

FORECAST

Wilmington and vicinity: Cooler today. Temperatures yesterday: High 71; low 66.

Wilmington Morning Star

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND BATAAN

VOL. 77.—NO. 166 WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1944 FINAL EDITION ESTABLISHED 1867

STORM WRECKS BEACHES; CITY SUFFERS GREATLY

High Waves Ruin Homes At Carolina

THOUSANDS LEAVE

Boardwalk Ripped Apart As Big 30-Foot Waves Demolish Resort

CAROLINA BEACH, Aug. 1.—Its thousands of residents and visitors evacuated safely through quick work by military authorities and the transportation companies, the waterfront at this large resort was in ruins tonight and scores of cottages demolished or seriously damaged as the result of the greatest storm to strike here in the past 200 years.

At 9 o'clock, no estimate on the damage was available because a large part of the eastern section of the community was still under from one to six feet of water.

A good description of the damage was given by State Highway Patrolman M. S. Parvin, who visited the resort after it had been evacuated.

The entire boardwalk, he reported, was swept away and the giant waves—they reached a height of 20 feet at times—battered down the shops and concessions on the front boardwalk. In addition, the great flood of water swept into the lower boardwalk, crashing debris against the stores, hotels, cafes and other establishments. Loosened by the high seas, pieces of the boardwalk became battering rams in the roaring surf and loosened the undermining of numerous cottages on the southern extension. They toppled into the flood tide.

The entire southern section, from the center of town to Kure's beach, was swept by the high seas and wind that reached a velocity of 65 miles an hour at the height of the storm.

The waters of the ocean joined with those of the lake and the entire highway, from the beach to Fort Fisher, was under water.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

HOUSING PROJECTS SHELTER EVACUEES

Paul Allen, general housing manager of Maffitt Village, reported last night that no serious damage had been done to the houses at Maffitt Village during last night's hurricane.

There has been no damage here at the village, in fact we are planning to take care of about 200 evacuees in our apartments Allen said.

W. H. Stanley, chief of police at the village, reported that all maintenance crews had been called to work and were doing a splendid job of assisting in the placing of evacuees in all available rooms.

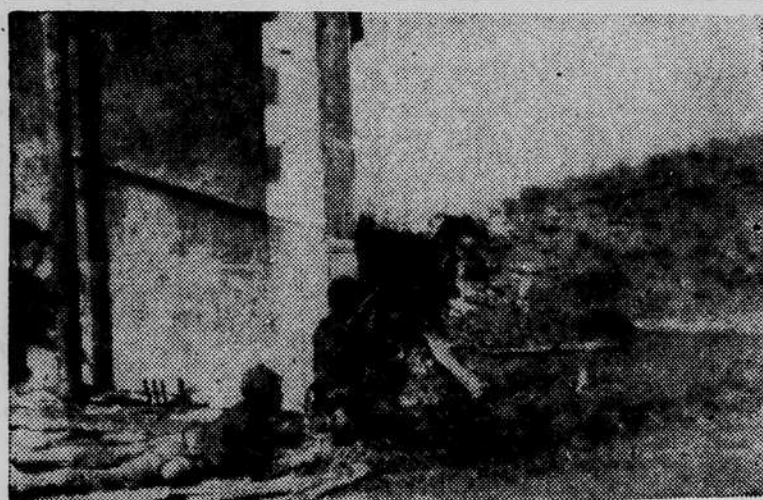
At Lake Forest several of the residents of the demountable houses left their homes to take refuge in the community building or in the Lake Forest School.

Minor damage was reported at Lake Forest. No serious injuries were reported at either of the large housing projects.

The Wilmington Police department, working in conjunction with the Civilian Defense Military Police, and the American Red Cross, pressed the entire force of 45 police officers into service last night during the worst storm Wilmington has seen in 200 years.

Headquarters lost report of the number of high tension wires blown onto the streets early last night, but said they had "over a hundred" calls reporting exposed wires. One call reported five wires in the streets at one place on the 300 block of North Fourth St. Two electrocutions were investigated by the officers.

Bazooka Knocks Out German Tank



A two-man bazooka crew (top) fires at an advancing German tank in Normandy. As smoke and flame clear away (bottom) a detachment of infantry led by Sgt. James F. Kelly of Boston, Mass., rushes toward the battered tank in search of German crew members.



A two-man bazooka crew (top) fires at an advancing German tank in Normandy. As smoke and flame clear away (bottom) a detachment of infantry led by Sgt. James F. Kelly of Boston, Mass., rushes toward the battered tank in search of German crew members.

Two Nazi Armies Isolated By Reds

LONDON, Aug. 1.—(AP)—The Russian First Baltic army slashed the last road and rail communications between the north Baltic states and East Prussia tonight, isolating two German armies in Estonia and Latvia, while two other powerful Soviet army groups captured Kaunas, pre-war capital of Lithuania, and closed a steel arc of siege around burning Warsaw.

The trap in the Baltic was being closed by Gen. Ivan C. Bagration's men, who seized Tukums, rail center nine miles south of the Gulf of Riga and 30 miles almost due west of the city of Riga.

Six other railway stations were among more than 100 taken in that drive, the Soviet midnight communique announced, describing the threat of German catastrophe in a single sentence:

"Thus our troops have cut all roads leading from the Baltic to East Prussia."

How many Germans remain there is uncertain, but their numbers are believed to be large, as both the 16th and 18th armies, once totalling 350,000 men, were (Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

Two Negroes Shocked By High Tension Wires

Dallie Jacobs, Negro, was shocked last night by a fallen high tension wire at 13th and Orange Streets and was carried to Community Hospital for treatment of severe burns on his right leg and both arms. His conditions was regarded as not being serious.

Another unidentified Negro was seriously burned when he was electrocuted near the same corner. He was given artificial respiration and later taken to the hospital, where his condition was reported as serious.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 7)

Storm Taxes Police Force

The Wilmington Police department, working in conjunction with the Civilian Defense Military Police, and the American Red Cross, pressed the entire force of 45 police officers into service last night during the worst storm Wilmington has seen in 200 years.

Headquarters lost report of the number of high tension wires blown onto the streets early last night, but said they had "over a hundred" calls reporting exposed wires. One call reported five wires in the streets at one place on the 300 block of North Fourth St. Two electrocutions were investigated by the officers.

both being within two blocks of each other. In addition to the entire city police force, more than 50 Military Police were called to duty and assigned posts throughout the city. The efficiency of the department was greatly hindered because there was no power to operate the radio, used to relay calls to the patrol cars. As a result, all cars were forced to report at regular intervals back to headquarters.

Louis J. Poisson, chief of the Civilian Defense unit, began organizing his force of volunteer workers at an early hour last night. Most of the volun-

U.S. Troops Smash Out In Brittany

DRIVE THUNDERS ON

American Armor Pointed At Heart Of France In Great Victory

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Wednesday, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Surging columns of American armor pointed at the heart of France broke into Brittany at four points Tuesday, smashing ten miles from captured Avranches in two directions, and infantry forces taking over the brunt of the thunderous offensive along a wide front, bagged a one-day total of 7,812 prisoners from the broken ranks of the retreating Germans.

While the armor drove down the coast beyond Avranches American infantry came into its own with a powerful inland smash into the streets of Villedieu-les-Poels and Tilly-sur-Sur, and along the whole inland side of the Yank breakthrough German crumbled.

As the great offensive rolled into its ninth day, a Supreme Headquarters communique said armored spearheads captured two dams in an area ten miles southeast of Avranches across the Selune river, boundary of old and last natural barrier before Brittany. A front dispatch said the advance was so swift the Germans had no chance to blow up the installations.

The Americans also smashed across the river four and one-half and six miles southeast of Avranches, taking Pontaubault and Ducey.

Ten miles east of Avranches the doughboys strengthened their hold along the See river, capturing Brecey, a road junction.

Associated Press Correspondent Wes Gallagher in a dispatch from the front said the Germans probably would try to halt the drive before the Americans surge completely out of the Cotentin peninsula and into the interior of France, where Field Marshal Guenther von Kluge would be unable to establish a line.

Even if he did establish a line temporarily by throwing in new divisions rushed from other parts of France, they never again would be able to stalemate the Allies as they did in the first 50 days of the invasion, Gallagher wrote.

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley has caught up with his timetable and is swinging along now far better than was expected ten days ago, having accomplished the three primary objectives assigned him— (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

Reds Reach Warsaw



Soviet troops (arrows) have taken Kaunas, the Germans announced, and are on the outskirts of Warsaw. Another drive, reported by Moscow, neared Riga.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

ARMY VEHICLES AID EVACUATION

One hundred Army trucks from Camp Davis were pressed into action as it became necessary to handle the evacuees from Wrightsville Beach during and after the disastrous storm which struck this area last night.

Emergency housing and feeding facilities were made available and the trucks were ordered to move into the storm struck area as soon as members of the Camp Command were apprised of the desperate situation caused by the sudden gales wreaking havoc along the coastal area.

Col. Adam E. Potts, camp commander, in concert with Brig. Gen. C. V. R. Schuyler, of the AAATC here, and Brig. Gen. Bryan L. Milburn, commander of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery school, cooperated in making the trucks and other facilities available. All officers kept in touch with the situation throughout the evening.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

Red Cross Shelters Storm Victims Here

The local American Red Cross chapter reported last night that it was sheltering between 500 and 600 beach evacuees at USO clubs and other public facilities.

The food situation was reported to be "well in hand", and Red Cross workers were planning to feed the refugees breakfast this morning.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

PISA EVACUATED

LONDON, Aug. 1.—The German radio said tonight the historic Italian city of Pisa had been "evacuated" in order to save the city's art treasures.

Life Guards Aid Evacuation

Tommy Hawkins, Billy Stewart and Jake Wade, Jr., life guards at Wrightsville Beach reported last night at 8 p.m. that the Army and the Coast Guard had almost completed the evacuation of the residents of Wrightsville Beach. The life guards aided the service men in warning the residents to flee the beach and also helped in the actual evacuation of the people.

The life guards were notified by the Wrightsville Police department to start warning the people to leave the island resort at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon. The three guards, with the assistance of Pete Herring, Billy Stewart and Claude Sanford began a door to door warning service urging the residents to leave the beach at once. Most of the people were very cooperative, the guards said, while some of them refused to leave their property.

The peak of the storm hit the beach between 6:30 and 7:30 o'clock when the wind reached its highest velocity, which was reported to be 65 miles per hour at times. The guards said it

was almost impossible to walk along the beach the wind was so strong. The actual evacuation of the residents began about 5 o'clock with the Wrightsville Coast Guard using all the available trucks to transport "the people to the mainland where they were loaded into private cars, buses and other means of transportation to Wilmington. Shortly after 5 o'clock Army trucks began to arrive at the beach in what seemed endless streams. The Coastguardsmen were loading the residents on the trucks and the Army was transporting them across the water covered causeway to the mainland.

Water was reported to be knee deep at station one and all of the small fishing and pleasure craft moored at the piers were sunk by the huge waves in Banks channel. Most all of the private piers were demolished along the Banks channel waterfront. Several houses were reported to have been blown down and roofs were off of most cottages on the beach.

The Atlantic View fishing pier and the Mira-Mar fishing pier were swept away by waves that were reported to be as high as 30 feet.

60-Mile Gale Hits Coast Hard Blow; Waves 40 Ft. High

WITNESS TELLS OF EVACUATION

By Sgt. EDMUND MONK

Rushing ahead of a 60-mile gale blowing straight off the Atlantic, thousands of summer and permanent residents of Wrightsville Beach evacuated their homes as streets there filled with water and the hurricane force wind whipped the Sound dangerously over the only two bridges leading out of the resort heavily populated with the wives and children of military personnel at Camp Davis 30 miles away.

Coast Guardsmen, augmented late in the afternoon by details from Camp Davis, combed the beach front and the other cottage areas for women and children who may not have gotten the alarm.

The writer, formerly an Associated Press correspondent, went to the resort late in the day to locate his wife and 11-year-old daughter.

Waves boiled over the bridge gunwales as other soldier motorists crossed toward Wrightsville on similar errands. Lines of cars packed with evacuees, mostly women and children, passed, headed inland.

The two available roads leading to the popular resort were strewn with fallen trees, blocking traffic and causing constant jams. Branches hurtled through the air with bullet like speed.

The northerly half of Wrightsville Beach—situated on a water locked semi-island—became more hazardous by the minute. Some residents felt a tidal change, before nightfall would bring a let down in the gale and high water—but none was apparent at 7 p. m.

The writer waded and plunged through often waste deep water, frantically seeking the cottage where his family had been staying. After a mile of mucking, accompanied by scores of officers

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

Water Conservation Urged In City Today

M'Kean Maffitt, superintendent of city water department, last night issued an appeal to Wilmingtonians to use as little water as possible today, as the power station was reported to be operating on a steam basis and furnishing only one-half of the usual 3,000,000 gallons of water distributed here.

"We don't even want people to take baths today," he said. "The situation is critical and we're asking everyone to conserve as much water as possible."

High Winds Send Thousands Inland

A tropical storm of hurricane force, believed to be the worst to lash southeastern North Carolina in 200 years, struck the Wilmington vicinity late yesterday and at approximately 10 p. m. turned the center of its fury inward, slightly south of the city, to proceed in a west-northwest direction.

Damage to nearby beaches was said to be "enormous" and within the city itself the fierce winds, blowing at 50 to 60 miles, played havoc with telephone, power, and light lines, and twisted and downed old and massive oaks.

Evacuees from the beaches, fleeing from boiling waves that attained an estimated height of 40 feet, swarmed into every available building in the city, or sought protection at Camp Davis.

Bus lines worked heroically, in conjunction with the Army and Coast Guard and concerned citizens, to bring panic-stricken families to safety.

At 11 o'clock there were no reports of fatalities, although handfuls of casualties were being brought to James Walker Memorial hospital, where attaches were forced to work on their patients by candle light. Two Negroes were severely burned by fallen high tension wires, one of whom was described by Community hospital doctors as being "in a serious condition."

Reports filtered in from the beach areas of destroyed piers and crushed houses. The storm seemed to have vented its fiercest temper on the coast proper in the late afternoon. Sea water filled the streets and topped the boardwalks.

Until after 10 o'clock last night Wilmingtonians, and the evacuees, hovered under whatever protective roofs they could find waiting for the expected full fury of the hurricane. They suspected the tempered winds as constituting the lull before the heaviest storm, but the center already had passed inland.

The barometer fell rapidly, and attained a low of 29.44 at 7:30 p. m.

Every facility on the coast was on alert and on duty. The Coast Guard began to move residents off the beaches in the middle of the afternoon, as the Weather Bureau and the Army and Navy weather stations warned of the impending blow.

Wilmingtonians, used to storm warnings, but doubtful that the danger would actually strike, remained skeptical until late afternoon when the strong winds, buffeting heavy rains, paralyzed traffic and made walking in the city a perilous matter.

Lights of the city for many hours were entirely off, except in the heart of town. For approximately an hour, the uptown lights were extinguished, a result of crippled power lines and overloaded transformers.

Travelers along the old part of Wilmington, after the main part of the storm, rued the tremendous damage done to the proud trees along the oldest streets, Princess, Chestnut and Grace. City and utility crews were on the job, untangling power lines from the masses of torn foliage.

Hotels and USO clubs were accommodating hundreds of people, some of them wandering through lobbies in their bathing suits, and many of whom were looking for their lost friends and relatives.

The police station at City Hall was wrapped in darkness, its radio out of operation.

The Control Center in the Odd Fellows hall was functioning, its personnel, perspiring and in shirtsleeves, attempting to round up civilian defense workers to scour the streets in search of victims, or to aid in any other developing emergency.

The Red Cross disaster chairman was away from the city, but President Henry Gerdes was on hand to direct Red Cross assistance. At 10:30 p. m. officials were considering mass feeding of the evacuees today.

The city awaited word from the beaches as to the extent of the damage.

Some eyewitnesses described Carolina Beach as possessing a "ruined waterfront." At 9 o'clock a large part of the eastern section of the community was still under from one to six feet of water.

A good description of the damage was offered by State Highway Patrolman M. S. Parvin, who visited the resort after residents had fled.

The entire boardwalk, he reported, was swept away, and the ponderous waves, climbing 30 feet high, battered down the shops and concessions on the front boardwalk. In addition, floods of water invaded the lower boardwalk, dashing debris against the stores, hotels, and other establishments.

(Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)