

GATES COUNTY INDEX

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12 Pages This Week

Philip Matthews Graduates From Gunnery School

Harlingen Army Air Field, Texas.—Cpl. Philip R. Matthews, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Matthews of Gates, N. C., was one of 78 enlisted men and 24 officers graduated recently as a member of the fifth class in B-29 gunnery at this field.

After receiving further training at a B-29 operational training base, Cpl. Matthews will become a member of a combat crew destined to strike at the heart of Japan. History is now being written by the Army Air Force as it blasts Tokyo and other Jap military installations.

The six weeks gunnery course at Harlingen is designed to make the student proficient in the use of the gunnery system now installed in the Superfortress. This training was made possible through the combined efforts of technical men and combat returnees of the AAF from every theatre of operation.

Hofler Discharged On Point System

Gatesville. — After more than four years in the Army, two and a half years of which was spent overseas, Chief Warrant Officer R. H. Hofler has been honorably discharged under the point system of separation.

Son of Mrs. J. L. Hofler of Gatesville and the late Mr. Hofler, he is in Washington this week on business. Prior to entering the service, he was engaged in banking in Bethel.

Baseball Inflicts Injury to Eye

Gatesville.—Aaron Lilley, Jr., 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Lilley of Gatesville, suffered a painful eye injury when he was struck by a baseball Monday morning.

He was given medical attention by Dr. T. L. Carter and was still confined to his bed Wednesday afternoon.



PROMOTED. Robert Alton Matthews, USNR, above, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Matthews of Gates, has recently been promoted to Chief Petty Officer. In the South Pacific since February, Matthews is now in the Philippines. A former employe of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Corporation, he entered the Navy in April, 1942.



GATES COAST GUARDSMAN IN IHEYA SHIMA ASSAULT.—Coast Guardsman Aubrey E. Harrell, Seaman first class, of Gates, veteran of action during the invasions of Okinawa and Iwo Jima, is shown at his battle station aboard a Coast Guard manned LST which recently took part in the assault and capture of Iheya Shima, the latest Jap island to be taken by American forces. Harrell previously served on Coastal Patrol duty in the Atlantic for 19 months.

Distinguished Flying Cross Awarded Major Cowper For Attack On Jap-Held Airfield

Headquarters, 13th AAF, Philippines.—Major William R. Cowper, Jr., of Gatesville, commanding officer of the White Knights squadron of Brigadier General Earl W. Barnes' 13th AAF Fighter Command, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his daring accomplishments while leading his P-38 Lightnings in the first fighter sweep over Jap-held Jesselton Airdrome.

Home on leave, Major Cowper did not know the DFC had been awarded until the Index advertisement.

See MAJ. COWPER, Page 3

Health Unit Has Supply Whooping Cough Vaccine

Gatesville.—The district health department has received a new supply of whooping cough vaccine. Due to the great demand all over the state for this vaccine the State Laboratory of Hygiene was unable to supply it in sufficient quantities. "However, we are ready to continue our immunization program against whooping cough," said Mrs. Elizabeth H. Crouse, public health nurse for Gates County.

The new law requires that all babies under one year have the vaccination and that children entering school must have had either the disease or the immunization, she added.

This vaccination and any of the others desired will be given at the Gatesville health department office any Wednesday, Friday or Saturday morning and any Friday afternoon at the Sunbury clinic (located back of Hill Brothers store) at 2:00 p. m., Mrs. Crouse said.



DECORATED.—Major William R. Cowper, Jr., of Gatesville, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for the first fighter sweep over Jap-held airdrome in North Borneo.

Rufus Twine, 88, Buried Saturday

Hobbsville.—Funeral services for Rufus Twine, age 88, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Bettie Hobbs, were conducted Saturday afternoon at the home by the Rev. Ira T. Harrell. Burial was in the family cemetery.

He is survived by one son, Dempsey Twine of Belenass; and one daughter, Mrs. Bettie Hobbs of Hobbsville.

Three grandchildren and two great grandchildren also survive. Friends of the family were active and honorary pallbearers.

Sportsmen Looking To Hunting Season; Barnes Cites Laws

Three from Area Flown in From Europe Theatre

Miami, Fla.—Men from Eure, Merry Hill and Seaboard, in the Roanoke - Chowan section of North Carolina, were among 323 battle-tested veterans landed at Air Transport Command's Army Air Field today in a period of two hours.

Flown here trans-ocean in ATC planes, they were scheduled to spend less than 24 hours at this ATC Caribbean Division hub before proceeding by rail to Camp Blanding, Fla. Then will come the big step nearer home—to a reception center where they will be separated from the service or given furloughs prior to reassignment.

The Roanoke-Chowan veterans flown here included:

T-5 Joseph L. Eure, engineers, after 33 months in the European theatre concluded in Czechoslovakia. He has eight

T-5 John to Harrell of Merry Hill, engineers, 33 months overseas service concluded also in Czechoslovakia. He also has eight battle stars.

T-5 John C. Collier of Seaboard, engineers, several months overseas service ended in Germany. He, too, holds eight battle stars.

Some will be honorably discharged from the service. Some will be assigned to new war theatres and some will be given stations here in the United States.

Stallings Awarded Bronze Star For Heroism Overseas

Hobbsville. — Sgt. Wendell L. Stallings has been awarded the Bronze star Medal for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy in Germany, February 26, 1945.

The tank of which he was a crew member was struck by anti-tank fire. It was backed behind a building for protection until information could be obtained to fire on the enemy gun. Disregarding his own safety, Sgt. Stallings dismounted from the tank although the area was being shelled, and from a vantage point provided information that enabled his tank to knock out the enemy position.

"The superior performance of duty, conspicuous courage and exemplary action displayed by Sgt. Stallings reflect high credit upon himself and are in accordance with the finest tradition of military service," the citation said.

Sgt. Stallings has also been awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded April 14, 1945, while in action in Germany. He is the husband of Mrs. W. L. Stallings of Louisville, Ky., and son of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Stallings of Hobbsville.

Corapeake.—Despite the continued shortage of gun shells and other ammunition, Gates county sportsmen are eagerly looking forward to the opening of the hunting and trapping season in October.

But County Game Protector D. E. Barnes of Corapeake warns that no hunting is permitted on Sundays, that it is unlawful to buy or sell quail and that it is unlawful to take doe deer.

Mr. Barnes calls attention to other details of the game laws as they apply to Gates county: deer may not be hunted between sunset and sunrise with the aid of artificial light. Foxes may be taken with gun only.

In all cases of conviction under the law, the person convicted must give up his hunting license.

The game protector specified open seasons and bag limits on game in which Gates county sportsmen might be interested:

Bear, Oct. 1 to Jan. 1, day limit, 2, season limits, 2; male deer, Oct. 1 to Jan. 1, bag limit, day 1, season 3.

Opposum and raccoon with gun, Oct. 15 to Feb. 15, no limit; opossum, raccoon, mink and muskrat (trapping), Dec. 1 to Feb. 15, no limit.

Foxes may be taken with guns only during the open season on other game animals.

Otter, Jan. 1 to Jan. 15; quail, Nov. 22 to Jan. 31, day limit 10; season limit 150; rabbit, no limit, from Nov. 22 to Jan. 31.

Squirrel, Oct. 1 to Jan. 1, day limit 10, no season limit. Turkey, Nov. 22 to Jan. 31, season limit 1.

Any person who takes or attempts to take deer between sunset and sunrise with the aid of a spotlight or other artificial light on any highway or in any field, woodland, or forest in violation of the North Carolina game laws is subject to a fine or not less than \$100.00 or imprisonment of not less than 60 days or both, such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

Cost of county license is \$1.10; state license is \$3.10, and non resident license \$15.75.



SILVER STAR. For courage and disregard of personal safety, Sgt. Lloyd A. Stallings, above, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stallings of Belvidere, and sister of Mrs. F. G. Wiggins of Hobbsville, has been awarded the Silver Star.