



# THE ENTERPRISE



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## Sicilian Battle Is Believed Nearing A Glorious Conclusion

### Russians Nearing Outskirts of Kharkov In Telling Drive on Nazis

Delayed by a last-minute and apparently fatal resistance, the battle for Sicily is now believed nearing a glorious conclusion. While the Axis rearguard is fighting a fierce delaying action, the main forces are brushing aside their Italian comrades in a mad rush to clear off the island and paddle their way across the 2-mile Messina Straits for the Italian mainland. High-ranking personnel of the Axis moved out of Sicily some days ago, but yesterday the evacuation was started on a big scale.

Latest reports from the island indicate that the Americans are driving on the last Axis stronghold at Randazzo where a stubborn resistance is being offered in an effort to give more time for the evacuation at Messina. The delaying action was upset for the second time when American amphibious troops landed behind the German lines at Cap D'Orlando, trapping many of the German rearguard.

The right wing of the Nazi line was ensnared by the second American pincer movement initiated from the sea in three days, the left was slowly giving way under British pressure and the Germans' central anchor at Randazzo had been brought under light artillery fire.

A dispatch from Noland Norgaard, Associated Press staff correspondent who is attached to the British Eighth Army, said the German evacuation of the Messina bridgehead was in full swing, with at least 80 vessels ferrying men and equipment eastward across Messina strait night and day.

Axis anti-aircraft guns were declared massed in record strength in an effort to protect the vessels from Allied planes. The dispatch said the German high command, wishing to keep down the loss of equipment during the movement had decreed that "the passport to Italy is a gun."

The retreat was described in a Berlin broadcast by Capt. Ludwig Sertorius, Nazi military commentator, as a "systematic new disengagement movement by German and Italian troops."

"What matters," Ludwig said, "is to prevent the enemy from extending his operations to objectives on the mainland."

Striving for the knockout, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's officers steadily threw in fresh units to replace battle-weary troops at the front in the fight against numerically weaker German detachments which could obtain no such respite.

Russia still holds the spotlight in the ground fighting with its great drive on Kharkov where a quarter of a million Germans are being bottled up. An iron trap is being sprung and the battle there will hold a place along with those at Stalingrad and Orel. Possibly the prediction is a bit optimistic, but some observers see the Germans backing up to a defense line along the old Polish frontier to the Black Sea.

The Germans are talking about the Russian offensive in the Smolensk sector, but the Russians have not mentioned any activity there. It is possible the Germans are trying to minimize the seriousness of the situation around the Ukrainian capital by talking about something somewhere else.

Today, the Axis world is reeling and rocking under air bombardment. A late report states that the number of Axis prisoners taken in Sicily now exceeds 130,000, and that the list was being increased steadily despite the mass evacuation.

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## Motorist Loses His 'A' And 'C' Books

Charged with excessive driving, J. S. Crandall lost his "A" and "C" gasoline coupon books as a result of a hearing held by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board panels last Friday evening. The man's "A" book was revoked for a period of sixty days, and the "C" book held by him was ordered returned to Cherry Point. Apparently the man had once worked there and was given the book by a special rationing board.

In reporting the action of the panel last Friday night, it was stated that Grover Nicholson lost his "A" book for sixty days and was directed to return his "C" book to Cherry Point. The report was incorrect. The case was mixed with the one against Crandall, Mr. Nicholson explaining that he only had a "B" book, that his rationing was not discontinued. The correction is gladly made.

Unusual rationing cases are being heard in this county, one report coming from an unofficial source stating that some persons had entered the employ of the North Carolina Pulp Company, received liberal gas rations and then quit, carrying their gas books with them.

## More Registrants Are Placed In "C" Groups

### REDUCTION

According to unofficial information, a fairly sizable reduction in the local town tax rate is to be expected for the current fiscal year. It was suggested a short time ago that the rate could be cut by ten cents. Still later reports indicate that the reduction will possibly range up to 20 cents on the \$100 assessed property valuation.

The commissioners are to review the proposed budget figures at a special meeting to be held early next week, it is understood.

## Decline In Quality Of Cotton Reaching Serious Proportion

### Better Care In Picking and Housing Being Urged On National Scale

Memphis, Tenn.—(Special)—Presidents of state, regional and national cotton organizations will meet in Memphis on August 16, to launch an intensive program to relieve critical shortages in the supply of high grade cotton for war purposes.

Officials representing all six branches of the industry in fifteen states have been called in by Oscar Johnston, president of the National Cotton Council, in response to an appeal by War Food Administrator Marvin Jones for cooperation in obtaining a greater percentage of high grade cotton from the 1943 crop.

"The decline in grade is startling," said Mr. Jones in a letter received by Mr. Johnston this morning. "The average grade of the last two cotton crops was the lowest on record."

"Use of lower grades in many cases would not only reduce production but affect the quality of vital war goods. We should do all we can to prevent that."

"Staple length and variety are important factors in the general problem of quality, but nothing can be done about these factors this season. It is possible, however, to do something about improving the grade of this year's crop."

Mr. Jones pointed out that the supply of strict middling and better grades amounted to 37.7 per cent of the total crop for the five years preceding 1932. In the next five years it was 26.7 per cent, and by 1939 had dropped to 17.7. During the 1940-41 season it went to 13.8 per cent, the next year to 11.6, and last year to an all-time low of 8.5 per cent.

"It is going to take superhuman effort to reverse such a trend during a year when labor is short, both in the field and at the gin," said Mr. Johnston, "but we are going to make just that sort of effort. The Army depends upon the cotton crop for more than eleven thousand different products of lint alone, not including the chemical products of linters, the food products of cottonseed oil, and the tremendous amounts of livestock feed derived from meal and hulls. The entire industry will respond immediately and wholeheartedly to Mr. Jones' request. Already our preparations for active co-

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## Services Accepted Fifteen County Men

Fifteen Martin County men called to the induction center last month were accepted by the armed services, eleven by the Army and four by the Navy. It is understood that eighteen others were rejected, one on account of physical unfitness, one on account of low mental or literacy standards, and one on account of limited service occupational standards.

About two dozen young white men reported to the induction center from this county earlier this week, but no report has been received. It is understood that the men or most of them returned early yesterday morning and that those who were accepted are spending their three-weeks' furlough at home.

The names of the white men accepted out of the July call from the county follow:

Accepted by the Army: Ernest Ross Froneberger, Joseph Hubbard (Buck) Saunders, Bernice LeRon Rogerson, Herman Andrew Dixon, Walter Thomas Mendenhall, Asa Joneth Taylor, Harry Mac Wynne, Van Ralph Taylor, Ned Purvis Everett, William Oscar Donald, Jr., and Henry Reddick Warren.

Accepted by the Navy: Willie Simon Roebuck, Dallas Ward Coltrain, Delbert Junior Davis, and Joseph Fernanda Davenport. These men are scheduled to return for active service next week.

## Rate Thirty Out Of Ninety-Nine In The Non-Essential Class

### Several Registrants in List Have "Grown Out" of Classification

Meeting in the Agricultural Building last Wednesday evening, the Martin County War Board reviewed the cases for ninety-nine farm registrants. Sixty-nine were ruled essential and thirty were rated non-essential under the farm production unit plan. Several of the group had literally "outgrown" the draft status, but since their cases were filed before they became 45 years of age, the board went ahead with its classifications.

The War Board has just about completed the classification of farmers, but the cases of youths reaching eighteen years of age will be reviewed from time to time. There are quite a few registrants working on farms where no production plans have been filed. In those cases the draft board is sending out notices, and unless action is taken immediately those farm registrants will be subjected to induction.

The following men have been ruled essential under the farm production plan:

- Jasper Scott, w, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Lemuel Harrison, w, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Roosevelt Hassell, col, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Milton Eugene Jackson, w, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Manuel Moore, c, Robersonville.
- Zeb Rawlins, c, Robersonville.
- Laley Purvis, c, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Vance Whitfield, c, RFD 2, Williamston.
- George Salsbury, c, RFD, Robersonville.
- Ernest Bellamy, c, RFD 1, Hobgood.
- Perlie James Howell, c, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Robert Edward Lee, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Hardie Maurice Gardner, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Boston Chesterfield Gainer, c, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Perrell Keel, c, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- William Augustus Cherry, c, Robersonville.
- William Henry Lloyd, c, Williamston.
- William Luther Jones, w, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Dennis Oriel Weaver, w, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- James Edward Coffield, c, Williamston.
- Floyd Allen Lanier, c, RFD 1, Williamston.
- William T. Williams, c, Williamston.
- Russell Cotton, c, RFD 1, Hobgood.
- Noah Haislip, w, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Noah Woolard Leggett, w, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Raymond Williams, Jr., w, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Thad Newsome, c, RFD, Williamston.
- Javin Dillon Leggett, w, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Wheeler Ben Latham, c, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Jesse Jenkins, c, Hamilton.
- Charlie James, w, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Frank Lester Rogers, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- James Roy Moore, c, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Grover Cleveland Nicholson, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- G. Luther Taylor, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Thomas Martin Whitaker, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Marion Franklin Hodges, w, RFD 3, Washington.
- Roy Harrison, w, RFD 2, Williamston.

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## First Load

While few or no farmers in this county have carried tobacco hundreds of miles away to the border markets, a few farmers across the river moved a big truck load of the golden leaf through here this week. It was the first load from the current crop to move through here.

There are some few farmers in this county who haven't enough gasoline to move their tobacco to the nearest market, and it is hard for them to understand how others can travel several hundred miles to the market.

The farmer has a right to sell his tobacco wherever he chooses but there is little excuse for hauling tobacco hundreds of miles. It is little different from the case reported earlier in the summer when gas transport trucks hauled gasoline to the coast ports and then turned around and hauled it back inland.

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## Nine Openings In School Faculties

The number of positions still vacant in the county school faculties was placed at nine today with a contract pending in a third case. Prospects for executing contracts for all the remaining positions are not very bright just now.

The office of county superintendent of schools announced today that Miss Nell Breeze, a graduate of Elon College, had been employed to teach home economics in the Farm Life School.

Mrs. Eula Kibler, of Highland Springs, Va., has been appointed to teach the sixth grade in the Oak City school. Mrs. Kibler, a graduate of Lynchburg College, has had considerable teaching experience. She succeeds Miss Alice Blanchard, resigned.

## CEILING

Admitting there should be a differential between Georgia and bright belt tobacco prices, OPA officials are talking about lowering the ceiling for Georgia to 38 cents and raising the one in this belt to 44 cents a pound. If the price averages around 44 cents, the meaning of the OPA order will clarify itself, but just now it is apparent that the order is meaningless.

The OPA says that the marketing of ungraded tobacco is not to average more than 38 cents a pound, that the reduction for that type will allow an increase for the graded type. It is possible that the average will be determined on that basis even though the Georgia crop is about all marketed. In theory, it could be placed into practice now.

## Four Cases Called By Judge Smith In The County Court

### Session Last Monday Is One Of The Shortest Held In Recent Months

After experiencing a big business in nearly every one of its sessions during the past several months, the Martin County Recorder's Court reported a big slump in its activities last Monday when only four cases were called for trial. A short session resulted when Judge Smith granted continuances in seventy-five percent of the cases. Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne referred to the session as one of the shortest held in recent months. Opening at 9:30 o'clock that morning, the court completed its work and adjourned within thirty minutes.

There was little interest attached to the few cases on the docket, and the spectators were few. At one time there were only two white spectators in the audience, and the colored persons present for the proceedings numbered less than a dozen.

Proceedings: Charged with drunken driving, Stanley Ayers asked for a continuance of his case until next Monday. The request was granted.

A continuance was also allowed in the case charging James Willis Williams with bastardy. The trial was set for trial the first Monday in February of next year.

Charged with gambling, R. B. Spruil, Guilford Brown and Harry Lanier were each fined \$10 and taxed with the cost. The case found its way into the courts when the defendants allegedly entered into an argument over a small sum of cash. A fight was said to have followed.

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## Registrant's Transfer From Farm Changes Draft Status

After hearing urgent appeals last spring for "C" classifications, the Martin County War Board is now receiving urgent requests for transfers from the farm to other lines of business. Possibly transfers are in order in some cases, and will prove beneficial to both the registrant and his prospective employment. But all farm registrants holding "C" classifications are being warned that a transfer is subject to change their status in the Selective Service System and that they will be subject to immediate induction. Men, thirty-eight years old or over might possibly transfer from the farm without altering materially their draft status, but those in the 16-37 group, inclusive, are gambling with their own fate as far as the Army is concerned, it is being specifically pointed out and in no uncertain terms.

No official expression could be had from the War Board, but it is understood that some of the mem-

## Mobilization Board To Meet Here Next Week

### Special Group Will Lead Drive Against Vagrancy In County

#### Plans for Enforcing Emergency Law Will Be Outlined In Special Meeting

Appeals to patriotism and loyalty having failed to bring the desired results, plans are now being formulated in the State for an all-out drive against vagrancy and idleness. A special committee, subject to appointment by Governor J. M. Broughton, has been named in this county and will be known as the Martin County Mobilization Board. Headed by Hugh G. Horton, chairman, the board consists of T. B. Brandon, county agent; Mary W. Taylor, superintendent of public welfare; H. S. Everett, Robersonville mayor; H. S. Johnson, Jr., Hamilton merchant; J. C. Kirkman, Jamesville lumber man; A. B. Ayers, Bear Grass farmer; R. L. Perry, county commissioner, and Oliver Carter, Negro farm agent.

The board is expected to hold its first meeting within the next few days, possibly the latter part of next week at the latest. While the mobilization work will be in the hands of the newly named board, the special township committees named in a meeting held in the county courthouse on July 5 will continue their functions and are expected to work in close cooperation with the Mobilization Board.

The names of those in the supporting committees are: Jamesville: Clarence Wallace, Wendell Hamilton, J. C. Kirkman, Dennis Coburn and Billie James. Williams: L. J. and R. J. Hardison, and Clinton Jones.

Griffins: Howard Leggett, Frank Lilley, Harold Coltrain and William Peel.

Bear Grass: Ross-Hill Rogers, W. M. Harrison and Ben Mason.

Williamston: John W. Gurkin, Dean Speight, Ernest Etheridge, W. V. Ormond and E. J. Hayes.

Cross Roads: J. S. Ayers, Sr., Dillon Peel, Lon Everett.

Robersonville: V. L. Roberson, W. H. Gray, Chas. R. Gray, Oliver Carter and Dink Knight.

Poplar Point: Mayo Hardison, Roy Taylor and James Cherry.

Hamilton: Geo. Oglesby, D. R. Edmondson, Grover Haislip and R. T. Chance.

Goose Nest: W. E. Early, J. H. Ayers, E. V. Smith and J. C. Williams.

Briefly stated, Governor Broughton, realizing the urgent need for the full utilization of manpower and womanpower, too, appealed to everyone to enter into gainful employment. The appeal was based on a patriotic response, leaving only vagrants subject to prosecution in the courts. Fully aware of the failure of that appeal in many cases, the resulting indifference to the needs of the day, the Governor exercised his War Emergency powers, and now it is work or tell it to the judge.

Following is a brief review of the labor mobilization law as it relates to the work of the county mobilization board:

Section 2 reads: That it shall be the duty of each county committee to make plans for the inventory, mobilization, conservation, distribution, and use of labor in such county necessary or useful in the prosecution of the war.

Section 3 reads: That each county committee shall specifically formulate plans for ascertaining the names and addresses of all male persons between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five years who are not gainfully employed and who are not in the armed forces of the United States or in the Maritime Service, and who are physically able to work.

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### CONVICTION

The first conviction in this county for a violation of black-out regulations was recorded by Justice J. L. Hassell in his court here a few days ago. R. J. Duggan, the defendant, was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs of the case.

According to the complaint, Duggan failed to turn out his car lights when requested to do so by an air raid warden during the last blackout held in this district recently.

A second case similar to the one brought against Duggan is pending in the local court, Justice Hassell said.

## Bonner To Address Meeting of Peanut Growers Next Week

### Growers from North Carolina and Virginia Expected to Be Present

Herbert C. Bonner, Congressman from this, the First District, and R. Flake Shaw, secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, have accepted invitations to speak before peanut growers of the North Carolina-Virginia belt at a two-state meeting to be held at Murfreesboro at 10 o'clock next Tuesday morning, to complete plans to protest ceiling prices on the 1943 crop. The meeting will be held in the large high school auditorium, one block off the town's main street on High Street.

Many Virginia notables have accepted invitations to appear on the program. Among these will be Secretary of Agriculture Walker, President of the Virginia Farm Bureau Holsinger, and Congressman Wynder R. Harris of Norfolk.

Plans for the two-state meeting were formulated in local meetings held in several counties of the two states and a large representation of growers from all counties in the entire peanut producing area is expected.

The movement against unfair peanut ceilings for the North Carolina-Virginia belt got underway several weeks ago when growers and agriculture leaders rose up in protest and made plans for organized pressure. Under the present set-up, oil peanuts which are grown principally in the states to the south, may bring as much per pound as the premium quality Virginias and Jumbos, which are grown principally in North Carolina and Virginia.

The movement, sponsored by the peanut growers, is similar to the one advanced by the tobacco growers of the bright leaf belt, who are protesting ceilings on superior grades of tobacco being placed on a ceiling level with ungraded tobacco of the Georgia-Florida belt.

A two-state delegation will be appointed to the meeting to go to Washington to work with congressmen and insist on a higher ceiling prices for the crop in this belt.

## Alleged Robbers Under \$1,000 Bond

Levester Archie, impudent stranger who wandered into this section from Charlotte, and Ernest Jones, formerly of Pitt County, were ordered held in default of \$1,000 bonds by Justice J. L. Hassell here last evening when the two colored men were arraigned for allegedly attacking and robbing Lacey Steele, North Carolina Pulp Company employee, near the plant in the lower part of this county on the morning of July 30.

Both men pleaded not guilty and asked the state's witnesses a few irrelevant questions.

The victim of the attack stated that he saw the two men near the gate as he left the plant that morning that he was walking toward home on the railroad when the two men accosted him near the creek. Archie, according to Mr. Steele's testimony, pulled a razor on him and told him to raise his hands. Jones reached in Steele's pocket and took his \$31 check. "They marched me down the railroad with Archie's razor resting against my neck. One of them grabbed my coffee bottle and knocked me unconscious," Steele said. In a dazed condition, Mr. Steele did not immediately identify the two men but later he did identify them and recalled the happenings that were supported by evidence coming from other witnesses.

Witness Blount said he met the two men at the gate of the plant, that Mr. Steele was seen near them at the time. "One walked as if he was drunk," the witness said.

Sheriff J. K. Reid, who arrested the two men, told how he took a razor off Archie.

## Bookmobile to Make Regular Schedules Starting August 16th

### Books Purchased Recently With State-Aid Bonus To Be Available

A comparison of annual reports shows an increase of 33 percent in the use of the free book service during the past twelve months. Circulation of non-fiction and technical books is up fifty percent. The demand for books on "how to do" and current world events is greater than at any time during the past two years.

The new books include "Complete Book of Home Canning," (including preserving, pickling, dehydration, and jelly-making), by Demetria Taylor, nationally known expert on the subject.

"The Wright Brothers" is the first authentic story of the pioneers of aviation. This biography is the one authorized by Orville Wright. Readers will find it American right to the core.

Another interesting book is an autobiography revealing the "thirlarius, lusty story of Louise Peirson's long swim upstream in pursuit of happiness." "Roughly Speaking" is as readable as entertaining.

Letter fans will delight in Margaret Buell Wilder's "Since You Went Away." Here she has a collection of letters to a soldier from his wife. Through them one meets the entire Wilder family.

Letters, make it again in Yes, Ma'am! This little book contains the personal papers of a WAAC private, Aux. Elizabeth R. Pollock. All Waac enthusiasts will enjoy this inside story of the ladies in khaki.

Those readers who enjoyed Dr. Joseph Klausner's Jesus of Nazareth a few years ago will want to read his most recent book, "From Jesus to Paul, which covers the period from the death of Jesus to the end of Paul's career. This edition is translated by Dr. Stinespring, of Duke University.

The Doolittle Raid over Tokyo is most vividly described by Captain Ted Lawson, who piloted one of the planes in the raid. His account in Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo has been classified as one of the greatest stories of "American bravery and ingenuity" ever written.

Miracles in Hellas by Betty Watson gives the story of Greece under Axis occupation and the people who take part in it.

At last it is out—a book entirely about our loneliest American outpost—the Aleutians. Corey Ford gives us the first eye-witness account of what has been taking place there in his Short Cut to Tokyo.

These and many others will be ready for circulation to the people of this county next week.

Monday, August 16—10:00, Edward's Service Station; 11:00, Hamilton bank; 1:00, Oak City (Barrett's Drug Store); 2:30, Smith's Store (Palmyra Road).

Tuesday, August 17—9:15, Everetts (Ayers Store); 10:15, Cross Roads Church; 11:00, Parmele; 12:00, Edmondson's Service Station (Hassel Highway); 1:00, Hassell; 2:00, Gold Point; 3:00, Robersonville.

Wednesday, August 18—9:30, Dardens (Jordan's store); 10:25, Brownings Store; 11:15, Ange Town; 12:00, Poplar Chapel Church; 1:00, Jamesville (Brown's).

Thursday, August 19—9:30, Farm Life (Manning and Gurkin store); 10:45, Smithwick's Creek (Mrs. Griffin's home); 11:30, Corey's Cross Road; 12:45, Bear Grass (Terry Bros. store).

Despite gas rationing and tire shortages, the bookmobile has managed to maintain a fairly regular operating schedule in the region, but operations have been curtailed to some extent in a few instances.

## Dozen Cases Heard By Justice Hassell

The little crime wave that struck this community last week-end was cleared up this week when an even dozen defendants were carried before Justice J. L. Hassell for hearings and trial.

Proceedings: Charged with larceny and receiving, Ernest Shepard was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$100.

Linwood Speight, charged with breaking and entering, was sent to the superior court under bond in the sum of \$100.

Clara Little, charged with disorderly conduct, was taxed with \$7.50 costs.

Clyde Scott was required to pay \$8.50 costs in the case charging him with disorderly conduct.

Noah Frazier was fined \$3.50 and taxed with the costs.