



THE ENTERPRISE



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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, April 4, 1944.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Americans Reported Over Manila In The Philippine Islands

Navy Continues Silent About Task Force Attack On Palau Last Week

In two special announcements today, the Navy disclosed that fourteen more Jap ships had been sunk in the neighborhood of the Philippine Islands, boosting the total enemy ships accounted for by American undersea craft to almost 700 since Pearl Harbor. The other announcement told about air attacks on islands in the same area. A broadcast from Manila heard this morning, stated that the all-clear signal had been sounded. It could mean that Manila had been subjected to an air raid, or it could have followed a practice raid. There are indications, however, that MacArthur is one his way back to Manila.

Although silence is still maintained by the Navy Department, the recent attack made on Palau, about 500 miles east of the Philippines, by a task force is believed to have been a very successful and far-reaching one, according to preliminary reports coming from unofficial sources. One report stated that Jap ships pulled away from the island before the American task force could reach it, the action apparently giving the attackers free range. The raid was admitted today when the Japs advanced unrecognized claims following what they described as a running battle with our forces. The Japs would have the world believe that two American cruisers, a carrier and a battleship were sunk, but the enemy claim has little standing.

While the attacks hold the spotlight in the recent news coming out of the Pacific, progress is being made in other areas in that theater. General MacArthur announced today that the campaign in the Admiralties was just about closed, that 3,000 Japs had been killed, others captured and still others had escaped in the late stages of the round-up there. Other atolls have been taken in the Marshalls without much opposition.

A picture of the plight which the enemy in the Caroline Islands may soon face has been sketched by the War Department review of Pacific strategy which disclosed that more than 100,000 Jap troops have been ensnared in a gigantic trap reaching from New Guinea to the Marshalls.

This has been accomplished by a strangulating sea-air blockade, coupled with the seizure of strategic points and air bombardment of other installations which has so paralyzed enemy communications that Jap forces are perishing by hundreds from diseases and starvation.

The review said the net has been so tightly drawn that nine out of every ten ships attempting to bring in supplies have been sunk; while more than 70 percent of the Jap barges trying to run the Allied blockade have been destroyed.

It disclosed that since last October 2,685 Japs have been found dead from wounds, disease and starvation alone on the Huon Peninsula of New Guinea.

The performance now is being repeated in the Caroline area where U. S. sea and air power already is engaged in reducing the strong enemy bases at Kusaie, Ponape, Truk, Palau and possibly other points in preparation for amphibious invasions.

The situation in India is still not very encouraging, but authorities state that the Jap threats there are being turned back.

In the Mediterranean area, sharp patrol action was reported early today in Italy. American planes, based in Italy, were over the Hungarian capital of Budapest again last night for the second time, and directed heavy blows against enemy movements. The raids were planned in an effort to block the shipment of oil and grain and other supplies out of that territory into Germany.

One report states that the Germans are rushing more troops toward Rumania apparently to make a stand against the Russians who today are advancing over a seventy-mile front fifteen or more miles inside that country.

Town Authorities Hold Short Meeting

Meeting in a short session last night, the local town commissioners limited their attention to a "bull" session in the main, handling current bills and carrying over all business until a later meeting.

The committee named to make a study of a recreational center proposed for the colored population said that it would not have a report ready, but they tried to devote some time to it before the next meeting.

Several persons applied for the chief of police position made vacant by the death of W. E. Daniel last month before last, but members of the board intimating that things were moving along all right in the department, took no action. The applications, one coming from as far away as Washington, D. C., were not placed before the meeting.

Reports Point To Large Gain In Personal Property Values

A sizable increase—possibly a million dollars—was predicted this week in the assessed property valuations.

The prediction was based on reports coming from six of the ten townships where the increase now stands at \$629,193. The six townships include two of the largest and two of the smallest in the county, and if the unit gain holds for the other four, the million dollar gain will materialize. The pulp mill is in one of the four, and possibly a substantial gain will be reported there.

The following gains were reported: Williams, \$33,395; Griffins, \$76,368; Bear Grass, \$45,672; Williams, \$236,145; Robersonville, \$223,511; Poplar Point, \$14,107. Valuation figures for Jamesville, Cross Roads, Hamilton and Goose Nest have not been tabulated at this time.

More Martin County Men Called By Army

ROUND-UP

While few persons were rounded-up and actually jailed, local officers had a busy period last week-end in the wake of the release of liquor ration coupons. Two persons, one white and one colored, were arrested and jailed Saturday. Several fights were reported, but the attackers handled their work and ran before officers could overtake them. A small liquor still was rounded up within the town limits and a few minor disturbances were reported here and there during the week-end.

To Advertise Real Estate For Taxes Early Next Month

Assistant Home Agent Named By Commissioners In Session Monday

Continuing in session a greater part of yesterday, the Martin County Commissioners cleared their calendar, but according to the minutes of the meeting very little business outside that of a routine nature was handled.

The commissioners ordered all real estate upon which 1943 taxes had not been paid be advertised the early part of May for sale on the first Monday in June. No detailed report could be had, but the list of unpaid accounts is certain to be the smallest in many years. Ninety-one percent of the 1943 levy of \$200,327.82 has already been collected, and much of the unpaid balance of \$18,136.34 will have been paid before advertising time, it is certain.

The commissioners appointed Miss Mumford of Kenly to assist Miss Mildred Pigg, home agent for the county. The new appointee, her salary to be supplemented by a county appropriation of \$50 monthly, is to enter upon her new duties on or about the first of June.

Tax relief orders were issued to William Boston, Sr., of Jamesville Township and to M. O. Crisp of Goose Nest. Listed in error, the taxes charged against Boston were, 90 cents for 1943, 98 cents for 1942 and \$1.01 for 1941. Crisp was relieved of poll taxes in the sum of \$27.70 each of the years 1942 and 1943 because he was in the service.

The statement of the treasurer's accounts was examined, the report showing that the county now holds \$60,614.82 in its general fund, \$39,914.78 in the school fund, \$78,872.98 in the sinking fund reserve, \$114,822.74 in cash in banks and about \$100,000 in government bonds.

Advised that the timber had been cut and removed, the commissioners lowered the valuation on 50 acres of land belonging to Mrs. W. B. Owen in Bear Grass Township.

All members of the board were present.

WASTE PAPER

A second collection will be made by school children here Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The drive is to be centered on the north side of town tomorrow, and on Thursday the children will make a house-to-house canvass in New Town. Householders are asked to bundle their waste paper and old magazines and have them ready for the children.

During the meantime, deliveries will be accepted at the grammar school building, it was announced.

Several tons of scrap paper have already been collected and sold to the paper mills for prices ranging from \$15 to \$22 per ton.

BLOOD PLASMA

Navy call for five million pints of blood this year, the DAR organization throughout the nation is soliciting funds to advance the blood bank for servicemen.

Mr. L. F. Smith, of Williamston, heading the drive in Windsor and Williamston, explained that those areas where no mobile units are operated for the collection of blood, are being asked to contribute funds to support the movement and to even buy blood if necessary. The solicitations are being advanced without remuneration to the canvassers, either for their time or expenses.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

More Sugar for Home Canning

To get canning sugar in addition to the five pounds per person available with Sugar stamp 40, application should be made to the local ration board on form OPA R-323, which will be furnished upon request by the office of the local board, OPA announces. The entire transaction may be handled by mail, one application serving for all who live at the same address. In order to make it unnecessary to send ration books through the mail, the spare stamp 37 from War Ration Book Four is attached to the application form for each person applying. Families that preserve and can food at home for sale to others may apply to their local boards for a maximum of 250 pounds for this purpose. Sugar beet and sugar cane growers may get 25 pounds of ration-free sugar for each member of their families as part of the sugar produced from their 1944 crops by applying to distributors who process their crops.

Rubber Situation Still Stringent

Although the nation is now producing synthetic rubber faster than raw rubber was consumed in this country any time prior to 1941, military and civilian demands still exceed the supply, the Office of Rubber Director discloses. Low speed limits must be enforced and all tires replaced if essential driving is to be maintained during the critical months ahead, the rubber director warns. He reminds motorists that the life of a tire at 35 miles per hour is 50 per cent longer than at 50 miles per hour and three times longer than at 60 miles per hour.

Consumer Goods Survey

A check-up on how well Government measures have helped to alleviate shortages of civilian goods will be provided by a consumer goods survey now being made by the Office of Civilian Requirements of the War Production Board. Merchandise to be surveyed includes miscellaneous household articles such as bobbin pins, safety pins and cleansing tissue; clothing for men, women and children; household linens; and yard goods for apparel.

Why Make Declarations?

The income tax declarations required by April 15, this year, of some 15 million persons are a fundamental requirement in the "pay-as-you-go" system, the Bureau of Internal Revenue explains. Only by means of these declarations is it possible for the bureau to learn how much tax is due from those whose (Continued on page six)

Oil Truck Stolen Here And Driven To Raleigh Saturday

"Borrowing" a big oil truck from the Harrison Oil Company here early last Saturday evening, someone drove the machine to Raleigh and deserted it on the streets there. A supply of motor oil on the truck and personal articles left in the truck by the driver, Bruce Chesson, were not disturbed. The thieves, yet unknown, took several gallons of kerosene out of the big tank and placed it in the truck fuel tank to complete the run to Raleigh.

The truck, left at the Central Filling Station to be serviced last Saturday, was not damaged and was returned here by Daniel Lilley and son.

NEW HOURS

Beginning next Monday, the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board office will be open to the public each week-day from 9 a. m. to 12 noon, and from 1 to 3 p. m. Heretofore, the office has been closed to the public each Monday, Tuesday and Saturday afternoon.

The public is urged to note the change in the office hours and arrange their visits to conform with those hours. It was pointed out that certain reports have to be filed and that correspondence work requires much time, that while it is necessary to limit the hours the office is open to the public, the new schedule should prove more satisfactory than the one now in effect, Herbert L. Roebuck, assistant chairman, stated.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman W. E. Saunders estimated the damage to the Cadillac at \$300 and that to the Chevrolet at \$150.

Two Planes Crash In Practice "Dog Fight"

Two young Army pilots, Lt. R. W. Higgins and Lt. G. D. McDowell, barely escaped with their lives about 2:10 o'clock last Friday afternoon when their P-47 Pursuit planes crashed in mid-air a short distance north of Oak City. Higgins, his plane torn apart, parachuted to earth and McDowell rode his ship to safety in a forced landing after gliding ten miles.

Stationed at Seymour-Johnson Field, Goldsboro, the two pilots were engaged in a practice "dog fight" approximately 20,000 feet in the air over the Oak City area when Higgins made a turn and the other plane plowed into him, cutting the tail of his ship in two just back of the pilot's seat. The rear part of the plane drifted earthward and was not greatly damaged in the fall. With all the controls gone, the other part of the Higgins plane went into a spin, the pilot stating that he unfastened his safety belt and made ready to bail out. Just as he slid the canopy back, the suction pulled him out at about 13,000 feet. The main part of the plane crashed into a hog pen in the backyard of a tenant house on the Turner farm, about a mile away from the spot where the other part of the ship fell. The engine and nose of the plane burrowed into the ground almost ten feet, exploded and burned.

Funeral Services Are Being Conducted This Afternoon For War I Veteran

William Lewis Manning, World War I veteran, died suddenly in a Washington hospital at 6:40 o'clock last Sunday evening, a very short while after he was entered in the institution. A victim of diabetes and in failing health for a number of years, he was believed to have died of a heart attack.

In retirement for a number of years, he was thought to be getting along as well as usual until about two weeks ago when his condition grew noticeably worse. However, he was able to be up most of the time. Last Saturday he spent most of the day in bed, but got up that evening and went to the doctor for a dose of insulin. Retiring upon his return home, he dropped off into a coma, and Sunday morning members of the family visited his room and thought he was sleeping. He did not get up for a meal, and a short time later members of the family, finding it impossible to wake him, called the doctor and had him removed to the hospital.

The son of the late William Simon and Louise Roberson Manning, he was born in Williams Township on July 11, 1888. He moved to Williamston when a youth with his parents and had made his home here since that time, except for the period he spent in the Army. On May 31, 1917, he volunteered and entered a National Guard unit at Goldsboro. He served overseas from March 29, 1918 until July 12, 1919, getting his honorable discharge seven days later.

He was married to Miss Lennie Jones of this county January 22, 1920 and she with four children, Gordon Manning, a student in Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va., Jerry C. Manning, U. S. Navy somewhere in the Pacific; Mrs. Thos. Earl Martin, of Jamesville and Miss Polly Manning, of the home, survives. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. R. B. Brown of Williamston and Mrs. W. N. Ainsley of Columbia, N. C., a half-sister, Mrs. J. C. Crawford, and a half-brother, Wheeler Manning, both of Williamston.

Funeral services are being conducted at the Biggs Funeral Home on West Main Street this afternoon at 4 o'clock by Rev. John L. Goff. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Prior to his entrance into the war back in 1917, he was associated with the late J. C. Crawford in the operation of the sheriff's office in this county.

Community Store Robbed Yesterday

Prizing the lock off with something like an automobile tire tool, robbers entered Walter Johnson's small community store on West Church Street sometime between three and four o'clock yesterday morning and hauled away about \$300 worth of merchandise. The thieves centered their attention on tobaccos, clearing out a fairly large stock of cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and socks. Possibly a few other articles were stolen, but they were not missed immediately.

A member of the family, sleeping in the home a few feet from the store was said to have heard a noise between 3 and 4 o'clock that morning, but thought the racket was caused by the wind. A neighbor heard a car crank up between her home and the store about the same time.

It is quite possible that even though the registrants in the designated age group are called for pre-induction exams, their cases will be reviewed, possibly under the new instructions, before final orders for actual induction are issued.

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Over Hundred Tires Allotted in County By Rationing Board

A total of 103 tires was rationed by the Martin County board last Friday night, the issuance being the largest reported in recent months. Despite the liberal allotments, there are an estimated 500 applications for tires pending before the board. It is reported that some of the applicants in the big group are unable to understand how vehicle owners with preferred ratings can get tires and gas, too, and use them for fishing, shopping, general travel not connected with their work, and in some cases for the alleged transportation of illicit liquors.

Nearly 500 Applications For Tires Pending In This County at Present

Reports state that the tire situation has been eased to some extent, but the allotment for April is hardly as large as the one made in March. However, an extra allotment last month made the large issuance last Friday night possible. This month, 100 Grade I tires, 101 Grade III's, 45 truck tires, 144 car tire tubes and 24 truck tire tubes have been allotted for rationing.

Grade I tires and tubes were released to the following: J. R. P. Griffin, Williamston, one tire.

Robert S. Gurganus, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire and one tube. John Daniel Roberson, RFD 2, Robersonville, one tire.

Charlie Forbes, Robersonville, one tire and one tube. James A. Roberson, RFD 1, Robersonville, one tire and one tube. Noah Boston, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.

H. L. Roberson, Robersonville, three tires and two tubes. R. V. Bunting, Williamston, one tire and one tube. A. P. Hassell, Jr., Williamston, one tire.

A. P. Hassell, Jr., Williamston, one tire and two tubes. L. C. Brown, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.

J. W. Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube. J. H. Gray, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

C. S. Vanlandingham, Williamston, two tires and two tubes. C. C. Fleming, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.

Reuben A. Edmondson, Hamilton, one tire. L. A. Croom, Robersonville, four tires and two tubes.

Clelle Moore, Robersonville, two tires and one tube. M. E. Roberson, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

Mrs. H. J. Haislip, Oak City, one tire and one tube. Dr. Robert C. Hicks, Williamston, two tires.

David N. Hix, Williamston, one tire and one tube. Mrs. A. E. Downs, Hassell, one tire and one tube.

Kneezor Harrison, RFD 2, Williamston, two tires. Palmer Taylor, Robersonville, one tire and two tubes.

John Mobley, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire and one tube. D. Andrew Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

R. R. Thompson, Palmyra, one tire. Richard Bryant, Bethel, one tire and one tube.

G. W. Keel, Robersonville, one tire and one tube. J. J. Whitley, Robersonville, one tire.

Ben James, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire. Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Johnnie Bland, Hamilton, one tire and one tube. Roy Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Ellet Manufacturing Breaks Into Town

Illicit business—liquor manufacturing in this case—broke into town a short time ago, the daring feat eliminating transportation risks but at the same time subjecting the owner to operation risks. How long he operated is not definitely known, but Alber, Askew, colored man, had an almost ideal set-up for manufacturing monkey rum.

Equipped with an old oil drum or carbide barrel, a short section of copper tubing and a 50-gallon barrel, Askew operated the plant in his home. He had the beer barrel buried under a trap door in a barn or smokehouse near his dwelling. When the beer was ready, he would move the still into the house where he used a coal-burning stove to furnish the heat and turn the smoke out the chimney. Once the run was completed, he would move the equipment back to the barn.

Getting a lead on the illicit business, Officers John Roebuck, Chas. Moore and ABC Officer Joe Roebuck raided the premises on White Street near the cemetery and found the equipment. It was not in operation at the time. Askew was placed under bond for his appearance in the county court next Monday.

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