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VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II IS RELEASED

A case attracting more than usual attention came up this week in City Court when Ernest Wood, 23 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Wood, was tried on a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct before Mayor Kelly Jenkins.

Wood, who was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army because of shell shock injuries sustained by him at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese sneak-attack there December 7th, was arrested by city policemen Clayton Matthews and I. B. Rainey at the bus station after midnight last Wednesday. He remained in jail until making bond Friday morning.

At the trial Monday it was disclosed he was suffering from injuries to his shoulder, and a cut over his right eye. He had received medical attention for his shoulder sprain after being released from jail. It was contended these injuries were inflicted by the arresting officers. Both policemen disclaimed any knowledge of how he received the injuries and denied that he had been handled roughly, though they testified he resisted being put in the cell, clinging on to the iron bars as he passed into the cell block. They also stated he had fallen after being placed in the cell.

Wood admitted drinking a bottle of beer earlier in the evening, and that he and three other men had some wine just prior to his arrest. He was at the bus station waiting to meet his father, he said, when a sailor picked an argument with him. The sailor, it seems, had previously given station attendants some trouble, and they called for the police to come and oust the sailor. When officers arrived they also arrested Wood.

Mayor Jenkins ruled that "Prayer for judgment be continued on condition he refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages for six months." F. C. Williams, general manager of Roanoke Mills Co., at whose plant Wood was employed, appeared before the court and spoke in behalf of his employee.

MEETING OF BANKERS ON BOND SALES

Held Friday Night At Halifax; Stress Sale During Month Dec.

A meeting of bankers from Halifax and Northampton Counties was held Friday night at the Bank of Halifax, in Halifax, for the purpose of discussing the sale of War Bonds in this area for the month of December. The meeting was called by Millard F. Jones, Vice-President of the Planters National Bank, Rocky Mount, who has charge of District 2 of the state on the "Victory Bond" committee for the furtherance of the sale of war bonds and stamps.

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Establish Maximum Fire Wood

PRICES TO BE CHARGED IN TOWNSHIP FOR ALL

Joe Craddock Back Home!

TELLS OF PERILOUS ADVENTURES AT SEA

Was Given Up For "Missing"

Joe S. Craddock, Roanoke Rapids youth serving as Boatswain Third Class, United States Navy, now knows what it feels like to spend eight days in a fragile lifeboat at the mercy of wind and water, and on rations that most of us

would consider insufficient for a six-months-old baby.

Joe's ship in convoy with many others was returning to somewhere this side of the Atlantic following a perilous voyage of several months. Sub after sub had been persistently snapping at their heels, cutting loose with murderous tin fish and making themselves generally obnoxious. Now, Joe and his outfit were getting closer home — at any rate they were back in the Western hemisphere — and it looked as though shore leave might not be so very far away after all.

Craddock was stationed aft, on the Gun Deck, one peaceful Monday afternoon about 4:30 o'clock, when — wham! Two torpedos caught them directly amidships. Immediately afterward came the order, "Abandon Ship," for two torpedos can knock the bottom out of almost any craft in short order. Joe, along with some sixty others, managed to crawl into a damaged lifeboat that had been knocked loose from its lashings and into the water by the force of the explosion, and — there they were — hundreds of miles from land in a patched-up boat, loaded to capacity, and with little or nothing to eat.

The boat was in command of the second mate, who with no compass or navigating instruments set out for the nearest coastline quite some hundreds of miles away. Using a makeshift sail, in heavy seas, with only the sun and stars for guide, they made it. Eight days of hell for Joe and his shipmates. Blistering sun all day and freezing cold at night. Two of the men went crazy and had to be lashed down. Another jumped overboard. All in all it was tough going, but they made it, and on a food ration that should put to eternal shame those who bemoan our coffee and sugar shortages. Here's what Joe got to eat for eight full days and nights: 6 beans from a can of pork and beans, 8 strings of spaghetti, 1 piece of hardtack, and 2 ounces of water. Not exactly sumptuous, was it?

Then a landing on a barren coast, and a 3-mile hike across the desert to a little native hut. There they found coconuts and fruit to last until the kindly native left and returned with assistance.

Finally for Joe Craddock a plane trip back to America, and home by (Continued On Page 12—Sec. A)

World War Hero



HOMER H. BERRY

of Roanoke Rapids, is one of six men who fought their way out of a Jap-infested jungle at Guadalcanal. Full details of their exploits will be found on Page 9 — Section A, this issue.

CHURCH FIRE AT HAWKINS ON SUNDAY

Hawkins Chapel Methodist Church burned down Sunday morning, November 29. The piano and some of the church furniture was saved. Insurance amounting to around \$4000 was carried on the building.

The fire was discovered Sunday morning during the preaching service. It is believed that a faulty flue was responsible for the blaze, as smoke was first seen coming from the attic in the vicinity of the flue.

The church, a brick veneered building, was only completed during the past summer. The frame building had stood for many years but the brick were added in a remodeling job that gave the church favorable comparison with almost any country church in the county. The remodeling work was under the supervision of Rev. D. D. Broome, pastor of the church during the past four years.

Prior to the consolidation of the two branches of the Methodist Church, Hawkins Chapel belonged to the Protestant group.

Rev. D. C. Boone, formerly of the Robersonville charge, is the new pastor of the church, and announced that church services would be held elsewhere until a new church can be built.

THREATENED SHORTAGE OF WOOD EXISTS

State OPA director Theodore S. Johnson issued an order November 30 establishing maximum prices of sawed and split firewood sold at retail in Roanoke Rapids effective December 2, Dr. B. U. Ratchford state price officer, announced tonight.

The order establishes delivered prices on split pine firewood and oak firewood at the retail level following an OPA field investigation which revealed a threatened shortage of such firewood in Roanoke Rapids township. The order covers only Roanoke Rapids township.

Ceiling prices on other types of wood will remain at their present levels.

Wood covered in the order is as follows: Pine firewood in four foot lengths, \$7.50 per cord; \$3.75 per half-cord; and \$1.90 per quarter-cord. Oak firewood in four feet lengths, \$7 per cord; \$3.50 per half cord; and \$1.75 per quarter cord; Oak firewood in lengths from 10 inches to 20 inches, \$7.50 per cord, \$3.75 per half cord; and \$1.90 per quarter cord. Pine firewood in lengths from 10 to 20 inches, \$8 per cord, \$4.00 per half-cord, and \$2.00 per quarter cord.

JOHNSTON IS KILLED IN ACTION

Pfc. Eugene Johnston, 17, of Littleton, was killed in action in the Solomon Islands, the U. S. Marine Corps announced Thursday in a telegram to his mother, Mrs. Irene Johnston.

He joined the Marine Corps Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the Pearl Harbor attack. After his training at Parris Island and New River he was sent to the South Pacific. He has not been home since February. His last letter was dated October 8 at Guadalcanal. At the time of his enlistment he was a student at the William R. Davis School.

He was the son of the late George Johnston of Littleton. Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Irene Walker Johnston, two brothers, George Johnston, Jr., U. S. Navy, now reported somewhere at sea; Gordon Johnston of Littleton; two half brothers, B. W. Johnston, Greenville; and John D. Johnston, formerly of Roanoke Rapids, now in the army and stationed at Keesler Field, Miss.