

## Man Fatally Burned In House Fire Late Last Saturday Night

### Ralph W. Barbour, Raleigh Man, Was Visiting People In Griffins Township

Ralph W. Barbour, young Raleigh man and representative of an insurance company, was burned to death last Saturday night when fire destroyed the home of his wife's parents and all contents in Griffins Township.

Few details about the tragedy could be learned here, but Coroner S. R. Biggs, making an investigation, ruled that no foul play was evident, that the man died of burns caused when the home was accidentally fired and destroyed.

Coming down with his wife from Raleigh to spend the week-end with his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Henry Hodges, Barbour, 32, left the family at a tobacco barn and went to the house about 9 o'clock to retire. It is possible that he lighted a lamp and that it went out of control and fired a curtain. Others explain that he may have been smoking a cigarette and dropped it to sleep, that the burning cigarette fired the bed clothing and he was overcome by smoke before he could escape from the burning building.

Mrs. Barbour was at the tobacco barn and when the family saw the house ablaze they rushed there and tried to rescue him, but their efforts were in vain. One report stated that the body was burned beyond recognition.

The house, valued at approximately \$2,000, was a two-story structure and Mr. Barbour was said to have been sleeping in an upstairs room. In addition to the home, an automobile parked nearby, some cured tobacco, the family's supply of meat and other food provisions, packed in the house were also burned, according to reports reaching here.

Mr. Barbour was born and reared in Raleigh and had spent all his life there. About eighteen months ago he was married to Miss Kathleen Hodges, an employee of the Bell Telephone Company in Raleigh. He is survived by his widow; two sisters, Mrs. R. M. Byan and Mrs. Hudson Johnson both of Raleigh, and a brother, Bobby Gene Barbour of Raleigh. Mrs. Barbour was employed by the same insurance company her husband represented.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the grave site in the Hodges family cemetery in Griffins Township by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister.

## County Young Man On The Shangri-La

Aboard the U. S. S. Shangri-La in the Pacific—(Special)—James Station Whitehurst, aviation machinist's mate, third class, of RFD 3, Williamston, N. C., serves aboard this great aircraft carrier which today is a very real source of danger to the Japs and not just the mythical base popularized three years ago when the Doolittle raiders hit Tokyo.

Planes from the Shangri-La helped defeat the Japs in the recent Okinawa campaign, raining bombs, rockets, and bullets on enemy pillboxes, caves, airfields and communications centers, in support of ground troops.

Not long ago this carrier was just an idea in the minds of the American people who had listened to the late President Roosevelt tell the world that Lt. Gen. James Doolittle's planes had raided Japan's capital from "Shangri-La".

Through a nationwide campaign that idea became reality as people bought war bonds to build the carrier. As soon as news of her construction was released, the Navy department was flooded with requests from men asking to serve on her.

Soon she was nicknamed "The Tokyo Express".

## Home After Three Years In Europe

After spending thirty-six months overseas, S/Sgt. Luther O. Strickland recently returned home and has been honorably discharged by the Army under the point system. The young man had 124 points.

The young man arrived unexpectedly at the home of his sister, Mrs. Annie Weathersbee, near Robersonville on July 13. Members of the family did not even know he was in the States until he reached home, and there was much excitement.

Sgt. Strickland entered service in 1939 and received his training at Fort Meade, Md. After staying in the States three years, he went overseas and participated in seven major campaigns, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe.

He was awarded the good conduct medal, American Defense Service Medal, European, African, Middle Eastern Service Ribbon with one Bronze Arrowhead.

The young man received no wounds during his three years of active service overseas.

## Drunks Fall Out In Numbers Following Large Liquor Sales

Sales slightly in excess of \$2,500 were reported by Martin County's No. 1 alcoholic beverage control board store here last Saturday. While the sales established no new high record, they were the largest reported in some weeks. Hardly before the board employees had finished counting the money, the drunks started falling out in semi-private and public places.

Before midnight, six had flopped on lawns, in driveways and in the streets, one taking refuge in Town Commissioner Geo. H. Harrison's front yard, another, a middle-aged white man, in the Dunning yard just across the street. Two others fell out within half block of the ABC store and were found dead to the world on Dr. E. T. Walker's office lawn. Still another fell and stretched himself out in the bus station driveway. Two others, a colored

man and a colored woman, were found helpless on Washington Street.

No arrests were made; in fact, no arrests have been entered in the jail records since last Monday. Apparently "big" crime was taking a holiday during the period, or it was pushed out of the picture by the drunks.

Possibly all of the liquor did not come from the ABC store, unofficial reports declaring that there is more bootleg whiskey or white lightning being passed out by the drink in Williamston than at any other time in years. Citizens declare that white customers are wearing regular paths to any number of colored homes. Mill owners state that so many workers, after experiencing gay week-ends are unable to return to work before Tuesday, that Monday is fast being recognized as a drunkard's holiday.

## BIG ONION CROP

Way back in 1944, agriculturist Charlie James planted some onion sets to help ward off an onion shortage. He got his instructions mixed at the time, and placed the onion sets in a deep furrow and then covered them up and packed them down.

The apparent planting error was detected by Mr. James' neighbor, Sheriff Charlie Roebuck. The unusual planting method attracted public attention, and the agriculturist just dropped his head and grinned, saying nothing and doing nothing about it until a short time ago when he went out and harvested onions by the bushels. No count was made, but Mr. James says there were several bushels. "And as for the sheriff, why he did not harvest the first onion."

## Bruce Whitley Tells Of High Living Cost In Liberated Areas

### Peaches Selling In Brussels As High as Seventy-five Cents Each, Boy Says

Writing from Kassel, Germany, Sgt. Bruce Whitley, former Enterprise employee, says he is having a hectic time handling the job of mail clerk and exchanging money for the boys going into various countries on furloughs. Incidentally, the corporal had quite a time during a short furlough spent in Belgium a short time ago. He writes, in part:

"I am still serving as mail clerk, and I like the job better than working in the field. There are a few headaches sometimes, handling so many different kinds of money for money orders and conversion from one kind to another. You have to use the money of the country that you are in, so when one gets a pass yther to Belgium, France or Holland you have to have the money converted over to the currency of the country in which you plan to visit.

"I just returned from a three-day furlough spent in Belgium. I was in Brussels the entire time. Spent just about all my money and had a wonderful time sleeping in those soft beds. Boy, it was surely worth the money, and I hated to return to camp. I was away seven days, four days of the seven having been spent traveling.

"I traveled the super-highway from here to Frankfurt. It is a highway over the mountains and is similar to the skyline drive at home; only it is four lanes with an island in between. The scenery is beautiful. I traveled down the Rhine River and the country there is the prettiest I have ever seen. It really was worth the trip even though I did have to ride in a truck.

"Things are really high in Belgium, and there is much more food in Belgium than in France, but the black market is still flourishing in Brussels. In the stores, a fresh peach costs from 50 to 75 cents each, and everything else costs in proportion. You could get a fair meal at the restaurant for two dollars, the food comparing about with what one used to get back home for twenty-five cents.

"So Duke Ward and Geo. Lee Roberson got point discharges. Boy, are they lucky! I am not looking for a discharge until Japan is defeated. But I am looking forward to going home, if it isn't but for a short furlough...."

## Vocational Work Approved For the Oak City Schools

According to a recent announcement by Miss Dennis, State supervisor of vocational economics, the Oak City home economics department has been approved for vocational work, entitling the school to an extra high school teacher.

Miss Frances Eakes, of Stokes, will have charge of the department, it was announced.

## Story Of The One Hundred and First Airborne Division

### Brief Review of Daring Parts 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 and possibly other Martin County boys are members of the 101st.

The fifth installment of the story follows:

Here and there outer lines sagged. German tanks were allowed to infiltrate, infantry following behind were cut to ribbons by Eagle soldiers. Tanks also were given a rough reception by Airborne doughs and their bazookas, by anti-tank gunners and by tank destroyers. During the siege, 148 tanks and 25 half-tracks were knocked out—positive indication of the importance Germans attached to the taking of Bastogne.

Nazis threw both book and bootcase at Bastogne; armor, infantry, paratroopers, Luftwaffe. Night after night, bombers searched out Airborne troopers. Hospitals and troop quarters were hit. Low-flying dive bombers and heavy artillery were unmerciful and damaging, but not unbearable. The 101st stayed on.

Complete encirclement of Bastogne placed the division squarely behind the eight-ball for supplies. Airborne artillery long had been accustomed to giving more than it took. Shells now had to be rationed. Artillery waited "to see the whites of plenty eyes" before letting go.

Food became scarce. Screaming eagles sought clear skies—flying weather not only for air re-supply, but for planes to keep the Luftwaffe down.

Evacuation of wounded became a pressing problem. But they had to wait—there was no way out of the doughnut. Reports circulated daily that the 4th Arm. Div. was on its way to open a road.

Mutual confidence characterized the vicious battle preceding the junction of the 4th and the 101st. Airborne troopers hoped that armor would crack open a path for movement.

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## Sgt. S. Burroughs Home from Europe

T/Sgt. Sutton A. Burroughs, after three years to the day away from home, returned last Friday evening for a thirty-day furlough with relatives and friends here and in other parts of the county.

A member of the 15th American Air Force, Sgt. Burroughs was stationed in Italy for about two years, and had many exciting experiences while there.

He expects to draw an assignment on the West Coast at the end of his furlough.

Sgt. Burroughs said he saw only two men from Martin County during his twenty-eight months overseas. Asked about the possibility of a discharge, he said that his 120 points did not carry much weight, but that he hoped they would get consideration soon.

## School Canning Day At Oak City on August 16th

Thursday, August 16th, has been set aside as school canning day for the Oak City Schools, Principal H. M. Ainsley has announced. Patrons are asked to bring vegetables in quantities.

Professor Ainsley, who has full responsibility of the canning, suggests that the people in the community help relieve the crowded conditions each Tuesday and Thursday by preparing vegetables at home and reporting to the cannery in the early afternoon on the days specified for community canning.

## TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

(A weekly pamphlet from the rural press section of the OWI News Bureau)

The government needs and asks its citizens in this 191st week of the war against Japan to:

Report all overcharges, however small, to the Price Control Board of your ration board. Without this check by individual shoppers, prices cannot be held down. You need not give your name.

Gas Coupon Thefts Increase

Thefts of gasoline ration coupons from service stations have increased to such an extent that every station operator should adopt all possible safeguards. Apparently organized gangs of racketeers, who formerly made the distributed counterfeit gasoline ration coupons, have found that their former racket is no longer safe nor profitable and that the markets for their invalid ration coupons have disappeared. As a result, the racketeers have turned to the theft of valid currency from service stations and have been selling coupons at various prices to

August Tire Quotas

August quotas of 2,500,000 passenger tires and 386,862 small truck tires for civilian motorists, exactly the same as for July, and a reduced quota of large truck tires were announced this week by WPB and the OPA. The quota of truck tires size 8.25 and larger was cut from 234,308 in July to 200,000 for August.

Where the Money Goes

It costs about \$500 to fly a wounded man from Okinawa to Pearl Harbor and another \$200 to fly him the additional 2,100 miles to San Francisco, the Navy Department informs the War Finance Division of the Treasury.

Refrigerator Prices

Price regulations governing sales and rentals of used mechanical household refrigerators have been amended, effective August 6, OPA announces. The following changes are made:

Control of refrigerator rentals by landlords to tenants is clarified. Refrigerators sold "as is" must have all parts necessary for operation. A consumer selling a used mechanical refrigerator must give a written agreement to pay for all parts and repairs needed to fulfill the guarantee.

All models produced in 1941 and 1942, and all lift top refrigerators, are given dollar-and-cent prices. The \$5 warranty allowance added by the seller on used refrigerators with a one-year guarantee is increased to \$10 on 1929 and 1940 models.

## Z. D. F. White Died In County Saturday

Z. D. F. White, prominent Martin county citizen and well-known farmer, died at his home in Robersonville last Saturday morning following a long period of declining health.

The son of the late Mack G. and Martha A. White, he was born near Everetts on May 25, 1865, and spent his early life, moving later to a farm between Robersonville and Cross Roads. About fifteen or twenty years ago he located in Robersonville.

Mr. White, true southern gentleman and a good citizen, was active in the Primitive Baptist Church for many years and served as deacon at Flat Swamp since 1923.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ada E. White; a foster son, R. S. Everett of Robersonville, and four sisters, Mrs. C. S. Johnson of Robersonville, Mrs. Charles Brown of Rocky Mount, Mrs. William Lowry of Hickory, Va., and Mrs. W. H. Holliday of Robersonville.

Funeral services, held in the Robersonville Primitive Baptist Church Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, were attended by a large throng. Several ministers officiated. Interment was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

## Sgt. Irving Griffin Home from Europe

Sgt. Irving Griffin, overseas for more than 38 months and a veteran of several campaigns, including ones in Africa, the Mediterranean islands and Italy, returned home last Saturday night. The young man, for four years in the service, came home with an honorable discharge, and lost little time in switching to the farm. He flew from the European area last week, landed in Miami and moved into Fort Bragg's separation center in time to sever all connections with the armed forces to spend his first week-end in the States at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Claude Griffin here.

## Completed Course at Naval Training Center Recently

Jasper Eugene Browder, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Browder, of Williamston, was recently graduated from the Naval Air Technical Training Center at Norman, Oklahoma. The young man, now a second-class seaman, is being transferred to a naval unit afloat or to another shore station for further instruction and work.

## 1945-46 Term on August 30 County Schools To Open The

The Martin County schools will open the 1945-46 term on Thursday, August 30, the board of education ruled in a special session held here last evening. The scheduled opening is one of the earliest in years, but the date was fixed after the members, and all of them were present, had discussed advantages and disadvantages offered by various dates. Yes, the weather will be hot on August 30, but it will be hot on September 10 and 15, too. Children will be needed on the farms on August 30, but they will be needed there in September, also, but hardly as badly as they will be needed next spring, the board reasoned.

It was apparent that the board is planning after a business fashion for the operation of the schools this coming term, and the members are anxious for the children and patrons and others to cooperate to the end that the most may be gained. By opening on August 30, the schools

can complete four full months before the Christmas holidays, but there will be no two-day holiday at Thanksgiving. The early opening date was chosen when it was pointed out that epidemics or bad weather could force the closing of the schools for days during the winter and delay the closing until almost summer time if a late opening date was fixed.

Very little business was placed before the meeting, the members limiting their activities to two or three orders. The old Woolard school site in Bear Grass Township was ordered advertised for public sale, and a contract for an audit of the board of education books was let to Greathouse and Butler, certified public accountants, for \$125.

Transportation costs and attendance records were reviewed for the 1944-45 term before the meeting was adjourned.

## Battle-Worn Veterans Tell Few Experiences

### Corregidor Veteran Recalls Trying Days In Japanese Prisons

Returned Battle Vets Urging All-Out Production in the Timber Industry

Directing an appeal to a small group in the courthouse here last Thursday night, six war-worn soldiers related a few of their trying experiences in the European and Pacific Theaters of War, and urged all-out production for the timber industry.

Lieutenant Mitchell, of Knoxville, Tenn., told of some of his experiences with a parachute infantry outfit during fourteen months' services overseas, mostly in the Italian area. He served as master of ceremonies and introduced other members of his party. The program was cut short because the crowd was so small.

Probably the most interesting talk was made by S/Sgt. F. W. Crocker, of San Francisco, who related his experiences as a Japanese prisoner of war after being captured at Corregidor in May, 1942. Sergeant Crocker is an old "Regular", having served 20 years in the Army. He was in the USAFFE headquarters staff under command of General McArthur, where he served as an instructor of native troops. After the fall of Corregidor, Sergeant Crocker told of the Japs' "victory" parade through the Manila city streets, which was followed by the "death march" across Luzon to the infamous Cabanatuan prison. Barefooted and with very little clothing, he marched with other Americans through the streets of Manila, but the men held their heads high.

He described work details on which he served, the type of food, and other details of the treatment received at the hands of the Japs. "It was a living hell for us during three long years," he said. Sgt. Crocker was in the party of 513 men which escaped in January of this year to join American forces which had landed in the Lingayen Gulf area, but 2,800 men were left at Cabanatuan, never to return. The soldier just a week or two ago ate his first solid food since entering the prison, and can eat now only certain kinds of food. He wears three rows of campaign ribbons and medals, including one for the bronze star, the purple heart, and a presidential unit citation with three oak leaf clusters.

George Carter, of Mobile, Ala., colored corporal, who served as tank commander in the campaign in Northern France and the Rhineland, (Continued on page four)

## Mrs. Mollie Farmer Passes In Hospital

Funeral services were conducted at the Roe of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock for Mrs. Mollie Jackson, a resident of this county, who died in a Washington hospital Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Mrs. Farmer, 64 years of age, had been ill only two days. Rev. D. W. Alexander, pastor of the church of near Bethel, conducted the last rites.

A native of Beaufort County, N.C., Farmer married John Thomas Farmer in 1902 and located in the Bear Grass Community of this county. She was a member of the Rose of Sharon Church, and was held in high esteem.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. James W. Whitehurst of Bear Grass; three sons, Roland, Marvin O. and John Thomas Farmer, all of this county; one sister, Mrs. Dollie Leggett of near Washington, and eighteen grandchildren.

## County Young Man Tells Experiences In the Philippines

### Jos. Beach Says Supply Of Liquor Plentiful There, But Quality is Poor

Writing to express his appreciation for The Enterprise, Joseph S. Beach, S. 2-c, described a few of his experiences in the Philippines. His letter follows:

"I wish to express my thanks to you for sending me The Enterprise. It is really a great help to a guy who is miles and miles from home. I get The Enterprise about a month late, but it is still good to me.

"I am some where in the Philippines. Due to censorship I can't tell just where, but it is really a terrible place. I mean the living conditions are bad. The natives live in small crudely built houses. I would call them huts. They are made of bamboo slabs or any scrap pieces the yan pick up to build a shelter over their heads. I have been in some of their homes and found them in terrible condition. Some of the natives, because of the war, this was a beautiful place. But the war came and tore down their homes and wrecked everything they had.

"The natives are lacking for clothes. Most of them don't have enough clothes to cover their backs. And most of what they have are ragged and worn out. However, there are some people here that have some good clothes and plenty of them.

"The American Red Cross and USO are doing a mighty fine job for the service men over here. They have put up a U. S. O. here and they have games of all kinds. We get soft drinks, and though they are hot, they are really good. The organizations are doing some mighty fine work. They are putting more improvements to the U. S. O. about every day. They have even got a "juke box". So, it really is a nice place to spend a liberty, and to pass away time.

"I want to express my appreciation for the work the American Red Cross is doing for us. And I speak for quite a few of the fellows, too.

"I would like for all the 'booze hounds' to read this. They tell me whiskey is scarce for some of them. But if they were here they could get all they want to drink. But I wouldn't say they would like it, because it is really powerful stuff. Every where you turn there is some one asking, 'Joe, want whiskey?' But that stuff doesn't go with me. I'm not a drinker anyway, and if I was I don't think I would drink any of the stuff. But I bet a lot of people in Williamston would like to get hold of some of it, since they can't get enough liquor coupons at home.

"I have been to quite a few places since I left Williamston, but no place so far will beat old Williamston. And I hope it won't be so much longer before I will get a chance to see it. I just left the States last January, and while I haven't been away such a long time, it seems like a long time to me."

## Quantity of Liquor Is Found by Officer

Raiding in several sections of the county last week, ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck and other officers found and poured out about five gallons of illicit liquor. No arrests were reported but action is pending in at least one of the two cases, it was learned.

The first stop was made near Robersonville where the officers found and poured out two gallons of white liquor.

In Everetts last Saturday afternoon, the officers searched Ed Briley's home, but found nothing inside. Switching to the back yard, the officers had their attention attracted to a number of bottles hanging on a string around a clump of bushes. Briley insisted it was a means of frightening away the hawks and crows. Some said it was part of a conjuration scheme to keep colored parsons away.

After beating the bushes, the officers found two and one-half gallons of white liquor there.

## Operator of Local Bus Station Resigns

After ably serving the traveling public here for six and one-half years, Mr. W. R. Banks is resigning as operator of the union bus station here, his resignation to become effective tomorrow.

J. G. Whitehurst, formerly of Robersonville, but more recently of Raleigh, is succeeding him.

A native of Hertford, Mr. Banks came here from Norfolk. Since the outbreak of the war, he has worked patiently and untiringly in maintaining the best bus station service possible. His worries and work have been so trying that he is being forced to retire to safeguard declining health. He will continue to operate a taxi service, it was announced.

## BURNS BURN

At least ten tobacco barns are known to have been destroyed by fire in the county so far this season, Farmer Paul Edmondson of Hassell reporting one Monday morning to boost the count to seven. The Edmondson barn apparently caught from a spark falling on the top. When discovered, the fire was burning rapidly on the roof. The tobacco was hardly dry, he explained. Farmer Otis Woolard lost one and a second one burner near Robersonville Sunday night, and another one was destroyed on Vance Roberson's farm Monday, boosting the number lost in that area to five. Gaston James lost one in Cross Roads Friday night.

A farmer near Williamston lost two early in the season, and one was burned in the Dardens area last week.

## Japs Reject Allied Ultimatum; Tempo Of War Increasing

### Powerful Invasion by Land, Sea and Air Promised By Admiral Ramsey

Now that the Japanese have rejected the Potsdam surrender ultimatum and announced their determination to fight to the "bitter end," the invasion of Japan is now regarded a certainty.

Maj. Gen. Curtis E. Lemay, retiring boss of the 20th Air Force already has identified the 11 targets which our B-29s will fire in forthcoming raids as part of our strategic offensive aimed at softening the homeland for eventual landings. Lemay's Superfort force is up to full fighting strength and Lt. Gen. Doolittle's 8th Air Force is rapidly reaching that point. Air leaders have predicted that the all-out assault on Japan will begin within the next day or two, probably tomorrow. Already the tempo of the attacks is being stepped up by air and surface ships.

By smashing the Japanese Navy in the Inland Sea last week, Third Fleet carrier planes have eliminated one of the main obstacles to an invasion of the home islands. Two principal tasks remain:

Destruction of the Japanese air power, and disruption of enemy communications between the islands. Part of those tasks has already been accomplished, but the campaign is just getting under way. In the days that follow, rail centers, road hubs, airfields, aircraft factories and fuel depots throughout the homeland will come in for increasingly heavy blows. But eventually the field of operation probably will narrow down to Shikoku, reportedly the weakest link in the Japanese island chain.

Since defeating Japan means smashing the Japanese army, the Allies will have to hit them where they are. An analysis of U. S. air targets in the past six months indicates:

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## County Youth Awarded the Motor Vehicle Driver Badge

With the 81st Infantry Division somewhere in the Pacific—T/5 Milton A. Ward, son of Mrs. Della W. Ward, 713 Pine Street, Williamston, N. C., has been awarded the Motor Vehicle Driver Badge for "excellent performance of duties as a driver of wheeled vehicles."

Corporal Ward is a member of Major General Paul J. Mueller's 81st Infantry "Wildcat" Division, which last fall wrested the Palau and other Western Carolina Islands from the Japs.