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Allies Make Steady Gains In Their All-Out Drive on Rome

"Final" Battle for the Eternal City Is Apparently Now Underway

In a brilliant action advanced by night, American forces continued their march on Rome last night. Late reports indicating that the "final" battle for the Eternal City is gaining momentum and that decisive action is to be expected within a short time. The Allies were making fairly slow but steady gains, are in sight of Rome, their recent advances giving them commanding positions in the Alban hills.

The fighting is so near that cannons, firing with the frequency of machine-guns, caused the houses of Rome to tremble and the windows to rattle continuously. The thunder reached such a state that sleep was impossible.

Allied troops last night were reported moving steadily through the breach in the Nazi wall, consolidating their positions despite violent opposition from enemy flame-throwers, artillery and tanks. Allied headquarters described the gains as "limited but important."

The Germans continued to hurl fierce counter-attacks at the advancing Americans and British, and 15 Nazi fighter planes made a rare appearance over the raging battle. One was blown out of the air by ground fire.

British forces pushing up from the coastal sector due south of Rome reached an undiscovered point on the road north of Ardea and Allied armored units slashing west of the fortified town of Lanuvio crossed the Fosso Di Campoleone, a drainage canal.

An Allied spokesman said the enemy was strongly entrenched in the entire Lanuvio sector, taking full advantage of difficult terrain and employing concrete pillboxes, anti-tank gun emplacements and self-propelled artillery. The battlefield was overhung by clouds of dust, through which large fleets of American medium bombers rained death on enemy troop concentrations and gun emplacements.

While the western arm of the great Allied offensive slashed into the Alban Hills and brought the flash of gunfire within sight of Rome's inhabitants, the Eighth Army driving up from the East captured the key road junctions of Frosinone and Sora, further constricting the movements of the retreating Nazi tenth army.

The Italian campaign up to May 16 had cost the U. S. 55,150 casualties, including 9,686 killed, 36,910 wounded and 8,554 missing.

Halted by bad weather for about eighteen hours, the pre-invasion blitz has been resumed by Allied airmen, striking enemy fortifications and rail centers in France and Belgium. One report stated that the enemy communication system in parts of France had been paralyzed by the airmen in their recent attacks.

In the Pacific area, reinforcements have reached New Guinea and the drive there continues to make progress, according to the reports. In China, however, the Japs are continuing a dangerous drive, threatening Changsha, important base in Hunan Province.

Former Board Clerk Draws Boiler Watch

Writing back home from Camp Peary, Va., a few days ago, Monk Cobb, former clerk of the Martin County Draft Board, explained that he had a little time since he drew a boiler watch instead of KP duty. He went on to say that it was very unusual, that his luck had been rather contrary.

"It is rather hard to write anything along the news line up here; so all I can talk about is current events. We moved from our old area to a new one Wednesday and I was just as busy as a one-armed paper hanger. We had to move all our worldly possessions at one time, including mattress. It was about twice my size and weighed almost as much as I do. I started with it on my shoulder and tried every conceivable place imaginable for comfort, but it just wasn't there. That is one flat I wish my head had been flat on top, then I would have tried it watermelon style. The day before, we had been given a lecture on abandoning ship and they said that at times all personal belongings were tossed overboard if the ship were in danger of sinking. Well, about half-way over I passed a small stream and certainly gave serious thought to tossing it overboard because my ship was mighty near sunk.

"Upon my arrival they didn't cut my hair; they mowed it off. At present I have a few patches under cultivation and if the weather is favorable and the draft board doesn't get all my labor, I think I might get another crop laid by in due time.

"I stay pretty busy keeping up with my washing (you know I'm a washer-woman, too), and if anyone asks you what one thing has contributed more to the war effort than anything else, just tell them 'clon ox'."

Few County Servicemen Cast Votes In Primary Last Week

Thirty-seven or an estimated two per cent of the Martin County servicemen participated in the primary election last Saturday, according to an official report released this week by Mr. Sylvester Peel, chairman of the county elections board.

A plan to simply the voting for servicemen was defeated, and it is now fairly apparent that many of the men in the armed forces forfeited their right to the ballot rather than go to all the trouble in preparing their applications and ballots.

An even one hundred applications for ballots were filed. Forty were returned, but two came in too late to be counted and a third one was not properly executed and could not be counted.

The following men used the absentee ballot and voted in the designated precincts:

Jamesville: David Alexander Corey, Lt. M. W. Corey, Capt. Jas. D. Walters, R. P. Martin, Lt. Thomas E. Willis and C. C. Walters; Griffins: James R. Wm. B. and Henry T. Dan-

iel, Alfred T. Rice, James H. Griffin and Howell R. Peel; Williamston, No. 1, John A. Ward, Miss Muriel L. Bland, Dan C. Sharpe, Joseph J. Edmondson, Joseph Paul Simpson; Williamston, No. 2, John R. Simpson, John W. Hardy, E. S. Peel, Jr., James Robt. Everett, E. S. Peel, Jr., Robertson, Clyde Mizelle, Jerry Manning, Francis W. Peel, Jas. S. Rhodes, Jr., Wm. W. Thompson and William H. Sessoms; Robersonville, Alvin Hasty, J. L. Dixon, Jr., and Paul D. Roberson; Bear Grass, Jos. E. Griffin; Poplar Point, William Revels; Gold Post, J. R. Winslow, Jr.; Goose Nest, Melvin Crisp, Jas. H. Ayres, Nathan W. Johnson.

While most of the ballots were cast by servicemen in this county, some of the ballots came from as far away as India and from nearly every other country in the world where Martin County men are stationed.

The ballots of L. H. Mizelle, formerly of Jamesville, and Wm. Fowden Clark, formerly of Williamston, reached the county too late to be counted.

LT. C. B. CLARK



Claude Baxter Clark, local young man, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, junior grade, in the U. S. Navy, a few days ago. He is now with the fleet somewhere in the Pacific.

Summer Slump Hits The County's Court Smack In The Face

Only Two Cases On Docket For Trial at Regular Session Monday

While business may pick up from time to time during the next few months, there's no doubt but what the summer slump hit the county recorder's court squarely in the face at the regular session last Monday. There were only two cases on the docket, and less than one-half dozen spectators—four colored and one white man—were on hand to watch the wheels of justice grind out the judgments. The tribunal was in session hardly fifteen minutes, some of the court officials frankly admitting that they had hardly earned their pay to ride the work handled that day.

Only three cases have been booked so far for trial in the court next Monday, but others are likely to find their way onto the docket before another dead-line is reached.

The eighteen-month old case pending trial in the court and charging Paul Holliday with non-support was not pressed when it was shown that regularly monthly allotments were being made for the support of his wife and child.

Speeding through Oak City at an alleged pace of about sixty miles an hour, Wright Smith was sentenced to the roads for ninety days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$10 fine and the case costs. It was further stipulated in the judgment that the defendant is to be regularly employed during the six-month suspension period. The defendant is said to have maintained his speed out of the county town, that Constable Edmond Early chased him for several miles but could not overtake him before the speedster had crossed the Pitt County line. A warrant was issued later for the man's arrest.

Small Vote Cast In Saturday Primary

One of the smallest votes entered in the political records during recent years was cast in the last Saturday primary by Martin County voters. A similar indifference to the inherent right was reported throughout the State, causing some observers to declare that high offices, in some instances, at least, were annexed almost by default.

The absentee ballot count, for one reason or another, was also unusually small, only 37 servicemen from this county casting their ballots in the election.

The total vote of 2,443 last Saturday was 772 below the count two years ago and was distributed as follows in the various precincts: Jamesville, 249; Williams, 72; Griffins, 267; Bear Grass, 166; Williamston, No. 1, 273; Williamston, No. 2, 370; Cross Roads, 163; Robersonville, 398; Gold Post, 76; Poplar Point, 93; Hamilton, 119; Hassell, 59; Goose Nest, 146.

BANDAGE ROOMS

In answer to a hurried call for surgical dressings, ladies of the Bear Grass community are opening a bandage room in the community house there. The room will be open each Tuesday from 3 to 7 and from 8 to 10 p. m., it was announced by Mrs. G. A. Peel and Mrs. T. O. Hickman, chairwomen. Everyone is invited and urged to help in the vital work.

While there has been an increase in attendance upon the sessions in the Williamston bandage room during the past few days, the work is progressing mighty slow, and additional volunteers are urgently asked to report for duty each afternoon and evening.

Relates Experiences In Italian Campaign During Last Months

Cpl. Irvin Griffin Witnessed Devastation Rained Down On Old Monastery

Writing recently to John W. Manning here, Cpl. Irvin Griffin expressed the hope that he (Manning) would soon recover, and went on to tell a few of his experiences in the following interesting letter:

The worst thing about this Army is the monotony of sitting around doing practically nothing all the time. I never got paid for doing so near nothing before but I would gladly pay double what I get to be out.

Since the censorship has eased up on us a little, I'll tell you a little of where I have been since landing in Italy in September. We went on the line early in October and fought through Piedmonte and several other towns and crossed the Volturno River five times. We were on the line slugging through mud and water for about two months and then were taken back for a month's rest. I spent five days in Naples while back there and had a lot of fun. We were fortunate in being off long after though for before New Year's we were back in the mad. This time we were over in the Cassino sector. We advanced slowly until we reached Cassino and there we ran into a stone wall. It is tough country there. I saw the bombing of the Monastery, but this didn't seem to help much. In late February, we went back for another so-called rest, but actually I got more rest while on the line than when I'm off. After about a month in the rear we packed up and came up to Anzio. We have been on the line here for about six weeks now and as you know we haven't accomplished much to date. In fact, I am living in the same horse stable now that I was in six weeks ago. It isn't as bad a place to live as you would think. We have electric lights and a radio that we can pick up the States with. We also have a fox hole dug under about eight feet of rock to crawl in when the bombs and shells get too close. I don't think it is as rough here as the papers lead you to believe. It isn't as bad as Cassino, although the Germans hold all the high ground.

Here is something you can hardly believe. We have had movies three times here within a very few miles of the Germans. There is a large wine cellar near and it is practically bomb and shell proof and that is where they are shown. I also play a little baseball and I know the Kraut can see us for he is sitting on the hill looking down at us.

I think that everyone around here is more anxious about the invasion than the people at home. That is one show that I hope I miss. I have had it pretty rough at times, but I am sure I have seen nothing to compare with what that will be. I see in the paper that a lot of the fellows from around there are in the British Isles. I guess a lot of them will be in on the big show.

The people at home can't realize how fortunate we are to have such a country as the U. S. to live in. The civilians here really have it rough. Of course, most of them have been evacuated from here, but there are still quite a few left. Most of them live in caves. I was in a cave with them one night. The cave was so crowded that you could hardly walk. There were men, women and children trying to sleep all over the place. I don't know what they live on but I am sure it is just enough to

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Local Draft Board Lists Delinquents

As of May 31, the Martin County Draft Board reported only eight delinquents out of its thousands of registrants. It is possible that some of them forgot to list their forwarding addresses, while in other cases it is believed that the registrants are possibly trying to evade the draft.

Genievee Dail Dies At Home Wednesday

Little Genievee Dail, two-and-one-half-year-old daughter of Pvt. and Mrs. Joseph F. Doherty, died at her home here on North Watts Street on Wednesday morning at 8:30 o'clock. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of her death.

Although the little girl had suffered with asthma she was feeling very well and was able to be out Monday. She was taken worse that night and pneumonia developed Tuesday.

Besides her parents she is survived by a sister, Mary Edward Dail. Funeral services were conducted at the Biggs Funeral Home at six o'clock p. m. yesterday by Father Gilbert of Washington, and interment followed in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Tom Council, c, RFD 1, Bethel. Andrew Walker, c, RFD 2, Williamston, and RFD 2, Elizabeth City. James Gardner, c, Williamston. Orlander Perkins, c, Robersonville.

Joseph Lawrence, c, 620 Water Street, Portsmouth, Va. Henry Dave Bonds, c, 1121 E. Main St., Norfolk.

Willey Sandy Jolly, w, Williamston.

Justice J. L. Hassell Has Lone Case In Court

Council Brown, charged with being drunk and down, was fined \$3.50 and taxed with \$8.50 costs. In Justice J. L. Hassell's court here this week. The case was the only one on the justice's docket.

Propose \$16,793 Budget For County Health Department

Holding one of their first meetings in some time, members of the Martin County Board of Health this week proposed a \$16,793.72 budget for the department during the next fiscal year.

The board also voted to petition the county commissioners to consolidate the registration of vital statistics. It was pointed out that the ten registrars are being paid approximately \$400 a year, that under the proposed plan the task could be absorbed by the department without extra cost, that possibly a better registration could be effected under the new plan. Any change in the present system will come only after the county commissioners petition the State Board of Health.

The 1943-44 health department budget for the new fiscal year is little changed from the one under which the organization is now operating. All budget requirements are unchanged, except for a demand for a \$10 per month salary increase for each, and every employee. Should the increase be allowed, and salaries are mighty low in some cases, the budget will be increased by \$600 over the 1943-44 figure.

Of the \$16,793.72, the county is being asked to raise \$9,187.72, plus the proposed \$600 salary increases. The State will contribute \$1,800, and the remainder will be supplied by the federal government and special funds appropriated in support of the drive against certain diseases.

This budget is merely a proposal and is subject to approval by the county commissioners. It does not include a proposed \$5,000 appropriation for the maintenance and operation of the county tuberculosis sanatorium which comes under the welfare department's jurisdiction.

More County Men Are Called By the Services

Twenty Negro Men Left Today For the Army-Navy Stations

Eleven of the Two Groups Are Married and Leave Behind Fourteen Children

Twenty Martin County colored men left for the services today—twelve for the Army and eight for the Navy stations for final induction. Five of the men leaving for the Army are married and leave six children at home. Six of the eight men entering the Navy are married and are leaving eight children behind.

Seven of the Army men come from the farm and six of the eight men entering the Navy were drafted from the farm.

The names and addresses of the men called to report for final induction today follow:

- For the Army: Willie Junior Williams, Robersonville. Nathaniel Hopkins, Robersonville. Ralph Sprull, Williamston. Clifton Peete, RFD 1, Williamston. John Junior Highsmith, RFD 1, Jamesville and Washington. Samuel Thomas Williams, Williamston. K. D. Langley, Hassell, and RFD 1, Tarboro. William Brodie, RFD 2, Robersonville. Lester Wiggins, RFD 1, Palmyra. Abram Woodrow Wrisby, RFD 1, Williamston. Henry Wright Daniel, Robersonville. William Henry Speller, Williamston.

For the Navy: Abner King Reddick, RFD 1, Williamston. Jasper Peterson, RFD 1, Oak City. Joe Dave Smithwick, RFD 1, Williamston. Cleveland Manning, RFD 1, Williamston. George Daniel, RFD 2, Williams.

Charlie Collins, RFD 1, Oak City, and Newport News. Robert Braxton Ormond, Williamston. Elbert Jones, RFD 1, Williamston.

Announce Series Of Services At Hassell

Rev. J. M. Perry and the congregation of the Hassell Christian Church announce the beginning of a revival meeting on Monday night, June 5th, at 8:30 with Rev. John L. Goff, of the Williamston Christian Church as the evangelist. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Little Miss Peggy Harrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Harrison of Bear Grass, had her seventy-eighth blood transfusion in the local hospital this week and is getting along very well today.

She has been given the transfusions about every three months for several years. Recently she was started on insulin and she is responding to that very well.

SEVENTY-EIGHTH

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Large Number Tires Allotted In County By Rationing Board

Striking a very liberal note, the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday night issued 154 tires—132 Grade P's and 22 for trucks. In addition to those, a few of the inferior types were released.

Grade I tires were issued to the following:

- Gower Crosswell, Williamston, one. A. J. Osteen, Williamston, one. Mary W. Taylor, Williamston, one. Claude Winstead, RFD 1, Jamesville, one. J. R. Whitaker, RFD 2, Williamston, two. Maurice Moore, Jr., Williamston, one. Fred Chesson, Williamston, two. R. E. Taylor, Robersonville, one. L. S. Davis, RFD 1, Jamesville, one. G. H. Martin, RFD 2, Williamston, one. Rosa Williams, Robersonville, one. Luther Clark, Jamesville, one. Joe T. Bullock, RFD, Robersonville, one. C. B. Savage, Oak City, one. Hassell H. Worsley, Oak City, one. John Ashley Hardison, RFD 2, Williamston, one. Mrs. Zeno Beddard, RFD 3, Williamston, one. Jay Lilley, RFD 2, Williamston, one. P. M. Holliday, Jamesville, one. Richard Bryant, Bethel, one. Chester Taylor, RFD 2, Williamston, one. Clarence Matthews, Robersonville, one. H. B. Smith, Robersonville, two. R. C. Barber, Jamesville, one. E. C. Hartson, RFD 2, Williamston, one. Abbie Haislip, Robersonville, two. M. B. Beach, Hamilton, one. N. M. Hyman, Palmyra, one. John Roebuck, Williamston, one. M. L. Peel, Williamston, one. J. S. Ayers, Jr., Williamston, one. C. L. Keel, Robersonville, one. J. C. Gurganus, RFD 2, Williamston, one. Dan W. Jones, RFD 3, Williamston, two. Rufus Lynch, Oak City, one. J. T. Harris, RFD 2, Williamston, one. E. H. Manning, RFD 1, Williamston, two. W. S. Gurganus, RFD 3, Williamston, one. Julian L. Mizelle, Palmyra, two. J. O. Stokes, Hamilton, one. Paul Bailey, Everetts, one. S. L. Ellis, Jamesville, one. Ernest Wynne, RFD 1, Williamston, one. Edgar Ballard, Robersonville, one. Raymond Williams, RFD 1, Robersonville, two. Dorsie Williams, Robersonville, two. W. B. Harrison, Williamston, one. James R. Lee, RFD 2, Williamston, two. W. H. White, RFD 2, Williamston, one. Woolard Furniture Co., Williamston, two. C. G. Crockett, Williamston, one. O. G. Carson, Jamesville, one. Charlie C. Bailey, RFD 3, Williamston, one.

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Military Funeral In Baptist Church For Crash Victim

Chaplain G. H. Wheeler Holds Service For Ensign W. E. Ballard

Ensign William Edward Ballard, local young man who gave his life in the service of his country, was given a military funeral in the Baptist church here yesterday afternoon, a host of friends filling the church to overflowing to pay a silent and humble tribute to his memory.

Lt. G. H. Wheeler, chaplain for the U. S. Naval Station, Edenton, conducted the last rites, and Dr. Wm. R. Burrell, pastor, read the young man's obituary and paid a fitting tribute to his memory. A large floral offering formed a solid background for the flag-draped casket, which was borne by a six-man detail made up of commissioned officers from the Edenton base.

The service was concluded at the graveside, a twelve-man gun squad, coming here from the Edenton station, firing three volleys and the bugler sounding taps to end the simple but yet impressive service.

Several military features have been applied to services for other county heroes, but as far as it can be learned the one yesterday was the first of the full dress military type ever held here.

Ensign Ballard, the young son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Ballard of Williamston, was fatally injured in a plane crash at Corpus Christi, Texas, on Thursday afternoon of last week. He died in a Navy hospital early last Saturday morning. The young man's body, accompanied by Mrs. Ballard, a bride of a little more than two weeks, and a special escort, reached here early Wednesday evening. After remaining in the home on Pearl Street until noon yesterday, it was removed to the church where it lay in state until the service was held. Interment was in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

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To Help Stamp Out Gas Black Market

The Petroleum Industry Committee on Rationing for District One meeting in New York today set in motion an intensive program to cooperate with the Government in stamping out the Black Market operations which have been stealing more than 2,500,000 gallons of automotive gasoline daily.

Mr. A. Clarke Bedford, Chairman of the Committee for District One, comprising seventeen Atlantic Coast states and the District of Columbia, stressed the importance of stamping out the Black Market.

"Gasoline is one of the principal weapons of this war," he said. "It is playing a tremendously important part in the battle of Europe and soon will play an even more important one. Naturally, the Black Market first, but misuse of our limited home supply robs millions of honest car owners—doctors, war workers, and others who must use a limited amount of gasoline. Slowing down the War Effort at home actually jeopardizes the lives of our fighting men. The Government, the public, and every employe of the Petroleum Industry must cooperate to stamp out the Black Market in gasoline."

The Petroleum Industry Committee on Rationing announced the appointment of a Chairman for every state in the District. The Chairman for this state is J. L. Wright of the Standard Oil Company of Charlotte. The State Committee will acquaint all dealers with the facts about the Black Market and organize them to combat this menace.

A cooperative advertising campaign paid for by oil companies supplying virtually all of the gasoline sold on the Atlantic Coast will appear soon and will put the facts before the public.

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