

**OVER THE TOP  
FOR VICTORY**  
with  
**UNITED STATES WAR  
BONDS-STAMPS**

**MAKE EVERY  
PAY DAY  
WAR  
BOND DAY**  
STOP SPENDING—SAVE DOLLARS

## Russians Drive Into Rumania and Push On Toward Lwow

### "Protected Area" Is Ordered For Large Strip of England's Coast Line

Adding more sweeping victories in the southern sector of the Eastern Front, Russian armies have crossed the Dniester River into Rumania and are now promoting a push toward possibly the enemy's all-important rail base of Lwow in southern Poland. The Russians are within fifty miles of the great rail junction, the route having been partly cleared with the fall of Leshnyuv.

Enemy positions along the Dniester are crumbling fast, the Russians having captured Mogilev-Podolski, 14 miles east of Oknista junction through which runs one of the two remaining German escape railroads from the lower Ukraine. The Germans, it was said, had no chance to retreat and were "thrown into the river." By taking Mogilev-Podolski, the Russians had advanced 550 miles since the start of their summer offensive last July 12. In other sectors, the march of the Russians last summer and winter advanced as many as 650 miles.

To the north the Russians are said to have massed one and one-half million men in preparation for a renewal of the offensive toward Pskov and on the Narva front and on a more or less direct route to Berlin.

The fight in Italy is still a bit uncertain. Little activity in support of a new attack in the Anzio beach-head has been reported, and on the Cassino front the Germans are said to be still offering a fanatical defense. British forces drove the Germans out of Cassino's Hotel Continental, but the enemy brought in reinforcements to challenge the gain.

Developments in the Balkans are again in the spotlight, Hungary, a former German ally, now being a virtual prisoner of Hitler's forces, possibly as a result of the country's indirect move for peace. While Finland, way up in the north, has announced that peace negotiations have fallen flat, there is still hope that a settlement will be reached between the Finns and Russia, late reports stating that new peace moves were being made.

General Joe Stilwell apparently pulled a fast one on the Japs when he established a base some 150 miles behind the enemy lines in Burma. Air transports moved in large numbers of men and equipment, including mules to threaten a new Jap march toward India.

The Japs are finding it next to impossible to relieve their stranded men on various islands in the South.

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## Eleventh Graders To Graduate This Year

As a result of special action taken by the Martin County Board of Education, eleventh graders in the several county high schools will be eligible for graduation this year. Discussing the problem at a special meeting held here Wednesday, the board members revoked a previous motion requiring the pupil to earn twenty units before he could be graduated.

The order was rescinded when it was pointed out to the board that most of the high school boys are subject to the draft, that if they do not get their diplomas before they enter the service they are not likely to return to school and get them after the war.

The board ruling, adopted about two years ago, was rescinded for no definite period, but it is generally believed that the pupil with sixteen units will be eligible for graduation in 1945. In 1946, however, it is not likely that there will be a graduating class since the eleventh graders at that time started the new twelfth grade cycle.

Messrs. Geo. C. Griffin, J. D. Woodard, H. C. Norman and John W. Eubanks, members of the board, were present for the meeting.

The only other formal business discussed was an order, directing the sale of a small piece of land next to the teachers' in Bear Grass Township.

## Falling Radiator Breaks Boy's Leg

Charles Gray Coltrain, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coltrain of near here, suffered fractures of both bones in his left leg yesterday morning when a 200-pound radiator toppled over on him in the local high school building. He was removed to a Washington hospital after receiving first aid treatment in a local doctor's office.

The pipes leading to the radiator had rusted in two and just as he was opening a door to go out of a room, the radiator toppled over on him. Several companions were with him and they lifted the radiator off him. According to their stories no one touched the radiator but it is possible that a jar toppled it over.

## MISSING IN ACTION



S. Sgt. Edgar M. Taylor, left, and Lt. Jesse Wilson Price, right were reported missing in action on February 22 by the War Department. Sgt. Taylor in a raid over Germany and Lt. Price, a navigator, over Denmark. Young Taylor is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Taylor of RFD 3, Williamston, and Lt. Price is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse T. Price, West Main Street, Williamston.



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## County Young Man Has Been on Thirty Bombing Missions

### T. Sgt. Martel Hardy Hopes For Early End of War and For His Return Home

Martel Hardy, one of three brothers in the service, has been on quite a few bombing missions over in Italy, according to a letter received from the young man a few days ago. He entertains the hope, possibly along with quite a few others, that the war will end soon and that he'll be able to return home.

His letter, addressed to the editor, reads, as follows: "In one of your past editions, I read where the boys were welcome to write to the home town paper. I take this pleasure in writing a few words to the folks back home. 'I left the States along with my crew on September 26, 1943. We came over by boat, and a man can really get tired of water, coming over on a slow boat. We landed in Casablanca, Africa, and were flown up to our air base, then in North Africa. Here we joined our combat group. We flew our first combat mission the last part of October. While in Africa, I saw quite a few historic places. We visited the old Roman town of Carthage, and many places that have made history in the present war. We later were to leave our base for a new one. 'Leaving North Africa, we moved into Italy where we are now stationed. I have seen the best of the German fighters and 'flak' guns. It is no bed of roses. 'My advice to the people back home who have friends overseas is to write as often as possible. Mail means a lot when you are thousands of miles from your loved ones. I'd like very much to have this war over and be back home. Hope my parents are getting along all right. All of our boys are in the service, two overseas. We are all hoping this war will end so every one can go back home. I sure would like to have a coca-cola. I can almost taste them now. 'I have been on thirty bombing missions. Hope I'll be able to come home the early part of summer. So, (Continued on page six)

## Three Hundred Farmers In County In 1-A Classification

Approximately three hundred Martin County farmers between the ages of 18 and 25 years, inclusive, were placed in the first classification, it was unofficially learned this week. The action was taken in accordance with definite instructions from Selective Service which is pointing its finger at all single men and non-farmers in that age group. Only in extremely exceptional cases and where the registrant is producing sixteen war units will deferment be considered by the draft authorities.

No new classifications have been mailed to young men in industry, but the draft board is scheduled to start reviewing those cases at a meeting here this evening. The release of the new classification list has brought a varied reaction and quite a few farmers are appearing in the draft and war board offices and asking about the advice.

## Chapter Gives Almost \$7,000 To Red Cross

### Most of the Chapter Townships Already Have Reached Goal

### Fund Drive Chairman Spivey Believes Total Will Exceed \$7,700.

Given a quota of \$6,200, the Martin County Chapter of the American Red Cross late yesterday had already raised and reported \$6,874.86 in support of the organization's 1944 war fund. Chairman V. J. Spivey, explaining that the drive was still in progress in several scattered areas, advanced the belief that the total would exceed \$7,700 or about \$1,500 in excess of the original quota. In those districts where the original goals have not been reached the drive is still making progress, and in those districts where the drive has not yet been announced complete, donations are still being reported.

Up until late last evening a total of \$6,874.86 had been reported as follows: Williamston, \$4,593.74; Williamston white schools, \$254.97; Bear Grass, \$533.85; Griffins, \$534.50; Jamesville, \$665.53; Williams, \$118; colored citizens in the five townships, \$176.77. Williams Township is about \$32 under its quota, but the chairman, Mrs. R. J. Hardison, has been sick and could not complete the canvass. Only two reports have been submitted by the colored chairmen, Dardens reporting \$127.80, and Woolard's, \$38. In addition to those amounts, about \$16 was given to white canvassers to be applied against the \$900 quota the colored citizens in the five townships are being asked to meet.

No actual count of the number of contributors has been made, but Chairman Spivey has already turned in several thousand of them and they are being put into type and made ready for publication as rapidly as possible, more or less, in the order they were reported by the canvassers. Several pages would be needed to carry all the names at one time and since that is out of the question they will be worked in to the best advantage possible and as quickly as possible, but, sooner or later, The Enterprise hopes to publicly acknowledge every donation down to the last penny.

Names of contributors in Williamston Township whose donations have not been previously acknowledged, follow: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Andrews, \$1; Mrs. Joseph Roberson, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Spruill, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. L. Matthews, \$1; Mrs. J. A. Roberson, 50c; A. A. James, \$5; Mrs. Della Cowen, 25c; Mannings Laundry and Employees, \$15; V. A. Lassiter, \$2; Guy Thomas, \$5; W. J. Miller, \$5; John Miller, \$1; Clyde Manning, \$5; Dr. W. C. Mercer, \$10; H. P. Moleley, \$5; Dr. A. J. Osteen, \$12; Chas. H. Jenkins employees, \$6; Minnie Bullock, \$2; Pittman's, \$18; Bus Station (Continued on page six)

## County Boy Writes About Army Life In Las Vegas Camp

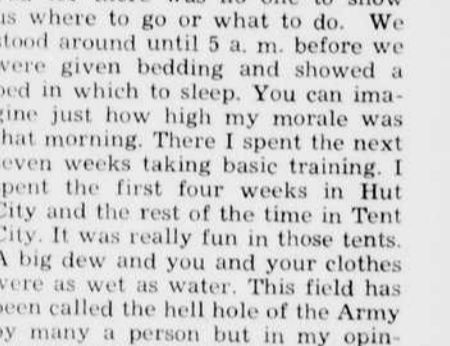
### Cpl. Joe J. Johnson, Jr. Tells About His First Year In The Service

In the following letter to his mother, Cpl. Joe J. Johnson, Jr., tells of his first year in the Army or from the time he entered the service at Fort Bragg until he reached Las Vegas, Nevada:

Just a few words to let you know what this Army life has done for me. I left that wonderful town of Williamston on February 16, 1943, to begin a life that I had never thought about leading. The group I left with included William Vick Andrews, Joseph E. Boykin, Irvin Cullipher, James J. Jackson, and James Warren, arrived at the world's greatest heavy artillery camp down at Fort Bragg. We were assigned to our barracks after we had been over to supply to draw our bedding. At 5 o'clock in the morning we had to get up. Well, to most of us that was pretty early. A barracks clean-up was ordered and over to eat breakfast. Then the fun began if you can call trading your civilian clothes for the Army's any fun. They didn't have but two sizes—too large and too small. For instance it takes a size 36 overall for me and I got 44's. They took us over to be shot. We got everything that they could give us at the time, smallpox, typhoid and one or two others that I can't think of. We stayed there one week before we were shipped down to Keesler Field, Miss. We arrived there at 11 o'clock p. m. I don't think they wanted us very bad for there was no one to show us where to go or what to do. We stood around until 5 a. m. before we were given bedding and showed a bed in which to sleep. You can imagine just how high my morale was that morning. There I spent the next seven weeks taking basic training. I spent the first four weeks in Hut City and the rest of the time in Tent City. It was really fun in those tents. A big dew and you and your clothes were as wet as water. This field has been called the hell hole of the Army by many a person but in my opinion it is much better than anything these western states can offer. They do have trees, flowers, game and things growing. That's more than I can say for the place I am now in which is the state of Nevada. I left Keesler Field on April 7, for a place in the Lone Star State known as Amarillo. Here I was to learn to be an airplane mechanic. After a week's schooling of K. P. and two weeks' pulling details that the Army wants done I started to school. We went one month from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m., one month from 4 p. m. to 12 midnight, and one from 12 midnight to 8 a. m. I went through school and graduated.

## Chapter Gives Almost \$7,000 To Red Cross

### AIDS CODE WORK



Capt. Wm. H. Peel, Hamilton young man, recently perfected a device that is proving of increased value in code signalling down at San Antonio's Aviation Cadet Pre-Flight Center.

William H. Peel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harper Peel of Hamilton, recently perfected a device that is aiding code work at an Army air field. The work of the young man is reviewed in the following story released a short time ago by the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center: "The learning of blinker code signalling has been made faster and easier through a device perfected by Capt. William H. Peel of Hamilton, N. C., head of the code division of the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center's Pre-Flight School for Pilots. Airmen in combat areas, when radio silence is required to avoid detection by the enemy, send dot-and-dash messages by blinking lamps which are placed on the planes and also at ground positions. All prospective pilots at the cadet center are required to learn this system of communication. Recently their proficiency requirement in receiving was raised from four words per minute to five words per minute. The only system previously used at the cadet center for testing students in this subject was to install a small neon bulb at one end of the classroom and excite long and short flashes (the equivalents of dashes and dots) of light through a connection with an electrically-operated mechanism known as a 'keyer'. The (Continued on page six)

## Mrs. J. D. Roberson Died Early Sunday

Mrs. Bettie Peel Roberson, highly respected county citizen, died at her home near Robersonville Sunday morning at 3:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She suffered a light stroke back in 1929, but had partially recovered and was able to attend to most of the duties of her home until about two weeks ago when she suffered a second stroke.

The daughter of the late William and Jane Stalls Peel, she was born in Cross Roads Township on September 23, 1882. She was married to J. Dawson Roberson on December 28, 1904, and located near Robersonville in 1912. Mrs. Roberson was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church in Robersonville for about fifteen years, was a good neighbor and held in high esteem by all who knew her.

Besides her husband she leaves one son, Hubert; four daughters, Mrs. Heber Nelson, Mrs. Irvin Keel, Mrs. Elbert McGowan and Mrs. Charles Evans; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all of Robersonville. She also leaves four sisters, Mrs. Warner Bailey, Mrs. Bill Keel, Mrs. Richard Daniel, all of Williamston, and Mrs. Sudie Lanier, of Robersonville.

The funeral service was held Monday afternoon at the home at 3:30 o'clock by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Interment was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

## Loses Life In Car Accident on Bridge

Edward Floyd Pritchard, 29-year-old colored man, was killed last Saturday morning at 4 o'clock in an automobile on the Roanoke River Bridge here. His neck was broken and he died almost instantly.

Accompanied by and driving Arthur Little's car, Pritchard had just driven on the river bridge when a tire blew out. The car turned over, catching the man under it. Little was not hurt. The men, employed in Norfolk, were on their way to spend the weekend at their homes in the Blount Creek section of Beaufort County.

## Few Cases Are Heard In the Superior Court

### CURB MARKET

Beginning this week, the county curb market will open each Saturday morning in the building back of the agricultural building in Williams. The doors will open at 9:30 for one hour.

By changing the market day from Friday to Saturday, the home agent believes that more sellers will offer food and produce for sale and that the number of patrons will increase. Among the items scheduled for sale this coming Saturday are, dressed chickens, meats, cream, butter and eggs, collards, cakes, etc.

## Detailed Charge Is Heard By County's Grand Jury Monday

### Judge C. E. Thompson Is Impressed by Small Criminal Docket before Court

Returning to hold his first term of court in this county in five years, Judge C. E. Thompson, of Elizabeth City, made a detailed charge to the grand jury Monday. Finding very few criminal cases on the docket, the jurist declared that he was impressed with the marked improvement in this county. "You have some mighty good folks in this county, or else all the bad ones have moved to Casquotank," the judge said, adding that he certainly was glad to see such a small docket.

Touching briefly on the importance of jury service, Judge Thompson said that in order to carry out the provisions of the constitution, the court must have respectable men to serve as jurors, "and you gentlemen have been chosen to handle the task," the jurist said. "In a free and popular government, you men are drawn by lot to administer the law and to keep alive an inspiration for the enforcement of the law," he pointed out.

The jurymen were reminded of their oath and the jurist directed them to inquire after all bills of indictment and other matters that might be placed before them, showing diligence and exercising good commonsense. Judge Thompson in the lengthy charge, briefly outlined the multitudinous duties of the jury and reviewed the various types of crimes, placing no particular stress on any one of them.

In conclusion, the jurist declared that liberty requires a firm and diligent enforcement of the law, that (Continued on page six)

## County Teachers In Meeting Last Friday

Led by Charles Spencer of the State Department of Education approximately ninety Martin County teachers assembled in the high school auditorium last Friday afternoon to discuss the role of health and physical education in the general education program. High school and elementary teachers met separately for group discussions which were followed by a demonstration of physical education activities in the local gymnasium.

Students from county high schools participated in the various game activities along with the teachers. Miss Doris Leach, president of the local unit of the North Carolina Education Association, presided over the meeting.

## Trial Of Criminal Cases Completed In Superior Court

### Verdict of Not Guilty Directed in Rape Case; Several Others Not Pressed

Completing the trial of criminal cases late yesterday afternoon, the Martin County Superior Court ordered a recess until next Monday when it will hear scheduled cases on the civil calendar.

Judge C. E. Thompson of Elizabeth City, presiding over the term, complimented the county for its apparently good behavior. He went on to say that possibly most of the bad folks had moved over to his county. He did not even suggest that crime was escaping detection.

A climax in the Monday proceedings was reached about the middle of the afternoon when the court room was cleared of everyone except the court officers, jury, witnesses and members of the bar for the trial of the case in which Alonza Hardison, colored man, was charged with attempted rape. A true bill was returned earlier in the day by the grand jury, but the evidence offered before the petit jury was apparently so conflicting that the case never reached the jury, the judge directing a verdict of not guilty be entered in the records. The prosecuting witness, Mrs. Robert Lee Dail, took the stand and her husband testified. He was quoted as saying that his wife had told him several different stories, and there is little doubt but what the case had a sordid background.

Judge Thompson had very little comment to offer when he directed the not guilty verdict, but he did say that because the prosecuting witness was white and the defendant was colored there was no reason to find the defendant guilty in the case.

Any future action to remedy the sad situation rests with society, but where welfare authorities or others will lend a helping hand remains to be seen. The court machinery wheels turned rapidly during the day, and in one case the prosecution had, according to one report, cleared the charges from the slate before the grand jury reached it. The case charging James Garland Rogers with reckless driving resulting in the death of Herbert Harrison was not pressed. When a preliminary hearing was held in the case last January or soon after Harrison was fatally injured on January 2, 1944, in an automobile accident on the Williamston-Washington Highway, evidence considered very damaging at the time was offered.

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## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

No runs, no hits and no errors, Highway Patrolmen said in announcing there were no accidents on Martin County Highways last week. It was the first time in recent weeks and one of the few weeks so far this year that not a single road accident was reported in the county.

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.

11th Week Comparison					
Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge		Comparison To Date			
1944	0	0	0	\$	000
1943	1	0	0	\$	50
Comparison To Date					
1944	13	4	1	2775	
1943	8	4	2	1000	

## Race for Postmaster Withdrawing From

Completely worn out in leading the fight for a federal ballot that would permit servicemen to participate in elections back home, Congressman Herbert C. Bonner made a short visit to his district over the week-end to get a bit of rest and to give further consideration to the appointment of a postmaster here. Narrowed down to two applicants, the appointment is still pending, but some action will be taken shortly, it was learned from the congressman. According to unofficial information received here this morning, one of the candidates, Mr. John D. Lilley was considering withdrawing or had already withdrawn, leaving the field virtually open to W. E. Dunn, Williamston man and World War I veteran.

## Prisoners of War At Work on Farms

Prisoner of war labor was placed on farms in this county today under a new blanket work contract recently executed by the Martin County Farm Bureau. A wage of 30 cents an hour for general farm work has been established, it was officially announced, and farmers needing labor are directed to apply to Farm Bureau headquarters in the county agricultural building.

The first prisoners to be made available under the new work contract are unloading cars of hay and corn on the Roberson Slaughter House farm today. If weather conditions are favorable about twenty prisoners of war will report tomorrow for pasture work on the V. G. Taylor farm in Poplar Point Township.

## PRE-INDUCTION CALL

According to unofficial reports heard here this week, a pre-induction call for colored draft registrants has been received in this county. The size of the call could not be learned, but it is thought that it is a comparatively small one. It was also learned unofficially that the men will likely leave the latter part of next week for their pre-induction tests.

So far no official audit of the group of white men reporting on March 10 for pre-induction tests has been received in this county. About all, if not all the white men in the Navy manpower pool in this county are being notified to report for induction next Monday.