

PRE-EASTER TRADE SETS NEW RECORD

By The Associated Press
Pre-Easter retail business in North Carolina appeared to have established a new record for volume, in spite of the scarcity of many items of merchandise, as the greatest buying spree in years.

Soviet Tanks Cut Deep Into Austria

(Continued from Page One)
Bavarian mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden. They were 11 miles from the main railroad linking Vienna with Italy.

Tolbukhin's troops were sweeping toward Vienna from the south on an 18-mile front from Wiesmath west to the southwestern shores of the Neusiedler See (lake). This great defense barrier, outflanked, was being by-passed by the massive Soviet surge.

One mile from the lake shore, the Russians seized in Hungary the village of Kophaza, only three miles southeast of Sopron, the last big Hungarian fortress guarding Vienna's southeastern approaches.

Threaten Sopron
Sopron also was threatened from the south and southwest where Tolbukhin's advancing troops won Neckenmarky and Ritzing, five and six miles from the fortress city.

The swift slash through enemy defenses below the Neusiedler See carried the Russians within 33 miles south of Vienna when they captured Kophaza.

While these troops in southern Europe threatened the German Reich's second greatest city, the First White Russian army of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov on the front before Berlin cleaned out the last enemy troops in the Kuestrin area, 38 miles east of the German capital.

They killed or captured 6,170 enemy troops in the old citadel area of Kuestrin in the narrow neck of land between the Oder and Warthe rivers, Moscow said.

A 12-mile Russian advance toward Bratislava was carried out by Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army which captured Galanta, 27 miles east of the city and 53 miles east of Vienna, in an offensive north of the Danube river.

The troops captured more than 80 other towns and villages including Nitra, 46 miles northeast of the Slovak capital.

In southwestern Hungary, Moscow said that Marshal Tolbukhin's troops had captured nearly 9,000 enemy troops, including the commander of the Third Hungarian army corps.

Tolbukhin's fast-driving spearheads streaked across the plains and rolling hills of southwestern Hungary and reached the Austrian frontier at captured Szentgotthard in their closest approach to the mountain city of Graz.

These forces were only 34 miles from the vital trunk road linking Vienna with the Italian port of Trieste at a point where the line crosses from Austria into Yugoslavia south of Graz.

Tolbukhin's troops carved out their gain of almost a mile-an-hour along the south bank of the curving Raba river. Fifteen miles behind Szentgotthard, they crossed the river to win the fortified town of Komend, and also won Vasvar, another nine miles to the east.

Simultaneously, Marshal Stalin's order of the day announced the victory, said Bulgarian troops south of Lake Balaton had captured the Hungarian town of Csurgó, 14 miles southeast of the oil center of Nagykanizsa, in an eight-mile advance along the Drava river frontier of Yugoslavia.

IT'S NOT ALONE
There are approximately 57,000,000 star systems similar to the Milky Way within the range of modern telescopes, according to an estimate of a prominent astronomer.

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ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Third and Red Cross
Easter Services
Holy Communion—7:30 a. m. (Junior Choir)
Holy Communion—11:00 a. m. (Adult Choir)
Church School Festival 4:00 P. M.
EVENING PRAYER
With Junior Choir at 8:00 P. M.
Rev. E. W. Halleck, Rector

S. S. Velma Lykes Launching Party



The S. S. Velma Lykes, 206th vessel to near completion at the yard of the North Carolina Shipbuilding company, was launched yesterday afternoon under the sponsorship of Miss Sandra Ingalls, of Washington, D. C. Shown are the members of the christening party.

More Civilian Goods Slated After VE-Day

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ly report to President Roosevelt, the Senate and House on operations of the Office of War Mobilization and reconversion.

He emphasized, however, that there still must be "Full steam ahead on war production." Defeat of Japan he said, will be costly in both lives and weapons.

Even so, he declared, it has been possible to set up and test the machinery for VE-Day reconversion. This, in part, is what it will do:

1. Release about \$13,000,000,000 worth of "hard goods" or metals for production of such things as nails, cars, railroad and farm equipment within nine months of Germany's collapse. This will double the amount of materials now available for such purposes.

2. Reduce total government spending for war to a rate of \$60,000,000,000 a year. The rate in the present fiscal year is about \$90,000,000,000.

3. Free within three months 20 per cent of the resources now used for war production, 5 per cent in the next three months, and another 5 per cent in the following quarter.

4. Retain the economic stabilization program's controls — "they will be needed to protect war production, to safeguard the wage earner against rising living costs, and to maintain the postwar market for goods and services."

5. Confine and strengthen manpower controls. To this end he urged enactment of legislation now pending in the Senate.

6. Cut back construction of war and merchant ships.

7. Make "some increase" in the basic gasoline ration — A-card holders may get an extra gallon for each coupon—and in the allotment for trucks.

While Byrnes asserted that "our economy is stretched to its limits," he felt "no real apprehension for the future."

"A nation which has found the way to produce for war while developing an unexcelled prosperity for its people at home," he declared, "can surely find a way to produce for peace to establish an even higher standard of living at home and to aid in the establishment of higher standards of living throughout the world."

"In this way we will find the jobs for our returned soldiers and for released war workers. In this way we will gain the only benefit to be derived from war, the realization that as long as we work together, as a people there is always a promising future ahead."

Although he said the end of the war in Europe is in sight, Byrnes declined to tell reporters the date that is being assumed and on which reconversion plans are based. He indicated that the reconversion machinery will be set in motion whenever General Dwight D. Eisenhower says that Germany has surrendered unconditionally or that organized resistance has ceased.

Training Institute To Be Conducted Here

A trainee institute for ministers, deacons, Sunday school, B. T. U., and missionary workers will be held in Wilmington, April 9-20 under the auspices of the Extension department of Shaw university, of Raleigh.

Under the Baptist Ministers conference of Wilmington, classes will be held at the Williston Industrial school, room 8, first floor, from 10:45 to 12:45 a. m. and from 5:30 to 7:30 p. m.

In addition to the regular courses of instruction, the institute will also conduct inspirational services three nights, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, rotating among the several Baptist churches of the city. The opening night will be at the Central Baptist church, Seventh and Red Cross streets.

A subterranean restaurant is located in the Carlsbad caverns of New Mexico, 750 feet below the earth's surface.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Pfc. Carl A. Hewlett Prisoner Of Germans

Pfc. Carl A. Hewlett, husband of Mrs. Lillie Pepper Hewlett, who was reported missing in action in Luxembourg, December 20, 1944, is a prisoner of war in Germany, according to a message received by Mrs. Hewlett recently on a postal card. She also received a letter from her husband from a German camp.

Pfc. Hewlett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hewlett of Masonboro Sound.

Entering the service in November, 1943 he received his basic training at Camp Croft, S. C., and went overseas in September, 1944, he has served in France, Belgium and Germany, being awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action in November, 1944.

U. S. And Britain Refuse Reds' Plea

(Continued from Page One)
headache developed this way today:

1—Tass, Russian news agency, announced that Russia accepted and advocated the demand of the Warsaw Polish government for an invitation to the San Francisco conference. In fact, Moscow said that it had suggested to Washington and London some time ago that if the proposed new Polish government of national unity could not be set up in time then the Warsaw government should be asked to send a delegation.

—In London a British foreign office spokesman said that the Russian proposition is "out of the question."

—A short time later in Washington a state department official, otherwise unidentified, said that because of the agreements reached at Yalta to set up the national unity government the United States government does not agree to the extension of an invitation to the present provisional government of Poland.

The American position, it was said by this official, was taken in view of the current consultations in Moscow respecting formation of the new unity government.

It seemed possible that one Russian counter-move would be to find some excuse for calling off these consultations in order to eliminate that reason for the American rejection of the Russian demand.

This is the second time that Britain and the United States have been confronted with the question of Polish representation at San Francisco. Previously it was raised with respect to the Polish exile government at London when that regime protested against the treatment it was receiving. The exile government at London is recognized by both Britain and the United States and is a member of the United Nations.

Today's developments brought this one immediate question to the tip of many tongues:

"What effect will this have on the move to accept Argentina into the United Nations?"

It has been expected that the present government of Argentina soon will be recognized by the American republics and that Russia, along with the other leading united nations will be asked to agree to Argentina's becoming a united nation and being represented in some form at San Francisco.

Moscow all along has been the most outspoken of the United Nations on the pro-Axis charges made against the Argentine government and it has been expected here that the Soviets would probably want to veto any suggestion that Argentina be included in the California meetings.

It seems certain that this situation would become entangled with the Polish issue, assuming that they both reach the stage of negotiation among the Allied governments.

NATURAL DEATH

NEW YORK, March 31.—(P)—Dr. B. Morgan Vance, chief assistant medical examiner, said late today that the death of Max Hoffman, Jr., 43-year-old actor found unconscious in his hotel room early this morning, was due to natural causes.

PUBLIC URGED TO VISIT GREENFIELD

Carl Rehder, who for more than 13 years conducted the annual garden contest of the Wilmington Star-News, and who encouraged the city to purchase Greenfield Lake for the purpose of a park more than 20 years ago, yesterday viewed the park for the first time this year. He urged everyone to visit it today.

Mr. Rehder has been ill for more than a year, and on visiting the park, declared that it was more beautiful than ever. He described the fine results of the city's efforts in laying out the thousands of azaleas and other colorful flowers which now are in full bloom at the lake.

HITLER REPORTED READY TO RESIGN

(Continued from Page One)

Zurich, referring to the same meeting, said Hitler had faced the fact that the German army could no longer resist. These reports said there were rumors that Goering had committed suicide, that Kesselring had been deprived of his rank and that high Nazis were fleeing with their families to fortresses being prepared in the Bavarian Alps.

Superforts Blast Japanese Homeland

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engine plant. This raid also was by precision instruments.

Good results were obtained in the raid, the 20th Air Force said. Japanese fighter opposition ranged from weak to moderate, while antiaircraft fire in some areas was intense. The B-29s shot down two enemy planes, probably destroyed three, and damaged eight.

Superfort headquarters here reported that reconnaissance photographs of the March 28 attack against the Tachiarai and Oita airfields and the Omura aircraft factory showed that the American fighters left widespread ruin in target areas. Eight or nine hangars at Tachiarai were destroyed or damaged. Numerous buildings in the machinshop area were hit. Forty-one grounded planes were wrecked and five damaged.

Damaged: One destroyer escort, 13 small cargo ships, one medium cargo ship—total 15.

Attack Okinawa

In addition carrier planes attacking numerous targets on Okinawa on Friday, destroyed four submarine pens and two torpedo boats in the submarine base at Unten Bay on the west coast.

The carrier planes, in the Wednesday, Thursday attacks, shot down 29 Japanese planes and one glider in air battles, destroyed 16 planes on the ground and damaged or destroyed 42 others aground.

In addition they damaged airplane hangars, shops and other installations on Tokuno island, 70 miles northeast of Okinawa, on Yakushima, 40 miles south of Okinawa, and in the southern Kyushu cities of Kanoya, Kushira, Criban, Tojimbara and Ibusuki. American losses were 12 planes and six pilots.

On Friday fleet battleships, including new 45,000 tonners, steamed up to Okinawa and shelled shore installations at close range. They breached sea walls and hammered gun positions, airfields and bridges.

Nimitz said the Okinawa attacks by both planes and surface ships continued through Saturday, the Ninth successive day of a terrific bombardment similar to those which preceded invasions of other Pacific islands, only more intense.

Tokyo radio said the gigantic fleet had been reinforced and warships alone numbered 150 including 17 battleships. The enemy said part of the fleet had been reinforced and warships alone numbered 150, including 17 battleships. The enemy said part of the fleet had approached Kume island, 50 miles west of Okinawa.

The enemy said the start of landings on Okinawa could be only a matter of time and the radio quoted one Japanese newspaper that "the time for the decisive battle between Japan and America finally has come upon us."

(The London radio said American planes had laid mines in Japan's inland sea and off southern Kyushu.)

Japanese communiques claimed Japanese forces had sunk 30 American ships, including two carriers and a battleship, and damaged 20 others.

Nimitz announced that surface forces had attacked barracks, warehouses, the radio station, ammunition dumps and the airfield on the island of Minami Daito, 200 miles east of Okinawa and 635 miles west of Iwo.

American Armada Moving On Okinawa

(Continued from Page One)

thick black cloud of smoke covered the island. Pilots saw no human activity and concluded that the Japanese had taken to the rugged northern hills to escape the hellish bombardment.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced that fast carrier task forces battered Kyushu and the Ryukyu islands Wednesday and Thursday.

They ran up the following score: Sunk: Two destroyer escorts, one medium cargo ship, ten small cargo ships, four luggers, one motor torpedo boat—total 18.

Probably sunk: Nine medium cargo ships, five small cargo ships—total 14.

Hundreds Of Cities Plan Easter Rites

(Continued from Page One)

Look In Your Clothes Closets!
WHAT CAN YOU SPARE THAT THEY CAN WEAR?
GIVE clothing for War Relief
APRIL 7 to 30
UNITED NATIONAL CLOTHING COLLECTION for Overseas War Relief
HENRY J. KAISER, National Chairman

Henry J. Kaiser, shipyard magnate, who heads the United National Clothing Collection, exhibits an official poster which heralds opening of the organization's drive, April 1, for 150,000,000 pounds of clothes to be sent to needy and destitute civilians of war-devastated nations.

than 400 other churches pealed a joyous welcome to Easter throughout Holy Saturday morning.

More than 100 chapels, with a variety of roofing that ranged from woven palm fronds to open sky, will house services in which American servicemen join natives of Guam. Special services were arranged in fleet hospital wards for 700 Jima casualties.

POPE RECEIVES THOUSANDS

ROME, Mar. 31.—(P)—Thousands of United Nations fighting men were received today by Pope Pius XII in a general audience as the great bell of St. Peter's and those of 400 other churches in Rome rang out, heralding the eternal city's most joyous Easter in years and the first since the Germans were driven out.

Great numbers of Allied soldiers will attend St. Peter's tomorrow for the Easter Mass, which will be celebrated by a cardinal. The Pontiff, as he has for the past three years, will celebrate mass privately.

Unseasonably warm spring sunshine bathed the city as the bells began pealing early in the day and continued until noon in the traditional Holy Saturday custom. When the bells began ringing after the conclusion of the Holy Saturday mass, the Pope donned a pair of

white cloth slippers which he will wear throughout the next week in accordance with an ancient rite connected with the old liturgical ceremony.

CANCELLED

RALEIGH, March 31.—(P)—The Office of Price Administration today ordered all tire certificates and replenishment portions of certificates dated prior to December 1, 1944, be cancelled April 1.

Theodore S. Johnson, director of the Raleigh district office of OPA, said the drastic curtailment of tire production arising from the reduced supply of available materials during April caused the cancellation order.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Could Cleopatra Drink a Pearl with Stomach Ulcer Pains?
An intriguing story of Cleopatra is the one where an admirer praised the beauty of two of her pearls, whereupon she drops one into a glass of wine and drank it. She would hardly have done this had she suffered after-eating pains. Those who are distressed with stomach or ulcer pains, indigestion, gas pains, heartburn, burning sensation, bloating and other conditions caused by excess acid should try Uga. Get a 2c box of Uga Tablets from your druggist. First dose must convince or return box to us and get DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. Saunders Drug Store and drug stores everywhere.

STORE HOURS FOR EASTER MONDAY
APRIL 2nd
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Announcement
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A BUSINESSMAN EXPERIENCED IN CITY GOVERNMENT
YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT WILL BE APPRECIATED