officer. A soldier meeting these requirements will be discharged promptly unless his release will seriously affect the efficiency of his unit.

### No Inspection, No Gas

The ODT reminds Tar Heel operators of commercial motor vehicles that the deadline for tire inspection was February 28. So far, less than 25 per cent of such operators have had their tires inspected, and now the State OPA is moving to correct this carelessness on the part of truck operators by ruling that no second-quarter allotments of gas will be given unless a tire inspection certificate is presented. The ODT urges North Carolina operators to save themselves unnecessary trouble by having their tires inspected before April 1st.

### Any Time, Now!

State OGD headquarters was represented in Atlanta this week for a regional conference by State Director R. L. McMillian. Coming back to North Carolina Director McMillian brought one of the best statements to be issued in many a day—Major General U. S. Grant, III, said, "We keep in touch with the Army and if the time comes when we can let down we will tell the public, but that time has not come yet. It is necessary that we continue on the alert."

### From here on out air raid alarms

might be called by the Army at any time in North Carolina. The training period is over and surprise tests might come at any time. General Grant's statement made clear that OGD is—and must stay—on the job. **Livestock Owners, Please Note** The Food Distribution Administration (Continued on page six)

## Car Tire-Tube Certificates Good For An Indefinite Period

Ration certificates for tires, tubes and recaps are now good for an indefinite period, it was announced this week by the county rationing board office. Heretofore, the certificates had a life of only thirty days unless they were placed in the hands of a dealer. Under the new ruling, the certificate may be held by the owner until he can find the specified type of tires even if it takes him two months or longer. It was also announced that certificates cannot be altered or changed by the board. If a man applies for No. II tires and gets a certificate calling for the purchase of that type, the holder is not allowed to change his request or certificate for a No. III tire or vice versa.

Farmers are reporting to the rationing board in fairly large numbers for car, tractor and non-highway gas rations. Board Chairman C. C. Martin explained this week that all farmers will find it advisable and more convenient to make application

## Rommel's Forces On The Run After Fall Of Mareth Defenses

### Americans Pushing Forward To Close Trap; Berlin Is Bombed Again

His main defenses battered along the Mareth line in southern Tunisia, Rommel, the German Africa Corps' old fox, is on the run again in Africa. While the fate of the German forces is sealed, it is possible that Rommel will offer a staying fight for several more weeks, his successes depending on developments during the next 24 to 48 hours. If Rommel can pull his men up the coastal road for about 200 miles in the direction of Tunis, he can possibly fight a delaying action for Hitler. But the British Eighth Army, after smashing completely the Mareth line, is on a rampage behind Rommel, and the Americans in the central part of Tunisia are driving under the direction of General Geo. S. Patton, Jr., to the coast in an effort to trap the desert fox in his last hole.

To the north, the British First Army is pushing on toward Bizerte, important base for the Germans, and the Americans and Fighting French, working in close cooperation, are pounding the enemy a little to the south. The Allied forces are really working on Rommel and Company, and his tortured retreat up the coastal road already has the earmarks of another Dunkirk. Battered by the pursuing British Eighth Army, Rommel is threatened by the Americans. In addition to his cares and woes meted out by the land armies, Rommel is being battered from the air, and British battlewagons have taken stations just off the coast and are pounding him with shot and shell in the region of Gabes. The retreat got underway after eight days of fierce fighting in and around the Mareth line.

Rommel had suffered heavy losses in the Mareth line from a virtual non-stop assault by land and air since the night of March 20, and there were indications that the enemy realized the threat to his flank and was intent upon racing up the coast to momentary safety, if he could. Frontline dispatches said enemy landing fields west of Gabes had been plowed up, a sure indication of flight.

The Allied offensive in Tunisia became general as the British First Army in the north opened an assault from Djebel Abiod sector, smashing against German positions straddling the Tarbaca-Mateur road. The Allied communique said, "Successful local advances were made and a considerable number of prisoners were taken."

Thus the superb British team of generals, Sir Bernard L. Montgomery and Sir Harold Alexander, again had proved to be the nemesis of the touted Marshal Rommel whom they had chased over 1,600 miles of desert from El Alamin in Egypt. But now, they are operating under the supreme command of an American, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Rommel, as in previous retreats, left many pockets of resistance to delay the advance and the British methodically were wiping them out. (Continued on page six)

## Martin County Youths Report For Induction

### Most Of The Youths Under Twenty Years Leaving County Are

### Next To Impossible To Get A Complete List of Those Leaving Monday

About fifty-five Martin County white youths left for an armed service induction center Monday, the group being marked for its tender age. Apparently there were few over twenty or twenty-one years of age, and one or two in the group appeared to have hardly grown out of short pants. Very few of the group came directly from the farm, other than two or three who are understood to have volunteered their services and who not knowing the Army chose that way rather than the path behind a mule in the fields.

A complete list of the young men leaving the county could not be had. The Draft Board was recently instructed to withhold the induction lists until the men return from the induction center and then to release the names of only those men who were accepted. One observer counted fifty-four boys as they boarded the buses, and another counted fifty-five. About thirty out of the group were recognized as they made ready to board the bus. Their names and addresses are, as follows:

- Henry Thomas Daniel, RFD 1, Jamesville, and Norfolk.
- Pete Lilley, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Elbert Ward, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Virgil Ward, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Daniel Gray Manning, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Edward Odum, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Edgar Nicholas Hardison, RFD 1, Williamston.
- James Nicholas Hardison, RFD 1, Williamston.
- William D. Jones, Hamilton.
- Julius Braddy, Jamesville and Tarboro.
- Arthur Anderson, Williamston.
- John Pope, Jr., Williamston.
- Jimmie Watts, Williamston.
- Orlander Sheppard (Jack) Green, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Raymond Roberson, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Henry Hoell, Williamston.
- Charles Thomas Mizelle, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Clayton Wynne, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Harry Edmondson, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Sidney Lewis, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Joseph Edwin Hardison, RFD 1, Williamston.

## Red Cross Chapter Chairmen Release Campaign Report

### Express Their Appreciation For Support; Donations To Be Acknowledged

Announcing the 1943 Red Cross War Fund Drive complete in the Martin County Chapter, War Fund Chairman V. J. Spivey and J. C. Manning, general chairman of the chapter, issued a joint statement today expressing their great appreciation for the splendid support and cooperation given them in handling the big task.

Every penny has been accounted for, the drive chairman working night and day for weeks handling the names and contributions. Most of the money has already been sent to National Headquarters, and the remaining small amount will be used in financing the sewing rooms and other activities on the home front.

Most of the contributions have been publicly acknowledged and the others will be published just as soon as possible.

The joint statement issued by the chairman follows:

As the Red Cross War Fund drive reaches the final stage, it is a great pleasure for us to announce that the Martin County Chapter exceeded its quota by more than \$1,000.00. To be exact, our quota was \$3,900 and to date we have collected \$4,912.02. We knew the citizenship covered by this chapter would not "let us down," but due to the season of the year in which the campaign was to be conducted, we expected the task to be more difficult. Quite to the contrary, our quota was raised within one week and this fact alone clearly indicates the enthusiastic public response which we received.

We found our people willing and anxious to make their contributions, and in many instances checks made payable to the Red Cross were awaiting the arrival of the solicitors. In other cases, firm managers asked their part in the program and when given an estimate they immediately and methodically went about the task of raising the amount from the members of their organizations.

This generous spirit on the part of the public and the fine cooperation given by our solicitors insured the success of the drive from its very beginning. In this connection, we wish to offer the highest praise for the fine work done by the group of volunteer workers. They laid aside their personal duties, braved bad weather, and made every effort to see that their districts were thoroughly covered.

In the rural districts they traveled muddy roads and in some instances where ready cash was not available they accepted farm produce which was later turned into cash and deposited.

## Meat Supply Here Depleted Saturday

Meat supplies were virtually depleted in some stores and in others were wiped out to the last bologna before a frantic buying wave that developed here last week-end. By early Saturday afternoon, purchasers expressed willingness to accept any cuts or chunks, the inferior portions going like hot cakes.

Refrigerators, boxes and cold storage rooms were still empty for the most part in most of the stores this morning, but the apparent shortage developing after the fashion of a Houdini disappearing act is not considered serious locally. In the first place most local consumers have an ample supply built up by the heavy purchases last week-end, and in the second place stocks will be built up within a very short time. The Armed Services and Lease-Lend have withdrawn from the market temporarily at the direction of OPA and orders will be filled very shortly, butcher shops have been advised.

## PARACHUTE

An Army parachute with weather indicators attached was found lodged in a swamp tree a short distance off the Williamston-Bear Grass Road last week by Farmer Joe Cherry. Unable to recover the chute by climbing the tree, Mr. Cherry took a rifle and after using a part of a box of cartridges shot it down. A note was attached, directing the finder to return the instrument to Fort Bragg. Mr. Cherry's son, Pvt. Frank Cherry, was home from Fort Bragg and he returned the instrument.

The incident was one that did not get blown up by rumors. However, a report stated that a parachute with a radio attached was found in the swamp. And that wasn't a bad guess.

## PENDING

With only two cases pending, Martin County rationing board officials did not meet as a board of inquiry Monday night. Chairman Martin stating that the cases would be added to others and called for review next Monday night.

The cases allege violation of the regulations requiring motorists to maintain a speed of 35 miles an hour or less. It is understood that several new cases will likely be reported to the board soon, Patrolman Bill Hunt having been quoted as saying that one speedster was picked up following a chase that reached a speed of 90 miles an hour last week-end.

Rubber Czar Jeffers has asked Governor Broughton to call for a strict enforcement of the 35-mile limit, and orders are going out to enforcement officers.

## Mrs. Wilbert Smith Dies in Washington Hospital Yesterday

### Funeral Services To Be Held At West Main Street Home Tomorrow Afternoon

Mrs. Dorothy Josephine Daniel Smith died in a Washington hospital yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock following an illness of only a few days. She was removed to the hospital last Saturday. Pneumonia following complications developed and resulted in her death.

The daughter of Ben L. and Pattie Hopkins Daniel she was born 21 years ago, the 25th of last month in Williams Township.

Quite popular among the younger set and held in high esteem by her classmates, she attended the local high school until the spring of 1941 when she continued her studies in a school at Norfolk. She returned home and worked for several months prior to her marriage. She attended the Methodist church.

When she was attending school in the Virginia city, she met Wilbert O. Smith, of Franklin, Va., and they were married last June 14. Following their marriage they made their home in Buckroo Beach, Virginia, while he was employed in the shipyards at Newport News. On the 23rd of last month he was drafted into the armed services and was stationed at Atlantic City. Efforts to reach him last Saturday failed, and he did not get the message urging him to hurry home and his release in time to reach here until late last night. Since he entered the service, Mrs. Smith had made her home here with her parents on West Main Street. She was thought to be getting along very well until the latter part of last week and when her condition became aggravated she was removed immediately to the hospital.

Besides her husband she leaves her parents, a sister, Evelyn Fay, and two brothers, Ben B. and Beverly Delano Daniel, all of Williams Township.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home here on West Main Street tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock by Rev. B. T. Hurley, pastor of the local Methodist church. Interment will follow in the family plot in the Hopkins Cemetery in Williams Township.

## Officer of Civilian Defense Comments On Test Blackout

### Unattended Lights In Homes Cause Wardens Much Trouble Here

By JOHN L. GOFF (Officer Local Civilian Defense)

The surprise blackout test held on last Thursday evening was considered quite a success. The response of the staff officers at the control center in Williamston, the rapidity with which the wardens and firewatchers covered their districts and manned their posts was excellent. The general observance of lights out on the blue signal, or long two-minute blast of the siren, was in the main, satisfactory. However, there are one or two points in which we earnestly solicit more complete cooperation on the part of our citizens.

The matter of "unattended" lights is the most serious part of our breakdown. There were far too many lights left in homes where the owners were not at home and the doors were left locked. It has been pointed out several times that this is not to be done. All citizens are asked when leaving their home, even for a short time, to cut out all lights, or have an outside switch so the lights can be cut off. This fact, that is, the place of the outside switch should be known to your warden. Our wardens are citizens and dislike being unpleasant. They are instructed not to damage property, which, of course, they do not wish to do.

Then, there is the matter of smoking cigarettes, pipes or cigars on the streets when the blackout is in progress. A number of instances were not last Thursday night and when reminded the violators instantly complied with the regulations.

From the State Office of Civilian Defense has come word that our State has now been turned over to the Army and will be under regular Army supervision. Therefore, it becomes incumbent upon the chairman of civilian defense to urge more strict adherence to the signals, with all lights out on time, and no home left with lights burning unattended. If for this is done the violator will have to be cited. The punishment for this citation is a fine up to five thousand dollars or one year in prison, or both. Between one hundred and fifty and two hundred persons are giving their time and many have undergone much training in order to better protect our community in the event of a bombing raid, and who will have to risk their lives for its safety; therefore, it seems only reasonable that every precaution will be taken by every member of the community to secure that safety.

## Push Program For Food Conservation

Meeting in the agricultural building last week-end, paid home economists in Martin County, including Mrs. Henry Griffin, Mrs. Sara Phillips, Miss Ruth Britt and Miss Lora E. Sleeper, discussed plans for advancing the food conservation program this coming summer.

The program, designed to train girls and women in the correct methods for preserving foods with pressure cookers, the hot water bath and brining and drying, will be extended to every home possible.

The Vocational Home Economic teachers will give demonstrations to school girls at Robersonville April 7 and 8 and at Williamston on April 16 and 17. The other schools are, as follows: Farm Life, April 5 and 6 from 1:30 to 3:30; Bear Grass, April 12 and 13; Jamesville, April 22 and 23 from 11 a. m. to 1:00 p. m. Girls in the schools will be asked to give the teachers a list of families living in each of their communities.

The demonstrations will be given to women in each community and they will be asked to help others. A record of all people asking a demonstration will be kept.

The canning demonstrations are a supportive measure to the victory garden, for without preservation foods raised in the garden will count up to much.

## About Fifty Plan To Take Special Exams

About fifty high school pupils and recent high school graduates in this county plan to take the special V-12 examinations on Friday of this week according to unofficial estimates received here today. The exams will be given at 9 a. m. in the high schools at Jamesville, Farm Life, Bear Grass, Williamston, Robersonville and Oak City.

"Most boys accepted for either the Army Specialized Training program or the Navy College Training program will eventually become commissioned officers in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard."

The Army and the Navy will pay all expenses at the colleges of students selected on the basis of the tests on April 2. Since there will be no further tests for some months, all high school students or recent graduates will have to take the April 2 examinations to qualify for this training. This is an excellent opportunity for every ambitious boy, especially for those who are likely to be drafted within the next year."

The purpose of the tests is to aid in the selection of prospective officer material for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The examinations are designed to test the aptitude and general knowledge of the candidates who will express a choice for the Army or Navy at the time of the examinations. Those who are selected for either the Army Specialized Training program or the Navy College Training program will attend college with all expenses paid by the respective services.

## Rocky Mount Youth Is Winner In Contest

Jennings Mangum, Rocky Mount youth, was unanimously judged winner in the American Legion-sponsored area oratorical contest held in the county courthouse here last evening. While the Rocky Mount speaker won a unanimous decision, keen competition was offered by three other contestants, including Miss Ruby Lee Reynolds, of Columbia; Miss Sara Joe Bryan, Elizabeth City, and Leland Hardison, of Robersonville.

Post Commander Dr. John D. Biggs was greatly impressed as well as others in the large audience with the work of the youthful orators. "All of them were good, and as for the women, Miss Bryan is second only to Madam Chiang Kai-Shek when it comes to speaking," the commander declared.

The winner of the district contest will compete further in the nationwide event when he goes to Greensboro. He was awarded a \$25 war bond by the legionnaires of the district, and Leland Hardison, Martin County's entry in the district contest, was awarded a \$25 war bond by the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion.

The contest in the courthouse followed a rock fish supper in the hut, Mayor J. L. Hassell welcoming the visitors there. Among the out-of-town visitors were Mrs. Victor R. Johnson, State Auxiliary president; Mrs. S. J. Hundsell, Auxiliary Vice President of Washington; T. Max Reynolds, Mrs. J. E. Alexander and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Cohoon, of Columbia; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bryan, of Elizabeth City; W. R. Alston, of Scotland Neck; W. W. Mangum, L. H. Howell, G. S. Longest, of Rocky Mount; Mr. and Mrs. William Beach, of Hamilton; J. E. Madry, Rich Square, and about thirty-five post members.

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