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# Patton Seizes Coblenz, Envelopes Saar Basin; Reds Cut Three Miles Into Stettin Defenses; Carrier Planes Strike Japanese Home Islands

## Civilian Meat Supplies Cut 12 Per Cent

U. S. Planning Less Beef And Pork But More Veal Lamb and Mutton

WASHINGTON, March 17. (AP)—The government tonight announced a 12 per cent cut in meat supplies for civilians starting April 1. Reducing them to "the lowest point in ten years."

Less beef and pork will be available, said the announcement issued by the Office of War Information, but the civilian table will get more veal, lamb and mutton.

The War Food Administration allowed meat to civilians for the April-May, June quarter at rate of only 115 pounds per person a year, compared with 130 pounds in the quarter now closing.

Lend-Lease Reduced

Simultaneously OWI announced a "substantial reduction" in lend-lease shipment of meat, and increased supplies for U. S. Army and Navy use.

Britain will get only 25,000,000 pounds of lend-leased meat next quarter, or about 12 1/2 per cent of present shipments. This evident was based on the theory that British reserves are large enough to sustain England without great American assistance.

To head off dire shortages in the country in the east and far west resulting from the curtailment, OWI said the government was undertaking to parcel out the cattle more equitably among slaughterers and packers over the country.

At a meeting with War Mobilization Director James E. Byrnes, six government agencies agreed to the curbing of regulations doing out available livestock among all.

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## Hit On Iwo



Raymond W. Ickes, USMC, aboard son of Harold L. Ickes, secretary of the interior, was wounded in action on Iwo Jima, according to word received by his wife, Miralotta L. Ickes, of Silver Spring, Md.

## U. S. Bombers Batter Reich

Attack Five Key Rail Communications And Important Oil Plants

LONDON, March 17.—(AP)—More than 2,000 American bombers and fighters roared over Germany today in weather described as the worst of the winter, raining bombs by instrument upon five key rail communications and oil plants in the 33rd day of the non-stop aerial assault.

The RAF joined in the daylight attack today and Mosquito bombers attacked Berlin again tonight, the 26th consecutive night. The Reich capital has been bombed Friday night the RAF unleashed a 1,000-plane assault on Germany but there was no immediate indication of the strength of the forces ranging over the Reich tonight.

More than 1,300 heavy bombers and 750 fighters of the U. S. Eighth Air Force split into five groups over Germany today, striking synthetic oil refineries at Bohlen on the southern outskirts of Leipzig, and Ruhland, 30 miles north of Dresden; benzol plants at Mobilis, also near Leipzig; a large railway yard at Muenster; and a tank factory at Hannover.

Bohlen and Mobilis are "war boom" towns which have sprung up around the refineries and benzol plants supplying the German war machine.

Clouds covered most of Germany, making instrument sighting necessary. There was no indication of serious Luftwaffe opposition.

"We expected some bad weather but what we ran into was worse than anything I saw this winter," said Maj. Charles V. Bordenier, 944 Carleton Ave., Stephenville, Texas, who led the attack on Bohlen.

Because of severe flying conditions, some bombers landed in France, U. S. Army Air Force headquarters said, making it impossible to land.

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## Enemy Radio Airs Shikoku, Kyushu Raids

Mitscher's Force May Be Making Third Close Approach To Japan

SAN FRANCISCO, March 17.—(AP)—Suggesting the likelihood that Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's carrier task force—the world's largest—has made its third close approach to Japan, the enemy radio reported carrier-based attacks Sunday, Japanese time, on Kyushu and Shikoku islands.

These two southern islands of Nippon are immediately south of Honshu, which was the object of the two previous Mitscher assaults, concentrated on Tokyo.

The unconfirmed enemy broadcast made it clear it was a continuing operation, Domei saying the carrier planes had "begun" the attack at 5 a. m. Sunday.

South Of Kyushu

The broadcast added that an "enemy task force" is in waters south of Kyushu.

"Our air defense forces intercepted the enemy raiders and have already scored considerable war results," said the dispatch. Recorded by the Federal Communications Commission.

Domei said the Japanese air force had "caught up" with the task force and was "launching heavy attacks."

Mitscher's big task force twice sent carrier planes in strength up to more than 1,200 against Tokyo in February in support of the invasion (Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

## Beethoven's Statue Survives War



The statue of the German composer, Beethoven, stands in the city square at Bonn, Germany, his birthplace, surrounded by the wreckage of an air raid shelter which received a direct hit during an Allied bombing raid. This photo was made by William C. Allen, Associated Press photographer with the Wartime Still Picture Pool.

## U. S. Invades 24th Isle In Philippines

Also Forge Ahead On Three Luzon Fronts And Zamboanga Peninsula

CAROLINA SWELTER As Heat Wave Hits

CHARLOTTE, March 17.—(AP)—Carolinas sweltered under a burning sun today as an unseasonal heat wave struck this area.

Hottest temperature in the two states was recorded at Raleigh, 91 degrees. Greensboro reported 90.5 degrees while Durham, Charlotte and Columbia, S. C., listed 90 degrees.

The Greensboro mark set a 3.3 degree top over all previous records in the weather bureau there. Last St. Patrick's Day it was only 71.

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## Other Soviet Forces Seize Brandenburg

Germans Throw Wounded Men Into Battle To Save Oder Line Anchor

By RICHARD KASISCHKE LONDON, Sunday, March 18. —(AP)— Russian forces, backed by fire from 1,000 heavy guns and hundreds of dive bombers, yesterday knifed three miles into the southern defenses of Stettin, Germany's big Baltic seaport, while Soviet troops in East Prussia captured the key coastal stronghold of Brandenburg, nine miles southwest of Koenigsberg.

While the Germans threw wounded soldiers into the blazing battle for the strategic northern anchor of Berlin's Oder river defense line, Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian Army troops extended their control of the river's east bank barrier to a point four and a half miles south of the Pomeranian capital.

A Moscow radio front report announced that the Red Army had killed more than 20,000 Germans and destroyed more than 600 tanks in repelling German counterattacks in a 13-day battle near Lake Balaton, southwest of Budapest, capital of Hungary.

Threaten Southern Germany

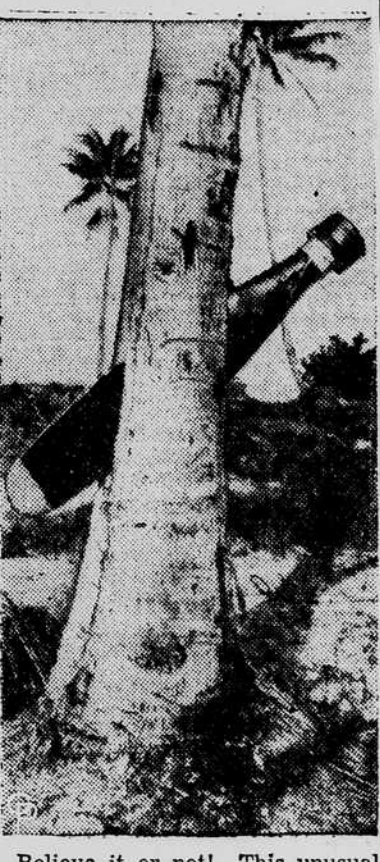
In the Balaton sector, Berlin reported that the Russians had opened an offensive of their own, and the Moscow radio said that with the collapse of German attacks, Soviet forces now threaten southern Germany with the added danger of a link-up between the Red Army and Allied forces in Italy."

Smashing toward Stettin from the south, Zhukov's troops captured the Oder river villages of Frauenhof, four and a half miles from the city, Retzowfelde and Ferdinandstein. Their capture extended the Russian control along the eastern channel of the Oder to six and a half miles north of captured Griefenhagen for a possible smash across mile-wide island marshes in mid-river.

The advances narrowed the Nazi bridgehead across the Oder's mouth southeast of Stettin and the Germans slowly were being squeezed out of their positions in the Kluetzer forest between Frauenhof and Stettin.

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## Pacific War Freak



Believe it or not! This unusual freak-of-war picture was made possible when a propeller blade broke loose from the motor shaft and was driven through the trunk of a cocoanut palm tree at a South Pacific base. The plane lost the blade when it swerved off the runway in a crash.

## Approaching Merger With Seventh Army

Nazis Believed To Have Waited Too Long To Carry Out Withdrawal

By JACK FLEISHER PARIS, Sunday, March 18. —(UP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army captured the major Rhineland city of Coblenz yesterday while three of his tank divisions were enveloping the rich Saar basin and approaching a juncture with the U. S. Seventh Army, less than 50 miles away.

Three Third Army tank divisions, plus other tank battalions attached to infantry, already were 40 miles south of Coblenz in the swiftest power drive of the war. They reached the Nahe river and were threatening the 11-way road and rail junction of Bad Kreuznach, the transportation key to the Saar Basin.

Authoritative sources at Gen. Omar N. Bradley's 12th Army group headquarters said the Germans had waited too long to effect a successful withdrawal from the Saar to the east bank of the Rhine and would elect to stand and fight with the remnants of their first and seventh armies rather than attempt a last-minute helter-skelter retreat.

But Allied airmen spotted large scale withdrawals from the closing Saar trap, and it seemed evident that the Germans were attempting to salvage what they could to fight another day on the east bank of the Rhine.

Spot Vehicles

They spotted many columns of trucks and horse drawn vehicles fleeing south and southeast before Patton's armored columns, trying to reach the railroads running east to the Rhine through Kaiserslautern, and thence to Metz, Worms, Ludwigshaven, and other crossing points while the last ditch fighters tried to hold back the Americans.

Allied aerial activity was severely limited by poor weather but the planes that did take the air descended upon about 400 enemy vehicles around St. Quedlin, 18 miles northeast of Saarbruecken. They destroyed 175 and damaged 197 along a 15-mile stretch of the road.

Third Army spokesmen said the speed of the drive—33 miles in less than 48 hours—caught the Germans flat-footed and prevented them offering coherent resistance.

The drives of the tank columns were cloaked in a security blackout, but German dispatches said massed tank formations of the 4th Armored Division had reached the area of Bad Kreuznach, major transit hub 40 miles south of Coblenz and nine miles from the big bend of the Rhine at Bingen.

At Bad Kreuznach they were only 50 miles from a junction with the Seventh Army's 63rd Division at Ommersheim and 55 miles from the 100th Division at Bitch. To the east and southeast it is 22 miles to Oppenheim on the Rhine.

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## COUNCIL QUIET ON PROMOTION ACTION

Members Silent On Refusal of Commission To Confirm Selections

City council members yesterday morning declined to comment formally on Friday night's action by the Civil Service Commission, which not only refused to confirm the council's selection of L.H.W. Corbett and Pvt. R. N. Sellers for Fire department promotions, but proffered counter-recommendations of its own.

They named Lt. L. Padrick and Pvt. E. E. Bullard as their choices for advancement, basing their selection on seniority. The council recommendations had been made with reference to the candidates' ratings on the merit-system scale in use within the department for the past 18 months.

It was unofficially pointed out yesterday that the submittal of alternate names by the commission could not be construed as an official Civil Service move. The

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## PAPER CAMPAIGN SCHEDULED TODAY

Will Be Conducted By Junior Chamber of Commerce and Scouts

A scrap paper drive in Wilmington and its suburbs, Wrightsville Beach, Wrightsboro, Carolina Beach and Kure's Beach, will be conducted today by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Boy Scouts.

Two previous drives by the Junior Chamber of Commerce netted 57,000 and 96,000 pounds of paper, respectively. Today's goal is 125,000 pounds, and leaders have expressed confidence in reaching that goal.

Members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce have planned the drive, secured trucks from cooperative Wilmington business concerns, handled publicity, arranged for disposal, and will serve as captains.

Scouts and Cubs have distributed 1,500 door-knock reminders and will gather the paper and load it onto the trucks.

Citizens are urged to place their paper in front of their houses as usual.

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## WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Sunday partly cloudy and slightly cooler. (Eastern Standard Time) (By U. S. Weather Bureau)

Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., yesterday.

Temperature: 1:30 am, 64; 7:30 am, 65; 1:30 pm, 84; 7:30 pm, 68; Maximum 85; Minimum 63; Mean 74; Normal 53.

Humidity: 1:30 am, 91; 7:30 am, 94; 1:30 pm, 82; 7:30 pm, 62.

Precipitation: Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 pm, 0.00 inches. Total since the first of the month, 0.20 inches.

Tides For Today (From the Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey)

Wilmington High 8:20a Low 2:05p  
Masonboro Inlet High 8:20a Low 2:05p

Sunrise, 6:18 a. m.; Sunset, 6:22 p. m.; Moonrise, 9:37 a. m.; Moonset, 11:46 p. m.

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## Red Cross Drive Will Be Formally Opened Monday

"As we officially launch Wilmington's Red Cross campaign for \$68,000 at a "kick-off" breakfast Monday morning," Robert Strange, chairman, said yesterday, "we are encouraged by the fact that we have received several early returns from firms and employ groups that are entitled to Award of Merit certificates."

The certificates, he explained, will be presented to all firms and employ groups which meet or exceed their quotas and will express the gratitude of the organization and the community.

"We know other firms and groups will respond to the appeal and that again this year, Wilmington will over-subscribe the Red Cross objective, he continued.

He reminded all workers that the breakfast meeting will start promptly at 8 a. m. and adjourn at 9 a. m. The meal will be served by the Canteen Corps, under the direction of Mrs. E. C. Hines, at St. Paul's Lutheran parish house, Sixth and Princess streets.

Units that have reached or exceeded their objectives thus far are: Rarey Chevrolet company and employees; Pender Furniture company and employees; employees of the American Red Cross; employees of the Associated Charities; Union Cafe; Barrel Cleaners.

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## M'KEITHAN HEADS JOB OFFICES HERE

Will Take Up Duties Tomorrow As Successor To Peter A. Reavis

R. T. McKeithan, of Washington, N. C., has been appointed manager of the Wilmington offices of the United States Employment Service and supervisor of the branch office at Whiteville, it was announced yesterday by Henry I. Shepherd, Wilmington area director of the War Manpower Commission. He will commence his duties tomorrow.

Concurrently Mrs. Shepherd announced that she will be acting as interim manager of the Wilmington office.

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## CLASHES RENEWED ON ITALIAN FRONT

American Tanks Make Unsuccessful Effort To Capture Salvaro

ROME, March 17.—(AP)—Patrols of the Allied Fifth and Eighth Armies engaged in sharp clashes with German units all along the rapidly-drying Italian front today after forces of the U. S. First Armored Division made an unsuccessful effort to capture Salvaro, a small town just east of the Bologna-Pistonia highway.

The First Armored, which took part in the break-out at Anzio and the swift pursuit of the Germans through Rome, gained temporary control of a number of buildings in Salvaro, which is only a few hundred yards from the highway at a point well behind the stubbornly defended German positions at Vergato. Heavy German mortar and small arms fire from the town and adjacent hill positions forced the withdrawal later.

The main fight centered around a thick-walled church, to which the Germans clung stubbornly although the Americans at one time held a portion of the building.

Today's mention of the First Armored Division was the first official word in months of the famed tank outfit, which has been immobilized by the weather and terrain.

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## Arkansas Taxi Operator Confesses Six Slayings

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 17.—(AP)—James W. Hall, confessed slayer of six persons, led officers today to the spot where he had told them he beat his wife to death last August and a body identified as that of his bride of a year, 19 year old Faye Clements Hall, was found.

O. N. Martin, chief of Little Rock detectives, and State Police Captain J. Earl Scroggin said the woman's skeleton was discovered in a ravine along the banks of the Arkansas river.

Martin said the skeleton had been turned over to Pulaski county sheriff Gus Caple.

The amazing story of the 34-year old taxi driver's hitch-hiking jaunts, meanwhile, took a new turn.

Hall had admitted, State Police Captain J. Earl Scroggin said, that while hitching rides around Arkansas he robbed and killed J. D. Newcomb, Jr., chief state boiler inspector and three other persons during the last two months.

In addition, Chief O. N. Martin of the Little Rock detective force, announced he was checking into Hall's activities during a recent absence from the state.

Martin said he had learned from Hall's friends that the taxi

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## Ports Authority Measure Advanced In N. C. Senate

The State Ports Authority bill, authorizing the appointment of a seven-man state board to recommend port improvements for Wilmington, Morehead City and Southport and the issuance of state revenue bonds to finance them, won unanimous Senate approval yesterday in its second reading, Rep. J. Q. LeGrand reported from Raleigh last night. It will be voted on again Monday.

Also read on the floor of the upper chamber was the Board of Education sponsored New Hanover Junior college bill, reported favorably by a Senate committee earlier in the week. It will be read for a second time Monday and come to a

vote Tuesday, the day on which the assembly is expected to adjourn sine die.

Final appearance of the Ports authority bill, which contains no appropriation clause, was held over until Monday at the instance of Senators D. L. Ward, of New Bern, and Whittaker, of Kinston, who asked time to examine the measure.

This led Senator Roy Rowe, of Burgaw, to anticipate yesterday that "there might be a little fight about it," by Cyrus D. Hogue, Wilmington Port Commission member, stated subsequently that

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