

Red Army's Drive In The North Features Land Front Action

Attacks on French Invasion Coast Resumed; Rabaul

Two new German attacks have been thrown back in recent days to feature the activities on the Italian front, but the momentous drive of the Red Army to the far north of the Eastern Front features the land front fighting today.

The four-pronged drive started by the Russians on their northern front, the first at Leningrad on January 16, a second on the same day at Novgorod, a third just north of Velikie Luki on February 13, and a fourth near Staraya Russa on February 18, is about to bear fruit. Late reports state that the key base of Pskov is about to fall. The city, a key to the invasion of the Baltic states, is under bombardment by Russian artillery, but Hitler has ordered his men to fight to the death in defense of the point. The Red armies are within five miles of the city today, and its fall is imminent. However, bloody and bitter fighting is expected to continue before the objective is accomplished.

On other fronts, the Russians are still pushing eight centralized drives against the Germans, unusually heavy fighting having been reported in White Russia where the Red Army is pushing on toward Minsk.

The Finnish problem is back in the news, late reports stating that political leaders are meeting in the battered capital of Helsinki today to discuss Russian peace proposals. An announcement is expected soon, and it will simply state Finland's desire to either quit the war or continue the fight. The people are asking to quit the war, some observers stating that the Russian terms are quite liberal.

Weather conditions continue next to impossible in Italy, but a seven-day stalemate in that area was broken yesterday when British troops seized two important German strong points and the Americans broke up an enemy infiltration attempt to the east in the Anzio beachhead.

The fight in Burma came back into the news yesterday when it was announced that British Imperial troops, once trapped by the Japs, had reversed positions and annihilated.

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Native Of County Dies In Belhaven

Staten J. Peele, native of this county and for many years a prominent citizen of Belhaven, died at his home there last Saturday afternoon following a long period of declining health.

Mr. Peele, son of the late W. Daniel and Sarah Peele, was born in Bear Grass Township on November 15, 1874. When a young man he located in Belhaven where he was successfully engaged in business for a long number of years, retiring about a year ago.

Twice mayor of Belhaven, Mr. Peele was a leader in the community's religious and educational programs, holding an active membership in the Trinity Methodist Church there. On January 15, 1915, he was married to Miss Lona R. Midyette of Hyde County, who died about eighteen months ago.

He leaves two sons, Lt. Staten J. Peele, USN, and Lt. Joseph Peele who is in the Army somewhere in India; a brother, G. A. Peele, of near Williamston, and a sister, Mrs. Marion Green of Robersonville.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon in Belhaven by his pastor, Rev. O. C. Haas, assisted by Rev. A. J. Mackie, Episcopal minister, and Rev. Albert Wilson, pastor of the Belhaven Christian Church. Interment was in the new cemetery in Belhaven.

Among those from here attending the services were, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Taylor, Mrs. Mary Bell Osborne, Mr. W. G. Peel, Mrs. Roy Ward, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Peel and Mr. Lawrence Peele.

Draft Status Still Uncertain For Many County Registrants

Uncertainty continues to surround the draft status of registrants between the ages of 18 and 33, according to the best available information

sources today. However, it is quite certain that 250,000 men will be called monthly during the next several months. Just now the draft finger is pointing directly toward those few remaining married civilians with children, but the search is being broadened to include all registrants between the ages of 18 and 26 years and farmers above 26 years who do not meet unit production requirements.

No official instructions have been received by the draft board in this county, and for the present the draft officials are drawing heavily from the father group. It is understood that instructions will be issued tomorrow or Thursday directing a goodly number of white fathers to report sometime the latter part of next week for pre-induction examinations.

During the meantime, a Presidential directive is said to have been issued, ordering all State Selective Service Headquarters to cancel all

ROUND-UP

It was a busy time in the old home town last week-end when officers, aided by special police, rounded up ten alleged violators of law and order. The season was open for several types of violations, but the drunks led the list. Four were arrested and jailed for public drunkenness, two for drunken driving, two for larceny and receiving, one for assault with a deadly weapon and one for bastardy.

Two of the ten were white men. The ages of the group ranged from 19 to 40 years, most of them being in their early twenties.

Effective Work Now Handled By The Red Cross Bandage Room

Nearly Two Hundred Persons Volunteer Their Services Here Last Week

After doing little more than marking time for weeks, the Red Cross bandage room here handled an effective work last week, Mrs. J. B. Taylor, the chairman, stating that nearly two hundred persons volunteered their services during the period and "pitched in" to help prepare and package several thousand surgical dressings for the United States Army. In addition to the work handled in the room, volunteers in the Macedonia, Bear Grass and Lenoir counties, rendered valuable assistance. Volunteers from a fourth community, Farm Life, report direct to the bandage room here once each week to lend a helping hand.

At the present time, material is on hand for making about 3,600 4x8 surgical dressings. Additional material has already been shipped for the March quota which calls for 36,000 4x4 dressings.

The names of those persons volunteering their services and reporting to the bandage room here last week include the following:

Monday, February 21: Mesdames M. M. Levin, Elbert Sherman, J. B. Taylor, Dean Speight, M. M. Levin, J. C. Manning, C. B. Roebuck, G. H. Harrison, D. R. Davis, C. R. Mobley, G. G. Woolard, J. O. Manning, W. O. Griffin, Leman Barnhill, H. D. Harrison, Tom Barnhill, Billy Griffin, B. F. Perry, Ralph Parker, Tilmon Coltraine, Hubert Biggs, Garland Coltraine, Fletcher Thomas, James Bullock, Carroll Coltraine, John L. Goff and Frank Peel.

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Plant Dynamite In Car At Jamesville

"We did not know whether we were in Berlin or in the Italian beachhead," Mr. Chas. Davenport said yesterday in telling about a dynamite explosion that wrecked an old model auto, shook and broke windowlights and cut a high-powered electric line in Jamesville last Saturday night about 11:15 o'clock.

Officers are investigating the explosion, and for the present it is clothed in mystery.

Hubert Wooden, colored barber, parked his car on the highway near the Martin home and was busily engaged cutting hair when the shop where he was working vibrated. He soon learned that someone had planted a liberal supply of dynamite on top of the engine of his old 1934 Ford sedan. The engine was shattered, the little iron missiles flying a distance of almost one hundred yards. A window in the Martin home was broken, but there was no other property damage.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

A weekly news digest from the rural press section of the OWI news bureau)

Beginning the week of March 6, OPA will attempt to check all gasoline ration books to see that the coupons are properly endorsed with license number and state, as part of the nationwide campaign against black markets in gasoline. Motorists found with unendorsed coupons will be notified to report to their local board within 10 days with endorsed books. Anyone who fails to do this faces revocation of rations.

New Ceilings on Various Items The Office of Price Administration recently established price ceilings on several items. For consumers, a reduction on Virginia type dried pork products—5 to 6 cents a pound on whole or half hams; 6 to 7 cents a pound on sliced ham; 4 to 5 cents on bacon; 3 to 4 cents on sides; 2 cents on jowls, and 5 cents on shoulders. Soybeans of the 1943 crop to be processed for oil are \$1.86 a bushel for base grade and \$1.92 for highest quality. Yellow cypress lumber was increased \$3 to \$4 per 1,000 board feet for producers—to be passed on to consumers.

Prominent Farmer Passes Suddenly At Home Early Monday

Funeral Services Are Being Conducted Today For Jas. R. Corey

Funeral services are being conducted at the home this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for James Romulus Corey, prominent county citizen and well-known farmer, who died suddenly in the Farm Life community yesterday morning at 4:30 o'clock. Elder P. E. Getsinger, his pastor, assisted by Elders J. B. Lee of Four Oaks, and S. B. Denny of Wilson, is conducting the last rites. Interment will follow in the Hardison Cemetery at Hardison Mill, not far from the home.

Mr. Corey suffered a slight heart attack about ten days ago, but it caused him very little trouble and he seemed to recover without having to go to bed. The day before his death the following morning, he attended church services at Smithwick Creek and told friends at that time that he was feeling some better than usual. He ate heartily during the day and after listening to the early evening radio programs retired, apparently in the best of health. Shortly before 4 o'clock, hardly half an hour before the end, Mrs. Corey was awakened by his gasping for breath. It is believed he suffered the attack a few minutes before and was rendered unconscious. Before aid could be summoned to the home, he was dead.

A son of the late John Gray and Prudence Hardison Corey, he was

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Graduating From Army Gunnery School In Texas

Pfc. James W. Watts, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watts of Williamston, is being graduated from the Laredo, Texas, Army Gunnery School tomorrow. A specialist in the Martin upper turret, the young man will spend a ten-day furlough here with his parents before proceeding to his new field to be assigned to a bomber crew.

Williamston Youth Tells About Exciting Times He Had During Months In Pacific

Reviewing briefly the high spots in his military career on Guadalcanal Island, Bill Holloman said his greatest disappointment was when all forces on the island were put on an alert in anticipation of a Jap invasion attempt. "Our nerves were tense. I had been assigned to a gun

island, but keen American eyes and ears were alert. I led the threat offered by the sniper and his high powered rifle. A big bulldozer was warning its way through the jungle and struck a large tree, jarring out a sniper who had exhausted his ammunition and who had held to his post half starved. The fall killed him. He was about the last sniper Bill saw on the island, but quite a few Jap prisoners were moved near his base and he talked with them. One of the Jap prisoners claimed he had seven American planes in his credit, but the claim was hardly recognized.

An enemy character holding a high rating in conversation topics was "Sewing Machine Charlie." A master of the English language, "Sewing Machine Charlie" would tell the Americans over his radio that he was going to pay them a visit, "and he filled his engagements promptly, as a rule," Bill said. "Charlie would tell us how the Japs were winning the war, and he would call his individual parts. But one day he gave himself away, and the boys were

fixed for him. It was Charlie's last trip," Bill said, adding that all the boys were greatly disappointed when Charlie's ship crashed and burned before his body could be recovered.

In addition to tuning in their radio on "Sewing Machine Charlie," there was an English speaking woman who spiced Jap propaganda over the radio from Tokyo. "Occasionally we heard an American broadcast, but Charlie and the lady propagandist were our main sources of entertainment," Bill said.

Quite a few of the Jap prisoners could speak English, and they were puzzled to understand why they should receive such good treatment from their captors. They cared little for their own lives, and everyone Holloman talked with expressed the firm belief that Japan would win the war.

To Make Plans For Red Cross Drive At Meetings Tomorrow

Final plans will be formulated at two meetings to be held in the courthouse here tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock and tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock for advancing the 1944 Red Cross drive.

tin County Chapter, J. C. Manning, chairman of the chapter, and V. J. Spivey, chairman of the fund drive, will meet with white leaders from the five townships of Jamesville, Williamston, Griffins, Bear Grass and Williamston at 3 o'clock, and that evening at 8 o'clock they will meet with the leaders of the colored citizens. It is understood that the chairmen are again calling upon the faithful leaders and their assistants to put the chapter over the top during the drive beginning next Monday. All leaders are asked to attend

the meeting, and the canvassers are earnestly urged to rally around their leaders and push the campaign to a successful end without delay. Meetings will be held within the

dates have not yet been announced. This chapter is being asked to raise \$6,200 in support of the world-wide work the Red Cross is now handling. In addition to the \$6,200 this chapter is being asked to raise, the Robersonville Chapter, made up of Cross Roads, Robersonville, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest Townships, is being called upon for \$1,800. Rev. E. C. Wilkie, Robersonville minister and chairman of the drive in that chapter, plans to launch the campaign there tomorrow, according to reports reaching here.

Mrs. Robt. L. Smith Dies At Her Home In Robersonville

Hundreds Attend Last Rites For Prominent Citizen Last Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Sallie Grimes Smith, prominent county woman and greatly beloved citizen of Robersonville, died at her home there last Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Her condition was not considered critical until about ten days ago when she suffered a relapse, and after that little hope was held for her recovery.

The daughter of the late James H. and Carolina Roberson Grimes, she was born in Robersonville 64 years ago. In early womanhood she was married to Mr. R. L. Smith, prominent eastern North Carolina business man, and he with two sons, Messrs. Irving L. Smith and J. Gilbert Smith, both of Robersonville, survives. She also leaves a sister, Mrs. A. R. Dunning, of Williamston.

Few people could be held in greater devotion than was Mrs. Smith. Kind and thoughtful of others, she was held in high esteem by all who knew her, and she was a friend to everyone. Hers was a noble life in deed and unselfish service to others. She was a leader in her church for many years. In the home she was a devoted wife and a most thoughtful mother. Her goodness knew no bounds, and the needy and less fortunate could find no better friend than she was. She will be greatly missed, but surely her home town and this section were enriched by her noble character and her humble walk through life.

The great respect for her and the high esteem in which she was held by persons in all stations of life

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Alleged Bootlegger Is Arrested Here Saturday

Ivory Clark, alleged bootlegger, fell into the hands of the law last Saturday afternoon when Policemen John Roebuck and Chas. Moore and ABC Officer Joe Roebuck raided the man's home and came out with some mighty damaging evidence. Hardly more than a pint of white lightning was found in a half-gallon jar, but the officers found two gallon jugs that had been emptied apparently only a short time.

Clark was placed under bond in the sum of \$100 for his appearance in the county court next Monday.

Church At Hamilton Awarded Certificate

Atlanta, Ga.—In compliance with a new policy of the War Department, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Hamilton, has been awarded an Army certificate due to the fact that John W. Hardy, chaplain captain, and former rector of the church is now serving as a chaplain in the Army, Chaplain (Colonel) John O. Lindquist, Chief of the Chaplain Branch, 1st Service Command, announced here today.

The certificate, 16 1-2 by 12 1-4, is handsomely engraved, prominently displays the chaplain's insignia and is suitable for framing. It reads: "In recognition of the patriotic service of John W. Hardy, in giving the services of John W. Hardy that he might serve God and Country in the armed forces of the United States. (Signed) Chaplain (Brigadier General) W. R. Arnold, Chief of Chaplains, United States Army."

The certificate has already been received.

Marked Decrease In Number of Auto and Truck Tire Rations

A marked reduction in the number of automobile and truck tire rations was made by the rationing board in this county last Friday night. Only forty tires of all types were released.

Grade I tires for cars and pick-up trucks were issued to the following: S. C. Cowin, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube. Romulus Revels, Williamston, one tire and two tubes. Henderson Norfleet, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire and one tube. G. F. Godard, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube. Kelly Rawls, Robersonville, one tire and one tube. Lennie G. Gardner, Jamesville, one tire and one tube. James H. Reddick, Williamston, two tires and two tubes. C. G. Gurkin, Jamesville, one tire and one tube. T. F. Respass, Oak City, one tire. J. R. Matthews, Robersonville, one

Series Of Highway Wrecks Reported Over the Week-end

Young Boy Gets Leg Broken When He Rides Bike

Two persons were hurt, one badly, in a series of accidents reported on the highways in this section over the week-end. No one was killed, but Paul H. Peel, Jr., 13 years old, narrowly escaped with his life when he rode his bicycle into the path of a speeding car. The property damage was held to a fairly low point, \$450, for the three accidents combined.

Riding his bicycle on the Washington highway, a short distance this side of the Old Mill Inn about 4:30 o'clock last Friday afternoon, the young Peel boy was behind two trucks that had slowed down for a school bus to discharge some pupils. The traffic was moving slowly in front of him and he turned to his left to pass and rode into the path of a car driven by Jack McWilliams of Aurora. The youth tried to ride off the highway, but the on-coming car struck the rear wheel of the bike and threw the lad winding, breaking one leg and cutting both badly. McWilliams was said to have accepted the doctor's expenses, but he was booked for speeding. Treated in a local doctor's office, the boy was returned to his home and is getting along very well. Damage to the bike and car was estimated at \$50 by Bill Hunt and W. E. Saunders, of the highway patrol, who investigated the accident. No date for the trial has been set.

KILLED

Pic. John G. Stalls was killed in Italy last October. He was the son of John Brown Stalls and Mrs. Bettie Green Stalls Clifton, natives of this county. After spending his early life in this county, he moved and lived near Fayetteville.

Officially reporting the young man's death, Major General J. A. Ulio said, in part, to the soldier's mother: "I realize that there is nothing that can be said or done that will in any way minimize your sense of loss or lessen your sorrow, but I hope in the days to come the memory that he heroically gave his life in the service of his country and in her hour of need may be of sustaining comfort to you."

That evening about 7:30 o'clock, John Manning, colored man of Griffins Township, drove his 1938 Chevrolet from a filling station at the Jamesville-Washington Highway intersection and struck a car driven by James Earl White. No one was hurt but damage to the two cars was estimated at about \$100 by Patrolman Whit Saunders.

Funeral Sunday For Mrs. Frank Padgett

Mrs. Jane Florence Padgett, highly respected citizen of the Angeltown community of Jamesville Township, died at her home there last Saturday evening at 9 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She had been confined to her bed for only a short time, however.

The daughter of the late John and Alpha Kelly Ward, she was born in Jamesville, N. C., December 3, 1861. She was married when a young woman to L. Frank Padgett who died some years ago. Mrs. Padgett lived in this county most of her life, and was held in high esteem. She was a good neighbor, possessed of a Christian character. For more than half a century she was a faithful member of the Christian Hope Church in Washington County.

She is survived by two sons, John and Dennis Padgett, and three daughters, Mrs. J. M. Ange, Mrs. G. B. Ange and Mrs. R. L. Ange, all of Jamesville. She also leaves sixteen grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon by Rev. D. W. Davis and interment was in the Ange Cemetery in Jamesville Township.

Report Increase In Fish Catches

Officially opened the latter part of January by Tilghman Coltraine in Jamesville, the fishing season is gradually coming into its own in the county. During the past week, fishermen were taking as many as fifty and seventy-five herring from the stream in their drift nets. The catches, however, are not of sufficient size to effect a reduction in price, and the fish are selling for five cents straight in most instances.

Mr. Chas. Davenport said yesterday that white perch were being taken in small quantities now, and that he had six weighing three pounds ready for supper last evening.

The first herring was taken from the stream at this point last week by Henry Crawford. Yesterday, fishermen caught a dozen in the river here.

Prospects for a good season are said to be fairly bright at this time, and fishermen are making ready to start operations on a large scale within the next few days. Local fishermen are repairing and building new machines, and the fishery at Jamesville will possibly start operations on or about the 20th of March.

Many Attend World Day-Of-Prayer Here

Observed here for the seventh time, the annual World Day of Prayer attracted one of the largest attendances on record last Friday afternoon, the number running well above 100 for the service in the Christian Church and to ninety in the colored Cornerstone Church on West Warren Street.

Mrs. Wheeler M. Manning, leading the service in the Christian Church, was assisted by a special choir, the congregation responding. Mrs. A. J. Osteen presented the four projects to be supported by the \$35.52 offering.

The Cornerstone service, the second held by local colored citizens, raised an offering three times greater than the one reported a year ago. "These services ran full around the clock, beginning in the Fiji Islands and closing the day in North Alaska. Truly this world fellowship of Christians around the globe offers a deepening sense of the universality of the Christian religion."

Jamesville Sponsors Basketball Tourney

The Jamesville Invitational Basketball Tournament will get underway Thursday night of this week in the Jamesville gym with teams representing Bear Grass, Williamston, Roper, Windsor and Jamesville high schools competing.

The schedule for Thursday night will be: Girls, Bear Grass vs. Williamston at 8:15; Jamesville, boys, Roper vs. Williamston at 7:15, and Jamesville vs. Windsor at 9:15. The finals on Friday night will begin at 7:30.

Trophies will be awarded to the champions and runners-up in each division. All-Tourney squads of eight boys and nine girls will be selected and awarded Certificates of Awards on the basis of performance and sportsmanship.

The tournament is being sponsored by the Jamesville High School Athletic Association.