

Story Of The One Hundred and First Airborne Division

Brief Review of Daring Part Handled by Daring Men In European Theater

The story below offers a review of the daring work handled by daring men in the U. S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. It will be read with interest by all Americans and especially by local people because Lt. Billy Biggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Rome Biggs, of Williamston, and possible yother Martin County boys are members of the 101st.

The third installment of the story follows:

Bastogne—"The Hole in the Doughnut" Less than two weeks after fighting in Holland, the 101st was airted for another mission. At 2400, Dec. 17, unit commanders were told that Germans had broken through Allied lines, were rolling westward across Luxembourg and Belgium.

The situation was tense. Many American units had been overrun, others were staggering under the unexpected power of the Wehrmacht blow. The 101st was ordered to move within 12 hours.

Clerks, draftsmen and typists hurriedly were awakened. In the dim early morning hours, division, regiment and battalion headquarters personnel raced to ready maps and vital information needed by the first groups before departure. Gen. Taylor was in Washington on urgent War Department business. Gen. McAuliffe was in command.

Fighting men awoke at dawn. In some cases it was "Be ready to leave in four hours!" Others had more time.

It was incredible yet true. The well-deserved rest of the 101st was short. Men were needed. All fighting equipment had been turned in, so Division supply room doors now swung open. "Take what you need and be sure you have enough. No forms to sign—no red tape—help yourself!" Every man quickly found equipment to transform him from a "resting" soldier back to a veteran ready for combat.

German objectives were Liege, Namur, across the Meuse to Antwerp. The plan which sent speeding Panzer columns westward along Belgium's highways called for capture of Bastogne, vital hub of a communication network of seven highways, three railroads. Seizure of Bastogne was imperative to insure development of the German attack. Without the city, Germans could hardly hope to succeed.

The 101st rolled to Bastogne in huge carrier trucks. Re-routing sometimes was necessary, but by (Continued on page six)

Teacher Shortage Continues Acute

The shortage of school teachers for the 1945-46 term in this county continues acute, according to a report just released from the office of the superintendent.

Approximately thirty teachers have resigned in both the white and colored schools, and replacements have been limited so far. Ten of the twenty-eight positions made vacant by resignations since last term have been filled in the white schools, and it was reported that several are applying for the two positions made vacant in the colored schools.

The shortage, it was pointed out, is more acute than it was a year ago. When the schools were opened for the term last fall, several teachers were recruited outside the regular professional ranks. Few, if any extra ones, will be available for the next term.

Three of the eighteen openings are in the Williamston schools. Miss Frances Turnage, able first grade teachers for the past several years, resigned a few days ago, and that position has not been filled along with the eighth grade and public school music posts.

Has Many Narrow Escapes In Pacific

Cpl. Franklin Modlin, a veteran of six campaigns in the Pacific Theater of War, returned home last week for a forty-five day furlough with relatives in the county and with his brothers in Williamston.

Cpl. Modlin never returned home after he passed his pre-induction physical examination at Fort Bragg. He was wounded slightly the early part of last February on Luzon, reports stating that he was able to return to his post of duty a short time later.

The young man, according to indirect information had many narrow escapes in the Philippine area. Going out on a patrol with five other men, Cpl. Modlin and the others were cut off from their base by the Japs and they lived on coconuts for food and coconut milk for nineteen days. He was quoted as saying that he could smell a Jap several hundred feet away, that about the only thing the Jap soldier understood was bullets.

Urging Tobacco Farmers To Apply For Special Chemicals

Farmers who are interested in securing Uramon for the control of weeds on their tobacco beds next winter should submit their names to the local county agent, because the War Production Board has clamped certain restrictions upon the use of the chemical, according to Dr. E. R. Collins, agronomy specialist of the State College Extension Service.

Picking weeds on a plant bed is a back-breaking and time-consuming job, Dr. Collins points out. The plants are frequently damaged, the root system is disturbed, and diseases may easily spread to healthy plants.

It is an accepted practice to control plant bed weeds with chemicals at the Experiment Station Farms. Many farmers are also finding up to 95 per cent control of weeds when chemicals are correctly applied. Poor weed control is sometimes reported due to incomplete mixing with the soil, late application, or breeding the soil too deep at the

time the seeds are planted. Therefore, directions should be followed carefully in treating plant beds. The correct methods are discussed here in order to avoid failures from incorrect applications.

Consideration should be given to your specific conditions in selecting the chemical to use. Cyanamid and Uramon have both given satisfactory weed control. Uramon has given outstanding control of soil-borne diseases (root knot, black root rot, and Granville wilt). This permits permanent plant bed sites at convenient locations where the soil type is suitable and there is a good supply of running water.

Cyanamid does not control soil-borne diseases. Cyanamid should be used on the dark colored, low-land soils of the Coastal Plains, because Uramon has not been too satisfactory on this type of soil. Cyanamid is also preferred on the clay soils of the Old Belt area where Uramon has given some unsatisfactory results.

ROUND-UP

After a fairly quiet period on the crime front, law enforcement officers had a fairly busy time last week rounding up seven alleged violators of the law.

One young man was called to answer for failing to register for the draft. Three were booked for assaults with deadly weapons, and one each for larceny and receiving, operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, and one for public drunkenness.

All but one of the seven were colored, and most of them were in the tender-age group.

Bombers Wreck Jap Shipping from The East Indies to China

Observers Still Believe Russia Will Join War Against The Japanese

American airmen have carried the war to the Japs on land and sea and in the air these past few days, late reports stating that Jap shipping has been dealt telling blows from the China coast right on down to the East Indies while Halsey's Third Fleet was pounding the main Jap island of Honshu. Airmen of the Third Fleet centered on the enemy's great naval base of Kure, observers declaring that the attack was a part of an over-all plan to wipe out the remnants of the Jap fleet.

While the tempo of war is increasing, developments are believed brewing on the diplomatic fronts. There have been many rumors of Jap peace feelers. The Big Three meeting in Potsdam is being associated with the peace talk. President Truman is said to have made a good impression on Premier Stalin, and observers are still predicting that Russia will join the war against the Japs.

In the latest United States Third Fleet attack, Adm. William Halsey sent more than 1,000 carrier planes against the Japs, striking them on a 950-mile stretch from northern Hokkaido to southern Honshu.

The sixth carrier strike in fifteen days on the quaking enemy homeland, followed an assault last Wednesday against the great Yokosuka naval base and the Tokyo area in which the battleship Nagato, one of Japan's few remaining capital ships, was damaged heavily and possibly sunk by aerial bombs.

In the land fighting, the Australians are advancing on strategic points in Borneo.

The Big Three meeting in Potsdam, German, apparently is nearing an end despite rumors that it would continue another ten days or two weeks. Much progress has been made at the meeting, and far-reaching developments are expected to follow.

Award Young Man Bronze Star Medal

Technical Sergeant Joseph H. Lilley, son of Mrs. Elsie Lilley was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic action in connection with military operations against the enemy on March 15, 1945, in Germany.

When necessary to climb a steep grade of two miles, Sergeant Lilley, in charge of a heavy machine gun section supporting a rifle company, alternately relieved his gunners and ammunition bearers. When five of his men were wounded, Lilley personally administered first aid to three and assisted them to recover, although forced to expose himself to sniper fire.

In the service since November 1942, Sergeant Lilley has been in the European Theatre of Operations for approximately ten months.

To Complete Final Engineering Plans For Flood Control

Propose To Locate Dam 20 Miles Below Clarksville, Virginia on Roanoke

Colonel R. E. Cruse, District Engineer, U. S. Engineers Office, Norfolk, has been directed by the War Department to initiate immediately the final engineering studies and analyses preliminary to the preparation of plans and specifications for construction of the Buggs Island dam on the Roanoke River, 20 miles below Clarksville, Va.

This project was reported to Congress by the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, in May, 1944. The report recommended adoption of the project on the basis that it was economically justified and that it provided for the control of floods, the generation of hydro-electric power, low-water regulation, and other beneficial uses of the waters of the Roanoke River.

Congress, in the Flood Control Act of December, 1944, authorized construction of the Buggs Island project substantially in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers. This act stipulated that the Buggs Island project, together with many others throughout the United States in a similar category, was authorized with a view to providing a number of useful and worthy public works for the postwar construction program. The act further provided, however, that in order to be prepared for rapid inauguration of this postwar program of construction, necessary preliminary work, including preparation of plans and specifications, could be prosecuted during the war.

Funds have now been made available to Colonel Cruse for this preliminary work on the Buggs Island project. Actual construction, however, is dependent on the cessation of hostilities and the further appropriation of funds for this purpose by Congress.

The general plan of development reported to Congress by the Chief of Engineers included a tentative design for the project. The detailed engineering studies and analyses now being initiated by engineers on Colonel Cruse's staff are for the purpose of determining whether any changes in the preliminary layout of the Buggs Island dam and reservoir should be made, and if so, the nature and scope of the changes. It is contemplated that these engineering analyses will be completed early in 1946 and will then serve as the basis for preparation of the final plans and specifications.

The interests of the people to be affected by the construction of the Buggs Island project are of concern to the War Department. With this in mind sufficient engineering planning will be undertaken to make certain that construction of the dam and relocation or alteration of the affected highways, railroads, and other utilities will create a minimum disturbance to business and social activities in the area.

Liquor Plants Are Wrecked in County

Illicit liquor manufacturers are experiencing one set-back after another in this county. In addition to unfavorable weather, the manufacturers have lost one plant after another to enforcement officers who have wrecked eight in the past two weeks.

After upsetting six weeks before last, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel went about three miles from Williamston and raided just off the old Greenville road. The first plant was equipped with a 100-gallon capacity tin rig and there were four barrels of sugar beer at a quarter for the kettle. Less than a quarter mile away, the officers found and wrecked a second plant equipped with a 50-gallon gas drum. They poured out 250 gallons of molasses beer.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

The Government needs and asks its citizens in this 190th week of the war to:

Do your part in the vast job of transporting men and materials for the big push against Japan by:

Taking a top-priority railroad job if you are a railroad worker. A hundred thousand experienced workers are needed to haul three million returning veterans, a hundred million tons of war materials plus essential crop shipments. Apply to your local U. S. Employment Service Office.

Waiting at home for your returning soldier. By meeting his boat, you add to already serious problems of transportation and housing in seaports.

Putting your sea experience to work with the Merchant Marine. Delayed sailings because of incomplete crews may upset carefully planned military schedules. Wire collect, Merchant Marine, Washington 25, D. C.

No Permit Needed For Repairs Home owners need no longer apply to the Federal Housing Administration of the National Housing Agency for authorization to purchase lumber needed for emergency repair. WPB and NHA certified. The home owner may now certify his own purchase order and buy the lumber directly from a distributor.

Labor On Move Can Get Tires Passenger car owners using their automobiles for a bona fide change of residence for which they were issued special gasoline rations are now eligible for Grade I passenger tire purchase certificates, subject to quota and other restrictions, OPA announced. This extension of eligibility is particularly needed now that increasing numbers of persons are moving from one city to another OPA explained. It will allow the following groups to apply for new tires if they have a tire failure while making a permanent change of residence:

War workers moving from one city to another as production shifts from one type of war goods to another.

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Two Hurt In Road Accidents Saturday

Two persons were painfully but believed not seriously hurt, one or two others were slightly bruised and considerable property damage resulted in two highway accidents in the county last Saturday.

What was at first a minor accident almost developed into a serious one. Miss Mary Elizabeth Holliday, driving a pick-up truck, was going out of town at a very moderate speed when Jesse Gardner started to walk across the highway at Sunside Inn on the Washington Highway. Miss Holliday tried to turn out for him, and he jumped into the path of the truck. Struck by the machine, Mr. Gardner was thrown under a pair of mules his son was holding at the side of the road. The lad became frightened, jumped from the wagon and the team ran away, throwing Mrs. Gardner from the wagon. She was removed to the local hospital and later dismissed after receiving treatment.

Mr. Gardner was treated for slight bruises, Patrolman W. E. Saunders, investigating the accident, reported. Late last Saturday night, Dick Baker, driving Lawrence Williams' 1939 Chevrolet, was traveling without lights and in a drunken condition toward Palmyra on the River Road, a few miles out of Hamilton. Running on the wrong side of the road, he crashed head on into the 1942 Chevrolet driven by Eli Davis. Frank Williams, 63, riding in the Davis car, was cut and bruised about the head and almost paralyzed, temporarily at least.

Patrolman Saunders estimated that the damage to each car would approximate \$300. Baker was charged with operating a motor vehicle without lights and while in a drunken condition. Harper M. Peel, of Hamilton answered the call to the wreck.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Table with 4 columns: Year, Accidents, Injured, Killed, Damages. 1945: 3, 2, 0, \$900. 1944: 3, 2, 0, \$75. Comparison To Date: 1945: 33, 15, 3, \$8050. 1944: 40, 21, 1, 7575.

Army 'Wood for War' Show Courthouse Thursday Night

The U. S. Army "Wood for War" Motorcade now touring the Eastern part of North Carolina will put on a night show here in Williamston for all workers, both white and colored, working in lumber mills and woods industries of this vicinity. Included on the program will be the personal appearance of five distinguished combat veterans of World War II. The highlight of the program will be the moving picture "San Pietro," a combat film, made under fire by the U. S. Army.

The show in Williamston will be held at the Court House on Thursday, July 26, at 8:30 p. m.

This show is being sponsored by the U. S. Army, the Timber Production War Project and the War Manpower Commission. It is designed to combat absenteeism in the woods industries.

Employees from all lumber, pulpwood, veneer industries and others in this vicinity are invited to attend the free show.

The motorcade, starting a 1,500 tour yesterday, attracted considerable attention in the first towns where stops were scheduled.

Heavy Rains Damage Crops In The County

No Cash Estimates Offered On Losses Caused In Section

Nearly Ten Inches of Rain Fall Here in a Little Over Four Weeks

No cash estimates could be had, but most farmers are agreed that right much damage has been done to crops in this section by excessive rains during the past few weeks. The reports vary, some farmers stating that portions of their crops have been drowned, that tobacco has flopped and peanuts are rotting around the roots.

Farmers in the upper part of the county state that many crops have been damaged considerably. Southeast of Sweet Water Creek, recent heavy rains have exacted much damage, and from a point a short distance from Bear Grass to the Beaufort County line, losses are of substantial size.

It is fairly certain that the crop, as a whole has been damaged, some farmers stating that young tobacco failed rapidly and to a surprising extent during the three-day period ending yesterday. The "life" has been washed out of the leaf and the plant is being attacked by disease in many instances. Much of the tobacco crop has ripened too fast and losses from inadequate barn space are aggravating the prospects for a successful harvest.

During the period, June 20 to July 20, nearly ten inches of rain fell in this locality, and so far in this month rain has fallen on seventeen of the 24 days. While the total precipitation for July to date is not as heavy as it was for the same period two years ago, it came on top of a fairly wet June. Since June 25 when 3.68 inches of rain were recorded on Roanoke River here, the weather has been fair only a few days in a row, making it impossible for farmers to plow their peanuts and hold the grass down.

Prospects are bright for a bumper corn crop, but the late corn, it is believed, has been damaged to some extent. Reports from Georgia indicate that the tobacco crop has been reduced considerably in some areas by excessive rains, one report stating that rain has fallen in one area there 28 days in a row, reducing the yield several million pounds.

While some areas have had excessive rainfall during recent weeks, other areas have had it unusually dry. The Roanoke River watershed in the upper part of the county has been influenced very much. Heavy rains in the lower watershed have caused the river to overflow its banks here by a few inches. The stream is expected to reach a crest at this point some time today and fall gradually during the next ten days or two weeks.

Discussing the quality of the crop already cured in this section, farmers declared it is very good, one declaring that he just finished curing one of his best lots in five years. One or two farmers are expecting to complete the harvest this week, a few will finish next week, but, under normal conditions, the majority will likely be harvest much of the crop during the first two weeks in August.

Placed Under Bond For Store Robbery

Probable cause appearing, Andrew Everett, colored youth, was placed under bond in the sum of \$300 at a preliminary hearing held before Justice J. L. Hassell here last Friday evening in the case charging the 18-year-old boy with breaking into the Martin-Elliott Wholesale house a few days before. Unable to raise the bond, the defendant continues in the county jail.

Few details of the robbery were released by local police, but it was learned that Everett went on top of the wholesale building and entered through a skylight. He is charged with stealing five dollars in cash and tampering with the firm's safe. As far as it could be learned no goods were stolen.

TO FIX DATES

Scheduled to meet next Monday members of the Martin County Board of Education will, among other items, discuss and fix dates for opening the schools this fall. If old schedules are considered, it is likely that the schools will be opened on or about Wednesday, September 5.

School authorities are literally struggling with preparations for opening the new term. Repairs are being made to buildings and the county school garage is overhauling the forty buses, thirty-seven for the whites and three for the colored. The county has been promised several new buses, but there is some doubt if they will be made available in time for use early this coming term.

Joseph A. Ausbon Died Thursday At Cross Roads Home

Prominent County Man Had Been In Declining Health For About One Year

Joseph A. Ausbon, one of the county's most highly respected citizens and a leader in the church for many years, died at his home in Cross Roads Township last Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock. He had been in declining health for about one year, but his condition was not considered critical until just a short time before the end. He was forced to his bed about a week before, his condition gradually growing worse.

Mr. Ausbon, a member of the old school and possessed of qualities characteristic of the true southern gentleman, was born in Cross Roads Township seventy-five years ago last February. He spent his entire life there, engaging successfully in farming and living peaceably and neighborly with his fellowman during a long and useful life. Mr. Ausbon was a member of the Christian Chapel Church at Cross Roads for 51 years, and he was loyal and active in its support. He purchased the ground for the parsonage and aided in repairing and modernizing the structure. He was a devoted husband, a thoughtful father and an accommodating neighbor and citizen, one who walked humbly before his Maker and one who valued the friendship and good will of his fellowman.

In young manhood he was married to Miss Sadie Leggett and she with one son, Willie Ausbon of the home community, survives. He also is survived by two brothers, Messrs. Jeff Ausbon of Beaufort County, and Dave Ausbon of this county; one grandchild and one great grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock and interment was in the family cemetery, near the home. His pastor, Rev. Dennis Warren Davis, assisted by Rev. Luther M. Ambrose, conducted the last rites.

Five Seek Divorces In Superior Court

At least five suits for divorce were filed in the superior court of this county during the first three weeks in this month, Deputy Clerk Mary E. Keel said this week. About a dozen other suits were also started during the period, but most of them were considered of little importance.

The divorce actions, based on two years' separation, follow:

- T. F. Dawson against Mary L. Dawson. Christine Gale against John S. Gale. Bettie G. James against Essie James. Pete M. Williams against Annie Lee Williams. Elder L. Gardner against Lola Gardner. At least one of the plaintiffs is in the armed forces, it was learned.

Farmers In County Having a Difficult Time Curing Leaf

Third More Oil Than Usual Being Used This Year. Growers Declare

Planting their largest crop since 1939, Martin County farmers are experiencing all kinds of trouble in harvesting and curing their tobacco this season, according to reports reaching here this week.

The labor shortage is proving to be the most serious problem, and a marked change in the weather is almost certain to aggravate bad harvesting conditions. Unofficial reports state that a few farmers have already lost some of their tobacco because it could not be removed from the fields in time.

German prisoners of war were made available in limited numbers last week for aiding the tobacco harvest, but the number was so small that no material relief followed except in a comparatively few cases. "We could have placed 500 or more prisoners each day during the past several days," a representative in the office of the county agent explained this week. Nearly 100 farmers in the county asked for the prisoners labor during the first two days.

Reports from farmers state that the prisoner labor is proving very valuable, one farmer declaring that he handled his harvest so quickly that he was able to take them to an adjoining farm and complete the harvest there within the time originally allotted him. "Loopers" complained that the prisoners handled tobacco faster than it could be handled.

A few of the prisoners are going into Beaufort and Pitt County to aid in the tobacco harvest there.

The problem isn't solved after the tobacco is in the barn, farmers explaining that they are having considerable trouble in curing the leaf. The leaf stems are unusually large and curing time has to be extended several hours. Even before the leaf is placed in the barn it is wet and considerable time elapses before it dries sufficiently before much heat can be applied.

Normally about 125 gallons of oil are needed to cure a barn of tobacco, but the same farmers say they have used as many as 300 gallons in curing.

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Local Man's Mother Dies In Yorktown

Mrs. Lucy Hopkins Crockett, mother of Mr. C. G. Crockett, Sr., of Williamston, and widow of Thomas W. Crockett, died at her home in Yorktown, Virginia, last Thursday.

The daughter of the late William H. and Susan C. Hopkins, she was born in York County, Virginia, on September 7, 1878, and lived in that community all her life, spending the last 35 years in Yorktown.

Besides her son here she is survived by three children, Paul Crockett, of Yorktown and a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, C. H. Crockett, of Yorktown, and Lt. Doris C. Hammond of Fort McPherson, Ga.; three sisters, Mrs. J. W. Davis, of Summit, N. J., Mrs. P. L. Derring and Mrs. Ade L. Jones, of Norfolk; two brothers, C. P. Hopkins, of Yorktown, and W. H. Hopkins, of Norfolk; seven grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Funeral services were held at 3 p. m. Saturday from the home in Yorktown. Interment was in the family plot of the Episcopal church cemetery, also in Yorktown.

Mc. D. Hardison, Jr. Home from Overseas

After spending six months in the European Theater of War, Mack D. Hardison, Jr., returned home last week for a furlough with relatives and friends in the county.

"With the exception of letters from home, 'The Enterprise' was the greatest friend I had while overseas," the young man stated.

Telling about his stay in Europe, the young man said, "I went into the combat zone on January 29 and remained there until the Germans surrendered. About all I can say is that I was lucky and am fortunate to be back alive and in good health."

Hardison said he visited Bugenwald prison camp. "Although it had been cleaned up to some extent, there was much evidence that it had been a living hell for the prisoners who were confined there," he declared. "Approximately 2,500 people were quartered in a small building, and there they had to live, eat and wash, only there wasn't much of either," he added.

Bugenwald had the reputation of being one of the worst concentration camps in Europe, and, according to Hardison, it was just as bad as pictured in the papers and on the screen.

Pvt. Hardison has the combat infantryman's badge, two battle stars and good conduct ribbon. He is in the 87th Infantry Division, known as the Acorn Division.