



# THE ENTERPRISE



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## Seventeen Men from County Start Active Service in the Army

### Twenty Men Accepted by the Army and Twelve Are Entering the Navy

Seventeen young county white men left early this morning for active service in the armed forces, the group representing a majority of those who were accepted out of the approximately 100 men reporting to an army induction center the early part of last week for their final physical examinations. Others, whose examinations were delayed or who were accepted for service in the Navy, will leave for active service from day to day this week.

Most of the men leaving today were married without children. Several homes were temporarily broken up by the call and a hard blow was dealt established businesses. Several of the men reporting for active service have children but they were born after September 15, 1942, and are not recognized as a supporting claim for deferment.

While offering a brave front on the surface, most of the young men perhaps reflected one of the most serious attitudes of any group to leave this county for the service. Most of the men maintained smiles on their faces, but a few tears broke over the dam and the voices were a bit shaky as they told loved ones and friends goodbye.

If there was one in the group who would even think about shirking his duty, it was not evident in their actions as they made ready to leave home. They hated to leave, to be sure, but one of them said, "I want to do my bit, and I am ready to go."

Dr. W. R. Burrell, a veteran of the last war and who traveled to nearly all corners of the world during that conflict, was down to distribute Red Cross kits to the young men and bid them farewell. The crowd, however, was not as large as some that had gathered around to see the boys off, but it was all serious and marked by the absence of shouting and boisterous talk.

"Buy the bonds and take care of everything on the home front, and we'll take care of the rest," J. Paul Simpson said just as the bus started moving out. "Now that you are in the Army, about how long do you think the war is going to last?" the boys were asked. Speaking for the group, J. Paul Simpson said, "Give us a month or two to get right, about one month of action, and another month for mopping up, and it'll all be in the bag," the willing soldier adding that it would be only a matter of months if all the millions in the service would help him and the people back home would buckle down to the job at hand.

The seventeen young men leaving this morning were the first out of about 100 reporting for physical examinations the early part of last week at an Army induction center. They will be followed tomorrow by Mr. Jim Manning who goes into the service somewhat as a "Lone Ranger."

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## H. M. S. Pinafore Is Well Received Here

An appreciative audience witnessed the student presentation of H. M. S. Pinafore, a Gilbert and Sullivan light opera, in the high school auditorium last Friday evening. Composed largely of adults because of the special presentation of students on Friday morning, the audience enjoyed the beautiful songs and scenes, many remarking that the opera was the finest program ever presented in the local school.

The high school stage converted into a ship's deck, with the beautiful painting by Emma Hall Baker and Virginia Reynolds in the background, furnished a fine setting for one of the most famous of the Gilbert and Sullivan works.

The cast of forty-two students performed as professionals throughout the program, and are to be commended for their fine rendition of the difficult numbers and dramatic scenes of H. M. S. Pinafore. The leading characters played their roles with the skill and poise reflecting their fine training.

Alberta Swain in the role of Josephine was outstanding, her singing of "Scena" or "A Simple Sailor Lowly Born," provoking applause from the audience. Other outstanding solo numbers were "When I Was a Lad," by Billy Myers, "My Gallant Crew," by John Goff, and "I'm Called Little Buttercup," by Ethel Taylor.

Chorus numbers especially well received were "Over the Bright Blue Sea" and "A British Tar Is a Soaring Soul."

Among the cast was Robert Curson, leading seaman of the British Navy and frequent visitor to Williamston. "Bob" sang in the place of a chorus member who became too closely associated with poison ivy.

Kathryn Mewborn, assisted by several high school teachers, directed the production, which was the highlight of many fine musical programs presented by Williamston students.

## Uncertainty Facing Farmers As They Begin Crop Planting

Experiencing a late spring and all kinds of weather, including snow, sleet, hail, rain and wind all in the course of a few days last week, Martin County farmers declare uncertainty is staring them in the face as they launch the new crop season. In many cases early-planted corn was killed by the frost and freeze last week, and farmers are waiting for an opportunity to replant it. The Irish potato crop was dealt a heavy blow, some farmers estimating that the outlook is for hardly more than two-thirds or three-fourths of a yield. The tops were killed back to the ground, and while they will sprout out again, the crop will be mostly tops with small potatoes underneath.

The fruit crop has been just about

wiped out, and there is little prospect of a crop on the fruit front this season.

The tobacco plant situation is considered favorable at the present time but many farmers are already worrying over the blue mold. As far as it can be learned, the mold has not struck in this county. One report stated that the mold had struck but it was later learned that the frost had bitten the plants and caused them to turn brown. Reports from other states and sections tell of fairly heavy blue mold attacks, and farmers in this county anticipate a heavy infestation. The supply of plants is believed more than adequate to care for all the needs in this county, but in some scattered areas there is a shortage.

## TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

**Meat Ceilings Postponed**  
Maximum prices on beef, veal, lamb and mutton sold at retail will not become effective until May 17, OPA suspended ceilings scheduled to go into effect April 15 in order to be sure that the prices were in line with other living costs.

**Raise Corn Prices**  
A ceiling price five cents per bushel higher than present maximums, established April 14, will be effective until September 30, 1943, according to OPA, which acted upon instructions from stabilization director Byrnes and food administrator Davis. There will be no further increase in corn prices during the 1943 market season. The price raise is designed to relieve the present acute market shortage of corn for livestock feeding and industrial processing.

**New Rules of Selective Service**  
Chief effect of the recent changes in selective service classifications is the elimination of dependency deferment except for: (1) Those who maintain bona fide homes with children, (2) Those whose induction would cause extreme hardship to a wife, child or parent, and (3) Those with dependents who are necessary to and regularly engaged in agriculture.

Men formerly classified in III-A and III-B who had been deferred because of dependents will be reconsidered. Class III-B is eliminated entirely. A child born after September 14, 1942, is not recognized as a "dependent" in classifying a registrant in Class III-A. The new classification, III-D, will contain all men whose induction, in the opinion of their local boards, would create extreme hardship or privation for a dependent wife, child or parent.

**Farmers Who Sell to Retailers**  
A farmer who sells butter, lard, or any other rationed food to a retailer must collect ration points for the sale, just as he has done in selling to consumers since March 29, according to OPA. All farm sales must be made at current point values and stamps collected must be turned in to local ration boards with a report made on OPA Form R-1609. This form will be available to all.

(Continued on page six)

## Officials Renominated By Convention Friday

### Old Board Of Town Commissioners And Mayor Are Nominees

#### Convention Handles Business in Six Minutes to Set New Record for Brevity

Some less than seventy-five citizens settled, or virtually settled, the town's politics for another two years last Friday evening when they assembled in the courthouse and renominated five commissioners and the mayor. Working with lightning like speed, the convention handled its business, including a brief acceptance speech by the mayor, in six minutes flat, or one minute less than the time required to do the same job two years ago. The procedure, geared to the fast pace this old world is now traveling, left the convention almost dizzy and groggy, and the late-comers, meeting the group in its way out, were puzzled by the speed with which the proceedings were handled.

After waiting about twelve minutes after the appointed time, Mayor John L. Hassell opened the convention and stated its business. W. C. Manning was made temporary and permanent chairman before excuses could be heard. F. M. Manning was named secretary but before he could take a chair, the convention had already developed speed. The close of the convention found the skeleton minutes hardly more than half completed.

Calling for nominations for mayor, the chair recognized C. H. Godwin, who offered John L. Hassell for renomination. A quick second was made by Leslie T. Fowden. No other nominations were offered, and the mayor was renominated by a resounding and unanimous vote. The echo of the vote had hardly died away before commissioner nominations were called for by the chairman. Without fan-fare and in a very few words, R. L. Coburn offered G. H. Harrison, N. C. Green, L. P. Lindsley, V. D. Godwin and R. T. Griffin for renomination. C. H. Godwin seconded the action. No other nominations were offered and a unanimous vote was recorded for the group.

In his brief acceptance speech, Mayor J. L. Hassell pledged his best efforts and those of the commissioners in promoting the best interests and welfare of the town during the new two-year term of office beginning in June. The action of the nominating convention is subject to an election to be held on May 4. While it is possible for an independent to upset the convention's action by "bolting" at the election, no deviation from the old and staid political course has been recorded in recent years, and with the exception of the work of a few pranksters the May 4 election will, in all probability, abide by the action taken at the convention.

The speed displayed by the convention in its work was partly explained when it was pointed out that a special program was scheduled to get underway in the high school at 8:30 that evening. A conflict was avoided with time to spare, but several of those reporting too late for the convention, declared that a primary would give a greater number of citizens a better opportunity to participate in their town politics. There has been some talk of appealing to the general assembly for a legislative act creating a primary, but no action has been advanced in support of the change.

## Negro Is Painfully Shot Here Sunday

D. D. Hill, young colored man, was painfully but not seriously shot by Charles Clark at the home of Booker T. Bridges near the river wharf here last Sunday afternoon. The shooting was said to have been accidental, but liquor and dice are thought by police to have had a part in the attack.

Clark, admitting that he had been drinking, claims he was playing with his automatic pistol when it accidentally fired, the shot striking Hill in the mouth. Before Clark could choke the pistol, a second shot was fired, the bullet striking Hill in the leg. Drunk or sober, Clark is rated an expert shot even when there is no intent to hit a mark.

"I became terribly frightened after the shooting and ran through the Saunders and Cox mill yard and to the woods," Clark told police following his arrest by Officer Chas. R. Moore yesterday morning. After spending part of the night in the woods, Clark returned to his home. He was released under bond in the sum of \$200, and is to appear before Judge J. C. Smith in the county court next Monday morning.

Hill, reports from the hospital, is improving rapidly and is expected to return to his work shortly.

## Relentless Bombing Attack Continues In Tunisian War Arena

### Total of 142 Axis Planes Shot Down in Mediterranean Area in Three Days

Apparently paving the way for a land attack, Allied air forces are fighting a fierce battle in the Mediterranean air and relentlessly bombing enemy positions in Tunisia. With the exception of fierce attacks on most all fronts is at a standstill today. The extensive activity in the air would seem to indicate that fierce battles on land are in the making. Just when the final round will come in Tunisia is believed not far away, observers advancing the belief that the last round will be a costly one but that it will mark the end for the enemy in Africa.

There is some talk of an attempt by Hitler to rescue some of his men in Tunisia, that some technicians have already been flown out. But apparently Rommel and Von Arnim have reached no final decision as to whether to fight it out to the last man or 'Von Paulus' men did at Stalingrad or try another run for cover. Upon that decision the length of the last round of the Tunisian battle rests. If Rommel attempts to run again, some observers believe the battle will be over within three or four weeks. If a last-ditch fight is ordered, the battle is subject to last seven or eight weeks. In either case, a costly battle is expected. The African campaign has been supported principally by tanks, but the enemy is entrenched in the mountains where tanks are of little value, and the infantry is at the mercy of the enemy's strong positions. The extensive bombing attacks apparently are designed to relieve that situation and soften the way for the infantry.

The air war in the Mediterranean area has caused Von Arnim to cry to Berlin for relief. Yesterday, Allied air forces shot down 24 more German planes, boosting the total to 142 in the past three days. Seventy of the number were large transports and some of them were loaded with Hitler's technical men. Allied losses were small in comparison. The overall count since March 20 places Axis plane losses at 1,600 as compared with 200 lost by the Allies.

Adolf Hitler, observing his 54th birthday today, escaped bomb greetings from the Allies, bad weather having grounded the big bombers. Berlin later went off the air, indicating that an attack by light bombers was in the making.

A small German spearhead, driving into Russian lines in the Caucasus, was flattened out in early fighting today, and fighting in the Kuban sector continues at a fierce pace. On the other far-flung fronts, the American air force is pounding the enemy. On Sunday seventeen tons of bombs were dropped on Kiska in the Aleutians, and over in Burma a railway center and oil dump at Rangoon were wrecked.

Another angle is that the checker discovers the kind of food that appears to be unpopular or more filling, for the reason that too many plates had that item of food left. His report on this fact results in the cutting down on the quantity of such food cooked.

Waste has become a fighting word around post mess halls and while the home front is struggling with point ration stamps, the Army continues to expand its program of food conservation through a plan of rigid supervision and education. Gone with Sunday driving is the old system of issuing Army rations on the basis of company strength. In its place is the new program of issuing food according to the number of men actually eating at the detachment mess.

One of the first steps in food conservation was the checking by Army unit inspectors of company kitchens for excess stocks. This surplus was turned back to the Quartermaster and later reissued to units that were short on these particular rations.

The story of coffee and canned goods has been told, but the Army cooks are bearing down harder than ever on the instructions to use canned fruits and vegetables only when the fresh varieties are not available. As to coffee, a self-imposed rationing of that commodity was in effect at posts and camps long before the civilians felt the pinch—if any—of a pound ever so often. It was, and is, simply this: Instead of serving coffee three times a day or 90 times a month, an Army unit mess is served coffee not more than 40 times a month.

Meat drippings and fats are used over and over again in cooking until there is no value left, then they are salvaged. Conservation is recognized as production's main supporting factor.

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All men in this area who are interested in the Seabees are urged to obtain three work references from their present and previous employer, and to make application to the New Bern sub-station. Government transportation will be furnished from New Bern to Raleigh when applicant is sent in for interview. Lt. Dietrich, of Navy Engineering Corps will be in Raleigh on April 28th and 29th for the purpose of interviewing applicants and assigning ratings.

General service is open to 17-year-olds, and to men between the ages of 38 and 50. Recruiter C. M. Pollard, of the New Bern sub-station, said that the Navy has opened its 50-odd trade schools wide to the young volunteers, and a special effort is being made to enlist as many 17-year-olds as possible. Once the youngster has reached his 18th birthday, however, he must enter the service through his draft board, and his eligibility to volunteer for the Navy has expired.

The Navy has urgent need for all women who can qualify for enlistment in Waves and Spars so that they may release a man for sea duty.

## ROUND-UP

After falling to a low number a week ago, the round-up of alleged law violators made rapid gains to approach a low normal here last week-end. Six persons were arrested and jailed, and one of two escaped the hoosegow by arranging bond. Three of those arrested and jailed stand charged with drunken driving.

Five of the six persons are white, their ages ranging from a low of 16 to a high of 69 years.

## Court Runs Divorce Mill After Ending Recess Here Monday

Accomplishing little as far as clearing cases from the calendar was concerned, the Martin County Superior Court meeting in the second of a two weeks term for the trial of civil cases only, set a new record yesterday morning when it handled seven jury cases in less than forty minutes. The traveling was slower from there on, and by late yesterday afternoon only four additional cases had been handled.

Judge R. D. Dixon, of Edenton, succeeded Judge Clawson Williams who presided over the brief sessions during the first three days of last week.

Based on two years of separation, divorces were granted to the following:

Julia D. Johnson against Frank Johnson.  
LeRoy Perkins against Almata Perkins.  
Steve E. Stevenson against Florence Whaley Stevenson.

William Blount Baker against Hattie Baker.  
Estelle Stancill against Bennett Stancill.  
Carrie D. Winston against James Winston.

One divorce was granted on the grounds of alleged adultery in the case of D. O. Bowen against Ruby Mae Bowen.

Other proceedings in the court:

In the case of N. C. Green against E. M. Simmons, the plaintiff was granted a judgment in the sum of \$191.02 and declared the owner of personal property valued at \$12.00.

The case of Howell House against the Martin County Bottling Company was settled by agreement. The action was brought when the plaintiff alleged that the defendant broke a contract with him.

In the case of Mrs. L. E. Taylor against H. D. Taylor, administrator, the court ruled that the plaintiff was entitled to possession of a farm account in the sum of \$2,287.64. The action was advanced on a friendly basis, and was brought to clear up a legal technicality.

In the case of James T. Spencer against W. S. Gurganus, the jury found that the defendant was not negligent, and that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover damages alleged to have resulted in a car-truck accident near the county home last year.

## RAINFALL

Heavy showers falling nearly every Saturday for several weeks up until last Saturday, boosted the rainfall up toward a normal figure for the first three months and nineteen days of this year in this section. During the period, a total of 12.21 inches fell here as compared with about 10 inches for the same period a year ago. The total rain fall for last month was 4.58, the 3.36 inches so far this month being almost double the fall for the entire month of April a year ago.

Even with the heavy rains of recent days, the total fall so far this year is slightly below normal, but farmers say the land is plenty wet and the ditches are filled to overflowing.

## Former Local Girl Tells of Work with Red Cross in Africa

### Miss Natalie Gould Assigned to Hospital Unit Over in North Africa

Writing from somewhere in Africa to her niece, Miss Gloria Hayman, here, Miss Natalie Gould, former local resident tells of her work with the American Red Cross in an Army hospital. Miss Gould was first assigned to a Red Cross clubmobile, but she is now serving at an evacuation hospital some 1,000 miles removed from her first station.

A few of the highlights in Miss Gould's letter:

"Mr. Stevenson, head of Red Cross in all North Africa, visited me this morning and seemed highly pleased with my work. He asked me about clubmobile work, but I decided to stay here since if I take the other I would have to go further to the rear, and the only way a woman can stay this near the scene of action is to be attached to a hospital. I like the work so much, too, and I feel that in this way I can do more good for those who need it most. They're keeping the post well supplied, and yesterday I got a new radio, victrola and 48 records. We get plenty of candy, but I do want a fruit cake and some salted pecans. We are setting up a big recreation tent with a library, reading and writing section, game tables, ping-pong tables. While the walking patients are using the recreation center, I can help in the wards with the bed patients. I think I am going to get an assistant soon, and hope it will be my old friend, Mary Sternberg, who's still back in Algiers..."

"About seventy-five miles from here there's an old city with a lot of Roman buildings erected in the year 100. I'm hoping to get out to see it soon..."

"Arabs wander through the grounds all during the day, bringing things to trade for clothes. Money doesn't mean anything to them, but as soon as an American appears on the scene, they double the prices. They are a very strange tribe and I am continually amazed. The men ride burros which are heavily laden with produce, and the women always walk behind. The kids are cute and I'd like to bring a little boy home for a servant."

"Saturday I washed my hair and the water is so hard that every bit of the soap stuck to my scalp. I really had a time until I mixed some lemonade powder with it for a rinse, and that worked pretty well."

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## Begin Passion Week Services Yesterday

Speaking before a small but appreciative audience on Monday morning at 10:00 in the Watts Theater, Rev. Robert Cogswell, supply minister of the Presbyterian Church, began the series of morning services during Passion Week. Mr. Cogswell built his message around the centrality of the Temple in Hebrew religion, while Jesus Christ became the center of the Christian religion.

Following the fine cooperative program of religious services during Passion Week, Dr. W. R. Burrell, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church, preached at 8 o'clock in the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Burrell brought a searching message from the word of the cross, "My God, my God, why hast Thou Forsaken Me?" The speaker very effectively showed the terrible cost of sin and that pardon was granted the sinner only when the Lord fully expiated that sin. That God forgave the sinner, but not the sin.

Services will follow each morning at the Watts Theater at 10 a. m. Evening services at 8 o'clock. Tuesday, Methodist Church with Rev. John L. Goff speaking; Wednesday, Episcopal Church with Rev. Lewis Schenck, of Edenton, preaching; Thursday at the Baptist Church with Rev. B. T. Hurley, preaching; Friday, at the Christian Church, with Dr. W. R. Burrell preaching. Public is invited to attend all services.

## Five Persons Lose Lives As Tornado Hits Bertie County

### Twenty-Five Homes Blown Down, 40 People Hurt, Two Critically

Five persons were killed almost instantly, approximately twenty-five homes were destroyed along with several stores and more than forty people were injured, two critically, when a tornado struck the Roxobel section of Bertie County yesterday afternoon shortly before 4 o'clock. Late reports from hospitals where a number of the injured were taken, stated that little hope was held for the recovery of two patients.

Lasting about a minute, the tornado struck the little business district of Roxobel, ripping off second stories of brick buildings and leveling and wrecking others. The top story of a brick building was removed and was sent crashing down on a one-story store nearby. A mother and two of her children were trapped and killed in the one-story store. The Methodist church was lifted from its foundation and carried several hundred feet and wrecked. The plant of the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company on the outskirts of the town was reduced to ruins. According to unofficial and preliminary plans, the company will move its force from Roxobel and run two shifts at its plant here.

Striking the Ernest Tyler farm, the tornado killed two persons and reduced the Tyler home to shambles.

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## TOBACCO FUEL OIL

Fuel oil for curing tobacco will be made available to farmers who had burners installed before last December 19, according to direct information released this week by the office of Congressman Herbert Bonner. It is apparent, however, that installations effected since last December 19th will not be serviced.

It was first announced by the OPA that only those burners in service or installed before last July 1 would be serviced under the fuel oil rationing program. Congressman Bonner carried the problem to Laurence Vass, chief of the fuel oil rationing division, and had the change made to care for those burners installed last fall.