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NEGRO SLAYS 2 WITH RIFLE

Lt. Cecil Coburn Missing

Thomas Hart Is Being Held Without Bond

Thomas Hart, 22, negro, is in Halifax County jail charged with the slaying Wednesday morning about 6:30 o'clock of Marjorie Blackman, negro woman, 24 years old, and her brother, Algie Blackman, 19. The double killing took place on the farm of T. W. Myrick, about 4 miles from Littleton. The slayer used a 22-calibre rifle.

According to information given out by Sheriff H. A. House, Hart claims the negro woman had "been bothering him and messing in his business."

As soon as news of the killings reached the Sheriff's office a posse of deputies went to the scene. They learned that Deputy Sheriff E. L. Crawley, who was the first officer to reach the place had already had a "run-in" with Hart. After the shooting the negro, it is said, left the house, taking with him a shotgun, three pistols and the rifle to a cotton field. When he was approached by Deputy Crawley, the negro, it is alleged, shot at the officer three times with the shotgun. Crawley returned the fire with a shotgun, striking the negro with several of the small shot he was using.

Bloodhounds then took up the chase after Hart had fled, chasing him for about five hours. About 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon he came out of the woods and surrendered himself to Wallace Foreman and Macon Moore near Wollett's mill at Littleton. Taking part in the chase of the fugitive were Sheriff House, Deputies A. J. Brigman, J. L. Mountcastle, G. F. Gray, E. L. Crawley, C. O. Strickland, Judge Dickens, Jack Whitehead, Dick Bracey and J. A. Draper.

A version of the killing as the negro gave it to Deputy Sheriff Brigman relates that: "I was at the woman's house and she was quarrelling with me and fussing. I told her I was tired of it and was going to kill her. She kept right on. I went and got me some shells and then got the rifle from a place near where she was sitting at a table in the kitchen. I loaded it and walked to the door and told her I was going to kill her. She called me a d - - - lie and I shot her."

The bullet that ended the woman's life entered her forehead between the eyes. She died instantly.

Rushing from the house, the dead woman's small brother ran to a tobacco barn and related the happenings to her older brother, Algie. He ran to the house, and, according to Hart, had a four-

In France



Above is Pfc. Elton B. Whitby, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Whitby, 901 Vance street, who is somewhere in France. His address is: Pfc. Elton B. Whitby, 34665994, APO 513 care postmaster, New York. He joined the service in February, 1942.

Sergt. Jones' Organization Given Praise

S/Sgt. William T. Jones, 3rd Platoon Sergeant, along with his organization, 4126th QM Truck Co., has received a commendation for the excellent operational record of his organization under combat conditions, in moving supplies off the beaches, during a period when road and dump conditions were extremely bad at a far Pacific Island outpost.

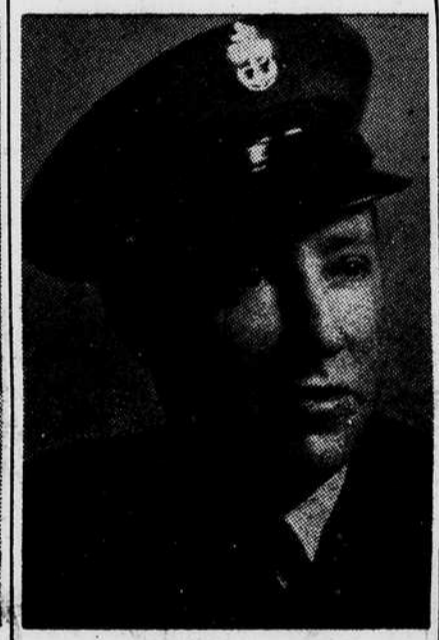
"We are rushing this job," he said today. "We all are in a hurry to get it over and back to the U. S. A."

Sgt. Jones was inducted at Fort Bragg, April 12, 1941. He received his basic training at Fort Bragg and in the Field Artillery at Camp Livingston, La. Before induction Sgt. Jones lived with his mother, Mrs. Irene Whitfield of Roanoke Rapids.

New Secretary Merchants Asso.

Mrs. Louise James has assumed her duties as secretary of the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association, according to an announcement made today. Mrs. James succeeds Mrs. Blair Gibson, resigned.

Given Promotion



Pictured above is Joseph H. Jolly, aviation chief electrician mate, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Jolly, who was promoted May 15 from A. E. M. 1/c to his present rank. He is now serving with a B-24 and B-26 squadron. His brother, Daniel, is doing duty in the South Pacific. Prior to entering the service in September, 1942, Jolly was employed by the Halifax Paper Company.

Traynham Is Given Dinner In Honor of 25 Years' Service

The Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, home offices in Greensboro, through George Elliott, manager of Eastern North Carolina, with headquarters in Raleigh, honored Dave L. Traynham with a barbecue dinner in the Blue Room of the Rosemary Cafe last Tuesday evening.

The occasion was in celebration of Mr. Traynham's 25 years' service with the company. He was also given a pin, round in shape, with a reproduction of the Jefferson Standard building on its face and set with a diamond at the bottom. He had previously been given a 20-year pin a few years ago.

Mr. Traynham began his association with the Jefferson Standard on July 31, 1920. He at that time was connected with the National Loan & Insurance Company in charge of the life insurance department. Later he left the employ of this firm and entered the grocery business, and continued to represent the Greensboro insurance company. A few years later Mr. Traynham went with the Citizens Bank and Trust Co., finally purchasing the insurance department.

In 'Sunny' Italy



Shown here is Floyd E. Speight, USCG, son of Mrs. Mammie Speight. Floyd is now in "Sunny" Italy, after having been stationed at Brunswick, Ga. His wife, the former Miss Marie Walton of Fitzgerald, Ga., is making her home here with her mother-in-law for the duration. Floyd's address is Floyd E. Speight, coxswain, Navy 728, box 23, care Fleet Postoffice, New York City, N. Y.

Sgt. Crouch And Others Commended

For the part they played in the historic Superfortress low level incendiary attacks on Japan, Staff Sergeant Francis E. Crouch, of Roanoke Rapids, and hundreds of other enlisted men at B-29 bases in the Marianas have been commended by Major General Curtis E. LeMay, commanding the Twentieth Air Force, based on Guam.

Sergeant Crouch is a B-29 mechanic with the ground echelons supporting the almost daily Superfort assaults against the Japanese mainland.

"Your determination, skill and courage have delivered a stunning blow to the empire of the Rising Sun," General LeMay said. "Combat crews and the hardworking maintenance and staff people are to be heartily commended for their accomplishments in these..."

First Message Reported Him As Wounded

Second Lieutenant Cecil P. Coburn, 24-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Coburn, 521 Roanoke Avenue, was last Saturday reported by the War Department as missing in action in Germany.

Cecil, who was educated in Roanoke Rapids schools and was a student at V. M. I. when he entered the service in June, 1943.

On March 2 of this year Mr. and Mrs. Coburn received a telegram from the War Department in which it was stated that Lieut. Coburn had been slightly wounded in action. No details were given. Every effort was made by young Coburn's parents to obtain additional information but without success. Nothing more was heard until Saturday when the War Department message came correcting the first statement and definitely stating that Lieut. Coburn was listed among those missing.

Child's Hand Is Blown Off

While playing with dynamite caps on the front porch of his home, Jesse Lee Draper, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Draper of Seaboard suffered the loss of his left hand when the "caps" exploded. The mother of the child said she didn't know what he was playing with and had no idea how he came into possession of the dynamite caps.

The accident occurred Tuesday morning about 10:30 o'clock. He was brought to Roanoke Rapids Hospital for treatment.

Bryant Boys Come Home

Pfc. Hinton Ray Bryant and Corp. Greely V. Bryant, sons of Mrs. T. B. Brown, 936 Jackson street, are at home from overseas duty.

Hinton, youngest of the two boys, is home on a 30-day furlough. He was with the 87th division and saw 114 days' action with Gen. Patton's Third U. S. Army. He has three battle stars, Good Conduct Ribbon and Combat Infantry Badge. Young Bryant was a scout in the infantry.

Greely has been discharged from the service under the point system, he having a total of 111. He wears the ATO, ETO and pre-Pearl Harbor ribbons and two battle stars.