

FORECAST

Partly cloudy and warm today. Yesterday's temperatures: High, 83—Low, 62.

Wilmington Morning Star

Served By Leased Wires of the ASSOCIATED PRESS and the UNITED PRESS With Complete Coverage of State and National News

VOL. 78.—NO. 119. WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1945 ESTABLISHED 1867

Third Army Drives To Outskirts Of Coblenz, First Slashes Across Highway At Two Points; Kobe Razed By 2,500 Tons Of Incendiaries

Record Load Hits Japan's Fifth Center

Fires May Prove Devastating Due To Low Water Supply

GUAM, Saturday, March 17.—More than 300 Superfortresses showered 2,500 tons of incendiary bombs over a five-mile target area in the heart of Kobe, Japan's fifth city, early today in their fourth devastation raid in seven elapsed days on Japanese war industry.

The record load of fire bombs was hurled into the heart of the great shibubiding, ship repair and general industrial center of nearly 1,000,000 population, starting at about 4 a. m.

In pursuance of new tactics, the Superfortresses swept over the target at low altitude to increase bombing accuracy and to handicap anti-aircraft gunners.

There was every reason to believe fires had been started which would rival those that burned 24 square miles of Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, Japan's first three cities, in the previous devastation raids.

Today's attack may prove a catastrophe. Though Kobe is Japan's chief industrial port, it lacks large rivers and canals and its water supply for fire fighting is considered dangerously low.

Only Kyoto remained of Japan's "big five" industrial cities to feel the weight of a merciless fire bomb attack intended, as the communiqué on today's raid said, to destroy Japan's industrial production of war essentials.

Kobe lies 225 miles west-southwest of Tokyo and 25 west of Osaka. Kyoto is 40 miles northeast of Kobe.

The load of 2,500 tons of incendiaries dropped on Kobe was a record. There were five pounds of unquenchable fire for every inhabitant of the great city—but the bombs were dropped into an area so small that each square mile received 1,000,000 pounds.

Tokyo was attacked last Saturday with 2,500 tons of bombs and 17 square miles of its heart were destroyed.

Monday came the turn of Nagoya, Japan's third city. Two thousand tons of fire bombs were hurled into a five square mile area and two square miles were burned.

Wednesday about 2,300 tons were dropped on Osaka, the second city, and five square miles were destroyed.

In each instance more than 300 Superfortresses attacked, in the pre-dawn hours of the morning.

A testimonial was provided by enemy broadcasts—evacuation of non-essential people from the big five cities, merger of printing facilities, newspapers, revision of anti-aircraft defense, a decision to include Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso in all imperial headquarters meetings as an equal member.

JAPS REPORT DAMAGE

Thousands Killed, Hurt, Homeless After Raids

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(U.P.)—Thousands of persons were burned to death, thousands were seriously injured and many thousands were made homeless in the Superfortress attack on Tokyo last Saturday, a Japanese official spokesman said today.

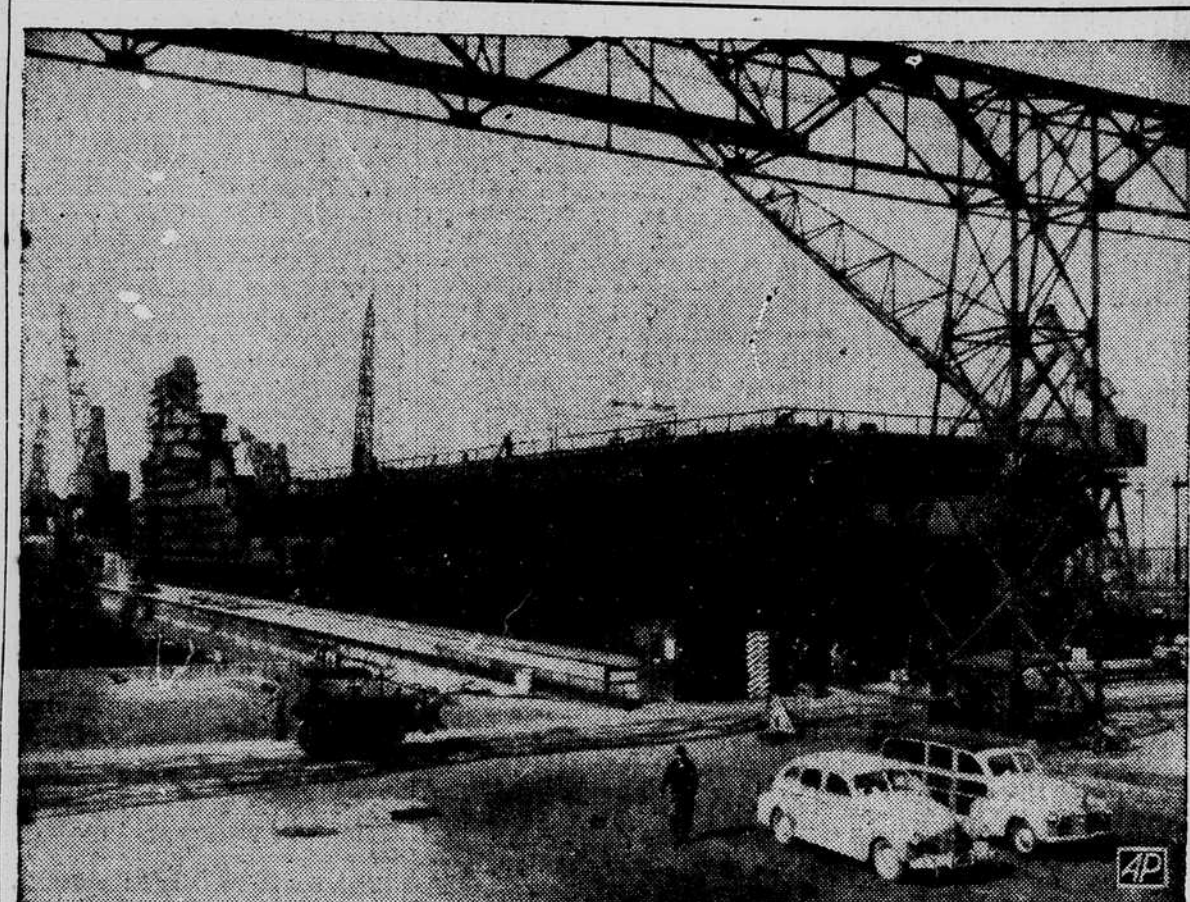
Tokyo announced also that, with the fate of the empire now at stake, Emperor Hirohito had ordered that Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso take part as an equal member in future meetings of Japanese imperial headquarters chiefs.

Both the frank statement on air raid losses and the decision to include Koiso—a general, but one holding civil office—in deliberations of the Japanese supreme war leadership—disclosed urgent anxiety over the prospect of additional aerial attacks and the threat of an invasion of Japan.

Sadao Iguchi, spokesman for the Japanese board of information, made the statement on air raid losses.

Iguchi disclosed that Superfortresses have dropped propaganda leaflets in their attacks—but gave no details.

U. S. Aircraft Carrier Midway Ready For Launching



Workmen put the finishing touches on the hull of the new 45,000-ton aircraft carrier, the U. S. S. Midway, which will be launched at Newport News, Va., March 20. The gigantic flatport will carry more than 80 planes, which may be twin-engined. (AP Wirephoto).

Roosevelt Says Nation Must Tighten Belt To Help Supply Foreign People

CITY PROMOTION CHOICES DENIED

Civil Service Commission Rejects Council's Recommendations

The Wilmington Civil Service Commission, heaving to the seniority line and setting aside conflicting recommendations by the City Council, last night nominated Lt. I. L. Padrick and Pvt. E. E. Bullard, of the City Fire Department, for promotion to the grades of captain and lieutenant respectively.

Justifying their choice over the Council's selections, Lt. H. W. Corbett and Pvt. R. N. Sellers, Chairman N. S. Westbrook pointed out that the Civil Service bill stipulates that "due consideration" be paid to seniority factors in all promotions, and tendered his opinion that "harmonious cooperation" and "no disgruntlement" were likely to follow promotions made in observance of length of service.

"Wilmington is fortunate in having a very fine body of men in its Fire Department," Mr. Westbrook added, emphasizing the difficulty of picking outstanding members from the whole group. "They are well above the average in intelligence; they are well read and well informed."

Lacking the merit-system reports on any of the candidates for advancement except those picked by the Council, the Commission members interviewed Chief J. Luddie Croom, Capt. C. N. Rivenbark and Capt. F. A. Tatum, whose estimates of their subordinates' performance had gone to make up the merit-ratings held by J. Fred

en. The rejected list was topped by Lewis' principal claim for a royalty of 10 cents a ton, estimated at \$60,000,000 a year, for a union health and rehabilitation fund.

The producers estimated that Lewis' whole list of demands would come to about \$3.33 a day.

Lewis and his eight-man negotiating committee received the operator offer, in preparation for the past week, at a morning session. Then a recess was taken until tomorrow and Lewis called together his policy committee of 250, which had been standing by since the original demands were formulated at the beginning of negotiations for a contract to supplant the one expiring March 31.

The operators made no public estimate of the cost of the concessions they offered, but unofficially it was figured that the changes they offered to make in vacations,

The policy committee quickly adopted this resolution: The policy committee quickly reject the counter proposals of the operators which rejects the mine workers proposals and that our negotiating committee be instructed to continue negotiations on the basis of our proposals of March 1 with the hope that through real collective bargaining, a mutual satisfactory agreement can be reached.

The operators made no public estimate of the cost of the concessions they offered, but unofficially it was figured that the changes they offered to make in vacations,

The operators made no public estimate of the cost of the concessions they offered, but unofficially it was figured that the changes they offered to make in vacations,

The operators made no public estimate of the cost of the concessions they offered, but unofficially it was figured that the changes they offered to make in vacations,

The operators made no public estimate of the cost of the concessions they offered, but unofficially it was figured that the changes they offered to make in vacations,

The operators made no public estimate of the cost of the concessions they offered, but unofficially it was figured that the changes they offered to make in vacations,

FDR Rejects Idea That Policy Will Starve Own Country

WASHINGTON, March 16.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt said today it is a matter of common decency for the United States to help feed foreign people who otherwise might starve.

He vigorously defended the Administration's policy of extending such help. And he flatly rejected the idea that such a policy would lead to a starvation diet for this country.

He told his news conference that he was aware of some opposition to reducing American consumption of certain items so that people of less fortunate nations do not starve. Such an attitude is not decent, he said, and actually the American people are a decent people.

Mr. Roosevelt said it was a matter of fact that we have got to tighten our belts more before Germany and Japan are beaten. And he thought the country would back up that idea.

He said, however, that he could not bring himself to think that this country had suffered greatly or was going to, when the American standard of living is compared with that of other countries.

He added that he thought his feelings not only reflected the Administration's attitude, but that of a large majority of the people.

His discussion was touched off by reference to the recent creation of a government committee that will examine and control the export of items other than actual military and Lend-Lease shipments. He said this had aroused criticism in some quarters and charges that the United States

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

ROMANIA FETES RUSSIAN ENVOY

U. S. and Britain Watch Situation With Aloof Attitude

BUCHAREST, March 16.—(P)—American and British representatives are remaining aloof from local manifestations of enthusiasm for the new national democratic front government of Romania under Premier Dr. Petru Groza.

The missions of these two powers are not exactly throwing themselves into this enthusiasm.

But Groza's government apparently has the full backing of the Russians, and while there is a possibility that its base will be broadened (by the inclusion of other political elements) it appears to be a going proposition as now constituted.

(A Washington dispatch said Thursday that after the overthrow of Groza's predecessor, Nicolas Radescu, late last month, the United States invoked the Crimean Charter in an effort to prevent Romania from falling into the hands of a Communist minority. Groza is Communist supported. A State Department official said, "We are discussing the situation with the British and Soviet governments."

Andrei Vishinsky, Soviet Russia's vice commissar of foreign affairs, has been a popular figure in the Bucharest demonstrations since his arrival yesterday. (Vishinsky also was in Bucharest when Radescu was overthrown and Groza named to succeed him.)

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

When he got off the train he walked

Griefenhagen Falls To Red Drive On Oder

Berlin Claims Resumption Of Powerful Blow At Ramparts

LONDON, Saturday, March 17.—(U.P.)—Red Army troops captured the bridge town of Griefenhagen Friday to win control of a 40-mile stretch of the lower Oder south of Stettin in what Berlin called a powerful resumption of the Soviet offensive into the inner Reich.

Fresh Russian drives also broke out on a 75-mile front in lower Silesia, the German broadcasts said, perhaps indicating a massive double envelopment drive against Berlin. The southern push was admitted to have penetrated the main Wehrmacht defenses resting on the Sudeten hills.

In the wake of these drives, Red Army troops cleaning up the Baltic coast drove within six miles of both Gdynia and Danzig, threatening to push a wedge to the sea, between the ports, and further whittled down the two German groupings in the Koenigsberg area of East Prussia.

Bursting through a thick concentration of German tanks and artillery, Marshal Zhukov's First Oder 12 miles south of Stettin, in a three-mile westward push from White Russian Army seized Griefenhagen, on the east bank of the previously taken Wolin, the Soviet communiqué said.

The towns of Rosengarten, six miles southeast, and Buppenken, eight miles south of Stettin, also fell in the drive which cut the last section of the Stein-Kuestrin railroad running up the east side of the Oder.

With the capture of Griefenhagen and the approach of its undoubtedly blasted highway bridge, the Russians now controlled every crossing between the big Autobahn bridge five miles south of Stettin and Niederwutzen, 40 miles upstream and only 29 miles from greater Berlin. The Germans have reported Soviet spearheads at Niederwutzen and it was possible the Soviets' control of the river crossings extended even farther.

German broadcasts said that powerful Russian armies, attacking behind a roaring barrage, had opened a "concentric" offensive toward Stettin and the Germans' lower Oder bridgehead.

The attacks were said to have opened early Thursday, with at least 150 tanks spearheading Zhukov's forces which previously had driven within six miles of Stettin on the south, east and north. A great tank battle was reported by the enemy radio just south of the super highway bridge.

While both sides concentrated huge forces on the front due east of Berlin, German broadcasts reported that other Russian armies went over to the offensive at three main points in Lower Silesia.

The heaviest attacks were placed north of Ratibor, 16 miles above the Moravian gap, where the Russians were said to have thrown 125 tanks into attacks from a pre-

(Continued on Page Eight; Col. 5)

NORWEGIAN SABOTAGE

Patriots Destroy Railway Facilities In Oslo

LONDON, March 16.—(U.P.)—Norwegian underground members blew up railroads, bridges, junctions and the German-guarded railway administration building in Oslo last Wednesday night in the greatest single night of sabotage of the war, it was disclosed today.

The Nazi-controlled news agency in Oslo said several persons, including German sentries, were killed and that German police made numerous arrests. The reports were received in Stockholm.

Later information to the Norwegian information office in London disclosed that the saboteurs also had cut the main rail line linking Oslo with the embarkation ports along the east side of Oslo Fjord. Bridges and trucks were blown up between Aas and Halden—two main points through which any German evacuation of Norway would be made.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

Americans Wipe Out Shimbu Line Sector

Enemy Loses Heavily In Men And Materiel; MacArthur's Men Slice Jap Communication Lines Into South Luzon

MANILA, Saturday, March 17.—(U.P.)—The entire southern flank of the Shimbu defense line 11 miles east of Manila has been destroyed with great loss to the enemy in men and materiel, while troops to the south have cut the enemy's line of communication to southern Luzon, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

On Mindanao island, in the southern Philippines, patrols of the 41st Division have advanced two miles north of San Ramon on the west coast, while forces inland above Pasananga and San Roque—supported by heavy air strikes—pushed into the hills against enemy resistance, MacArthur said.

Troops of the 43rd Division, in collapsing the Shimbu line with only light American casualties, have reached a point only four miles from Antipolo, southern anchor of the line which runs north approximately 10 miles to already threatened Wawa.

Cutting of enemy communications to southern Luzon was carried out simultaneously by troops of the 43rd and 38th Divisions who made a wide enveloping move on Japanese forces to cut Highway 1 at Maybancal, at the base of Morong Peninsula. Highway 21 is the main communication artery for Japanese being compressed on Luzon's southern tip.

Troops of the same divisions seized high ground surrounding Teresa, a mountain village some 10 miles southeast of Antipolo and 11 miles northwest of Maybancal.

In the Balayan bay area some 50 miles south of Manila, elements of the 158th Regimental Combat Team, in a leap frog operation along the coast of the bay captured Dagupan on the western coast of Calumpagan peninsula and pushed rapidly eastward toward Mabini, 1-1/2 miles across the peninsula on Batangas bay.

In the same sector, but some 30 miles to the north, the 11th Air

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

YANKS TAKE IWO; LOSE 19,938 MEN

4,189 Marines Killed With Jap Dead Placed At Over 21,000

GUAM, March 16.—(U.P.)—The Marines won the battle of Iwo today at a cost of 4,189 men killed, 411 missing and 15,308 wounded—a total of 19,938—and the United States by their heroism won an offensive base 760 miles from the Japanese homeland.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific commander in chief, announced that organized resistance ended at 6 p. m. (4 a. m. Friday EWT) when the Third and Fifth Marine divisions broke through the Japanese lines and reached Kitano point at the northern end of the island.

Thus, as the sun was sinking over the eight-square-mile island, the Third and Fifth Marines and the Fourth Marine Division on their right won the toughest, bloodiest battle of the Pacific war and their own long history.

Victory came at the end of the 26th day of fighting.

The toll of 19,938 casualties which the Marines paid was not complete. The casualty figure was as of 5 p. m. It was an hour later when the Marines slashed through

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

Surrender Is Demanded Of Nazi Bastion

Seventh Army Crashing Through Into Germany From South

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF COBLENZ, With The American Third Army, March 16.—(6:40 p. m.)—(U.P.)—American Third Army troops pressed to the outskirts of Coblenz against light resistance today and broadcast to its German garrison a demand to surrender or die.

The capture of the city is believed a matter of hours.

PARIS, March 16.—(P)—The U. S. First Army slashed across the great Ruhr superhighway at two points east of the Rhine today, and southward a sensational breakthrough by the Third Army 20 miles beyond the Moselle river set up two German armies for imminent annihilation.

These two seasoned, hard-hitting armies were dealing tremendous body blows to the reeling armies of the Reich, while the Seventh Army was crashing through into Germany from the south.

The Moselle-Rhine triangle—80 miles from top to bottom and 85 miles wide at the base—was collapsing under the terrific impact of the Third and Seventh Armies and it appeared that soon not a German would stand on the soil of the Reich west of the Rhine.

The First Army, carrying a fight to the enemy fraught with the most immediate peril, deepened the Rhine bridgehead to seven miles, swept a mile north to within three miles of the open plains of Germany, and smashed the first big tank-led counterblow.

The Third Army broke loose along the Rhine Valley on a 14-mile rampage that cleaved through the heart of the enemy defenses between the Rhine and the Moselle 60 to 70 miles north of the Germans fighting in defense of the Saar Basin and the Bavarian Palatinate.

The Seventh Army was hammering at the underside of this huge bulge in a co-ordinated offensive along a 50-mile front that gained up to four miles and overwhelmed the 200-year-old French fortress of Bitch, never before taken by storm.

The Germans were falling back into the Siegfried Line, which had been reached at some points, and were deluging with artillery shells Seventh Army troops who had fought up to the western outskirts of the Saar's capital of Saarbruecken, 23 miles west of Bitch.

Gen. Eisenhower dealt this powerful three-army blow as the Germans renewed predictions that three other armies—the Canadian First, the British Second and the U. S. Ninth—were about to storm

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

AMG Control Established East Of Remagen Bridge

Nuernberg Bombed

PARIS, March 16.—Allied Military Government units crossed the Rhine in the Remagen bridgehead area today and established AMG control east of the river for the first time.

As they did so, an AMG officer, returning here from Cologne, reported that the Nazi party and German High Command were in disagreement on at least one point—how much destruction should be done before leaving an area.

The AMG learned that the Nazis in Cologne wanted to demolish power houses and similar installations but the Army argued that they should be left intact except for certain key parts. In the case of Cologne, the Army won.

In Cologne, largest German city yet to fall under AMG administration, about 100,000 civilians are scheduled to begin registration tomorrow.

Cologne police, 123 of whom have been cleared as politically objectionable, will aid in the registration, which will include fingerprinting. The police are serving under a former chief, ousted by the Nazis in 1933, who has been reinstated by the Allies.

Capt. James H. Denison of Detroit, Mich., first AMG officer to operate on German soil in theachen area, said only 34 persons

had been arrested for violating military law in Cologne and most of these were minor cases.

Denison said the AMG first was concerned with establishing civilian order and then food supplies, with displaced persons being given preference over the German population. In this class are all Allied and other foreign workers whom the Germans imported. Sixteen thousand were found in the Cologne area, he said.

Third on the list is restoration of utilities—not for the sake of the civilians but to give the Army the use of them, he explained.

Denison said the German food rationing system was being used in Cologne with new ration cards being issued to each civilian after he registers.

The amount of food Cologneans will get will be less than under the Nazis, with the maximum set at 1,500 calories. The average probably will be 1,250 calories against a daily caloric average in the United States of 3,800.

No food is being brought in for civilians—both they and displaced persons are fed from existing supplies. In homes, shops and public warehouses, these are estimated to be sufficient for three months.

Nuernberg Bombed

Berlin Also Attacked For 25th Night

LONDON, March 16.—(U.P.)—Royal Air Force bombers again heavily attacked southern Germany tonight, blasting the Nazi party center of Nuernberg and the rail hub of Wuernzburg, 60 miles to the northwest. Berlin also was attacked for the 25th consecutive night.

The Air Ministry said that British warplanes "in strength" hit the two big transport and communications junctions, through which supplies pass both to the Italian front and the southern sector of the Western Front where the U. S. Seventh Army is on the move.

Earlier today, American bombers from Italian bases continued their support of Russian ground forces. They hammered synthetic oil refineries in the Vienna area and blasted several of the main Austrian railroads supplying German troops on the Budapest front.

Liberators and Fortresses of the 15th Air Force concentrated on the Vienna refineries, said to produce approximately 10 per cent of all Germany's gasoline. They are particularly valuable to the mechanized units of the Wehrmacht fighting the Soviets in Hungary.