

Navy Man Home On Furlough

**"GUNNER JONES"
VISITS FAMILY**

In Southwest Pacific 2 1/2 Yrs.

For two and a half years Dallas H. Jones roamed the Southwest Pacific, undergoing extensive training and then fighting the Japs, before he found time to visit his parents and brothers and sisters on Route 2, Halifax. He came straight home from the Solomons via San Diego and dropped in on the family unexpectedly, and during the coldest weather of the year. His folks were surprised at his unannounced visit, and only the warmth of their welcome kept him from freezing in the 10 above weather, he said.

Gunner Jones, who's father is I. E. Jones, formerly of Duplin County, has two brothers in the armed services and another brother registered in the 18-19 year old draft. In addition he has two more brothers and seven sisters.

His brother Talmage, is now somewhere in North Africa, and another brother, Osborne, is in Naval Air School, after serving for a period as a gunner on a merchant vessel in the Atlantic. The younger brother, Carl, who has recently registered, is a senior in the Aurelian Springs School, where Dallas and Osborne both attended before going into the service of their country.

Dallas, who carries a rating of AOM 1c and serves as a gunner and bombardier in a Catalina Flying Boat under this rating, was awakened at Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941, by the chattering of Japanese machine guns as the Jap aviators strafed the hangar barracks in which he was sleeping. Although 30 of his comrades were killed in the barracks, he went unscathed in that first attack and has held that luck throughout his fighting experience.

Jones says that he and all the others thought they had been awakened by their own planes on maneuvers and did not realize that they were being attacked until they saw men begin to fall dead or wounded.

He rushed from the barracks (inside the hangar of their huge pa-

trol boats), he said, and grabbed a machine gun from a plane and began to blast away at the attacking enemy. Whether he hit one he does not know, but cannot see why he did not as they were in close range and he sprayed plenty of lead in their direction.

It was while he was using the gun to help drive off the planes that he had his narrowest escape during the entire war. He had stationed himself in an open space away from the buildings and planes to keep from being in line of fire and to have a better view of the oncoming planes. After the first wave of strafing planes passed over, bombing planes filled the air with all sorts of bombs and incendiaries. A bomber got one direct hit on the barracks in which he had been sleeping and then he found himself flattened by an explosion near at hand. He picked himself up and examined himself for wounds but found none. There, fifty feet away from him and his gun was a giant hole, the crater of a heavy bomb. As luck had it, the bomb had hit in soft sand, buried itself, and the surrounding sand had received and absorbed the impact of the shrapnel. The concussion had flattened him.

Following the attack, Jones inspected three trees through which he had been shooting at the Japs. They were riddled and some were shot clean off.

He said that the first salvo of bombs the Japs dropped fell into the bay and he and his comrades thought for a minute that it was not going to be so bad after all. But the next salvo hit dead center, he said.

Scared? Jones said that while he was shooting, he felt no fear whatsoever. Afterwards he was

afraid. But the main cause of the fear of all was the fear of an invasion by land. He said he fully expected to see the Japs come up and start disembarking on the shore at any time. What with all their planes shot to pieces, this would have been a serious situation, he said.

Following the attack at Pearl Harbor, Jones remained doing patrol duty in his big Catalina (PBY) After that period, he was sent to the Solomons area where he stayed until about the first of the year, 1943.

His duties there consisted of patrolling the far reaches of the Pacific around the Solomons and carrying wounded out of Guadalcanal. Asked if he ran into any of the other boys from the county, he said that he did not know. He might have seen them but they didn't know where he was from and he didn't know where they were from.

It was during the months of September and October, 1942, that he and his crew spotted and torpedoed two Jap cruisers, which were listed as damaged and probably sunk. Jones received a citation from Admiral Halsey for his part in these two actions.

It was Jones' squadron of patrol planes that scouted the Jap task force which the Americans surprised and licked so decisively off Steward Island near Guadalcanal on the night of October 12.

Jones says the most unpleasant experiences he has had were the times when his plane had to go in close to an enemy ship in order to get the identification through a skyful of ack-ack. He says that is sort of a helpless feeling, the crew not being able to shoot back.

Jones has come through several engagements with Japanese patrol planes but has not tangled with any of the famed "Zeros" thus far. He said that his crew had not shot down any of the enemy planes but had silenced their gunners on different occasions.

Jones would not reveal distances flown on the patrols nor the bases and islands from which they operated but said that their usual patrol was for 13 hours, giving the reporter some indication of the miles covered.

Bringing back a vast amount of information concerning the Solomons and the natives there, the

Another Colored Woman Of County Joins The WAAC's

Clara Mills, Halifax County Negro, who formerly lived on R. F. D. 1, Box 33, Roanoke Rapids, was officially enrolled on February 25th as a member of the Woman's Auxiliary Army Corps. She is one of several colored women of the county to recently join the WAAC's, thus releasing another soldier for active combat duty. More enlistments for the WAAC's are being sought among colored women. Those interested in joining may obtain full details from Lt. Mary J. Norton, 3rd Officer, WAAC, Headquarters Armed Forces Induction Station, WAAC Enrollment Station, Fort Bragg.

Young Navy man entertained the senior class at Aurelian Springs school on Monday of this week with some accounts of the Polynesians and the Melanesians found in that part of the world.

Young Jones is now enjoying a 30-day leave, his first since he joined the Navy in 1940. He will report back to the west coast some time during the first days of March.

Lt. W. B. Johnson To Report To Naval Reserve

Lt. William D. Johnson of Weldon received a commission with the Naval Reserve and has received his orders to report to Fort Schuyler, New York for advance training.

Lt. Johnson is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Trueblood of Weldon. He holds a degree in electrical engineering having graduated from North Carolina State College.

ENTERTAIN JOINTLY

Mesdames Lewis Cooke, Roy Smith and Maude Howenton of Enfield were hostesses to a number of friends at a Friendly Circle meeting in the home of Mrs. Cooke on Thursday evening, Feb. 25th, with twenty-two members and two visitors present. Mrs. Alton Gossett had charge of the business program, with Mrs. Ed Batchelor Miss Mary Sykes and Mrs. R. O. Hux, assisting in the routine. During the evening, Mrs. C. O. Strickland led the entertainment. Refreshments were served to the members who were present.

**PEOPLES
Entire Week of
MARCH 14**

The HALL OF FAME PICTURE!

Another Triumph from M-G-M, the producers of "Mrs. Miniver"!



A love drama packed with suspense and excitement! The picture throbs with every thrilling heartbeat of James Hilton's famed novel!

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**JAMES HILTON'S
Random Harvest**

Directed by Mervyn LeROY • Produced by Sidney FRANKLIN
with PHILIP DORN • SUSAN PETERS
HENRY REGINALD BRAMWELL
TRAVERS • OWEN • FLETCHER
Screen Play by Claudine West, George Froeschel and Arthur Wimperis
Based Upon the Novel by James Hilton
A MERVYN LeROY PRODUCTION

THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



"Our men in the service in this war have pretty definite ideas about what they're fighting for and the way they want to find our country when they come back...don't you think so, Judge?"

"I certainly do, George. Just a week or so ago I was reading in a national magazine the results of a poll taken among our soldiers. Each man was given a questionnaire containing twenty-five 'assignments' for the folks at home. He was asked to check the first five in order of importance to him.

"Out of thousands of replies the first 'assignment' to the folks back home was 'Make sure I'll have a job in my chosen field of work when I get back'. Number 5 was 'Make sure that Prohibition isn't put over on us again.'

"When the men in the last war came home and found prohibition had been put over on them behind their backs they were sore as boils. You can see from what I just told you how they feel about it this time, too."