

## Germans Make Slow Progress In Drive On Russian Forces

### American Forces Occupy Iceland By Mutual Agreement with British

Suffering terrific losses in men and equipment, the German hordes have made comparatively little progress in their drive against Russia during the past few days. Several big battles are now centered along a six hundred mile front, and while the Germans may be making small gains they are taking the beating of their lives, and certainly after measuring their losses they can claim no advantageous gains. Late reports state that the Germans had been checked and that the Russians were counter-attacking.

While Berlin claims the Stalin line has been penetrated in several places, a report from Moscow states that the Germans have suffered a series of costly defeats all along the 1800 mile front, from Kandalaksha above the Arctic Circle to the Dniester river facing Rumania, where an entrapped Nazi tank battalion was "completely wiped out," today's Soviet communique said.

The communique told of the wiping out of 8,500 German soldiers killed, wounded and prisoners—and the destruction of 50 tanks in one sector alone of the vast fighting front.

The communique, covering Monday's vastly extended fighting, admitting that the Germans had reached the Dniester, which stands as a formidable barrier before Russia's Stalin Line and the rich Ukraine, but said that the Red Army forces had stood stubbornly and wiped out the tank battalion.

Around Kandalaksha—above the Arctic Circle, at the top of the White Sea along the key railroad from Leningrad to the port of Murmansk, the Germans were "defeated" and thrown back after driving a wedge about 80 miles into Russian territory, the communique said.

The Germans also were hurled back around Ukhita, 145 miles south of Kandalaksha, and 40 miles inside Russia from Finland's new eastern border, as well as in the vital Kexholm region on the Karelian Isthmus only 80 miles north of Leningrad, Russia's second city.

The announcement of the heavy reverses suffered by the Germans followed disclosure by an official Soviet spokesman Monday night of the mobilization of a gigantic peoples army "numbering millions" and placing all men between 17 and 55 under arms.

This peoples army, it was stated, will provide an almost inexhaustible pool of fighting manpower drawn from Russia's 200,000,000 people.

Fierce fighting appeared to be raging along virtually the entire 1,800 mile front from the Arctic to the Black Sea, mostly before the bastions of the Stalin Line on the 16th day of the titanic battle of Russia.

The communique told of "a heavy battle raging" in the Lepel region, just east of the key town of Vitebsk and 40 miles north of the main Minsk-Moscow-highway, classic route of invasion followed by Napoleon.

Around Bobruisk, 90 miles southeast of Minsk, the Germans "tried many times to cross the Dniester"—broad and deep barrier before the main Russian defense line—but each time they were said to have faced murderous fire which drove them back to their original positions "with great losses."

Likewise in the Novograd-Volynsk sector on the Ukrainian front, barely 120 miles due west of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, the Russians were said to have "tenaciously prevented" the advance of large German panzer forces spearheaded directly at Kiev.

The Germans struggling to hold their advance positions against the new Russian counter-attacks and heavy defense blows, were reported throwing away lives by the thousands.

An official spokesman said that the Germans in 16 days have lost between 700,000 and 1,000,000 men, virtually as many as were lost in two years of war before the start of the Nazi attack on Russia on June 22nd.

The Red air fleet, trading blow for blow with the German Luftwaffe, was said in today's communique to be heavily bombing German mechan-

(Continued on page six)

## County Man Leaves For Panama Service

Marshall Griffin, youngest son of Mr. W. W. Griffin, left early today for Panama where he will enter the air corps for service during the next two years. An employee of the Virginia State Highway Commission for the past several years, young Griffin volunteered his services. Mr. Griffin and another son, Ben, left home this morning at 2 o'clock to bid the new recruit goodbye in Suffolk.

When Mr. Griffin reaches Panama, Martin County will have three young men in the service there. Wheeler Martin, Jr., and Daniel Litley have been there for quite a while.

## Drive for Old Aluminum Pots And Pans Here on July 24-25

Facing a serious shortage in aluminum, airplane manufacturers are looking to American homes to boost the supply of the precious metal. U. S. Director of Civilian Defense F. H. La Guardia is appealing to the citizens to support the movement which will be advanced on July 24 and 25 throughout the nation. Housewives are cordially urged to gather up their old aluminum pots and pans and even contribute some of those still in use that the serious shortage may not delay the defense program. The need has been recognized as urgent. Anyone having scrap aluminum is urged to offer it to the government. Aluminum stocks such as wire and other articles have already been recalled and made over into airplanes and bombers. A willing and effective response to the call is necessary if defense plans are to advance.

Tentative plans for handling the collection of the scrap metal here have already been made, local Boy Scout leaders stating that the Scouts will visit every home on the dates specified. The campaign will be conducted through the joint direction of the Office of Production Management and the Office of Civilian Defense. Aluminum so salvaged, after proper treatment, can be used almost entirely for defense purposes.

The scrap is to be offered free to the government, and any and all proceeds from the sale to private manufacturers will go to the Office of Civilian Defense for use in advancing the defense of the nation, as a whole.

Those persons in the outlying communities are asked to deliver any old aluminum pots and pans to a central point at their earliest convenience, the place to be designated later.

## Will Start Cemetery Enlargement Project

### FIREMEN MEET

Approximately 150 firemen from over eastern Carolina are expected here for the quarterly meeting of the East Carolina Firemen's Association in the Legion Hut tonight. Officers of the North Carolina association are also expected to attend the meeting from Salisbury, Durham and Raleigh.

The visitors will be welcomed by Mayor J. L. Hassell at 7 o'clock, and Jerome B. Flora, of Elizabeth City, will reply to the address. An entertaining program has been arranged, and the visitors will be served barbecue and Brunswick stew.

## Meets Relatives In This County After Quarter of Century

### Magdaline C. Powell Learns Of Relatives After a Long Search

Lost to her relatives in this county for almost a quarter of a century, Magdaline Clark returned July 4th for the first time since she was carried away as a three-months-old baby. It was a happy reunion for the young woman who married a man named Powell and who now lives in Tennessee.

Back before the United States declared war on Germany in April, 1917, a family by the name of Voller moved to this county. Will Clark, of Cross Roads, married one of the Voller girls. When Magdaline was three months old her father was called into the armed service, and her mother returned to the Voller home in Wilson. Mr. Clark lost his life in the war, and connection with his family was broken until just a short time ago when a long search for her was successfully concluded.

When the estate was settled about 22 years ago, Magdaline was entitled to an interest in the income from a piece of land. She could not be found and the money—about \$100—was placed in the hands of the clerk of the Martin County Superior Court. After remaining in his trust for fifteen years, it was turned over the State University, according to law. That amount will be repaid to her by the University just as soon as her identity can be established. About two years ago, Magdaline's grandmother, Mrs. Delia Clark, died, and in settling the estate as administrator, Mr. Roy Clark, set aside Magdaline's share. The search for her was renewed.

Unable to get information by correspondence, Mr. Clark turned to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and the officer went to Wilson some time ago, searched the records in county offices there and learned that the Voller family and Mrs. Powell, then a little child, had moved to Phoebus, Virginia, years ago. Investigating further, the officer learned that Magdaline had relatives there, but that she had moved to Tennessee. Contact was soon established, but no word was received from the young woman until last Friday when she, accompanied by relatives and a friend, drove to Sheriff Roebuck's home.

The sheriff recognized the family resemblance, and accompanied the party to the old Clark home in Cross Roads. It was a happy reunion for all. Mrs. Powell, stating that she knew her father's name was Will Clark, explained that she did not know where he had lived or whether she had any relatives on her father's side. She produced a picture of her father, a duplicate of the one held by her uncle, Roy Clark.

Finding it necessary to return to her home in Tennessee, Mrs. Powell stated that she wanted to come back and visit a while with her newly-learned relatives.

## This Week In Defense

President Roosevelt told his press conference he still hopes the U. S. can stay out of the world conflict. His statement was made in answer to a reporter's question if changing international situations had caused the President to alter his belief, stated in 1939, that the U. S. could and would stay out of the war.

Navy Secretary Knox told his press conference reports that Navy vessels were engaged in convoy duty were "absolutely untrue," and said reports that the Navy had lost lives, material and equipment or had been involved in any encounter with belligerent craft, were "most decidedly" not true.

OPM Director Knudsen issued a statement urging greater defense efforts and said "nothing could be further from the truth" than that Russia's entry into the war had averted danger to this country. Mr. Knudsen said "we are in somewhat better shape than we were last summer but we need the spark of enthusiasm—yes, of patriotism—to carry the program forward faster."

Aid to Russia, France, China—Acting Secretary of State Welles announced Russian requests to buy strategic materials had been received and brought to the attention of the proper Government officials.

Mr. Welles also said the U. S. has under consideration a plan to relax export restrictions on Russian commerce to permit the flow of war materials to that country. He also announced U. S. and North African French officials have arranged a plan calling for continuous movement of two ships carrying tea, sugar and other food to Africa, and two carrying strategic materials to the U. S.

President Roosevelt suspended duties on British Burma vessels reaching the U. S., to aid the flow of supplies to China over the Burma Road. Treasury Secretary Morgenthau extended China's \$50,000,000 credit here for another year. Assistant Commerce Secretary Hinckley asked commercial airlines for 12 transport planes to meet "emergency defense requirements of the democracies."

Army—In his bi-annual report to the Secretary of War, Army Chief of Staff Marshall urged that Congress pass legislation permitting holding selectees, National Guardsmen and Reserve Officers in the service for more than one year. General Marshall said that conditions have changed to such an extent that a "grave national emergency" exists of a more severe character than the public realizes.

The War Department announced it will promote its officers on the basis of merit instead of seniority and permit re-enlistment for Regular Army men only if they are qualified for promotion in order to weed out those not able to take advantage of further training.

Air—The War Department awarded contracts totaling more than \$478,000,000 for planes, engines and parts. The JPM announced its aircraft specialist, Merrill Meigs, will go to England to confer on production methods.

Gen. Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces, lowered requirements for pilots of heavy bombers so that fliers with 750 hours military air experience could man the ships to be built at a rate of 500 a month. The Air Force also announced experimentation with glider training for its personnel.

Selective Service—More than 750,000 men who reached 21 since Selective Service registration last October registered for service throughout the nation. President Roosevelt ordered 900,000 men inducted into the Army as selectees now in service finish their year of training.

Pending final action by Congress on legislation deferring men who were 28 on July 1 or before, Selective Service Director Hershey ordered temporary deferment of this age group. He also advised local boards to defer registrants with one or more dependents—whose support they make "any substantial contribution." The only exception to this, he said, would be men who married in the interim.

(Continued on page six)

## Two Men Badly Cut In An Affray Here

Two colored men were dangerously cut and a third one was bruised in an affray on South Pearl Street here last Saturday morning about 12:30 o'clock. The cause of the attack was not definitely determined at a hearing held before Justice J. L. Hassell Saturday evening, and the case was sent up to the county court for trial. There is a strong possibility that the knife wielding was a climax to trouble over women, officers stated.

James "Preacher" Ruffin was making ready to carry a drunken woman to her home from a friend's home on Pearl Street. Carrying her in his arms he was just passing her in the car when Luke Scott attacked him with a knife, clearing a deep 18-stitch gash across his back. Scott ran without taking time to view his carving act. Ruffin turned on Joe Ferrell with a knife and inflicted cuts requiring 36 stitches. Ruffin was patched up in the hospital at once, but Ferrell fled and was not sewed up until later in the day. After he was attacked, Ferrell went to his home on West Warren Street, washed part of the blood off himself, changed clothes and went to a relative's home several miles in the country and spent the remainder of the night. The victims were able to be up for the hearing.

Carried into court, the three men claimed they had been attacked by this or that one in the group, that the one attacked with a piece of scuffling turned and cut another, forming a vicious circle that nearly cost two of the men their lives.

## Commissioners Are Considering Changes in Collecting Taxes and Listing Properties For Taxation

### Delay Likely In Paving Fill Across the River Lowgrounds

Unofficial reports heard here today state that a delay in paving the Roanoke River fill at this point could be expected, that the work will hardly be completed before some time in late September. Arrangements for setting up a distribution plant near the river have just been completed, the contract calling for the use of the land "during four to six weeks beginning in early August."

No direct information from the contractor, Ben H. Martin, of Easley, S. C., could be had immediately, but according to unofficial reports equipment for paving the road has been confiscated by the government, and that work on the project here will be delayed until another one is completed. It was stated that the contractor ordered a new mixer several weeks ago, that the government stepped in and diverted it to its own use. A second one was also said to have been diverted, forcing the contractor to use his old

equipment after the project now underway is completed.

The fill contractors have virtually completed their work, except for filling in a few low spots between the river and creek bridges. The route from Conine Creek east is reported complete, and the contractors are moving their "pans" or wheelers to a project in Wake County. It was learned this morning that the contractors had planned to build up the low spots and fill in the washouts by tomorrow night, but a heavy rain just before noon is almost certain to delay the work another day.

The bridge contractors have completed the construction of the rip-raps or bridge abutments and are planning to move their equipment to another job tomorrow or Thursday.

Now that work on the dirt fill is virtually complete, it is believed that traffic can move over the route without difficulty except in extremely wet periods.

## Board In Recessed Session Considers New Budget Today

### Board Acts in Accordance With Order of Grand Jury For Revamped System

Plans for revamping in accordance with an order issued by the June Grand Jury the Martin County tax system as it relates to listing both real and personal properties and the collection of taxes were tentatively discussed by the Martin County commissioners in regular session here yesterday.

While no immediate changes are hardly possible, it is possible that the proposals discussed at the meeting yesterday will lead to far-reaching departures in the methods of handling the basic tax structure as it relates to listing and collecting.

No action has been taken, but it is fairly certain that some changes will be effected now that it has been fairly definitely determined that nearly 1,000 persons did not offer or otherwise failed to get their names on the tax books for the current year. It is not quite clear what change will be proposed in this connection, but several plans can be advanced. Some counties have a full time man to work the tax business the year around, giving personal attention to every account and resorting to the courts as a last resort to complete the tax books.

Plans for handling tax collections in other counties are being studied and the board yesterday considered those plans. The insolvent list was discussed, one report stating that there are "solvent" accounts on the insolvent list, that the county is paying a percentage fee for collection of such accounts. It was admitted that collection is difficult in many instances, but that drastic action should be taken to effect collection.

The commissioners, it is certain, are not trying to upset, the entire county tax system. They are merely working for better results. It is possible that a county manager could coordinate the agencies and effect a greater efficiency in the listing and collection of taxes, and at the same time pay his salary with savings that are possible in other departments and accounts.

Reporting to the board yesterday, Commissioner Christopherson said that 165 accounts had been added to the books in the past two weeks as a result of the drive to round up non-listers in the county. Nearly \$500 had been collected in cash and an additional \$600 had been protected by notes and promises to pay by July 23 when court action will be taken against those persons who fail to comply with an order handed down by the superior court last month. It is fairly apparent that leniency in Martin County's tax system is being eliminated, and prosecution in the courts is to be expected on or after July 23.

Spending most of yesterday handling routine business and considering proposed changes in the tax system, the board hardly touched on its budgetary problems. A new tax rate is expected some time today after budget figures are tentatively approved. Yesterday, the board granted a \$500 appropriation for providing quarters for service men in connection with the county USO program. It was explained to R. H. Goodman, USO chairman in this county and who appeared before the board, that the appropriation was being advanced on the condition that a like amount be raised by the organization.

The new forestry protection budget was approved at \$1,500, a figure \$200 greater than the appropriation granted last year. Messrs. Tighman and Loggett, of the forestry service, appeared before the meeting and explained that with a \$200 increase in

(Continued on page six)

## Boy Drowns; Several Hurt In Car Wrecks

### Montie Long Drowns In Gardner's Creek Late Last Saturday

### Miss Mary Roberson Critically Injured In Auto Crash Near Here Sunday

Montie Long, Jamesville Township youth, lost his life by drowning, and several other persons were hurt, at least two critically, in accidents that marred the long July 4th week-end in this county. There were other near-serious events, all adding up to give the county its most tragic July Fourth period recorded in recent years. While this county was counting its toll of dead and injured, the nation reported approximately 500 fatal accidents, the work of the grim reaper being extended into at least forty-two of the forty-eight states. The auto claimed a majority of the lives, but the killing and maiming did not measure up to predictions.

After an unusually quiet day, highway patrolmen were called to investigate the first accident of the long holiday period late Friday night about 10 o'clock when Charlie Bland, 37-year-old white man and a victim of infantile paralysis, was seriously injured in a freak accident at Piney Woods, near Dardens. Hardly able to walk before the accident as a result of infantile paralysis, Bland suffered fractures of both legs and is in a Washington hospital, late reports stating that it is not certain that he will ever be able to walk again.

Bland was sitting on a bench with several others in front of Browning's store. Lewis Brown, Williams colored man, driving an old worn out 1934 model car, stopped in front

(Continued on page six)

## Fourteen Men Are To Report To Army

Fourteen Martin County colored youths are to report to the Army at Fort Jackson, S. C., on Thursday of next week, the draft board having posted induction orders this week. The list does not include a single volunteer, the heavy calls of the past few weeks having exhausted the volunteer list.

The names of those being called to answer on July 17 are John Maryland Slade, Council Cornelius Smith, Rhoden Purvis, Johnnie Bell, Curtis, Roberts, Joe Cherry, Armand Lee Ward, Rufus Jones Jones, William Henry Wiggins, George Spencer Jones, Henry Thomas Peel, Abram Fonville, James Jasper Neal and James Arthur Grimes. A fifteenth man was called, but he fell down on his physical examination at the last minute and only fourteen will leave this county next week. To keep the record straight Rufus Jones Jones is also known as Hezekiah Christopher Columbus Jones.

Twenty-seven Martin County white men are scheduled to leave for Fort Bragg on July 23.

Five of the nine colored men leaving the county last week were rejected as follows, Ben Junior Bennett, S. T. Jenkins, Lonnie Woolard, Dock Perkins and Wilson Williams.

## BOND QUIZ.

Q. What is the reason for buying a Defense Bond?  
A. To keep America free. To show your faith and pride in your country. To warn foreign dictators that the United States is the strongest country in the world.  
Q. Bu if I do not have enough money to buy a Defense Bond, what can I do?  
A. Buy Defense Postal Stamps, on sale almost everywhere. Your post office, bank, department store or druggist has them, or can get them for you, at 10 cents upward. Save enough stamps to exchange for a Defense Bond.  
Note. — To purchase Defense Bonds and Stamps, go to the nearest post office or bank, or write for information to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C.

### CLASSIFICATIONS

Anticipating calls for large numbers of men next month, the Martin County Draft board members will hold a meeting here this evening at 8 o'clock for the classification of several hundred registrants. The board will also consider about a dozen requests for reclassifications or deferments.

Registration cards, prepared last week, will be shuffled by the board and serially numbered preparatory to the national lottery or drawing some time after tomorrow.

## Funeral Service Is Held for Victim of Drowning Monday

### Montie Long, 18 Years of Age, Loses Life in Creek Saturday Night

Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock near Jamesville for Montie Long, 18-year-old white boy, who lost his life while swimming in Gardner's Creek at Tar Landing last Saturday night about 10 o'clock. Said to have gotten overheated at a fire in Jamesville a short time before, the young man is believed by some to have died from an heart attack, one report adding that hardly a pint of water was found in his body. Bill Holliday, 12-year-old boy who saw the tragedy from the bank was quoted as saying that Long, showing signs of great pain in his face, threw up both hands and toppled over backwards. He never called for help, it was said. His body was removed about thirty minutes later and brought here and prepared for burial. Rev. W. B. Harrington conducted the last rites, and interment was in the Charles Long cemetery about one-half a mile from the home.

He was the son of Mr. Andrew Long and wife, Mrs. Mamie Modlin Long, of near Jamesville, and was a high-type young gentleman—Up until a short time ago, he spent nearly all of his time at home, seldom leaving the farm even to make short visits to Jamesville or Williamston. Possessed of a quiet character, he was held in high esteem by all those who knew him. He recognized his duty on the farm, and willingly contributed his part in earning a livelihood for himself and all members of the family. He was a member of the Baptist church at Cedar Branch, and while he did not play a prominent part in its leadership, he was regarded as a promising young man who in time would take his place in the promotion of worthwhile undertakings, both civic and religious, in his community.

Besides his parents, he is survived by the following brothers and sisters, Mrs. Irving Watson, of Roper; William Long, of Washington County; Mrs. Joe Sheppard Holliday, of near Williamston; Andrew Long, Jr., Cecil Long, Mamie Clyde and Maxine Long, all of the home.

Many neighbors and other friends were present to pay a last tribute to his memory at the service yesterday afternoon.

## Tourists Stop Here To Escape Traffic

After witnessing five serious accidents on their drive through several states, four New York tourists abruptly halted their holiday trip here early last Friday morning. "I was about to have a nervous breakdown after seeing the accidents and weaving in and out of heavy traffic during the early part of Thursday night," one of the tourists was quoted as saying.

Finding a safe refuge in a local hotel, the group spent a quiet Fourth here, but they declare it was an interesting stop. During not to re-enter the highways until after the weekend, the group visited tobacco fields and barns, industrial plants and attended a colored baptizing Sunday. They left yesterday morning on their return trip to New York.