

Patronize Our Advertisers, For They Are Constantly Inviting You To TRADE With Them.

The Farmville Enterprise

SELL — BUY and BANK — IN FARMVILLE — Not A Small Town Any More!

VOLUME THIRTY-TWO

FARMVILLE, PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1942

NUMBER FORTY-ONE

RUSSIANS ARE CLOSING HUGE STEEL TRAP BELOW LENINGRAD

Capture of Staraya Russa Threatens All German Forces in Northwest

Moscow, Feb. 26.—The Red army's strangulation of a German army trapped in the Staraya Russa area appeared today to be the first stage of a maneuver aimed at trapping all Nazi forces in the bloody northwestern corner of Russia.

"The German-Fascist forces are suffering great losses in manpower and equipment," the regular mid-night communique said. "During February 25 our troops continued to advance and occupied a number of populated places."

A Russian dispatch detailed Staraya Russa—indicating Red army possession of the strategically-located town itself—said the most furious fighting was continuing and intimated that new developments were imminent, following the smashing of the 16th German field army and slaughter of 12,000 Nazis in a bloody trap about Lake Ilmen, some 140 miles south of Leningrad.

Staraya Russa in peacetime is only a summer resort, but militarily it can serve as the springboard for many-phased operations.

Menaces Germans. Its capture menaces not only the thousands of Germans now being pummeled on the Leningrad outposts, but gives the Russians a base from which operations are possible to cut off all the Nazi armies north of Lake Ilmen to the Estonian shores of the Gulf of Finland.

It is at the junction of three rivers—the Pola, Polista, and Lovat—which will be highly usable for communications as soon as the thaw comes. Some 110 miles south and slightly west of Staraya Russa on the Lovat is the important Nazi position of Valikie Luki, itself endangered by Russian encirclement tactics.

The region was occupied late in August by the Germans and it was from there that they began to push forward the pincers which were intended to encircle Moscow from the north. The Nazis claimed they had crushed three Russian armies in the sector.

They planned to remain there all winter, setting up huge warehouses and installing large repair shops for mechanized vehicles.

The encirclement announced officially early this morning was carried out by the armies of Lieutenant General P. A. Kurochkin, who for the first time was promoted to have succeeded Marshal Klement Voroshilov as commander in the northwest.

Steadily Advance. It was conducted with the utmost of stealth—in one case Red army units marched 27 miles in a single night without having to fire a shot.

Heavy snows, lack of roads and sub-zero temperatures plus violent German resistance were overcome by the Russian advance. The Germans still are fighting hard and throwing in large reserves, front-line dispatches said, in an effort to stop the push, which is endangering units far from the scene of battle.

Nevertheless, the Red army continued to advance through white wastes strewn with the bodies of the German dead, with abandoned big guns and with the wreckage of motor vehicles and wagons. Many inhabited points in the region now are encircled.

V. P. I. PROFESSOR CALLED BY NAVY

Blackburg.—Dr. J. Woodrow Hassell, Jr., Tech instructor in foreign languages, who was organizing a course in Japanese here for interested V. P. I. students, now has been called to duty by the Navy Department because of his knowledge of that tongue. Dr. M. C. Harrison, acting head of the Tech language department, announced yesterday.

The class scheduled here accordingly has been canceled for the present, Dr. Harrison said in disclosing that Hassell has been ordered to report next Friday to the University of California for a six months' refresher course in Japanese, upon completion of which he and other graduates will be commissioned as ensigns in the naval intelligence service.

A substitute who has been obtained to handle Dr. Hassell's regular classes in French and Spanish here for the next few weeks, Dr. Harrison will not be able to teach his regular language classes. However, the department is now negotiating with the University of California to have Dr. Hassell's place filled by a substitute.

PROGRAM OF INTEREST BY THE G. V. MONKS AT THE ROTARY CLUB

A most interesting Rotary program was brought by Mr. and Mrs. George V. Monk at the February 19th meeting.

In keeping with Rotary International's suggestion, this date was designated by the local Club as a time to study China. The local Club was most fortunate to have George V. Monk, who has spent 24 years in China, and Mrs. Monk, who has spent some 16 years there, to give a lecture and show some moving pictures of this all too little known land.

In his carefully prepared paper Mr. Monk brought out interesting aspects of China's culture, her economy, her political struggles, her customs, and her great world importance. After laying this background Mr. Monk allowed Mrs. Monk to take over. This she most capably did as she took her place at the movie projector and ran off several films, some in black and white and some in technicolor, of Chinese life and cities.

So interesting was this program that those present voted an extension of time, and remained on after the meeting hour was over to view the reality that section of the world upon which circumstances have thrown the spot-light.

At this time when China is so significant an ally, we of the western world might well spend more time than we have in the past in "getting acquainted." This fine program served that important purpose.

P. S. B. HARPER PASSES SUDDENLY

A message reached Farmville last night stating that P. S. B. Harper, 83, prominent and highly esteemed Kingston citizen, passed suddenly at his home Wednesday evening at 11:00 o'clock. Mr. Harper had been in ill health for several months.

Funeral rites will be held from the home at 11:00 o'clock, Friday morning, with the Rev. Mr. Ball, pastor of the Methodist Church, in charge. Interment will be made in the Kingston cemetery.

Mr. Harper was a native of Greene county. A veteran fireman, he was known and beloved throughout North Carolina for his activities and keen interest in fire fighting. He had served the Kingston department since early boyhood and was a former president of the East Carolina Firemen's Association. He was also an active Mason and a faithful member of the Methodist Church.

The active pallbearers will be firemen and the Masons will take part in the final rites.

He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Fanny Sugg, of Greene county; a daughter, Mrs. Claude L. Barrett, of Farmville, and several nieces and nephews.

Encircled Java Ready to Fight

Japs Lose Three More Transports — Americans Help Down 30 Warplanes

Allied Headquarters in Java, Feb. 25.—Java is encircled completely and cut off from normal shipping communications with Australia, an official spokesman said today as United States and Dutch planes sank three more troop-laden Japanese transports in an intensifying battle for air and naval supremacy around this beleaguered island.

Japanese invasion of Bali and Timor islands east of Java completed the encirclement, the spokesman was quoted by the Aneta news agency, but he said the Japanese now are spread over such a large area that "if more planes and ships are sent to Java, it will be possible to obtain local superiority and wipe out the invasion forces."

He reiterated that Allied forces were ready to make a strong stand on Java whether they got reinforcements or not, and a Dutch communique, bearing this out, announced that two Japanese transports were blown out of a concentration near Macassar, on the northern coast of Celebes, and that a third transport was planned to be sunk there.

American bombers and fighters were seen in the islands and were reported to have destroyed a Japanese transport on the island of Java.

Consider Bill Providing For Work or Fight

Measure Probably Would Provide For Drafting of Any Striking Worker Subject To Service

Washington, Feb. 25.—Drastic "work or fight" legislation may soon be sought by the administration to give the War Labor Board a strong hand in its task of eliminating all stoppages in arms production.

An informed source predicted today that this request to congress was likely, and indications were that it would command strong support especially since President Roosevelt called on Americans in his Monday night radio address not to stop work a single day.

Proposals for such legislation were said to have originated with officials charged with responsibility for all-out war production. President Roosevelt has repeatedly stressed the need for uninterrupted production in numerous speeches during the past year, but the arms program nevertheless has lost hundreds of thousands of man-hours because of labor-management, jurisdictional and other controversies.

As outlined by one influential Democratic senator, the legislation probably would include provisions for the immediate drafting into the armed forces of any striking worker who was subject to military service but who had received deferment because of employment in an essential war job.

Under tentative plans, workers not subject to the selective service who went on strike would be blacklisted and their employment banned for a period of time by any plant working on a government contract.

The President's call for uninterrupted war production brought predictions in congress, meanwhile, that if the War Labor Board failed to find a formula to keep all of the industrial wheels turning without stop, congress would act to see that the job was done.

Senator Hill of Alabama, the Democratic whip, said he felt that some legislation might be necessary to give the board broader authority to prevent strikes.

"It just isn't in keeping with any all-out effort to win a war to have anybody stop work, even for an hour," Hill told reporters.

Agreeing with this viewpoint, Senator Ellender (D-La.), a member of the Labor Committee, forecast speedy congressional action if the War Labor Board failed to guarantee the uninterrupted production the President wanted.

This action might come, suggested Senator Taft (R-Ohio), in the form of legislation to freeze the open and closed shop status of war industries and to link wages to the cost of living. Under the latter provision, he said, wages would advance only as the cost of living rose. Taft said he believed members of the WLB would welcome establishment of such general policies.

Like Taft, Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich.) felt that the President's pronouncement called for congressional action to fix policies, although he said he would be glad if the no-strike agreement reached by industry and labor last year could be carried out voluntarily. There was some doubt, he added, whether that agreement was being followed to the letter.

GIRLS AUXILIARY GIVES PROGRAM

The Junior and Intermediate Girls Auxiliary groups, with their counselors, Mrs. Chester Outland and Mrs. B. B. Fordham, had charge of the Sunday evening service at the Baptist Church.

Seats were reserved for the parents of the girls. These seats were designated by streamers of white and green, the colors of the Girls Auxiliary.

A brief address was made by Mrs. Fordham, who explained the purpose and program of these girls groups (Auxiliaries of the Woman's Missionary Society).

The remaining part of the program consisted of a recitation of their "Star Goals" by the Junior girls; and a short playlet by both organizations on the theme of stewardship. The playlet was entitled, "Understanding Giving," and did much to show the motives behind Christian giving, as well as to bring out the worthy nature and many benefits possible by voluntary gifts.

Dollar Days March 12-13

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association it was decided to have Farmville's Fourth Annual Dollar Days sale on March 12th and 13th, and a committee composed of E. N. Pettaway, Chairman, Henry Smith, W. H. Fisher, Roderick Harris, C. H. Joyner, Eli Joyner, Jr., and G. A. Rouse met on Wednesday to work out plans to make this year's sale the biggest yet.

Plans were made to put out 5,000 circular ads throughout the community within 12 miles of Farmville in every direction. It was also decided to have spot announcements over W. G. T. C. Radio Station for one or two days just prior to the sale. Many merchants have expressed their intention to give some real BARGAIN DAYS. Everybody is requested to remember the days, Thursday and Friday, March 12-13th.

A WEEK OF THE WAR

(Released February 24)

Secretary of War Stimson told his press conference this nation is confronted with a situation in which we cannot "buy our way out or produce our way out," and the only way left is to "fight our way out by intelligent offensive action." Every effort is being made to build powerful armed forces, he said, and when conditions warrant, they will "seize every opportunity" to strike at the enemy. In the meantime, the U. S. must be prepared to take sporadic attacks along its coasts, Mr. Stimson said, because "if we scatter our forces for the defense, it is the surest way to defeat."

President Roosevelt told his press conference that under certain conditions enemy planes could bomb cities as far inland as Detroit, or enemy ships could shell New York City. Congress completed action on the \$100,000,000 appropriation for the Office of Civilian Defense, to provide fire-fighting equipment, gas masks, protective clothing and emergency medical supplies.

Assistant Secretary of State Berle, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, said the U. S. is determined to fight an aggressive war, rather than a defensive one, and "the fruits of victory will be available to every free people throughout the world." Mr. Berle said, "We can no longer think of ourselves as a supply base. Our work is more than that of making guns and planes and tanks. Winning the war is now America's job." He said all signs point to big offensives this spring against the United States.

Foreign Relations

President Roosevelt announced a new loan to Russia is planned because the original Lend-Lease authorization of a billion dollars has been obligated for future deliveries. Commitments for making American war materials available to Russia were maintained up to schedule until December 7. Delivery of supplies for the Soviet Union slowed down in December and January, he said, but will be brought back up to schedule by March 1. Under Secretary of State Welles said answers from the Vichy Government in this country in regard to French aid to Axis forces in North Africa were considered unsatisfactory. Mr. Welles said the French Ambassador had reported, however, no commitments have been made by the French to Japan in regard to Madagascar.

Production and Conversion

The War Production Board announced war production of the "big three" automobile companies—General Motors, Chrysler and Ford—will be running at a rate of almost \$11 billion when they reach peak production on present orders. The companies will need 900,000 to 1,000,000 workers as compared with a peacetime peak of 550,000. The Board said war expenditures authorized by Congress, including pending bills and Lend-Lease, totaled \$145 billion on February 15. Chairman Nelson issued a set of regulations regarding the employment of dollar-a-year men by the Government. The Army Ordnance Department ordered ordnance chiefs in the 13 districts of the U. S. to provide engineering assistance to small manufacturers whose plants could be converted to arms production.

The House passed and sent to the Senate the new \$8 billion War Appropriation Bill which provides \$20 billion for the Army and more than \$15 billion for Lend-Lease. The Senate passed a bill to authorize payment of allowances for the war to dependents of military personnel captured or held as hostages. Voluntary contributions in January total \$7,000,000, double the highest War War figure. The Army announced

Civilian Defense Meeting Held Wednesday Night

Mayor Davis Presided Over Enthusiastic Meeting With J. H. Rose As Speaker

Approximately two hundred men representing the Civilian Defense Organization of Farmville assembled in a joint meeting at the City Hall on Wednesday evening. Every Department of the local organization was represented including active and auxiliary firemen and fire watchers, active and auxiliary policemen, fire wardens, medical division, public works, utilities, and maintenance and vital services.

Mayor Davis first called on the Chairman of each committee for a report of their activities, and from the reports submitted it could be well seen that each department was taking their job seriously and seeing that nothing was left undone to best protect our community during this emergency.

Mr. Davis then presented J. H. Rose, Pitt County Chairman of Civilian Defense, who in a forcible manner stressed as the theme of his speech the urgent necessity, the fullest cooperation, and knowing your job. Mr. Rose stated that full cooperation of all individuals and departments was not only essential in our National Defense but was of prime importance in our Local Defense. He illustrated this point by relating the tale of the terrapin with two heads and six legs. One of its heads and two of its legs were pulling in one direction while the other head and two of its legs were pulling in another direction, leaving the two center legs inactive. Naturally, the terrapin finally died for lack of cooperation with its ownself, and so it would be within our Local Civilian Defense without cooperation. It cannot succeed without one hundred percent cooperation among its departments and citizens of the town.

The speaker stressed the fact that the majority not having taken the present situation seriously, it was the duty of the Civilian Defense Organizations to look ahead for these masses of people and take the necessary precautions for their protection if and when the catastrophe arrives at our own door, explaining that more people were killed in England among the civilians than among the soldiers at the front. He emphasized further that it was far better to be prepared and never need the preparation than to need it and be unprepared. He stressed that Civilian Defense was not and should never be a spectacular organization or ruled by one seeking or attempting to demonstrate authority, but instead, ability and knowledge were the prime factors.

Mr. Rose went into much detail on the urgent necessity of every person possible availing themselves of taking the First Aid and Nursing Courses now being taught in our town, emphasizing the fact that no doubt fifty percent of the Doctors of Pitt County would be called to service within the next twelve months and, history repeating itself, epidemics of flu or other contagious diseases were always prevalent during a war and thus every person would need this information to better protect himself, as well as his neighbor, during this emergency when medical and nursing services will not be available.

He also stressed the need of fullest cooperation in the maintenance of the Lookout Tower which has been so successfully operated by our local American Legion and urged the fullest cooperation in the maintenance of this most needed asset.

The speaker further stressed the great importance of every individual giving of his time in study to learn the job he had chosen to do. He urged that citizens let nothing stand in their way in becoming qualified to fill their respective places, further stressing that no leader should expect his group to study and learn more than he knows. He pointed out that the leaders of the various departments should study ahead of the man by attending all classes of instruction and learning more than they were expected to teach.

In closing his remarks, Mr. Rose emphasized the fact that it was now time for us to stop complaining, finding fault, and criticizing our leaders, because their mistakes were our mistakes, and such mistakes that have been made are now past history and instead of criticizing, do our bit in cooperating locally and nationally to build our Defense Program in such a manner as to make it impossible by the strongest foe.

AMERICAN WARPLANES SINK TWO MORE BIG TRANSPORTS

Air Observation Post For Week March 2nd

The following Air observers for this week are listed below and they are requested to consult posted bulletins at the City Drug Company and Post Office for Hours Scheduled to serve: Monday, March 2

LeRoy Bass, R. N. Freeman—Bob Fiser, R. C. Copenhaver—James R. Lang—Wooten's Station—A. F. Joyner—Walter B. Jones.

Tuesday, March 3rd Matthew Gibbs, Carroll Oglesby—L. E. Walston, W. C. Harrell—George Moore—Wooten's Station—Joe Henry Bynum—C. H. Joyner.

Wednesday, March 4th Abe Wooten, Tracy Johnson—Roderick Harris, Cecil Johnson—James Wheelless—Wooten's Station—C. C. Simpson—J. T. Windham.

Thursday, March 5th C. A. Tyson, A. C. Monk, Jr.—E. L. Barrett, F. G. Dupree, Jr.—W. Alex Allen—Wooten's Station—F. W. Satterthwaite—M. F. Genea.

Friday, March 6th C. W. Blackwood, J. H. Paylor—H. N. Howard, Robert Monk—Tommlé Ryan—Wooten's Station—C. L. Ivey—T. B. Rouse.

Saturday, March 7th Mark Dixon, R. S. Scott—M. V. Jones, George Monk—R. E. Pickett—Wooten's Station—S. A. Hoebeck—G. P. Burgeron.

Sunday, March 8th R. D. Rouse, Fred Moore—J. Frank Harper, B. T. Wooten—C. L. Barrett—Wooten's Station—D. G. Allen—John D. Dixon.

Paul E. Jones, Chief Observer A. W. Bobbitt, 1st Assistant C. F. Baucom, 2nd Assistant

WOMAN'S CLUB TO HAVE SUPPER TUESDAY EVENING

The Senior Woman's Club will serve a Brunswick stew supper at the City Cafe on Tuesday evening, March 10, from six-thirty until eight-thirty o'clock. The affair is planned for the benefit of the Farmville Public Library, which was begun and continuously sponsored by the Club, with assistance from the Town and private parties. The Rotarians will be served in their assembly room and preparations are being made to serve seventy-five or more in the Cafe. Louis Alex, Cafe manager, has graciously offered the use of his Cafe without charge. Lath Morris will cook the stew, also gratis. Mrs. Eli Joyner is Chairman of the ticket Committee and the Club, therefore, feels assured of a large advance ticket sale.

Are you now on the Eastern War Time basis? If not you should be.

Two Ousted By Revenue Dept.

Veteran Officials Accused of Gross Negligence

Raleigh, Feb. 25.—Two veteran officials were ousted in a general shake-up of the state revenue department here today.

Commissioner A. J. Maxwell announced that Fred Drake, chief of the sales tax division, and Harry Howard, cashier of the accounting division, had been displaced for "gross negligence."

At the same time, Governor Broughton issued a statement, absolving Maxwell of any connection with recent irregularities in the department, and declaring that Maxwell's "retirement or resignation is not under consideration at this time."

Broughton further announced that he had named Clyde A. Douglas, Raleigh attorney, as a special counsel to aid William Y. Bickett, collector of the seventh judicial district, in investigation of recent alleged shortages and embezzlements in the department.

Maxwell said the two revenue department officers were dismissed for their failure to follow through an investigation of shortages of Clarence Sheeh, field tax collector, who Maxwell said, was approximately \$5,000 short in his accounts. In his statement, Maxwell said, "these men are being displaced for gross negligence, in the failure of each of them to follow through with an investigation of or to report to superior information which came into their possession, and which followed up or would have been reported by the discovery of the shortages."

Maxwell said the two revenue department officers were dismissed for their failure to follow through an investigation of or to report to superior information which came into their possession, and which followed up or would have been reported by the discovery of the shortages.

Army Says Flying Fortresses Sent Japanese Ships To Bottom Near Macassar; Three Japanese Planes also Downed; MacArthur's Patrols Break Bataan Lull

Washington, Feb. 25.—Sharp-shooting United States Army fliers notched new victories in the Battle of the Dutch East Indies today, sinking two big Japanese transports and blasting at least three Japanese planes out of the skies without a single loss to themselves.

The triumphs were announced by the War Department, which also reported that the all-quiet on the Philippines front had been broken by General Douglas MacArthur's indomitables.

Destruction of the transports was accomplished by six Flying Fortresses which roared across the Java Sea to Macassar—one of the enemy invasion nests on the southern tip of Celebes.

Greatly outnumbered American pursuit ships challenged swarms of enemy bombers and fighter planes in two separate actions over beleaguered Java. The Japs came out second best in both battles.

In the first of these dogfights, seven American P-40's took on nine Jap bombers and 14 fighter planes and forced them to flee after the Americans bagged two planes—a bomber and a fighter—and damaged four other bombers and two fighters.

Second Battle. The second and biggest battle occurred over the Dutch naval base at Soerabaja, where a mighty armada of 92 Japanese planes—62 bombers and 40 fighters—was intercepted by a formation of Uncle Sam's little pursuit ships.

In the ensuing battle, one enemy bomber was shot down and several other enemy craft were hit, but their destruction was not confirmed. The Americans came out of the fight without a scratch.

United States Army airmen fighting in defense of the East Indies now have sunk at least 11 Jap ships and destroyed a certain 61 enemy planes—15 bombers and 36 fighters—since January 1.

Today's aerial thrusts appeared to be further evidence that still more American aerial reinforcements are reaching the East Indies.

Meanwhile, the Battle of the Philippines came to life after two days of calm.

MacArthur's heroic defenders went out and picked a fight with the strangely inactive enemy, turning loose a series of "uniformly successful" local attacks all along the Bataan front. MacArthur presumably ordered the expedition to determine whether the Jap inactivity was a feint for a surprise move.

The War Department communique also announced that the Congressional Medal of Honor will be given to First Lieutenant Willibald C. Bischof, 45th Infantry, Philippine Scouts, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty" in the Philippines.

The Civilian Defense Council On Its Toes

At a call issued by Mayor George W. Davis the reorganized Civilian Defense Council met in the City Hall on Tuesday night, February 24th, at 8:00 o'clock with the following Council members present: Hayward Smith and E. A. Joyner representing the Fire Fighting Committee; I. T. Lucas representing the Auxiliary Police Committee; J. W. Joyner and W. A. McAdams representing the Utilities Committee; and John R. Lewis representing the Morale Committee.

The Mayor stated that he was very much pleased with the work and efforts that the members of the various committees had achieved and believed that Farmville was well organized and prepared for emergency at any time. He then stated that there was no specific purpose for the meeting but that he would like to have occasional meetings to keep everyone on their toes in order to have no show of unpreparedness in case of any emergency.

After a preliminary discussion of the meeting agenda.