

Tempo Of Land And Air Fighting Is Being Greatly Increased

Large-Scale Offensive Rolling Forward In Russia; Bombers Still Pound Enemy

The tempo of land and air fighting is being stepped up on nearly every one of the major battle fronts in Europe and in the Pacific, the Allies scoring great gains during the past few days in Russia and the south central Pacific, not to mention the gains of the Allied Fifth Army in Italy and the mounting fury of bombing raids over the continent.

The Russians have unleashed their winter offensive on a large scale, late reports stating that the Russian Baltic Army is closing in on the important German stronghold at Vitebsk. It was stated that the Russians were driving toward the stronghold from two sides, that one force was within fifteen miles of the immediate goal. Hundreds of more towns and cities have been liberated in that area. On the southern end of the 800-mile battle front, the Russians are pushing the enemy back, but in the center the enemy is counterattacking at three points. The success of the counterattacks are proving costly to the Germans and are not meeting with much success. That the situation for the enemy is grave in Russia is indicated in late Swedish reports which maintain that the Germans are working night and day in an effort to establish a defense line running through Latvia and Poland.

In Italy, the American Fifth Army reports new advances, gaining new and important positions on the road to Rome. The enemy is offering a stubborn resistance in an effort to check the advance. Germans are holding to their gun emplacements until they are driven out with cold steel and they are laying down a curtain of artillery and mortar fire.

General Geo. Marshall has just returned from conferences with General MacArthur in the Pacific, and it is believed that plans for wiping out the Japs are already in progress. Just recently, the Allies expanded their activities in the Pacific, taking positions on New Britain. These positions are being enlarged and the drive is spreading.

Air warfare is still in the limelight, the extent of the raids being measured to some extent by the heavy losses suffered by the Allies this week. In one 24-hour period, 90 Allied planes were lost, but Frankfurt, Bremen and other objectives were heavily pounded. Tuesday, the RAF was over Nazi objectives along the Channel coast, and the strong opposition there indicates that the mission was indeed important. It is believed that the Germans plan to place their new secret rocket weapon into use there have been delayed by bombing at the source of manufacture and at the emplacements. In addition to the continuous raids over Germany, Allied airmen have pounded objectives in Greece and Bulgaria, not to mention the heaviest raids of the war in the Pacific.

A dastardly threat to retaliate as a result of the Kharkov trials was announced today by the Germans. They claim they will kill captured Allied fliers for every German prisoner tried and killed. During the meantime, the trial of the German barbarians in Russia is revealing startling and inhuman motives perpetuated by the German government and its scoundrel heads. China is now preparing to place Jap prisoners on

Enjoys Letters Of County Servicemen

In a short note to The Enterprise this week, Pharmacist Mate Second Class C. Tilmon Modlin stated that he enjoyed reading letters from county servicemen in the paper.

His letter follows: "I have read several letters in The Enterprise that the boys in service have sent to you, and I enjoy them very much. That is about the only way I can keep in contact with my 'buddies,' so keep up the good work and continue publishing our letters. It is the little things like that we appreciate very much, and I am sure I speak for all the good old Tar Heels from Martin County in the service. "I especially enjoyed the letter that P.M. 1-c Vernol F. Jackson sent in a few weeks ago. I want to say 'hello' to him in this letter.

"Before I conclude I want to congratulate your staff for the fine or should I say the excellent job they are doing in this war time world to keep the paper coming to us servicemen. My paper gets to me a little late, but nevertheless it always gets here and that is all that is important. It is still 'news' to me and I read every word of it with great interest. "A faithful reader of a great little paper."

The young man's address cannot be revealed but it is in care of the Fleet Post Office at an eastern port. The Enterprise welcomes letters from the servicemen, and invites them to write for publication as often as they find it possible to do so. The paper has been favored with letters by servicemen's relatives, and more are wanted for publication.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Christmas cheer will be carried into a number of homes in this community the latter part of the week, it was announced here this week by the special committee named to handle the task.

Possibly there are fewer persons depending on the goodness of their fellowmen in the county this year than in many, many years. There are a few families, the committee explained, that are deserving and every effort is being made to brighten Christmas day for them with a small remembrance. Possibly there are some worthy ones who will be overlooked by the committee. Kind neighbors are asked to act in those cases.

The distribution of the Cheer Fund this year is being supported by a cash donation from London. Mindful of his fellowmen back home even though he faces a fighting man's test, Fred Taylor recently sent \$10 to promote the spirit of the Christmas season among the less fortunate.

Farm Security Fair In The County Last Week Is Successful

Total of Sixty-three Prizes Awarded To Exhibitors In Courthouse

In spite of snow and cold weather, the Farm Security Administration fair was well attended here last week. The white borrowers held their meeting Wednesday, and the snow fell all day, but there were 16 families present. On Friday the colored borrowers held their meeting with seven families present. On Thursday the fair was open to the public, and even with the weather down to about 12 above zero, there were many visitors to see the exhibits.

Prizes were offered for 22 different exhibits to the whites, and the same number to the colored, however with the judges giving tied placings, a total of 63 prizes were awarded.

Prizes were offered for the following displays: Best farm record book, most diversified income, high percentage cash payment on farm, best display of home saved seeds, best six ears of seed corn, best display of sweet potatoes, greatest variety of food and feed grown on the farm in 1943, best dozen eggs, best quart of lard, best quart of molasses, best home cured ham, best home cooked rolls, biscuits and corn meal muffins. Best home-made butter, greatest variety of canned goods, best jar of corn, best jar of tomatoes, best jar of soup mixture, best jar of snap beans, best jar of butter beans, best jar of beets, and the best jar of canned meat.

Judges for the white exhibits were Miss Mildred Pigg, Miss Ruth B. T. B. Brandon and H. F. McKnight. For the colored exhibits were the two colored extension workers, Oliver Carter and Cleo Tyner.

Winners of prizes were, Whites: Elmer Jones and wife, Saddle Mae, Marvin Modlin and wife, Queenie, R.

Servicemen Write To The Enterprise

Although he has been in the service only a few days, Johnnie Cherry, local boy writing to The Enterprise, explains that he has already developed into a master housekeeper, that he'll make his wife a good one when he gets home. "I am OK, getting plenty to eat and plenty to do. I am doing my own washing, rolling my own clothes, cutting my own hair. I can't smoke but two times a day. Why, this is a poor man's paradise, and nothing to spend money for. Tell all my friends hello for me, and tell them to join the Navy," the young "boot" seaman concluded.

Writing from "Somewhere in the Pacific," Pvt. John G. Rodgers, county young man, said: "I wish to express my sincere thanks and congratulations to The Enterprise. Since entering my subscription, I have been receiving the paper regularly, and I don't think there's a better morale builder for a soldier than a steady flow of news from home, and believe me The Enterprise brings it."

Concluding, Pvt. Rodgers said, "I am doing OK, and my health is fine. Looking forward to final victory, I remain."

Unpaid Taxes Reduced To Low Figure In County

"All but about \$66,000 of the 1943 tax levy has been collected to date," Martin County Tax Collector M. L. Peel said this week. Collections so far this year are about \$30,000 ahead of those for a year ago. Of the unpaid amount, one property owner owes about \$25,000 and there are several others who owe fairly sizable amounts. The collector believes the amount will be reduced to \$35,000 or less by February 2 when the penalty schedule goes into effect.



"In the Good OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SPIRIT"

The people of these United States have observed 167 Christmases since the Declaration of Independence. And before that, there were about 175 years of pioneering, during which, amid all sorts of odds, the families within this land's shores celebrated the merry holiday.

This wartime Christmas finds us with much to be solemn about—much to fight for, and much to pray for.

But there have been Christmases before, when things seemed even darker for us.

So with the true American spirit of fortitude, inner gaiety and deeply rooted faith, we're going to celebrate this December 25th in the good old fashioned Christmas spirit.

Holly in our windows; festively trimmed trees; remembrances for everyone—especially the children—Christmas carols—and above all, Christmas services in Church, where we'll bow and extend the season's greetings to friends and neighbors.

That's Christmas, American style. That's the way our fighting men around the world like to think of it. That's the way they too will spend next Christmas—at home—if each of us does everything in his power to speed Victory!

Until that good hour, and to use those immortal words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us everyone," wherever we are—in Italy's mountains or valleys, in the jungles of the Pacific, in Africa, England, in the air, on land or sea, and here at home.

The Enterprise Force

Judge Smith Hears Ten Speeding Cases In Court This Week

Small Crowd Is Present For Short Session Monday Morning

Had it not been for about a dozen cases charging violation of the speed law, there would have been little or no business up for consideration in the regular session of the county recorder's court this week.

Calling the first case at 9:30 Monday morning, Judge J. C. Smith, completed the work by 11 o'clock and adjourned the court until the first Monday in January. A general holiday will be observed by the court, county offices and business, as a whole, next Monday. A very small crowd witnessed the proceedings in the court this week.

Fourteen cases, charging the defendant with exceeding the 35-mile speed limit, were on the docket, but four of the defendants, Jack B. Smith, Hoke Barnett, Norris Adams Hurst and Fred Webster Moretz, failed to answer when called in open court. Moretz was said to have appeared after the session was closed, and it is possible that a judgment will be entered in his case at the next session. Warrants are being issued in the three other cases.

Proceedings: Pleading guilty in the cases charging with speeding, the following defendants were each fined \$10 and taxed with the court costs: Samuel Roscoe Gaylord, Geo. E. Byrd, Alton Brooks Evans, Arthur Grant Slade, Leon Harrison Register, and Alfred M. Hicks.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case charging Andrew G. Smith with speeding.

B. E. Wilkes and Ben Frank Green, charged with speeding, were each fined \$15 and taxed with the costs.

Propose Plan To Place Town On Air Mail Pick-Up Route

According to an announcement released this week by Hawthorne Airways, Inc., Orangeburg, S. C., plans are being advanced to offer Williamston and many other towns and cities in North and South Carolina an improved air mail service.

The proposed plan would link the local office with the nation's main air mail lines. At the present time, air mail for offices off the main lines is longer reaching its destination in some cases than by "straight" mailing.

A few days ago, Hawthorne Airways, Inc., applied to the Civil Aeronautics Board for permission or a license to operate six important air mail pick-up routes. The six routes will serve 167 cities and towns over a total distance of 1,769 miles in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

According to information reaching here this week, one of the proposed routes would connect this section

with Rocky Mount, Norfolk and Richmond. No landing field is considered necessary at many of the points to be served, a report from the company explaining that mail is picked up while in flight by a plane equipped with a hook which engages a rope stretched between two poles. A similar service is now being offered in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and several other states.

The company has been carrying on an extensive research work in determining optimum routes for three years. Application for the routes would have been made two years ago, it was explained, but for the Civil Aeronautics Board's expressed indication that it would not consider applications for air mail routes until the war situation became less grave.

There is some doubt if the service, if made available at all, will be enjoyed by postal patrons in this section any time soon.

Quite a few couples have been married in the county so far this month, the number being greater to date than the total for all of December, a year ago. Eight licenses were issued up until Tuesday of this week to white and thirteen to colored couples in this county by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger.

Licenses were issued as follows to white couples: Charlie Bullock, of RFD 1, Robertsonville and Marie Page, RFD 2, Williamston. Albert Williams, of Plymouth, and Pearl Barber, of Jamesville. William Elwood Cherry, of RFD 3, Washington, and Mary Elizabeth

CHRISTMAS—1943

While extensive preparations have been in the making for the Christmas season, those preparations are in marked contrast with those made in past years in this section. Passing fancies and trifles do not command a front position, the whole population seemingly busying itself by digging deeper for the real meaning of Christmas. There has been a marked trend, possibly out of necessity, from the purchase of many types of merchandise to those of lasting value. Wooden toys, replacing the tin and steel types, are costly, causing most shoppers to turn to the clothing shops for Christmas gifts.

Decorations are indeed limited, just an occasional inside tree reflecting the Christmas season into the cold nights.

Christmas will be observed here after the traditional fashion, but not unmindful or without thought of those who toil and fight in foreign lands.

Williamston Native Passes At Home Of Son In Smithfield

Funeral Wednesday Afternoon For Mrs. Emma Hoyt In Episcopal Church

Mrs. Emma Eugenia Hoyt, member of a family prominent in the civic and religious life of this section for generations, died at the home of her son, Frederick W. Hoyt, in Smithfield Monday evening at 9:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health.

Taken ill last summer, Mrs. Hoyt underwent an operation in a Durham hospital. After about eight weeks in the hospital she returned to Williamston and made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Wm. R. Glover, leaving about Thanksgiving to visit her son and his family in Smithfield. She was thought to be getting along as well as usual up until just a few days ago when her condition became critical.

The daughter of the late Walter and Fannie Nichols Hassell, Mrs. Hoyt was born in Williamston on September 23, 1882. Completing the courses of instruction in the local schools, she attended a special school in Rocky Mount for two years. On November 21, 1905, she was married to Frederick W. Hoyt, of Washington and made her home there for about two years. Mr. Hoyt then entered the hardware business here and she had made her home here since that time with the exception of a few months spent with her son and family in Smithfield.

Mrs. Hoyt was a life-long member of the Church of the Advent here, and was active in its support and faithful to its teachings down through the years. She was a member of the Hassell family that figured so prominently in all phases of community life, especially in the religious field, in this county and section for many years. She was active in the social life of the town and was held in high regard. Her sincere friendship and

Climbs High And Fast In Service

The promotion of Wheeler Martin, Jr., local boy, to Lt. Colonel in the Army Air Corps a few days ago is just another step in a unique record of advancement for the young pilot.

Entering the service as a cadet back in March, 1939, the young man was commissioned a second lieutenant in November of that year. His promotion to first lieutenant followed in March, 1942. Just two months later he was made a captain, and in October of that year he was made a captain. Now he is a lieutenant colonel, the highest rank attained in the Army by a Martin County man since Colonel John C. Lamb was mortally wounded at Drewry's Bluff in Virginia in May, 1864. Jeremiah Slade was made a general by Thomas Jefferson some time between 1801 and 1809, but he served only as an Indian Land Agent.

In the Navy, Dr. W. H. Harrell holds top rank among Martin County men as a captain.

Lt. Colonel Martin is with the Army Air Forces heavy bombardment group, and is now stationed at Walker Army Air Field, Victoria, Kansas.

Parcel Post Mail Said To Be Caught In Rush

According to unofficial reports reaching here, thirty solid box carloads of parcel post and other third class postal matter were on the side tracks in Rocky Mount early this week waiting to be handled. Carload shipments were made to that point for distribution throughout this section of the country, it was said.

Postal employees were handling a carload about every three hours, but before they could unload and dispatch the mail from one car, one or two more showed up.

First class mail has been moving without great interruption.

Total of \$1,449,052.76 Is Spent For Liquor Since Stores Opened

Sales for July, August and September \$791 Greater Than Year Ago

Even though liquor sales in the four county stores during the months of July, August and September of this year were \$791.05 greater than they were for the corresponding months in 1942, there was a downward trend in the volume of sales, according to a comparison of gross revenue for the third quarter this year with the sales recorded for the preceding six months. During last January, February and March, sales went over the \$100,000 for the second time. In the months of April, May and June, the sales totaled \$87,011.20, and then in the third quarter they dropped to \$81,148.30.

Rationing is reflected to some extent in the decrease in sales volume, but it is fairly certain that a shortage of the liquid was the main cause for the downward trend. However, it was duly expected that the shortage would cause a greater decrease in sales, but by drinking any old brands which were supplemented by wine and rum, gin and most anything under a bottle cap, the dependable guzzlers supported the sales to the extent that revenue for the third quarter set an all-time record for that period.

While increased liquor prices, no doubt, account for most of the increase, it is fairly apparent that more liquor was consumed in this county during last July, August and September than there was consumed in the same three months a year ago.

The inroads liquor is making in the county's trade is better understood when it is pointed out that sales during the third quarter of this year are almost four times as large as they were for the corresponding period in 1935 when the stores were first opened.

To date, the legal stores have sold nearly one and one-half million dollars worth of liquors, the net profit for the same period—July, 1935, through September 30, this year—standing at \$362,321.43.

A comparison of sales, by stores, for the third quarter in 1942 and in 1943 follows:

	1942	1943
Williamston	\$41,517.30	\$41,326.85
Robersonville	24,160.35	22,931.25
Oak City	7,072.55	8,570.00
Jamesville	7,606.75	8,320.20

\$80,357.25 \$81,148.30

Profits for the same periods are reviewed as follows:

	1942	1943
Williamston	\$12,359.57	\$12,137.36
Robersonville	6,963.37	6,590.83
Oak City	1,899.74	2,298.68
Jamesville	1,965.21	2,275.06

\$23,177.89 \$23,301.93

The soggy pie profits were divided as follows: Town of Williamston, \$1,709.75; Town of Robersonville, \$915.24; Town of Oak City, \$312.70; Town of Jamesville, \$311.50; Martin County, \$13,000.79; State of North Carolina, \$5,867.53. In addition to those divisions, \$1,805.66 was set aside for law enforcement. As for the last item, this county, it is believed, is not spending all its marked funds for law enforcement, and yet it is readily admitted that the county has one of the most effective enforcement systems in the State.

Out of the gross income of \$81,148.30, the county spent \$52,629.59 for liquor, \$2,925.05 for direct store expenses, including \$2,562.77 for salaries and wages, \$306 for rent, \$835 for supplies, \$37.95 for heat, lights and water, \$12.20 for miscellaneous.

Large Turnover In Service Personnel

There is an enormous turnover in the personnel in the armed services, according to a report just recently released by the U. S. Employment Service of the War Manpower Commission. It is estimated that men are being released from the armed forces at the rate of 7,000 a week, that one million men have already been discharged from active service.

No official figures are to be had, but it is believed that between 75 and 100 Martin County men have been discharged from the service since the beginning of the war a little over two years ago.

Most of the Martin County men discharged to date are "fitting" right back in normal life, but the rehabilitation work is already proving a problem in some areas, according to the report. At any rate, problems "connected with proper training and finding suitable jobs for the men" are being studied.

At a recent conference held in Raleigh, "Preparation for handling discharged service men, now while the numbers are relatively small, was stressed, in order that an orderly demobilization may be achieved, contrary to the method used in World War I. Then service men were discharged as rapidly as possible, with no thought of readiness of the nation, state and community to absorb them into their economic life. Many were jobless for months, sometimes years."