

Marines Invade Iwo Jima In Daring Move Toward Jap Capital

West and East Fronts In the Making

In a daring move, American Marines last week-end invaded Iwo Island to carry the war to Japan's doorsteps, the action placing the Americans within 780 miles of Tokyo. The invasion met with fierce resistance, and, according to some reports, is proving costly. However, victory is now in sight, late reports stating that the approximately 20,000 Marines have driven all the way across the lower end of the eight-mile square rock island and now hold about one-fourth of it.

Supported by an 800-ship invasion fleet, the Marines first encountered resistance that was deceptively light, but two hours later the entire battle area was described as an inferno, the island defenders fighting back from fortified caves, pill boxes and blockhouses.

It is estimated that the Japs had between 15,000 and 20,000 men on the tiny island, that apparently many of them survived a terrific bombardment by American warships and bombers.

The invasion of Iwo Jima is regarded as a great forward move in the Pacific war. The two airfields and space for a third will furnish a valuable base for air operations on Tokyo. Observers boldly predicted that the actual invasion of the Jap home islands is now on the Americans' schedule. Some officials went so far as to say that the Japs are about ready to talk peace, but they warned against any settlement short of complete and unconditional surrender.

While the Marines are clearing a path to Tokyo, American superforts were over the Jap capital yesterday in record numbers, delivering damaging blows to vital installations. The big raid took place before the enemy could count his losses incurred last week-end when carrier-based planes dealt a heavy blow to shipping and important targets in and around Tokyo. Over 500 enemy planes were knocked out of the sky and about thirty enemy ships, including several war ships, were sunk or damaged by the carrier-based planes.

In the Philippines, Manila has just about been cleared of the Japs.

In the European Theater, there's spotted action on both the Eastern and Western fronts, but the big news is expected when the Allies coordinate their strength and launch simultaneous drives on both fronts. The Russians are said to have already pulled up and placed as many as 400 big artillery pieces along the central front before Berlin. Just now the Russians are busy clearing out pockets of resistance miles from the front-line positions. East Prussia has just about been mopped up.

On the Western Front, the Canadian Army, including Scottish forces, is making progress in a drive from the north and now holds two-thirds of the city of Goch, a strong fortress point barring the road to the industrial Ruhr hardly more than fifteen miles away.

During the meantime, it is fairly apparent that General Eisenhower is making preparations for an all-out push along most of the Western Front.

Unconfirmed reports declare that the Germans are pulling out of Italy, that they are moving by motor, train and on horses and on foot and moving to Austria where some observers believe Hitler will continue the fight even after the fall of Berlin.

In this country, War Mobilizer Byrnes has ordered a mid-night curfew on cabarets, bars and other amusement places. The order brought bitter denunciations from some of the merry-makers, and some of the brazen scoundrels even hinted that the order would mean the return of the speakeasy, that the fun-lovers must be accommodated even while men sacrifice their lives in battle.

Jamesville Boy At Reassignment Area

Miami Beach, Fla.—S/Sgt. Edwin H. Carson, 23, Jamesville, N. C., has arrived at Army Air Forces Redistribution Station No. 2 in Miami Beach for reassignment processing after completing a tour of duty outside the continental United States.

Medical examinations and classification interviews at this post, pioneer of several redistribution stations operated by the AAF Personnel Distribution Command for AAF returnee officers and enlisted men, will determine his new assignment. He will remain at the redistribution station about two weeks, much of which will be devoted to rest and recreation.

He flew 42 missions as a B-24 engineer and gunner during 14 months overseas and holds the Air Medal with five clusters. He joined the AAF August 14, 1942. His father, O. G. Carson, lives at the same address. While his wife, Dorothy, lives at 305 East Mulberry Street, Goldsboro, N. C.

Plan Distribution Of Large Quantity Of Lime In County

Lime in this county in early spring were advanced by county agricultural leaders this week. A contracting firm is expected to make deliveries direct to the farms from six distribution centers in the county. Some of the lime, the first ever ordered in large quantities, will be shipped to Jamesville, Everetts, Hassell and Oak City for distribution, but most of it will be handled in the Robersonville and Williamston areas, it was said.

March delivery has been promised, but no definite dates have been mentioned. It was also learned that the contracting distributors had placed orders for fifty spreaders, but there is some doubt if they will be made available in time for use in this county next month or even in April.

SMOKEHOUSE KEY

Lost since last spring the key to Martin County's smokehouse was found last Thursday evening when Joe Smith dipped two nice-sized herring from the Roanoke River here. For years, Ira Coltraine and son had ushered in the season at Jamesville, but Smith was a day ahead of them this year, but both are running behind the regular schedule. Mr. Coltraine picked up eight herring last Friday, and now spring can't be so terribly far away.

Of course the old ham eaters have packed their meat in ample quantities for another season, but the coming of the herring means more food for many. Just as soon as the weather moderates, fishing will get underway on a large scale, but it will be the middle or latter part of March before the commercial fisheries start operations.

Gets Citation For Meritorious Duty

Sgt. Paul C. VanLandingham, son of Mrs. Emily D. VanLandingham, Williamston, was recently awarded the certificate of merit in recognition of conspicuously meritorious and outstanding performance of military duty. Wounded three times and now in an Army hospital in Belgium recovering from frozen feet, the young man holds the Purple Heart and Oak Leaf Cluster.

The citation recently issued by his commanding officer, Major General L. S. Hobbs, reads: "For meritorious conduct in action against the enemy on October 4, 1944, in Germany. For a five-hour period on this date, Sgt. VanLandingham, 117th Infantry Regiment, was instrumental in stopping a determined enemy counterattack supported by tanks. Largely through his aggressiveness and bravery, his unit was able to hold its ground against a numerically superior enemy."

Sgt. VanLandingham was first wounded in July of last year in France, and a second time just before Christmas somewhere along the Western Front. He was also reported missing four days. On January 20 he was wounded in Belgium a third time, and is now recovering from wounds and frozen feet. A brother, John Foster VanLandingham, is also a patient in an Army hospital recovering from wounds and frozen feet.

Paul was recently promoted to sergeant, relatives recently learned here.

Cpl. Samuel L. Glisson Is Wounded in Action Recently

According to unofficial information reaching here over the weekend, Cpl. Samuel L. Glisson, son of Sam Glisson formerly of the Hamilton community, this county, was slightly wounded in action on January 26th in Belgium. No details could be had here.

AFTER FOUR YEARS

S/Sgt. James A. Wynne, after four years overseas, returned to the States recently and is now in Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, New York, receiving treatment for a crushed shoulder received in a fall about three months ago. It is likely that he will be a patient in the hospital for some time, under operation on his shoulder.

Sgt. Wynne, since leaving the States four years ago, has seen service in Iceland, England, and action in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. A member of a First Army engineers' company, the young man called his mother, Mrs. Fannie Wynne, here a few nights ago from the hospital.

Seventy-Nine Tires Allotted In County

Seventy-nine tires—69 for cars and ten for light trucks—were allotted by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday night. Certificates for passenger car tires were issued to the following: Margarette Ricks, B. F. Lilly, Mack Bowen, W. K. Stroud, Ernest Highsmith, Wiley Hilliard, C. H. Whitehurst, D. O. Bowen, Luther Tyson, Mayo Simmons, Jack Smith, Raymond Williams, Paul H. Peela, Clyde Revels, S. R. Biggs, Amanz Cherry Roberson, J. R. Winslow, H. M. Peele, L. D. Hardison, Benjamin E. Griffin, J. E. Andrews, Coy J. Roberson, Willie Lassiter, S. T. Everett, Claud Keel, H. G. Harrison, Mildred Bonds, Bernard Moore, Jasper Taylor, R. F. Crawford, Dr. E. L. Early, L. R. Gibson, Clyde Roberson, H. O. Jarman, James Thomas Moore, J. M. Dixon, L. F. Warren, Paul Barber, Albert D. Williams, Charles Beacham, Arthur Peel, Daniel Moore, J. J. Meeks, T. H. Matthews, Carl Lee Beacham, Johnnie Griffin, M. E. Rogers, A. E. Purvis, Nellie Smith, Herman Moore, Palmer Taylor, B. B. Etheridge, Irene McClaren, Beatrice J. Edmondson, Pender Lock, C. H. Beach, Conchita Smith, Willie Mack Bryant, Martha O. Harris, R. H. Taylor, Mrs. E. W. Jones, J. Walter Gurganus, R. D. Chandler.

Assault Case Jumps To Superior Court

Originating in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here last week when a warrant was drawn, the case charging N. S. Godard with an assault resulting in serious bodily harm was sent to the county court yesterday where it bounced right on into the superior court.

Appearing for Manuel M. Schwartz the prosecuting witness, Attorney W. B. Rodman of Washington made a motion to amend the warrant and incorporate therein recent assault. The motion was granted and H. G. Horton, defense attorney, immediately called for trial by jury. Ordinarily the county court would have called a six-man jury to hear the case, but a special law passed by the State legislature on February 9th eliminated jury trials in the county tribunal, and the case was automatically docketed for trial in the superior court. The case will be called some time during the third week in March.

Navy Gets Stuck On High Land In County Last Week

A big Navy tractor-trailer got stuck a short distance south of Corey's Cross Roads on U. S. Highway 17 last week and it looked as if the outfit would be there for the duration.

Traveling from New York to Charleston with a special cargo, the driver stopped to rest a while and when he drove on the shoulder the vehicle slid and settled down. Two wreckers and a tractor were unable to buckle the outfit but with the help of a truck loaded with about 15,000 pounds of fish finally freed the Navy after a delay of nearly three hours.

Former Local Baseball Player in Army Hospital

Wounded a short time ago on the Western Front, S/Sgt. W. Jefferson Grant, former ball player for the Williamston Martins, is now recovering in an Army hospital in France. Grant said he hadn't heard from Williamston in a mighty long time, that he would appreciate a letter from old friends and acquaintances. Mr. Joe David Thrower has the ball player's address and he will be glad to share it.

PARENTS-TEACHERS

The local parent-teacher association will hold its regular monthly meeting tomorrow afternoon at 5:30 p. m. at the Williamston school.

L. Coburn, president.

Miss Margaret Elliott's fourth grade will appear in a special program and the public is invited.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

(A weekly news digest from the rural press section of the OWI news bureau)

"Time to Time" Food Shortages

Civilians may continue to expect food shortages "from time to time" as a result of multiplying military and Lend-Lease needs, but these shortages will not be serious if farmers repeat their record productivity and if Americans plant victory gardens and do as much home canning as possible, Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator, declares. "There is need for all of the meat and milk and vegetables and grains and dozens of other foods that the nation's farmers can produce," Jones said. "Farmers are being asked to plant more acres to crops this year. Farmers and their wives as well as older people and children on farms are working to the limit of their ability, and the help of city and townspeople will be needed in addition to meet this year's needs." He said the surest way to assure a full supply of fruits and vegetables for home use is to grow a garden or do as much home canning as possible.

Black Market Report

Organized black markets in meat and sugar are reappearing in dangerous proportions in the United States, and their existence is dependent largely on counterfeiting of ration coupons, the Office of War Information said on the basis of information provided by the Office of Price Administration, U. S. Secret Service and the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Treasury Department. Fresh mushrooming of counterfeit activities constitutes the principal problem now confronting government enforcement agencies. Printing of bogus coupons has become widespread in the meat and sugar fields whereas it was formerly flagrant in the gasoline business, officials said.

OPA executives said that the illegal diversion of gasoline through counterfeit and stolen coupons has been almost stopped while organized black market activities in liquor have been virtually eliminated. They denied the existence of any (Continued on page six)

Young County Man Passes in Hospital

Garland W. Harris, well-known county farmer, died in the local hospital at 12:30 o'clock last Saturday morning following a short illness.

The son of the late Robert and Alice Britton Harris, he was born in Bear Grass 41 years ago and lived and farmed there all his life. He attended the public schools and Campbell College and was a deacon in the Sweet Home Christian Church where the last rites were conducted Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. Dennis Warren Davis. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Estelle Hampton and she survives with eight children, four sons, Clay W., Robert H., Jack A. and Albert Garland Harris; four daughters, Dorris Hampton, Sybil Ray, Eleanor Gail and Virginia Lane Harris, all of the home; three brothers, Willie Paul Harris of Robersonville, Asa Robert Harris of RFD 2, Williamston, and Henry Luther Harris, U. S. Army, now in service overseas, and a sister, Mrs. Rena Harris Whitehurst of Virginia.

Minor Accident Reported Near Parmele Saturday

No one was hurt and very little damage resulted when a pick-up truck owned by Malcolm Barefoot and a poultry truck owned by the Moseley Poultry Company of Kinston sideswiped each other on U. S. Highway 64 near Parmele. Damage to the pick-up truck was estimated at about \$50 by Cpl. W. S. Hunt who investigated the accident.

WOUNDED

Cpl. James E. Taylor was wounded in a short time ago while in action in Germany, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Taylor, of near Williamston, were recently advised. One report stated that he was wounded in the foot and hand, but the extent of his injuries could not be learned immediately. The Purple Heart has been awarded him and he has forwarded it home to his wife and three children.

To Map Plans This Week For Red Cross Drive Next Month

Final plans will be made this week for the Red Cross War Fund drive in this chapter. Chairman J. C. Manning announced yesterday. Fund Chairman V. J. Spivey and Chapter Chairman J. C. Manning will carry the plans for the drive to the district canvassers on Thursday of next week, and leading citizens representing the colored population will meet to map their fund drive plans in the courthouse that night at 8 o'clock. On Thursday of next week, Williamston canvassers will be called into a meeting at the courthouse to complete plans for handling the drive here.

Chapter leaders, after serving in every drive, pointed out that possibly someone else would head the task, but when Red Cross officials pointed out the urgency of the drive they willingly offered their best

Armymen Routed By 'Crazy Woman' Here

The entire local police force went into action, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck was summoned from his bed, Roy Peel temporarily deserted his post at the jail and, according to one report, armymen were routed late last Saturday night on a "crazy woman" went on a rampage on East Main Street. There was considerable excitement for a short time. J. E. Harrison fired one or two shots when his yard was invaded by the strange character. Several persons called for help, admitting after a vague fashion they were a bit frightened.

The character went into high gear about 11:30 that night at the Harrell and Main Street intersection. Two colored girls came along, and the character, waving an old pocketbook and declaring complete sanity, wagged "she" could beat them in a foot race to the river. No race developed, but one report declared the two girls blazed a trail down the river hill.

The "crazy woman" then started climbing the sidewalk steps in front of the Geo. A. Harris home. "She" would walk up one or two and roll back to the bottom. After climbing the steps, the character ordered the telephone poles to move. Yards were invaded.

Officers inquired about the whereabouts of the "crazy woman." A soldier, hearing about the search but who had not seen the character, was later accosted. After a hug around the neck and a deep red lipstick kiss had been planted on his cheek, the armymen broke away and heeled it to greater safety at the prisoner of war camp.

Just as the officers were closing their search they learned Buster Old, dressed in woman's attire, had "pulled" an exciting prank. They did not think it very funny at the time, but they chuckled later when the escapade was discussed at headquarters.

Prayer Service Is Well Attended Here

The special service held in observance of World Day of Prayer was well attended in the Episcopal Church here last Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock, and a fairly large attendance upon a similar service in one of the colored churches was reported.

Mrs. Pigford, representing the Baptist Church, led the service in the Episcopal Church with real devotion and a deep spirit of fellowship.

The special offering amounted to \$27 and the colored citizens added \$6.00.

County Colored Man Found Dead in Ditch Near Stokes

Norman Chancey, 53-year-old Negro tenant farmer of this county, was found dead in a roadside ditch near Stokes Sunday morning. Pitt County authorities investigating his death, stating that the man died of exposure.

Chancey was said to have roamed the community late Saturday night, that he was carried home once and sent home a second time. Later in the night he went to the home of A. S. Wallace and was told to go home. He was found dead several hours later.

Lt. Don Johnson Is Home From North African Area

After a long stretch of duty in North Africa, Lt. (jg) Don E. Johnson has returned to the States and is now in St. Albans (Long Island) Naval hospital for a check-up. Flying the Atlantic, the officer landed in New York last week and hopes to get a leave for a visit at home within the next week or two.

Pfc. Bennie Weaver Tells Of Invasion Of The Philippines

Back to Civilization After Stay in New Guinea

After a long stay in the jungles of New Guinea, Pfc. Bennie Weaver, local young man, is enjoying a return to civilization over in the Philippines. Centering his interesting letter on conditions in the Philippines, he wrote under date of January 27, as follows:

"To begin with, I'm mighty glad to be out of the jungle into civilization once more!

"As you may already know I was in on another invasion and I'm allowed to say, 'Opposition light and we landed successful!'

"The weather here is real pleasant and reminds me lots of the summers at home. It rained very little because it's summer time now and the rainy season comes about June.

"When we first came in sight of land, everyone was all eyes, including myself. We all tried to get a look through a pair of binoculars which was more powerful than others we had.

"Everyone could see something different and we would all have to see. It really was funny but we had been in New Guinea jungle for so long that anything resembling civilization looked good to us.

"We could see houses and rice fields and mountains in the background. After getting a good look from a distance we then had the job of unloading our supplies but we could hardly work for looking.

"When we hit shore, Filipinos were all around but very few women, because as we found out later, they were still in the mountains.

"The first souvenirs gotten, of course, was Jap money, and there was plenty of that. They told us it took 120 pesos for about a pound of rice when the Japs were here and other prices named were outrageous. Anyway, the next few days we got to talk to hundreds of Filipinos and all were suffering from malnutrition. They were starved and had rags on for clothes. The kids, well, it was pitiful to see them eat and all were hungry. In chow line they would come around with old cans getting what we didn't eat. It's an awful sight all over, but gradually all these people are being fed and clothed.

"At nights it was hard to sleep for our big guns were blasting the Japs out of the mountains continually. But now I'm used to it and can sleep real well, even with shells whizzing over my head.

"All the fellers were getting souvenirs and listening to the stories the Filipinos had to tell about the way the Japs treated them. All stories were about Jap barbarism, and I see sights of it all around.

"I got myself a Jap compass, Jap money (10 yen piece), etc., from some guerrillas, and believe me, they are tough. All their equipment was taken from the Japs but a few pieces were American, gotten either at Bataan or smuggled in some way or other. This band I was talking to has a score of over a thousand Japs to their credit. There are hundreds of such bands and they should be given credit for keeping the Japs moldered and also getting a good percentage of them. They all hate the Japs and everyone says they are insane, which isn't hard to believe after some of the stories they tell.

"About the scenery—just like in books, with rice fields, pigs, caribou (streamlined steers, I call them), and Filipinos with wide hats or a large pot on their heads.

"Now we have moved into a town and it's funny to see buildings, telegraph poles, people riding in carts pulled by caribou, old model cars (most of which are without tires), 'women' with bright dresses, not grass skirts, signs such as Drink Pepsi Cola, General of Public, Atton, at Law, General Merchants, Cafe, Ho-

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Escape Injury In Minor Auto Wreck Last Week

No one was hurt and no great property damage resulted about 2 o'clock last Thursday morning when Floyd Spruill, colored, ran his car into the rear of Ben Griffin's automobile on the Jamesville Highway, a short distance from Nurney's store.

Griffin was turning off the highway when Spruill, traveling in the same direction, plowed into the back of the Griffin car. Cpl. W. S. Hunt, investigating the accident, estimated the damage to the Spruill car at \$50 and that to Griffin's car at \$25.

Kiwanians Hold Boy Scout Honor Court

With the newly installed president, Walter Martin, presiding, the local Kiwanis Club held its bi-monthly meeting in the library of the local high school last Thursday night.

After the introduction of the visitors and the usual routine, the meeting was turned into a Boy Scout Court of Honor. Wheeler Martin, scout executive, spoke briefly, reviewing the history of Scouting in Martin County, and the progress the boys' organization has made since it was first sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club. After the introduction of the local Scoutmaster, Rev. Jos. Huske, Mr. Martin introduced Benjamin Bunting, who was raised to the rank of an Eagle Scout. Benjamin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. V. U. Punting, Williamston RFD 2, and is the sixth Williamston Scout to receive the coveted badge, the highest honor that can be attained in Scouting. The presentation of the medal was made by Mrs. Bunting, who with her husband, was present at the meeting.

NOT AVAILABLE

Ruled out by priority ratings held by industrial plants, farmers in this county will not be able to employ prisoners of war for a short time, according to information released by the office of the farm agent this week. Quite a few farmers have been using prisoners of war on their farms cutting tobacco wood, ditching and shrubbing. During the next few days the prisoners will be allocated to fertilizer plants, lumber mills and other industrial plants.