

## Interesting Account Of 45th Division In The European War

### Captain James S. Rhodes, Jr. Made Long Trek With The Thunderbirds

(The 45th or American Thunderbird Division, wrote a great chapter in the history of World War II, and holds possibly one of the most enviable records of any division in the war. The 45th last July 10, observed its second anniversary as a fighting unit, and the story below briefly reviews its daring activities and remarkable accomplishments. The brief account will be read with marked interest, no doubt, by the people of this section since Captain James S. Rhodes, Jr., a Williamston young man, was in the thick of the fight from Sicily to Munich.—ed.)

Two long and eventful years have passed since the 45th Division, fresh from the training camps of the United States, blasted its way out of a storm to land on the southern beaches of the island of Sicily.

To many a Thunderbird, the date of this introduction into combat is as memorable as his own birthday, July 10, 1943.

Some infantrymen died before they crossed the narrow belt of sand. Others drowned without ever setting foot on a hostile shore, cut down by the Italian beach defenses. Others, only a few, trudged the whole weary way across the island, up the Italian boot from Salerno to Rome, up through the Vosges, and into Germany to Munich.

Today, the 45th is one of the most honored divisions of World War II. Five thousand and four hundred and two officers and men had been decorated by the American government by the latter part of June, and foreign decorations bring the number of individual decorations to more than 5,500. Many more will be decorated for their contributions to the 45th fighting efficiency before the records are closed.

### 103,367 PW's Taken

A division's strength is something more than 15,000 men. In its campaigns in Europe, this division took 103,367 prisoners, most of them Germans. How many it killed or wounded, no one will ever know.

Field Marshal Kesselring of the German army, who vainly sought to push the 45th into the sea at Anzio to eliminate the famous beachhead, disclosed upon his capture that he considered the 45th one of the two finest in the American Army. The other was the Third, a division often found fighting on our right or left in the difficult campaigns.

Kesselring had many opportunities to estimate the worth of the Thunderbirds as they pushed his picked mountain troops and his SS men back, back and back in the Italian mountains.

He became reacquainted with the Thunderbird aggressiveness and determination when he succeeded von Rundstedt in command of the defense of the Western Front.

### 2,600 Thunderbirds Died

The cost of these campaigns may be read in the record. After establishing a record of 511 days of combat, the 45th counted its casualties at more than 27,000—second highest in the war so far for an American division.

Two hundred and thirteen officers and 3,437 enlisted men of the 45th were killed in action. Seven hundred and forty officers and 12,989 men were wounded. One hundred and fifty-six officers and 3,459 men were at some time listed as missing in action.

Its combat mission in Europe ended, the 45th halted in Munich, and there garrisoned one of the largest cities in Europe, and one of the two most important cities in Germany from the point of view of the Nazi party.

The Thunderbirds had had a major share in the taking of Munich, as they had in the taking of Nuremberg, Aschaffenburg, Homburg, Eppinal, Rome and Palermo.

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## Cadet Nurse Bailey Enjoys Enterprise

Writing from St. Petersburg, Fla., where she is a cadet nurse, Miss Alice Bailey expressed her appreciation for The Enterprise. She said in a recent letter:

"As I have just finished reading The Enterprise, I decided to write just a short note to say how much I appreciate it.

"After hours of class work, every day, twice a week I go to my room and find that good old paper that lets a little cadet nurse know all about what is going on back home.

"I have read all the letters the home-town boys have written, and I want to say how much they have meant to me.

"I pray that it will not be very long before this terrible thing called war will be over.

"As time is very short and it's almost time for the lights to go out, I will say again, thanks for the paper, and I'm sure everyone appreciates it as much I do.

"Alice Bailey, Cadet Nurse, Mound Park Nurses Home, St. Petersburg, Florida."

## Shortage Almost Causes Riot For Sugar In Store Thursday

Shortages of certain foods almost caused a riot in a main street store here yesterday morning, and merchants are scratching their heads for a solution to the problem which seems to become more aggravated by the week.

Offering a limited poundage of sugar for sale, the store was jammed and packed to capacity yesterday morning within a matter of a few seconds after opening time by a lot of folks who, apparently, needed sweetening. A mad scramble was soon under way and in the rush some one knocked over a wine display, breaking about eighteen bottles of the beverage and scattering quite a few bottles under the feet of the mob. The scramble was so intense that those who helped form the line early that morning were forced to leave the store empty-handed, some of them declaring that they planned to do without rather than battle such a mob.

One report stated that the line

started forming that morning at 5 o'clock, but order was snatched when the mob rushed the door.

While the mobs fight for a few pounds of sugar, some of the early birds, unconfirmed reports declare, are hoarding their canning sugar and using it in cakes and pies and reserving it for everything except canning.

Large numbers of canning sugar coupons are certain to go out of date, but so far, few if any, have been returned to the rationing board.

There is little prospect for immediate relief, some distributors even going so far as to say that the sugar shortage will continue for possibly another year.

During the meantime, the meat shortage, washing powder shortage and any number of other shortages continue to hold their firm grips. The meat shortage, however, was slightly eased here this week when the markets opened several days with fair-sized stocks on hand.

### TAIL-ENDERS

Of the approximately 1,600 tobacco farmers in Martin County, thirty-two have not yet submitted their crop acreage measurements. The 1,568 other farmers, with some few exceptions, will receive their marketing cards the early part of next week, but the thirty-two will have to submit their acreage checks to their respective committees for approval and then turn them into the county agent's office before marketing cards can be made ready.

The few exceptions who will not receive their marketing cards immediately in addition to the thirty-two who have not reported their acreages, are being asked to have their committees estimate the excess poundage and report to the agent's office. The farmer may then pay the excess penalty and receive a white marketing card or pay the penalty when he markets his crop with a red card. In those cases where the grower lost tobacco in the field, he will be required to pay the penalty on the proportionate part, in any, in excess of quotas.

## Speaks Highly Of County Young Man

Captain-Chaplain Paul R. Fine, serving with the 36th Station Hospital, recently wrote to Mr. and Mrs. John G. Corey of near Williamston, and spoke very highly of their son, S/Sgt. Geo. W. Corey. The letter follows:

"One of the rewards of being a Chaplain in the Army is the privilege of working with the fine men in the Army. I have known your son since he has been in this unit and he is one of the steady, dependable men in our organization.

"I have enjoyed very much having him in the chapel services. All men overseas long for the time when they can return home. In the chapel service they find the tie with their home church. This helps in keeping alive those things in their life that have made them the fine men that they are. In the worship service we leave the Army at the door and walk into God's Sanctuary. It may be a tent or an improvised chapel or the service may even be held out of doors, but it is the Lord's House, His worship service. In this place we meet as God's children and unite our prayers with those of our loved ones at home interceding for the grace of God to be shed in their lives and ours.

"Your son is in the best of health. While none of us will be entirely happy till we return home, your son is as happy and contented as he can be under the circumstances.

"My prayer is that this war may soon be over, then our men can return home and peace may once again reign over the world. May God's richest blessings be yours."

## Young County Man Gets Special Award

Charlie Rhodes Harrison, Martin County young man, was recently awarded the Elliott F. Shepard cash prize of \$50 for outstanding work done in the field of church history, it was announced this week.

The award was made by Chancellor O. C. Carmichael of Vanderbilt University where the young man is working for his B. D. degree to be conferred next December.

He is the son of Mrs. Charlie Ayers of Bear Grass, and received his A. B. degree at A. C. College.

### WAREHOUSE TO RECEIVE FIRST TOBACCO, THURSDAY, THE 16TH

Williamston warehouses will open on Thursday, August 16 for the delivery of the first tobacco from the current crop, it was announced by market operators this morning.

It is believed that four days will offer ample time to place the tobacco on the floors in an orderly way for the opening sales on August 21st.

## Sixty Martin County Citizens Are Called To Serve As Jurors

### Superior Court Opens Two Weeks' Term in County On September 17

Sixty Martin County citizens were drawn recently by the board of commissioners to serve as jurors during the two weeks term of superior court opening on September 17. The list is one of the largest ever drawn, the courts in recent months having experienced some difficulty in rounding up talemans for service at the last minutes. Thirty-six were chosen for service during the first week, including nine who will be drawn for the permanent grand jury to succeed the nine who are retiring after a year of service. Twenty-four men were drawn for service during the second week of the term.

Ordinarily only eighteen men are drawn for jury service during the second week, the officers calling in others at the direction of the court when needed. In recent months there were few available men to be found, and it was decided to summon a larger number through the regular jury channels.

Judge John J. Burney of Wilmington is to preside over the term. The names of the citizens called are, as follows:

#### First Week

Jamesville: H. A. Sexton. Williams: N. P. Roberson. Griffins: Asa J. Harrison, John A. Griffin, Jr., S. E. Manning, Lewis H. Roberson.

Bear Grass: Mc D. Leggett, Seth Bailey, Henry Gurganus, Jesse D. Rogers, Woolard B. Harrison. Williamston: W. S. Rogerson, H. D. Jenkins, N. C. Green, K. P. Lindsley, W. O. Griffin, W. R. Banks, Charlie B. Bowen, Henry D. Harrison, Jr., Linton Roebuck.

Cross Roads: Pete Wynne and J. Marion Griffin. Robersonville: Grady E. Smith, J. L. Edmondson and W. E. Vick. Poplar Point: Lon Wynne.

Hamilton: W. W. Roberson, W. Herbert Everett, L. L. Davenport, Riddge Sears. Goose Nest: J. F. Council, W. J. Hollis, H. R. Smith, H. P. Fleming, Norman Turner.

#### Second Week

Williams: Wm. Dewey Hardison. Griffins: Asa T. Whitley, Finner L. Hardison and Geo. Revels. Bear Grass: A. L. Mizelle, LeRoy Harrison, Roy Harrison.

Williamston: L. T. Carrow, R. A. Roberson, E. L. Etheridge, J. C. Leggett, Coy J. Roberson, N. K. Harrison and Ralph J. Parker. Cross Roads: Leggett Roebuck, A. P. Barnhill.

Robersonville: H. A. Johnson, I. L. Smith, Claude E. Smith. Poplar Point: W. M. Hardison. Hamilton: W. F. Thomas and Robt. Bailey.

Goose Nest: Sidney Malloy and W. E. Tyson.

## More Tobacco Barns Destroyed By Fire

Three more tobacco barns were destroyed by fire in the county this week, Farmers Mayo Hardison, of Poplar Point, Archie Roberson, of the Farm Life section of Griffins Township, and Henry D. Harrison and E. S. Peel, farming near Williamston, reporting losses last Tuesday and early Wednesday morning. Approximately twenty tobacco curing barns have been lost by fire in the county so far this season.

The Roberson barn, equipped with oil burners, was destroyed about 5 o'clock Tuesday morning. Farmer Hardison had just visited his barn in Poplar Point and applied extra heat in the barn to dry leaf stems. He had been away hardly five minutes when it caught fire and burned. The Harrison-Peel barn, containing 800 sticks of choice tobacco had been "killed out", and the tobacco was to have been removed Tuesday when the operator fired the oil burners to dry out wet stems. The local fire department was called there shortly after Tuesday midnight, but could render no assistance. The barn, recently built, had been used only twice before.

Most of the barns lost in the county so far have been partially covered by mutual insurance.

### THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

After maintaining a perfect record during the 30th week, motorists on Martin County highways slipped a notch during the 31st week and broke into the accident figures. No one was badly hurt, but two cars were knocked out of commission.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

31st Week			
Accidents	Inj'd	Killed	Dam'ge
1945	1	0	\$ 250
1944	1	0	100
Comparison To Date			
1945	34	15	\$8300
1944	43	23	7700

## Russia's Entry and Atomic Bomb Almost Certain To Shorten War

### Conflicting Reports Received On Quantity of Tobacco Crop

The current tobacco crop in Martin County after promising earlier in the season to approximate an all-time poundage record, will hardly strike a normal average, according to reports heard from various communities during the past few days. Some of the reports conflict, quite a few farmers explaining that they had found it necessary to buy additional sticks, others declaring that they had lost parts of their crop in the field, and that the leaf was curing out light, making it appear that poundage figures will reflect a slight decrease.

Quite a few farmers, more than the actual number who reported excess acreages and the several who increased their plantings and were found to be over-planted, increased their acreages. But, it was pointed out that most of those planting in excess had lost the increase in the

fields because they did not have sufficient labor and barn room to care for the leaf as fast as it ripened. The excess allotment plantings have proved costly in those cases, and neighbors declare that quality was sacrificed in some cases when the growers planted more than they could possibly handle.

The crop this year has been one of the most difficult to handle, farmers declaring that in addition to the problem created by excessive rains they had experienced considerable damage caused by worms and suckers.

With some few exceptions, farmers are generally agreed that the quality of the current crop is not quite as good as it was last year. The 1945 tobacco harvest is just about complete in the county, and the remainder will be in the barns the latter part of next and in the following week.

## Colored Men Called To Report for Their Final Examinations

### Fourteen Leave The County Wednesday For Center At Fort Bragg

Fourteen Martin County colored men were called to report this week to a service reception center at Fort Bragg for final induction. The group leaving Wednesday included one farmer and only three teenage youths. The ages of the others ranged from 27 to 34 years. Several of the men apparently had switched jobs or just retired without permission of the draft board, the action subjecting them to the draft. Six of the fourteen men called are married and they leave behind seven children. Three were rejected some time ago when they reported for their pre-induction examinations. Apparently their physical defects had been corrected during the meantime.

The names and registration and last-given addresses of the men called this week are as follows:

Columbus James, Robersonville and Baltimore. Miles Ernest Grimes, Baltimore. Theron Lynch, RFD 1, Oak City. James Arthur Slade, Williams and Norfolk.

Octavia Rodgers, Williamston and Norfolk. Richard Winfred Hoffer, Williamston and Portsmouth. James Gray Eason, Robersonville. James Edward Thompson, RFD 1, Oak City and Portsmouth. Elijah Keays, Elizabeth City and Jamesville.

William Thomas Smallwood, Williamston. William Ellis Smallwood, RFD 1, Williamston and Baltimore. Jobie Peele, RFD 3, Washington. Emmett Saunders, Williamston.

The following men were transferred to other boards for final induction: Miles Ernest Grimes to Baltimore and James Arthur Slade to Norfolk.

## Two Persons Hurt In Highway Crash

Two persons were badly but not critically hurt when their vehicles crashed on Highway No. 171, five miles south of Jamesville just before the storm broke about 8:30 o'clock last Monday evening. A third victim of the wreck, a small child, was thrown through a windshield, but walked away with only a small scratch on his lip. Property damage to both machines was estimated at about \$300 by Corporal W. S. Hunt, of the N. C. Highway Patrol, who investigated the accident.

Farmer Montford Griffin started to back his car from his yard into the road. "I looked, but saw no one coming," he was quoted as saying. He backed into the road just in time to strike the left rear side of Joe A. Hardison's Ford pick-up truck which was traveling south on the highway. Mr. Hardison suffered three broken ribs and Mr. Griffin was painfully cut about the head and face. The child, whose name could not be learned, was riding in the pick-up truck. The two men were brought to the local hospital for treatment.

## Martin County Colored Man Given Parol From Prison

Joseph Thigpen, 35-year-old colored man of the Oak City section, was paroled a few days ago after serving some over four years in the State prison for attempted rape. The man was sentenced to not less than fifteen and not more than twenty-five years for the alleged crime in the superior court of this county on March 16, 1941.

## Decision Expected Either From Bomb Or on Russo Border

### Russia Declared War Last Wednesday in Accordance With Yalta Agreement

### JAPS MAKE PEACE MOVE

#### News Agency Declares Japs Ready To Surrender If Prerogatives of Emperor Are Not Prejudiced

The entry of Russia into the war and the horrible possibilities of the atomic bomb are almost certain to hasten victory over Japan, according to political observers. While the Army has not spoken, it is apparent to the lay mind that the Japs can't carry on for any great length of time against the array of power now arrayed against her, not to mention the earth-rocking atomic bomb.

The first semi-official move toward peace following the use of the atomic bomb and the entry of Russia into the war was reported this morning when the Japs announced through Switzerland and Sweden that they were ready to accept the Potsdam surrender ultimatum provided the "prerogatives of the Emperor are not prejudiced". The weight of the provision is yet to be determined, but apparently there is a definite move under way to end the Pacific struggle. The move was described as sensational by some observers, but it has not yet taken on official recognition.

"Conditional" acceptance of the Potsdam ultimatum was reported after President Harry Truman last night warned the Japs that however tragic it may be, the atomic bomb would be used to hasten the end of the war and that nothing could stop it except unconditional surrender. The President spent most of his time describing the European situation and revealing the sad plight of the Germans now find themselves in, and possibly his description of conditions there influenced the Jap action early this morning.

Varied comment has been heard following Russia's entry into the war last Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Admiral Chester Nimitz said that the action would shorten the struggle. Others hurried to point out that Russia jumped all over itself to get into the struggle after she heard about the atomic bomb. Reliable reports point out that Premier Joe Stalin promised President Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference back in February of this year that his country would enter the war against Japan in about ninety days following the close of the European struggle. Stalin explained at that time, that at least ninety days would be needed to shift forces and supplies to the Asiatic front. The European war ended on May 8 and the Russians declared war three months later to the day. The decision was confirmed at Potsdam in July.

The latest developments centering around Russia's entry into the war and the atomic bomb can bring a hurried end of the war, but no one knows the Asiatic mind. The question now is, will the Japs choose to commit national suicide if they make that choice, the final turning point will either come on the Jap-Russo border or as a result of the atomic bomb. The Japanese are said to have their largest and best army facing the Russians, some estimates counting the enemy in that territory at more than one million well-trained and completely equipped men. If the Japs choose to fight on, a decision will have to be forced by the Russians. A victory by the Russians will dispel the greatness of the Jap army in the minds of the masses and revolt is almost certain to follow. During the meantime the atomic bomb can force a decision. Such a decision is expected from the ruling masters rather than in a revolt among the common masses who have not yet heard about the atomic bomb and its terrifying and horrible effect.

Japanese authorities were in session yesterday, supposedly wringing their hands in their new dilemma in an effort to decide on reason or national suicide. During the meantime, more atomic bombs are being dropped on strategic targets. The second of the devastating bombs

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## Jitters Over Atomic Bomb Not Justified

The public jitters concerning the atomic bomb are not justified, according to scientists and official facts coming out of Washington.

It is a scientific fact that the energy in the complete explosion of one pound of uranium could blow the Empire State building 20 miles into the air.

It is possible, as unofficially reported, that 11 pounds of uranium are used in the present atomic bomb.

But it also appears certain from the actual reported performances of the bomb and from Washington's official descriptions, that not all the uranium explodes.

Scientists started with an explosion which released less than one per cent of uranium's explosive power. It is unlikely that they have done much, if anything, to increase that percentage.

Uranium atoms split in two, to produce the atomic explosive power. Splitting in two, a thing that scientists call fission, is entirely different than having the whole atom explode.

The world is quite safe until far more than that kind of a split can be attained.

### Lt. J. B. Borel Heads New Prisoner Of War Camp

Lt. J. B. Borel, popular officer at the local prisoner of war camp for the past year or more, was transferred this week to Edenton where he is commanding officer of a newly established camp at the air base near the Chowan capital. Mrs. Borel, popular teacher in the Bear Grass school last term, accompanied him to Edenton. Lt. Borel was given a farewell dinner party at the local camp last Monday evening.

Approximately 150 German prisoners of war were moved through here yesterday to the new camp.