

GATES COUNTY INDEX

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(One Week Nearer Victory)

16 Pages This Week

Before Invasion of Southern France



Lieut. Gen. Jacob L. Devers (left), deputy supreme commander of the Allied forces in the Mediterranean theater, and leader of the invasion of southern France, confers with Lieut. Gen. B. P. Somervell, commanding general, Army Service Forces, and Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson.

Daniel C. Jones Is Killed In France

Gates.—The death of Pfc. Daniel C. Jones, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude B. Jones Gates, has been announced in a telegram from the War Department, which stated that he was killed in action in France on July 2.

Private Jones volunteered for the regular Army in the fall of 1939 and was attached to the Coast Artillery at Fort Monroe, Va., until June, 1943, "when, in order to see action," reports said, he left the Coast Artillery and joined the Infantry. With the Infantry he was at Ft. McClellan, Ala., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Shelby, Mo., and Camp Breckinridge, Ky.

In May of this year he went to England with his company. The last letter to his parents was written on June 25, but at that time he did not say he was in action.

He is survived by his parents, his wife, Mrs. Margaret L. Jones of Cleveland, Ohio; two brothers, W. Herbert Jones of Norfolk, and S/Sgt. Woodrow W. Jones of the Army, now in England; six sisters, Mrs. C. J. Everson of Norfolk, Mrs. M. W. Davidson of Washington, N. C.,

(Continued on Page 3)

Pvt. Sparkman Killed

Gates.—Pvt. George D. Sparkman, Jr., Negro, of Gates, was killed in action in Italy on March 10, according to news which has just reached his father, George D. Sparkman.

Pvt. Sparkman was inducted into the Army in June, 1942, and served in a quartermaster battalion. He farmed near Gates before entering the service.

Liniger Promoted

Harry Liniger, now in England, has been promoted to sergeant, according to information contained in a letter to his sister, Mrs. Wesley Parker of Gatesville.

Tobacco Grading Demonstrations Slated Thursday

Two tobacco grading demonstrations for the benefit of Gates county's 75 or 80 growers will be held Thursday, August 24. Walter L. Bradsher, marketing and grading specialist who was here last year, will give the demonstrations. John Artz, county agent, considers it worthwhile for all growers to be present.

The first demonstration will be staged at 10 a. m. on the farm of W. P. Lowe in Reynoldson township, and the second on the B. O. Whitehurst farm near Hazelton at 2:30 p. m. All tobacco growers, both white and colored, are invited to attend.

Artz estimated there are about 300 acres of tobacco in the county this year. Approximately 100 farmers had allotments, but some were so small, they did not plant them.

Baines' 60-Pound Melon Wins First Place in Contest

C. M. Baines of Gatesville, was grand winner in the Gates County Index's biggest melon contest which closed Saturday. His entry, weighing 60 pounds, held first place from the time it was submitted.

Mr. Baines won a three-year subscription to the Index, while H. D. Boyce of Hobbsville, took second place with a watermelon weighing 54 1/4 pounds. He was awarded a two-year subscription to the Index.

C. M. Perry of Gatesville, and J. C. Copeland of Sunbury, tied for third place with entries weighing exactly 53 pounds. Both won one-year subscriptions to the Index.

Besides the four winners, melons were submitted by D. C. Eure of Eure, H. V. Beaman, Jr., of Gatesville, and W. R. Rascoe of Gatesville.

Godwin Transferred New York to Norfolk

A. Pilston Godwin, Jr., member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has been transferred from New York to Norfolk. Mrs. Godwin and their son, A. P. Godwin, III, who have been living in New York, will now live at their home in Gatesville. She was formerly Miss Mildred Vann of Ahsokie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Vann.

Interested Now In the Navy's Health, Captain Ralph H. Hofler "Some Day" Will Retire to Farm Near Gatesville

Washington.—If you want to know anything about the general health of the U. S. Navy, a native of North Carolina, Capt. Ralph H. Hofler, U. S. N. (Retired), would be a good man to see. He is on active duty as director of the big Navy dispensary at Arlington Annex, home of the Bureau of Naval Personnel on the Virginia side of the Potomac River overlooking the Army's Pentagon Building.

Captain Hofler, an affable fellow with a broad Eastern Carolina accent, is 55 years old, but he doesn't look it, possibly due to his blond hair and complexion. He was promoted to captain on Independence Day this year, making the highest rank he has yet attained something of a Fourth of July gift from Uncle Sam.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hofler of Gatesville, he took his pre-med work at the University of North Carolina and received his M.D. degree from the University of Maryland on June 6, 1925. Two days later, he entered the Navy as a medical officer, and the Navy's health has been his major professional interest ever since.



Capt. Ralph H. Hofler

Been "Everywhere"

Captain Hofler has been stationed several times at the Navy Hospital in Portsmouth, Va. His sea duty has included service on the battleship Arkansas, the destroyer McFarland and the

4 Bears Taken Near River in 4-Hour Hunt

Bears raided Mills Eure's corn field on the Sandbanks near the basin of the Chowan River Friday night, and by sun-up Saturday about 30 bear hunters from Gates, Chowan and Perquimans counties had gathered to stage a hunt that ended four hours later when four bears had been killed and the hunters began to divide approximately 800 pounds of bear meat.

C. M. Baines, who participated in the hunt along with Woodrow White, Willard Turner, E. R. Temple, John D. Baines, Henry Powell and many others from Gates and adjoining counties, said that no one suffered a scratch in the hunt and that none of the 18 dogs involved were injured. He said that even after the four bears had been killed, Mills Eure reported Monday that he had found the tracks of five more bears that morning. A hunt staged Thursday morning between Eure's home and the river ended shortly before noon without success.

The bag of game consisted of a big male black bear, two smaller females, and a young bear weighing about 60 to 70 pounds.

Considerable damage and loss had been brought to the corn-

(Continued on Page 13)

Fifth Bear Killed Within Four Days

Hunters killed another bear, weighing from 225 to 235 pounds, Tuesday morning, near the basin of the Chowan River, where four others were killed Saturday morning.

Hunters believe that recent fires in the Dismal Swamp have driven them down to Gates county, since the big black bears have not been seen in large numbers in recent years.

Daughter and Son Help With HomeCanning

By JOHN ARTZ

Gates.—In every farm home some kind of canning has been or is going on these days. Our good women on the home front, are helping win the war by preserving, pickling and otherwise conserving fruits and vegetables.

One typical example of how seriously home makers have taken to canning is shown in the A. M. (Mott) Eure home near Gates. Mrs. Eure and her 11-year-old daughter, Ann, with some assistance from Harry, a high-school-age son, have put up so far 356 quarts of fruits and vegetables, all of which were produced on their farm. Here's

(Continued on Page 3)

Injured, Rountree Escaped Death At St. Lo in France

Gatesville.—His parents have heard further from Pfc. S. R. Rountree, who was reported wounded in France last week. A more recent letter reveals that he was injured by a shell-burst overhead.

He wrote: "First of all, an 88 mm shell burst over my head and a piece of shrapnel hit my wrist and nearly cut it half in two. At the same time, the impact broke both bones above the wrist."

"It happened at St. Lo," Pvt. Rountree wrote from "safe in England," "when we were counter-attacked. I was lucky enough to get first aid and be moved from where I was struck, when another shell hit the same spot. I was only about four yards away and the concussion hurt my leg badly, but nothing serious."

"I am getting along very well and having the best of care," his letter ended.

Pvt. Rountree is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Rountree of Gatesville.

Joseph T. Pierce Assigned to Night Fighters in Italy

Sunbury.—Pvt. Joseph T. Pierce, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pierce of Sunbury, was recently assigned to a night fighter squadron serving in Italy, according to information passed by censor.

His squadron is part of the 12th fighter Command, the AAF component of Mediterranean Allied Coast Air Force. It is engaged in the protection of Allied convoys, shipping and the interception and destruction of enemy aircraft, installations and shipping in Italy.

Private Pierce was a sales clerk at Hill Brothers, Sunbury, before entering the service.

(Continued on page 13)