

Where the Fuel Goes  
A HEAVY BOMBER  
cruising at a speed of 250  
m.p.h. may use 200 gal-  
lons of gasoline an hour.

# The Centre Democrat

WHERE THE FUEL GOES  
An Army Trans-  
port burns 23,000  
gallons of fuel oil  
a day.

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 31.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1944.

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.50 PER YEAR.

## County War Toll For Week Is 4 Killed And 5 Wounded



31 from Bellefonte Area, 1  
From Spring Mills,  
Lose Lives

### ALL FALL IN BATTLE IN FRENCH INVASION

Casualty List Compiled  
From War Department  
Messages, Letters

Centre county's war toll as re-  
vealed in War Department telegrams  
received by relatives during the  
weekend and since then disclose  
that four more men have lost their  
lives and five more have been  
wounded.

Those killed in action were:

- T Sgt. Robert S. Sprankle, 21, of  
near Milesburg.
- Pfc. Harold W. Waite, 29, of Cole-  
ville.
- Pfc. Nelson C. Lucas, 21, of Belle-  
fonte.
- Pfc. Paul W. Stover, 22, of Spring  
Mills.

Those wounded are:

- Pvt. Homer Saxton, 31, Bellefonte.
- Sgt. John Drogan, 21, of Coleville.
- Sgt. Irvin Alexander, 19, of State  
College.
- Pvt. John Benzie, 23, of Buffalo  
Run Valley.
- Sgt. Maurice B. Seeger, 37, Miles-  
burg.

**Sprankle Died in France**

T Sgt. Sprankle, son of Mrs. Eliza-  
beth MacDonald, who resides with  
her sister, Mrs. George E. Stright, at  
Milesburg, and who is employed at  
the Sylvania Electric Products plant  
at Mill Hill, was killed in action in  
France, July 9, a War Department  
message received Tuesday afternoon  
revealed.

Sprankle enlisted in the Regular  
Army on September 27, 1940, upon  
reaching 18 years of age, and 15  
months before the U. S. entered the  
war. He enlisted in the infantry and  
was assigned to Ft. Jackson, S. C.,  
where he was stationed for two  
years. Subsequently he spent six  
months at Ft. Benning, Ga., 3  
months at Camp Blending, Fla., and  
underwent other training at Camp  
Forrest, Tenn., and Camp Atterbury,  
Ind.

For a time he was assigned to the  
military police and was in that  
branch of service in January 1944  
when he spent a 15-day furlough at  
home. Sometime in February this  
year he was sent to England, and is  
believed to have landed in France  
during the early days of the in-  
vasion. He was promoted to the rank  
of technical sergeant on Christmas  
Day.

Sprankle was born in Milesburg  
on September 6, 1922 and attended  
the Milesburg grade schools before  
the family moved to Warriors Mark.  
He attended the Warriors Mark  
High School and was employed on  
the Bob Harpster farm there at the  
time of his enlistment.

Surviving, in addition to his  
mother, are his grandfather, Thom-  
as C. Sprankle, of Moose Run,  
north of Milesburg; and the follow-  
ing nieces and nephews: Mrs. Gro-  
ver Meryman, of Moose Run; Mrs.  
Joseph Green, Mrs. Blaine Smith  
and James Sprankle, all of State  
College; Mrs. Fred Summers, of  
Milesburg; and Clarence Sprankle,  
of Linesville.

**Pfc. Waite in Medical Unit**

Pfc. Waite, husband of the former  
Eva Cosio, of Coleville, died July  
5 presumably while serving as a  
member of a medical detachment  
in the battle for Cherbourg.

A former employee of the Titan  
Metal Company, he wrote letters to  
his wife and his mother, Mrs. Frank  
Wilson, of West Bishop street, Belle-  
fonte, on July 2. The letters, received  
July 12, said that he had not taken  
part in the D-Day invasion, but  
that he was now near a large city  
in France. It is believed he may  
have been assisting in transporting  
wounded men to evacuation hospi-  
tals near Cherbourg.

Pfc. Waite entered the Army on  
October 29, 1942, and from New  
Cumberland was sent to Camp  
Blanding, Fla., for basic training in  
the Medical Corps. On March 1,  
1943 he was transferred to Nash-  
ville, Tenn., and on August 12, 1943  
was sent to Los Angeles, Cal. Later  
(Continued on Page Four)



PFC. NELSON C. LUCAS  
Lose Life in Invasion Action

### 22 In August Call For State College

Local Board No. 1, State College,  
announces that it has received in-  
formation to send 22 men for in-  
duction into the armed services on  
Monday, August 14. The group will  
go to Harrisburg induction center  
and there the men will be assigned  
to one of the several branches of  
the armed services. There will be  
no limited service men from the  
State College board in August, it  
was stated.

The July quota of 16 men left  
State College Monday morning for  
induction at Altoona, the last group  
to enter service before the station  
in that city closes.

### Paralysis Case Is Reported at College

Richard Lee, four-year-old son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Lee, of  
Adams avenue, State College, the  
first reported Centre county person  
to contract infantile paralysis dur-  
ing the current epidemic in the  
state, is in Geisinger hospital, Dan-  
ville. His case is said to be of a mil-  
d variety and no permanent ill effects  
are anticipated.

### County Man Sees Saipan Battle

Coast Guardsman's Ship  
in 2 Air Raids With-  
in 72 Hours

How they watched the bloody bat-  
tle for Saipan from a ringside seat  
and dodged Jap planes in two air  
raids within 72 hours was told to-  
day by Gerald L. Green, 26, son of  
Mrs. Wade McKinley, Milesburg.  
He is a machinist's mate first class  
in the U. S. Coast Guard.

Green and his shipmates watched  
the fight for the control of the Mar-  
iana Islands' major stronghold,  
which is only 1300 miles from Tokyo,  
from his battle station at a tele-  
phone with the forward damage  
control party.

"The Japs put up a bitter fight  
from the very first," they said. "Only  
a couple of hours after we had put  
troops from our ship ashore under  
heavy mortar fire, some of them  
were back aboard with bad wounds.  
We could tell by that stream of  
wounded evacuees in the next 72  
hours that we had another Tarawa  
on our hands."

"Through glasses we could see  
tanks creeping up the hills engag-  
ing Jap tanks. They looked like  
beetles. Shells fell into the surf by  
(Continued on Page Four)

### 3-Year-Old Child Swallows Safety Pin

Grace Stetser, aged 3 years, a  
daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Edwin  
Stetser, of Howard, R. D. 1, Satur-  
day night was admitted to the Wil-  
liamsport hospital after she swallow-  
ed an open safety pin at her home.

It is believed that the pin first  
lodged in the girl's throat, but since  
her admission to the hospital it has  
gone into her stomach, according to  
reports. It is not known at this time  
whether it will be necessary to per-  
form an operation to remove the  
object. Her condition is described  
as being satisfactory.

The child's father, Rev. Stetser, is  
pastor of the Pilgrim Holiness church  
at Summit Hill, and is employ-  
ed at the Sylvania Electric Pro-  
ducts plant in Mill Hill.

### Two Faculty Members Here Resign Posts

Miss Daisy Keichline, nurse in  
the Bellefonte public school system,  
and Mrs. Victor Watson, teacher of  
science and mathematics in the  
high school, resigned their posts  
during the week, school officials  
said yesterday.

Miss Keichline, who has been em-  
ployed in the school system for  
nearly 20 years, withdrew in order  
to be with her mother, Mrs. J. M.  
Keichline, who is not in the best of  
health. Mrs. Watson expects to join  
her husband who is with the Sea-  
Bees at Camp Peary, Va.

## ERECT TENTS FOR ANNUAL GRANGE FAIR

Association Completes All  
Plans For Event at  
Centre Hall

### PROGRAM INCLUDES NEW FEATURES

Wide Variety of Amuse-  
ment and Entertainment  
to be Provided

Tents for Grange Fair camp are  
being erected this week at Grange  
Park. The camp this year promises  
to be one of the best in recent  
years.

M. A. Burkholder, superintendent  
of gates, announces that the park  
will be open to campers at noon on  
Thursday, August 24. New campers  
who wish to choose from available  
locations, may do so on Tuesday and  
Wednesday, August 22 and 23 from  
2:00 to 8:00 p. m., when the secre-  
tary will be at headquarters on the  
fair grounds.

Individuals who wish to have  
their own tents set up should ar-  
range for locations and delivery of  
their tents with Harry Neff, fore-  
man of the ground crew. Mr. Neff  
is at Grange Park every week day  
from 7 a. m. to 5 p. m., or may be  
reached by telephone at Centre Hall  
179-R-40.

Campers and daily visitors will  
find ample entertainment provided  
for them. Concession manager V. A.  
Auman promises a gay and busy  
(Continued on Page Four)

### Bellevonte Man Reported Missing

Fred Philip Bonchack is  
Believed to be Casualty  
of French Invasion

Fred Philip Bonchack, motor ma-  
chinist mate, third class, U. S. N. R.,  
son of Mrs. Mary Madruski Bon-  
chack of Bellefonte, R. D. 3, is  
missing in action following per-  
formance of his duty in the service  
of his country, according to a tele-  
gram from the Navy Department  
received by his mother last Thurs-  
day morning.

No indication of his whereabouts  
was mentioned in the telegram but  
it is believed that the young man  
was participating in the Normandy  
invasion.

The county seaman entered the  
service in July, 1943, and was sent  
to the Great Lakes Naval Training  
Station in Illinois where he quali-  
fied as a naval machinist and was  
assigned to sea duty immediately  
following his boot training. The last  
letter received by his mother was  
written on June 19.

Machinist Mate Bonchack attend-  
ed the Bellefonte High School where  
he played football during the 1941-  
1942 seasons. Two brothers are in  
the service. They are Mike, station-  
ed in France, and Joe, in Virginia.

### County Native Dies After Fall at Butler

A fall from a building he was  
painting in Butler, Monday, proved  
fatal to Cameron Stover, of Butler,  
native of Unionville, who died in a  
Butler hospital at 2 a. m. Tuesday  
as the result of his injuries.

Deceased, a brother of Scott Stover,  
Mrs. Alice O'Leary, Little Bear  
Run, Stover, all of Bellefonte, was  
aged 59 years and was a son of the  
late J. Fall and Anna Stover. Sur-  
viving are his wife; three daughters,  
Oletha, of Indianapolis, Ind.; Fran-  
ces, of Butler, and Nora, at home;

and a son, Cameron, Jr., who is now  
in a hospital in Italy recovering  
from serious wounds received in  
battle. Another son, Russell Stover,  
was killed while serving with the  
armed forces in Africa in June,  
1943.

Additional survivors in addition  
to the two local sisters and brother,  
include a brother, John Stover, of  
Altoona. Funeral services will be held  
today in Butler, with interment in  
that city.

### Altoona Girls Are Picked Up by Police

Two Altoona girls, 16 and 18, were  
taken into custody about 5 p. m.  
Saturday by State College police  
who, after questioning, sent them  
back to their home town.

About 3:30 p. m. that day the  
father of one of the girls called  
the State College police office and  
said that his daughter and another  
girl had left home to go to a Sun-  
day school picnic. He later learned  
that they had gone to State Col-  
lege and asked police to find them.  
The girls had obtained a room, plan-  
ning to spend the night in State  
College where they were going to  
attend a dance.

## 13,600 Acres in Fishing Creek Gap Region Sold

Largest Lumbering Operation in Recent History of County Be-  
gins on Tract Comprising 21 Square Miles; 18 Summer Cottage  
Sites, Sawmill at Lamar Included in Purchase

A 13,600-acre tract of timberland  
in Centre and Clinton counties, in-  
cluding virtually all of far-famed  
Fishing Creek gap and 18 of the  
cottages situated in that picturesque  
fishing area, recently was sold by  
the Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal  
Company, of Indiana, Pa., to Byers  
& Rugh, lumbermen from western  
Pennsylvania.

Included in the purchase is the  
Witmer Steel sawmill near Lamar,  
which has been operated by the for-  
mer owners to turn out as high as  
12,000 board feet of lumber a day.

Purchasers of the tract, which is  
equal to more than 21 square miles  
in area, are J. W. Byers, of Ligonier,  
and Kenneth Rugh, of Bolivar.  
Mr. Byers entered the lumbering  
business in 1920 and has been ac-  
tively engaged in that work ever  
since. He will be in charge of the  
lumbering operations in the Fish-  
ing Creek area. Rugh is engaged in  
the brick industry at Bolivar.

The tremendous area—one of the  
largest lumbering operations in the  
recent history of Centre and Clinton  
counties—sprawls over a consider-  
able section of the eastern part of  
this county. The tract extends along  
both sides of the Madisonburg road,  
crosses the mountain north to a  
point near Nittany, extends east to  
Bear Lamar, and passes through  
both sides of Fishing Creek gap from  
the west end of the Federal Fish  
Hatchery at Lamar to Booneville.

In the area are the following val-  
leys and landmarks known to hun-  
dreds of hunters and fishermen who  
have combed the region in quest of  
game and fish: Big Kettle, Little  
Kettle, Big Ray Valley, Little Red  
Valley, Bear Run Valley, Little Bear  
Run Valley, Mosquito Hollow and  
Cherry Run.

The fate of the 18 cottages built  
on land originally leased from the  
Rochester and Pittsburgh Company,  
is uncertain, according to reports.  
The sale of the tract included the  
transfer of all the leases to Byers  
and Rugh. The camps include  
"Hateleville," large and modern  
equipped establishment owned by  
the Titan Metal Company of Belle-  
fonte, and others, owned principally  
by residents of Bellefonte and Lock  
Haven.

The new owners of the tract de-  
clared that no definite decision as to  
the future status of the cottages has  
been made at this time, but else-  
where there is a belief that the  
leases to the private owners will be  
continued as in the past.

The sale includes a reservation of  
an area of 15 acres around the  
David F. Bixel residence about four  
miles south of Lamar in Fishing  
Creek Gap. The coal company re-  
tained possession of the Bixel tract,  
including the ranger's house, out-  
buildings and some land under cul-  
tivation.

Mr. Bixel, who for the past 17  
years has been caretaker of the  
Rochester and Pittsburgh holdings,  
and who knows every boundary line  
and every acre of the vast tract in-  
cluded in the purchase, has been re-  
tained by Byers & Rugh as a man-  
ager and advisor during the lumber-  
ing operations.

Estimates vary as to the length  
of time it will require to cut the  
timber in the area. Byers and Rugh  
declare the task will require from 6 to 8  
years. Others estimate 15 years will  
be required. Still others declare that  
the area is large enough to support  
lumbering operations indefinitely. By  
the time one section has been clear-  
ed of marketable timber, they claim,  
timber in another section will have  
grown to marketable size.

Mr. Byers declared that the lum-  
bering operations will not consist of  
a "clean sweep" of lumber. In other  
words, the general character of the  
area is not to be changed through  
the indiscriminate chopping down  
of trees, regardless of their size.  
Young trees will be protected insom-  
far as possible to serve as seedlings  
for future timber. The area is not to  
be denuded of its growth.

Three principal kinds of lumber  
are available in the tract. In the  
valleys and lowlands are white pine  
and hemlock, while on the moun-  
tain sides and other high areas, oaks  
(Continued on page Four)

## 36 GET DIPLOMAS FROM FIRE SCHOOL

Presentation of Diplomas  
and Awards Made by  
Undine Company

Thirty-six members of Bellefonte  
and Snow Shoe fire schools who re-  
cently completed an 18-week course  
were presented with certificates at  
graduation exercises and a banquet  
sponsored by the Undine Fire Com-  
pany of Bellefonte, Saturday even-  
ing at the Brockerhoff Hotel. Mem-  
bers of both classes, their wives and  
friends were present.

Charles S. Saxton, president of  
the Undine fire company, was in-  
structor of both classes. He was as-  
sisted by B. A. Doll, chief of the  
same company. Both men were pre-  
sented with two war bonds from  
members of each class in apprecia-  
tion for their efforts and time spent  
during the courses. The Bellefonte  
course was held Monday nights and  
the Snow Shoe course every Friday  
night. Arthur Boob, chief of the  
Logan company, who aided with the  
Snow Shoe class, received a war  
bond in appreciation for his ser-  
vices.

Russell Torsell, chairman of the  
Undine entertainment committee,  
introduced A. L. Francis, toastmas-  
ter, who in turn introduced Rt. Rev.  
William E. Downes, speaker of the  
evening.

In presenting the diplomas, Mr.  
Saxton thanked all those who took  
the courses and announced that two  
members reached perfect marks and  
(Continued on page Four)

Joseph Spritzer is  
Home from Invasion

Joseph A. Spritzer, EM 2/c, of the  
U. S. Coast Guard, has arrived in  
Bellefonte after spending 17 months  
in overseas duty, having partici-  
pated in the D-Day invasion during  
which his ship was lost. He has been  
on active duty in North Africa and  
action in the invasion of Sicily,  
Italy, and France. He is a guest  
of his sister, Mrs. Melvin Williams,  
of the Penn. Belle apartments.

The Spritzer family is well rep-  
resented in the armed forces. Thom-  
as, EM 2/c, took part in the invasion  
of the Marshall Islands and of Iwo  
Island in the South Pacific and re-  
mains on active duty in that area.  
Pfc. Stephen saw action in Sicily,  
Italy and the Azule beachhead.  
At the expiration of his present  
30-day leave, Joseph will receive  
assignment to a new post.

## COUNTY TOPS BOND QUOTA BY \$125,000

Centre Is One of Only 3  
in State to Exceed E  
Bond Assignment

### "BEST RECORD TO DATE" AIKENS SAYS

Nearly All of 9 Local Dis-  
tricts Meet Big  
Quotas

With the official ending of the 8th  
War Loan campaign, Monday night,  
it was revealed that Centre county,  
assigned a record quota of \$2,238,000  
in the drive, exceeded that figure  
by more than \$125,000, according to  
figures released by Claude G. Aikens,  
of State College, chairman of the  
County War Finance Committee.

Probably even more significant,  
Mr. Aikens declared, is that the  
county is one of only three in  
Pennsylvania to exceed its quota of  
E bonds in the drive. Centre topped  
its \$495,000 allocation of E bonds  
with more than \$25,000 to spare. The  
other two counties of the state  
which met the E quotas are Beaver  
and Pike.

Centre county has every right to  
take pride in its accomplishment  
during the campaign," Mr. Aikens  
commented. "The quota was by far  
the heaviest ever assigned the coun-  
(Continued on page Five)

### Port Matilda Girl Hit By Batted Ball

Miss Alice Sunday, 16, daughter  
of Mr. and Mrs. George Sunday of  
Port Matilda, suffered a concussion  
of the brain and a badly bruised  
eye Saturday evening when she was  
hit by a baseball.

The accident happened while Miss  
Sunday was watching a game be-  
tween Port Matilda and Winburne  
at the Port Matilda ball park. A foul  
ball was hit, struck a post and  
bounced off, striking Miss Sunday  
on the face.

Her condition yesterday was said  
by her mother to be excellent and  
she is expected to get home accord-  
ing to the family physician, Miss  
Sunday's half-brother, Pvt. James  
W. Crowner, of Fort Meade, Md.,  
was called home because of the ac-  
cident and spent several hours with  
the family, Monday.

### Pvt. Martin L. Solt Wounded In Action

Pvt. Martin L. Solt of Bellefonte,  
was wounded in action while serv-  
ing with the ground crew of the U.  
S. air force in France, according to  
a letter received from him Friday  
by his sister, Mrs. Mary Whiteside  
of South Burrows street, State Col-  
lege.

Pvt. Solt, 21, brother of Lewis  
Solt, of East Howard street, Belle-  
fonte, was wounded in action while  
serving with the ground crew of the  
U. S. air force in France, according to  
a letter received from him Friday  
by his sister, Mrs. Mary Whiteside  
of South Burrows street, State Col-  
lege.

### 17-YEAR-OLDS MAY ENTER AIR FORCES

Enlistments Being Ac-  
cepted for Combat Crews,  
Legion Head Reports

Headquarters of the Army Air  
Forces at Washington, D. C., recent-  
ly reopened an extensive recruit-  
ment drive for 17-year-old boys for  
the Air Force Combat Crews, and  
Brooks-Doll Post, American Legion,  
Bellefonte, has been called upon to  
aid in the program. Charles A. Eck-  
erth, post commander, said yester-  
day.

The Army Air Forces is the only  
specific unit of the Army which a  
17-year-old man can enter of his  
own volition. If he passes the qual-  
ification he is placed in the Air  
Force Enlisted Reserve, subject to  
call upon reaching his 18th birth-  
day. If he is attending school at  
time of his 18th birthday, he will  
be given a deferment to finish the  
semester.

Upon receiving call to active duty,  
the reservist is sent to an Army Air  
Force Basic Training Center for  
basic training. There decision will  
be made as to whether he will become  
a gunner, navigator, pilot, bombard-  
ier or trained for some other post  
assignment.

Red Cross Nurse on Vacation

Miss Bertha Rimmey, local Red  
Cross nurse, will begin her annual  
vacation August 5th, expecting to be  
away from her duties until Septem-  
ber 5th. During her absence, Mrs.  
Merrill Hagen, a former Red Cross  
nurse, will take her place, main-  
taining the same office hours, 9 to  
9:30 a. m. and 1 to 2 p. m.

Injured by Wire

Charlotte Reeder, 20, of Lock  
Haven, suffered lacerations of the  
left leg, Sunday, as the result of  
striking a wire attached to a porch  
in Bellefonte. She underwent treat-  
ment at the Centre County Hospi-  
tal dispensary.

### Cars Collide Near College; Damage \$40

Damage estimated at \$40 resulted  
in an accident involving cars oper-  
ated by John C. Johnsonbaugh, 28,  
of State College, R. D., and James  
Phelan, 40, of Clarence, about 3:30  
a. m. Saturday near State College.  
The accident happened when  
Johnsonbaugh's car ran off the road  
and struck the Phelan car which  
was parked because the lights of the  
car had gone out. Left front fender  
and left front wheels of both  
machines were damaged. Motor police  
from Pleasant Gap sub-station  
investigated.

## 19 MEN CALLED FOR EXAMINATION

Group to Go to Harris-  
burg Monday in Spec-  
ially Chartered Bus

Nineteen men have been notified  
by Local Draft Board No. 2, of Belle-  
fonte, to report on Monday, August  
7, for pre-induction physical exami-  
nations.

The men will report to the board  
officers at the Bellefonte postoffice  
where they will board a special  
Johnston bus for the trip to the  
examination center in Harrisburg.  
All the men will return to Belle-  
fonte the same day, excepting any  
who may sign requests for immedi-  
ate induction. Such men will be in-  
ducted at once.

Those in the group are:

- Clarence R. Cronover, Strouds-  
burg.
- Chauncey O. Miller, Phillipsburg.
- Walter A. Moore, Clarence.
- Kenneth L. Brass, Julian.
- Homer E. Woodring, Julian.
- Carl C. Corl, Bellefonte, R. D. 2.
- Eberett J. Fauser, Bellefonte, R.  
D. 1.
- Frank J. Brumbaugh, Phillipsburg.
- Robert S. McGuire, Phillipsburg.
- Elmer G. Conaway, Snow Shoe.
- William K. Dietz, Blanchard.
- Frederic C. Hoffer, Phillipsburg.
- James P. McKivison, Port Matilda.

### Drug Addict Is Arrested at College

Thomas Victor McCruth, 27, of  
Huntingdon, apprehended by State  
College police about 7 p. m. Sunday  
on complaint that he had been con-  
tacting physicians there to obtain  
morphine, is now in the Centre  
county jail awaiting return to Ar-  
lington, Ky., where he had previous-  
ly served time in a federal institu-  
tion.

On detaining and questioning Mc-  
Cruth, State College police learned  
he had been on probation from the  
Kentucky institution and notified  
his probation officer, L. C. Beier of  
Philadelphia. Word has been re-  
ceived that a warrant will be issued  
against him and he will be taken  
into custody by a United States  
Marshall from Scranton.



SGT. JOHN G. DROGAN  
Wounded in Normandy Fighting



PVT. JOSEPH BENZIE  
Wounded in European War Area



PFC. HOMER SAXTON  
Receives Second Wound