

# National Bank of Wilson

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS  
\$ 300,000.00

Wilson, North Carolina

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February 18, 1944

TO: WILSON COUNTY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN  
FROM: EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF WILSON  
SUBJECT: BITS OF NEWS FROM HOME

The delay in getting out this news sheet is not due to procrastination. The cause comes under the caption of the hackneyed phrase "circumstances beyond our control" - - the War Bond Drive and absenteeism due to sickness - - Frances Griggs for a foot operation, Mary Harvey Ruffin, Lalia Boyette, Louise McCraw, Mrs. Ham, and Mrs. Flowers all out during the past two weeks with 'flu. Mrs. Flowers is yet sick. But even so we were thinking of you and gathering the "bits of news" to pass on to you.

NEWS AROUND TOWN: The Golden Weed Grill has been damaged considerably by fire due to an oil stove explosion but will be reopened at an early date ... The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored a dance at the Country Club last night for the Air Cadets from Seymour Johnson Field ... We hope the ground hog is not a liar. He didn't see his shadow on February 2nd so maybe the winter weather is gone ... Mr. & Mrs. Ed Warren have just returned from St. Petersburg, Florida, attending the graduation of Edward, Jr., from primary air training. While in St. Petersburg they saw J. D. "Nossie" Batts who is in the Maritime Service and also Lt. and Mrs. Doyle Moore ... The picture "Guadalcanal Diary" was shown at the Wilson theater a few days ago. You will be interested to know Lt. James Burlon Lamm and Sgt. Walter Lee Kelly had parts in the picture. Lt. Lamm is now overseas with the Marines in the Southwest Pacific. Sgt. Kelly is stationed in California training marines in combat tactics. Sgt. Kelly has also appeared in another picture "Gungho". This picture has not been shown in Wilson yet ... Last week we had a show which probably is common-place with many of you, however, it was quite interesting to us. Around seventy-five planes pulling gliders passed over Wilson at Night. The flight was routine training for glider pilots and paratroopers from Camp Mackall ... Miss Carol Bissett has been elected chairman of the annual Junior-Senior prom at the Woman's College ... A day or two ago the Carolina Theatre was showing the picture "Union Pacific" in which Robert Preston appeared. A young man in the air corps uniform walked up to the box office and inquired "How is the show?" The young lady at the box office assured him it was a good picture. You have guess right. It was Robert Preston himself who is stationed at Seymour Johnson Field. Incidentally Tony Martin is a frequent visitor to Wilson ... "Doc" Dunn, service officer for the American Legion, is a busy man nowadays assisting discharged World War II veterans in filing their applications for mustering out pay. It is reported he has already handled around 200 applications ... Someone must have been badly disappointed last week when the Black Creek A.B.C. store was broken into and twenty five cases taken. There was not a drop of whiskey in the whole lot. It was all wine, rum and brandy ... Mr. Fred Flowers was elected head of the Wilson Duke alumni last week ... At last it appears Wilson will have a first-class airport. As you probably know, the Navy leased the property some-time ago to be used as an auxiliary to the Cherry Point Marine Base. This week the contract was awarded at a cost of \$1,157,000. The job is to be finished in 120 days ... Wilson will soon have a frozen locker plant which is badly needed ... The Education Building of the Christian Church was dedicated at special services last Sunday ... The President's Ball under the direction of Dr. Pittman was a grand success. Over \$3,000 was raised ... The presentation of the "A" award to Wilson County was a gala event last week. Mr. Josephus Daniels was the main speaker and music



was furnished by the Seventh Air Corps band from Seymour Johnson Field. Hundreds of people were here for the event ... Wilson County oversubscribed its quota in the Fourth War Loan Campaign. This gives us a perfect record for over-subscribing in every campaign. The merchants purchased a \$1,000 war bond to be given to a lucky employee. The employees were given tickets each time \$200.00 in bonds were sold. The drawing for the lucky number was held last Tuesday night and Mrs. W. E. Jordan, Jr., nee Blanche Riley, received the bond. Incidentally, the merchants and employees exceeded their quota by \$90,000. Stantonburg School was the first school in the County to reach its quota of \$43,000. A bond auction was conducted by the Business & Professional Womens Club last week. A jar of watermellon pickle, the favorite of Captain E. D. Winstead was donated by Mrs. F. J. Winstead in honor of him, who is now a prisoner of the Japs and was one of the heroes of Bataan. This small bottle of pickle sold for some over \$3,000. By the way, John Thomas created quite a bit of excitement (resentment) in advertising the war bond auction when he stated a live baby would be sold. Practically everyone accepted the story as written and were highly indignant. Of course the live baby turned out to be a small black pig ... Under the leadership of Mr. P. T. Watson scouting is really making progress. Troops have recently been formed at Saratoga, with Charlie Taylor as scout master, and another at Five Points with Richard J. Downing as scout master. The annual Boy Scout anniversary program last week included the father and son box supper, a window decoration contest, a rally at the Atlantic Christian College and a special service at the First Baptist Church last Sunday ... Several cables were sent from Wilson this week to the Wilson County boys in England who were meeting for their second time in London. We truly hope all the boys from this section were present for we know all of them had a good time exchanging experiences. Announcement of this meeting was made in all the local churches Sunday and Wilsonians were urged to pause briefly at 2:00 Tuesday afternoon in tribute to our boys all over the world ... Under a Washington date line a few days ago was a story to the effect that American veterans of long hitches in World War II may soon be coming home on furloughs under a "troop rotation" plan to be inaugurated by the War Department. We hope this plan works out and many of you will soon be coming home for a visit ... A few days ago an Associated Press picture appeared in the Daily Times showing a group of soldiers and Wacs in England. Mrs. J. K. Liles recognized her son, Sgt. Tommie Liles, as being one of the group. Pfc. J. K. Liles, Jr. is in the Southwest Pacific with the Marines and Lt. Jimmie Liles is serving in Washington, D. C. ... WEDDING BELLS: Jean McMichael to Lt. John M. Barksdale (married) ... Merle Hudson to Lt. John J. Warnamaker (married) ... Bea Nichols to Lt. J. W. Perry (married) ... Mary Douglas Horton to Cpl. Erwin Dickens (married) ... Addie Rhodes to Pfc. Ray Morgan (married) ... Arline Mercer, Black Creek, to Lt. Henry J. Garner (married) ... Frances Bridges to Sgt. Willard G. Watson (married) ... Mary Elizabeth Clark to Pfc. Tom Davis (engaged) ... Marjorie Perry to Earl Storr (to be married today) ... BIRTHS: A son, Julian Wooten Johnson, to Captain and Mrs. L. H. Johnson, Jr. ... PROMOTIONS: Frank Pate to 1st Lt. ... Jonathan B. Brown to Staff Sergeant ... Leland V. Grady to 1st Lt. ... Richard F. (Dick) Barnes to Lt. (j.g.) ... H. F. Barnes to sergeant ... Tom Hackony to Lt. (j.g.) ... Jack Riley to 1st Lt. ... Arthur S. McKeel to Staff sergeant ... Jimmie Dempsey to Major ... N. D. Patterson, Jr. to Captain ... David Switzer to Ensign. ... DECORATIONS: Purple Heart to Staff Sergeant Robert C. McDuffie ... Air Medal and the D.F.C. with eight oak leaf clusters to Lt. Robert H. Rast, husband of the former Miss Dolly Lineberger. Lt. Rast is a prisoner of Germany at Stalag Luft. He was shot down over Naples last August ... WILSON COUNTY BOYS OVERSEAS: Major Lemuel "Pee Wee" Owens at Guadalcanal ill in the hospital but not seriously ... Pfc. Leslie F. Langston, station unknown ... Cpl. David I. Langston, India ... Cpl. Edward W. Langston, Southwest Pacific ... Pvt. James E. Briscoe (Kenly), South Pacific ... Pvt. Evan L. Briscoe, North Africa ... Albert H. Hodge, Australia ... Sgt. Russell Landen, England ... Cpl. William L. Bryan, station unknown ... T/Sgt. Traver Farmer, North Africa ... Lt. Dave W. Woodard, station unknown ... Cpl. Elwood Bass, Italy ... Pvt. Matthew L. Ferrell, England ... Pfc. A. O. Davis, an island in the Atlantic ... Cpl. John D. Wells, III, Africa ... Joseph F. Smith, England ... Cpl. John G. Smith, Southwest Pacific ... Lt. Vernon M. Bryant, Pacific area ... Pvt. William H. Dixon, England ... Tom Deans, Pacific area ... Ensign Jack Titchener, station unknown ... Pvt. Billie Bryant, Italy ... James Clarence Peacock,



New Guinea ... Cpl. Doug. McPhail, England ... Lt. (j.g.) Jimmie Rowland, New Guinea ... S 2/C James E Farmer (Bailey), Aleutians ... Pvt. Arthur D. Boyette (Lucama), England, ... Pvt. Harry Lewis, North Africa ... Pvt. Turner Holloman (Kenly) England ... Sgt. Charles M. Rose (Kenly), England, Pfc. Stanley Sheltis (Kenly) England ... Sgt. Lester L. Johnson (Lucama), England ... The family of Bob Wilkins have learned his address through the Red Cross. As you know he is a prisoner in Germany ....

ODDS AND ENDS: Lt. Raymond B. Wolfe, former football coach at Carolina is now stationed at Miami, Florida, with the Navy ... A/C Bishop Lyles has graduated from the Army Air Force Flexible Gunnery School at Fort Myers, Florida ... A/S James S. Hartis is stationed at the University of Alabama ... Huron Cooper is doing boot training at Great Lakes, Illinois ... Johnnie Dekeyser is in the Army Air Corps at Langley Field, Virginia ... Lt. John M. Hood has graduated from the bombardier's school at San Angelo, Texas ... Howard Hilley, Jr. recently received his silver navigator's wings at Selman Field, La ... Lt. Richard F. Poole, Jr. is stationed at Craig Field, Alabama ... Pvt. Willie E. Horne has graduated from the Fort Crook Ordinance Automotive School, Nebraska ... Lt. John D. Palmer is stationed at Newport News, Virginia ... Pfc. Robbie L. Pittman is stationed at Camp Davis ... Lt. (j.g.) B. B. Plyer, Jr. has been transferred to Newport, Rhode Island ... William T. McKeel, Jr., who was wounded in action in Italy, has received an honorable discharge ... Captain Robert S. Noce is stationed at Courtland, Alabama ... Cpl. James R. Laing has graduated from the Kingman Army Air Field Flexible Gunnery School, Arizona ... S 2/C A. C. Kemp is stationed at Key West, Florida ... Captain Harry Severance is stationed at Fort Benning ...

RECENTLY HOME: J. D. Phillips, T. M. 3/C ... Sgt. John Gafford from Southwest Pacific ... Robert Lamm from Bainbridge, Maryland ... Lt. Robert A. Young from Drew Field, Florida ... George "Buck" Davis with the Marines ... Lt. Walter F. Woodard from Monogram Field, Virginia ... Frank Whitley from Alabama ... Lt. Col. O. B. Beland from Fort Bragg ... Lt. (j.g.) C. W. Sasser from Milwaukee ... Lt. (j.g.) R. M. Beamon from Norfolk ... Cpl. Gordon Simpkins and S/Sgt. George Bartholomew from Yorktown, Va. ... Sgt. Ben Mercer from Camp Rucker, Alabama ... Pfc. Tom Davis from New River ... Cpl. M. W. Hudson from Camp Swift, Texas ... Pfc. Robert Johnson from Washington, D. C. ... Cpl. Cooke Wainwright, Jr. from Camp Campbell, Kentucky ... "Chick" Andrews from the Navy ... Wade Davis Edwards from New York ... A/C J. O. Anthony, Jr. from Panama City, Fla. ... Pvt. Albert Oettinger ... Sgt. William J. Taylor from Louisiana ... Cpl. Joe Amerson from Camp Davis ... CPO Charlie Pittman ... Cpl. Cecil Winstead from Nashville, Tennessee ... Ensign Elmer Oettinger from Washington, D. C. ... W/O Carl E. Batts from Camp Pendleton, California ... Sgt. George R. Sherwood from Yuma, Arizona ... Theodore Bowen from Bainbridge, Maryland ... Sgt. Allie Walls from Arizona ... Sgt. John Riley from Camp Mackall ... J. K. Moore ... Captain Herman R. McLawhorn from Fort Bragg ... Major Talmadge Green from Camp Campbell, Kentucky ... S/Sgt. Stafford "Pat" Patterson from Camp Howze, Texas ... First Class Petty Officer Harvey Langley (Elm City) from Key West, Florida ...

OTHER ELM CITY NEWS: Mr. H.G. White has sold the Elm City Pharmacy to Mr. Marvin L. Davis ... Cpl. Thomas H. Langley is in the Aleutians ... Sgt. Henry Franklin Barnes was recently home ... Pvt. Ray Cobb is stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas ... S 2/C Doris Pridgen has recently been home ... J.T. Winstead, Jr. has been promoted to Lt. Col. ... Cpl. Basil Farmer from Camp Walters, Texas, has been home on furlough ... Pvt. Tommie Gary is stationed at Camp Pendleton ... Lt. George Thomas Dixon of Pittsfield, Mass. was recently home ... We don't have space to include other Wilson County news but will try to do so next time.

If you know of anyone in the service from Wilson County not receiving our news letter please let us have their address in order that we may put their name on our mailing list. If your address changes please let us know. This letter is being sent to 527 Wilson County men and women and new addresses are coming in every day. We can't acknowledge individually the many letters we are receiving from those on our "bits of news" mailing list but we are always glad to hear from you.

Best wishes to all of you from all of us.