



The Farmville Enterprise

VOLUME THIRTY-THREE

FARMVILLE, PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1942

NUMBER NINE



BRITISH HOLD IN FACE OF THIRD ASSAULT BY ROMMEL

RAF Bombers Continue To Rain Destruction On Axis Troops And Supply Lines And Bases; Experts Believe Real Test In Egypt Is Yet To Come

Cairo, July 15.—An Axis attack on Tel El Eisa with tanks and infantry, the third successive enemy assault on the British-held height in Egypt's corridor battle zone, was launched at dusk yesterday and lasted into the night, British headquarters announced today.

(A British military commentator said in London that the British withstood the attack which he described as on a "small scale." There was no indication that either the Axis or the British were ready to undertake a large offensive at present, he said.)

Again the RAF played a major part in the fighting, destroying some Axis tanks and sending its medium bombers back "in force" against Tobruk last night, the bulletin said.

While the heavy clash of ground forces occurred in the north, on the coastal end of the line, patrols and columns fought minor actions further inland in the central and southern sectors of the front between the Mediterranean and the Quattara depression some 70 miles west of Alexandria.

The communique did not indicate the outcome of any of these engagements but said the RAF still was dealing the Axis heavy blows to their hard-to-replace mechanized and armored equipment.

"Our light bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters made large scale attacks on enemy forces," said the bulletin jointly issued by the RAF and army headquarters.

"Direct hits were scored on tanks and troop-carrying vehicles.

"In one attack on a convoy of 15, made up of armored cars, transport vehicles and one tank, all but one of the vehicles were destroyed.

"Other tanks were destroyed in further attacks during the day and at least four enemy aircraft were shot down by our fighters.

"Last night our medium bombers attacked Tobruk in force, starting a row of red fires which later merged into one big fire."

In all these air thrusts, including defensive patrols over Malta in which three enemy raiders were shot down, the British said their own losses were three planes, one of whose pilots landed safely.

BILL EXTENDS LOW INTEREST RATE ON LAND BANK LOANS

President Roosevelt has signed a bill extending for two years the reduced interest rates on Federal Land Bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans, Mr. John T. Thorne, President of the Farmville National Farm Loan Association, announced this week. Mr. Thorne stated that this would mean a considerable saving in interest charges to borrowers in Pitt and Greene Counties.

The Farmville Association is a member of a group of three associations maintaining a joint office at Washington, serving seven counties. Mr. W. G. Stancill, Secretary-Treasurer, is in charge of the office which is located at Washington, N. C.

Old Rubber Drive Goes Over The Top

Greenville, July 14.—Pitt County has gone over the top in its scrap rubber drive, exceeding its set goal of 250,000 pounds. W. L. Allen, chairman in charge of the special scrap rubber drive, reported that a total of 252,158 pounds of old rubber in tires, tubes, old boots, overcoats and other articles ranging from baby bottle nipples to mammoth ten-ton truck tires, had been collected and weighed in.

Chairman Allen expressed gratification over the outcome of the drive. He expressed thanks to the various Boy Scouts and leaders who participated, and to the oil distributors and the filling station operators of the county. Mr. Allen said he received wholehearted cooperation from every individual in the county associated with the gas and oil business.

The scrap rubber drive came to an end, officially, Friday night, July 16, but small amounts of rubber were being received at filling stations as late as yesterday. Such collections, as yet unreported, will swell the total reported above.

If one is always hauling it is likely because he's in a hurry.

These political stunts would be more tolerable if they were square.

WITH BOOTS ON

Lorain, O., July 15.—The mother of a marine corps aviator who dived his plane into the smokestack of a Japanese aircraft carrier at Midway said today, "if and when he had to go he wanted to go aboard his plane, with his boots on."

She is Mrs. Fred Henderson, wife of a retired steelworker now helping to build ships.

Their son, Maj. Lofton R. Henderson, 39, and his group of scout bombers launched the first attack on the main body of the Japanese fleet at Midway, the Navy reported. His plane was the first hit and burst into flames, but he dived it into the objective.

Mrs. Henderson said she was proud he had "distinguished himself in the service of America," but declared were "countless other sons," equally brilliant.

Maj. Henderson was born in Cleveland and grew up in Lorain. He was graduated from Lorain high school in 1922 and from the Naval Academy at Annapolis four years later, entering the Marine Air Corps.

A brother, Paul, is a Major in the Marine Corps.

Bell Arthur Woman Sues R. R. For \$3,000

Greenville, July 15.—Mrs. Bruce Strickland, of Bell Arthur, has instituted suit for \$3,000 against the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company for damages alleged to have been suffered as a result of being struck by some instrument or tool projecting from the cab or tender of one of the company's locomotives on November 7, 1941. Judge Albion Dunn and S. O. Worthington represent the plaintiff, and J. Burt James the railroad company.

According to the complaint on file in Superior Court, Mrs. Strickland and a child were walking along a path close to the railroad track near the depot at Bell Arthur. When the train passed she stepped to the edge of an embankment for safety, the complaint states, and that the projecting tool or instrument struck her on the back, ripped and tore a fur coat she was wearing, knocking her down and broke an arm.

A civil term of Superior Court will be held here the week of August 23.

FERTILIZER

A new high was reached in 1941 in the amount of commercial fertilizer used by American farmers, the 8,400,000 tons bought representing a 7 percent increase over the 1940 total.

The state that furnishes the most divorces is the state of matrimony.

Married Men In Last Call

Dr a f t Headquarters Lists Calling Order

Washington, July 14.—Draft headquarters specifically directed local boards today to call up married men last, taking single war workers before husbands and fathers.

The local boards were instructed by orders sent out last night to fill their quotas in this order:

1. Single men with no dependents.
2. Single men who do not contribute to the war effort but who have dependents.
3. Single men with dependents and who contribute to the war effort.
4. Married men without children who are not engaged in the war effort.
5. Married men without children who are engaged in the war effort.
6. Married men living with wife and children or children only and who are not engaged in the war effort.
7. Married men living with wife and children or children only who are engaged in the war effort.

To be classed as a married man a registrant must have been married before December 8, 1941, and must be living with his wife or children.

To guide local boards on whether or not a man is engaged in the war effort, draft headquarters issued a list of 34 essential activities.

In granting deferment for occupation reasons the board must first decide whether a man is engaged in one of these activities and then determine that his particular job makes him a necessary man.

Also, the firm in which he is employed must be fulfilling a war contract, performing a government service, or a service necessary to civilian life in support of the war effort, or he must be supplying material for such firms.

Midway Fight Big American Victory

Official Report Shows Japs Suffered Over 10 To 1 Loss

Washington, July 15.—Japan's invasion armada ran into an American ambush in the battle of Midway, official reports disclosed today.

A communique last night gave the first detailed account of the battle and a supplemental report told how a naval task force lay in ambush and struck hard with carrier planes when Army and Navy shore-based attacks had slowed the enemy fleet.

The great size of the armada Japan sent to assault Midway in hopeful pretense to conquest of Hawaii was disclosed for the first time—80 ships. Official records gave this result of the battle:

Japanese losses—20 ships sunk or damaged including four aircraft carriers sunk and three battleships hit, 275 planes destroyed and 4,800 men killed or drowned.

American losses—the 19,900-ton aircraft carrier Yorktown put out of action, the destroyer Hammann sunk, an undisclosed number of planes destroyed, and 92 officers and 215 enlisted men lost. Loss of the destroyer and damage to an aircraft carrier had been reported previously, but this was the first time their names were given.

The immediate result of the battle was that the safety of the vital Hawaiian area, and American west and the Panama Canal were at least temporarily secured.

The Navy issued in excellent detail its first story of the "superb acts of devotion" mentioned by Prime Minister Churchill in Parliament on July 2, when he told for the first time that "from some successful attacks on Japanese carriers only one (American) aircraft returned out of ten."

One action the Navy cited was by Navy Torpedo Squadron No. 8—30 men and 15 planes led by Lieut. Cmdr. John Charles Waldron, 41, of Fort Pierre, S. D. The squadron successfully attacked the enemy's main battle force without fighter support and in spite of blistering anti-aircraft and fighter opposition. All 15 planes were lost. Only one man of the squadron, Ensign G. H. Gay of Houston, Texas, survived.

Another deed of valor was attributed to Major Lofton R. Henderson of Gray, Ind. During the Marines' first attack on the Japanese fleet on June 4, his scout bomber was hit and set afire. Henderson was last seen diving his blazing craft into the smokestack of a Japanese carrier.

After the Coral Sea victory of May 4-May 8, the Navy said, the high command decided the enemy's next thrust would be directed against some other section of America's Pacific defenses—Hawaii, Alaska, the Panama Canal or the Pacific coast. Consequently U. S. naval forces were deployed along the 1,700-mile front between Midway island and the Aleutians in the north Pacific. Throughout the danger, bases were reinforced with long-range, land-based aircraft. Thus, the Navy made clear, the fighting forces under supreme command of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific fleet chief, were ready when the blow fell.

This was further borne out in a supplementary account which said that "the full fury of the U. S. naval task force lying in ambush off Midway was poised to strike—once the quarry was overtaken."

Wildcats to Gather In Goldsboro July 25

Veterans of World War Division to Stage Two-Day Celebration

The 25th anniversary of the historic 81st (Wildcat) Division will be celebrated by the division veterans at a two-day meeting in Goldsboro on July 25 and 26, it was announced by the Wildcat Veterans Association.

The celebration will begin with a "Victory Parade" to be followed by a patriotic mass meeting. All patriotic, civic, fraternal, women and veteran associations will be invited to enter the parade and prominent citizens are expected to speak at the meeting.

A public memorial service will be held at 3 p. m., July 26, preceded by a business meeting and dinner. A barbeque will bring the celebration to a close.

North Carolina furnished 7,200 boys to the 81st division, which was organized at Fort Jackson, S. C., on August 25, 1917, and trained there until March, 1918. The division went overseas in July, 1918.

He was driving like heck but the accident overtook him and broke his neck.

A WEEK OF THE WAR

(For Release July 14)

War Production Chairman Nelson, speaking in Detroit, said the U. S. will hit the "Red" peak of its war production program by next March. Mr. Nelson said "our ability to produce is much greater than any one dreamed. The armament objectives as announced by President Roosevelt last winter—and which seemed too vast at the time—will be readily realized. . . . Our productive capacity is apparently limited only by the raw materials available."

"The Engineering Genius of American Production, when turned from peace to war, has proved a reservoir no one could gauge," Mr. Nelson said. "When American men and machines stopped competing with each other and turned all their competitive energy and abilities against Hitler and Hirohito, it knocked all previous calculations of our productive powers into a cocked hat. . . . The real problem now is not one of production. It is the problem of a better distribution of the materials from which war production springs."

Chairman Nelson said "at all costs—we must not get into the frame of mind that this is either an easy or a short job. If people build on false hopes of an easy victory or a short war, then they are certain to feel let down when the bad days come, as come they will. . . ."

Production and Subcontracting. WPB Chairman Nelson announced a "Reassignment" of the Board to permit him to devote his time to essential allocation policies between the needs of the armed forces and the civilian economy.

He said essential civilian needs, such as those for the communications and transportation systems, must be met. The civilian economy, though "this" must be kept healthy, he said. William L. Batt and James S. Knowlson were named vice chairmen of the board.

Lou E. Holland, formerly president of the Double Rotary Sprinkler Corp., of Kansas City, Mo., was appointed WPB Deputy Chairman in charge of the smaller war plants and corporation. Chairman Nelson said the corporation should attempt to confine the manufacture of relatively simple war items to smaller factories, increase the farming out of manufacture of bits and pieces of large corporations which hold prime contracts, and encourage conversion of additional small plants to essential civilian production. The WPB estimated, however, that 24,000 small manufacturers whose annual sales three years ago amounted to \$4,000,000, will be forced to close before October 1 because of inability to convert to war or essential civilian production.

The WPB said expenditures for war purposes by U. S. Government agencies in June were at the average daily rate of \$158,000,000, 6 percent higher than in May. Congressional war appropriations to date total more than \$225,000,000,000, the Board said, but the U. S. actually has spent less than \$40,000,000,000. The WPB Bureau of Finance obtained \$62,000,000 in the form of loans or advances on payments for war materials for almost 400 manufacturers in June. During the past six weeks, the army Signal Corps has given final acceptance each day to more than \$2,000,000 worth of radio and communications equipment, and awarded contracts for \$1,000,000,000 worth of additional apparatus.

Persons who desire jobs in plants working on secret or confidential government contracts will no longer be required to turn in birth certificates to prove American citizenship, the War Manpower Commission announced. The WPB labor division said the aircraft industry will require more than 1,500,000 workers by the end of 1943.

A total of almost 20 million persons will be drawn into war production and service in the armed forces during this year and next, the WMC reported. Consequently, employers can no longer afford to set arbitrary age limits or discriminate against workers because of sex, race or nationality, the commission stated. The WMC said the United Electrical Radio and Machine workers of America (U. E. R. M. W. A.) is conducting a drive in forty war production plants to encourage hiring and upgrading of negroes and workers in other minority groups.

Rationing.

The OPA said about eight million eastern motorists have received basic permanent gasoline rationing coupon books. Congressmen, members of State and local legislatures and other government officials will be eligible for "special ration" for use in Legislative or official business, and bona fide political candidates may have extra rations for travel necessary to the prosecution of their candidacies, the office said. Special rations will also be issued for travel to obtain medical service, to demonstrate cars or boats for sale, to transport.

(Continued on page four)

No Joy Riding For Duration

Nelson Declares No Tires Except For Essential Use

Washington, July 15.—War Production Chairman Donald M. Nelson reiterated to Senators today that automobile tires will be available only for military requirements and absolutely essential civilian use, with pleasure riding out for the war's duration, despite speeded efforts to produce synthetic rubber.

Nelson presented a Senate agricultural subcommittee new estimates showing the expected synthetic rubber production in 1943 to total 33,000 tons with 1944 production "very large," or about double 1943's.

A shortage of critical materials for construction necessarily limits the magnitude of the program, he declared, saying there seemed to be a "public misconception" that announcements of new processes for making synthetics meant abundant rubber for all.

Synthetic rubber production this year will total only about 32,300 tons of all types, Nelson said, but added he expected the rate to be stepped up to 73,300 tons in the first half of 1943, and to 264,700 in the latter half of that year.

"We hope in 1944 to have enough rubber for necessary uses," Nelson commented.

The No. 1 necessity, he added, was rubber for the military needs of the United States and its allies. In addition, he said, tires must be made available for such essential civilian services as moving people to and from their jobs, performing necessary commercial and farm trucking, and meeting such community needs as police and fire protection.

In response to a question by Senator McNary (R-Ore.), Nelson said it was true that the United States now was exporting some rubber, both to the United Nations actively engaged in the war, and to South American countries where tires were needed in order to move out raw materials urgently needed in this country.

Nelson said he was strongly opposed to creation of another agency to spur production of synthetic rubber for civilian use. The power to allocate raw materials should not be decentralized, he declared.

At the outset, Chairman Gillette (D-Iowa) of the subcommittee expressed the hope that Nelson's appearance would "help dispel some of the confusion" about the rubber program.

2,100 Take First Aid Course In Pitt County

"Pitt county people have rallied to the cause of Red Cross first aid," C. W. Willard, chairman of the Pitt County Red Cross First Aid committee, said. "There are more than 70 instructors in first aid and they are doing fine work. More than 2,100 persons have taken the courses in the county. Classes will be continued for the duration of the war," the chairman stated.

Gas Price Boost May Be Dropped

Jones Says Oil Firms To Be Subsidized; Senators Attack RFC Action

Washington, July 15.—Nullification of the recent 2½ cents per gallon gasoline price increase in the Eastern rationing area appeared certain tonight after Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones disclosed that the government will subsidize transportation of gas, fuel oil and kindred products into the shortage area.

He made his announcement after Senator Richard B. Russell, (D-Ga.), had revealed the plan to the Senate and Senator Harry F. Byrd, (D-Va.), charged that Jones had taken the first step "in a gigantic subsidy program" without legal authority.

Byrd asserted that Jones should be brought before Congress to cite his authority for the "\$300,000,000" venture which, it was declared, will be expanded to other industries if Prices Clear Leon Henderson has his way.

Russell said the subsidy arrangement was President Roosevelt's approval. It was expected to mean that soon the price of gasoline in the rationing area—17 states and the District of Columbia—will return to the level in effect before Henderson authorized the increase to cover the extra cost of handling petroleum products overland instead of by ocean tanker.

RED ARMY RETREATS AGAIN—TOWARDS GATE TO CAUCASUS

WAR IN BRIEF

Russians abandon two more towns as German offensive toward Caucasus oil fields continues. Red Army, however, stiffens resistance in fierce fighting for Voronezh.

Nazi Marshal Rommel falls in greatest effort to break ring of British steel around Axis forces in Egypt.

Demand for second front to aid Russians grows in Britain as progress in war against U-Boats is reported at London.

Clever American Coast Guardsman found four would-be Nazi saboteurs on Long Island beach and gave alarm that terminated in their arrests.

House Naval Chairman Vinson assigns fees charged service engineers on government contracts.

British Spitfire squadron makes extensive sweep of French invasion coast.

SPITFIRES

London, July 15.—Two hundred Spitfire fighters flying only a few feet above the ground shot up 200 miles of the French coast in a low-level attack today, blasting camps, gun posts and scattering German troops "all over the countryside."

A squadron of Fighting French airmen played a leading role in the attack, the Air Ministry News Service said tonight, sweeping over the cliffs at Fecamp to attack light anti-aircraft field artillery batteries, wireless stations, freight cars and troops.

The fighters sped to the attack when fine weather returned today and strong formations of planes roared over the channel.

Four offensive operations were reported, centering on the St. Valere area, across the channel from England, and over Fecamp, St. Valere-en-Caux, and Dieppe.

The news service said gas works at St. Valere-en-Caux were "set afire."

In other operations, a 500-ton coaster towing a target for German anti-aircraft batteries was sunk by Spitfires off the Dutch Coast, the ministry added.

SUGAR

A survey made by a national farm magazine revealed that 500 typical farm women used an average of 125 pounds of sugar each for canning and preserving last year.

STRONGER

The United States is much stronger in the present emergency because of the large use made of farm machinery, say experts of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

India Breaks With Britain

Gandhi Declares Negotiations At An End

Wardha, India, July 14.—Mohandas K. Gandhi supplemented the new all-India congress party resolution demanding Britain's withdrawal from rule of India with the emphatic declaration today that there can be no further negotiation.

To reporters sitting cross-legged before him at his little school colony five miles from his cotton and farming town, Gandhi conceded that violence might result from the resolution.

"I don't want rioting or anything of that sort as a direct result of these measures," declared the wisest of little Indian leaders. "If rioting takes place I shall feel helpless."

The resolution must be ratified by the all-India Congress committee, which has been called to meet at Bombay August 8, but never in the history of the party has an important decision of the 15-man working committee been overruled by the 350 members of the general committee.

Asked whether he expected the British to "come to terms," Gandhi replied that "they are human beings and I am never in despair of the possibility of human beings making an upward growth."

It was stated that the resolution does not imply that the British be banished physically from Indian territory, that the United Nations be handicapped in fighting the Axis or that the war be paved for aggression against India.

Gandhi said that the government, led by him and backed by the congress, would be "a mass movement of the widest possible scale" but that he was not courting imprisonment—"that is too soft."

"If I am dragged into jail," he said, "it is difficult to know what may happen. I can fast. I have before. But I hope to avoid such steps."

Abandons Town of Boguchar and Millerovo As German Offensive Continues; Red Army Stalls Nazis At Voronezh, But City Still Is In Danger; Germans Using Reserves

Moscow, July 16.—Two German columns driving in separate sectors toward the steel city of Stalingrad have forced Russian troops to evacuate the towns of Boguchar, on the Don river in the north, and Millerovo on the Moscow-Rostov railway supply line and only 175 miles from Stalingrad, the Russian high command reported early today.

On the northern limits of the battlefield, Soviet troops fought off a renewed series of German attacks against Voronezh, the midnight communique said. There were no material changes in other sectors of the long fighting line.

The official Russian press meanwhile warned that the "menace is great" on the approaches of the Caucasus.

Fighting in the Voronezh area is "developing with increased ferocity," the Russians said. "A number of fortified positions have changed hands several times."

Soviet troops, counter-attacking after German thrusts in several sectors, have forced Nazi tank and infantry units to withdraw with heavy losses.

German Reserves. Several German reserve divisions have been rushed eastward from France and Belgium, the communique said, to fill the gap in the Russian front caused by tremendous Nazi casualties.

At Voronezh, where the Germans made their first great plunge south-eastward nearly two weeks ago, eleventh-hour counter-attacks on the south side of the city pushed the Germans back to the point where they crossed the Don, and on the north approaches the Russians stopped the upper arm of an encircling movement, then threw the attackers into retreat.

The Germans had attempted the encirclement after their breakthrough west of the city, accomplished by large numbers of fresh troops and hundreds of tanks followed by automatic riflemen, had run into stubborn Red Army resistance.

One important position west of Voronezh, together with a forest, was reported recaptured in the Russian counter-attacks. Russian dispatches said also that the third German motorized infantry division, which appeared on the battlefield only yesterday, had been forced to withdraw, and was replaced by the new 168th motorized division.

A small railway crossing also was retaken, and in another sector the Russians applied such pressure that the Germans retired, blowing up a bridge.

No Quick Optimism. There was, however, no room for quick optimism as to the city's fate, for the Germans were sending fresh troops and new machines with every hour into the battle area on the eastern bank of the Don.

Thousands of soldiers were fighting from behind every natural barrier and tanks were charging over the battlefield, where walls of fire were twisting into huge columns of smoke.

German dive-bombers in small groups were hammering repeatedly at the Red Army formations, but the Red air force again was showing considerable strength both over the Don battlefield and the Don River crossings forced by the Germans.

Northwest of Voronezh, a number of German tanks were reported destroyed on the west bank of the Don by strong Russian armored forces.

Southeastward, on the rim of the northern Caucasian area south of Boguchar, the Russians were reported holding today after a considerable withdrawal to new positions. One regiment of German infantry was reported stopped with the loss of more than 700 of its effectives.

There was no news, however, from the region east of Lischansk, some 125 miles southwest of Boguchar, or from the Rubezh front northeast of Moscow—both areas of powerful German offensive action.

Southeast of Leningrad, in the Volkhov sector, the Germans were reported driven from a fortified village they had occupied since last fall.

Russian bombers, raiding an unidentified enemy post, were credited with destroying five warehouses, sinking a transport and a tanker and starting big fires.

The drunk, fumbling old car, said if he couldn't get tires he could rub-her.