

### ARMY SEIZES GERMANS, GOODS

#### Three American Soldiers Attacked While On Guard Duty

BERLIN, Aug. 13 — (AP) — The U. S. Army has seized four Germans who had two secret and illegal caches of military signal equipment, including a device that automatically encodes messages. It was officially announced today.

U. S. Military police disclosed almost simultaneously that three American soldiers assigned to guard duty at Spandau prison were attacked last night in a park by a gang of 30 to 50 Germans. Spandau prison is where seven Nazi high war criminals sentenced to jail at Nuernberg are serving their terms.

The soldiers were off duty at the time. Two succeeded in getting away but the other man, PFC Philip Bell of Cambridge, Md., was beaten into insensibility and thrown into a lake. He was subsequently rescued and taken to a hospital. One of the other men was PFC Leo D. Wong of Hillsboro, Wis.

The finding of the signal equipment was the second such incident in Berlin in the past two weeks. On Aug. 1, American military government announced it had discovered an illegal store of sighting devices for guided missiles and other equipment at two plants of the giant Askania works.

American officials said German informants told them an allied military mission in Berlin had bought some of the equipment. The Germans are forbidden to deal in military equipment by a law of the allied control council for Germany.

The signal equipment found in two houses included a coding device, two special teletypes, one ultra shortwave radio transmitter, one 20-watt transmitter, three 200-watt transmitters, three special converters and a stock of miscellaneous parts.

All of the apparatus was former Germany army or navy equipment and "most of it was in working order," Ray Ashworth, American director of public safety, said.

The coding device and special teletypes were described as "camouflaged" equipment, that is, when the device is hooked onto the teletypes, straight messages are translated into gibberish that is

### POLIO PRECAUTIONS BEING TAKEN BY COUNTY PHYSICIANS

Precautions against an outbreak of infantile paralysis, usual at this time of the year, were being taken last night by Wilmington physicians and hospitals.

James Walker Memorial hospital's new quarters to be used for combating the disease, was placed in readiness. Hospital attendants declined to report the number of cases at the hospital.

However, Dr. A. H. Elliott, city-county health physician, reported that one Negro child had been taken to the hospital from Columbus county for a diagnosis. No cases in New Hanover county had been reported at his office.

He pointed out, however, that August and sometimes later, before cooler weather sets in, is the time of year that such cases take place. He urged precautions such as washing hands before eating and the washing of fresh vegetables and fruits before their use.

### Academy Building Dismantled To Make Room For City Hall

Editors Note: This is the 10th story on the Thalian Players and Thalian Hall. Thallians say Good-bye to "Old Drury."

Wilmington's fourth company of Thalian players, which flourished during the mid-years of the 19th century, continued to occupy Thalian Hall until the municipal authorities decided about 1855 to dismantle the old academy building and erect a city hall.

(The academy property had been purchased by the town for that purpose.)

But the Thallians said good-bye to "Old Drury" with a jolly party of gay conviviality in the doomed auditorium on the night before the day destruction was to begin. And, according to the accounts of that occasion, Bacchus was no back seat spectator at the party. The Thallians, with astute foresight, had entered into a stipulation with respect to the sale of the property.

They received one-half of the purchase money with the understanding that this amount would be applied to the expense of arranging suitable rooms for the theatrical purposes in the new city hall.

It was further stipulated that, in that portion of the new building to be utilized by the town government, provision would be made for a library and reading rooms. This was done, and a new Thalian Hall resulted in the form

### Academy Building Dismantled To Make Room For City Hall

of a city hall and theater in one, under the same roof.

The cornerstone of the new structure was laid December 27, 1855.

Donald McRae at that time was the president of the association. He had held this office for several years.

"To his energy, perseverance and acknowledged business ability," writes Col. James G. Burr in his Thalian historical narrative, "are we indebted for the beautiful theater which reflects so much credit upon our city."

On the night of the farewell party in the auditorium of the old academy building, the stage was thronged with Thallians and their guests.

Burr writes, in the 1871 publication of his Thalian sketches, that "tables groaned beneath the weight of dainties designed to tempt an epicurean's palate." Rich wines and luscious fruits were in abundance. And flagons of imported liquors from beyond the seas rested side by side with modest noods of bourgeois booze from the Lower Cape Fear.

"With humor and music and poetry displayed all their charms among the festive deities, and heightened the glow of delight."

History discreetly acknowledges that the Thallians and their guests indulged themselves not wisely but too freely on that occasion.

Though many hearts were light that night, many heads were heavy the next morning.

Next day the players marched in rueful procession through the streets of the town.

Like a funeral cortege, the lugubrious playboys of the night before, now feeling wretchedly, wended their way with their president in the lead.

They were in search of the chief official of the town's temperance society, worthy old Isaac Northrop.

Every man among them was ready, willing and waiting to take the pledge.

For an hour or more they searched, but Brother Northrop was nowhere to be found.

Then some one in the mass of mourners suggested that now was an ideal time to test the principle of homeopathy—"similia similibus curantur."

In other words, they would partake of a "bit of the hair of the dog" that had bitten them.

There was not a dissenting voice.

And the dejected players, nursing their collective hangover, immediately adjourned to a neighboring bar room.

(Tomorrow: Thallians open in New Town Hall.)

CLINTON, Aug. 13 — The criminal assault case involving Billie Simmons, 23-year-old Clinton Negro, is expected to go to the jury tomorrow.

Defense arguments were completed today. The defendant took the stand in his own behalf and asserted that the prosecution witness, Mrs. Eula Wise consented to the sexual act which led to his arrest.

Solicitor J. Abner Barker subjected Simmons to a grueling cross examination but the defendant stuck to his original story. Arguments by defense council began at three o'clock this afternoon.

### SAMPSON JURY TO GET ASSAULT CASE TODAY

CLINTON, Aug. 13 — (P) — Headquarters of the Conservative party announced tonight that Winston Churchill would broadcast to the British nation Sunday at 9:15 p. m. (3:15 p. m. EST).

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, N. C. AT JUNE 30, 1946 IS PUBLISHED AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 11, CHAPTER 146, PUBLIC LAWS 1927 AS AMENDED:

Assessed Valuation — 1946	\$53,069,195.00
General Bonded Debt	2,007,665.00
Water & Sewer Bonded Debt	2,555,835.00
Total	4,563,500.00
Floating and temporary debt	None
Tax Levy — 1946	716.434.13
Tax Rate — 1946	1.33
Uncollected Taxes:	
1944 Levy At June 30, 1945	38,269.72
1945 Levy At June 30, 1946	51,175.31
1946 Levy At June 30, 1947	47,459.22
Average Uncollected	45,634.77
Amount Collected During Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1947 on 1944 and 1945 Levy's	15,775.87
Miscellaneous Revenue Other Than Taxation For Year Ended June 30, 1947	935,829.63
Deficits for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1947:	
General Fund	33,847.82
Water & Sewer Fund	17,445.93
Surplus Or Unencumbered Balances June 30, 1947	None
Tax Rate 1947 — All Purposes	1.80

**CITY OF WILMINGTON**  
D. B. PADGETT  
City Accountant

### STORM ADVISORY

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 13 — (AP) — The Gulf of Mexico storm reached full hurricane intensity at 10 p. m. EST, the weather bureau reported tonight, with winds as high as 90 to 100 miles per hour reported near the storm center.

The storm was moving west-northwestward at a rate of about 15 miles per hour, the bulletin said, and was located at 10 p. m. about 210 miles east to southeast of Tampico, Mexico. Squalls extended outward nearly 300 miles to the east and north of the storm center.

Indications were that the center of the hurricane would reach the coast near Tampico before noon Thursday.

Small craft from Corpus Christi to Brownsville, Tex., were warned to stay in port.

### McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Every bridge player hates to go to sleep with an ace, but the only way that West could defeat the contract on today's hand was to lose his ace of diamonds deliberately.

The play was made by Mark Hodges of Dallas, Tex., who recently became Life Master No. 86. Declarer played low from dummy on the opening heart lead. East put on the jack and declarer won. Then he led the eight of diamonds, and if Hodges (West) had won this trick, declarer would have made two discards on the king and queen of diamonds. But Hodges refused to win, deliberately losing the ace of diamonds.

After that I do not think there was any line of play that good defense would not defeat. Against Hodges declarer led the deuce of spades from dummy and finessed the nine-spot. Hodges won and returned a spade.

Declarer cashed the queen and ace of spades and led a small heart, winning in dummy with the king. He led a small club and finessed the queen. Hodges won, led back a small club, and South could not keep from losing two clubs, a spade, and a heart.

### NITRATE UNLOADING UNDER COAST GUARD

Loading or unloading of ammonium nitrate or ammonium nitrate fertilizer, both highly explosive, can only be done in Wilmington under personal supervision of the United States Coast Guard.

Instructions were received yesterday by the commander of the USS Mendota, stationed in Wilmington, that permission first must be obtained from the Coast Guard before any vessel can handle the product in port.

The order ruled that the Coast Guard commander of the port or district must see that no loading or unloading be done in a congested area. The order applies to loads of 500 pounds or more.

Loading and unloading of the product recently has resulted in explosions causing heavy loss of life and property including the Texas City, Tex., catastrophe.

### Good Shepherd Bible School Opens Monday

The Good Shepherd church annual Bible school will open its two-weeks classes next Monday at the parish hall, Sixth and Queen streets.

Offering specified courses for all age groups, classes will be conducted daily from 9 a. m. to 12 noon. Special attention will be paid to singing, Bible and missionary stories, handiwork and games. The school is open to all boys and girls in the community, officials said.

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