

Allies Advancing On All Fronts; Course of Italy Now Uncertain

Fall of Sicily Is Now Thought To Be a Matter of Only A Day or Two

The capture of Catania by the British and the heavy pounding of the Axis by Patton's Army from the west have brought the prediction that all of Sicily will fall to the Allies within a short time, possibly by Sunday. Following the fall of Catania and Paterno yesterday, the Axis started a retreat toward Messina at the northeast tip of the island where the Germans and Italians are trying to make a dash to the toe of the Italian boot under the cover of darkness.

The Germans are still offering some strong resistance in an effort to protect their retreat, but the fighting there is following about the same course as the last rout in North Africa. The evacuation of key Axis personnel was started yesterday, but it was a gambler's chance for the enemy to attempt the two-mile crossing to the mainland under the Allied air bombardment. Of the 100,000 Italian troops on the island, an estimated 95,000 have fallen or have been taken prisoner, and the remaining 5,000 are said to have refused to fight more for their German allies. And thus the drive started against Sicily on July 10, is now believed nearing a successful end, with Allies plans already complete to follow through to Italy.

Over in the Pacific area, the Americans after a determined 35-day drive yesterday ousted the Japs at Munda airfield, but the enemy withdrew its depleted defending forces to new positions and the fight on New Georgia is not yet over. The success there is no little accomplishment, however, and is one more step in the general Allied advance.

While Hitler was busy licking his wounds in Sicily and at Hamburg, he felt the shock of a complete collapse in Russia around Orel and Belgorod where his forces were literally thrown out. Possibly the reverses in Russia will prove mortal blows along with the defeat in Sicily and the bombing of German cities to Hitler in carrying the war to foreign territory. Hitler's growing weakness is evidenced by the strengthening position of neutral territory. Sweden is "laying the law down" for Hitler, and German troop movements and material shipments are to be suspended across that nation by agreement.

The success of the Russian armies at Belgorod and Orel advances General Konstantin Konstantinovich Rokossovsky to the front as one of the greatest strategists of the war. His feats have even surprised the Russians themselves. Only 38 years old, he is called the boy wonder of the Soviet Command.

Hardly had the Russians chalked up their successes at Orel and Belgorod before Marshal Stalin called for a continued march on the final victory. The fight in Russia is a long way from completion, but the fall of Orel and Belgorod seriously aggravates the German positions there. Drives are now expected toward Bryansk in the east, Smolensk in the direction of the Polish border and possibly a thrust will follow toward Kiev in the southeast and also in the direction of the Polish border.

Uncle Meets Nephew In The South Pacific

It is really a little ole world after all, even if some of the Martin County young men write back and tell how far they are away from home. Distances are not disputed, but when an uncle meets his nephew somewhere in the Southwest Pacific, and "bumps" into a fellow townsman on the streets of a big Australian City, why the ole globe cannot be so big after all.

Some months ago, Sgt. William S. Peel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pleny Peel met his nephew, Dallas Peel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Peel, in the Southwest Pacific. They had dinner together and talked over the news.

Some months later, the sergeant bumped into Billy Watts, of the Marines, in the Australian city.

Firemen Get Two Calls This Week

The local volunteer fire company was called out twice this week, neither fires doing any material damage.

A trash barrel caught fire at the laundry on West Warren Street early last Tuesday evening and burned the weatherboarding near the boiler room. Some damage was done to a few supplies stored nearby.



AXIS PRISONERS—This hastily erected stockade serves as a temporary prison camp for Axis soldiers taken in the Italian invasion. Here are a few of the tens of thousands of the men from Hitler's and Mussolini's armies. American military police are Corp. Alvin J. Brown, Michman, Tenn., and Pvt. Russell Snyder, Scranton, Pa.

Purple Heart Posthumously Awarded To Lt. Thos. Meeks

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Meeks, parents of Lt. Thomas J. Meeks, Martin County young man who was recently killed somewhere in the European War Area, received Monday the order of the Purple Heart, America's oldest decoration which is awarded men who have been wounded or posthumously to those who died in battle. The award or decorations reads, as follows: "The United States of America. To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting: 'This is to certify that the President of the United States of a purveyor to authority vested in him by Congress, has awarded the Purple

Heart established by General Washington at Newburgh, N. Y., August 7, 1782, to Second Lieutenant Thomas J. Meeks for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death, June 13, 1943.

"Given under my hand in the City of Washington.

"This the 20th day of July, 1943.

"ROBERT P. PATTERSON, Acting Secretary of War."

Lieutenant Meeks, a former school teacher, was co-pilot of a Flying Fortress, and is thought to have been killed in occupied France or in Germany. He is the tenth Martin County man to sacrifice his life in the present war.

Grandma in WAC



MOTHER OF SIX children and grandmother of six more, Mrs. Margaret Conkline of Susanville, Cal., polishes her shoes on arrival with a WAC contingent in England. Her oldest child is a daughter, 27, and her youngest, a son, a U. S. Army sergeant.

Jurymen Are Drawn For Regular Term of The Superior Court

Judge Walter Bone Scheduled To Preside Beginning September 20

Jurymen were drawn by the county commissioners at their last regular session for duty during the regular two-weeks term of Martin County Superior Court convening on Monday, September 20. Judge Walter Bone, of Nashville, is scheduled to preside. The visit will be the first for Judge Bone to this county as the court's presiding officer in five years.

Court Clerk L. B. Wynne points out that few criminal cases have been placed on the docket for trial so far, but it is quite possible that a fairly sizable number will find their way there before the court opens the term for the trial of both criminal and civil actions. The civil calendar has not been drawn at this time, but it is understood that a number of cases will be called for trial upon the completion of the trial of criminal cases.

Forty-five men are being called for service during the two weeks, 27 for the first and 18 for the second. Their names follow by townships:

First Week
Jamesville: C. G. Gurkin and A. L. Griffin.
Williams: Jasper Jones.
Griffins: Garland C. Tice, S. Oscar Peel and Urban Lilly.

Bear Grass: Kneecer Harrison. Williamston: J. H. Forbes, William Samuel Rogers, J. C. Eubanks, R. G. Harrison, Jr., H. D. Taylor, S. C. Ray and C. F. Perry.

Cross Roads: Oscar Ayers and V. G. Taylor. Robersonville: Geo. James, J. H. Roberson, Jr., L. A. Croom, R. T. Purvis, Jr.

Hamilton: C. S. Johnson, W. E. Purvis, E. D. Purvis, Jr., J. W. Eubanks, J. E. Everett and W. E. Davis. Goose Nest: [Name obscured].

Second Week
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TOBACCO PRICES

Offering fair quality lead and in moderate quantities, tobacco farmers in South Carolina and along the border yesterday received an average of about \$42 per hundred pounds on the 1943 opening sales.

Prices for the inferior quality or trashy grades ranged from 10 to 30 cents, and the top-quality leaf hit a high at 49 cents. The main price range was from 37 to 45 cents.

Prices, for the most part, were acceptable and reminded many of the "wild" days back in 1919, but farmers were puzzled to understand the narrow margin separating the prices for the inferior quality grades from those of the best quality.

Announce Rules For Mailing Parcels To Soldiers Overseas

Rules and mailing dates for packages destined for service men overseas have just recently been announced by the Post Office Department. To insure delivery by Christmas, the folks back home will have to start shopping within the next several weeks, the department stating that packages may be mailed between September 15 and October 15 to men in the Army, and as late as November 1 to others. While no request from the service man for a package is necessary, the rules require that only one package be mailed during any one week by any one person to a single addressee.

Packages this year will be limited in weight to five pounds, and the articles must be packed in wooden, metal, solid fiber board or corrugated board. These boxes, it is reported, are available at many of the stores and may be purchased for a nominal sum.

No Christmas stickers or markings are to be placed on the outside of the package, and addresses, including the service man's serial number, must be typewritten, printed or legibly written.

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Garner House Tells Of His Experiences In The British Isles

Spends Enjoyable Week-end In London with Fred Taylor, Williamston Boy

Sgt. Garner House, Robersonville young man, writing to his parents back home, tells of a few experiences in London and Scotland, and tells of his meeting with Fred Taylor, local boy, in London. Excerpts of his recent letters to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester House, as they appeared this week in the Robersonville Herald, follow:

Here I am back at work after ten of the most enjoyable days anyone could have under these conditions. I don't know when I have ever enjoyed a vacation more. I sure did hate to come back to camp last night.

Everything worked out just fine and I met Fred Taylor in London for the week-end. He had two days off so I spent the 4th and 5th with him. I never realized it was the 4th, everything was so quiet here.

I never knew Fred very well, but I had heard what a swell person he was. Well, he proved to be everything I had heard about him and some more. I have never enjoyed being with anyone so much. I don't think. Just to sit down and talk with some one once more that knew the same people that you know and to talk about the things we used to do was a pleasure.

He had a room reserved in one of the best hotels in London, so we had a quiet and nice time to ourselves. We went to a show Sunday evening and Monday evening we went to see a stage show which was real good. Fred had to catch his train back to camp late that evening. I hated to see him go, for it was the first time I had seen any one I knew from back home in so long.

The friend that I went to Scotland with came up Monday night and we caught the first train out Tuesday morning. We arrived in Edinburgh in time for supper, and that night we went out and saw a bit of the town. Two other boys from the office went up the same day but took a different train. The four of us were together most of the time. Wednesday we got out and did the town. It is really a beautiful city. It is more like our cities than anything I have seen over here. The people there are very nice. They seem to be much more friendly than the English. I like them much better and I think they are a lot ahead of the English. Their stores are modern, they act and dress much nicer and they have plenty of good-looking girls. As a whole, they are much finer looking than are the English.

Thursday, we visited a town up Lake Lomond. That is really a beautiful lake. I have a bunch of cards I will send you later showing you the scenery. We also went to Glasgow and from there we took a train that carried us to a little town at the lower end of the lake where we caught a steamer.

The lake is real high and narrow, and there is a high range of mosses along the shore.

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TOBACCO CARDS

Their preparation almost completed, approximately 1,600 tobacco marketing cards will be placed in the mails for delivery directly to tobacco farmers in this county about the 17th of this month, according to plans for the distribution announced by the office of the county agent.

Approximately thirty farmers will not get their marketing cards because they have not reported their field measurements. Those few farmers who planted in excess of their allotments will call directly to the agent's office where they will be given red marketing cards after certain conditions are met, it was learned.

MEETINGS

Members of the Peanut Growers Cooperative from the states of Virginia, North and South Carolina and Tennessee are scheduled to hold their annual meeting in the Martin County courthouse on Thursday, August 27, at 11 o'clock, it was announced this week by W. Robert Everett, a director of the organization. The meeting will elect officers for the coming year and discuss a general business program. While the membership runs into big numbers and is located in four states, no large representation is expected at the meeting.

During the meantime a district meeting will be held here on the 12th when a director for fourteen counties in this section of the State will be elected.

County Young Man Cited For Gallantry In African Invasion

Navy and Marine Corps Medal Awarded Robt. W. Harden by President

The Navy and Marine Corps Medal has been awarded by the President to Robert W. Harden, Seaman second class, United States Naval Reserve, of RFD 1, Jamesville, for "heroic conduct" during the assault on and occupation of French Morocco in November, 1942, it was officially announced this week by the Sixth Naval District Headquarters, at Charleston, S. C.

Seaman Harden is credited with "gallantly" assisting in rescuing men from the water after a landing boat with troops capsized during the invasion of North Africa in early November of last year. Few details of the young man's daring heroism are mentioned in the citation, but it is understood that he endangered his own life more than once to save the lives of others.

The citation, signed by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, for the President, relates the action as follows:

"For heroic conduct while attached to a U. S. ship during the assault on and the occupation of French Morocco from November 8 to 11, 1942. When a boat loaded with troops capsized near Fedala on the morning of November 9, Harden voluntarily placed himself into the dangerously high surf and gallantly assisted in rescuing men struggling in the water. His cool and daring courage was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The young man, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Washington (Doc) Harden, of RFD 1, Jamesville, is one of three brothers in the nation's armed service.

He is one of at least five Martin County young men known to have received service awards or citations for heroism during the present war.

Tobacco Harvesting Is Almost Complete

After getting off to a comparatively slow start early in the season, tobacco harvesting is nearing an end in this county, reports from various parts of the county stating that some farmers have already pulled their "tips", that quite a few others will complete the task today and tomorrow, and that the big majority will wind up the harvest next week. A few will hardly finish the work before week after next.

No record quality crop is being produced in the county this year, but in this section many farmers say it is better than it was last season. General reports point to a light crop, but there has been a fairly general demand for additional sticks, the action indicating that some farmers underestimated their crops.

Sgt. Irvin C. Griffin Pictures Conditions On Fighting Fronts

Face Near the Fighting Is Not As Good As Some Reports Picture It To Be

Recently reported to the rank of Tech. Sergeant, Irvin C. Griffin, local young man, gives his own version of the fare received in the actual combat areas. The letter, written a short time before the Sicilian campaign was launched, explains that there was no complaint, that the facts were offered for the record.

Under date of June 27, the letter just received here, reads as follows: "It is too hot to even write but there is nothing else to do to pass the time so I'll scribble a few lines. We are bivouaced out in an open valley now and it gets plenty hot at times with no shade anywhere.

Since the campaign ended here we have been taking it a little easy. A few days after the battle was over we went down to the beach for a week and have been going back for a day or two now and then since. We have a movie almost every night. We have an open air theater since the show is held on the side of a hill.

I have been to Tunis, Bizerte and Ferryville within the past few weeks. Tunis is a nice town but the war has ruined it as far as a business center. About all you can get there is wine. I searched the town looking for souvenirs but was unable to find a thing. The city wasn't hurt so badly from bombings since the docks are a few miles from the main part of town. That is a lot more than you can say for Bizerte for the Allied air force really did a job there. I don't think there are a dozen buildings there that haven't been damaged. It doesn't seem that many of the bombs missed their targets either for it is very seldom that you see a bomb crater in a vacant lot or in the street. The civilians had evacuated long before the bombings became so intense and I am sure if some of the people in the United States were forced to leave their homes and return later to see them in ruins there wouldn't be so much fussing about a raise in pay or the rationing.

Although a large percentage of the population of Tunis is Italian, they don't seem to be so unhappy about the Allies taking over. The children seem to think the American soldier is a walking confectionary for you can't pass one that isn't crying for chewing gum, bon-bons or cigarettes. A kid of five or six will often walk up and ask for a cigarette for papa.

Speaking of candy and the like, we haven't been getting too much of that ourselves. We have had the grand total of one American candy bar issued in rations since leaving Scotland in mid-October. The Army has stories printed that we get plenty of this and for our folks not to send us any. This may be true for the boys 1000 miles from the front but it sure isn't true for fighting men. For an example of this, I received seventeen cartons of cigarettes from Christmas until April and with what I have received in rations I am still out. I gave some of them to other boys, but I smoked most of them myself. At present I am rolling my own. I was smoking English cigarettes until we got some canned to-

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Former County Man Dies In Washington

Lemuel E. Jones, native of this county, died at his home in Washington early last Wednesday afternoon following a long illness.

The son of Mrs. Barbara Jones and the late W. W. Jones, he was born in Griffins Township on March 2, 1898. He served as a master mechanic for the Wise Granite Company of New York. He also operated a garage in Jamesville for several years.

In 1918, he was married to Miss Euna Tunnell, of Swan Quarter, and she with a daughter, Mrs. Leona Jones Krusic, of Bend, Oregon, survives.

Surviving also are five sisters: Mrs. Lewis Manning, of [Name obscured]; Mrs. Dave Manning of Griffins Township; Mrs. Major Gardner, of Jamesville; Mrs. Lawrence Ellis, of Jamesville; Mrs. Alex Harrison, of Rocky Mount, and one brother, Ira, of Griffins Township. A number of nieces and nephews also survive.

The deceased was a member of the Christian Church and a former member of the Woodmen of the World.

Funeral services were held from the home yesterday afternoon at 2:30 with the Rev. S. F. Freeman, of Little Rock, Ark., officiating. Burial was in the Tice Cemetery in this county.

Gregg Cherry Will Speak To Legion Here Monday

Gregg Cherry, former state commander of the American Legion and candidate for Governor of the State of North Carolina, will speak to the members of the local Legion Post here Monday night at the Legion Hut. At this meeting the installation of officers will take place following a barbecue supper.