

## NEWS OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Sgt. George L. Caddell of the Reno Airbase, who underwent a serious operation early in December, has been dismissed from the hospital and is back on duty with his medical unit, according to a letter received this week by his mother, Mrs. E. G. Wickline.

### Local Boy Wounded In Italy, May Now Be Back In Action

Edwin McDuffie, serving with our forces in Italy, was reported as wounded in action by the War Department on December 1st. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McDuffie received the notification last week, and this week they had a letter from their son written December 8th who says he will soon be back in action.

The letter reads: Dear Folks:—Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in an evacuation hospital. My leg doesn't hurt so much except when I twist it the wrong way. I am already getting tired of this cot. Will be glad when I can get back to duty. However, it will probably be Xmas or later before I am able to return. You can be sure of one thing: I am in excellent hands. Give my regards to everyone. Love, Edwin.

Staff Sgt. Hubert M. Moss of R. 1, Aberdeen is attending the Anti-aircraft Artillery School, Camp Davis.

Pfc. Milton T. Jordan is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Jordan of Timberland. Pfc. Jordan is studying veterinary medicine with an ASTP unit stationed at Alabama Poly. at Auburn, Ala. He will return there Saturday.

Lt. (jg) Robert Jones, naval engineer, and Pfc. Richard Jones, of Camp Sutton, spent the Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Jones at Sanatorium.

### Recruiting Aided Substantially By Newspapers

In a letter to this newspaper, Major James A. Wheelers, of the Army Recruiting Service, gives much credit to the newspapers for their cooperation with that service. The letter reads: Editor News-Journal—

The newspapers in North Carolina, both large and small, have contributed more than their share toward the War Effort. Regardless of shortages of materials and experienced manpower, they have managed to carry on in many instances without a safe margin of profit or personal welfare. So many times the newspaper man finds that the demands from the public are beyond his ability and means to meet. Most of them have found a way to render this service, most of which was free and netted him no financial returns.

The records of this Station indicate that for the past year your paper has given the Army column after column of publicity in connection with WAC, Aviation Cadet and general Army Recruiting. Without this cooperation and free publicity, our task would have been impossible and the Armed Services would be short of the necessary personnel to fill the special assignments so vital to the War effort.

Will you allow me to take this medium to thank you wholeheartedly for this assistance. You have gone out of your way to be nice to our recruiting teams. This job is a hard one. You have made it easy and certainly pleasant.

May the approaching Holiday Season give you a new hope and the coming New Year bring you health and the prosperity you have so well earned.

Sincerely yours,  
James A. Wheelers,  
Major, Field Artillery, Recruiting  
Officer.

### Yellow Wool Preferred.

Experiences of a torpedoing victim have caused 100,000 volunteer British knitters to turn from blue to bright yellow yarn in making wool helmets for seamen under the Merchant Navy Comforts Service program, London reports. The seaman told how vessels twice passed him as he swam in the sea after his ship had been blasted from beneath him. He said he was wearing a blue head-piece, and would have been rescued much sooner had he displayed a bright color.

### Veterinarians

The Sixth Annual Veterinary Conference will be held at State College January 25th through 28th.

## Annual Meeting Of Scouters Held At Laurel Hill

Local Men Awarded Certificates  
For Completing Training  
Courses

(By F. L. Goodman)

The Scouters in the Western District held their annual meeting in the Laurel Hill school building on Friday evening, December 15. The weather was at its worst, so only about one half of the scouters were able to attend. The home economics department of the school served a nice turkey dinner which was greatly enjoyed.

V. C. Mason, district chairman, presided at the meeting. The opening flag ceremony was directed by Jack Wooley of the Wagram troop under the direction of Field Executive Mac Gaskins.

W. R. Sutherland, chairman of the nominating committee made the following report which was accepted: chairman V. C. Mason; vice chairman, E. H. Evans; commissioner, W. C. Covington; district members, F. L. Goodman, W. N. Weaver, W. H. Hasty, W. R. Sutherland, M. D. Livingston.

Mrs. Gaskins presented the certificates of award for those who complete the scoutmaster's training class as follows: Fundamentals; V. C. Mason, Fundamentals and Scoutmasters Training Course; George Smith, Calvin Williams, Vick Snipes, L. B. Singleton, James Owen, Maynard Gentry, F. L. Goodman, W. N. Weaver, Harvey Warlick, V. R. White, Tom Cameron, E. A. Thomas, W. C. Covington, W. R. Sutherland, A. W. Edwards, M. D. Livingston, Claude Sanford and G. Y. Newton. Advance Certificates were awarded to V. R. White, Tom Cameron, F. L. Goodman, W. C. Covington, and G. Y. Newton.

Scout Executive Courtland Baker presented the challenge to enlarge the scout membership which was accepted by the district, with the hope that each troop will strive to enlist two or more scouts before the end of 1944.

Herbert Stucky from the Atlanta office was the inspirational speaker for the meeting. His address followed the introduction of the scoutmasters present by their troop committee chairman, and words of appreciation by the chairman. Mr. Stucky began his remarks with the thoughts on the work of the scoutmaster, and went on to enlarge on the importance of the scout program. He said in part: "We must keep on producing boys who are trained for life. The tendency towards evil is about ten times as strong as the tendency towards good. The scout movement is an effort to strengthen the cords of the good. Many of the permanent things in life today, began in the mind of a boy. Electricity was harnessed because a boy saw it burst a tree near him, and said that there was a power, if controlled, that would be of value. Another boy from observing echo went on to develop the phonograph."

Scoutmasters are those who are building youth for tomorrow. The scouts of yesterday are the men of today who are out there fighting for the principles they learned as scouts. Of those of being scouts. This is indeed a tribute to the work of the scoutmaster back home who gave time and effort for that boy. We must remember that the bum on the street is ready to give advice to our boys at all times, and we must have the best men of the community willing to give advice to these boys too. You should see that every boy in your community, who wants it has the opportunity offered in scouting."

One of the most impressive parts of the program was the awarding of the rank of Eagle Scout to three of the scouts in the district. In the absence of V. R. White, district advancement official, Mr. Baker conducted the ceremony. Candles were lighted by three candidates. The three scouts then renewed their pledge to scouting by repeating the Scout Oath. While kneeling, they were declared Eagle Scouts by the authority of the national council. These three scouts who were given the Eagle award are: Morris Morgan, member of Troop 20 of Laurinburg and son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Morgan, and Gene and Roger Harris, of Troop 52 of Laurel Hill, twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Harris. The Eagle badges were presented to the fathers of the respective scouts, who in turn presented them to the mothers and they pinned them upon their sons. This was a very impressive ceremony.

The moving picture, "Scouting in Citizenship" was shown which gave a history of the advancement in scouting.

Charles Seate was confined to bed with flu for several days last week. He returned to Fayetteville Thursday.

The confidence with which Americans invoke a "Happy New Year" upon one another is an inspiring testimony of the unshaken faith in a better world to come.

Few of us continue to think of the "good old days." For we know that they were not truly good old days. They were days of unrest, of economic maladjustments, of intrigue—of all the unhappy things which paved the way to war.

We know, too, that the molding of the future is in the hands of ourselves and of those peoples aligned with us in the fight for freedom. We have confidence in America and in our allies. It is the confidence born of right. It is the courage born of strength and of belief in a holy cause.

America is our own community—multiplied thousands of times. Because of that, we know that the world will be a better place in which to live, for America's voice is a strong one. It is heard to the furthest reaches of the world.

With the coming of 1944, all of us find new and deep seated reasons for an inward happiness. We know that despite our sorrows, a greater world is rising from the ashes of the old.

It is with a spirit of joy, tempered with humility, that this newspaper asks for every one of you:

## A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1944

### Gifts To Patients At Camp Mackall Give Much Joy

Red Cross Field Director Expresses  
Thanks To People Of Hoke  
County.

Miss Lavina Stokes, assistant field director of the Red Cross at Camp Mackall, wrote the following this week to Mrs. H. A. Cameron, Hoke county chapter vice-chairman and Miss Josephine Hall, chairman of the Camp and Hospital Council: "Thank you very much for the lights and the many presents that you brought us. We used the lights to decorate a big Christmas tree for the patients, and the gifts were distributed to the ambulatory patients at a party Christmas eve in our recreation hall, and to the bed patients at the parties we gave for them in the wards."

We are indeed grateful for all the lovely gifts that your chapter brought us. The patients had a much more cheerful Christmas as a result of your generosity. Please thank all the members of your chapter who were so generous with their gifts. All of them were lovely."

The Hoke County Chapter of the Red Cross was asked to contribute 150 packages. Approximately 175 were carried to Camp Mackall.

A number of people in Raeford and in the county have already had letters from soldiers who received the packages they filled. These letters also expressed very strongly the appreciation of the person receiving the gifts.

### Army Operating Railways; Steel Workers On Jobs

Roosevelt Averts Transportation  
Crisis By Taking Over Rail-  
ways; Will Arbitrate Steel  
Contract.

Strikes in two of the nation's biggest industries were averted this week when President Roosevelt beat the railroad unions to their December 30th deadline by taking over the railways in the name of the government and giving operational powers to Secretary of War Stimson, and the steel strike which was in progress was called off when the President told the operators he would assure them that any agreement reached between the mills and the workers would be retroactive to the end of their contracts which expired at midnight Christmas Eve.

Late yesterday James Byrnes, war mobilization director, announced that the last three of the 20 railroad unions had capitulated and called off their strikes which had been approved by a mail vote some weeks ago.

Complaints of both the rail and steel workers will be arbitrated, it is now stated. The rail workers will not strike, and striking steel workers have practically all returned to their jobs.

### County Court Has Second Light Docket In A Row

The folk of Hoke county were most unusually law-abiding this Christmas holiday, according to Sheriff Hodgkin and local police. Last week only three defendants faced Judge Henry McDiarmid, and this week only six were called. Two cases were for speeding and each of the defendants, Floyd E. Green and Marsal Sowell, forfeited bonds posted. Another was for having improper brakes, and Dannie Hugh McLaurin paid costs for this offense.

Willis Uriah Lewis, truck driver of Lewiston, Fla., was pleaded guilty of careless and reckless driving by his attorney, and paid costs. This accident happened two weeks ago when the truck Lewis was driving overturned as it entered Main Street from Laurinburg, and spilled some twenty crates of oranges. A service station sign of the Auto Inn was knocked down, and the most of the oranges of those 20 crates were picked up by interested onlookers.

Leroy Stanley was the only holiday drunk. He paid costs. Jet Smith and Vic Morrison paid costs each for having some holiday liquor of the non-tax-paid variety.

### Dead Flyers Sighted.

The town council of Holyhead, Northern Ireland, was stirred to indignation when it learned that two coffins containing the bodies of R. A. F. men which were being sent to Eire were allowed to stand uncovered on the Holyhead railway platform from Saturday to Monday. A member declared that the War Office was to blame, as the bodies could have been sent away on a boat which sailed on Sunday. The council sent a protest to the War Office and the Air Ministry.

### Signs Termed Jokes.

"No smokes" signs in Melbourne, Australia, tobacco stores are jokes, observers claim. The signs hold good if a customer merely asks for cigarettes, but if to a request for some other product is added a whispered plea for "a package of smokes," the desired tobacco usually appears.

### This Regiment Is Tops.

Distinction of having won the highest number of awards given an Indian regiment since the war began is held by the Sixth Rajputana Rifles. Its members have won 107 awards for gallantry, including two Victoria Crosses, according to word from New Delhi, India. The regiment recently received the personal congratulations of General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

### Customs Graft Halted.

Customs officials who have been charging high fees for services the law says shall be free face an era of stricter vigilance on the borders and ports of entry of Mexico. The Minister of Finance stated in Mexico City that the extortion was shifted to consumers in the form of higher prices for what they bought and that the government's action would tend to curb soaring living costs.

### New Officers Of Masonic Lodge Installed Tuesday

Edgar Hall Is Master Of Ceremonies  
For Impressive Exercises;  
E. E. Smith New Master.

Edwin E. Smith was installed as master of the Raeford Masonic Lodge Tuesday evening to succeed T. B. Potter in an impressive ceremony conducted by Pastmaster Edgar Hall. Mr. Hall also installed other officers of the lodge which include: Ralph H. Chapman, senior warden; J. E. Gullledge, junior warden; D. H. Hodgkin, treasurer; Lucy F. Clark, secretary; C. P. Kinlaw, and D. B. Gillis, deacons; J. W. Mangum, tiler; M. C. Dew and B. B. Cole, stewards, and Jason Barnes, marshal.

Committees appointed and inducted into office were: charity committee: E. E. Smith, R. H. Chapman, and J. E. Gullledge; finance committee M. C. Dew, N. A. McDonald, M. R. Smith; Orphans committee, W. P. Baker, Ryan McBryde, L. S. McMillan; Relief committee, T. E. Potter, J. M. Andrews and I. Mann. Reference Committee G. W. Cox, J. E. Harvey and Edgar Hall.

### Will Clean Tobacco Seed For Farmers

County Agent A. S. Knowles announces that he will clean tobacco seed for farmers at his office in the County Building. He also states that he will be in Little River township at a point to be designated later, on January 14th for the purpose of cleaning tobacco seed. Mr. Knowles explained that while tobacco may be planted here as late as the last of February best results are obtained in the eastern section of Hoke by planting not later than the 21st of January, while beds should be seeded in Sandhills not later than January 30th.

### Hoke County Cotton Report

Census report of J. R. Shaw, special agent shows that 13701 bales of cotton were ginned in Hoke county from the crop of 1943 prior to Dec. 13th, as compared with 13459 bales for the crop of 1942.

J. R. Shaw, Special Agent.

### Murder Custom Halted.

Four young natives of Senegal, South Africa, were whipped by order of the court for causing the death of an old woman who approached their school, although they acted according to custom trespassers may be killed if they do not go away as soon as they become aware of the presence of such a school.

"Is that parrot your neighbor has a smart bird?"  
"Smart — well, I should say so. The other day I went up to him and said: 'Hello! Hello!' He opened one eye and drowsily answered: 'Line busy!'"

### W. L. Alexander Is Painfully Injured As Car Overturns

Baby Uninjured; Icy Christmas  
Morning Brings Injuries To  
Several Others.

W. L. Alexander, popular manager of the local A. and P. store, was painfully injured Christmas morning when his car overturned after skidding on an icy grade about a mile out on the Laurinburg road.

Mr. Alexander received a severe bruise on the head and was unconscious for a number of hours. He also received a painful injury to muscles of his back. He was taken to a Fayetteville hospital where he received treatment through Tuesday and is now at his home here.

Seaman William Alexander, U. S. Navy, was with his father at the time and has several broken ribs. A granddaughter, 18 months old Johnnie Maultsby, riding between them was uninjured.

Mr. Alexander was going out to Edinburg to get his cook when the car skidded on ice that covered the highway along a slight grade when the accident happened.

Pastmaster Lacy Clark took a tumble down the steps at the Upchurch home and cracked several ribs. Arch K. Currie is also walk with a cane since Christmas morning having fallen to the icy concrete walk at his home.

### Communion Service At Presbyterian Church Sunday

At the 11 o'clock service at the Presbyterian Church Sunday morning the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed. All the members of the Church and others who desire to attend this Communion service are invited and urged to attend.

The regular Sunday evening service will be at 7:30 o'clock. The pastor of the Church will speak at both services.

### Fred Johnson Has Operation At Moore County Hospital

Fred Johnson, Federal gin inspector who was taken ill last week at Kings Mountain, underwent an operation for acute attack of appendicitis at Moore County hospital on the 21st.

He is reported to be improving rapidly and expects to be dismissed from that institution the last of this week.

### Navy Nurse Will Speak At F. M. C. On January 5th

Miss Pauline Savage, member of the Navy Nurse Corps, will speak at Flora Macdonald College in Red Springs on Wednesday, January 5th.

Miss Savage represents the National Nursing Council for War Service and the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps—the new government plan, which, under the U. S. Public Health Service, offers a free professional education to qualified students. Her visit is part of a nation-wide endeavor to recruit 65,000 student nurses this year for war time replacements, caused by acute needs of the Army, Navy, and civilian health agencies, and also to interest college women in preparation for post-war careers.

The latest information on the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps will be presented by Miss Savage, who has recently conferred with Miss Lucile Petry, its director, and other national authorities. Recruits in the Corps receive free tuition, free maintenance, distinctive gray and scarlet street uniforms, and a monthly stipend during their entire period of training in accredited schools of nursing. In return they promise to remain active in essential military or civilian nursing for the duration of the war.

### Absenteeism Bad At Edinburg Since Christmas

It was reported here yesterday by an official of the Edinburg Cotton Mills that production at the mills had been greatly reduced since Christmas by absenteeism. Though some workers were kept away by severe colds and flu, it was believed that a large part of those absent were staying away deliberately and extending the holiday to their own personal satisfaction.