

Indications Again Point To Invasion Of Balkan Country

Stubborn Fighting Continues in Italy; Russians Gaining Initiative at Kiev

After talking for weeks and months about a possible attack on Hitler's European Fortress from the West, observers, without any official military authority, are now voicing the belief that an invasion of the Balkan territory is in the making. Much of the talk is based on the transfer of General Patton to Cairo where he is believed to be conferring with leaders directly interested in any proposed move that would carry an invasion force into that territory.

There has been speculation as to the next assignment of General Patton's Seventh Army since the completion of the campaign in Sicily. It is thought that some of the Seventh was infiltrated into the Fifth Army forces in Italy, but the main Seventh apparently has been lost to the public eye since the Sicilian campaign.

In Italy, despite rain and mud, bitter fighting is in progress with Montgomery's men forging doggedly ahead on the Adriatic end of the line. The American Fifth on the other end has broken up several attempted German counterattacks.

Following a month of reverses in the Kiev sector, the Russians are now believed to have stalled the Germans and apparently are taking the initiative.

Driven from several inhabited points on Sunday, the Germans yesterday launched heavy tank and infantry counterattacks south of Malin, 58 miles northwest of Kiev. They were hurled back by Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin's First Ukrainian Army, which delivered counter-blows of its own and improved its positions, communique broadcast by the Moscow radio announced.

A supplementary Moscow broadcast late last night declared that the month-long German drive toward Kiev, which met its first real setback Sunday, "not only has been frustrated but the Germans have been pressed back."

The war bulletins announced that inside the big Dnieper Bend, Gen. Ivan S. Konev's Second Ukrainian Army captured a number of unspecified points in tightening a pincers around the rail and industrial city of Kirovograd. Konev's right wing, moving westward from Kremenchug along the Dnieper, scooped up five fortified towns in a drive that resulted in the capture of Cherkassy, according to an order of the day released this morning by Stalin.

A thousand Germans were killed and eleven German tanks were wrecked in Monday's Kirovograd-Kremenchug fighting, the only other fronts besides Malin on which major engagements were fought.

Moscow reports hinted, however, that major Soviet operations might be imminent on all fronts. A Moscow broadcast last night said that "operations of far-reaching importance are developing west of Kremenchug and in the Kirovograd direction."

Ship Bundles For Relief Of Greeks

Twenty-two boxes, containing some twelve or fourteen hundred garments, are being shipped to established headquarters in New York for transoceanic shipment for the relief of suffering Greek citizens in the stricken country.

Mrs. O. S. Anderson, who handled the project, explained that the garments donated by local merchants and individual citizens here and in the community, had a value of possibly \$700 or more. The shipment includes several men's new suits, quite a few new dresses and ten ladies' coats right out of stock. The clothing for the most part was highly serviceable and will certainly relieve suffering for quite a few stricken Greek people, it was explained.

Let reports from Greece state that possibly one out of every three Greek citizens has fallen victim of tuberculosis as a result of malnutrition, that Greek warriors hobbled on crutches from hospitals attired only in pajamas given them while they were receiving limited medical attention. In October, one report stated that 1,800 people were dying weekly in a single city as a result of starvation, that possibly that figure will approximate 3,600 now.

Report Fine Farm Meeting in Chicago

Returning early last Sunday morning from the national Farm Bureau Federation meeting in Chicago, Messrs. C. L. Daniels, Sr., E. V. Smith, D. V. Clayton, Carl Griffin and J. Linwood Knowles, representing this county, stated that it was a splendid convention, that the trip was greatly enjoyed.

Farmer Griffin got a bit bus sick while traveling over the mountains, but as soon as he shook the Martin County sand off his shoes, he held his own with the group.

County Draft Policies Altered Little By Recent Instructions

Apparently draft policies in force in this county during recent months will be little changed, R. H. Goodman, chairman of the local county board said today in commenting on recent instructions received from Selective Service. It was pointed out that fathers were at the bottom of the list, that all other available men had been called in this county, that it was impossible to meet the monthly quotas without dipping into the list of fathers.

"Now, it is possible that more changes will be ordered in the future, but for the present our instructions are to maintain virtually without change the policies in effect these past several months," Mr. Goodman added. That is, all youths becoming eighteen years of age who are not eligible for farm classifications or deferments will be placed ahead of fathers in the draft list.

All single men and non-fathers whose deferments expire from time to time will be called ahead of fathers. "But this is what we have been doing for several months," the draft board chairman said.

While new regulations may be adopted that will call for drastic changes, current instructions say nothing about calling all single men

Armed Forces Take Eighteen More Men From Martin County

Few Men Accepted from the
December Call To Have
Holiday At Home

Armed Forces Take Eighteen More Men From Martin County

Out of an estimated thirty-one Martin County white men reporting to an Army induction center the latter part of November, eighteen were accepted. A nineteenth man was tentatively accepted, but his name could not be learned. It is understood that this man will make the return trip possibly the latter part of January with the virtual assurance that he will be accepted.

Out of the group one was accepted for service in the Coast Guard. He is the first man to answer a draft call and be accepted by the Coast Guard.

The following seven men were accepted by the Navy: Clayton LeRoy Revels, James Marshall Stewart, Dennis Earl Hardy, Cecil McCullen Weeks, James Royal Carroll, Elmer Loree McLawhorn and Herbert Griffin Leggett. Stewart was transferred from New York for induction.

The following men were accepted by the Army: Lawrence Ward Spencer, Joseph Nathan Campbell (Delmas) Whitehurst Clark, Weylon Ronald Brown, Marvin Thomas Winberry, Benjamin Russell Weaver, Clifford Bert Moore, and Robert Bryon Jones.

Murray White "Buck" Holloman and Chester Lee Crocker were accepted by the Marines, and Reuben Daniel Taylor was accepted by the Coast Guard.

All of the men except those accepted by the Army have returned for active duty. Those accepted by the Army are scheduled to leave tomorrow. Taken ill suddenly over the week-end and now undergoing treatment in the local hospital for malaria and pus on the knee, Bennie Weaver will hardly be able to make the return trip tomorrow. Five of the men accepted out of the November call are fathers.

According to unofficial information, nine men were accepted by the services out of an estimated 40 answering the December call week before.

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NO CHARGE

For the first time in years, if not in the history of the Martin County Superior Court, no charge was delivered to the grand jury here yesterday.

Explaining to the jurymen, that they had already received instructions at a previous term for handling their duties, Judge Walter Bone, of Nashville, said that he had talked with officers and that no new conditions had arisen that should be called to their attention.

Several jurymen were late, and the judge issued a warning, adding that from now on it would be a mighty good rule to be here on time.

Illicit Liquor Trade In County Hasn't A Chance, Officer Says

Four Liquor Plants Wrecked And Man Arrested in Past Few Days

"The illicit liquor trade hasn't a chance in this county," ABC Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck declared yesterday following a series of successful raids during the past few days. More than half a dozen liquor stills have been wrecked within the past week in several sections of the county, while in other areas the officers are convinced there is little or no activity on the illegal manufacturing front. There have been attempts, more or less desperate in their character, to revive the business in the face of an alleged shortage of the legalized brands, but for the most part they have been snipped in the bud, and what little activity there has been on the front was costly.

Continuing their work last Friday, officers wrecked three plants in Bear Grass Township, pouring out four and one-half gallons of white liquor and about 400 gallons of beer. At least half of the beer was made out of sugar, the increase in that kind of "slops" causing officers to wonder where the sugar is entering illegal channels.

The first of the three plants was located in open woods and could be seen from quite a distance. The two operators, firing the plant for all it was worth, took advantage of the setting and made their escape while the officers were still a quarter of a mile away. Apparently the tires on the still owner's car had worn out and he had converted parts from his car to the illicit manufacturing business. He had a small car heater radiator for a cooling worm and made his steam connections with an exhaust pipe.

The second plant was equipped with a tin still and two worms. The third plant was complete with a 30-gallon oil drum for a still.

Visiting the Oak City area Sunday, enforcement officers joined local police but made little progress there. Going to the Hassell area later, they found a gallon of illicit liquor in the dresser drawer of Sam Henry Taylor, colored. He is to appear for trial.

Pageant Witnessed By Big Crowd Here

The junior and senior glee clubs of the Williamston High School presented an inspiring Christmas pageant, "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," to a large audience assembled in the local high school auditorium last Sunday evening. Every seat in the spacious high school auditorium was taken as the fourth in the annual series of Christmas messages began with the prophecy of the coming of the Christ Child as told by J. D. Lilley, who played the part of the prophet.

From that point the story of the Christ Child was told in song by choruses of one hundred and twenty voices and by narrator, Angela McLawhorn. The pageant was climaxed by the scene of the "Nativity" and the singing of "Silent Night." Colorful costumes and a brilliant stage setting, along with a splendid cast of young people, made this year's presentation of the Christmas pageant outstanding among the four presented in recent years.

The scenes from the stage were dramatized against a starlit blue background. In the foreground were beautiful palm trees representing a "Hill in Bethlehem."

The musical numbers were well-received. Bobby Taylor's singing of "He Shall Feed His Flock," from the Messiah, was especially well received as were other solos, duets, and trios. The solo part in "O Holy Night," a favorite number of previous pageants, was sung by Helen Weaver.

The pageant was presented under the direction of Miss Kathryn Mewborn with the assistance of faculty members in the grammar and high schools.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Although the number of accidents on county highways so far this year is one below the count for the corresponding period in 1942, the accident picture is darker this year than last despite tire and gas rationing and laws calling for greatly reduced speeds. The count was boosted by one last week.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

50th Week Comparison

Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge	1943	1942
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Comparison To Date

1943	1942	To Date
60	42	5 11,535
61	58	4 7,808

Three \$5 contributors, Messrs. C. G. Crockett and G. H. Harrison and the Lions Club, were reported.

Mrs. Ben Courtney, chairman of the seal sale, states that it is not too late for those receiving seals through the mails to remit, that these sales must be completed if the county is to reach its \$300 goal.

Hunters Are Warned To Observe Quail Lay Days

Martin County hunters are warned to observe lay days for taking quail, game authorities pointing out that the bird may be taken only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

To hunt quail on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays subjects one to a \$59 fine, it was explained.

Funeral Saturday For War Victim In County

Sgt. Rufus Mobley Victim Of Airplane Crash December 4

Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in the old Mobley Cemetery on the Bud Mobley farm in Cross Roads Township last Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock for Technical Sergeant Rufus N. Mobley, young Martin County man who lost his life when a big United States bomber crashed near Elverson, Pennsylvania, late in the night of December 4th.

Rev. Dennis Warren Davis, pastor of the Christian Chapel Church, conducted the last rites and paid a sincere tribute to the memory of the young man who had made the supreme sacrifice for his country.

Young Mobley was the fifteenth Martin County man to lose his life during the current struggle, and his body was the first to be recovered from the jaws of the present war and returned to native soil for burial.

The rites were simple and yet impressive. A large United States flag draped the casket and a military escort stood at attention while the body was being lowered to its last resting place near the grave of the young man's father who was buried there last April. The flag was recovered and given to the soldier's mother, the military escort stating, "I present to you for safekeeping this flag for which your son gave his life to protect."

The young man's body, accompanied by Cpl. Arnold I. Bernstein, reached here last Friday afternoon and lay in state at the Biggs Funeral Home until 2:30 P. M. Saturday. The casket carried a seal and was not opened.

Traveling under Army orders, Cpl. Bernstein, personal friend and who had served with Sgt. Mobley, identified the body at Reading, Pa., and continued to this county, talking with one of the ill-fated bomber crew members who survived the crash just to die six days later Cpl. Bernstein said that the plane, making a routine flight from Will Rogers Airfield at Oklahoma City to Reading, Pa., arrived at its destination, but a heavy fog at that point made a safe landing impossible and the pilot was advised to go to the field at Philadelphia. The big bomber circled in an effort to gain altitude for the trip to the other field, but crashed in the tree tops on a hill or mountain near Elverson. Nine persons, including young Mobley, were killed instantly when the plane crashed and burst into flames. There is no doubt that all nine of the men were killed in the crash and not burned to death. Of the two crew members who were thrown clear of the crash and came out alive, one died six days later. No later report could be had from the eleventh man.

Technical Sergeant Mobley was born on November 11, 1919, the son of Mrs. Effie Roberson Mobley and the late Louis N. Mobley, natives of this county. He lived in this county as a child and upon his graduation from the Coneloe High School he entered the service when he was seventeen years of age. He had served his country faithfully, spending much time in foreign lands. He returned to this county and had been at Will Rogers Field only a few weeks where he was crew chief on one of the

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Man Wrecks Car He Owned Three Hours

Arthur Dail, 28-year-old Pitt County white man was painfully but not seriously hurt late last Saturday night when he wrecked his 1936 Plymouth sedan near the Flat Swamp Bridge. It was said the man had bought the car hardly more than three hours before from a dealer in Bethel, paying \$300 for it. After investigating the accident, Corporal W. S. Hunt of the Highway Patrol stated that the car was demolished, that it possibly could be sold as junk for around \$100.

Thought to have been driving at a rapid speed, Dail lost control of the car and it turned over, throwing him clear and about 75 feet down the road. It is believed that two colored men were riding with the man and that they went through the wreck uninjured.

After receiving first aid treatment in the Ward Clinic in Roersonsville, Dail was brought to the local hospital where he received further treatment and was later released. He suffered painful cuts and bruises about the head.

The man faces charges of drunken driving and operating a motor vehicle after his driver's license had been revoked.

Roger Critcher, Jr. Machinist Graduate

U. S. Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla.—Roger Anson Critcher, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Critcher, Williamston, recently graduated from the Aviation Machinist's Mate School here as an honor student. Finishing with an average of 82.31, he was promoted to third class petty officer in the U. S. Navy.

Entering the service April 15, 1943, he received his recruit training at Bainbridge, Md., before arriving at the Naval Air Technical Training Center here.

Critcher is now a qualified aviation mechanic and will probably see service with a Naval air unit.

Believe Tri-County That B... Broken By Recent Arrests

Five Men Involved in Thefts And Robberies During Recent Weeks

The back bone of an ever-expanding theft ring operating in this, Washington and Hyde Counties was believed to have been broken with the arrest of five colored men in this and Hyde Counties last week-end. The theft two weeks ago of an automatic shot gun, a single barrel gun and a 16-shot rifle and five gallons of gasoline from George and Tony Cooper at their camp on Roanoke River at Jamesville, was followed by the theft of twenty-two bags of peanuts from Leman Ange, Jamesville Township farmer, last week. A third theft was reported at the parking lot of the North Carolina Pulp Company where thieves stole two wheels and tires from Roy Simpson, mill employee and resident of Pinetown.

Officers had been working on the case for days, but their first clue was picked up in Hyde County last week following the arrest of Carl Satterthwaite, Lugene Mackey, West Keech and Hertford Williams for questioning in connection with the robbery of three filling stations in Hyde County. Something was said about stolen peanuts, and from that point the series of robberies was unraveled. It was soon learned that Raymond Wynne, colored of Jamesville, and Lugene Mackey and West Keech, both of Swan Quarter, stole the guns and five gallon can of gasoline. The theft of the peanuts was charged to Satterthwaite, Mackey, Keech and Williams. Living right on the Martin-Washington County boundary, Mr. Ange grew the peanuts in this county and stored them in a building across the road in Washington County.

Sheriff J. K. Reid, of Plymouth, is heading up that case while Sheriff C. B. Roebuck of this county is working on the gun and tire cases even though the wheels and tires were stolen from a Washington County man working in this county. The stolen peanuts were traced to Washington and Mr. Ange is expected to demand payment from the purchasers. The guns were recovered, the automatic from a man in Plymouth, the single barrel weapon from a man in Terra Ceia, and the rifle from a man near Roper.

Following a preliminary hearing to be held in Hyde County in connection with the filling station robberies, the men will be brought here the latter part of this week for a second hearing and then transferred to Washington County for a third hearing. It is likely that the group will face trial in Washington County when the court convenes there next month. They are expected to go on trial here next March and then face the courts in Hyde next May. At the present time, Wynne is being held in the jail here and the others are being detained in Hyde County.

Superior Court Is Expected To Close Term Here Today

Greater Part of Monday Spent Hearing Case Against Kelly Salsbury

The regular term of the Martin County Superior Court was rapidly drawing to a close early this afternoon despite the fact that a greater part of yesterday and some little time this morning were spent in hearing the robbery charge lodged against Kelly LeRoy Salsbury, colored man.

Large crowds were attracted into court yesterday and today, many of them coming to hear the evidence in the case charging Robert Lee Andrews with the murder of Walter Wallace Bailey. A true bill was returned in the case by the grand jury yesterday.

After working a full day, the grand jury completed its duties and recessed until March unless called into extraordinary session.

Proceedings: The case charging Elbert Whitehurst with being drunk and disorderly and damaging public property was again continued.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with hit-and-run driving, Arthur Council was sentenced to the roads for twelve months and directed to pay the costs and \$100 to Mrs. Mamie Raynor, the prosecuting witness. Council, accompanied by several colored friends, ran down and painfully injured Mrs. Raynor in Poplar Point Township last August.

The case charging Ernest Everett Stator with larceny was continued, subject to the defendant's acceptance for service in the armed forces.

Charged with breaking and entering and an assault, Simond Jenkins pleaded guilty of forcible trespass, and was sentenced to the roads for three months. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of the court costs and a guarantee of good behavior for two years.

The grand jury did not find a true bill in the case charging D. D. Hill with holding up and robbing Johnnie Smallwood at the point of a gun on Williamston's lower main street last month. Smallwood claimed he was relieved of \$4 by the defendant.

Robert Lee Andrews, middle-aged colored man, was sentenced to State's Prison for not less than three and not more than five years when he pleaded guilty of manslaughter. He was formally charged with murder, but the manslaughter plea was accepted by Solicitor Donnell Gilliam. Much evidence was offered in the case, and the defendant proved good character, a factor that possibly may

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Infant Dies In The County Last Friday

Donnie McNeil Harrison, six months old, died at the home of his parents, Mr. Oliver Harrison and wife, Mrs. Martha Stokes Harrison, in Bear Grass Township last Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock of pneumonia. The child was taken sick Thursday, pneumonia developing that night possibly following an attack of influenza. Earlier Thursday, the little child was said to have been in apparently good health.

Besides his parents, he leaves the following brothers and sisters, Oliver, Jr., Rhoda Pearl, Sallie Ann, Floydia Mae and William Gerald.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowin, and burial was in the Harrison family cemetery, near the home.

Local Parents - Teachers To Hold Meeting Tomorrow

The Williamston Parent-Teacher Association will hold its December meeting at the grammar school auditorium Wednesday afternoon, December 15th, at 3:30.

A special Christmas program by Miss Lemina Baker's second grade will feature the meeting. The young people will present a pageant, "The Story of the Christ Child."

All parents are urged to be present at the meeting.

Tomorrow, December 15, is the last day for farmers and a few others to file their income and victory tax returns. A last-minute rush to beat the deadline is being reported in a number of offices where the returns are being calculated.

No estimate as to the number filing could be had, but it is believed that a large majority of farmers in this county have complied with the law.

According to one estimate about 90 per cent of the farmers are paying victory taxes, and about 10 per cent are paying income taxes.



CAPTAIN
Charles L. Daniels, Jr., Martin County young man serving with the U. S. Air Forces in the Mediterranean theater, was recently promoted to the rank of captain, it was indirectly learned here this week. It is understood that Captain Daniels has already flown twenty-five or more missions, that ordinarily they are transferred back to the States when they have handled fifty missions.