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Capt. Johnston Says This City Must Have Airport

Sgt. Don Craven Saw Much Action On Guadalcanal

Local Youth Was Member of Marine Air Forces On Guadalcanal During First Solomons Offensive; Saw Japs Aplenty.

Sgt. Don Craven, marine veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign now home on leave, tells of how Japs were killed in such great numbers on Guadalcanal that they buried them by blasting holes on the beach and pushing the dead Japs in with bulldozers.

Sgt. Don Craven, a son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Craven, of this city, enlisted in the marine corps on Sept. 21, 1941. In August last year he sailed and after being at South Pacific outposts for some time was sent to Guadalcanal with a group reinforcing our troops there during the height of the Jap drive to recapture Henderson field in October.

Sgt. Craven, a member of the ground crew with marine air forces, saw action by the time he hit the beach as Japs were dropping bombs, and during his first night on Guadalcanal he hugged the ground while Jap naval vessels poured 14-inch shells into American positions on the island for nearly four hours. A marine near him lost an arm.

Jap snipers were all around Sgt. Craven said but they were very poor shots, and their inaccuracy was something to be thankful for.

Sgt. Craven's executive officer on Guadalcanal was none other than Capt. Joe Foss, who holds the record of Jap planes shot down. Capt. Foss, Sgt. Craven said, had 26 to his credit when he left. His squadron downed over 100 Jap planes in six weeks. One flight group of eight planes, which they called the "Flying Circus," shot down 75 Jap planes. "It was fun to see Jap planes shot down," Sgt. Craven said. "Parts of Jap zeroes and bombers would fall sometimes for 15 minutes after air battle."

Being with the marine air forces, Sgt. Craven did not get much ground fighting against the Japs, but he was nearby during the battle of "Bloody Ridge," when 1,000 Japs were killed in a single night, and he saw great numbers of dead Japs. So many were killed along the beach that the stench was very bad and Americans buried them in great numbers by blasting holes and bulldozing them in.

When asked if he saw many Jap prisoners Sgt. Craven grinned grimly and said "no."

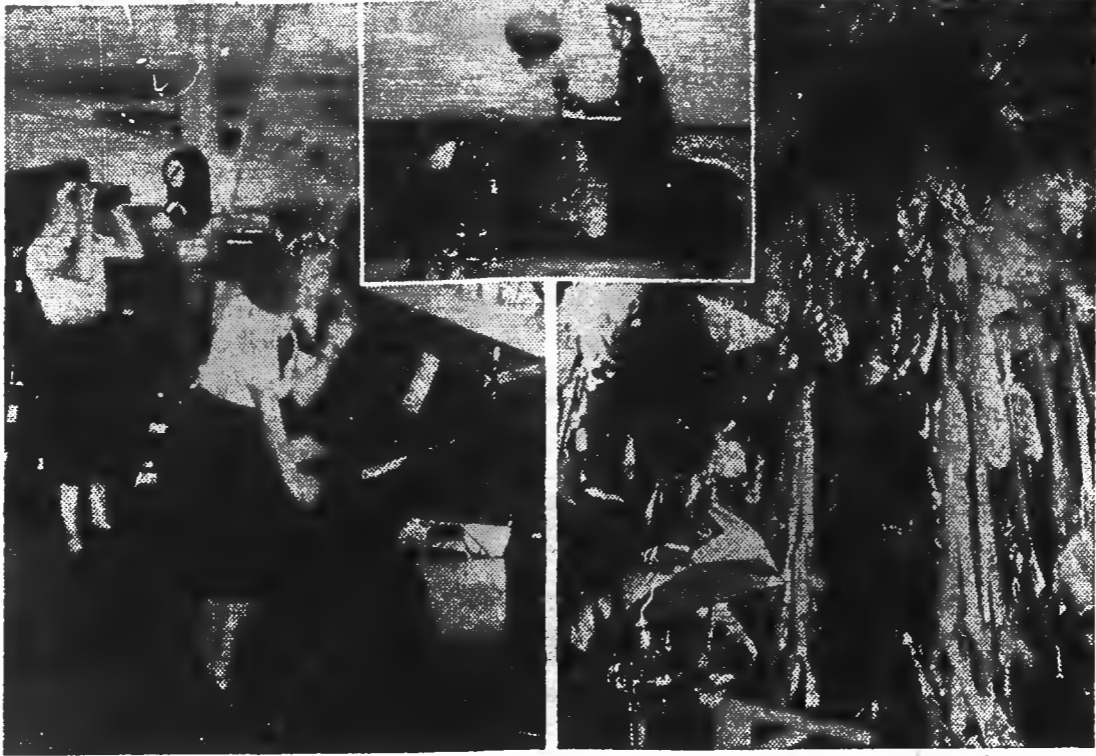
Marines at the airfield were a bit chagrined one day to find that a Jap sniper had hidden in an old American tank at the edge of the field. And they were surprised to find that he had an American rifle and was eating American food. They didn't learn that by talking with the Jap, however, because after a marine had started to look into the old amphibious tank he saw the Jap, closed the hatch and did not investigate any more until bullets had been sent through the old tank from several directions. Needless to say, the sniper was not taken prisoner.

Sgt. Craven said he would not forget "Zero Sunday," when the Jap airmen thought Henderson field had been retaken and a flight of Zeros and Jap bombers came down as if to land. A bomber which got within 100 feet of the field never got any higher. Ground forces shot it down with anti-aircraft guns, machine guns, rifles and automatics, anything that would shoot.

Sgt. Craven said the marines did a thriving business selling souvenirs to army and navy men when they arrived after the main part of the job of taking Guadalcanal was over. Marines had taken many objects from dead Japs, and these souvenirs were in demand. They especially liked to buy Jap flags. After all the flags were sold, some marines with an eye for business took parts of old parachutes and painted the rising sun on them. These

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WAVES One Year Old: Need More Women Patriots



Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service recently celebrated their first birthday as a drive was begun to double their number. Some of their activities are pictured above. Left: Seaman Janet Croot tells a pilot to land through a radio microphone while Seaman Blanche Deady watches the incoming plane as they operate a control tower at the giant Floyd Bennett air field naval base in New York. Inset Upper Center: Storekeeper Gwendolyn O'Neill rides to a blimp hangar at Lakehurst, N. J. Right: Seaman Mardell Felser checks parachutes in the "dry locker" at the parachute school at Lakehurst.

Combat Pilot Tells Of His Experiences While Fighting Japs

Hero of Air Combat In Solomons Tells Lions Club Here About War In the South Pacific Area; Urges Action For Local Airport.

Capt. Richard Johnston, here on leave after more than a year as a fighter pilot in the South Pacific area of war operations, told the North Wilkesboro Lions Club Friday evening that North Wilkesboro must have an airport.

Capt. Johnston, who held an executive position with American Furniture company here, was president of the Lions Club when he volunteered for service in the army air corps almost a year prior to Pearl Harbor.

Commenting on the need of an airport for North Wilkesboro, Capt. Johnston said that air transportation will be the mode of travel after the war and towns without airports will be off the map. He urged early action to see what federal aid can be obtained for airport construction.

A large attendance of members and many guests were present Friday evening to hear the club's former president tell of his experiences in combat with Japs on Guadalcanal during the first days of the American offensive.

Capt. Johnston said that he was a member of the first army fighter squadron to reach Guadalcanal after the marines had taken Henderson field. After flying a few hundred miles over the Pacific, they sighted their destination and approaching the field but saw no signs of life, they circled and still saw nothing. They feared the Japs had retaken the field but they had no choice but to land.

After landing they waited about five minutes and still saw no one. Finally, a marine raised his head from a foxhole and said: "You park down at that end." They learned within a few minutes that an air raid was on and after filling up with gas they took to the air to beat off the Jap raiders. But luckily it was only patrol planes.

On Sunday, Captain Johnston's group with only seven planes made their first contact with the enemy raiders, 21 of them, and Capt. Johnston shot down a plane in that engagement. Major John Smith's famous squadron joined in the fight before it ended and took heavy toll of Jap planes and pilots, Major Smith himself getting three Zeros.

Capt. Johnston told of their positions on the ground being bombed by day and shelled by night until sleep or rest was next to impossible. On one occasion Capt. Johnston was in the tent and unable to get to his foxhole in time when shelling began and he hugged the ground and heard shrapnel whizz through the tent all around and over him.

The speaker told many other interesting incidents, including narrow escapes from death or serious injury.

In addition to recounting his experiences, Capt. Johnston stated appreciation for support of people at home in the war program, especially mentioning the Red Cross, which he praised highly for furnishing recreational facilities and diversion for fighting men abroad.

When asked what was the reaction on the part of fighting men to news of strikes and political bickering in the United States, Capt. Johnston said: "It was sometimes hard to keep spirits up. We would lie in foxholes, trying to dig a little deeper, as the enemy dropped bombs all around. After so long we could get out and hear the news by short-wave radio. It hurt to hear of workers striking, holding up production of the equipment we needed then to get up there and shoot the Japs from the skies."

Capt. Johnston said the men at the front were looking forward to returning to a land of freedom and democracy.

Vernon Deal and W. O. Abaker were in charge of the program. Mr. Deal presented Mrs. S. Dexter Chadwick, who rendered two votes.

(Continued on back page)

Now a Corporal



Cpl. Haggie W. Faw, who entered the army three months ago, has been promoted to rank of Corporal at Camp Hulen, Texas, where he received his basic training and is now stationed. Cpl. Faw, who held a position at Wilkes Hosiery Mill company, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Faw, of Millers Creek. His wife, Mrs. Angie Faw, makes her home at Millers Creek.

Veterans Of War Hear Air Corps Capt. Says Wilkes County Best Place He Has Seen

Capt. Richard Johnston told the American Legion and Auxiliary Friday night that he had seen much of the world since he entered the service but he still preferred Wilkes county.

Capt. Johnston was guest speaker before the veterans of the first World War, their wives, friends and guests at the Legion clubhouse. It was one of the most outstanding meetings in history of the Wilkes post.

W. C. Grier, commander, presided.

Capt. Johnston gave many interesting experiences, especially those during his two periods of air combat service with the Japs in the Solomon Islands, where he shot down a Jap Zero in the first air battle in which he participated. He gave a most interesting account of that battle, saying that the score of planes lost by both sides was even but that in the next engagement the Americans did not lose a plane. Seven of the 11 American planes returned to their base and two pilots from the lost missing planes showed up a few hours later, one having bailed out four miles behind the Jap

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County Schools To Open Monday, 16th

Pass State Board

Miss Margaret McLean Faw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Faw, of this city, and Hayden Burke Hayes, son of Judge and Mrs. Johnson J. Hayes, of Wilkesboro, have passed the North Carolina bar examination and each will soon be granted license to practice law in North Carolina.

Miss Faw and Mr. Hayes recently completed their law courses at the University of North Carolina.

Rev. J. C. Canipe At Mt. Pleasant

Rev. J. C. Canipe, pastor of Boone Baptist church, is preaching in a revival this week at Mount Pleasant Baptist church near Champion.

The pastor, Rev. A. W. Eller, announces that services are being held at 10:30 a. m. and eight p. m. The public is cordially invited to the services.

Five From Wilkes Go Into the Navy

Specialist first class J. C. Huffman, navy recruiter who is in North Wilkesboro three days each week, announces that five more Wilkes county youths have been sent to Raleigh for final physical examination and enlistment. The five are: Wallace Dick Seagraves, route two, Wilkesboro; Dwight Staley, route two, Wilkesboro; Lester Lee Miller, Clifton Tyle Brown, and Bobby Edward Andrews, all of North Wilkesboro. The first two youths have already passed their final examinations, and are now stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training station, Great Lakes, Ill.

Few Teacher Vacancies In County Now

Equipment Placed In Good Condition For Opening

Schools of Wilkes county will open on Monday, August 16.

All schools of the county system will open on that date with the exception of Mulberry, which will not open until August 30.

Reason for the later opening of Mulberry school is that it has interlocking transportation facilities with North Wilkesboro city schools, which will not open until August 30.

C. B. Eller, county superintendent of schools, said today that a few teacher vacancies remain to be filled before school opening.

The teacher list was not complete and several who had decided to teach had not taken final choice of the vacancies which exist. He expressed a hope, however, that all vacancies can be filled this week.

Drivers have been employed for all school bus routes and equipment has been put in good condition for school opening.

Teacher allotment for the county this year is seven less than the number during the 1942-43 term.

Dr. Ralph McDonald In City Last Friday

Dr. Ralph McDonald, announced and active candidate for the governorship of North Carolina, was in the city Friday shaking hands with old friends and making new acquaintances.

Republicans In Meeting

Sim DeLapp, of Lexington, chairman of the Republican Executive committee in North Carolina, met with several Republican leaders of Wilkes and Alexander counties at a conference Thursday at the Wilkes courthouse.

The conference was called on short notice and many in rural communities were not notified. However, those attending represented several townships.

T. E. Story, Wilkes representative in the legislature, president, State Chairman DeLapp made a brief talk which contained much encouragement for Republican leaders.

Others who spoke included Clarence L. Fisher of Clinton, who was recently employed by the state executive committee as organizer; A. I. Ferree, of Asheboro, Randolph representative and minority leader in the General Assembly; Representative Hayden Deal and Attorney Roy Jennings, of Taylorsville; C. C. Hayes, Wilkes clerk of court; and John R. Jones, local attorney and former solicitor for the 17th district.

Allies Gain On Many Fronts

Latest reports from all theatres of war today were favorable to the Allies.

There were indications today that the Italian people, scared by week-end bombings, once again were clamoring with their government for immediate peace.

GAINS IN SICILY

In the meantime, Allied armies were making rapid gains in what appeared to be the final stage of

the Sicilian campaign. American forces had taken four more strategic towns and were advancing to the Axis' last defense lines.

TO TAKE KHARKOV

In Russia artillery of the Red army today was pouring shells in to Kharkov and military men agreed that Kharkov would fall to the Russians within a very short time. The Red army was also making gains today north of Kharkov, where it was claimed that 5,000 Germans had been killed

JAP POWER BROKEN

From the South Pacific came more encouraging news and American airmen since the capture of Munda have sunk several Japanese ships, including four laden with troops and a number of war vessels.

General MacArthur declared that the offensive power of the Japanese has been broken and that the Japs are now fighting defensively.

In Oregon



Pvt. Conrad Reeves, of Camp White, Oregon, who entered the army on October 17, 1942. Pvt. Reeves' wife, the former Miss Zella Shumate, and daughter, Julene, live on North Wilkesboro route one. Pvt. Reeves spent a furlough at home in June.

Board No. 1 List Men Sent For Induction

Wilkes Selective Service board number 1 is sending the following men to the induction center for examination and induction into the armed services:

- Charlie Guy McGlamery.
- James Joseph Davis.
- Clyde Woodrow Brown.
- Hillery June Minton.
- Richard Benge.
- Verlin Glenn Blankenship.
- Richard Bullis.
- Marshall Elmore Eller.
- Willard Easter Michael.
- James Andrew Elmore.
- John Robert Frazier.
- Thomas Henry Steelman.
- Edd Junior Brooks.
- Noah Lee Call.
- Claude Fred Bentley.
- Wesley Shelton Anderson.
- Glenn Ray Walsh.
- Estel Charles Woodie.
- Turner Abbott Faw.
- James Wilson Pennell.
- Lloyd George Mayberry.
- Walter Ralph Miller.
- Joseph Monroe Woodie.
- Richard Bynum Price.
- Olive Franklin Davis.
- Otto Klutner Whitlington, Jr., volunteer for army air corps.
- Buddy Felix Staley.
- Bill Hatcher.
- Wade Hampton Palmer.
- James Franklin Anderson.
- Arnold Quince Jarvis.
- William Harvey Hayes.
- Arthur Edwards Partler.
- John Thomas McGlamery.
- Maynard Lee Miller.
- Bob Parks.
- William Martin Moore.
- Lawrence Guilford Critcher, volunteer for seabees.

BUY MORE WAR BONDS