

Japan Industrialists Rumored Interested In Peace Movement

Big Carrier Survives Terrible Beating; Fight for Naha Continues Unabated

Their extensive holdings already partly wrecked and others in line for destruction, Japanese industrialists are said to be advancing some kind of a peace movement. The rumors have not been recognized officially, and few observers believe anything like peace can grow out of them. It is fairly evident, however, that the Japs are tending war in a raw form, that some of them see nothing but sweat, blood and tears and final destruction. The futility of informal, personal peace feelers has been stressed since the movement has no apparent support from the military which controls the destiny of Japan. All the evidence in American hands indicates that the military has no self-interest in facing the dark prospect of unconditional surrender and will not face it until the leaders' pride has been reduced considerably. Some time ago, Admiral Kantaro Suzuki was said to have replaced some of his nation's generals with dependable friends who could be depended upon to lay down their arms and quit the fight at his command, but the reported change did not cause a ripple in U. S. official circles.

While rumors of a weak peace movement are heard, fighting continues unabated on Okinawa. Even after American forces pushed to within 500 yards of the island capital of Naha, the Japs continue to fight to the death. The enemy garrison there has been reduced from an estimated 80,000 or more to less than thirty thousand. American dead has been placed at nearly 4,000 to date in the fight for Okinawa, a fight that has proved more costly than the bitter struggle for Iwo Jima. American forces have gained another six miles in their fight on Mindanao and other troops are advancing on the east coast of Luzon to just about complete their campaign there. The Australians are making progress in their fight to gain the oil fields on Tarakan Island, off Borneo.

During the meantime, the task of reducing Japan's oil supplies and other resources is making marked progress. Nagoya, the Japs' third largest city, has been reduced to less than one-half its original size, and the enemy's airplane industry has been considerably reduced.

Draft Registration For the Past Month

Nineteen Martin County youths, reaching their eighteenth birthdays, registered for the draft last month. Only four of the nineteen men are white.

Names and addresses of the late registrants follow:

- Grover Cleve Lyons, c, RFD 1, Williamston.
- James Edward Williams, c, Williamston.
- Jesse Lawrence Brown, c, RFD 2, Williamston.
- James Lester Stokes, c, Williamston.
- William Thurston Lawrence, c, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Carl Woodley Copeland, w, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Theodore Roosevelt Wilson, c, Williamston.
- Virgil Allen Bryant, w, RFD 1, Bethel.
- Elmer Ray Lilley, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Alex Junior Powell, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Octavus Brown, c, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Mose Junior Sheppard, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- James Dennis Williams, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Arthur Hudgins, c, RFD 1, Williamston.
- James Sheppard, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Clarence Blount Ayers, Jr., w, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Bernon Briley, c, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- John Daniel Shaw, c, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Lester Jones, c, Oak City.

Former Local Boy Gets Unit Insignia

Sgt. Jos. E. Boykin, Jr., former Williamston young man and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Boykin of Durham, was presented the Meritorious Service Unit insignia recently at Eighth Air Force Headquarters in England where he is a statistical clerk in the 21st Statistical Control Unit. The young man has been overseas since September, 1943.

Collect 4,509 Pounds of Used Clothing For Victims of War

Nearly two and one-half tons—4,509 pounds, to be exact—of used clothing were collected in several sections of this county recently for the needy victims of war in foreign countries. K. D. Worrell, chairman of the drive, announced yesterday. Liberal collections were reported in Jamesville, Farm Life, Everetts, Hamilton and Oak City, in addition to the drive here, it was explained. The collection, made up for the most part of serviceable ladies' wearing apparel, was packed in 100 cartons. Mr. Worrell stating that there were over 4,000 individual garments. Very few infants' garments were included, but the quality was very good.

In addition to the collection at Jamesville, Farm Life, Everetts, Hamilton, Oak City and Williamston, the Rotary Club sponsored a drive in Robersonville, and the col-

lection there was very successful. Handling the collection in this section, the local Lions Club members with the aid of the Boy and Girl Scouts spent considerable time gathering the garments and preparing them for shipment. The last box was packed and turned over to Coast Line station employees Wednesday and they checked the weights. Filling the greater part of one end of a box car, the shipment goes to the state center at Raleigh where it will be handled along with other shipments from all over North Carolina and made ready for overseas delivery.

Commenting on the drive, Chairman Worrell stated that the collection would have been much larger, but much used clothing had been collected some months ago for Greek relief, and people are finding it more difficult to find replacements.

WOUNDED



1st Lt. Jimmy Harris was injured in action in Germany on April 26, his wife, the former Miss Eva Harrison of Williamston, was advised a few days ago. The young man had previously been awarded the Purple Heart.

Fifty-Nine Tires Allotted By Board

Fifty-nine tires—46 for passenger cars and 13 for trucks—were rationed by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday evening.

Certificates for the purchase of Grade I tires were issued to the following:

- V. B. Hair, L. W. Hardison, Virginia Carolina Chemical Co., Thad Newsome, Jr., Leslie Smith, King Tobacco Co., Hugh Roberson, W. M. Baker, Julius M. Manning, Grady Godard, Floyd Moore, T. H. Matthews, Oliver Harrison, H. H. Hopkins, J. A. Ellis, J. W. King, Henry E. Griffin, Cleveland Wilkie, C. C. Martin, Raymond Heath, Kelly L. Rawls, G. P. Roberson, Standard Fertilizer Co., B. A. Critcher, S. C. Bailey, C. H. Beach, J. S. Whitely, Marvin L. Roberson, Edward Bullock, Chester Nicholson, L. J. Mills, Mrs. Annie L. Roberson, W. F. Peaks, Joe L. Coltrane, Charlie Brown, Kenneth Harrington, Melvin Davis, W. C. Mercer, J. R. P. Griffin, L. J. Lilley, Mrs. D. L. Peel, A. T. Whitely.

Truck tires were issued to the following:

- Thomas VanLandingham, Williamston Lumber Co., Robersonville Oil Co., Taylor Mill and Gin Co., R. J. Hardison, J. W. Eubanks.

First Report On Bond Drive To Be Released Monday

While preliminary reports are considered very encouraging, the first review of sales in the current Seventh War Bond Drive will not be available before next week, Drive Chairman D. V. Clayton announced today. During the meantime, more Martin County people are earnestly asked to start buying bonds to help the county reach its \$745,000.00 quota.

The chairman is anxious to report sales well in excess of \$100,000 next Monday. Quite a few people are buying bonds every day as the first week of the Big Seventh Drive draws to a close. Unofficial reports indicate that Poplar Point is making progress in its drive, that possibly 45 per cent of its "E" bond quota has already been subscribed. Nearly every township in the county is represented in the initial sales, but purchases are mighty, mighty weak in some of the districts.

Some counties in the State have already subscribed to one-third of their quotas, a few exceeding that figure. Mr. Clayton said. Martin has possibly subscribed to about one-seventh of its quota.

WOUNDED

Pvt. Gordon Effort Johnson, Martin County youth, was wounded in action in Italy on April 27, according to a message received a few days ago from the War Department by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Johnson of Robersonville.

Fighting in General Clark's Fifth Army just about the time the entire German front was crumbling in Italy, Pvt. Johnson was wounded in the hip. The young man entered the service in April of last year.

Native Is Awarded Bronze Star Medal For Heroic Service

Major John W. Williams, Jr., Works Under Fire To Aid Wounded at Santo Tomas

Major John W. Williams, Jr., of the 1st Cavalry Division, fighting in the Philippines, has been awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement against the Japanese at Santo Tomas University in Manila, according to a citation received by his wife in La Fayette, La.

Major Williams, who was born and spent his early life in Everetts, is the son of Dr. and Mrs. John Williams, of Williamston.

The recommendation for the award was made by his commanding officer, Lt.-Col. John R. Hall, Jr., of the medical corps.

The recommendation in part is as follows:

"Major Williams volunteered to proceed to Santo Tomas University on 7 February 1945 to assist in caring for military and civilian casualties. During the enemy shelling of the building Major Williams constantly exposed himself to enemy fire by proceeding to the portions of the building which were under fire to personally give first aid and to supervise the evacuation of wounded internees. Subsequently, he performed major surgery during the most adverse conditions under continuing enemy shelling, thereby saving many lives. The assignment at the time was Medical Inspector, 1st Cavalry Division, which did not call for such action.

"The service of Major Williams has, since the performance of the service for which award is recommended, been honorable.

"At the present time, Major Williams is assigned to duty as Medical Inspector, 1st Cavalry Division.

"Previous awards: Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster. There is also now pending a recommendation for the Legion of Merit."

The draft for the award is as follows:

"Major John W. Williams, Jr., 01703657, Medical Corps, United States Army, for heroic achievement at Santo Tomas University, Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands, from 7 February 1945 to 12 February 1945. During this period Major Williams

(Continued on page six)

Former Local Young Man Is In Amphibious Forces

Marlton Hibble Livermon, motor mechanist's mate, first class, USNR, 32-year-old husband of the former Marjorie Hallan, 531 Daughtry St., Rocky Mount, N. C., has been assigned to the Amphibious Forces and is at the Atlantic Fleet's Amphibious Training Base, Camp Bradford, Va., preparing for duty aboard an LST.

In the Navy since December, 1942, Livermon will join a new crew to serve on the 4,000-ton vessel. The LST is the largest of the amphibious ships capable of driving onto a beach.

Livermon is a graduate of Williamston High School, Williamston, N. C., and a former salesman for the Continental Oil Co., Houston, Tex.

Honorably Discharged After Two Years In The Service

After serving two years in the Women's Army Corps, Miss Lucille Cowan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Cowan of Williamston, was recently given an honorable discharge from the service. Miss Cowan, resigning on account of her mother's health, is the second Martin County young woman to be discharged from the corps. Miss Muriel Bland was given an honorable discharge a short time ago after serving in South Carolina for several years.

FOUR STARS

Pfc. Gerald O. James, young son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. James, RFD 3, Williamston, had a busy time in the Pacific theater last December, a citation sheet from his base headquarters showing he had earned four bronze stars while attached to the 468th Bombardment Group.

The young man was awarded the bronze stars for participating in the China Campaign, the India-Burma Campaign, Air Offensive, Japan, and Air Combat, Palembang.

Williamston Boy Safe After Spending Year in War Prison

S/Sgt. R. J. Hardison, after spending a year in a German prisoner-of-war camp, is well and safe, he advised his mother, Mrs. Ed Hardison, here in a Mother's Day message received last Tuesday. The young man stated in the message that he hoped to be home soon. It could not be learned where the young man was at the time he sent the telegram.

Entering the service on August 24, 1942, the young man after training at various points in the country, left for overseas duty on February 27, 1944. He was in Brazil for a short stay before going to Africa and then on to Italy. A nose gunner on a B-24, he was stationed near Naples when he went on a mission over Austria on May 10 and was reported missing in a message received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hardison of Williamston on May 28. On June 26 he was reported a prisoner of war.

Held a prisoner at Stalag Luft Camp No. 4, about twenty miles from the Baltic Sea, Sgt. Hardison wrote his parents nine cards and letters. In his last letter written on November 12 and received here last February 17, he stated that the Red Cross was doing a wonderful job.

While nothing was said about his fare, it was apparent from the last letter received that he and thousands of others in the prisoner of war camp depended heavily on Red Cross packages.

Sgt. Sam Williams, War Prisoner For Months, Liberated

Message Received This Week Is First News From Him Since November 9

S/Sgt. Samuel J. Williams, a prisoner of the Germans since last July 16, has been liberated, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Williams, Sr., RFD 2, Williamston, were notified last Tuesday by the American Red Cross. The message was the first Mr. and Mrs. Williams had received from their son since last November 9th when he wrote a card from Stalag Luft Camp No. 4, about 100 miles north of Berlin. An indirect report received later in a Red Cross prisoner of war bulletin indicated that the camp of about 25,000 prisoners had been moved to southern Germany, but no direct word was received from the young man until this week.

The young man entered the service in December, 1941, and was a tail gunner on a B-17 when he was reported missing over Germany on July 16, 1944. He was later reported a prisoner of war.

Sgt. Sam Williams is one of four brothers in the service. S/Sgt. Wallace Williams returned home a short time ago after completing thirty-five missions over Germany as a member of a crew on a big bomber. He is now stationed in Florida where he is an instructor.

Another brother, Sgt. Herbert Williams, returned home early this year after serving in the Pacific theater for more than five years. In actual combat areas for more than three years, he participated in most of the big Pacific campaigns. He was wounded in 1943, but recovered and returned to action. He is now stationed in California.

The fourth brother, Alexander Warren Williams, is in the Navy and serving in the Pacific. He entered the service in 1943 and has not been heard from in about seven weeks. The last message received from him by his parents stated that he had participated in the Iwo Jima campaign.

Local Young Man Earns Promotion

John Hutton Gurganus, 28, of 108 Watts St., Williamston, N. C., has been advanced to aviation ordnance man, first class, USNR. He is now attached to a patrol bombing squadron of the Atlantic Fleet, and has seen service in South America.

Gurganus is married to the former Catherine Turner, of Cheriton, Va., and is the son of Mrs. Mary Bonner Gurganus. He has two brothers, Edgar, 23, and Eli, 26, who are a sergeant in the Army and a pharmacist's mate, first class, in the Navy, respectively, and a sister, Elsie, who is a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps.

Before entering the Navy, Gurganus ran his own business, The Soda Shop, in Williamston. He was graduated from the Williamston High School in 1934.

Local Young Man Promoted To Rank of First Lieutenant

Lawrence G. Lindsley, a member of the Army Air Corps intelligence, was recently promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. The son of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Lindsley of Williamston, he was in Burma when he was promoted. Lt. Lindsley is now in Calcutta, India.



S/Sgt. R. J. HARDISON

Call Forty Colored Men In County For Pre-induction Test

Several Quit Jobs Without Permission and Are Called To Report

Forty Martin County colored men were called yesterday to report for pre-induction examinations, the list including several who had quit jobs without permission. Eight men are making a return trip, and several of them are subject to be detained because they quit their jobs without permission. Twenty-five of them are listed as farmers, but a few of them were called because they quit the farm. One of those called is a father of at least six children. His farm deederment expired and he failed to follow draft board instructions and subjected himself to call. It is possible the man moved and left no forwarding address.

Nineteen of the forty called are married and they leave behind 37 children. Only eleven of the forty men are in their teen ages, the others ranging up to 36 years, sixteen in their thirties.

Names of those called, their registration and last-given, addresses follow:

- Miles Ernest Grimes, Williamston and Baltimore.
- Solomon Hardy, Hassell.
- John Arthur Crandel, Robersonville and Norfolk.
- James Smith, Jr., Robersonville and Washington, D. C.
- Wheeler Lynch, Oak City and Philadelphia.

- Josa Alben Moore, Jamesville and Flint, Mich.
- Theado Staton, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Alonzo Bennett Moore, RFD 1, Williamston and Lansing, Mich.
- James Edward Teele, RFD 1, Robersonville and Norfolk.
- Grover Woolard, RFD 1, Williamston.

- Andrew Purvis, RFD 3, Williamston.
- William Henry Riddick, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Bolie Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston.
- John Henry Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Elijah Baker, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Jesse Bland, RFD, Robersonville.
- Felton Whitfield, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Perlie Dewilmer Godard, RFD 3, Roscoe.
- Koscoe Phillip, RFD 1, Palmyra.
- Levor Outerbridge, RFD 2, Williamston.

- Rudolph Parker, RFD 1, Oak City.
- William Perkins, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Peter Little, Jr., RFD 1, Robersonville and Washington.
- James Sanders, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Billy Junior White, Oak City.
- Henry Amos Bryant, RFD 1, Palmyra.

- Robert Raynor, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Walter Louis Brown, Williamston.
- Robert Clayton Sneed, RFD 1, Bethel.
- William Joseph Barber, RFD 1, Jamesville, and Elizabeth City.

County Young Man Gets Bronze Star

T/5 James W. Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Griffin, RFD 1 Jamesville, was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in the European theater.

Sgt. Griffin was wounded in action last July 18, but soon returned to active duty.

A member of the National Guard, he entered the service in 1941 at Hampton, Va., where his wife and their two-year-old son are making their home with her parents. He has been overseas since October, 1942.

The citation reads:

"T/5 James W. Griffin, 29th Division Artillery, U. S. Army, for meritorious service in military operations against the enemy in Germany.

"From February 23, 1945 to March 1, 1945, T/5 Griffin excelled in the performance of his duties. Traveling unfamiliar roads to deliver messages between command posts, he contributed materially to the capable functioning of his organization during the assault across the (censored) River and the subsequent drive north and north-east. The high standards of courage, initiative and discipline required under combat conditions were met by T/5 Griffin in a manner that reflects great credit upon himself and the military service."

Williamston Youth Receives Air Medal

An Eighth Air Force Liberator Station, England—Second Lieutenant Robert J. Levin, of Williamston, N. C., co-pilot on a B-24 Liberator, has received the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in combat over Europe, Maj.-Gen. William E. Kepner, Commanding General, Second Air Division, announced.

The medal was presented by Col. Lorin L. Johnson of Payson, Utah, commanding the 392nd Heavy Bombardment Group. The citation read:

"For exceptionally meritorious achievement, while participating in bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this man on these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

On the 392nd logs are missions to Berlin, Friedrichshaven, Gotha, Bremen, Politz and other targets in Germany, Poland, Belgium, Holland, Norway and France. Its 100th mission was made on D-Day in conjunction with the initial landings in France, its 200th on Armistice Day.

Lieutenant Levin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer M. Levin, of Williamston, attended the local schools, and University of North Carolina. He entered the service in February, 1943, and was commissioned in May, 1944.

Mayor J. L. Hassell Hears Two Cases In His Court

Justice J. L. Hassell heard two minor cases in his court here during the past few days.

William Edwards, Pitt County white man, was required to pay \$6.50 costs for creating unnecessary noise on the main street here last Saturday night. Blowing his horn almost continuously up and down the street, Edwards told the court he was just "having a little fun."

Charged with being drunk and disorderly, Briscoe Staton was required to pay \$8.50 costs.