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AMERICANS MAKE STRONG COMEBACK

Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, Paris, Dec. 27.—An outfight underestimation of German striking power, coupled with either a failure to learn of, or to appreciate, Von Rundstedt's mobile reserve movements behind the lines, today appeared more than ever to be the major factors behind this first serious Allied setback since the successful invasion of Europe.

That would seem to place the responsibility for the Nazi breakthrough high up in the Allied staff and to suggest that any important shakeup in the command—none has materialized as yet—would amount to finding a scapegoat.

However, the forthright Allied battle boss, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, has shown no inclination to hunt for scapegoats, either here, or previously during his command of the Mediterranean theater. In this respect it can be recalled that the Allied commander displayed square-jawed directness in supporting his generals right down the line from Field Marshal Montgomery on back in the days when slow progress around Caen brought some public criticism of his British colleague.

the northern side near Liernux. Well in Hand.

Premier Hubert Pierlot told the Belgian parliament that he had word from "the highest Allied authority that the situation at the front is well in hand" and "there is no reason for anxiety." He did not name his source, but on such a military matter "the highest Allied authority" could be only the high command.

The German radio, which all day had been taking a less cheerful view of the situation, finally announced that Allied troops were striking violently both on the northern and southern flanks of Field Marshal Karl Gerd Von Rundstedt's salient and conceded that German troops in some frontier sectors of the Duchy of Luxembourg had withdrawn to the Siegfried Line.

The Germans contended that "practically the whole Third American Army" was counterattacking in the south and admitted this was intended to "corner German divisions between the Salm and Ourthe rivers."

Trio Lose Lives As Car-Train Hit

Franklington, Dec. 26.—Three Negroes were killed and another injured critically at 1:30 p. m., Tuesday at Wilder's grade crossing, four miles north of here, when a Seaboard diesel train struck a car in which they were riding.

The dead were: Jessie Allen, 35, of Ingleside; Emmett Bobbitt, 22, and Arthur Rodwood, 36, both of Franklin County. A young Negro, whose name was not learned, was hurt critically.

R. H. Hester, engineer of the train, a freight north bound, said he saw the car sitting on the tracks as he rounded a curve 500 feet away. Brakes were applied immediately, Hester said, but the heavy train could not be brought to a halt before striking the vehicle. Hester added that he saw exhaust coming from the rear of the auto and could not understand why the machine could not be driven off the tracks.

The three Negroes were killed instantly. Engineer Hester and Conductor J. H. Maynard held the train until Coroner R. A. Bobbitt arrived from Louisburg. Traffic was delayed about an hour and a half on the main line of the Seaboard. The coroner has not yet completed his investigation.

BRONZE STAR

Sergeant Willard A. Wilder has been awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious conduct in action on 21st of August 1944, in France. Sergeant Wilder was assigned to duty as a section chief with a field artillery organization engaged in a direct fire fight with an aggressive enemy. At a moment when quick thinking and intelligence was needed, Sergeant Wilder directed his guns from an exposed position and surprised the enemy with sudden and accurate fire so that an ammunition dump and several large enemy guns were neutralized, enabling infantrymen to attack and annihilate the remaining opposition. At all times during this operation Sergeant Wilder was subject to enemy fire as he directed his guns from a position without concealment.

Sergeant Wilder is the son of Thomas S. Wilder, of the Sevier Paths Community. He attended Edward Best High School. He was a member of the Louisburg Company of the National Guards. He has been overseas since February 1942, present he is somewhere in Germany.

ATHENS MEETING FAILS

Athens, Dec. 27.—Peace proposals offered by the left-wing E L A S (National Liberation Front) were declared unacceptable today by members of the Greek Populist party, and the conference called by Prime Minister Winston Churchill adjourned its second meeting without agreement of ending the Greek crisis.

However, other conference delegates said they would consider the ELAS terms and present their reply later. As today's conference ended, former Greek Premier Stylianos Gonatas declared that if the ELAS proposals were accepted, they would mean "a complete dissolution of the state."

While the peace terms were being discussed in the Grand Bretagne Hotel in Athens, fresh fighting flared up in area behind British headquarters as British paratroopers forged ahead with tanks and armored cars in an effort to clear the southern triangle leading into Omonia Square.

Truce Violated

Earlier in the day, the British announced that ELAS artillery had violated a conference truce by firing upon a British warship and Anglo-Greek naval headquarters in Piraeus late yesterday, and that as a result British air action would start again.

It had been agreed previously that no artillery action would be taken by ELAS fighters, or air action by the British, for 45 minutes as of 3 p. m., while ELAS delegates were being taken to last night's conference, at which Prime Minister Churchill appealed for an end to the strife. The atmosphere at that conference was so tense that all delegates surrendered their sidearms at the door.

INSTALLS OFFICERS

The Epsom School Committee held a regular meeting at the Epsom School on December 18, in order to install new officers, and transact certain business.

G. W. Eaves was elected to act as chairman of the committee. K. G. Weldon, recent appointed member, is to serve as secretary, and R. T. Renn will fill the duties as treasurer.

With reluctance the Committee acknowledged the retirement of former Chairman J. Ira Weldon who is now serving as a member of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Weldon has served as an efficient member of the Epsom Committee for the past eleven years, and during this time he has given himself wholeheartedly in service for the growth of the school. Among many improvements that have come during his years in office are the addition of four new rooms to the main building, the agriculture building with workshop, and the installation of a home economics department in the school.

Due to the late date on which school began last fall, it is foreseen by the Committee that it will be essential for school to be conducted on certain Saturdays after the Christmas Holidays, in order that school may close as early as possible in the spring. In this time of emergency, the school is endeavoring to cooperate with school patrons by closing school as early as possible, so that pupils may be released for farm work in the spring. Pupils are urged to make plans to attend school regularly including Saturdays, in order that the plan may be successful for the school and for school patrons.

The future progress of the poultry industry in North Carolina lies largely in reducing mortality and increasing the performance of individuals in the flock.

Latin American growers will produce a substantial supply of Manila hemp, which was cut off by the advance of the Japanese in the Pacific.

Plane Crashes

Reports reached Sheriff John P. Moore's office Wednesday that an Army plane had crashed in a corn field near Henry Edwards store near Gold Sand. It was understood the plane became too heavily burdened with ice. No one was reported injured. Sheriff Moore transmitted the information to proper officers who assured him they would send a wrecker at once. No further details have been received.

LOUISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

The pastor will preach Sunday morning on "The Sin of Nothingness." It is time to look over the year which has passed, and see ourselves in the light of record. Everyone is invited.

In the evening there will be a Watch Service, beginning at 11:15. It will be a service given over to dedication of life to the highest things. Let each one come with a passage of scripture, or a poem, or a thought out of the heart.

9:45 a. m. Bible School.
11:00 a. m. Morning Worship
11:15 p. m. Watch Service and Dedication Service.

EDMUND A. JOYNER

Franklington.—Edmund Apperson Joyner, 67, died at Duke Hospital, Durham, Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock after a brief illness. He was a son of the late W. H. and Sue Williams Joyner. He attended the Institute for the Blind at Raleigh and served as an instructor there for several years.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. E. M. Surving of Franklington, with whom he made his home, one niece and one nephew.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 3:30 p. m. from the home of Mrs. Speed. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery here.

BUYS BONDS

The New York Life Insurance Company has subscribed \$200,000,000 to the Sixth War Loan. It was announced at the Company's Home Office today. With this purchase the New York Life's holdings of United States Government obligations will amount to \$1,971,000,000.

TO OPEN GROCERY

Mr. W. C. Joyner is having the store room formerly occupied by Dr. H. G. Perry as an office, remodeled and rearranged for a Grocery store. He expects to get in a stock of groceries in the next few days and be open to the public.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Sunday will be Church School at 9:45 and Morning Prayer at 11:00. The subject of the sermon will be "Christmas Thoughts," announces Rev. H. S. Cobey, rector.

The business man was seeking a new employee for an important job. The first applicant came to the door:

Business Man: Come in; lock the door and sit down.
The applicant obeyed.
Business Man: By the way, are you sure you locked the door?
The applicant arose and tried it, finding it locked.

The second applicant went through the same procedure, but when he was asked about the door, replied:
Second Applicant: I don't need to try it; I know its locked.
Business Man: When can you come to work? I need a man who is sure of himself.

The Director of Distribution in WFA said recently to the national canners that the present food inventory is less than 500 million dollars, about half of one year ago.

Two Minutes Old—Owns Bond



Pamela Ann Smith, of Valejo, Cal., became the owner of a U. S. War Bond at the age of two minutes. Her father, Edward Smith, telephoned to have the bond made out in her name the minute he heard of her birth. She is seen with her mother, who holds the Walt Disney certificate showing Pamela's bond cradle roll membership. (K. L. McKindsey photo)

FACULTY MEMBER

Fort Sill, Okla., Dec. 26.—(FAS)—Lieutenant Colonel Frank W. Wheelless, Jr., Louisburg, North Carolina, has been assigned as a member of the staff and faculty of the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He is a veteran of campaign in the South Pacific. Colonel Wheelless is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Wheelless, 297 Church Street, Louisburg.

AIR MEDAL AWARDED TO FRANKLINGTON MAN

15th AAF in Italy.—Sgt. Hugh I. Cash, 224 Hillsboro St., Franklington, N. C., aerial gunner on a P-24 Liberator bomber in the 15th AAF, has been awarded the Air Medal "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy."

His group, commanded by Col. Philip R. Hawes, Pearl River, N. Y., has flown more than 140 combat missions and has twice been cited by the War Department for outstanding performance against the enemy.

Prior to entering the Army, Cash was a textile worker, employed by the Parker Novelty Mill in Franklington. He was graduated from Franklington, High School.

His mother, Oma Cash, lives at Franklington.

MRS. SAINT P. DENTON DEAD

Mrs. Saint P. Denton, 52, died at her home, Norlina, Route 1, early Friday of a heart attack. Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 3 p. m. from the Norlina Baptist Church by the Rev. Bob Hart and the Rev. J. F. Roach. Burial was in Wrennendale Cemetery at Norlina.

Surviving are her husband; seven daughters, Mrs. J. F. Gup-ton, Jr., of Raleigh; Patience Denton, of Louisburg, and Dora Ruth, Dorothy, Lucille, Lilly and Patty Denton, all of the home; and two sons, S. T. Denton, of Louisburg, and Sgt. H. P. Denton, of the Army Air Forces in England.

Mrs. Denton formerly lived at Wood, and was the mother of Mr. Thomas Denton, night policeman of Louisburg.

Determine fertilizer requirements for 1945 now. Advise your dealer of your requirements and cooperate by accepting early delivery where necessary.

The mint is the only business that makes money without advertising.

Wooten - Sanderlin

A wedding of unusual beauty was solemnized Thursday evening at eight o'clock at the Louisburg Baptist Church, when Miss Shirley Salome Sanderlin became the bride of John Ellis Wooten Jr., United States Merchant Marine, of Wake Forest.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. Paul Bagby, of Louisburg, assisted by the Rev. Samuel T. Habel, of Suffolk Va.

Gladiosi and fernery provided the floral background. Cathedral tapers burned in tall standards. Mrs. John C. Burrell, organist, of Warrenton, rendered a program of nuptial music, using the Wagner and Mendelssohn wedding march as processional and recessional. She played "Traumeri" during the ceremony. H. M. Hardy, baritone, of Warrenton, sang two solos prior to the entrance of the wedding party.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a wedding gown of white satin and Chantilly lace fashioned with sweetheart neckline. The sleeves, with insertions of lace, ended in points over the hand. The full skirt, with panels of lace, formed a circular train. The full length veil of illusion fell from a coronet of seed pearls. She carried a showered bouquet of white roses centered with orchids.

The maid-of-honor, Miss Louisa Young, of Hickory, cousin of the bride, wore a gown of ice-blue satin and net with sweetheart neckline, and bracelet length sleeves, and carried an arm bouquet of American Beauty roses.

The bridesmaids were Misses Bridget Gentle, of Suffolk, Va., Julia Raney, of La Crosse, Va., Gwendolyn Hobbs, of Cherryville, N. C., Eloise Young, cousin of the bride, of Mars Hill, Gwendolyn Potter, Belhaven, and Mrs. Kays Gary, Thomasville. They wore identical gowns of ice blue fashioned after that of the maid of honor. The bridesmaids' and maid-of-honor wore ostrich tips in their hair and carried arm bouquets of roses.

The flower girl, Nancy Sanderlin, cousin of the bride, of Council, N. C., wore a replica of the bridesmaids' gowns and carried a nosegay of pink roses.

The groom's best man was his father, John Ellis Wooten, of Wake Forest. Ushers were George Eddins, Jackson Heights, N. Y., G. Aubert Nimmo, brother-in-law of the bride, Suffolk, Va., Lt. Col. C. T. Wilkinson, Dr. Paul T. Harrell and Lt. Johnny Johnston, all of Wake Forest, and Pvt. Cam Stallings, of Zebulon.

The bride's mother wore a gown of teal blue crepe trimmed in sequins and she wore a shoulder corsage of red roses. The bridegroom's mother wore blue crepe with beaded embroidery. Her flowers were a shoulder corsage of tallsmen roses.

Mrs. Wooten is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Talmage Sanderlin, of Louisburg, formerly of Suffolk, Va. She is a graduate of Mars Hill College and the University of North Carolina, where she did graduate work. She is now with the Children's Bureau of the State Department of Public Welfare in Richmond, Va.

Mr. Wooten attended N. C. State College and is a graduate of Wake Forest College. He has just returned from seven months service in the Pacific with the Merchant Marine.

For traveling the bride wore winter white wool trimmed with gold. Her accessories were black. Pinned to her muskrat coat she wore a corsage of red roses.

Immediately following the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Sanderlin gave a reception at their home for the bridal party and out-of-town guests. Mr. and Mrs. Hobson Sanderlin, of Council, received guests at the front door and introduced them to the receiving line comprising the wedding party, parents of the bridal couple and Mrs. B. J. Sanderlin, of Council, grandmother of the bride.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Aubert Nimmo, of Hickory, were the hosts. (Continued on Page Four)