

FORMER RESIDENT WINS ARMY HONOR

MITCHELL FIELD, March 2.—Staff Sgt. Garland B. Cook, 30, of Wilmington, N. C., son of Mrs. Val Cook of 609 South Fourth street and husband of Mary Reigle Cook, at present in Mississippi with her parents, recently arrived here at the new cantonment hospital by Army hospital transport plane from England.

Cook, who was with a tank destroyer battalion with the 28th Division, was in the heaviest fighting in this war in the Ardennes sector in Belgium. Wounded four times, he has a Purple Heart medal with three clusters.

He doesn't care to speak of his exploits, but the fact that he has also won the Silver Star and the Bronze Star, tells his story for him. "I exposed myself more or less" is about all he would say.

A member of the Regular Army, he entered it in 1938. His outfit landed in France on D-Day plus two. Though he was in September and October he still stayed in the fight in Belgium. On November 5, he was wounded again.

Caught by the Germans in a trap, he saw most of his friends killed or wounded in a spot called "Purple Heart Road" on November 6.

For four days they suffered, of which he lay seriously wounded for three. When help came but seven of the company were alive. By that time Cook had assumed command.

Tall, serious, he is one of the men who really knows what war means. "Those boys were close friends, I knew them for years," he said quietly. "The members of my platoon knew they were in a trap, knew there was no hope. Not one gave up. They remained at their posts until they were knocked out."

100 NAZI PLANES DOWNED IN BATTLE

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fighters and 33 bagged by ground strafing.

Tactical air forces based on the continent sent fighter, medium and light bombers in relays at German communications all along the flaming battlefield. Reconnaissance disclosed the Germans were making especially strenuous efforts to supply troops east of the Rhine on the Ninth Army front. The continual air attacks, however, stranded many German trains on torn-up stretches of track.

Italy-based Fortresses and Liberators of the U. S. 15th Air Force blasted targets in the Linz area of Austria for the fourth time. Their escorting Mustangs and Lightnings carried out strafing missions in the same region. Targets in northern Italy also were hit.

Allied fighters and medium and light bombers from forward bases in France and Belgium were being thrown at German communications on the blazing Western Front in maximum strength.

By noon U. S. Ninth Air Force planes alone had flown 1,111 sorties gouging road and rail movement in the Krefeld area ahead of the Ninth Army and attacking other traffic from Duesseldorf southward along both sides of the Rhine to near Bonn. Twin-engine Lightnings scored hits on the big Hohenzollern rail and road bridge. The main span over the Rhine between the eastern and western parts of Cologne.

Racing to within 31 miles of Berlin in a diversionary stab, the U. S. Eighth Air Force heavy bombers broke into four separate teams and hit these targets:

- 1—Railyards in Dresden serving the Eastern Front, hammered by 450 Flying Fortresses to support the Russians. These yards were badly mauled in a series of attacks last month.
- 2—A synthetic oil plant at Magdeburg and the big Krupp tank and self-propelled gun factory, bombed by 350 Liberators.
- 3—A synthetic oil plant at Bohlen, south of Leipzig, and the natural oil refinery at Rostitz, south of Bohlen, hit by 225 Flying Fortresses.
- 4—Railway yards at Chemnitz, 35 miles from the Czech border, bombed by 225 Flying Fortresses. This also is an important eastern front defense hub and was hit in a string of raids last month.

All the oil targets were bombed visually but the rest were obscured by clouds.

Wallace Pledges Office To Develop Production

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been taken away from the department.

Mr. Roosevelt now is casting about to find someone to run the loan agencies. He told his news conference today that Jones is not holding over in this post pending choice of a successor.

Jones had no comment. He turned over his duties to Undersecretary Wayne C. Taylor January 24 and since has been winding up his affairs in the big RFC building built during his regime in Washington's banking district.

Wallace's first act as Secretary followed the pattern in behalf of "the little fellow" which his backers say always has been his guide. He appointed a committee of business men and bankers to report as soon as possible on "suggestions for enabling small business to do its full share" in furnishing postwar employment.

Greatest American Drive Reaches The Rhine River

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miles, and tonight it was clear that the battle of the Rhine, one of the swiftest of Allied triumphs, was near an end, a dispatch from Field Marshal Montgomery's headquarters said.

As the flight became as chaotic in some places as that in Normandy last summer, Gen. Eisenhower toured the front with Simpson to see how well the Ninth had carried out his orders to destroy every German soldier west of the Rhine. The smoke of American shellbursts mingled with the smoke from the factories of Duesseldorf, administrative center of the Ruhr Basin with a population of 539,000. The suburb of Neuss, itself with a normal population of 80,000 held out but a short time before the charge of the 83rd Infantry Division.

German guns, emplaced on the east bank of the river, opened fire as the Americans appeared, and mobile American artillery returned the fire in a thunderous cannonading. The river is 1,180 feet wide at this point and is 50 feet deep.

Ten miles to the northwest, the 102nd Division in 10-mile advance captured Krefeld, a steel and railway city of 170,000 population. Between the two cities, the Second Armored Division also reached the Rhine last night almost simultaneously with the 83rd Division and today captured Boesinghoven, three miles south of the Germans' main Rhine escape bridge on the superhighway east of Krefeld.

To the west the 35th Infantry and the Eighth Armored Divisions sealed off an undetermined number of Germans left along the one-formidable Maas river line south of Venlo, and striking seven miles northwest of that fallen citadel, captured Straelen.

Farther south patrols entered Roermond and found it deserted, but between Venlo and Roermond patrols crossing the Maas got a sharp reaction, indicating possibly sizeable forces had been trapped. The greatest peril to the Germans still west of the Rhine was rising from the Kerfeld push, for here Simpson's tanks and infantry were closing fast on the best roads of retreat to the Rhine.

In the broad sweep, which won control of the Rhine plain all the way from the Maas 30 miles eastward to the Rhine, the Ninth Army captured such small industrial cities as Duellken and Viersen, with a combined population of about 30,000.

In some of the cities' smoke still rose from chimneys of factories making materials for Hitler's armies as the Americans charged through.

Sullen German civilians watched from windows, but made no attempt to scorch the earth and snipe as ordered by Hitler.

A Ninth Army staff officer declared that the German defenses for the most part had degenerated into a rout.

With this peril rising behind them, elements of 10 divisions opposing Gen. H. D. G. Crerar's Canadian First Army abruptly broke off the battle and headed for the Rhine.

Bitterly-contested Weeze fell to British troops who then sped on two and a half miles south to within a mile of Kevelaer, 10 miles from the Americans at Straelen.

Canadians six miles to the east swept forward five miles to within a mile and a half of the road junction of Sonsbeck as the Germans there likewise abruptly broke off contact.

Other Canadian troops stormed to within two miles of the Rhine stronghold of Xanten, five miles northwest of Sonsbeck, and were mopping up the Hochwald, a fir forest where the Germans had stopped them cold for days with dug-in tanks and machineguns.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army took a giant stride in its own drive for the Rhine with the capture of Trier, Germany's oldest city with a normal population of 88,000.

The Third Army was lashing out all along its 50-mile front gaining up to two miles, seizing nine more towns and so many prisoners that it was having difficulty taking care of them.

The Tenth Armored and 94th Infantry Divisions, which took Trier, were grinding to bits a pocket of Germans caught southwest of the old fortress. Among the towns captured was Konz, one of the fort towns guarding the southern approaches to the city. Prisoners told their captors that the Trier airfield and some of the streets of the city itself were heavily mined.

Other elements of the Third Army were moving up both north and south of Trier, which is 60 airline miles from Coblenz on the Rhine.

A field dispatch said six large fires blazed in Trier, but the northern part of the historic city had escaped severe damage.

The Americans speared through Trier so swiftly that the Germans did not have time to touch off the dynamite to blow the south bridge. They managed to blow only one span from the north bridge.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' power-laden U. S. First Army dug into the Germans fighting savagely from behind the slag heaps and hilltops to hold it back from the last five miles to Cologne.

Fierce fighting erupted around Moedraath, bridgehead town on the Cologne-Dueren highway, where the Germans counterattacked.

Seven miles to the north, tanks fought into Neideraussen in an advance of nearly two miles, and four miles farther on the Americans were fighting inside Buckholz.

Striking out southeastward, the First Army registered overnight gains of three and a half miles,

MORTON FUNERAL SCHEDULED TODAY

capturing Epp, 15 miles from Bonn on the Rhine.

The strategic road center of Zulpich west of Bonn was all but encircled with some American forces a mile away.

Eight miles southwest of Zulpich, the Americans were rolling up the last vestiges of a Roer river line on the First Army front.

They captured Heimbach, which is just east of Schwammeneul reservoir across the Roer river. Other forces crossed the nearby-dammed reservoir for the west.

Four miles farther south was Geuend, in the eastern fringe of the Siegfried Line, where the First Army was held up last month after it had taken control of the Roer dams, which paved the way for the current offensive.

The German Air Force bombed and strafed the First Army positions, and 26 of the attackers were shot down.

The Allied Air Forces swarmed out today, striking at convoys fleeing for the Rhine, and trying to knock out the bridges to trap and destroy as many of the enemy as possible.



JULIAN W. MORTON

Funeral services for Julian W. Morton, 48, president of Hugh MacRae Co., Inc., who died of a heart attack Thursday at his home, 12 Magnolia Place, will be held at 4:30 p. m. today from St. James Episcopal church. The Rev. Mortimer Glover, rector, and the Right Rev. Thomas C. Darst, Bishop of the East Carolina diocese, will officiate.

Interment will be in Oakdale cemetery.

Active pallbearers will be Walker Taylor, Dr. David B. Sloan, R. D. Cronly, Emsley Laney, James Herring and James Hughes.

Honorary pallbearers will be Richard Tufts, of Pinchurst, and Charles D. Tompkins, of Alexandria, Va.

Mr. Morton was a leader in the development of Olander, Magnolia Place, Piney Woods, Princess Place, and the north extension of Wrightsville Beach and the company which he headed, owns large holdings of real estate in this section.

He was actively identified with the development of Linville, a popular summer golf resort in western North Carolina and was president of the Linville Real Estate Company.

Mr. Morton was born in Savannah, Ga., educated at the University of Virginia, and after World War I devoted his abilities with his father-in-law, Hugh MacRae, in the development of resort and residential properties.

He was a past president of the Carolina Golf Association and has played in many of the Carolina tournaments during the past 20 years.

Past president of the Cape Fear Country Club, he was a member of the Linville Country Club.

A member of the American Legion, he served overseas during World War I for more than 21 months and was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star.

Mr. Morton is survived by his widow; three sons, Sgt. Hugh MacRae Morton, with the U. S. Army in the southwest Pacific; Aviation Cadet Thomas L. Morton IV, now stationed in California, and Julian W. Morton, Jr., of Wilmington; one daughter, Miss Agnes Morton, student at Woman's college; University of North Carolina; his mother, Mrs. Thomas Lockett, and one sister, Miss Blanche Morton, all of Wilmington.

Obituaries

SAMUEL J. ELLIS

Funeral services for Samuel James Ellis, 81, of 216 North Ninth street, retired employe of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad and former Wilmington alderman, were held at 4:30 p. m. yesterday from the chapel of the Andrews mortuary. The Rev. Frederick Lewis, pastor of St. Andrews-Covenant church, officiated and burial was in Oakdale cemetery.

Surviving Mr. Ellis are two daughters, Mrs. Lelia Corbin and Mrs. Henry R. Emory, of Wilmington; two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Irene Emory; and two nieces.

Active pallbearers were J. N. Jenkins, Oris Young, Robert L. LeGwin, Fred Tienken, Carl Oldenbuttel and Morris Haskett.

Honorary pallbearers were H. F. Fechtig, George Mitchell, Thomas Cowan, J. E. Hearn, C. B. Case, F. Lacy King, Z. E. Murrell, J. Arthur Brown, Glen Marlowe, S. H. Fulford and A. B. Love, Sr.

SIDNEY G. WILLIAMSON

LUMBERTON, March 2.—Sidney G. Williamson, 83, prominent Robeson farmer, died at 4 p. m. Friday at his home on Route three, Lumberton. A native of Marion county, he was a member of Olivet Methodist church.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Bertha Galloway, of Lumberton, and Mrs. J. Verne Williamson, of Hartsville, S. C., and seven sons, Rembert and G. W. Williamson, of Raeford, O. W. and L. C. Williamson, of Wilmington, Ambrose, Leighton and Charles Williamson, of Lumberton, as well as 21 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at 3 p. m. Sunday at the residence by the Rev. Edgar G. Fisher, of the Chestnut Street Methodist church, in Lumberton, and the Rev. F. B. Boone, of Olivet church. Burial will be in the Marietta cemetery.

WMC ASKS HELP IN CURFEW LAW

Henry I Shepherd, area director of the War Manpower Commission, announced yesterday that he has requested the cooperation of the Mayor, Sheriff, State Highway patrolmen and other law enforcement officers in reporting violations of the new midnight curfew on places of entertainment.

Shepherd said that when he has been notified of any violations, immediate action will be taken against violators. All establishments affected by the curfew order are requested to cooperate with the War Manpower Commission in carrying out the order of the Director of War Mobilization and Reconstruction.

The War Manpower Commission has the responsibility for the enforcement of this curfew, Shepherd stated, which has been put into effect in order to conserve fuel, as well as to alleviate the manpower shortage and the burdens upon transportation and other facilities.

City Briefs

RELIGIOUS FILM

"The Great Commandment" a religious film, will be shown at 7:30 p. m. today at the Cape Fear Presbyterian Church, Shipyard boulevard at Vance street, Maffitt Village. There is no admission charge.

ARRESTED

City Police reported the arrest yesterday of Fred A. McKinney, 35 year old white man, at the Orton Hotel where he resides, on a charge of issuing a worthless check on the Security National Bank of Greensboro in the amount of \$33.80 to the State Distributing Co. here on February 9.

ST. ANDREW'S MEETING

A congregational meeting, at which all members were urged to be present, has been called for tomorrow morning by the officers of St. Andrew's Covenant Presbyterian church.

European colonists to northeast America brought the lilac with them.

EXCHANGE HEARS TALK ON NURSES

"Our wounded are coming home at the rate of 30,000 per month and the need for more nurses is urgent," Lt. Helen Madden, in charge of the Woman's Army Corp recruiting office, told Exchange Club members at their weekly luncheon yesterday.

Lt. Madden was presented by Mrs. Hargrove Bellamy, member of the State Advisory Committee for nurse recruiting.

"Unless more nurses enlist immediately, it will be necessary to draft them," Lt. Madden stated, "and even if all trained nurses available enlist, there still will be an insufficient number to meet the requirements nationally of the 600,000 beds set up for wounded men."

"The WAC needs 8,000 more nurses by March 20 if we are to keep the ratio of ninety seven out of one hundred wounded men living. Nursing is a woman's work although there are one hundred thousand women in the WAC, the service must have thousands of additional enlistments for the WAC. "The training period of four months is open to women between the ages of 20 to 49 who have had two years high school education and no children under 14 years of age," she said.

Ladies night will be observed at the Country Club Wednesday, March 7, from 7:30 p. m. until midnight with a special dinner and orchestra program arranged by the entertainment committee. The committee announced a special program for this once-a-year occasion.

E. Gurr was introduced by Doctor Romer as a guest.

Jack Fussell, member, was greeted on his attendance.

An invitation to the club to join with the American Legion on its celebration Saturday was read by Secretary Leo Sykes.

President Stewart urged a full attendance at the ladies night program in view of the suspension of next week's regular meeting.

CITIZEN REPORTS DOUBLE ROBBERY

Military police, sheriff's officers and City police yesterday were investigating a report by Wilbur W. Merritt, of 2649 D Adams St., Sunset Park, that he was twice robbed by servicemen last night and after being assaulted by a Marine pair left abandoned on the Camp Davis highway.

Merritt said that an airman approached him at Toms News stand on North Front street, twisted his arm, and at the point of a gun forced him to rent a room at the Brunswick hotel where the first robbery took place, police said. In the room, Merritt told police the soldier ordered removal of his clothing and thereafter took his Elgin watch.

Redressed, Merritt dashed to the street to recover his watch, police said, and on the sidewalk was accosted by two Marines, who forced him into a convertible and drove to the intersection of U. S. Highway No. 17 north, at the Wrightsboro-Winter Park road. The Sunset Park man said it was there that the pair beat and then robbed him of a \$45 10-carat gold cameo ring and \$50 in cash at the point of a gun.

Abandoned in a dazed condition, Merritt reported he walked back to Wilmington as the Marines drove toward Camp Davis.

Police Sgt. T. B. Hughes reported that Merritt showing the effects of the beating, had knots and bruises about his face and blood over his clothes, hands and face. The officer said Merritt admitted drinking beer before the first robbery.



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