

Charles Alva Harris

July 16, 1918 – September 6, 1949

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Harris Funeral Rites Wednesday

By Register Staff Writer

HINTON—Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p. m. tomorrow for Charles Harris, athlete and veteran of World War II, who died in a Pittsburgh hospital early Sunday morning.

The Rev. H. P. Hackney and the Rev. E. W. Billings will officiate with burial to follow in the Greenbrier Burial Park.

Harris became ill about two weeks ago with a kidney ailment and was first hospitalized at Morgantown, where he was employed by the State Bureau of Mines. Later he was removed to the Aspinall Veterans Hospital near Pittsburgh, where little hope had been held for his recovery for several days. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Harris, of Seventh Street, Hinton, were with him at the time of his death.

Born July 16, 1918, in Hinton, he graduated from high school there where he was a popular athlete, being named to the All-West Virginia football team. He also played four years at West Virginia University as a tackle, in addition to earning three letters in basketball and being named on the first all-tournament team at Morgantown.

World War II interrupted his studies at Morgantown when he had been there two years, and following his discharge, he returned there and received his bachelor of arts degree last June. He was twice decorated during the war, the first award being the Silver Star on Jan. 28, 1942, for "gallantry in action" in the North African theatre, and in August, 1943, he received the Bronze Star for heroic achievement" in the vicinity of Troina, Sicily, where he picked up a heavy machine gun and, standing exposed to enemy fire, operated the gun from a standing position against German troops protected from ground fire by a slight rise in the terrain. He also received the Purple Heart after he was wounded in Belgium in May, 1944. He was discharged May 7, 1945, after more than three years of service.

In addition to his parents, he is survived two brothers: Edward C. Harris, of Valley Fork, Clay Co., and Lawrence M. Harris, of Ashland, Ky.