

NEARLY 4,000 COPIES OF THE ENTERPRISE GOING INTO THE HOMES OF MARTIN COUNTY AND TO COUNTY SERVICEMEN

THE ENTERPRISE

NEARLY 4,000 COPIES OF THE ENTERPRISE GOING INTO THE HOMES OF MARTIN COUNTY AND TO COUNTY SERVICEMEN

VOLUME XLVIII—NUMBER 42

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, May 25, 1945.

ESTABLISHED 1929

Enemy Defense Line Guarding Capital of Okinawa Is Smashed

Japs Still Maintain That Big Fleet Force Is Moving Toward Japan

Tearing through enemy lines on southeastern Okinawa, American forces are pushing to relieve hard-pressed Marines and tenth armymen in the heart of Naha, the island capital. The move tearing through the defense to the rear of the capital, is seen as the beginning of the end for the Japs on that island. During the nearly two months the Americans have struggled to wrest the island from the Japs, the operation has proved costly. Last night the Japs, in another suicide attack, parachuted an American-held airfield and did considerable damage. The campaign on Mindanao is in its mopping-up stage, the island having been cut in two by MacArthur's men.

American authorities are silent, but the Japs still maintain that a large American fleet is steaming from the Marianas possibly toward the coast of Japan. Some observers are of the opinion that something big is brewing, but there is no inkling from the high command where and when that something big will take place, if it takes place.

The Japs are shifting their forces, late reports stating that their armies are being withdrawn from Central China provinces and being rushed to the Manchurian border and to the China coast.

During the meantime, devastating attacks by increasing numbers of B-29's are being launched against the Japs. Yesterday, 550 of the Superforts released several hundred thousand fire bombs on Tokyo, leaving fires that could be seen 200 miles or more away. Our losses in the raid were described as "comparatively heavy".

In the European theater, the suicide of Himmler holds the spotlight in the latest news. The No. 1 Nazi criminal, trying to impersonate a discharged German soldier, was captured by the British Monday. While being searched and while in his underclothes, he snatched away from the examining doctors and crushed a vial of deadly poison in his mouth, dying about twenty minutes later last Wednesday.

In this country, auto manufacturers have been given the go-ahead signal, and autos will start moving off assembly lines as soon as possible after July 1. Some estimate that from one million to two million cars will be made the first year, but they will be rationed.

To Sell Poppies In County Tomorrow

Once again on Poppy Day, tomorrow, May 26, members of the American Legion Auxiliary will dedicate their best efforts to the distribution of memorial poppies to the people of Martin County, Mrs. Jno. A. Ward, chairman of the committee handling the sale, announces. It is one of the ways in which they pay tribute to and keep faith with those who died in the nation's service.

The wearing of the poppy has become a silent pledge, renewed each year, that the people of America have not forgotten the responsibility they have been given by their fighting men of both wars." Mrs. Ward said. "Many of these men have given their lives or their health for us, and it is with deep gratitude to them that we set aside a day on which to honor them and assure them that we remember our promise."

There is no fixed price for a poppy—whatever is given is welcome. The little boy's pennies and the business man's dollar are equally acceptable. It is hoped that every citizen in this county and throughout the nation will be wearing the crimson badge by nightfall tomorrow. Every cent that is given for a poppy goes toward the rehabilitation of disabled fighting men and to the aid of the children of the dead and disabled. These victims of war's disaster will be glad to see the poppies blooming on lapels again this year.

TOBACCO PLANTS

While no large number of farmers have come into this county from other tobacco belts for plants, a few from as far away as Virginia were here this week getting a supply of plants to offset pronounced shortages in their sections.

Farmer A. B. Rogerson, native of this county, was here yesterday and carried back to Dinwiddie, Va., a large number of plants for his farm there. Most of the unused plants are too large for transplanting, but a few farmers are still using them for resetting their crops.

AUSSIE ARTILLERY FINDS THE MARK ON TARAKAN



SMOKE BLOOMS CLIMB SKYWARD as Australian gunners pour their shells into enemy positions in a town on Tarakan Island, off the coast of Borneo. The drive inland was held up for a time by Jap snipers who picked off Aussie troops from hiding places on top of the oil derricks shown here. (International Soundphoto)

Basket Factory Unit Burned Early Today

DIES OF WOUNDS



Private John H. Andrews, son of Mr. Ed Andrews, RFD Robertsonville, and the late Mrs. Charlie Edmondson Andrews, died on April 14 of wounds received in action in Germany on April 12.

Damage to Machines And Buildings Will Total About \$15,000

Fire Checked Just As It Swept Toward the Main Factory

Its origin not definitely known, fire early this morning destroyed the machinery and buildings where basket bottoms were made at the large plant of the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company near Roanoke River. No official estimates could be had immediately, but the loss will approximate \$15,000, according to one report released by the owners shortly after the fire was brought under control.

The night shift had just closed down for a midnight lunch and Foreman Arthur Shaw went by the unit adjoining the main factory and when he returned from the office the fire was burning rapidly. There was some delay in sounding the alarm, but the mill whistle was heard and someone near the plant called in the alarm. By the time volunteer firemen reached the plant the building with a quantity of dried lumber material in it was throwing off so much heat that firemen's hands were blistered while trying to connect hose lines to the nearby fire hydrant. While the unit was just about burned to the ground along with several pieces of costly machinery and electric equipment, the firemen brought the fire under control just as it was sweeping toward the main factory unit a few feet away. Firemen were away from the department station more than two hours.

It is possible that sparks from the boiler smoke stacks fired some of the dry shavings and started the fire, one plant employee reasoned. The new unit to the plant has been in the process of construction for several months, and most of the machines and equipment were delivered after long delays. The factory had made a large supply of material for heavy basket bottoms, and was in the process of changing its other machinery to fit the improvement.

(Continued on page six)

Firemen Called To Mill Commissary Last Tuesday

Blowing under the floor, burning paper fired the commissary at the Williamston Lumber Company on the Washington Road here last Tuesday noon. Very little damage was done.

BRONZE STAR

S/Sgt. Leslie T. (Pete) Fowden was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Germany. The medal was pinned on the local young man by Major General Leland S. Hobbs, commanding general, 30th Infantry Division, 9th U. S. Army, during a brief pause at Magdeburg, Germany. The local young man has been in the thick of the fight beginning soon after D-Day from St. Lo to the end of the struggle in Europe. Announcing the award, the Public Relations Section, U. S. Army, did not mention a definite citation.

WOUNDED

Chief Ernest H. Deal, former Hamilton boy, was wounded in the Pacific theater a short time ago, according to a message received by his mother, Mrs. Selma Station Deal, of Hamilton and Baltimore. The nature of his injuries could not be learned, but the message stated that he was in a hospital somewhere in the Pacific theater awaiting transportation to the States.

Believed to have been on a destroyer when he was injured, the young man is the son of the late John Deal of Georgia and Hamilton, and Mrs. Selma Station Deal, and a sister of Mrs. Marjory Long, now of Baltimore.

Over Hundred Tires Allotted In County

The first effect victory in Europe had on the home front is reflected in the increase in the number of tires released by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board. Over one hundred tires—91 for cars and 13 for trucks—were issued last Friday night.

Grade I tires were issued to the following: H. L. Roebuck, Henry Hollis, A. T. Perkins, C. C. Hollis, Geo. C. Griffin, Carl Wynne, M. L. Roberson, J. F. Flanagan, C. B. Savage, Geo. W. Lassiter, E. N. Harrell, I. F. Keel, Mrs. W. R. Rogerson, Highway Patrol, W. L. Pollard, Fenner Respass, A. C. Kirby, R. W. Wilson, N. R. Rogerson, J. J. Bennett, Willie Butts, Ernest L. Owens, T. W. Ange, A. Corey, Johnnie W. Rogerson, Herbert Winchester, C. G. Crockett, F. L. Haislip, Peccolia Pitt, J. W. Perkins, Rosa Elizabeth Williams, Solomon Hyman, J. B. Harrington, J. H. Moorings, Alonza Revels, Sgt. L. J. Whiles, H. D. Prichard, E. G. Anderson, Leo J. Everett, Dalton Rogerson, Raleigh D. Litley, Arthur Johnson, Hubert M. Pope, Luther Clark, Dr. R. G. Hicks, Sol Mobley, W. B. Scott, M. F. Van Nortwick, Garland Whitley, C. H. Ayers, David H. Mizelle, E. C. Edmondson, Mayo Hardison, William Bland, Wm. H. Roberson, G. H. Manning, Charlie Rogers, Fred L. Chesson, G. C. Ray, J. L. Wynn, Wilmer Biggs, W. G. Perry, F. C. Williams, Royal Gurganus, Harry Gurgun, Mrs. Carrie Williams, J. D. Harrison, Jr., J. M. Cratt, Mrs. S. W. Mendenhall, Paul Barber, J. D. Thrower, Jr., C. L. Green, C. H. Beach, J. D. Hodgins, J. W. Cherry, J. G. Rawls, J. W. Green, C. T. Smith, Roland Griffin, Woodard Furniture Co., Sanford Cordon, A. C. Bailey, Rufus Lynch, B. S. Courtney, Martin County Transfer Co., A. E. Manning.

Truck tires were issued to the following: Harrison Oil Co., J. B. Barnhill, J. E. Andrews, G. and H. Builders Supply Co., Linsley Ice Co., W. I. Skinner and Co., N. C. Green, agent.

Successful Bond Rally at Everetts

Cross Roads citizens, meeting in the Everetts school auditorium last Wednesday evening, struck a very liberal note when they offered the current war bond drive a strong support. Reporting on the bond rally, the first held in the county so far in the Seventh War Loan Drive, Chairman Paul Bailey announced that total sales of \$15,325 were handled or pledged at the rally.

About forty prizes were offered, and sales ranging from \$25 to \$1,600 reported. Sherwood L. Roberson, co-chairman of the drive in the county, served ably as auctioneer. Approximately one-half the bonds sold were of the "E" type, leaving the township just about \$2,000 or \$2,500 short of its "E" bond goal.

Chairman Bailey, expressing his appreciation for the cooperation and support given the rally, states that he is fairly certain the drive will reach and pass its goal long before the campaign ends the last of June.

Pvt. Wm. Etheridge Tells of Experiences As Prisoner Of War

Recalls Hardships Suffered on Forced Marches In Germany

In apparent good health and enjoying a 60-day furlough at home with relatives and friends in the county, Pvt. William J. Etheridge, talking a bit conservatively, while on a visit here Wednesday with his father, recalled a few of his experiences and told of some of the hardships suffered while a prisoner of war in Germany from February 6 to April 1. While the young man apparently has no love for the Germans, he expressed no bitter hatred or malice against his captors, pointing out that possibly the old guards in his camp treated him and the approximately 3,300 other prisoners as well as they could. The young soldier, a very pleasant talker and pointing out that he was indeed more fortunate than many others, talked with many who had not fared so well and added that he had heard about horrible treatment received by Americans at the hands of the Germans.

Young Etheridge, the son of Mr. D. W. Etheridge of near Hassell, and one of three brothers in the armed forces, entered the service only last August. He spent Christmas at home and a few days later he was in England. By early February he had traveled across France and Belgium and on the sixth of that month he was in an advance position in the Siegfried line. It was while they sought cover in the cellar of an old abandoned home that they were surrounded, trapped and captured late in the afternoon after holding out a greater part of the day between the artillery fire from both American and enemy guns.

A long trek estimated at about 85 miles was started, the group walking the entire distance through snow and cold except for a train ride across the Rhine. Three weeks were spent at Limburg, and it was there that the young man and his companions experienced the first real hardships. Deplorable conditions existed, the young man declared, adding that they were soon contaminated with lice, that there was not adequate fuel for fires and that they slept on the floor with only one blanket.

While he did not see them, Red Cross officials visited the camp and demanded better conditions for the prisoners. A short time later they started their second hike of about 85 miles to Badonbrun. They started the march with one Red Cross parcel to be shared by two men. The package contained two loaves of bread, some cheese, can of meat, powdered eggs, condensed milk and deserts. The Germans furnished them four meals on the long trip, including a cup of hot tea each morning.

(Continued on page six)

Fewer Boys And Girls Graduating In County

LIBERATED



T/Sgt. Eli Clayton Rogers, held prisoner by the Germans since May 1, 1943, has been returned to military control, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Rogers, West Main Street, Williamston, were notified late yesterday by the War Department. No details were offered. The young man was first reported wounded and missing, and then a message received by his parents on May 12, stated that he was a prisoner of war. He wrote his first letter on May 29 and it was received the following November. During the course of the next twelve months, he wrote fairly often, but no word had been heard from him directly since last December 21.

Judge Calvin Smith Calls Eight Cases In The County's Court

Jail Terms Meted Out And Heavy Fines Imposed In Several Cases

With only eight cases on the docket, Judge J. Calvin Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson completed their work and adjourned the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court in less than two hours last Monday. A fair-sized crowd of colored citizens was present.

No unusual cases were on the docket, and as a whole the proceedings attracted very little attention. Judge Smith cracked down on alleged violators of the liquor laws, meting out jail terms and imposing heavy fines in one or two of the cases heard during the brief session.

Proceedings: The case charging N. S. Godard with an assault with a deadly weapon was not prosed.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with non-support, Paul Harrell was adjudged not guilty.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the court costs in the case charging Maude Joyner Ward with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Hallis Peel, pleading guilty in the case charging him with speeding, was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$15 fine and the costs of the case. The court also ordered the defendant to be regularly employed for one year.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Jim Modica pleaded guilty of possessing illegal liquor. He was sentenced to the roads for four months, the court suspending all but the first seven days of the sentence upon the payment of a \$65 fine and the court costs. The judgment also provided that the defendant

(Continued on page six)

Local Boys Meet In March Into Austria

Marching with his company presumably into Austria a short time before victory in Europe, Pfc. M. Luther Peel heard his name called. He hadn't heard his name called in a long time and at first he hardly recognized it. Locking up, he saw S. C. Griffin, Jr., another Williamston boy, sitting astride a jeep beside the road. The meeting was brief.

In a letter written since victory in Europe to his parents here, Pfc. Peel stated he was getting along all right, that while he knew the people back home were happy over victory and that they were glad it was over, they were still thinking of those buddies who fell right up to and through the eleventh hour.

First In Series Of Closing Events To Be Held on Sunday

Last of Programs Scheduled For Friday Night of Next Week

The several white schools in the county will hold the first in the series of closing exercises on Sunday, May 27, when chosen ministers will deliver commencement sermons to the 139 graduates, the several thousand other students, patrons and friends. For the most part, regular church service schedules will be altered in favor of the school events. Most of the sermons will be heard at the 11 o'clock morning hour, but two schools have scheduled the first in the series of events for Sunday afternoon.

No elaborate programs are being planned this year to mark the completion of high school activities for the 140 graduates. Next year there will be no graduation exercises in the high schools since the rising seniors will have to clear the twelfth grade before their high school work is completed.

As far as it could be learned here no definite programs have been planned for the several white elementary schools, but the pupils will participate in the district high schools. Gold Point is arranging a barbecue dinner for its pupils, patrons and a few invited guests, but no events have been scheduled at Everetts, Hassell and Hamilton.

The size of the graduating classes with possibly one exception is the smallest in several years. Some of the pupils were drafted into the service before they could complete the course of study and graduate while others quit for war or farm jobs or just dropped by the wayside.

The schedule of closing exercises in the several high schools in this county follows:

Jamesville
Rev. Paul B. Nickens, Baptist minister of Plymouth, will deliver the commencement sermon in the Jamesville school auditorium Sunday evening at 8:30 o'clock. Graduation exercises will be held Thursday evening, May 31, at 8:30 o'clock when the twenty seniors hold their class exercises. No visiting speaker will have a part in the program.

Farm Life
Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville.
(Continued on page six)

Local Boy Has Part In Plane Maneuvers

San Francisco, Calif. — Lt. (jg) Burras A. Critcher, Jr., USNR, 24, of 111 Watts Street, Williamston, N. C., was one of the Navy pilots who took part in a simulated, but realistic, demonstration of a Navy style carrier delivered air attack on the USS Delta Queen, ferry boat, in San Francisco Bay, recently.

He destroyed four airborne planes during his 41 combat missions in the Pacific. He made one of the first fire bomb drops on Peleliu and was one of four pilots to force seven fighters to drop bombs and run for home on November 5, 1944, off Luzon. He has been awarded the Air Medal with one Gold star and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

More than 500 UNCIO delegates, newspaper and radio correspondents and commentators were aboard the USS Delta Queen to witness the demonstration of techniques that have proved so successful against the Japanese in the Pacific war.

The impressive attack was delivered by two Carrier Air Groups, both of which are training in this area. Using more than 150 Hellcat fighters, Helldiver dive-bombers and Avenger torpedo planes, the air groups utilized the same tactics which have largely been responsible for the heavy losses suffered by the enemy. The concentrated attack on the USS Delta Queen lasted almost thirty minutes.

EXTEND CALL

Meeting in their church auditorium here last Wednesday evening, local Baptists extended a call to Dr. Ira D. S. Knight, pastor of the West Palm Beach Baptist Church. No reply has been received as far as it could be learned here early today. Dr. Knight, a former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Durham, preached in the local church on Sunday, April 15.

Retiring after faithful serving the church for many years during two pastorates, Dr. W. R. Burrell is temporarily supplying the local pulpit.