

## Red Army Smashing On Road To Berlin

### Flashes of Guns, Increased Activity Reported on Western Front

Advancing more than 200 miles in a little over two weeks, the Russians today are continuing unchecked in their march toward Berlin. Despite the extension of their supply lines and the advantages of defense held by the Germans, the Red Army has carried the flow of their reports in sight of Berlin. Unofficial reports, coming strangely enough from the enemy, place Russian spearheads within about sixty-five miles of the Reich capital, while the main armies are reported to be within 90 miles of the shaky city.

On the Western Front increased activities were reported today, with possibly the greatest attention centered on the northern sector where Canadians of the Second British Army are believed to have opened what may possibly be a large-scale drive from the West. Patton's Third Army has smashed back across the German border, but the enemy is offering a stiffened resistance in the Ardennes area, it was declared.

Fearing for their safety in the Reich capital, Germans were said yesterday to be participating in one of the greatest military evacuations in history. Millions in the over-run provinces were fleeing into the city while other millions were leaving the city. Many were being herded into abandoned concentration camps, one report explaining that in the confusion, many were going right on through the concentration centers.

The powerful might applied by the Russian Armies is having repercussions inside Germany. Outward action on the part of some of the estimated twelve million slave laborers inside Germany has been reported. The extent of the action is not yet definitely known, but in one of the cities recently falling to the Russians, the slave workers had dared oppose their captors and all but one was found dead.

The swift advance of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's forces, which covered 31 miles in 24 hours, cut the Berlin-Danzig railroad and highway and put the Russians only 52 miles from the fortress city of Custrin, astride the last-ditch German defense line along the Oder River.

The Russians broke into Pomerania province on a 29-mile front and Berlin said that they already had surrounded the big communications center of Schneidemuhl, at the northeastern end of the new invasion thrust.

The second invasion of the main German homeland in ten days was made by forces led by 34 Soviet generals—indicating that the drive was made by a mass concentration of tanks, infantry and guns rather than by armored spearheads.

Almost simultaneous with Premier Stalin's order to Zhukov's long string of his 18-day, 230-mile march from Praga, Berlin reported that the Russians had swept five to six miles beyond the upper Oder River northwest of Breslau.

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## Mrs. Sam Gurganus Passes In County

Mrs. Margaret Harrison Gurganus, widow of Samuel Gurganus, died at her home near Robersonville Sunday morning at 10:25 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She had been confined to her home and bed since the early part of last September.

The daughter of the late J. H. and Mozella Coburn Harrison, she was born in this county on December 15, 1887, and when a young woman was married to Mr. Harrison who died some years ago.

Held in high esteem by all who knew her, Mrs. Gurganus was a faithful member of the Robersonville Primitive Baptist Church for twenty-six years.

She is survived by two children, Mrs. Clifton Turner of Robersonville and Mrs. Roland Bunting of the home, four grandchildren and a sister, Mrs. Frank Matthews of Hamilton. A daughter, Mrs. Ace Tom Taylor, died just a few months ago.

Funeral services are being conducted in the Robersonville Primitive Baptist Church this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by her pastor, Elder B. S. Cowin, assisted by Elders W. E. Grimes and A. B. Ayers. Interment will follow in the Robersonville Cemetery.

## County Colored Man Shot Trying To Make Escape

Roosevelt Fagan, Martin County colored man who is adept in forging checks and stealing automobiles, was shot through the thigh while trying to escape from officers in Beaufort County last week-end, according to reports heard here.

Fagan, it was said, jumped out of a stolen car when officers closed in on him. He was later removed to a prison hospital.

## Farmers To Sign New Farm Plans On February 2 And 3

Martin County farmers will tomorrow and Wednesday sign plans for the 1945 season on Friday and Saturday of this week when they visit their committees in their respective districts and discuss the new program. Allotments will not figure very prominently in the new program, but soil conservation methods will be stressed, Triple A leaders explaining that special attention will be given to soil building practices and potential conservation earnings.

Following numerous soil tests, Triple A authorities point out that there is a great need for an extensive liming project, and while it is estimated that 6,000 tons are needed, the committee will drive for a 2000-ton order for the county this year. It was explained that by placing orders for 1,000 tons or more, the county will be provided with a barn-yard delivery service, the lime to cost \$4.35 per ton.

## Local Boy Has Narrow Escape Over Bastogne

### Lt. Hardy Rose, Jr., And C-47 Crew Bail Out At Low Altitude

### Local Young Man Only One To Escape Uninjured In Thrilling Adventure

Lt. Z. Hardy Rose, Jr., Williams- ton young man, had a narrow call a short time ago when his C-47 was literally shot out from under him. Other Martin County young men, no doubt, have had their close calls, but Lt. Rose's ranks right at the top of the list so far revealed.

It will be recalled that Lt. Rose was among the first to fly over the D-Day invasion forces in France last June.

Telling of his thrilling escape more recently, the Public Relations Office of a U. S. Troop Carrier Force Base, European Theater of Operations, said that Lt. Rose was the only unscathed member of a C-47 as crew bailed out over Bastogne. The story reads, as follows:

"First Lieutenant Zeno H. Rose, of Professor Hardy Rose, member of the Nashville School Faculty, was lucky enough to be the only uninjured member of his crew when they were recently forced to bail out after dropping their supplies to the 'Screaming Eagle Division', the 101st, at Bastogne.

"Coming in over the drop zone, a burst of flak hit the forward part of the ship, smashing part of the instrument board. A few minutes later, a second burst hit in the cockpit, shattering the remaining instruments, severing the gas lines, and starting fires all over the place. In the two bursts, both the pilot and co-pilot receive hits, one suffering a smashed shoulder, the other a fractured arm. Orders were given to bail out, and Lieutenant Rose left his navigator's compartment, making his way to the door of the ship. The enlisted men hesitated to jump," said Lt. Rose, "probably because of the low altitude (350 feet), so I led the way by going first. I could hear bullets whizzing around me all the way down, and the feel of earth beneath me never felt better."

"Luckily, the young man landed in American-held territory, but the jump was so close to the lines, two of the crew were lost as they landed in enemy territory. American doughboys quickly picked up the four crewmen, a third one having incurred a broken leg as a result of the low jump, and quickly transported them all back to their aid station for immediate treatment.

"Lieutenant Rose, a graduate of Williamston High School, class of 1933, is now back in active service with his unit, the 435th Troop Carrier, at the present time."

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## Farmer Hurt When Tractor Turns Over

Governor Caison, colored farmer, was badly hurt last Friday afternoon when a tractor turned over and pinned him down on the Lindsley Ice Company's Conoho farm, about three miles from here, last Friday afternoon. The man's right hip bone was knocked out of place by about six inches, but his condition was said to be improving in the local hospital today.

No one was with the man except his small son and unable to extricate him, he ran all the way to town for help. Caison, covered with fuel oil and dirt, was pinned under the machine for about an hour.

About two months ago, Caison was run down and badly hurt by a taxi on East Main Street, and had hardly recovered from a skull fracture and a broken leg when he was injured again.

## Infantile Paralysis Close In The County

### Chairman L. B. Wynne Believes \$2,282 Quota Will Be Reached

The annual infantile paralysis fund drive, now rapidly drawing to a close in this county, was \$752.20 short of the assigned quota late yesterday afternoon, according to a report released by County Chairman L. B. Wynne at that time. Although the drive at that time was far from its goal, Chairman Wynne declared that he is optimistic and believes that when all the reports are in the collection will just about approximate the quota.

Up until late yesterday, a total of \$1,529.80 had been raised and reported. Of that amount the schools reported approximately \$755.00, but only four of the ten white schools had completed and filed their reports at that time. Three of the twenty-three colored schools reported a total of \$255.00, Biggs leading with \$125.00; Everetts second with \$10, and Whichard-James following with \$8.

Other direct contributions were made as follows: rationing board employees, \$6; Lions Club, \$47.00; Kiwanis Club, \$25.00, and County 4-H Clubs, \$25.

No report on the sale of the little lapel tags could be had and there is some doubt if they were held in one or two of the towns as scheduled.

Approximately ninety of the nearly 250 persons in the county receiving appeals by direct mail have not yet replied. If most of the ninety rally behind the movement and if favorable reports are received from the six remaining white and twenty colored schools it is believed that the fund drive will prove successful, Chairman Wynne declared. Free will offerings are also being received in the county theaters and they are expected to help bolster the drive.

As the drive draws to a close, Martin County people are reminded that the National Foundation created for the fight against infantile paralysis did not hesitate to lend every possible aid in relieving the case that found its way to the emergency hospital at Hickory from this county. That account has been settled in full, and the current drive is being made in preparation for any emergency that might arise in the future. This is the last public appeal being directed to the people in this county for support of the drive. Those who have delayed making their contributions are asked to send them direct to the chairman and those who can increase their contributions are asked to give the drive every consideration possible.

## Eighty-nine Tires Allotted By Board

Certificates for the purchase of 78 Grade I car and pick-up truck tires and 11 small truck tires were issued by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday night.

Certificates for Grade I car tires were issued to the following: Henry Haislip, J. K. Leggett, C. L. Nelson, Manson Council, L. R. Everett, J. C. Council, G. W. Barrett, A. F. Gurkin, Alvis Curtis, M. W. Bissell, W. Bruce Johnson, J. S. Williams, K. S. Bunting, H. A. Early, R. L. Stallings, J. Walter Gurganus, Arthur Mack Woolard, Ronald Clark, Arthur Simpson, J. S. Whitley, Howard Coltrain, Wheeler Martin, Prince Ayers, Eli Bell, Eustice Jones, J. G. Tyre, Wheeler F. Peaks, Joe T. Bullock, Daniel Hardison, H. L. Swain, L. J. Cordon, Vernon Powell, L. M. W. Roberson, V. R. Peaks, James H. Hodges, Gomer G. Taylor, Lester Knox, Ben Griffin, Dennis Moore, L. T. Carroll, L. R. Hales, J. Elliott Barnhill, H. B. Smith, James Harry Wynne, Henry Oakley, H. H. Matthews, W. L. Pollard, W. R. Banks, C. C. Coltrain, Sr., Ben F. Roberson, H. C. Modlin, E. L. Cordon, Rufus A. Coltrain and Jesse Keel.

Truck tire certificates were issued to the following: Alan Van Landingham, Farmville-Woodward Lumber Co., J. E. Andrews, Raleigh Hopkins, Barnhill Supply Co.

## Impractical Joke Is Reported To Police

A young soldier on furlough in the county recently was about to start a little war of his own when some unthoughtful person played an impractical joke on his girl. He appealed to local police, but they were helpless to act, and the young soldier set out to trace the origin of the message summoning his girl from college presumably to enter the matrimonial ring.

Officers did not get the young man's name, but he stated that the young lady was advised by the impersonator to forego examinations scheduled the very next day and rush home to be married immediately.

## Country Home Destroyed Near Jamesville Friday

Starting from an upstairs fire place, fire destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Zeph Roberson, aged couple, near Jamesville last Friday afternoon. Very few of the household goods and furniture were saved, some members of the family saving only the clothes they wore. The structure was a six-room house and as far as it could be learned no insurance was carried on the house or furniture.

About two weeks ago fire destroyed the home of John Gay also in Jamesville Township.

## Cotton Ginnings Over 1000 Bales Behind 1943 Record

Martin County cotton ginnings from the 1944 crop now stand at 2,300 bales up to January 16, it was announced this week. The ginnings from the 1943 crop were 3,373 bales.

## REST

Local officers had a peaceful and restful period last week-end when no infractions of law and order were reported. It was the first time in a long span that no one was arrested and jailed in this county for alleged violations of the law.

The jail population is holding to a fairly low level these days, Jailer Roy Peel stating yesterday that only two inmates were in the hoosegow at that time.

## ENEMY ISOLATED IN PHILIPPINES



AS AMERICAN INVASION forces on Luzon stormed through enemy towns toward Manila, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced that in preparing for the invasion the enemy's supply line to the Philippines had been cut and the Japs will have to depend on such resources as are on hand. The above map illustrates how this isolation has been achieved through constant raids on Formosa, the China Coast, the Ryukyu Islands and the Japanese mainland. Scores of Jap supply ships have been sunk in Manila harbor and other waters while Yank planes range the waters off the China coast with patrol-like regularity, constantly knocking out many vessels from the East Indies and Formosa.

## More Men Report For Pre-Induction Exams

### RETURNS TO DUTY

T/5 John Foster VanLandingham, after being missing on the Western Front for three days, is now back in action, his mother, Mrs. Emily D. VanLandingham, was advised here last Saturday. The young man was reported missing on January 5 and was back in action on January 8, the message offering no other details.

A brother, Paul, was reported missing for four days some time ago.

## Lobbyists Active In State Assembly

Lobbyists, yielding a powerful influence, are reported operating in Raleigh in numbers during the current session of the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh. When it was proposed to raise \$600,000 from the theater goes with a 2 per cent sales tax during the next two years, the weight of the lobby made its impression and the proposal was snuffed under by a big vote in the finance committee report. The two per cent tax on meals was retained, however. One report stated that quite a few members of the committee wandered into the committee room just in time to vote against the proposal.

The proposal to appropriate \$7,500,000 for county roads during each of the next two years is expected to meet stubborn opposition from the all-powerful and political-wielding highway commission. However, the cry of the thousands of little fellows who straddle the "later ridges and mire up in mud is still ringing in the legislators' ears, and it is believed that the measure has some chance of passage.

In session for four weeks, the legislature has accomplished very little so far, but it is expected that some consideration will be given the asylums for the mentally ill shortly and that the assembly will quit Raleigh the early part of March.

## Man Badly Hurt In Dynamite Explosion

James T. Griffin, well-known county farmer of the Dardens section, was badly hurt last week when a charge of dynamite planted in a stump exploded in his face. The skin was torn from his eyelids and he was bruised painfully about his face. No late report could be had here, and how seriously his sight was affected could not be learned.

Exhausting his supply of matches, Mr. Griffin was using coals from a fire to light the fuses to the dynamite charges. Apparently not realizing the fuse had been lighted, Mr. Griffin was too late in getting away and the charge blew up in his face.

## Cpl. J. B. Harrell Coming Home After Stay In Panama

After spending two years in Panama and South America, Cpl. Johnnie B. Harrell is traveling homeward to spend three weeks visiting relatives in the county and in Norfolk. Since returning to the States, he has been stationed at San Marcos, Texas. In a recent letter to the young man said there was no news like the news from home he had been receiving through The Enterprise.

## County Boy Writes The Western Front

### Pvt. James R. Taylor Enjoys Fruit Cake In Germany On January 5th

Writing to his mother, Mrs. Luther Taylor, RFD 1, Williamston, Pvt. James E. Taylor, stationed somewhere in Germany, on January 5th, expressed his appreciation for a fruitcake. The letter follows:

Tonight I wish that I could be home with you all, Mama. I will try to write you a few words to let you know that I am thinking of you back home, Mama, and that I sure hope that everyone is getting along just fine, and I guess I am still getting along fairly well. Tonight I have my stomach about as full as I have had it since I have been over here because, I have just gotten a box from you with a big nice fruitcake in it and I really did enjoy it. When I did open up that cake and cut it, I told all the rest of the men in my outfit to come and help me eat it. We all soon got to work on the cake and ate it, Mama. I think all the boys really liked the cake, too, because it was really nice and I think that writing paper that you sent me along with the cake is going to come in good because we boys have about used our supply. Thanks also for the cigarettes because tonight is the first real smoke in a long time. We have not had good cigarettes in a long time. We have been getting cigarettes but not the kind anybody liked. Now I intend to enjoy the cigarettes you sent me. Don't forget we thank you for the cigarettes, paper, and fruit cake. Some day I hope to be able to repay all the kindnesses you have done for me in a way that you will enjoy it.

Mama, you said in your letter that you hoped I enjoyed the box and that you hoped the food wouldn't spoil. I'm glad there is something like that you can send me, and I will enjoy all the good food from home. I want to tell you what the Good Lord did for us when we were going to make an attack on the Germans. It looked bad and all the boys were sitting around wondering how we were coming out. After it was over, one of the men, about 34 years old, looked at me and said, "Taylor, I think I do need prayer and I wish you would pray for me, because I never have done it." I don't know how I did really feel myself but I started praying for myself and the fellow. I asked God to watch over my buddy and me and to spare us through it all. When I looked up and opened my eyes, that man was really crying and I asked him what was troubling him and he said, "Taylor, you have prayed for me, and I do feel so funny I can't help from crying. It is the second time in my life that I have cried. The first was when I lost my little boy." I told him to cheer up, that everything would be all right and our God would see us through. We both are still here tonight and are getting along fine. Now, Mama, I ask you to keep praying for me until I see you and I'll say goodnight for this time. With all my love and good luck to all at home.

## Respected Citizen Of Hassell Passes

Funeral services were conducted at the home near Hassell last Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Odessa Rawls Purvis, highly respected citizen, who died in a Rocky Mount hospital last Friday morning at 4 o'clock. Rev. J. M. Perry, her pastor, assisted by Rev. C. B. Marshburn, of Farmville, conducted the last rites, interment following in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Mrs. Purvis had been in declining health for several years, but her condition was not critical until just a few days ago when she was removed to the Rocky Mount hospital.

The daughter of the late John and Lovie Rawls, she was born in this county 69 years ago, spending all her life in the Hassell community where she was held in high esteem. A member of the Hassell Christian church for many years, she was faithful in its support and in the observance of its teachings and principles. In early womanhood she was married to Hannibal L. Purvis who survives with three children, two sons, Hannibal, Jr., and Woodrow Purvis of the home, and a daughter, Mrs. Frank L. Whitehurst of Bethel. She is also survived by a sister, Mrs. G. R. Haislip of Hamilton, and a brother, Mr. C. C. Rawls of Hassell.

## Husband of Former Resident Missing

S/Sgt. R. A. Lang has been missing in Germany since December 16, 1944. Mrs. Lang, a former employee of Rose's Williamston store and manager of the same company's store in Plymouth, said her last letter from her husband was dated November 28 and written in England. She did not know until last Wednesday that he had been transferred to the Western Front in Germany.

## Local Boy Is Returning To Combat Zone For Third Time

Returning to action last fall after recovering from a knee wound caused by shrapnel, Jimmy Manning, local boy, was later forced out of action by trench foot or frozen feet. Last reports state that he is returning to combat duty for the third time, apparently recovered from the ailment.

He was with Hodges' First Army when he was last forced out of action.