State And National News

ESTABLISHED 1867.

Japs Starting New Drive To Crush Chinese

Foe Begins Attacks In Seven Widely Separated Sectors

SHOW GREAT ACTIVITY

Not Since Last May Have Invaders Revealed Such Movement

CHUNGKING, Feb. 18 — BROWN FLAYS gun attacks in seven widely separated areas, from the lake country north of Shanghai to the jungles of Yunan in the the hope of ending Chinese resistance, the Chinese announced today.

Not since last May when the Japanese attempted simulments on the Fukien coast bituminous coal industry. have the invaders shown as great coordinated activity.

general offensive". He said they dustry. probably were motivated by the

hat Japan now intends "to take the bituminous coal situation." conceivable measures to crush tive assistance to her.)

Foreign observers noted that the computing parity prices.

One of the two biggest Japa-Tunnan where the Japanese Were said to have brought 10,000 forcements up the Burma progress toward the Salween river

This drive began last Friday, and bloody fighting still was going on five days later, a high comnand communique said.

The other was in northern Kiangsu province in the lake and swamp rea north of Shanghai, where the apanese were said to have concentrated 20,000 men and begun quential things. an eastward march.

(A Tokyo broadcast by Domei, South Seas might be engaged in together." this theater. It said imperial troops way, while another was moving and become powerful elements in orthward up the Grand canal). our life." Three other areas of activity as

east these were: . The Shasi-Ichang area in Huapanese penetration toward

growing in intensity.

fuchow, possibly for a fourth cam- war, to be specific, in the matter Continued on Page Twelve; Col. 3) (Continued on Page Two; Col. 2) Madame Chiang Declares Jap Defeat

threat" to civilization.

Not A Political Plum

If municipal ownership and operation of the Tide Water Power company properties is authorized by the legislature, and a board of seven directors set up, as contemplated, the Star-News feels that the men choser for membership, in the interest of the public welfar must be business men of proved ability and irrepros able integrity; and that their compensation should on a per diem basis, calculated on actual attenda. at directors' meetings and other essential services rendered-not on a salary basis which could too easily be converted into a political plum.

The Star-News has not had time to analyze the measure as it will be presented at Raleigh, and therefore cannot give it either full endorsement or dissent from its provisions. But this newspaper is definitely and unalterably opposed to any provision which could give the politicians control of the properties of the Tide Water Power company.

BACK BITING

Under-the-Table Talk In Congress

NEW YORK, Feb 18 .- (AP)-Prentaneously a push up the Burtiss M. Brown, the nation's new ma road, a twin-headed drive price administrator, today lashed in Kiangsi and Chekiang prorinces on the eastern sea a rebirth of unity, and declared board, and made several lodge- "there must be no strike" in the

any Washington official in recent months, Brown covered a wide field of administrative problems in A Chinese spokesman told a one of his first public speeches press conference that there was since becoming head of the OPA. o indication that the current op- He spoke before the technical aserations were the "prelude to a sociation of the pulp and paper in-

"There must be no strike and "dissipate Chinese there must be no compromise," might be amended in committee Brown said of the coal situation, (However, a Tokyo broadcast re- adding that there must be a deterorded in London said a Japanese mination in the administration, "we rmy spokesman had announced cannot accede to the demands in

Brown said two bills were now hungking resistance," thus sug- being considered by Congress which esting that the Japanese might would "just about wreck the cone delivering the first blows in an trol law of food prices." He identiendment and the Senate bill to eliminate government payments in
new water supply and filter sysof Rostov, indicating the Soviet sive against the Japanese in the ort to knock out China before fied these as the Pace parity am-United Nations can bring ef- endment and the Senate bill to eli- to enjoy all city facilities, the

eports of widespread Japanese The possibility of these agricultion, which were receiving much tural price changes was the founminence in the Chinese press, dation for pay increase demands

ade an appeal to the United be broken through, and we will did not fully embody all details face in this country the most dan- of the original proposal and that gerous domestic situation that this further consideration of the measnation has ever faced. It would be ure should be had before intronese drives was east of Lungling equal to a tremendous defeat on the military front."

He said earlier in an interview oad from Lashio and made some that 'if we break over on prices we'll provide ammunition for the

organized labor groups." Speaking of Congress, Brown

"I have never known a time when there was so much disunity in the Congress of the United States, when there was so much back-biting and fighting between the American people over inconse-

"We need a rebirth of the spirit of unity. I hope all of us will rearecorded by the Associated Press, lize that unity in spirit is necesndicated that crack troops for sary, that these great nations who nerly employed in Malaya or the are not united together must stand

"And they won't if this back-bitvictorious in jungle warfare are ing, this under the table talk, these proving themselves equally profi- criticisms of the war effort of our cient in swamp warfare" and said Allies and our friends, are continone column was advancing east- ued, if these seeds of disunity ward from Suchow, junction of the which have been sown are permitlunghai and Tientsin-Pukow rail- ted to nurture and grow and live

"We know from the bitter experanounced by the high command, ience following 1918," Brown conwere along the Yangtze river val- tinued, 'that selfishness, aggraney in central China. From west dizement, national selfishness, will only result in a war in which your

grandchildren and mine will again pen province, the point of deepest be engaged in deathly struggle. "On the domestic front, in the Chungking, where fighting was emergency agencies, one of which I head, we need the support of the 2 Northern Hunan, where there American peoples as a whole. In were other large concentrations at the matter of carrying on of the

Is Of Major Importance To Allies

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. - (A) - | aced by an apology that she had speaking of hopes for a better fu-

hiang Kai-shek brought a cheer- the House. The House speech was jammed with officials, diplomats

eclared it was against United Na. Escorted by House party leaders American people have every right

tions' interests to allow Japan to to Speaker Sam Rayburn's ros- to be proud of their fighting men,

slim Chinese gown waited while

continue "as a vital potential trum, the fragile figure in the long particularly those whose duty was

Chinese generalissimo electrified ordered glaring floodlights turned leader also asserted she felt at

he Senate by clenching a small off. During her speech, however, home here and believed Americans

ist to pronounce the four freedoms Mme. Chiang neither faltered nor "are building and carrying out a

wade-jeweled and exquisite in black not known she was to make one ture world.

mbroidered Chinese silk, Madame there and prepared only one for

Earlier the petite wife of the the speaker first requested, then

House to its feet today as she read and broadcast.

Proclaimed by President Roosevelt flinched at flash bulbs.

EXTENSION BILL TO BE PROPOSED

the jungles of Funan in the open the jungles of Funan in the open the jungles of Funan in the open the jungles of Funan in the Introduce Measure In House Today

> The bill of Representative R. M. dividing the area to be acquired into three zones and providing that none of the three will be responsible for present bond issues or indebtedness of the city, will be in-In the strongest words fired by (Friday), the New Hanover representative said Thursday afternoon. "I want to get it past the first eading and referred to committee

so that both sides can argue it out," Mr. Kermon said. He said that the proposed bill, which now follows the new boundaries outlined by city officials, and added that he was still not convinced that the North Carolina Shipbuilding company should be

included in the extended limits. Commenting on the representative's bill Thursday morning, city officials said that the zoning amendments would permit residents of the areas coming into the city limits for the first time out the necessity of helping to great area. pay for them on a proportionate

Kermon's bill calls for approval by a general election here not later than March 30 and for the bill to take effect, if approved. not later than April 1. A third

(Continued on Page Two: Col. 5)

Some May Secure Extra Shoes If Work Demands Them, Says Ration Head

"It will be possible for individuals who, because of the nature of their jobs must wear out more shoe leather, to obtain extra pairs of shoes by making special written request to our board," O. H. Shoemaker, chairman of the New Hanover War Price and Rationing

board said Thursday. Coupon in War Ration Book No. 1 will be valid for the purchase of one pair of shoes until

The person asking for special consideration on shoe needs points in his written request: must answer the following There is no valid No. 17 stamp available for his use; no employer or institution is furnishing him shoes of the requested type; he possesses only one pair usable for the requested purpose; and the shoes are needed. Maintenance of personal appearance, color, and style are not

Mme. Chiang told a chamber

and Chinese that the fighting

The American-educated Chinese

true pattern of the nation con-

"the monotony of waiting."

to be considered.

Forecast: Warmer Friday.

(Eastern Standard Time)
(By U. S. Weather Bureau)
Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterrday.

Temperature

1:30 a. m., 40; 7:30 a. m., 34; 1:30 p. m., 47; 7:30 p. m., 41.

Maximum, 50; Minimum 33; Mean, 43; Normal, 48.

Humidity

Humidity
1:30 a. m., 70; 7:30 a. m., 50; 1:30 p.
m., 37; 7:30 p. m., 63.

Precipitation
Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p.
000 inches

Tides For Today
High
9:24a
9:24p (Elmore's) 7:44p (All times Eastern Standard)

Russians Cut ROMMEL'S TANK FORMATIONS

or Nazi STAND ALMOST ON ALGERIAN pe Route

Rail Line Taken With Capture of District Center

ENEMY MAY BE CAUGHT

Latest Red Maneuver Imperils Large Units of Axis Troops

LONDON, Friday, Feb. 19 — (P) —Advancing with a speed indicating little effective opposition, the Red army in pursuit of beaten Nazi troops in the area west of Rostov has cut the only escape railway on this front, the Russians announced in the midnight communique recorded here by the Soviet monitor.

The rail line was cut with Kermon to extend the city limits, the capture of the district center of Matveev-Kurgan, 25 miles north of the Azov port of Taganrog, and although it was not immediately clear troduced into the House today from which direction the victorious Russians came, it was entirely possible that large forces of Germans were trapped by the stroke.

The Russians have been operat ing both north and east of Matveev-Kurgan, and the town could have been taken from either direction. If the Soviet forces came down from the north, the trapped great numbers — probably less if the Russians advanced from the New American Field Army Germans might be counted in

Even in the latter case, however, observers believed sizable Nazi groups might well be caught in

the Taganrog area.

The bulk of the midnight communique dealt with Red successes tems, streets, police and fire fa- armies were quickly cutting into southwest Pacific was raised tocilities, and the city hall, with- the Germans retreating from this day as Secretary of War Stimson

Elsewhere the Russians were moving in still closer to the Nazi the command of Lieutenant Genstrong point of Orel, at the north eral Walter Krueger, one of the Mainth with the price of the generalissimate an appeal to the United was indicated the Germans three two armored divisions against the representative's measure of the railway town and district of the wage structure will inevitably hade an appeal to the United was indicated the Germans three two armored divisions against the representative's measure of the railway town and district of the railw the strong point.

the railway from the south-from paign would start remained a questhe direction of Kursk.

The midnight communique, however, dealt mainly with the battle against the German armies left Guinea as the Sixth Army, served behind in the region of Rostov and to emphasize the growth of Allied

communique said, the Soviet arrived recently. troops took 60 populated places as the enemy, and one Russian mo- varies between 200,000 and 400,000 torized formation alone killed 1,000 men). and captured 1,500 German offi-

other airdromes. "Southwest of Voroshilovgrad Pacific. our troops continued their successful advance and captured several to this country as a child, Krueger to this country as a child, Krueger populated places," the communi-enlisted in the Army during the que continued. One formation "aft- war with Spain and rose from the er heavy engagements" disabled ranks. Despite his graying hair, ten enemy tanks and two armored he looks much younger than his cars. Other war material was cap- 62 years.

tured, including 37 trucks. The Russians reported continu-

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

WEATHER

Total since the first of the

NO MAJOR DISASTER Goebbels Tells Nazis

POONA, India, Feb. 18.-(#) Physicians who made an exhaustive examination today of Mohandas K. Gandhi, now in the second week of his projected 21-day fast, looked more worried than at any time be-

the Aga Khan where Gandhi is being detained. It was understood that the frail little Indian nationalist leader had showed no inclination to talk or see visitors since

this morning. This was the ninth day of his fast in protest against his confinement in the palace prison. A government communique issued at Bombay said there was deepening anxiety over his condition.

fore as they left the palace of

Physicians Worried

About Condition Of

'Although Mr. Gandhi had a total of nine hours sleep, he is not refreshed nor mentally alert," it stated. "His heart action is feebler."

DRIVE ON JAPS MAY BE COMING

Organized In Australian Area

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 .- (A) new field army in Australia under

it-seemed to point to the exist-The Russians already have re- ence of plans for a new Allied ported progress toward Orel along drive. Just when such a cam-

tion, however. The decision to organize American troops in Australia and New to the north in the Donets basin strength in the southwest Pacific during the last year, and suggest-West of Novo - Shakhtinsk, the ed that reinforcements may have

(An army or "field army" is "continued their successful made up of two or more army offensive." Heavy losses fell to corps, and its strength normally

Krueger is regarded by his felcers and men, the communique low officers as one of the Army's most learned students of strategy Particularly heavy losses were and military history and as a tacsaid to have been inflicted on the 79th German infantry division, which, according to the Soviet bulletin, "consisted mostly of wound- as "a soldier's soldier." His ased officers and men released from signment to Australia was the rethe hospital ahead of time, and sult of a specific request from also squads from Taganrog and General Douglas MacArthur, commander-in-chief in the southwest

A native of Germany, who came

One officer said recently that

every American division now in ing offensively also in the Kram- combat areas has learned much from rueger, either because it served under his command in the Third Army, or learned a bitter lesson when it opposed him in maneuvers. Next to Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, commanding general of the Army Ground Forces, said this officer, Krueger probably has had more influence on the training of the present Army than any other one man. To succeed him in command of the Third Army, with headquarters at San Antonio, Texas., the War department designated Major

NOTICE!

If your carrier 'fails to leave your copy of the Wilmington Morning Star, Phone 3311 before 9:00 a.

Gandhi During Fast | Secretary Declares Defeat Amounts To Serious Local Setback

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 - (P) -Fairly heavy losses in both personnel and equipment are being inflicted on American forces by the German thrust in Tunisia, Secretary of War Stimson acknowledged today, but he said there has been no major disaster.

The American defeat amounted ne told a press conference, to a serious local setback" but one which should neither be exaggerated nor minimized.

The development was not alto gether unanticipated, he said, and constituted "one of those reverses which must be expected from time to time in an operation of the size of the Tunisian campaign." In a general discussion of the

var, Stimson also said: It appears that the Germans, having lost Kharkov, must abandon all hope of holding their last winter's line in Russia and fall back all the way to the Dnieper river. Despite the heavy losses in men

and supplies, it is much too soon to expect a German collapse; Nazis still have a powerful army and airforce. This country has no confirmation of reported changes in the German

high command, including replacemen of Adolf Hitler as the active head of the army. Peace feelers, already rumored may be expected "sooner or later" from Germany and Italy but they already have their answer-the Casa

blanca demand for "unconditional surrender." Explaining what had happened i Tunisia, the war secretary said it FUEL RATIONING h to Tokyo" nisia at a time when the British miles southeast of Orel, and Po-kovskoye, 40 miles southeast of Krueger's designation to command suit of Rommel's legions, and the British First Army was "mud bound"

in northern Tunisia. With support of fighter and dive combing planes, the Nazis quickly overran advanced American positions and cut off some artillery and

infantry units. arrival of German reinforcements for the duration." forced our troops to fall back.

It was indicated, he said, that the Axis was not the beginning of additional amounts of gasoline. Gen. Eisenhower's communique a large scale offensive but only an fuel oil and kerosene can be made said. (Continued on Page Two; Col. 6)

RAF Fighters Assault Railway Installations In France, Belgium

LONDON, Feb. 18. - (P) -RAF fighters attacked railway lines and other ground targets in France and Belgium today while Mosquito bombers battered communication lines at Tours, an authoritative source said tonight. Overnight the big bombers

raided targets in western Germany and all returned home without loss. Navy planes operating with

the fighter command attacked small enemy ships off the French coast, sinking one. A south coast town was hit by a German bomb after noon

today. One person was killed and others were injured.

'Cruel Truth' About New Russian Success

FINAL EDITION

BORDER AFTER RAPID DRIVE

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON, Feb. 18. - Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels told what he called the "cruel truth" to the German people today-that "motorized robot divisions" of the Red army had "broken loose with a power eclipsing all imagination," and that "we must act quickly and thoroughly or

it might be too late." "Danger is imminent," he was quoted as saying by the Berlin radio. "It is not the moment for asking questions how it happened. We must act, and this immediately and thoroughly."

The Nazi propagandist complained that other nations, including the United States and Britain, failed to realize the "Bolshevist - Jewish peril," again promised death to saboteurs, said German's living standard probably would fall lower, and many businesses would be closed to raise men both against Russia and against an Allied invasion dan-

ger to the west. He again attempted to explain why Germany, who had a non-aggression pact with Russia, ever attacked that nation, explaining that "in view of the big camouflaging and bluffing maneuvers of Moscow we did not correctly estimate the war potential of the Soviet

"Only now," he added, "it is revealed to us in its wild great-

Ickes Says Present System border. Will Go On For Duration of War

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 .- (AP)-Petroleum Administrator Ickes oasis some 60 miles to Feriana. American counterattacks delayed said tonight that the end of oil tian and Libyan campaigns inflictthe advance while the Gafsa oasis, rationing is not yet in sight and ed a severe defeat on American three air fields and other vulner- that "gasoline, fuel oil and kero- armored forces in their first imable positions were evacuated, but sene conservation must continue portant clash, but the pressure ap-

available in the near future," he in stronger positions west of the

tell you just how much oil will peak. be needed to carry out the tre- It appeared that Rommel had in cerns civilian supplies.

the Midwest."

Ickes said completion of the 24- American line. inch pipeline from Longview, Tex., (The German communique said to Norris City, Ill., would make "an attacking operation under way additional thousands of barrels for some days was successfully of precious oil available for ship- continued." Considerable losses ment to the East Coast and trans- were reported inflicted by Nazi shipment to North Africa and oth- planes on heavy weapons and mo er fighting fronts," but would not

Stinson Says Fairly Heavy Losses TAKE LARGE AREA

Suffered By Americans In Tunisia Germans Capture About 4,000 Square Miles of Land From U. S.

INFLICT SEVERE LOSSES

Pressure On Americans Appears To Be Slackening From First Push

ALLIED HEADQUAR-TERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Feb. 18—(P)—German tank formations stood almost on the Algerian border after capturing 4,000 square miles of central Tunisia in four days from American forces who have withdrawn into the mountains below Tebessa, an Algerian town 12 miles west

of the border. However, word that the British Eighth Army, driving from the south to relieve the situation, had reached Medenine after a 45-mile advance. promised an early lessening of Marshal Rommel's pressure on the Americans.

Straggling units which fought their way back from behind the German lines reached American outposts in the heights east of Tebessa, bringing accounts that tended to scale down early reports of Allied losses.

(Gallagher's dispatches did not say whether the American outposts were east or west of the border. The mountains below Tebessa sprawl on both sides of the line.)

Advance About 60 Miles

The Axis veterans had advanced ome 60 miles since Sunday and the Allied communique today announced that they had taken Sbeitla, Kasserine and Feriana, the last only 12 miles from the Algerian

Rommel apparently was using two tank divisions in two columns The northern wing had driven from Faid pass about 55 miles to Kasserine and the southern column had swept up through the Gafsa Rommel's veterans of the Egyp-

peared to be slackening. "Fighting in southern Tunisia "There is little or no hope that yesterday was on a reduced scale,

said in a (March of Time) radio three abandoned towns on the eastern slopes of a mountain range "If it were possible for me to which is 4,500 feet high at its

mendous Allied offensive planned flicted such losses that an Allied for 1943, you would readily under- attack on his flank was virtually stand my failure to be optimistic impossible. Thus he was ready to as to the future as far as con-turn south to meet the British Eighth Army which now is 65 "However, I can tell you that miles inside southern Tunisia at doubling or trebling the amount the outposts of the Mareth line. of oil shipped across the seas will These positions of dugouts, barbedresult in a great deficiency in ci- wire entanglements and gun emvilian oil stocks. And this gloomy placements had been held principicture of the oil supply situation pally by infantry since Rommel holds as true for the West Coast employed virtually all the tanks as it does for the East Coast and he could scrape together for his assault against the lightly held

(Continued on Page Twelve; Col 2)

House Committee Approves Bill To Draft All Single Men First

uniform, while a Senate group vot-

force of 11,200,000 is needed. Army, Navy and Maritime Com- tions, also adopted a proviso by without children, and married men mission will have to have," said Rep. Elston (R-Ohio) forbidding with children.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18-(P)-A | hind legislation by Senator Bank-|on a state rather than a local bas-

General Courtney H. Hodges, 56, House committee approved a bill head (D-Ala) providing for the de- is. It divides each state's manof Perry, Pa., former chief of in- today requiring that all eligible ferment of farm hands and the fur- power into four categories and promander of the Tenth Army Corps. ed before fathers are called to loughing of those now in service. vides that no one in a higher cate-The House Military committee, gory shall be drafted while eligible ed to investigate why an armed in approving 23 to 2 the bill by men in a lower category are still Rep Kilday (D-Tex) for manda- in civilian life. The categories 'We are going to find out who tory deferment of fathers over the are: singe men, single men with fixed this figure as the amount the Selective Service Bureau's objec- collateral dependents, married men

> Chairman Smith (D-SC) of the Sen- the induction of men by occupa- Chairman May (D-Ky) of the ate Agriculture committee. "If we tional groups. This was to make committee said he would ask the keep going at the present rate the sure that fathers in the occupations rules committee to clear the bili

a gong of freedom to the United Her cultured voice ranged from ceived by your forebears, strength. Sunrise, 6:52 a. m.; Sunset, 6:00 p. m. Moonrise, 5:39 p. m.; Moonset, 6:32 a. m. Cape Fear river stage at 8 A. M. Thurs-day, 12:35 feet. people will be going hungry, bare- recently ruled non-essential by the for floor action next week. Opposm. and one will be sent to allons and the death-knell to vehemence over "Japan's sadistic ened and confirmed." War Manpower Commission would ing it in committe, were Repretheir aggressors." foot and naked." fury," to strong pride in China's At the same time a group of not be drafted ahead of single men. sentatives Andrews (R-NY) and some 30 farm senators lined up be-Congress, she said, would have you by special messenger. Her address to the Senate was five-and-a-half-year fight and orief and extemporaneous, pref- dropped to low urgent tones in (Continued on Page Two; Col. 5) (Continued on Page Two; Col. 8)