

Finish Of Battle For Saipan Now In Sight

By WILLIAM L. WORDEN
 GARRAPAN, Saipan, Island, July 4.—(Delayed)—AP via Navy Radio
 Garrapan, dripped dully in the tropical rain today and water gathered in thousands of water holes but for the first time in 10 days the once prospering town is free of the shelling and bombing that tore it down.
 The last of the town is being occupied by Marines and is amid night a final hundred defenders were cut off.
 In the end it was nothing but war reduced to its basic factor of one man advancing with a rifle while another clung desperately to a hidden position in the wreckage of the house or a miserable hole in the dirt, until the advancing

man killed him or drove him out.
 The battle ended in South Garrapan among the poor section of the town with small gardens and barns, where livestock formerly lived.
 Garrapan's expected strong defensive line failed to emerge. The Japs killed were single snipers or small groups clinging to machine guns or improvised pill boxes. They took a heavy toll of advancing Marines.
 East Garrapan was taken by units of the Second Marines, 27th Infantry and Fourth Marines, who went far beyond the town and curved west and north to squeeze remaining units of Japs out of the Tanapag Harbor area.
 Jap artillery continued to fire on our lines just east of Garrapan. The anti-personnel bursts endangered civilians, who are coming out of the caves today by the hundreds seeking shelter. They came reluctantly under the urging of interpreters and a final inducement of smoke bombs.
 Only a few Japanese field guns are believed still in action and the vicious mortar units have been reduced to a fraction of their former strength.
 The Japs may set the stage for a typical last-minute counter-attack but with or without it the end of the battle for Saipan is in sight.
 It may be a few days but it won't be long now.
 An alligator can crush almost anything with its powerful jaws, yet once closed, a man can hold them shut with one hand.

1,000 Japs Die On Ridge

By MORRIS LANDSBERG
 WITH U. S. ARMY FORCES ON SAIPAN, July 4.—(Delayed)—AP via Navy Radio—A count of bodies today indicated the Battle of Natutan Ridge cost the Japanese more than 1,000 killed.
 Only snipers remain on the southeast peninsula. They face extermination by patrols sent out daily to comb the area.
 The network of Natutan caves was extensive but it was nothing compared with the huge underground storage unit discovered on the northeastern slopes of Mt. Tapochau. It extends about an acre. Stored in 40-foot-high recesses are tons of foodstuffs and military supplies.
 Thirty three Japs including an infantry colonel were killed in a 15-minute pre-dawn battle wherein ground and rifle were the principal weapons, the light occurring near an Army command post.
 The Japanese attempted to penetrate the American defense perimeter from three directions. One group marched to open ground in a double column. They were singled out by an Army command post. The Japanese were mowed down. Three officers beside the colonel were killed. Each wore his Samurai sword and clean uniform.
 There was plenty of firepower and it even rained, just like the fourth at home," said Pfc. Albert de Tubio, Millitue, N. J. who manned a gun emplacement during the attack.
 One American was wounded slightly, the only casualty.

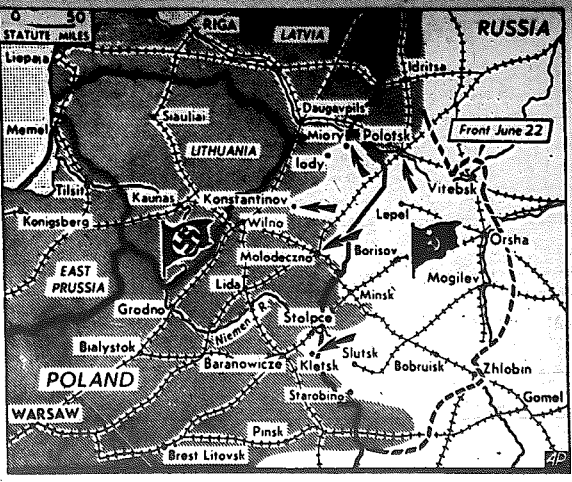
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It may be a few days but it won't be long now.

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 (Between Gordon and Pecan)
 Services Each Evening at 8:30 P. M. With Other Vital Subjects Discussed Subject Tuesday Night: "WHERE ARE THE DEAD?"



WHERE RUSSIAN ARMY IS DRIVING WESTWARD — The arrows on this map locate Russian Army advances, including the capture of Poleck and Mory in a drive toward Latvia, and the capture of Konstantinov in a deep thrust at Wilno. Other Russian troops fought in Minsk, and took Kletsk to the south. The shaded area represents territory still held by the Germans. Strategic Minsk is now well within territory held by the Russians. (AP wirephoto.)

Carolina Flight Leader Drives Through 'Soup' To Beat Nazis

A NINTH AIR FORCE TROOP CARRIER BASE, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS—REPORT arrived from the Mediterranean Theater of Operations into England for the primary purpose of attacking German troops at strategic points behind the enemy lines on the Cherbourg peninsula.
 This first pilot and flight leader in a Troop Carrier plane is the son of the former Hazard Donnell who now resides at Sharon Hills Road, Charlotte, North Carolina.
 His ability and determination to carry out orders in the correct manner can easily be shown by his activities in the recent invasion. Flying in adverse weather conditions shortly after taking to the air on the second night, the captain was the only pilot in the group who kept his flight in perfect formation when the "soup" became so thick that it was impossible to see the wing line. This was all done on Biscuiton. There was no time to refuel. The flight was to be made in the light of the sun. The "soup" was held up from the same place on the previous morning.

In this trip over France, the planes were destined to meet intense anti-aircraft fire, but the captain's ability to zig and zag at the correct time and to zig at the right time brought the entire crew back to his home base without a scratch for any of its members.
 This invasion spearheading flight on "D-Day" was number two for Capt. Linometer, being preceded by the Sicily campaign. For his participation in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, he has been awarded the Distinguished Service Ribbon with two bronze battle streamers and the American Theater and Pre-Pearl Harbor Ribbon.
 Capt. Linometer is a graduate of Miami High School, Miami, Fla., and received his degree in aeronautics and business administration at the University of Michigan. He was a member of Sigma Xi and participated in track while attending this institution. In civilian life he was employed as a traveling salesman by Amos & Co., traveling in the Carolinas.
 Upon receiving his commission in May of 1942, he was assigned as the Troop Carrier Command and to his present unit the following month. After training at several fields throughout the States, the Squadron received its overseas shipping orders in the early part of 1944.
 The IX Troop Carrier Command, to which his unit has been assigned.

signed, headed by Brig. Gen. Paul L. Williams, is part of the Ninth Air Force, U. S. component of the Allied Expeditionary Air Forces. Troop Carrier planes struck the opening blows of the Allied European offensive.

Grooms Is Cited For Devotion To Duty In Pacific

1st Sgt. Joseph E. Grooms of the Army Air Corps, serving in the South Pacific, has been commended by his commanding officer for complete devotion to duty during "personal hardships" which have been of greater magnitude than ever before encountered by our organization.
 A copy of the citation which has been signed by Sgt. Grooms' commanding officers, was received here by his wife, the former Miss Frances Louise Grooms, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Tarshner, 2135 Highland Ave.
 Sgt. Grooms, son of Mrs. C. D. Grooms, 1122 E. Caldwell St., entered the Army Aug. 18, 1941. He has been overseas since October, 1942. He is a graduate of Central High School and before entering the Army was employed at the Radio Hospital here.

Widow Suing For \$100,000

Mrs. Verne L. Wilson, administrative of the estate of the late Arthur Wilson, a railroad engineer, in a suit on the local trial in Superior Court, asked damages for death of her husband, \$100,000.
 The fact that the late Mr. Wilson was the property of the Southern Railway Company was given by Mrs. Wilson's lawyer, and added that when the carbine became ignited Wilson was burned fatally.

Hunter Rites Are Conducted

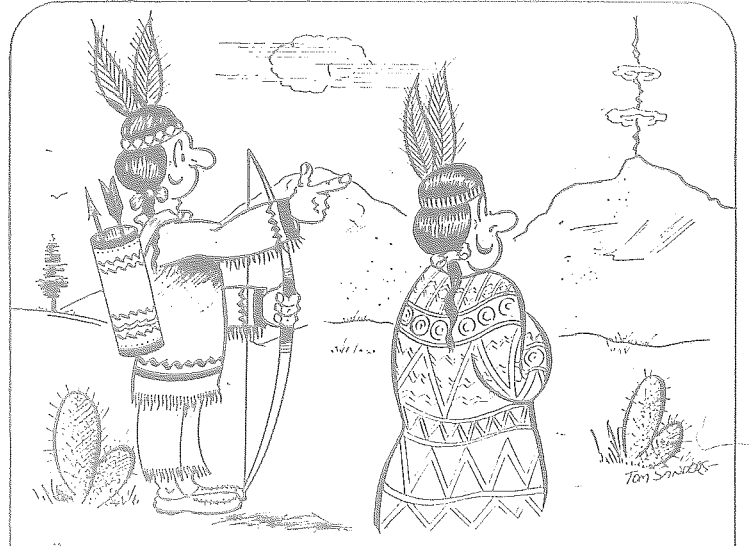
Funeral services for Thomas George Hunter, 23, of Becht, who died Thursday in Raleigh after a long illness, were held at the Becht Church, 417 S. Becht, this morning at 11 P. M. A Scripture reader, officiated and interment was in the church cemetery.
 Pallbearers were Hugh Harris, Harvey Heron, Nat. Caldwell, H. Hunt, Rudy Kern, and Ralph Cochran.
 Mr. Hunter was born July 27, 1920, in Mecklenburg County, was the son of Peter M. and Nellie Kirk Hunter. They survive as do his mother, Mrs. M. Maxwell of Chester, S. C. and three brothers, S. Earl, Claude C. Hunter, Ruby, H. Peter, Howard C. Hunter, now in service, and Buster Hunter Jr., of Newell.

Johnston Says Dewey At Negro Liquor Party

ANDERSON, S. C.—(AP)—Governor Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina criticized Governor Thomas E. Dewey last night for Dewey's attendance at a Negro drinking party.
 In an address at Anderson Johnston declared:
 "If additional proof is needed that South Carolinians should remain democratic, look at the Republican presidential nominee as he attended a Negro drinking party as pictured in the issue of Life Magazine of July 3, 1944. President Roosevelt has never been pictured at a Negro liquor party."
 The picture to which Johnston referred was those taken at a gathering of Negro newspaper editors and others in New York weeks before the Republican National Convention.
 Johnston is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate next from South Carolina.
 In Albany, N. Y. Dewey said comment:
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