

Young Sailor's Convinced That Number 13 Is Lucky

Son Local Woman Tells Experience In Pacific Area

Marvin Scott, son of Mrs. Mary Poytrass of Roanoke Rapids and the late Paul Scott, believes that his lucky number is 13, and that without this good luck omen he would not have been able to survive a long series of sea disasters which has followed him consistently since joining Uncle Sam's Navy on October 13, 1941.

"Don't tell me 13 isn't my lucky number", he said in an interview in Raleigh Sunday. Scott, one of the 13 survivors of the U. S. S. Sims, which was sunk in the Coral Sea Battle on May 7, was visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gatling in the Capitol city.

Scott joined the navy as a fireman first class on October 13, 1941, he shipped out of Norfolk on December 13; he arrived at Pearl Harbor on February 13, and was one of the 13 survivors of a bombed vessel.

Scott stated that 35 enemy planes early in the morning attacked the Sims, which was escorting an oil tanker. A Greensboro boy, Boyd Pike, shot down the first plane; Scott shot down the second. A third plane circled the ship and dropped a bomb. On the way back the pilot stuck his fist out of the window and shook it at the crew of the Sims. A few moments later Scott hit the plane. It caught on fire, and dived at the tanker, killing the pilot.

The Sims was so badly wrecked by the bombing—only 16 of the crew of 257 survived—that the survivors had to take to a life boat. While the ship was sinking, Scott cut the lines holding one side of the lifeboat, climbed to the boat seats and cut the other lines. He and the boat fell into the sea, going far below the water.

He started a motor, threw a rope to the other boys, but the rope caught in the propeller, fouling the engine. The men paddled away from the sinking Sims. When far enough out, Scott dived into the water, and loosened the rope.

Three of the 16 survivors died during the first night. The remaining 13 were in a lifeboat for three days, with no water or food. Most of the time was spent in bailing out water. On the fourth day, they boarded a badly damaged tanker that they had been escorting.

Upon boarding the tanker, Scott went in quest of fresh water, finding a tap three decks below the water level. He also found some orange and tomato juices, but there was no food to be had. For two days and nights the 13 sailors worked at getting a large lifeboat off the tanker, and upon finally getting it on the sea, an allied plane located them.

Sometime late an American picked up the 13 survivors of the Sims and the survivors of the tanker. "When I saw the smoke from that ship coming toward us", Scott said with a smile, "I started praying, 'Lord, don't let it be a Jap'".

Scott has been engaged in four Pacific battles to date. He was on the Yorktown when it was bombed at Midway. His vessel was bombed at Pearl Harbor. In fact, his nine months in the Navy have been crammed full of action—and he likes it fine.

Revival To Open Sunday At Quankie

Revival services will begin at Quankie Baptist Church on Sunday, August 2, at 12 o'clock, Eastern War Time, according to an announcement issued today.

There will be an afternoon service at 3 o'clock, according to the announcement, and lunch will be served on the grounds at 3 o'clock.

Rev. Edward W. Greene, the pastor of the church, will be assisted by his brother, Rev. R. Thomas Greene. There will be no services on Monday morning, but on Monday night at 8 o'clock the first night service will be held. Two services will be held daily on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, at 10:30 A. M. and 8 P. M.

According to the announcement, Rev. Edward Greene will preach half the sermons during the revival, with his brother taking care of the other half, alternating each morning and evening.

Rev. E. W. Greene is a graduate of Wake Forest college and is pastor of Mt. Grove, Paudall's Chapel and Quankie churches in the Tar River Association, and State Line Baptist church in the Concord Association in lower Virginia.

Rev. Robert T. Greene is a graduate of Dabney High School

in Vance County and will be a Junior at Wake Forest College this Fall. Both of these young men are married and each has a daughter.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Wilson Given Commission In Medical Corps

MEDICAL REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER, CAMP BARKELEY, TEXAS—(Special) July 29—It's Lieutenant Wilson now! Clunet Raine Wilson, 24, erstwhile sergeant, and son of Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Wilson, 738 Roanoke Avenue, has risen from the ranks and is now wearing the gold bars of a second lieutenant, Medical Administrative Corps. Lt. Wilson, prior to training at officer's school, was attached to Company B, 105 Medical Battalion.

One of a class of 238 enlisted men chosen on their merits to attend Officer Candidate School, he completed the 12-weeks' intensive training and received his second lieutenant's commission on July 22 from Brigadier General Roy C. Heflebower, School Commandant. Major Charles L. Driscoll, M.A.C., administered the oath of office to the members of this first class to graduate at the new Camp Barkeley Medical Administrative Corps Officer Candidate School. Lieutenant Colonel George E. Armstrong, M. C., Assistant Commandant and school director, presided at the ceremonies.

In civilian life Lt. Wilson was a clerk. He attended the Turberville High School.

New "V-Mail" Is Service Offered Soldiers Abroad

Local postal officials have announced the arrival in the local office of a supply of the new "V-Mail" blanks, which has been made available to provide the most expeditious dispatch and reduce the weight of mail to and from the personnel in Uncle Sam's armed forces outside the continental United States.

When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is in operation, Postmaster L. G. Shell said, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious form of transportation available for reproduction and delivery to the boys who are now on foreign soil with American troop consignments.

Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equip-

ment is not in operation will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available, according to Shell.

The new "V-Mail" sheet is made up in the form of a letter, which is blank on one side, for writing purposes, and has a place for the name and address of the person to which the letter is being sent, and can be folded up so that it forms an envelope which meets present postal regulations.

These letter forms can be secured from the local post office at any time, to be used for writing to boys who are serving outside of the continental United States, only.

LETTERS from Our Readers

Letters should be short and to the point. Their content does not necessarily express the views of the newspaper. However, we welcome short letters of expressions on any matter of general public interest from any Herald subscriber. All must be signed.

To the Owner & Editor of The Herald:

In reply to the reading in the Herald about our boys in the service getting our home town paper. I think the owner and editor of this paper is doing a great service in cheering our boys, sweethearts and husbands with the home town paper. To the folks here at home, let's put ourselves in our boys' places that are serving and fighting for our country and just think how we would feel to get the home town news so far away from home. Our boys look forward to the paper just like they would a letter from home. Our boys are giving their service for our country. Citizens of Roanoke Rapids, let's help our owner and editor so he can continue to send our boys the paper. I have a son, Pfc. William H. Evans, in Temple, Texas. He says the home town paper is a great pleasure and comfort to him. Am very grateful to the owner and editor of the Herald for sending it to him. I enjoy the home town paper very much but would be willing to give up the whole paper for some boy in service to get a Herald. Thanking you,

Mrs. Lucy Evans
1014 Jackson St.,
Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

CONFERENCE CLUB

Miss Margaret Boyd was hostess to the Conference Club on Tuesday evening, July 21, at her home on Cedar Street. Miss Doris Topping gave the program, "Christian Growth".

Bill Peede and Rena Radcliff gave short talks on the "Importance of Youth Training". Miss Boyd served Pepsi-cola and cakes.



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J. ROY TAYLOR

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