

## County Young Man Given Ribbon For Meritorious Service

### Lt. Malone Commended For Work During Landing On Pacific Island

Lt. (jg.) E. T. Malone, USNR, of Williamston, was recently awarded the Commendation Ribbon for Meritorious Service and Performance of Duty and a letter of Commendation for the part he played in the amphibious landing on Guam last July. The award was made in an impressive ceremony by Comdr. T. J. Robinson, Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Edenton, N. C., where Lt. Malone is now stationed.

Lt. Malone, who was an ensign at the time, was personally responsible, in a large measure, for effecting the expeditious landing of vital supplies, ammunition, rations and other cargo during the operation of the Guam landing, in the opinion of the Commanding Officer of the ship to which the then ensign was attached. Lt. Malone was in charge of the regularly organized salvage party from the USS LIBRA, an attack transport, and during the initial landings he and his men towed off a total of more than 50 stranded landing boats and barges from Red Beach Two and Blue Beach, repairing many of the boats and putting them back into action under heavy enemy mortar and sniper fire for a period of three days and two nights. Lt. Malone then volunteered for and continued to successfully perform salvage work for another forty-eight hours.

For this action, the Commander, Fifth Pacific Fleet, awarded Lt. Malone the authority to wear the Commendation Ribbon, and the following citation:

"For meritorious service as officer-in-charge of the USS Libra Salvage Party at the Northern Landing Beach, Guam, Mariana Islands, during the recapture of this island from the Japanese.

"Consistently displaying sound judgment, marked resourcefulness, and outstanding determination, Lt. (jg.) Malone rendered valuable assistance in organizing and controlling the boat waves and groups, succeeded in personally supervising in towing free a large number of stranded landing craft and effecting emergency repairs, remained under enemy mortar and sniper fire almost continuously for a period of approximately five days and four nights, thereby contributing materially to the successful landing of troops, and the maintenance of our forces in the operation. Lt. (jg.) Malone's tireless efforts and steadfast devotion to a vital task throughout this trying and hazardous period were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Born and reared in Martin County, Lt. Malone formerly taught school at Bear Grass, and was employed for quite some time in Williamston. Prior to entering the Navy, he was connected with the U. S. Employment Service in Wilson. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Malone and brother of Miss Bessie Malone, Mrs. Pete Rejuncy and Milton Malone of Williamston.

## Thunderbirds Are Sailing for Home

The 45th "Thunderbird" Division, of which Pfc. Stephen L. Grimes, of Williamston R. F. D. 3, is a member, is making preparations to sail home in the immediate future. This division has established a brilliant record as a spearhead unit in the drive to free Europe from Nazi rule.

Now at Camp St. Louis in the Normandy Sub-Area of the Assembly Area Command, it is undergoing processing for redeployment, and its members will receive 30-day furloughs in the United States after their return.

Presently commanded by Maj. Gen. Robert T. Frederick, and previously led by Maj. Gen. W. W. Eagles and Troy H. Middleton, the Thunderbird Division has fought through 511 of the most savage days of the European war, crushing powerful German defensive positions in four invasions, over more than 1,000 miles of the most difficult combat country in the world.

Men of the 45th charged ashore on D-Days in Sicily and at Salerno. They created, grimly held and finally broke out of the Anzio beachhead, and chased first-line Nazi troops out of Rome.

They hit the coast of southern France, drove the Germans up the Rhone, and finally fought into the heart of the Nazi "Southern Redoubt," overrunning Nuremberg and Munich, and, in the capture of the Dachau concentration camp, receiving a direct object lesson in the reason for their fight.

They won, among them, five Congressional Medals of Honor and more than 4,500 other individual and unit decorations for valor, and now many of them have volunteered for Pacific service.

Private First Class Grimes holds the Combat Infantryman's Badge in addition to his theater of operations ribbons and battle stars.

## No Big Change In Enrollment Figure Expected In Schools

When there were 3,286 pupils enrolled in the schools last year, the enrollment figures are expected to reflect no marked change when the schools open in the county on Thursday of this week, according to predictions offered by school officials on the eve of the new term.

A review of the vital statistics shows that the year 1939 offered no bumper crop of prospective beginners for the coming term. It is expected that the number of first-graders will be the smallest in several years. The expected decrease in that department, it is believed, will be offset by an increase in high school enrollment figures. It was pointed out that an unusually large class is moving out of the elementary department this year, that if other grades hold their own, the enrollment will about approximate its usual size.

After reaching a peak back in 1939 the enrollment has gradually declined until last term it was only 2,940-2,201 in the elementary and 739 in the high school. The war effected a decrease in the enrollment count, no doubt, and while conditions are not expected to right themselves immediately it is believed that the enrollment trend will show a gradual increase in the future.

While the enrollment in the county schools is expected to barely hold its own, Martin County is expected to send a record number of students to colleges and universities this fall. One report states that thirteen graduates are planning to enter institutions of higher learning. Bear Grass also will be well represented in the colleges, it was stated, along with other towns in the county.

## William H. Revels Tells Experiences In European War

### Found It Pretty Hot During An Air Raid While On Island of Corsica

Writing under recent date, Pfc. Wm. H. Revels, now in Belgium, recalls a few of his experiences in the European theater. His letter follows:

"First, I've enjoyed reading The Enterprise during my thirty-five months in the army. I really like to read the letters the boys write from both theaters of war. They have been very interesting and helped to keep up with your old pals. Being in an anti-aircraft unit, I haven't experienced very many of the real hardships and dangers that the doughboy has, but I've a bit myself, and I know what war is like all right.

"On June 4, 1943, I got aboard a troop transport for overseas. After four days at anchor out in Chesapeake Bay, getting the convoy in order, we set sail June 8th, and arrived in North Africa at Oran on June 28. After being there a couple of days we went out and practiced an invasion on the hot African sand that would burn your feet even through your shoes. After a few days of maneuvers, we got back on the same ship and sailed for the invasion of Sicily. We hit the beach about 4 o'clock in the morning on July 10, and that is one experience I shall never forget. We set up our guns on the beach to protect the ships from enemy aircraft. It wasn't too comfortable when German airplanes were bombing ships and strafing the beach.

"After Sicily had fallen I then got aboard ship again and sailed for Italy with the 36th Field Artillery. I followed them until after the crossing of the Volturno River and then we were relieved to go back for duty around air ports and ship docks. While in Italy I saw the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius, and I've never seen anything like that before. Also saw the city of Pompeii which the volcano destroyed when it erupted years ago. I did not get to see Rome which I am sure I would have liked. I left Italy in March, 1944 for duty on the island of Corsica which I hope I'll never see again. I'll never forget the air raid I was in there. The Germans came over one night and dropped flares that lighted the earth like day. They started bombing. They dropped large bombs and (Continued on page four)

## County People Meet Over In Honolulu

Stationed in Hawaii for some time, four Martin County people had a happy reunion in Honolulu a short time ago. T. F. Davenport and Atwood Gurganus met Mr. and Mrs. Leland Hardison and visited in the Hardison home.

Mrs. Hardison explained that while the Martin County group were enjoying the visit, news of the Japanese surrender was received.

Sgt. Davenport has been in Hawaii for several years. Gurganus has been stationed there ever since before Pearl Harbor, and "Duck" went over in February, 1942. It was the first meeting of the group.

## Sleepy Driver Runs Truck Off Roanoke River Causeway

Going to sleep at the wheel, Zeb Harrell, RFD 2, Colerain, ran his Chevrolet truck off the Roanoke River fill just this side of Conine Creek bridge Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The truck came to a stop in a small stream.

Harrell and his companion, Edsel Farley, also of Colerain, were not hurt, and very little damage was done to the truck. Patrolman W. E. Saunders and a wrecking crew worked almost four hours clearing up the wreck.

## WOUNDED



Pvt. Roland Cherry, son of Mrs. Marshall Cherry, and husband of the former Miss Motie Bell Taylor, was seriously wounded in the Pacific about five months ago.

## ROUND-UP

The first week-end following the opening of the tobacco markets saw an increase in activities on the crime front in this section. Local, county and state officers arrested and jailed eight alleged violators of various laws. Two white persons were included in the group, the ages of the eight ranging from a low 17 to 45 years.

One was charged with an assault, one with non-support, one with trespassing, two for possession of illegal liquor, one for grand larceny, one for hit-and-run driving and one for issuing a worthless check.

## Advance Unit Makes Ready for American Entry On Thursday

### Transport Planes, Carrying Communications Group Lands Last Evening

Forty-eight American transport planes carrying 150 communications specialists landed at Atsugi airfield near Tokyo last evening at 8 o'clock to make ready for the full occupation of that area, late reports stating that American forces were poised for the mass entry of Japan. The move into Japan was not without incident, a report stating that an American plane crashed in a take-off landing, killing sixteen men and damaging important equipment. A second plane was sent out, and the preliminary work for the mass invasion was not greatly interrupted or delayed.

The momentous first arrival of ground personnel, to prepare for mass arrivals two days hence, occurred as powerful fleet units, headed by the 45,000-ton battleship Missouri, rode at anchor in Sagami bay, nine miles south of Atsugi.

The advance party at Atsugi immediately set about arranging for American signals and landing provisions. (Continued on page four)

## Apply for Pardons For Two Defendants

Special petitions are being placed before the North Carolina Pardon Commissioner in Raleigh today in behalf of Herman Manning and Joe September in the Martin County Superior Court in the case charging them with aiding and abetting in an illegal operation.

Details could not be learned, but one report stated that Judge Don Gilliam who prosecuted the case against the two men, had signed the petition along with court officials and others. It was rumored however that Judge Leo Carr, who presided over the term, expressed the opinion that the two men should "pull" some time and that he would not sign a petition in their behalf.

The action being taken today is being advanced after the principal in the case growing out of the death of Beulah Brown was turned loose by a superior court jury in Wayne County.

## Ephraim Continues In Jail In Default Of \$300 Bond

Henry Ephraim, young colored man who went on a rampage in the Oak City section more than a week ago, continues in the county jail in default of \$300 bond.

Angered while attending a chicken stew, Ephraim broke into a house, borrowed a shot gun and about 30 shells and opened fire, one report stating that he struck several persons. None was badly hurt, but when the supply of shells was exhausted, Ephraim was said to have brought a knife into play and stabbed one of the guests.

He was arrested by Constable Edmond Early and placed in the county jail.

## Will S. Rhodes Dies In Hospital-Sunday

### Funeral Today For Prominent Citizen And Business Man

#### Last Rites Being Held From His Boyhood Home On Smithwick Street

William S. Rhodes, prominent Martin County citizen and well known leader in eastern North Carolina business circles, died in a Washington hospital last Sunday evening shortly before 8 o'clock. He had been in declining health for more than a year, and while his condition was considered serious the end came as a shock to relatives and his many friends throughout this section. He received hospital treatment several months ago, and was thought to be getting along very well until last Tuesday when he returned to the institution in Washington for further treatment.

The son of the late Frank and Helen Slade Rhodes he was born in Williamston on October 23, 1874. After spending his early life in Williamston where he attended the school, Mr. Rhodes went as a lad of sixteen to Hamilton to clerk for his uncle, the late T. B. Slade and attend school at the old Hamilton Academy. A few years later he formed the partnership of Slade, Rhodes and Company there, his death ending a long and successful business career. A self-educated man, he devoted his life to the firm, and at his death ranked among the top in the list of the most successful business men this country has ever produced.

Quiet mannered and held in high esteem, he lived peacefully with his fellowman, and despite his numerous business interests, he found time for other activities. He was a faithful member of the Hamilton Methodist church during the greater part of a half century, giving liberally in its support and attending its services regularly until troubled by failing health.

Mr. Rhodes, reserved and shunning the public eye, found peace and contentment in the simple and basic truths of life. His acts of kindness were many, but as he would have it they were never done for public praise. While he never aspired to office or positions of public trust, he was interested in good government and all that is good and noble.

He is survived by two brothers, Mr. Frank Rhodes of Montgomery, Alabama, and Dr. James S. Rhodes, Sr., of Williamston.

Funeral services are being conducted from his boyhood home on North Smithwick Street here this afternoon at 4 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. Thomas H. House, Robersonville minister, and Rev. B. T. Hurley, pastor of the local Methodist church. Interment will follow in the Slade family cemetery near here on the Hamilton Road.

## Nannie Lee Moore Dies In Hospital

Nannie Lee Moore, young Martin County girl, died in a Washington hospital last Friday night at 9:40 o'clock. A victim of rheumatic fever and heart trouble, Miss Moore had been in declining health for about one year. Her condition became worse last week and she was removed to the hospital for treatment.

The daughter of Mr. Herman Moore and wife, Mrs. Eleanor Bonds Moore, she was born near Williamston on January 7, 1937. She spent her life in this community and attended the local schools until she fell ill.

Besides her parents she is survived by one brother, James Edward Moore, and two sisters, Misses Velma Joyce and Hazel Mae Moore.

Funeral services were conducted at the home last Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister, interment following in the Skewarkey Cemetery, near here.

## Additions Reported To School Faculties

Several additions to county school faculties were reported this week, the action still leaving several teaching positions vacant.

Mrs. Selma Bunting has accepted the eighth grade position in the Robersonville School, and Miss Stevenson is expected to join the high school faculty there.

Professor Rawls, former science teacher in the Jamesville School, is returning there this week, it was learned.

Mrs. Selby of Engelhard has been elected sixth grade teacher in the Bear Grass School.

The faculty at Oak City was announced complete.

## SCHOOL OPENING

Martin County's white and colored schools will start the 1945-46 term Thursday morning of this week at 9 o'clock, the opening to be marked by informal programs and sessions.

The first day, scheduled to last only a short time, will be devoted to the classification of pupils. Books will be distributed the following day, and pupils are asked to bring book and instructional supply fees as follows: first and second grade, \$1; third, fourth and fifth grades, \$1.10; sixth, seventh and eighth grades, \$1.20. High school pupils are to pay a \$3 fee for books, library and science work supplies.

Bus schedules will be little changed from those in effect last year, it was explained.

All pupils are asked to be present the first day and make ready for hard and conscientious work in the schools this term.

## Price Trend Firm On Local Tobacco Market This Week

### Largest Sale of the Current Season Reported Here Monday Morning

Prices continued strong on the local tobacco market yesterday and according to reports early this morning individual sales are as high if not higher than those made last week.

Last Friday the market sold 256,860 pounds of leaf for an average of \$44.50. Opening week, consisting of four days, the market sold 992,032 pounds, lacking less than 8000 pounds of reaching the million pound mark. Yesterday's sale of 281,938, the largest sale of the season, averaged \$44.10, and boosted the total to more than one and one-quarter million pounds up until this morning.

Thousands of pounds of tobacco came into the warehouses here over the week-end and this morning both the Planters and Farmers warehouses are completely filled. Before today's sale at the Planters warehouse is finished the Roanoke-Dixie will have been filled. Monday's sale at the New Carolina has been cleared out and farmers are already making deliveries to this house.

Competitive bidding continues strong with all foreign and domestic companies participating in each sale. Competition is so keen it is left principally up to the auctioneer to allocate or distribute the baskets or piles evenly among the purchasing agents.

There was enough tobacco in town yesterday to block the market through Wednesday and every indication points to the block continuing through this week and possibly next week.

Farmers are not grading their tobacco this year after a very strict fashion, and it is apparent that they are making every effort to market the crop as rapidly as possible, some observers declaring that the crop will have been marketed in its entirety before Thanksgiving if the present pace is maintained. However, it is possible that the selling days will be limited to four each week or a holiday will be invoked if the redrying plants become blocked.

## Injured In Highway Accident Saturday

Jesse Bullock, Winterville man, was badly but not seriously injured when he was run down by a hit-and-run driver last Saturday night about 9 o'clock as he walked along on Highway 64 near Parmele. Visiting relatives in the county, Bullock, 48, suffered a broken right leg below the knee, a bad cut on the head and bruises about the body. He was removed to a Greenville hospital and was reported later to be getting along very well.

Robert Bunn, Pitt County colored man, was arrested a short time later by Patrolman W. E. Saunders and formally charged with hit-and-run and drunken driving. Bunn, claiming that he was blinded by the lights of an approaching car, admitted striking something as he drove along the highway but declared he thought it was a dog.

Allen VanLandingham, accompanied by a young soldier by the name of Murphy, saw the assault and he turned his car around and ran down and held Bunn at Parmele. At a preliminary hearing before John L. Hassell, Williamston justice of the peace, Bunn was placed under bond in the sum of \$1,000. The amount was raised and the defendant was released Monday.

## Lost 3rd Battalion Has Heroic Chapter In Division's Story

### Group Hopelessly Cut Off In The Province of Alsace Last January

(Appearing below is a story of the sad fate of the 157th Lost Battalion of the 45th Division. Captain James S. Rhodes, Williamston young man was in the 45th, and the story will be read with interest by his many friends and acquaintances, no doubt. The account was published on the second anniversary of the division in the 45th Division News, a copy of which was received here only recently.—ed.)

One of the bravest chapters in the history of the 45th was written last winter in the French province of Alsace when a battalion of Thunderbird infantry was lost—the 3rd battalion of the 157th Infantry.

A series of frontal attacks coupled with infiltrating tactics gained for the Germans positions to the rear of the battalion's rifle companies, and, by January 17, the Kraut had already set up emplacements covering the one route of withdrawal—a strategic draw.

Company I was virtually cut off from the rest of the regiment. Second Lt. Willis Talkington, Craig, Colo., En. Hq., undertook the tough job of fighting through to the surrounded company.

"I na light tank he battered his way through to the men with the desperately needed supplies—food, ammunition, radio batteries, stretchers for the wounded.

Talkington spent the night with the men. Then, as dawn came over the snow-covered plains on the morning of January 18, he boarded the tank with his crew and attempted to fight his way out again. But this time luck was against him.

The tank was hit twice by bazooka fire, the lieutenant received facial wounds, and the driver was killed. He realized the one chance of the tank's occupants was a dash for safety. He told the men to make a run for it, but they declined.

The lieutenant got through the hail of fire to safety. Nothing further has ever been heard from the tankers.

The situation became worse January 18. All attempts to supply the companies failed, but radio contact still was maintained.

The regiment organized a provisional company of Co's B, F, Hq., and Anti-Tank and together with Co. G, 179th Inf., the men attacked in an attempt to relieve pressure on the besieged riflemen. The attack failed.

The really heavy shelling began on the morning of January 19. The enemy rained in artillery and mortars in prolonged concentrations, and one count put the number of projectiles at 2,000.

Again attempts were made to rescue the battalion. Co's G of the 179th and B of the 157th attacked again. They were pinned down shortly after they left their holes and driven back. A plan to supply the trapped companies by plane was abandoned because of the very poor flying weather—sleet, rain, snow and wind.

January 20, another attempt was made to reach the men, this time by Lt. Col. Felix Sparks, CO of the 3rd battalion.

He boarded a medium tank and set out. On the way up he spotted wounded infantrymen huddling in a ditch. Despite the murderous fire he left the tank and helped the men to climb aboard. But meanwhile a barrage came down around the tank and one near-miss partly (Continued on page four)

## Seventy-Nine Tires Allotted By Board

Seventy-nine tires—twenty-four for trucks and fifty-five for passenger cars—were allotted by the Martin County War Price and Rationing board last Friday evening.

The twenty-four truck tires were issued to the following:

A. B. Ores, J. C. Ross, T. G. Griffin, H. H. Holliday, Jack Hardison, Pete Mendenhall, E. B. VanNortwick, E. C. Edmondson, Williams- ton Package Manufacturing Co., W. I. Skinner and Co., Williamston Lumber Co., W. E. Early, I. G. Keel, Gaston L. Savage, Robert Griffin.

Passenger car tires were allotted the following:

J. A. Everett, L. P. Holliday, P. B. Lilley, Joe Mizelle, W. C. Wallace, Fenner L. Hardison, B. F. Coburn, Irene McClaren, E. C. Harrison, J. W. Belflower, Jr., G. H. Martin, Milton Beach, J. G. Staton, Mack Cratt, Leroy Roberson, Hugh Roberson, James A. Bowen, R. A. Edmondson, S. H. Mobley, Marvin Leggett, N. C. Highway Patrol, Ida Roberts, Thos. L. Johnson, Daisy Marie Manning, L. H. Hux, Sallie Roberson, V. G. Taylor, T. H. Lynch, Mrs. Nora Downs, Lester L. Everett, Rosa Faye Mobley Saborn, T. J. Knight, Edgar Ballard, Henry Gabe W. H. Hardison, John A. Manning, Minnie Cochran, W. A. Ross, Marjorie Fleming Peel, Don Chance, R. B. Edmondson, Hoyt Cowan, E. C. Stevenson.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Despite increased speeds—still illegal in North Carolina—and a greater volume of traffic only one highway accident was reported in this county last week. One person was badly injured, but there was no property damage.

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.

Thirty-fourth Week			
1945	1	0	\$0
1944	0	0	00
Comparisons To Date			
1945	40	18	8750
1944	44	23	1 7850