

Germany's Powerful Frontal Assault Is Stopped By Patton

Stopping the Germans' powerful assault in its tracks and driving into the enemy's southern and northern flanks, American Armies have greatly relieved their positions in Luxembourg and Belgium and materially changed the war picture on the Western Front during the past two days. While Von Rundstedt's daring and powerful offensive started December 16 has been broken, fierce fighting continues and American casualties are admittedly heavy. A recent official report estimates American casualties at more than 65,000 in the two weeks preceding the big German push back into Belgium and Luxembourg.

In addition to stalling the German drive, the American counteroffensive is forcing the enemy to withdraw his forces back to the Siegfried Line. The fierceness of the fighting raging over a 35-mile front is evidenced in a report stating that in some sectors half of the enemy was wiped out, that the Germans were found lying dead several tiers deep.

Late reports state that General George Patton's Third Army had driven between 15 and 20 miles into the southern flank of the enemy while the American First was striking a powerful blow from the north to score gains of a mile or two.

Secretary Stimson, though describing the present situation on the European front as "critical," expressed confidence that the Germans eventually will reap "disastrous consequences" from their gambling counteroffensive.

"War is not an easy game to play and you can't always win every battle," the War Secretary said, "but I am confident that we are winning and that time will reveal that this German throw of the dice will have disastrous consequences for him."

The Secretary acknowledged that American efforts to stem the German drive had cost us "severe" casualties, but asserted that the Nazi army, too, has "taken hard blows" in personnel and material losses.

Indicating that the Allied high command is relying heavily on air superiority to throw back the German thrust, he said that aside from the fighting spirit of our troops, "no other factor in the present situation means so much to us as flying weather."

In the five-day period beginning Saturday, he reported, Allied airmen destroyed 483 German planes and 507 armored vehicles and destroyed or damaged 3,177 motor vehicles. In addition, Stimson said, the enemy's marshalling yards are "being blown to bits."

He emphasized the continuing advance of Allied flanking troops attempting to narrow the German offensive corridor in Belgium.

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Holiday Observed Very Quietly Here

The Christmas holiday season was observed after a very quiet fashion here and throughout the county with an occasional flare-up on the crime front but without tragic accidents to mar the record. Only one fire call was sounded locally during the period. There were no firecracker accidents; in fact, there were few firecrackers heard this Christmas, one observer pointing out that the infernal things had at last gone to war. There were three or four highway accidents, but none of them was serious. One or two homes were saddened by death, and suspense was indeed evident in those homes where sons and brothers were absent, not to mention the empty feeling where members of the family had been reported killed in action and missed their first Christmas at home. With very few exceptions, the observance of the 1944 Christmas was unlike that of any other one, certainly unlike any in recent years.

Religious services held during the period were largely attended for the most part, including vesper services at the USO Sunday afternoon. While there were those who were sick, no great amount of sickness was reported.

Traffic in this immediate section was hardly up to the large volume recorded a year ago. Bus travel was fairly heavy and schedules in many instances were late, but the old "cattle cars" so well remembered by draft inductees, were pressed into service to handle the increased number of travelers. Rail traffic jammed the main lines, it was reported.

The Christmas season witnessed possibly the greatest buying spree in history. Goods were scarce, but apparently unmindful of the cost and the value of most any article, customers could not be checked. Liquor sales set new high records along with general stores sales, and sellers and buyers alike were completely tired out when finally they began the holiday observance.

Two Brothers and Cousin Are Wounded On Western Fronts

Individual homes is further... stated, however, that he received fairly quickly and that he had re-

Western Front. No late word has been received from the young man, but he stated in his last letter that he was getting along very well. The two brothers have been overseas since the early part of this year. The two young men's cousin, Jos. Daniel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick R. Daniel, was also wounded some time ago. His wound was described as slight and it was stated that he had fully recovered and returned to action at the front. The young man had been overseas since the first of this year, it was learned here.

Some time back the young man's brother, Benjamin Daniel, was wounded in action in about the same theater of operations. Later reports

New Tax Values Fixed By County List-Takers

RECOVERING



Wounded in the head by a bursting shell, Sgt. Joseph Elmer Griffin continues to improve in a hospital in England, his father, Mr. Jos. S. Griffin, of Bear Grass Township, was recently notified.

Jeweler Is Assaulted Here Last Saturday

While no definite motive was established, a crime approaching one of serious proportions was reported on Washington Street here last Saturday night when Charles A. Peel, local jeweler, was assaulted by peep-layers and threats.

At a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell that night, John F. Norfleet, 22; Jesse Beach and Neal Davis, each about 17 years of age, were bound over to the county court for trial under bonds in the sum of \$500 each. Norfleet and Davis were later released under \$300 cash bonds. Beach continues in jail.

Reports state that the jeweler was walking along the sidewalk in front of the Williamston Hardware Company store on Washington Street when one of the three knocked him off the sidewalk and later cursed him. The three defendants, members of a fairly large group apparently looking for trouble, were said to have followed the jeweler to the warehouse section where police intervened.

Paralysis Victim Returns From Hickory Hospital

A victim of infantile paralysis, Otis Edmondson, two years old, returned home from the emergency poliomyelitis hospital near Hickory to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Edmondson in Oak City last week.

Although able to be up for only about twenty minutes each day, the little fellow is said to be getting along very well.

SCHOOLS TO REOPEN

After a ten-day holiday, all the Martin County schools will reopen at the usual time next Monday morning. Few changes have been made in the faculty personnel, and other than the holiday interruption, activities are to be resumed on a regular schedule and after a normal fashion immediately.

Only two faculty resignations were reported during the holiday period. Principal D. F. Gilles resigned at Bear Grass and Mrs. Wilma D. McCracken tendered her resignation as sixth grade teacher here. Neither position, made vacant by the resignations, had been filled up until late yesterday, but applications are being considered.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS!



As Old Father Time looks to the future we hope he determines on 1945 as the year which will see an end to world strife and the beginning of a peaceful life spent in true harmony by all mankind.

May the New Year be rich in all the things that are good for our patrons and friends here and everywhere.

THE ENTERPRISE.

Several Minor Auto Accidents Reported In County Recently

No One Hurt But Considerable Property Damage Is Caused, Patrolman Says

No one was badly hurt but considerable property damage resulted in a series of automobile accidents in this county during the Christmas week-end period, according to a review of the accident record by Patrolman Whit Saunders yesterday.

The first in the series of accidents was reported on Thursday afternoon of last week when Lewis Auentely, Bertie County colored man, drove out of the Slaughter House Road into Farmer Oscar Ayers' car on Highway 64. No one was hurt and damage to both cars was hardly more than \$50. Auentely, charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes, accepted the repair charge.

Damage estimated at \$200 was done to two cars when they crashed at the intersection of Haughton and Main Streets here about 11:30 o'clock Christmas Eve night. Ernest Wynne was driving north on Haughton Street and Louise Payne of Hertford was driving toward the business section when their cars crashed. No one was hurt.

The most serious of the accidents reported during the period happened about 11:30 a. m. Christmas morning during the fog. Russell Callier was driving toward Robersonville on the Gold Point highway, met and crashed into Willard A. Everett's 1939 Plymouth. The left front and sides of both cars were badly damaged. Patrolman Saunders stating that it is possible the repair bill to both cars will approximate \$1,000. Mr. Everett was cut by flying glass and he was bruised about the chest.

About 9 o'clock Christmas night, Paul Jones was returning to Williamston from a visit with relatives when a car driven by an unknown colored man, sideswiped him at Conoho Creek near Oak City, ripping in two a fender and damaging a tire. The colored man drove his car into the swamp, got out and ran. As far as it could be learned no one was hurt.

Only one person was hurt in the four accidents which cost approximately \$1,300 in property loss alone.

Youth Is Awarded Coveted Air Medal

Lt. Robert A. Haislip, Jr., young son of Commissioner and Mrs. R. A. Haislip of Oak City, was recently awarded the highly coveted Distinguished Flying Cross for "outstanding achievement in action against the enemy."

Announcing the award, Major John K. Cannon, of the Twelfth Air Force Headquarters, said: "Only a few of our men who fly in battle against the enemy have been so honored. The high qualities the young man developed during his formative years, had no small part in making this achievement possible."

"Lt. Haislip, by his courage and devotion to duty, has set an example which has made his comrades proud to serve with him in this war for high ideals. As the Commander of the Air Force in which he serves, I also take pride in his accomplishments. It is a genuine pleasure to have had with me, in the Twelfth Air Force, such an outstanding airman."

HOLIDAY FOR FEW

Next Monday — New Year's Day — will be observed by only a few people and business firms in this section. The county court will not hold a session, and the post office, banks and one or two other business establishments will be closed that day.

The county commissioners will meet as usual and all county offices will be open along with the continuation of business as usual by other firms.

Brothers Wounded in Action



Sons of Mrs. J. T. Bland, of Williamston, Sgt. Robert H. Bland, right, and S/Sgt. John D. Bland, left, were re-



cently reported wounded, Sgt. J. T. for the second time in Italy. The other brother was wounded in Germany on December 4.

Serious Wood And Coal Shortage Is

Stick on Yards at Two Dealers Here

An acute wood and coal shortage predicted several months ago is now upon this immediate section, and the prospects for relief are next to dismal. The shortage is to be recognized as dangerous, according to one report, and the winter itself is only a few days old.

Possibly quite a few homes and businesses have adequate supplies of coal and wood, but the big majority is already feeling the cold pinch.

Commenting on the situation yesterday, a local dealer said that a customer had just called for wood, explaining in a tearful voice that there was no wood in the yard and no fire in the house. Another potential customer called and in a croupy voice that was hard to understand, pleaded for wood.

At one yard, workers were seen scratching in the dirt for an occasional lump of coal. At the other yard the dealer had opened the gates and little children with battered buckets and broken-down wheelbarrows were picking up pine bark and a chip here and there.

Commenting on the outlook, one of the two local dealers said that he had already received and delivered his coal allotment for the year ending next June. The second dealer had been promised no more than one car of coal for each of the months of January, February and March and delivery is uncertain. A few industrial users are said to be running low, and the neighborly practice of borrowing from one another is just about deserted out of necessity.

The wood shortage is just about as bad. Individual sales by farmers are apparently a thing of the past, reports stating that quite a few farmers have hauled coal and wood from town for use in their homes while some others were now burning oil with a big supply of wood on their farms.

Lumber mills in this section have been idle for some days, removing a source of supply of evergreen wood. One mill, over-selling before the holidays, was looking for enough wood this week to raise steam in its boilers. Another mill operated yesterday for the first time in weeks.

About the only bright spot in the fuel situation as it exists here centers around the supply of fuel oil and kerosene. White stocks are far from normal, they are larger than they were a short time ago. This type of fuel, however, will hardly relieve the seriousness of the shortage where it is almost certain to be felt the

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Hear Several Cases In Justice's Court

Fifteen defendants were carried before Justice John L. Hassell in his court here during the Christmas holiday period for alleged violation of law and common decency.

Charles Frank Gray, charged with disorderly conduct, was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

Thurman James was bound over under \$200 bond in the case charging him with assaulting a female.

Charged with an affray, Mervin Williams was required to pay \$5 costs.

Lewis Auentley was fined \$5 and required to pay \$5 costs in the case charging him with operating an auto with improper brakes.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Hubert Hardison was fined \$1.50 and required to pay \$8.50 costs.

Rufus Taylor was taxed \$8.50 costs for disorderly conduct.

Willie Hassell was fined \$10 and required to pay \$7 costs for operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes.

Drunk and down, Ernest Lanier was taxed with \$6.50 costs.

Leroy Clark, charged with being drunk on highway, was fined \$1.50 and taxed with \$8.50 costs.

Probable cause appearing in the case charging them with an assault with a deadly weapon, Romulus Moore and Raymond Moore were bound over to the county court in bonds of \$100 each.

E. F. Lynch was fined \$1.50 and required to pay \$8.50 costs in the case charging him with disorderly conduct.

Joseph B. Bullock Passes In Everetts

Taken ill less than a week ago, Jos. B. Bullock, retired farmer, died at his home in Everetts this morning at 1 o'clock. He would have been 70 years old next March.

Funeral services will be conducted at the late home Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers and interment will follow in the Clark Cemetery at Everetts.

Mr. Bullock is survived by three sons and three daughters.

Officers Solve Several In Series of Robberies

Arrest Colored Men In Connection With Little Crime Wave

Henry Bonds and Harry Land Admit Laundry, Jenkins And Oil Firm Thefts

Combining their efforts and aided by agents of State and Federal Bureau of Investigation, local and county officers and members of the State Highway Patrol are believed to have checked if not wiped out a little crime wave that swept this community during recent weeks. Diligent work marked the handling of the case, many of the officers devoting much time day and night trying to establish and develop "leads".

The case "broke" last week when Henry "Pinky" Bonds, 25-year-old colored man, was arrested on a Norfolk-bound bus after he had evaded an all-night search conducted by officers in three counties. A meager lead had been developed prior to that time, but Bonds could not be found. His trail was picked up late on Tuesday night of last week and officers started an all-night hunt.

Driving a Virginia car bearing a Virginia license issued to a woman who had been murdered just a short time before in Norfolk, Bonds abandoned the car in Bear Grass Township near Sweet Home church after a several hours' ride. Blood hounds were used and they ran him through the woods until the ground began to freeze and the chase was ended there. A trap was later set for him and early next morning, he stopped and boarded a bus on the Washington Highway, his arrest following a few minutes later at the local bus station where an officer was waiting for him. Harry Land, an accomplice in several robberies, was arrested a short time later.

Detained in the county jail for investigation, Bonds and Land admitted breaking into the local laundry as far back as October 8 and steal a pair of pants and a few other articles. They also admitted breaking into the Harrison Oil Company offices on Elm Street and stealing a pistol and a carton of cigarettes on the night of November 27. Bonds admitted the Chas. H. Jenkins and Company garage robbery on December 7 and implicated Land, but Land vigorously denies any connection with that job. A few cartridges and shells and an Oldsmobile belonging to Harvey Roberson were stolen after an attempt to force the safe door failed. The car was recovered two days later.

While it is believed Bonds is implicated in other robberies and crimes, officers have not yet been able to connect him with them. Gasoline ration coupons, stolen from Lucian Peel's and W. A. Brown's filling stations in Bear Grass Township on the night of December 14, were traced to him. Bonds, denying the Bear Grass robberies, declared that he got the coupons from parties un-

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Kay Lindsey Sluder Died In Hospital Christmas Day

Kay Lindsey Sluder, 14-days-old daughter of Sgt. Calvin Sluder and Mrs. Katherine Hardison Sluder, died in a Durham hospital Christmas morning about 11 o'clock. She had not been well since birth.

Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in Woodlawn Cemetery here last Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock by the family's pastor, Dr. W. R. Burrell, Baptist minister.

Sgt. Sluder, formerly of Asheville, was just recently transferred overseas.

TRUCK GAS

Gasoline allotments for the first quarter are being issued to truck owners and operators in this county by the War Price and Rationing Board. Owners are notified to file their applications as early as possible, that if the applications are not received by January 15, the allotments will be reduced. Applicants are asked to present their 1945 truck registration cards.

With American armies facing an increasing danger on the Western Front, government authorities are humbly asking all gasoline consumers and vehicle operators to be as reasonable in their demands as possible and conserve their allotments along with their equipment.

Local Boys Home From Two Theaters Of War

Two local boys, Ensign Burras A. Critcher, Jr., and Lt. S. W. Manning, are just recently back from the war areas, Critcher from the Pacific and Manning from the European fronts. Each of them will spend about three weeks at home before reporting to centers for reassignment.

Critcher, stationed on the Lexington for almost a year, is an ace in the Navy Air Corps, seeing considerable action in the recent battles in the Philippine area. Lt. Manning, of the Army Air Corps, flew thirty-five missions over enemy territory in big bombers. Both of the young men had some great experiences.