

FORECAST
Fair and colder today.
Yesterday's Temperatures:
High, 75—Low, 64.

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Reds Open New Drive On Berlin

Patton Storms To Rhine River

House Passes Bill To Draft Single Nurses

Measure Would Offer Commissions Before Induction Into Service
WASHINGTON, March 7.—(AP)—The House, grimly determined that sick and wounded servicemen will not be wanting for medical attention, today passed legislation authorizing the draft of unmarried nurses 20 through 44.
To forestall "marriage epidemics" to escape the draft, it stipulated that a graduate nurse would be considered "married" only if she was wed before March 15, 1945.
Passed by a 347-42 vote and referred to the Senate, the bill was the House's answer to President Roosevelt's request for means to conscript 20,000 nurses immediately to offset a shortage in the armed services.
The measure was thoroughly re-written during two days of debate. In its present form, Selective Service boards will have the final say on which nurses should be taken for military service and in what order.
A last minute amendment assured drafted graduate nurses an opportunity to receive, before induction, commissions of Ensign in the Navy or second lieutenant in the Army. If they refused, they could be drafted as Navy seamen or Army privates.
Another last-minute change authorized commissions for accredited male nurses, including those already in service.
An attempt to give the voluntary recruitment method one last chance failed when the House defeated, 139 to 133, an amendment which would have postponed inductions for 30 days while the armed forces intensified their recruiting drives.
Passage followed a flurry of oratory over a proposal to include married nurses in the draft. It was rejected amid charges that it would "wreck the American home."
Debate ended with adoption of an amendment requiring all nurses 20 to 44 to register for the draft, but exempting three categories:
1. Those married before March 15 of this year.
2. Those with dependent children.
3. Those having children under 18 years of age.
The chamber adopted an amendment.
(Continued on Page Five; Col. 4)

Yanks Gain 500 Yards Against Enemy On Iwo

Japs Show No Sign of Cracking As Marines Drive Ahead in Hand-to-Hand Combat; Advances Termed Spotty
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Thursday, March 8.—(AP)—In hand to hand combat, United States Marines drove two 500-yard salients Wednesday into the rocky, intricately fortified north end of Iwo but the Japanese still showed no signs of cracking on the 17th day of the invasion.
All three Marine divisions, on the second day of a renewed offensive to end the bloody operation, registered gains but they were spotty and officers were not inclined to regard them as significant.
Enemy resistance continued heavy.
Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced the progress in a communique today.
The Nipponese resistance was fierce. There was no reference to mortar and artillery opposition.
The big gain Wednesday was registered on the west side by Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockney's Fifth Marine Division.
Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's Third Marine Division also punched ahead in the center where the Leathernecks are getting into position to cut the Nipponese garrison in two.
Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' Fourth Marine Division scored gains up to 200 yards.
Reports received at headquarters were vague as to the specific locations of the new gains.
The progress was stepped up over that of Tuesday when the all-out offensive to crush the last Japanese organized resistance was opened. Tuesday's gains were measured in meager yards.
Carrier planes continued to neutralize Japanese bases in the Bonins north of Iwo, hitting Chichi and Haha with rockets and bombs.
(Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

U. S. Seizes Two Towns In South Luzon

Drive To Clear Entire Island Believed Coming Shortly
MANILA, Thursday, March 8.—(AP)—Troops of the 11th Airborne Division and the 158th Infantry Regiment have driven south from Manila to capture the towns of Calatagan and Balayan at Balayan Bay, across the Verde Island passage from Mindoro, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.
Amid signs that a powerful American offensive to clear the entire island was about to begin, MacArthur announced that demolition teams of the First Cavalry and Sixth Divisions had sealed 19 enemy cave strongpoints along the bitterly-defended Antipolo-Wawa line some 10 miles northeast of Manila. He said counterbattery fire had noticeably reduced enemy artillery and rocket fire in that area.
The 38th and 43rd Divisions are completing the combing of the Zambales range of mountains stretching north from Bataan, seeking out scattered Japanese remnants, while other troops are pushing toward the Japanese mountain stronghold of Baguio in northern Luzon.
Dispatches said the men of the 33rd, fighting through the rugged Benguet mountains, were approaching the city limits of Baguio, which is atop mountains more than 4,500 feet high. The city area measures approximately 20 square miles and the Japanese commander, Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, was reported to have his headquarters amid the luxurious surroundings of the city, which was the former summer capital of the Philippines.
Elsewhere on the Luzon front elements of seven other divisions were reported regrouping for the final push to crush the estimated 80,000 Japanese still on the island. The main group of about 50,000 were in the Serra Madre mountains east of Manila and smaller groups were in the Zambales mountains north of Bataan and in southern Luzon.
(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

Foe Staggers In Chaos As Defense Lags

Third Army Covers 65 Miles In 58 Hours For Fastest Offensive
PARIS, Thursday, March 8.—(AP)—Tanks of the American Third Army stormed up to the west bank of the Rhine northwest of Coblenz last night, having plunged more than 50 miles inside Germany in a whirlwind advance that sent the enemy reeling in chaotic defeat.
The German collapse on the Third Army front, started by the Fourth Armored Division's breakthrough at Bitburg three days ago, soon developed into a rout with other units of the Third Army plunging eastward and the First Army swinging southward after the capture of Cologne.
It was the Ardennes breakthrough in reverse. The Germans obviously had nothing with which to prevent the American sweep from enveloping Coblenz and Bonn.
Dispatches said there actually was no semblance of a front in the Third Army sector.
Virtually all resistance had been overwhelmed and the German troops appeared concerned only with retreating to safety or surrendering as quickly as possible. Masses of Nazi equipment were destroyed and supply dumps were captured so rapidly that the loot had not been evaluated.
The Fourth Armored Division reached the river just northwest of Coblenz in a drive which carried 29 miles in 12 hours. In its greatest surge since Normandy, the Third Army had covered 65 miles in 58 hours, making the Western Allies' retreat and offered but little resistance as Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's men rolled through town after town and streaked past thousands of prisoners, captured in such numbers they all could not be chaperoned to the rear.
To the north, the U. S. First Army struck southward along the Rhine's west bank from captured Cologne to a point only two miles from Bonn, the First and Third Armies together having formed in the past week the greatest Allied breakthrough since St. Lo.
The Allied prisoner bag on the Western Front soared past the one-million mark.
(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

Churchill Sees Ruins of Juelich



Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain, puffing a cigar, walks with Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson (right), commanding the U. S. Ninth Army, as he tours the ruins of the German city of Juelich. (AP Wirephoto via Signal Corps Radio).

Germans Say All Out Push Is Under Way

Seven Soviet Armies Reported Moving Toward Reich Capital
LONDON, Thursday, March 8.—(AP)—The Russians hurled seven armies yesterday into an all-out frontal offensive towards Berlin from bridgeheads on the Oder river 30 to 40 miles to the east, the Germans announced.
Moscow was officially silent, as is customary at the start of a major operation, but unofficial dispatches from the Soviet capital hinted guardedly that the German accounts might be substantially correct.
German broadcasts said the attackers, Marshal G. K. Zhukov's First White Russian Army group, jumped off after a gigantic 24-hour artillery barrage and punched into the outer defenses of Kuestrin, west bank Oder river fortress which was under attack from the north, east and south. Two tank armies were among Zhukov's forces, these alarmed announcers said.
A dispatch late last night from Associated Press Correspondent Eddy Gilmore in Moscow said "many signs pointed tonight to early launching of the all-out offensive on Berlin," and continued, "the logical place for the first attack."
"Large-scale scouting operations have been under way for several days out of Zhukov's bridgeheads."
"These operations, plus the magnificent victories in Pomerania, in which the Russians hurled the Nazis to the Baltic and dropped them off the Oder flank, indicated that Zhukov may be ready to commence activities."
The Germans said Zhukov's activities already had commenced with a roaring offensive that extended along about 100 miles of the Oder front but was concentrated mainly almost directly east of Berlin.
The Russians officially dealt with other sectors in their regular communique and in three orders of the day by Premier Stalin.
One order announced that Zhukov's right wing, which only Tuesday had thrust to the Oder's Baltic Sea outlet, had captured Stepnitz, Gollnow and Massow, 15 and 20 miles northeast and east of Stettin. The communique listed other towns captured in that zone along the Oder's east bank and the Stettiner Haft (agoon) from 13 miles northeast of Stettin northward to the sea, a distance of 35 miles.
Stettin, Berlin's outlet to the Baltic, thus was placed in increasingly grave danger and had lost much of its importance as an outer citadel for the capital.
Another Stalin order announced that the Second White Russian Army had captured Starogard, 25 miles east of Stettin.
(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

END IS SIGHTED IN FLOOD THREAT

Colder Weather Puts End To Heavy Rains; Crest Rising
CINCINNATI, O., March 7.—(AP)—Flood waters of Midwestern rivers—principally the historically menacing Ohio—grew deeper tonight, but the end of the valley's greatest wartime flood threat was in sight.
The Ohio apparently reached a crest of 69.2 feet here tonight, 17.2 feet above flood stage and the Weather Bureau said no further rise was to be expected barring further rain although no fall was indicated for at least 24 hours.
Forecasters predicted crests of from 15 to 20 feet above flood stage would be reached tomorrow all along the river and its tributaries as colder weather put an end to heavy rains.
The crest here was approximately 10 feet below the record level in 1937 when there was more than a half billion dollars worth of damage.
Thousands of families along a 1,000-mile stretch of lowlands scurried to higher ground and war production staggered under reduced operations.
At least 8 lives were lost and the property loss was believed to be in the millions.
Western Pennsylvania had its worst flood in eight years as the Monongahela and Allegheny spewed muddy flood waters out of banks and forced hundreds of families from their homes.
The crest at the confluence of the two rivers in Pittsburgh—where the Ohio comes to life—was expected to be 33 to 34 feet tonight or tomorrow.
The river town of Portsmouth, Ohio, had the Ohio hanging on its neck like the Sword of Damocles—with only a thin thread of concrete and sandbags keeping water from the business district. A 62-ft crest was forecast.
(Continued on Page Five; Col. 1)

WLB HEAD NAMED TO VINSON'S JOB

Davis Thinks U. S. Should Control Wage Drop When Situation Relaxes
WASHINGTON, March 7.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today made William H. Davis his chief deputy in the war against inflation and he assigned to George W. Taylor the wage front Davis had headed nearly four years.
On a title basis, the 65-year-old Davis, a patent lawyer by profession, a physicist by hobby and a labor mediator by practice, became Economic Stabilization Director. He succeeds Fred Vinson, new Federal loan chief.
Taylor, 43-year-old professor of industry at the University of Pennsylvania and likewise an old hand at trouble shooting in labor disputes, gets Davis' old job as chairman of the War Labor Board. He has been vice chairman.
Both are in hot spots, no strange experience for either.
Davis promptly made clear that he thinks the Government should control wage decreases when manpower shortages are no more, just as it now controls wage increases in a labor-hungry market.
And, he told the Senate Banking Committee in a discussion of continued wage controls, those regulations thus far have allowed maintenance of "the standard of living of the working man."
Generally, he expressed his philosophy on the link between wages and living costs thus: "It doesn't do any good to increase dollar wages if prices also go up."
What is important, Davis said, is the "take-home groceries."
Great pressure faces both Davis and Taylor, brought by the CIO and AFL, to relax wage controls. Labor spokesmen say these controls, as exemplified by the Taylor-written and Davis-endorsed Little Steel wage formula, are grossly unfair.
Congressional comment on the bill.
(Continued on Page Two; Col. 6)

FATAL PLANE CRASH

Fighter Falls In Surf At Wrightsville Beach
An Army Air Forces P-47 fighter plane crashed on Wrightsville Beach at 5:12 p.m. yesterday, fatally injuring its pilot, Second Lieutenant Sidney V. Alley, of Hickory.
Lt. Alley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rob V. Alley, of 572 Fifteenth Street, Hickory, was on a routine flight from his unit's base at Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro. Thrown clear of the plane when it crashed, he was taken to Bluebonnet Field Army Air Base hospital, where he died an hour later. His parents were notified at once. Air Forces officers said.
The cause of the crash is under investigation by a board of Air Forces officers.
Eyewitnesses said that the plane was one of three which had been maneuvering over the area for ten minutes. Their accounts agreed that on a low, banking turn over the water a wingtip snagged a wave.
Bouncing through the surf, the plane shed its wings and part of its motor. The fuselage drove on to the beach, broke in two at the cockpit and hurled its occupant on the sand.
A crowd of beach residents, including a number of Army officers, gathered immediately. A Bluebonnet Field Army Air Base officer volunteered the use of his automobile to carry the injured man to the Air Base hospital.

British Sea Lord Renews Pledge To Strike Nippon

LONDON, March 7.—(AP)—Britain is determined to range her navy alongside U. S. naval forces in the Pacific to play "a full and worthy part in the speedy overthrow of the Japanese empire," A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, said in the House of Commons today.
He said that this would be done in spite of a renewed threat of a German U-boat offensive that might require strong British naval action in Atlantic waters.
His declaration came as London naval circles denied reports that British war vessels were likely to prove a minor factor in Pacific naval operations. Without referring to the reports, Alexander told Commons that "we have been steadily massing forces for the Far East, with the great fleet train of supply, accommodation, repair and amenity ships which they will require to sustain them."
"Operations already conducted," he said, "are but the beginning of the tasks of the British Pacific fleet and the East Indies fleet, which will continue to be reinforced and supplied so that they may play an ever-growing part in the defeat of Japan."
Asserting that "experiences gained in supporting landings (in the European theater) will stand us in good stead in our united operations against Japan," the First Lord stated: "A large share of the task of defeating Japan will fall upon the men of the Royal and Merchant Navies."
Alexander mentioned the powerful battleships Queen Elizabeth and Valiant and the battle cruiser Renown, as being "among other vessels" ready for action in the Far East.
In London, naval men countered reports that the British fleet was likely to prove an impotent factor in the Pacific because of lack of speed with the assertion that the Royal Navy has both battleships and carriers in those waters capable of matching American warships.
Regarding the threat in the Atlantic, Alexander said the Germans were "making great efforts to re-new U-boat warfare on a big scale" which he contended shows that they still consider it to be their "best hope of averting defeat against a nation which lives by seaborne supplies."
These efforts, he cautioned, probably will result in the appearance of new types of German submarines. And, with improved equipment, he said, "we may be sure they will develop new tactics."
Meanwhile, Alexander declared, the number of U-boats being sunk "continues to increase satisfactorily."
In the House of Lords, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield urged a special government investigation at the "earliest practicable moment" of the organization and administration of imperial defense "to safeguard the empire against future unreadiness for war."
"You must not think that because you have Dumbarton Oaks or San Francisco behind you that you are all right," he cautioned. "We have to have a defense policy that takes into account not only international agreements but our physical dangers."
(Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

BONOMI ACCORDED CONFIDENCE VOTE

Long Cabinet Session Is Guarded By Soldiers And Two Tanks
ROME, March 7.—(AP)—Premier Ivanoe Bonomi weathered his second political crisis in three months tonight as the cabinet in an extraordinary session convoked after the riot at the Royal Palace yesterday, reaffirmed confidence in the premier who promised a swift Fascist purge.
The expression of confidence came after a long session in the Vatican Palace while rifle-bearing policemen, supported by two tanks commanding the driveways sloping up to the palace, guarded the ministers.
A Cabinet announcement, issued as opposition press clamored for overthrow of the Bonomi regime, said the four-party coalition government "has agreed there is no reason for breaking up the coalition which first planned and already has begun vast action for intensifying the war and bettering Italy's position in the world."
The decision threatened a wide split in Communist ranks and was expected to provide more fuel for a fire which Socialists, Actionists and other anti-Fascist groups were kindling.
(Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

LeGrand Introduces Bill For State Port Authority

RALEIGH, March 7.—(AP)—A bill to create a State Ports Authority to have charge of present port facilities and to promote the expansion of traffic by water, was introduced in the House late today by Rep. LeGrand of New Hanover.
The authority would be composed of seven members to be appointed by the Governor. One member would come from Carteret county, another from New Hanover, and one from Brunswick. The other four would be named from other counties at Random. Members would serve staggered terms, with the first three being named for six years, two of the latter group for four years and two for three. Members would serve without pay, but a secretary would be paid a salary set by the authority. Principal office of the authority would be located at a place selected by the group itself.
Under terms of the proposed bill the authority and its work would be self-supporting, initial funds to come from self-liquidating revenue bonds in which the State could, in its discretion, invest surplus funds.
The authority would be charged with the duty of expanding present port facilities, particularly those at Wilmington, Morehead City, and Southport, and develop others yet to be projected. It also would have the power to construct railroads and highways leading to principal ports, improve existing waterways and other port facilities.
(Continued on Page 12; Col. 1)

End Of Nazi Resistance Held Hinging On Rhine

WASHINGTON, March 7.—(AP)—Once Allied armies leap the Rhine, the Germans won't be able to stop them, military men said today.
Moreover, one authority said that once a bridgehead has been firmly established and Allied forces have driven 50 or so miles beyond the Rhine's east bank, it will be possible to fix a date for the end of organized German resistance.
At that point in Germany, the Allies would be well on the way toward splitting the Western Front in two and would be fanning out to pocket any German forces showing fight.
This optimistic view was based principally on estimates that the harassed Germans can place no more than 30 or 32 divisions on that stretch of the Rhine which the Allies already have reached—or are nearing—between Coblenz and the Rhine's junction with the Maas.
These divisions, many of them at one-fourth to one-half normal divisional strength of 15,000, probably would not represent more than 200,000 men. Many of the divisions likely have been stitched together from the remnants of units badly mauled west of the Rhine and therefore relatively ineffective.
Such a force is too impotent, in the belief of military authorities, to mount any sizeable counter-blow against Allied armies that cross the Rhine.
(Continued on Page 12; Col. 1)