

Allied Drive Gains Momentum Along Enemy's West Wall

Fierce Resistance Reported by First and Ninth Armies Driving on Cologne

Despite terrible and fanatical resistance, Allied armies are gaining momentum in their drive through Hitler's West Wall, late reports declaring that the enemy's defenses are crumbling west of the Rhine before one of the greatest blows in modern warfare. An early report stated today that forty towns, most of them inside Germany, had been wrested from the Germans, that tens of thousands of prisoners had been taken.

Apparently the greatest advances have been made to the south where the Fighting French are said to have ripped three holes into the German line and pushed on to the Rhine, one yet unconfirmed report stating that the river had been bridged at one point. At the other end of the line, the British are making progress in a movement to outflank the enemy.

The center of the great west push, however, is believed centered east of Aachen where the American First and Ninth Armies are pushing on toward Cologne. Aided by a part of the British Second Army, the Americans were said today to be half way from Aachen to Cologne. In mud and freezing rain, the drive is encountering every known obstacle. The enemy is counterattacking and positions are changing hands in fairly rapid order. Last night the drive encountered a never-ceasing artillery fire.

Metz, the great stronghold, has been taken by Patton's Third Army, and the French have advanced through Belfort Gap. It was the first time that Metz had fallen to an attacker in 74 years. While these gains stand out, the big show is centered in the rich industrial Ruhr and the Saar Basin.

On the Eastern Front, the Russians have launched a 500,000-man offensive and are driving to annihilate 400,000 of the enemy along the Baltic. The Russian drive around Budapest is gaining momentum, and it is believed that the concerted actions on all fronts will either knock out Germany or force it to the brink of destruction. Hitler, his status not known, is believed dying following a throat operation in Vienna.

In the Philippines, the struggle for

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Oak City Young Man Wounded In Action

Pvt. Waylon R. Brown, Martin County young man, was slightly wounded in Germany on October 9, according to a message received from the War Department a short time ago by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brown, RFD 1, Oak City. The message revealed few facts, but in a letter received later from the young man, it was stated that he had been wounded in the left hand. He is now in a hospital somewhere in England and believed to be getting along very well. The Purple Heart has been awarded him.

The young man has been overseas since last December, and a brother, T/5 Aaron Brown, has been overseas a little over two years. The brother volunteered before Pearl Harbor.

Pvt. Brown is the forty-fifth Martin County man to have been reported wounded in the war to date.

Sheriff's Return Home Delayed For Day or Two

Looking forward to returning to his home here yesterday following a six weeks stay in a Washington hospital, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck is being detained by doctors there a day or two longer, but the popular county officer is betting on eating turkey at home Thanksgiving day.

First Bond Sales in the Sixth War Campaign Are Reported

While not large and representing only a portion of the county, the first sales in the Sixth War Loan Drive reported yesterday were considered very encouraging. Only one issuing agency, the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, had a report on the initial sales, but it was learned that other issuing agencies had sold several thousand dollars worth of bonds in the current drive on the first day.

Reporting for the Guaranty Bank here, Mr. D. V. Clayton stated that the issuing agency had sold \$9,093.75 in "E" bonds to citizens who made the purchases voluntarily or without direct solicitation. The bonds were reported as follows: Williamston Township, \$3,262.50; Goose Nest, \$75; Griffins, \$2,700; and Hamilton, \$3,056.25.

Several of the townships have hardly completed their canvassing organizations, but the drive is expected to gain momentum by the latter part of this week. It is hoped by the leaders that no extensive solicitation will be necessary, that the people of this county will go directly to the issuing agencies and buy bonds direct. In past drives, the banks have handled most of the sales, but the bonds may be bought at post offices and in some cases direct from the township chairmen. To make certain that proper credit may be given the townships on their quotas, the purchasers are reminded to designate the district they would have their purchases credited to.

Martin County people are being asked to buy \$700,000 worth of bonds—\$245,000 in "E" and \$455,000 in negotiables—during the current drive. The quota for the entire nation is fourteen billion dollars, and the county has reached and passed their quotas in the current drive.

More Men Report For Pre-Induction Exams

Tobacco Sales

Tobacco sales are pushing on toward the ten and one-half million-pound mark on the local market today with prices holding to about the same average reported for the past few weeks. Up until this morning, the market had sold 10,435,104 pounds for \$4,541,205.25 or an average of \$43.52. Yesterday the market sold 85,226 pounds for an average right at 45 cents.

Closing after sales tomorrow for the Thanksgiving holiday, the local market will reopen on next Monday with a full corps of buyers. It is possible that the market will not run but a few days next week, but no closing date will be fixed until all crops in this area are marketed, a representative of the tobacco board of trade announced this morning.

Soldier Is Ready To Trade Places

Writing from somewhere in France under recent date, Pvt. Bruce Whitley said he was ready and even anxious to trade places with anyone of the Army and at home. Little sympathy was expressed for those who bellyache and complain about rationing, and like many others who are slugging it out with the enemy, there is a tendency to frown upon those who are faltering or failing to get greed and pleasure mad out of their systems.

He said, in part: "I am not kicking and I'm doing everything I can. It isn't an easy job and there are a lot of things to make one mighty miserable, the way you have to live and everything.

"You know if some of the people back home could ever here for a while, they surely would be more than willing to sacrifice all their gas and pleasures they have just to be able to stay home, sleep in a house and not go hungry.

"The news may look good in the headlines, but it is a big price we are paying to be able to print those headlines.

"I am hoping it will be over and I can get back."

Firemen Are Called To Home on Houghton Street

Local volunteer firemen made their annual visit to the Episcopal rectory on Houghton Street about 11:30 o'clock last Saturday night when a chimney blazed out and the sparks threatened to fire the shingle roof. Mr. Robert Everett and his family were firing only moderately when the soot caught fire and the sparks flew high.

An accurate review of the fire record could not be made immediately, but the volunteer firemen have answered four or five calls to the rectory when the chimney would go on a tare.

IMPROVING

S/Sgt. J. Paul Simpson, wounded in the hand and knee, is improving in an Army hospital somewhere in the Pacific theater. According to a message received by his wife here a few days ago, the young local man stated that his wounds were healing, and that he was getting along very well.

Sgt. Simpson, an insurance representative before he entered the service, was wounded when the bomber on which he was flying crashed into the sea in the Pacific, presumably not far from the Philippines. One member of the crew was killed and several others were hurt.

Sixth Grade Position Is Filled In Faculty Here

Handled by volunteer substitutes during most of the current term, the sixth grade in the local school finally has a regular teacher, and a highly recommended one, too, according to information coming from the office of the county superintendent.

Retiring some time ago after teaching in the Marshall County Schools of West Virginia for five years, Mrs. Wilma Duncan McCracken, of Cameron, Va., accepted the position here to help relieve the shortage of teachers. A graduate of Fairmont College, West Virginia, and Duke University, Mrs. McCracken succeeds Mrs. Elizabeth Eagles, resigned. She is making her home with the Charles Mobeley's on Houghton Street.

Several Dogs Poisoned Here in Past Few Days

Thought to have eaten garbage intentionally or carelessly poisoned, several dogs died here during the past few days. Half dozen or more dead dogs were removed by the garbage truck since last Friday. Henry Mobeley's spitz was a victim, and Miss

Maintain Tradition Established by 'Old Hickory' Division

Pfc. Larry H. White Writes From Belgium the Latter Part of September

Writing from Holland the latter part of September, Pfc. Larry H. White, Martin County boy, declared that the tradition established by the Thirtieth "Old Hickory" Division is still being maintained. He wrote:

"It is a pleasure to read the hometown paper. Although it has been over a year since I was home, the news is still good. Since you are sending us the news, I thought you would like to know what we are doing over here. For the older men who were in the 30th Division, better known as the 'Old Hickory' Division in the last war, I cut out a piece of news they will be interested in. We want you people to know we will maintain the good name you made for the division in the last war. And for the mothers, fathers, wives and sweethearts who have loved ones in this division, we are proud to have a chance to fight in it. And for those young boys who didn't get a chance to take a hand in this war, buy bonds with that extra dollar and support the War Fund and Red Cross. And remember, when you are taking out some one else's girl, we envy you."

Written by Paul V. Connors, the article forwarded by Pfc. White tells of the Mortain Battle and how the division earned praise for itself. Clipped from "Stars and Stripes", Army newspaper, the article reads:

"A year ago this month, the 30th Infantry Division was going about the rather boring business of maneuvers in Tennessee wondering if it would ever get the chance to wear combat ribbons. The 'sharps' said the division would never go overseas, that it was a training unit preparing men who would serve as replacements for other organizations. The 'sharps' were wrong.

"Last week the 30th Division received a special commendation given by Major General Lawton J. Collins, Seventh Corps Commander. The award was given for the magnificent job the 30th had done in holding off the last major attack of the German Seventh Army in the vicinity of Mortain early last month. Addressed to the Division's commanding general, it read, in part:

"Your division, with the aid of the 3rd Armored Division and an infantry regiment of the 4th Division, bore the brunt of the desperate attack of the German Seventh Army. With the assistance of the artillery

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Following a period of little activity, business picked up in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here during the past few days. Up until last evening, five cases had been heard by his honor.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly, Clarence Pate was fined \$5 and taxed with \$5.50 costs.

Biz Leggett was required to pay \$5.50 costs in the case charging him with disorderly conduct.

Publicly drunk, John Henry White was taxed with \$7.50 costs. Marshall Scott, charged with disorderly conduct, was required to pay \$5.50 costs. Drunk and down, Lawrence B. Bowen was taxed \$8.50 costs.

Several Cases Heard By Justice Hassell

Officers Take Still And Beer In This Township

Raiding not so far from Williamston last week-end, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel wrecked a liquor plant and poured out 300 gallons of sugar syrup mash. The plant was equipped with a 50-gallon capacity drum and an oil burner.

WANT ADDRESSES

Anxious to remember those Martin County servicemen who have returned to this country and who are undergoing treatment in hospitals, interested parties in the county are asking relatives to forward the addresses of their sons or brothers to Mrs. Eva A. Grimes, care the Red Cross, Williamston.

Just the addresses of those men who have been wounded and returned to this country are wanted since it will be impossible to care for those cases still overseas at this late date. In those cases where the young men will be out of the hospital in time to come home for Christmas, it will not be necessary to report their addresses.

The Home Economics Department at Bear Grass, Mrs. Borel, teacher, is preparing a number of appropriate gifts for the wounded servicemen in hospitals in this country, and others to the boys at Christmas time.

Thanksgiving Proclamation

Whereas, the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina have issued their proclamations declaring Thursday, November 23rd, as Thanksgiving Day throughout the state and nation; and Whereas,

We have been greatly blessed and no one lacks something for which to be thankful to a bounteous Benefactor and Whereas, if ever there was a time when people should think in terms of gratitude it is now. We should be thankful to a gracious and merciful God for a bounteous harvest, that we have been free from storm and pestilence, that the principles of free government still prevail in our fair land, thankful for the prospects of victory over our enemies and for the perpetuation of our system of government based upon equality, liberty and justice, not only for America but for the world.

Therefore, I, J. L. Hassell, Mayor of Williamston, hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23rd, 1944, as Thanksgiving Day in Williamston and call upon all of our citizens to make it a day of thanksgiving and prayer to the Creator for these wonderful blessings.

J. L. HASSELL, Mayor.

Williamston Native Passes Suddenly At Robersonville Home

Funeral Service Held Monday For Herbert Pope, Well-Known County Citizen

H. Herbert Pope, native of Williamston and well-known county citizen, died suddenly at his home in Robersonville last Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock. Although he had been in declining health for a year or more, Mr. Pope was getting along as well as usual until last Friday night when he became suddenly ill, suffering with an acute pain in his side. Medical attention was rendered and he rested very well during that night and a greater part of Saturday. His condition took a turn for the worse that afternoon, death following a short time later.

The son of the late John E. and Elizabeth Waters Pope, he was born in Williamston 71 years ago, the 15th of last October. He attended the public schools and studied telegraphy along with friends and relatives under the late W. A. Ellison, and completed his training in Halifax. In 1901 he was married to Miss Fannie Bonner Ellison of Williamston and located in Autryville, Sampson County, where he held his first agency for the railroad. Two years later in 1903 he moved to Robersonville to begin a long period of faithful service as agent and telegrapher for the Coast Line. Devoted to work, he continued at his post several years after retirement age, finally surrendering his duties about five years ago. Since that time he was unusually active and enjoyed taking his gun and going to the woods and open fields in search of game.

When a youth, Mr. Pope joined the Williamston Methodist Church, later transferring his membership to his adopted home where he continued loyal and active in the support of the church to the end.

He was active in fraternal organizations, devoting much time and interest to the Masons. Devoted to his home and loved ones, Mr. Pope was interested in and worked for the good of his adopted community. He served as a member of the town board of aldermen for several years.

He is survived by his widow, four children: Mrs. T. J. McKim, of Asheville; Mrs. J. I. Taylor, of Bethel; Sgt. H. Herbert Pope, Jr., who is serving with the U. S. Armed Forces in France, and James E. Pope, of New York; one sister, Miss Anna Williamston and six grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday afternoon by his pastor, Rev. T. H. House, assisted by Rev. C. C. Wilkie and Rev. J. M. Perry. Interment followed in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Plan Big Bond Rally At Everetts Friday Night

Anxious to put Cross Roads over the top without delay, Chairman Paul Bailey is planning a big war bond rally in the Everetts School for Friday night of this week. The program, including free pictures and other entertainment, will get underway at 7:30 o'clock. An auction sale will feature the program, it was announced.

Cross Roads has a quota of only \$21,750, including \$8,750 in E bonds. The public is invited, and the good citizens of Cross Roads are earnestly urged to report in large numbers and help put the drive over the top.

Stolen Car Recovered In Woods Near Old Sparta

Stolen from his yard between Everetts and Robersonville on Sunday, November 12, the Ford car belonging to S. R. Jackson was recovered in the woods near Old Sparta last week by Cpl. W. S. Hunt and Deputy J. H. Roebuck. Officers are still searching for Henry Taylor, colored man who is believed to have driven the car. The car was valued at \$100 off his price and drove away in his car.

Grant Six Divorces At Special Term of The Superior Court

Mill Grinds To A Stop When Judge Rules on Legal Status of Advertising

Six divorces were granted in fairly rapid order during the first day of the two weeks session of the Martin County Superior Court convening here yesterday for the trial of civil cases only. While the action established no new record, it left eighteen similar cases pending. The divorce mill ground to an unexpected stop in at least two cases when Judge Jeff Johnson of Clinton expressed the opinion that the notices of publication did not measure up to exact legal requirements. The notices referred to provided for the defendants to answer or demur within thirty days after a certain date, but the judge ruled that a definite date should have been mentioned. In a third case the jurist withheld his signature when he ruled that he could not recognize a deposition in which the witness alleged he had had intimate and illegal relations with a defendant while she was married.

In each of the three cases the jury had answered the issues in favor of the plaintiffs. Several other divorce cases were continued for one reason or another and two were non-suited. The case of George Shannon against Esther Shannon for divorce was non-suited when the plaintiff failed to appear. Mrs. Shannon, coming here from New York, sought alimony without divorce, but a non-suit resulted in the case when it was learned that some technical provision had not been complied with.

Divorces, based on two years of separation, were granted the following: Frank Spruill against Mary Spruill, Luetta Knight against Jonathan Knight, Ethel Dickerson against Robert Dickerson, John Terrell against Ruby Terrell, Stanley Hollis against Elizabeth Hollis, Alexander Hodges against Gladys Hodges.

Divorces are pending; that is, the jury answered the issues in favor of the plaintiffs, but the judge did not sign them: Lillian Rodgers against Octavious Rodgers, and William Everett against Susie Everett. In a third case, Marshall Gray Moore against Wannie Mae Moore, the court intimated that it would not recognize a deposition stating that the affiant had had improper relations with the

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Divide Time For Hunting in Swamp

The dispute over hunting rights on several thousand acres of swamp land along the lower Roanoke River was temporarily settled here last Friday when Superior Court Judge Everett Thompson ruled that members of the Conine or Broad Creek Hunting Club could hunt there so many days and the plaintiff, J. G. Staton, could hunt so many days each week or at any time under certain conditions. The plaintiff may hunt three days each week with his guests or he may hunt alone at any time.

The several defendants in the case are to have possession on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The plaintiff will have full possession the latter three days of next week and the first three days of the following week and so on until the case is carried to trial for final settlements in the Bertie Superior Court next February.

Car Stolen Here Recovered In Tarboro Sunday Night

Stolen off the main street here last week, the Ford car belonging to Garland Whitley, ABC store employee, was recovered in Tarboro last Friday night. The machine was not damaged, and two gallons of prestone and a few cigarettes were not touched, but the gas supply was just about exhausted.

Will Observe Thanksgiving Day As A General Holiday

Thanksgiving Day on Thursday of this week will be observed as a general holiday by business in this community with the exception of heavy industry and possibly by a few farmers. According to present plans, the peanut plant will operate, but no heavy deliveries are expected that day.

The observance will center around religious services in various parts of the county, including a union service in the local Baptist Church at 10 o'clock that morning. The day marks the opening of the quail hunting season and many hunters are planning to turn to the woods and fields despite shell shortages and other drawbacks.

The first of the religious services will be held at the local church of the Advent that morning at 9 o'clock. The offering usually accepted on

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