

The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1968

Willis Makes Major

Newton Promoted To Battalion Commander



LT. COL. NEWTON

Edwin D. Newton, a National Guardsman with almost 30 years Guard and Army service, was promoted to lieutenant colonel and appointed commanding officer of the Second Battalion, 252d Armor, last Thursday, December 12, on orders of the Adjutant General of North Carolina. As major, Newton had been the battalion's executive officer.

On the same day William E. Willis, who as captain had been the battalion's adjutant, was promoted to major and appointed battalion operations officer.

Col. Newton succeeds Lt. Col. Paul Dickson as commander of the battalion which has its headquarters here and units in Raeford, Red Springs, Lumberton, Laurinburg, Sanford and Southern Pines. Strength is over 500 officers and enlisted men.

Newton enlisted in Co. L, 120th Infantry in Parkton, in January, 1936. In May of 1938 he joined Battery F, 252d Coast Artillery, in Raeford, and went to Federal service with Battery F, in September of 1940. He served overseas in the West Indies and the European theatre as a first sergeant of combat

engineers and was separated in June of 1945 with four campaign stars and five overseas bars.

Lt. Col. Newton rejoined the National Guard in May of 1948 as a second lieutenant in the unit here, which was then Battery A, 130th anti-aircraft battalion. He succeeded to command of this unit in 1950 and later commanded it as a tank company. He was promoted to major in 1962 and served as battalion operations officer before becoming executive officer. He attended the Armor School at Fort Knox, Ky., and is a graduate of the Armor Officer Advanced Course by extension.

A farmer and builder of Seventy First Township, Cumberland County, Col. Newton is also a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Raeford.

Willis Is 31-Year Man

Major Willis succeeds Major William J. Wilson of Pinehurst as battalion operations officer, as Wilson succeeds Newton as battalion executive. Entering the National Guard in Headquarters Battery and Combat



MAJOR WILLIS

Train, First Battalion, 252d Coast Artillery, here in April of 1937, his National Guard and Army service has been continuous since, and includes over twelve years active Army service.

Entering Federal service with the 252d in September 1940, Willis served as a first sergeant in the West Indies and later as a first sergeant of field artillery in the Asiatic-Pacific theatre of World War II. He wears a bronze arrowhead for a combat assault landing, two campaign stars, and five overseas bars.

After the war, Major Willis remained in the Army for several years, serving in several assignments in this country and Europe, including a tour here as sergeant advisor to the National Guard. He left the Army as a lieutenant in 1952 and joined the local battalion in 1953. His assignments have included adjutant, battery commander, communications officer and others, and he has been on a full time basis with the local unit since April of 1961 as staff administrative assistant to the battalion commander with assignment as adjutant.

Major Willis is a graduate of the field

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Funds Needed For Christmas Street Decorations

Whether the town merchants own the Christmas street decorations and can keep them for use year after year or whether they pay half as much as they are worth and still are required to return them and pay the same price to use them another year, will be decided this week, according to Frank Teal, Chamber of Commerce chairman of the project.

The decision will be determined by the results from contributions made between now and the Friday deadline when a color TV set is to be given away at the Chamber office. Every person who makes a contribution toward the decorations will have a chance to own the color set whether he or she is a merchant or not.

All contributions must be in by Friday, Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. when the recipient will

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Near Old Ashemont School

Three Killed Tuesday In Quewhiffle Collision



THREE DIED - Two Southern Pines men died in this car. One was burned beyond recognition when the vehicle burst into flames.

Two men were killed on the scene and one died as a result of a highway accident in the Ashemont section, Tuesday at 1:10 p. m.

Lexie Odell McCrimmon of Southern Pines was burned beyond recognition as the car burst into flames. Arthur Hale also of Southern Pines, with whom McCrimmon was riding, was pulled from the burning car but also died on the scene.

Wade Paschal, a merchant from Robbins, died shortly after reaching Moore Memorial Hospital. He was thrown from his car.

This is the 14th fatality in Hoke County this year and the seventh fatal accident on Highway 211.

State Trooper E.W. Coen, investigating officer, said that Tuesday's accident occurred when the Hale car came through a stop sign from "Chicken Road" and was struck by the Paschal car which was headed north on Highway 211. The collision took place within a mile of the last Hoke County fatality on Nov. 14 when Lester Frank Thomas of High Point died as result of an accident near McCam Sanatorium.

Coen said that Paschal was thought to have been on a business trip. On his person was \$1,200. Arthur Hale of Southern Pines was a retired fireman of Pope Air Force Base.

Paschal was thrown from his car. The patrolman said that an ambulance en route to Chapel Hill came just after the wreck occurred and took Paschal to the hospital. Dr. C.C. Dawoport of Southern Pines happened on the scene and rendered assistance. Coroner Frank Crumpler of Raeford was also on the scene.

Since both men in the Hale car were killed, Coen said he was at work well into the night before identification of the burned man could be obtained.

Closing Dates Given For Local Business Firms

Next Tuesday night at 8 p.m. what is termed by merchants as a good Christmas shopping season, will end.

A spot check with managers of various mercantile firms revealed that the business has been as good if not better than in recent years and that Christmas shoppers seemed to have gone about their business earlier than ever before.

After remaining open until 8 p.m. nightly the balance of this week and next week through Dec. 24, most businesses in Raeford will be closed on Christmas Day and the day after.

Town Hall will close Christmas Eve Day at noon after refreshments are served to employees and a few callers and gifts are exchanged.

Raeford doctors will close offices at noon on Dec. 24 and remain closed through Christmas Day. Drug stores had not made a decision at press time.

Most garages will be closed Dec. 25 and 26.

The post office will be closed on Christmas Day, only. The Welfare Department, Civil Defense office and the Library will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as will the Agricultural Extension officers.

Local banks will be closed Christmas Day and the day after.

McRae Kidnapping Case Sent To Federal Court

William Henry McRae of Raeford Rt. 2, charged with the felonious charge of kidnapping will be tried in Rockingham by a federal judge on an unannounced date.

The case of McRae, charged with kidnapping Robert Harrell, 17-year-old Raeford boy, which was brought before Judge Joe Dupree in Hoke County District Court last week, was abated since the defendant had been indicted in Federal Court on the same charge.

Harrell said he was using a pay telephone booth at the bus station early on the night of Nov. 4, and the door was shoved open and a strange man flashed a gun and ordered him to get into the Harrell car and drive him from town to town until they had reached Latta, S.C. Here, it was alleged, the Negro snatched the keys from the ignition and ran, leaving the boy unharmed but without transportation.

Other cases in Magistrate's and District Court were adjudged as follows:

Dorothy Atkinson, Raeford, worthless check, restitution of \$15 check and costs.
Howard L. Smith, Fayetteville, worthless check, restitution of \$17 check and costs.

James Walter Bratcher, Raeford, worthless check, restitution of \$5 and costs.

Floyd L. Virgil, Raeford, RFD, non support, six months, suspended for five years on payment of \$50 a month for his child.

Zack Locklear, Raeford Rt. 2, affray, 30 days.

John Leonard Byrd, Aberdeen, no operators license, 30 days, suspended on payment of \$10 and costs.

William George Winborne, Shannon, driving under the influence, 60 days or \$50 and costs.

Willie E. Kelly, Raeford, assault with deadly weapon. The court charged the prosecuting witness (Mrs. Kelly) with frivolous and malicious prosecution, and taxed her with costs of court.

King David Williams, Raeford Rt. 3, driving under the influence and reckless driving. Not guilty of second charge; 60 days or \$50 and costs.

George Dees Jr., Fayetteville, simple assault, prayer for judgment continued for two years, costs.

David Wright, Raeford, abandonment and non support. Must pay \$35 a month for support of pregnant wife.

David Cornelius Quick, Raeford Rt. 1, driving under the influence, not guilty, reckless driving, guilty; 60 days suspended for one year provided the defendant violate no traffic laws for a period of one year. Must not drive for 60 days, fine \$100 and costs.

Charles Harold Barker, Fayetteville, driving under the influence, 60 days suspended for one year. Must drive no more for one year; \$100 and costs.

Walter Carthens, Red Springs Rt. 1, drunk in a public place, and interfering with an officer, 60 days suspended on payment of \$25 and costs.

Vera D. West, Raeford, worthless check, nol pros.

Juanita Brooks Clark, Shannon Rt. 1, assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, nol pros.

Billy McVicker, Raeford, assault, nol pros.

Helen Locklear, Raeford Rt. 2, no operators license, nol pros.

Roger Whitfield Dixon Jr., Raeford, hit and run (property only) nol pros with leave.

Willie Jake Cogdell, Hope Mills, Rt. 1, driving on wrong side, nol pros.
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News-Journal To Publish Early For Christmas

In order to get the paper out and to its readers before Christmas, the News-Journal will be printed on Monday, next week.

The cooperation of advertisers and other clients is requested.

Ads should be in by Saturday at 5 p.m. Socials should be in by 9 a.m. Monday and all correspondents are asked to have

copy in by Saturday noon.

Announcements should be in as early Saturday afternoon as possible.

Personnel of the News-Journal will work over the weekend in order to get the paper out early and will then close at noon Christmas eve day and re-open on the following Monday morning.

Hoke Marine Helps As

Disastrous Fire Averted In Germany

A Hoke County man was one of a quartet of Marines who are credited with averting a disaster in Grafenwohr, Germany recently.

It was reported that a disastrous fire and possible explosion in a training area ammunition dump was averted here last week as S. Sgt. James P. Knott, husband of Deloria McKenzie Knott, of the Dundarrach Community, and three others in the Marine Division artillerymen braved the flames to remove powder containers and projectiles.

A loaded M-548 ammunition carrier belonging to the division's 3d Bn., 76th Arty, caught fire early in the morning of Nov. 16, as its crew was preparing to leave the ammo dump for a battery ATT.

As the crew evacuated the vehicle, Sgt. Arnold A. Henry, Service Btry, jumped into the explosives-filled cargo compartment to determine the extent of the fire.

As others put out the alarm over the battalion radio net, Henry assisted by Cpl. Howard

Hill, B Btry, began using carbon dioxide fire extinguishers to beat back the flames.

Wooden paneling and packing material surrounding 36 high explosive (HE) 8-inch howitzer projectiles and an equal number of powder canisters were by now on fire. The chemical extinguisher wouldn't dampen the blaze and a bucket brigade had to be formed of all available personnel.

S. Sgt. Knott, C. Btry; 1st Lt. Dennis W. Jahngien, A.

Btry CO; and M. Sgt. Robert J. Muir, A Btry; First Sergeant, had by this time heard the alarm and dashed to the scene of the fire.

Realizing that the ammunition could start a chain reaction explosion throughout the ammo dump, Knott, Jahngien and Muir jumped into the vehicle with Hill and Henry to remove the explosive material. Paper packing around several of the warheads was beginning to smoulder as they grabbed the ammo and pitched it out of reach of the flames.

"We started hollering for water and throwing the powder canisters out of the vehicle," said Knott. "One canister had burst and the paper inside was starting to burn."

"I was in two ammo fires before when I was in Vietnam," continued Knott. "I knew the projectiles would give a warning before they blew." The TNT starts to melt from the heat and the shell casing cracks before it ever explodes. But if we had missed one the entire ammo dump could've gone."

Jahngien remembers: "We just clucked the powder out before it could explode and started pouring water on everything. Didn't think about the danger at the time. We saw the fire and realized the danger to the entire area if it blew."

"Things were happening so fast we didn't have time to worry about anything," said Sgt. Muir. "There was a lot of smoke; we couldn't see much inside the vehicle."

Because of the urgency of the operation, no one knew
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S. SGT. KNOTT