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## German U-Boats Waged War Off Hatteras In 1942

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

During World War Two Stanley E. Green crossed the Atlantic eight

times on destroyer escort duty with the Coast Guard.

Numerous times during these voyages Green saw battle action. But his first experience with war

didn't come at sea. It came earlier — off the outer banks of North Carolina.

Green, of Boiling Springs, told the Kings Mountain Rotary Club Thurs-

day something of that experience, which was totally unknown by the rest of America in 1942 and is even today not too widely known.

"Radio news broadcasts in 1942

might tell the public that ships had reportedly been destroyed off the coast of America," Green said. "But never that those ships were sunk by German submarines right off Cape Hatteras."

In fact, Hatteras is the closest enemy ships ever got to America during the early years of American involvement in World War Two.

"Through January, February and March and into April, 1942, 50 ships were torpedoed and sunk off the North Carolina coast by German U-Boats," Green said. "And even more amazing is the fact that during that time not one enemy sub was touched or destroyed."

Green said the airplanes were too busy involved elsewhere, but added, "Once they were sent to the coast it wasn't long before that German threat ended."

January 1942 was the beginning of the last semester Green would serve as principal and teacher to the school children of Avon near Cape Hatteras. Graduating from UNC at Chapel Hill in 1930, Green was hired to serve as both principal and teacher for the community of 700 people. He held the job for 12 years.

"I think it is safe to say that the school children of Avon were the only American children who actually witnessed first hand part of World War Two fought," Green said.

From where the old school building sat the students could look out the window and see the ships and sea and see the explosions and fire and hear the noises as the submarines waged war. In time the children and adults in the community grew used to the sound.

"In May 1942 at 10 a. m. we held commencement exercises in the auditorium," Green said. "One young boy was standing making his address. Suddenly there was an explosion coming from the sea and the force rattled the building, causing a window with cracked glass to shatter and fall to the floor. The children and the adults only looked at the broken glass and went right on with the exercise as if nothing had happened."

Green said earlier on in the year people did get excited about the noise and window rattling caused by the sea battles. "And once two young boys were tossing a baseball when one of them missed his catch. The ball broke out a window and there was hysteria for awhile over that."

After 12 years among the Kinnakeeters, as the people of Avon called themselves, Green was accepted as one of them and when his 18th year as educator - administrator was to begin, the Kinnakeeters advised him to join the Coast Guard before he was drafted.

"You don't want no part of the Army," Green was told. "Being Coast Guardsmen was a way of life with those people and everyone from Grandpa on down to grandson were members. So, I joined the Coast Guard."

Green was assigned to the Big Kinnakeet Coast Guard Station four miles north of the school where he had taught for a dozen years.

Only once did the Kinnakeeters ever see any of the enemy in person.

"One night when there was no wind and a calm sea some German sailors came ashore in a small boat," Green said. "They walked into a little store and bought fresh milk with American money, then disappeared into the night. By the time Coast Guard station was alerted and men dispatched the sailors were long gone."

But the physical evidence that war was being waged off the North Carolina coast was present then, according to Green. "There were at times oil slicks as far as the eye could see."

"And once our commander rousted us because 'men were coming ashore.' We prowled the shores during a terrific storm and didn't see any of the reported invaders until dawn broke. The invaders were sailors off a ship that had been torpedoed by U-Boats," Green said.

Of all the men who arrived on the North Carolina coast that morning, only two survived. The rest had frozen to death in their open boats. "Many of the men were clad only in pajamas," Green said. "None of them wore coats. Their ship was attacked and sinking too fast for them to grab any clothing before abandoning ship."

In 1971 Greene had the story of how he went to Avon and of his 12-year tenure there published in a book entitled "Kinnakeet Adventure." In the book he touches on the foregoing stories and of his students and the people of the community. Since the book was published, Green said he has been asked many times if his stories are true, given testimony that still what really happened off the Outer Banks is not widely known.

"I checked with some oil companies concerning the ships, the oil tankers, that were sunk off Cape Hatteras during those 90 days in early 1942," Green said. "There were 28 tankers sunk and each carried about 100,000 barrels of oil."

To match that equivalent today it would require 5,312 truck tankers. And lined up end to end, those tanker trucks would stretch 352.10 miles.

### \$600 Raised In Local MOD

The March of Dimes campaign against birth defects reached a total of \$600 in contributions this week.

Mrs. J. D. Barrett, chairman for the drive for the American Legion Auxiliary of which she is president, said that persons who have not turned in their collections should do so this week. Persons not contacted who want to make contributions should forward them to Mrs. Barrett at 202 Park Dr.

All proceeds are earmarked for research and local polio patients.

### Legion Dance

### Saturday Has

### "Free Spirits"

American Legion Post 155 will sponsor a dance Saturday featuring "The Free Spirits."

Dancing will be from 8:30 until midnight. Admission is \$8 per couple.

### Apollo Moon

### Landing Topic

"Moon Landing, Apollo II" is program topic at Tuesday (tonight's) meeting of Dixon Community 4-H Club at 7:30 p. m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church.

Kevin Bridges, a leader in the club, will show slides of the 1969 space project.

Mrs. Frances Bridges, leader, said that all young people and visitors are invited to attend.



THE KINNAKEET ADVENTURER — Stanley E. Green, retired teacher - administrator and author-lecturer, is seen here talking to the Kings Mountain Rotary Club last Thursday. The Boiling Springs native spent 12 years as principal-teacher for Tar Heels on the Outer Banks who called themselves Kinnakeeters.

Photo By Tom McIntyre

## Hospital Contracts For New Department Of Emergency Medicine

A new department has been added at Kings Mountain Hospital, according to Dr. John L. McGill, chairman of the hospital board of trustees.

The Department of Emergency Medicine was created in an effort to

expand and update emergency medical services to the citizens of Kings Mountain. Dr. McGill said a contract has been signed with Dr. M. T. Keene of Morganton, who will organize, manage and staff the department.

Dr. C. H. Adams, president of the medical staff, said, "The new Department of Emergency Medicine will operate under rules and regulations approved by the medical staff and the board of trustees."

Dr. George W. Plonk will serve as liaison between the department and the medical staff.

"After the local physicians offices are closed for the day," Dr. Adams continued, "emergency outpatient services will be provided by emergency physicians under contract to staff the emergency room at the hospital from 6 p. m. until 6 a. m. to relieve local physicians."

Dr. Keene, a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, emphasized that patients will continue to have access to their personal physicians, who will continue to be on call for their respective clinics and offices. These physicians may ask their outpatients to be treated by the emergency physician on duty in the hospital emergency room.

All hospitalized patients will be attended by their personal physician, or the physicians on call, although the emergency physicians will assist in any hospital emergency.

Dr. Keene said, "I hope to recruit permanent emergency room physicians for the 6 p. m. to 6 a. m.

service. Two qualified physicians I have talked with have expressed an interest in coming to Kings Mountain."

Dr. Keene said the physicians she is interested in recruiting are ones who have completed medical school, their internship and are second, third or fourth year students in their chosen fields of special medicine.

The Department of Emergency Medicine began Oct. 1.



IN THE ER ROOM — Left to right are Dr. Richard Crowley, Dr. M. T. Keene and Dr. Kenneth McGill, shown here in the Kings Mountain Hospital emergency room. Dr. McGill was performing surgery on a patient's injured fingers at the time of this photo.



SONG REVIVALIST — LaVerne Tripp, above, and the Happy Hour Singers and Song Revival Band will appear in concert at Trinity Church of the Living God on Sat., Feb. 10th, at 7:30 p. m. The interested community is invited to attend.

## Nurses Group Meeting Tonight At Depot Center

Registered nurses in District 29 of the North Carolina Nurses Association will gather Tuesday (tonight) at 7:30 p. m. at Depot Center.

District 29 includes Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln Counties.

Program topic will be "Nurse Practitioners," "Who?, What?, Where?"

Guest speakers will be Alice Mason, R. N., Family Planning nurse practitioner, and Gail Harrington, Family nurse practitioner. Both are of Gaston County and are employed by Gaston County Health Department.

All area nurses are invited to attend.

## Foster Families Project Scheduled By KM Baptists

The Kings Mountain Baptist Association and the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. will sponsor programs in area churches throughout February and March, to enlist Christian families who will serve as foster families.

Phillip Morrow, director of the Charlotte Family Resource Center, a regional office of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, will be at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Rt. 2, Kings Mountain, Wed., Feb. 7, at 7 p. m.; at the First

Baptist Church of Grover Sun., Feb. 11, at 7 p. m.; at the Zoar Baptist Church, Shelby, Sun., Feb. 18, at 7 p. m.; and at the First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain on Sun., Mar. 18, at 7:30 p. m.

Christian families who have an interest in knowing more about the work of being foster parents or the work of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina are invited to attend one of these meetings for more information.