

Big Drive Launched By Canadian Forces In Northern Holland

Russian Tanks Again Reported in Bernin Suburbs Red Army Gaining

Starting an all-out offensive in the Holland sector at the top of the Siegfried Line, the Canadian First Army, aided by British forces, grabbed hold of one of the draw strings that are being drawn ever tighter around Germany's neck. The move throws the entire Western Front into fierce action. During the meantime, the Russians have made new gains on the Eastern Front, an unconfirmed report coming from Finland yesterday stating that Red Army tank spearheads had penetrated for a second time the suburbs of Berlin.

Jumping off at mid-morning yesterday behind fearsome, flame-throwing crocodile tanks, Gen. H. D. G. Crear's Canadian First Army, bolstered by British troops, swept ahead two miles along a five-mile front aimed at the major fortresses of Kieve and Goch, guarding the flat Rhineland plain.

The attack began at the closest point of Anglo-American penetration toward Berlin, somewhere southeast of Nijmegen in Holland. German reports said that the British Second Army and the American Ninth also are attacking along the Roer in a "curtain raiser" to the great battle in the west, which now has been joined by five Allied armies from Nijmegen south to Trier.

The new attack was opened by a famous "Monty barrage" from the barrels of 2,000 artillery guns behind the troops as Field Marshal Sir B. L. Montgomery, commander of the 21st Army Group, turned his favorite instrument of battle against the Siegfried anchor towns of Kieve and Goch. The barrage lasted 11 hours.

The thunderous prelude began shortly after midnight and roared steadily hour after hour in concert with the screaming attacks of 2,700 planes heaping bombs upon the demoralized Germans. The aerial attack went on even after the weather turned bad and visibility was reduced to zero.

The offensive, renewed on a large scale after more than a three months' lull in the north, was driving against the northernmost tip of the old Siegfried Line at Kieve.

Special British flail tanks were cutting through the enemy's minefields guarding the Siegfried pillboxes. Other tanks and flame throwers were rolling into battle along a 100-mile stretch of specially reinforced road that was improved to support the deluge of men, materials and firepower Montgomery is preparing to throw into the assault.

Meanwhile, to the south of the new drive the U. S. First and Third Armies ripped great new holes in the Siegfried Line, with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton smashing through the Westwall on an eight-mile front west and north of Prüm.

The First Army, driving to gain control of the Roer River headwaters, captured Schmidt in a similar drive that broke through the fortified pillbox defenses in the area and swept ahead at least a half-mile against weakening German resistance.

Other Third Army troops punched out new half-mile to mile gains across the Our and Sure rivers east of Luxembourg, extending their dents in the Siegfried Line to some two miles.

On the Eastern Front, no marked gains as far as miles are concerned have been made in the Kustrin area, but the barriers along the Oder River have been crossed in strength and it is apparent that that city and Frankfurt farther south are just about encircled. A late Moscow report declared that the last barrier to the march on Berlin had been cracked, that the German capital is in panic and witnessing the crumbling of the last obstacle in its forefield. Fighting in that sector has been described as the fiercest of the war. It is apparent that powerful forces plan to drive straight on to Berlin in that sector, but the progress of the drive there may depend on the success of flanking movements, one directed toward Stettin to the north and the other pointing in the direction of Dresden to the southwest. The northern movement is making progress, one report stating that Allied airmen were working in close cooperation with the Russian

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Sunday Will Be Observed As Woman's Day In Church

Sunday, Feb. 11th, is being observed by the Woman's Council of the Williamston Christian Church as Woman's Day. The pastor will bring a Missionary Message at the morning hour.

At 7:30 in the evening a cast of nine persons will present a one-act play, "The End Is the Beginning." The incident presents a youth in war service challenging his friends to their Christian responsibility to play a constructive part in the building of the world that is to follow the war.

Jamesville Boy Killed In Action January 16

KILLED IN ACTION



Pfc. Onward L. Gardner, son of Mrs. Emma Gardner, RFD 1, Jamesville, made the supreme sacrifice for his country on the Western Front in Belgium, the 16th of last month, his mother was notified by the War Department yesterday.

Judge Calvin Smith Calls Dozen Cases In County's Court

Tribunal In Session Hardly Two Hours Clearing the Docket Last Monday

Judge J. Calvin Smith held the Martin County Recorder's Court in session just about two hours in clearing the trial docket last Monday. Very few white spectators were in the court room, but the colored population was well represented, and those in attendance listened intently to the proceedings. Solicitor Paul D. Roberson prosecuted the docket.

Proceedings: Blythe Delbert Pierce, pleading guilty in the case in which he was charged with drunken driving, was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost, the court recommending that his license to operate a motor vehicle be revoked for twelve months.

John Teel, charged with the larceny of a watch, was fined \$10 and required to pay the cost.

Charged with disorderly conduct and assaulting a female, James Everett pleaded guilty of being drunk and disorderly. The plea was accepted and the defendant was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost.

Thomas Purvis, charged with an assault and non-support, pleaded not guilty and the case was continued until the first Monday in June.

The case charging Homer Clemmons with non-support, was also continued until the first Monday in June.

Pleading guilty of assaulting a female, Elijah Brown was sentenced to the roads for ninety days. The sentence was suspended for one year upon the payment of a \$10 fine and costs, and on the further condition that the defendant is not to assault his wife or have intoxicating liquors on his premises or his person during the one-year suspension period.

R. R. Hilliker, charged with speeding, failed to answer when called in open court.

Leon Outlaw, pleading guilty in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon, was fined \$15 and required to pay the case costs.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon and an affray, Bill Henry Williams pleaded guilty of an affray. The plea was accepted by the solicitors and the defendant was fined \$15 and required to pay the costs.

Jesse Baker, charged with speeding, pleaded guilty and was fined \$15, taxed with the cost and had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for thirty days.

Richard Vines, charged with violating the health laws, pleaded not guilty. Adjudged guilty, he was

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PRISONER LABOR

German war prisoners, stationed in the local prisoner of war camp, continue fairly active in relieving the labor shortage on Martin County farms. During the month of January, 461 prisoners worked 3,443 hours handling various duties on the farms, cutting tobacco woc, shrubbing and ditching for drain tile lines. The cost of the labor, based on a 25-cent hourly rate, was approximately \$860.

Farm work just at this time does not carry a very high priority rating, and all the requests for prisoners could not be granted, it was learned.

Onward L. Gardner Was First Reported Missing in December

Young Man, Member of Medical Detachment, Had Been Overseas Since October

Pfc. Onward L. Gardner, youngest son of Mrs. Emma Gardner, RFD 1, Jamesville, and the late Mr. Lloyd D. Gardner, was killed in action on the Western Front in Belgium on January 16, his mother was advised by the War Department yesterday. No details were given, but the message explained that more information would follow.

Young Gardner, about 25 years of age, was reported missing in action along the Belgium front last December 17, the second day of the big Rundstedt drive into Belgium and Luxembourg. As far as it could be learned here he had not been reported found, but apparently he returned to duty or else he was killed during the meantime and not officially listed as dead until January 16th.

He is the 36th Martin County young man known to have been killed or who died in line of duty, and the sixth from the Jamesville area.

Pvt. Gardner entered the service back in 1942 and was attached to the 324th U. S. Army Medical Corps, training at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., for quite a while. He went overseas last October and was believed to have been driving an ambulance when he was first reported missing.

Born and reared in Jamesville Township, Gardner was a promising young man and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Up until he entered the service, he farmed at the old home near Jamesville, carrying on from an early age the farm duties of his father who died more than twenty years ago. A genuine favorite of the family, he and his brother, Herbert, maintained an almost inseparable companionship until the war separated them. When duty called, he willingly answered and it is not believed of him that he hesitated in making the supreme sacrifice for his country, but that he maintained the great tradition so admirably established in war and peace by other Martin County men preceding him in death. The young man was a member of the Cedar Branch Baptist Church.

Besides his mother he is survived by four sisters, Mrs. Lillian Lane, of Rocky Mount, Mrs. Marion Barber of Washington, D. C., Mrs. Chas. Sexton of Jamesville, and Mrs. Effie Smith of the home, and five brothers, Stephen Earl, Herbert (Slim), Enoch, Arthur and Willie Mayo Gardner, all of Jamesville.

Employers Return Inventory Forms

P. B. Pollock, War Manpower Commission Area Director for the Elizabeth City-New Bern labor market area today stated that local offices of the USES are not receiving manpower inventory forms from employers in expected numbers.

"The forms—known as WMC-63A—were mailed to employers of 25 or more workers early in January," said Mr. Pollock, "with the request that they be completed and returned to their nearest local office of the United States Employment Service by February 15."

Many of the forms have been returned, according to the area director, but there are still many employers who have not been heard from. Mr. Pollock described the form as necessary in order that officials may have accurate knowledge of the present manpower situation.

"The form is simple, but is designed to reflect accurately the present manpower situation in North Carolina," he said. "From forms already received, we note that many employers have not yet reached the ceilings allowed them for employing workers. When all forms are in we shall be able to allocate or re-allocate workers where they will be of most benefit to the war effort."

Mr. Pollock urged that all employers send the form in as soon as possible, and added that if the form had been lost or misplaced, duplicates are obtainable at local offices of the USES. "Personnel in local USES offices will be glad to assist any employer in filling out the form," he added.

James L. Mobley Gets Commission In Air Corps

James L. Mobley, son of Mr. Sid A. Mobley of Williamston, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army Air Corps at special graduation exercises held at Hondo Army Air Field, Hondo, Texas, last Saturday morning.

Mr. Mobley wanted to make the trip and attend the exercises but was unable to go.

WOUNDED

Pvt. Melville V. Wynne, local young man, was slightly wounded in Germany on January 24, 1944, the former Miss Armand Edwards, was advised at her home here on the Street yesterday morning. P. Wynne, 32 years old, is now in an Army hospital, the message stating that a letter direct from his bedside would follow within a short time.

The young man, father of three children the oldest of whom is seven, entered the service last April and has been overseas since October. In his last letter he stated he was in France and getting along very well. Two brothers are in the service, Hayward and Garland, both of whom are in the Pacific theater of operations.

Eighty-one Percent Of County Farmers Signed Work Sheets

Order Placed for 895 Tons Of Lime To Be Delivered Early Next Month

Approximately 1,321 of the 1,640 farm work sheets in this county have been signed to date, according to a report released by the Triple A office in the agricultural building yesterday. The sign-up, handled in the several districts last Friday and Saturday, was said to be virtually complete in several of the townships, but lagging badly in others. One report indicated that the sign-up was hardly more than one-half complete in Jamesville, Williamston, Poplar Point and Goose Nest Townships. A special call is being directed to those farmers who have not yet signed their 1945 farm work plans to do so at the office of the county agent without fail during the coming week.

It was pointed out that draft deferments in many cases will depend upon the information contained in the new farm plans.

Stressing the need for a wider use of lime on Martin County farm lands the program so far has received orders for 895 tons. It is fairly certain that enough orders will come from those who have not yet prepared and signed their work sheets to boost the orders to more than 1,000 tons. If the 1,000 tons are ordered, the lime will be delivered directly to the farmers' barnyards. The orders must be placed immediately, however, one report explaining that delivery can be expected early in March if the orders are received within the next few days.

It is estimated that there are 80,000 acres of crop land in this county, and it is fairly apparent that 40,000 of those acres need lime badly. In other words, the lands could take 20,000 tons at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre.

The cost of the lime to the farmer is "dirt" cheap, and never before has such an offer been made.

Plans are being advanced in an effort to make spreaders available to the farmers at a rental cost of 25 cents day. These plans have not been completed, and it is not certain that extra spreaders can be made available.

Justice Hears Four Cases In His Court

Business in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here is holding to a fairly steady level and just about to an average. During the past few days the trial justice heard four cases, and stepped up the size of the fines in two cases.

John Outlaw, charged with an affray, was fined \$5 and taxed with \$8.15 costs.

Charged with drunkenness, Lonnie Rogerson was required to pay \$8.50 costs.

Andrew Hudgins was fined \$5 and taxed with \$6 costs in the case charging him with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes.

Probable cause of guilt having been found, Geo. Purvis was bound over to the county court in \$100 bond to answer in the case charging him with assaulting Albert Wilson with a deadly weapon.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

The 1945 highway accident record is showing up much better to date than the one for the corresponding period in 1944. So far there has been less than one accident each week on an average and most of them have been minor ones.

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.

5th Week Comparison				
Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge				
1945	1	0	0	\$ 75
1944	2	1	0	675
Comparison To Date				
1945	4	1	0	\$ 400
1944	6	1	1	1325

Postwar Road Building Program For County Discussed At Special Meeting Of Commissioners Here

Youth Wounded Third Time In Action On Western Front

Pfc. Paul VanLandingham, local young man, has had quite a tough time of it over on the Western Front, his mother, Mrs. Emily D. VanLandingham, receiving a message from the War Department this week stating that he had been wounded a third time in Belgium. No details about his latest wound were revealed in the telegram, but the Adjutant General explained that a letter would follow from the hospital where the young man is now receiving medical attention.

Last July Young VanLandingham was painfully but not badly wounded in the chest during the fierce battle for St. Lo. After undergoing hospital treatment for about a month he was soon returned to action. Shortly before Christmas, he was reported missing for four days, the young man explaining later in a letter to his mother that he was wounded in the forehead and was listed as missing when the medics from another detachment picked him up and placed him in the hospital. He was missing only four days, and it is believed that his second wound was not a very bad one, for he was not long returning to combat duty. He was in action along the Western Front somewhere in Belgium when he was wounded on January 20, the third time. The message received this week stated that he was slightly wounded.

A brother, John Foster VanLandingham, was reported missing in Belgium on January 4th, a later message stating that he returned to active combat duty on January 8th.

Mrs. Mary S. Lilley Died Tuesday Night After A Long Illness

Funeral Service Was Held In Smithwicks Creek Church Thursday Afternoon

Mrs. Mary Stallings Lilley, highly respected citizen of Griffins Township, died at the home of her brother, David Bennett Stallings, there last Tuesday evening at 6:30 o'clock following years of declining health. Suffering a stroke of paralysis four years or more ago, she had been a semi-invalid since, spending the last two years in bed. She bore her affliction without complaint, however. While her condition had become much worse during the past three or four weeks, she was getting along very well and was eating the evening meal when she suffered a heart attack, death resulting a few minutes later.

The daughter of the late Stanley and Paulina Lilley Stallings, Mrs. Lilley was born on January 8, 1866, in Griffins Township where she lived all her life. In early womanhood she was married to Amelck Lilley who preceded her in death by about twenty years. Mrs. Lilley was a faithful attendant upon the services at Smithwicks Creek Primitive Baptist Church for a long period and had held membership there for about four years. She was a good neighbor and most thoughtful of others.

Besides her brother she is survived by one sister, Mrs. Sylvester Peel, RFD 1, Williamston.

Funeral services were conducted in the church at Smithwicks Creek yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by her pastor, Elder P. E. Gotsinger. Interment was in the Lilley Cemetery at Lilley's Hall in Griffins Township.

Earlier Closing For Williamston Stores

The Government has requested, and most of the local merchants have willingly agreed to cooperate to conserve fuel and energy in these trying times of manpower shortage as well as shortages of everything else. Cities throughout the country are curtailing their activities, employing brown-outs to a marked degree, and otherwise complying in ways not available to communities of our size. However, everyone can have a part in this "All Out for Victory" program and this measure, while relatively small, is important.

To that end, the Williamston merchants are planning to change store closing hours to conform with existing conditions. It is not the plan of the merchants or the government to work undue hardships on us at the home front, but in these modern times the rural shopper does not wait for Saturday night to do his or her shopping, especially with car pools the shipping is arranged as most convenient.

The first reaction to this plan may be unfavorable in some instances, but viewed in the light of national emergency, we will surely be able to make such personal adjustments as will insure the efficacy of this program.

Two Divorce Suits Filed In Superior Court This Week

Based on two years of separation, two suits for absolute divorce were filed in the Martin County Superior Court this week, one by Mordena Rogers against James Rogers, and the other by John D. Swimpson against Flossie Lanier Swimpson.

The office of the county agent said this week that 1,079 applications had been submitted to the state office, that possibly 150 county farmers had not yet signed their applications for payment.

Approximately 50 Miles Included In Tentative Program

Plan To Pave Several Roads Complete One to Farm Life Not Yet Certain

Meeting in special session with Highway Engineers G. K. Mack and J. G. Gardner, members of the Martin County Board of Commissioners discussed here last Tuesday the possibility of launching an extensive rural highway construction program. The meeting, lasting only a short time, was a most harmonious one, and the first attended by representatives of the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission in a long, long time. It was extremely gratifying to see the representatives appear in person and discuss local problems and plan for the future on the home grounds. Divisional Commissioner Carroll Wilson of Roanoke Rapids, scheduled to attend the meeting, was not present for the discussion.

Candidly explaining that the proposed program is not at all certain, that many things will have to be considered before any action can or will be taken, the highway representatives pointed out that if the proposed plans materialize, Martin County will have about 50 miles of its rural roads improved and surfaced with rock-asphalt in the post-war period. The meeting last Tuesday designated the roads to be included in the program, if and when that program takes definite form. Not every road in the county could be included, naturally, but the allocations are fairly well distributed over the county and include nearly all of the most important secondary roads.

No priority was mentioned for any one road, but it was made fairly apparent at the meeting that the State commission is going back to basic democratic principles and consulting the people about their roads and construction plans.

Planning on the assumption that the Federal government will accept one-half the costs, the State will consider the construction of about 54 miles of rock-asphalt roads, including the extension of the road from John A. Griffin's filling station to Farm Life in Griffins Township, a distance of about 5.8 miles. Other proposed projects to be included in the Federal-State plan, considering all the ifs and uncertainties, are:

The old river road running from Hamilton to Palmyra, a distance of about twelve miles.

The road from Butler's Bridge on N. C. Highway 125 to the Edgecombe County line, a distance of about 8.4 miles.

A road from Everetts to Bear Grass, a distance of about 5.6 miles.

The old Greenville Road, beginning near the Martin County Home, and running to the Robersonville-Stokes Road, a distance of about 10.7 miles.

The Williamston-Bear Grass Road, leading off U. S. Highway 17 about two miles south of Williamston, and running to the Beaufort County line via the residence of John Daniel Biggs and the town of Bear Grass, a distance of about 8.7 miles.

In addition to the State-Federal program, the highway representatives stated that Highway 171, running from Jamesville and intersecting U. S. Highway 17 near Washington, is recognized as a primary road and that possibly it would be paved by Federal government aid entirely. It was also stated that it might be possible to include the road running from Holly Springs on U. S. 64 to the 171 Highway in Griffins Township as an all-State project.

The commissioners discussed other roads and conditions with the visiting engineers, and were advised that even maintenance of the highways during the war period was not to be expected to measure up to anything like normal standards, that machinery could not be had and labor was scarce. And something was said about the many miles of "later ridges" all over the county.

County Youth Training At Great Lakes Center

Reginald D. Peele, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Peele, RFD 2, Williamston, is receiving his initial Naval indoctrination at the U. S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. His recruit training consists of instruction in seamanship, military drill and general Naval procedure. During this period a series of aptitude tests will be taken by the recruit to determine whether he will be assigned to a Naval Service School, to a shore station or to immediate duty at sea.

When his recruit training is completed, the seaman will receive a period of leave.

INCOME TAXES

Joyfully reminding all federal income taxpayers that March 15 is the deadline for filing returns, the Treasury Department this week announced that its deputy, John D. Lilley, would gladly assist as many as possible in preparing their statements.

The Deputy Collector will be at Henry Johnson's Store in Hamilton, February 19, 9 to 1 o'clock; J. H. Ayers' Store, Oak City, February 19, 2 to 6 o'clock; Robersonville post office, February 20 and 21, 9 to 6 o'clock; Williamston post office, February 22 through 27, from 9 to 6 o'clock; Brown's Store at Jamesville, March 1 from 9 to 1 o'clock, and at Allen's store, Dardens, March 1, from 2 to 6 o'clock.

Sam Bundy Accepts Principalship of the Williamston Schools

Will Enter Upon His New Duties Here Feb. 19; Succeeds E. G. Bourne

Sam D. Bundy, experienced educator and prominent figure in district Kiwanis and Masonic circles, was named last Wednesday evening to succeed E. G. Bourne as principal of the local school. The new appointee plans to enter upon his duties here on Monday, February 19, it was learned today.

Principal E. G. Bourne, tendering his resignation last week, is completing five months as head of the local schools today. He has not publicly announced his plans, but it was unofficially learned that he will enter employment elsewhere. The underlying cause prompting the school man's resignation could not be learned, but it was stated that the action was taken voluntarily.

Mr. Bourne's successor has had much experience in public school work. A native of Farmville, he was graduated from the high school there in 1923 and completed his education at Duke University in 1927. He taught in Duplin County one year and was elected principal of the school at Speed where he remained for five years. Eleven years ago he was made principal of the Leggett School in Edgecombe County and when he saw those whom he had started with finish school he decided to make a change. Accepting a job as chief clerk of the Edgecombe County War Price and Rationing Board last June, he is resigning that post to come here. The professor plans to move his wife and two children here just as soon as he can find a home.

Mr. Bundy is a past master in the Tarboro Masonic lodge. In 1943 he was lieutenant governor in the 6th Kiwanis district, and at the present time is governor in the district for the organization.

CHECKS

Participating in the 1944 soil building program, 443 Martin County farmers recently received Triple A checks in the sum of \$8,284.06, boosting the total received to date in this county to \$16,582.56. So far 742 checks, representing 542 applications, have been distributed to farmers in this county under the 1944 program.

The office of the county agent said this week that 1,079 applications had been submitted to the state office, that possibly 150 county farmers had not yet signed their applications for payment.