

Mostly cloudy and colder today, tonight partly cloudy and rather cold, followed by partly cloudy and slightly warmer Wednesday.

HOUFFALIZE TAKEN BY YANKS WITHOUT A FIGHT

Reds Open New Offensive From Two Bridgeheads On Vistula River

STRONG ENEMY DEFENSES SAID PENETRATED

Germans Announce Fall Of Schlossberg Inside East Prussia

DECIDING BATTLE

LONDON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Marshal Stalin announced tonight the Red army had opened an offensive from two Vistula river bridgeheads south of Warsaw.

A special order of the day broadcast by Moscow radio said the assault was led by Marshall Gregory K. Zhukov.

The Germans high command announced this powerful Russian drive yesterday.

The order said the Russian forces jumped off from the two bridgeheads Jan. 15 with massed artillery support, but none from the Red Air Force because of bad weather.

The drive, the order said, broke through "strong and deeply echeloned enemy defenses."

In the three days of offensive fighting the Russians from the two bridgeheads joined up and advanced 38 miles extending the breakthrough to 75 miles in width the order said.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—The German high command announced the fall of Schlossberg, 13 miles inside East Prussia, as Russian armies tore gaping holes today in Nazi defenses along 600 miles of front and seriously threatened one of the main rear communication lines of Warsaw.

Nazi broadcasts said "major penetrations" had been made by the Soviets in the Vistula-Bug triangle north of Warsaw and from the Naraw bridgeheads south of East Prussia and declared Premier Marshal Stalin's winter offensive was intended to the deciding battle of the war.

WESTWARD Marshal Ivan Konev's big First Ukrainian army, pounding westward toward Krakow in Southern Poland, fought its way into the outer salients of defense of the Nazis' Krakow-Warsaw railway line, reported to be one of the strongest German fortified zones in south-eastern Europe.

This railway, connecting the Polish capital with Silesia's coal mining and munitions industries, is one of Warsaw's chief arteries of supply.

Konev's steamroller already was in possession of Kielce on the Warsaw-Krakow line and only about 49 miles from the border of German Silesia.

Shoving westward without support of aviation because of fog, sleet and snow, Konev appeared to be heading straight for the Warsaw-Silesian line on a sector 20 miles wide.

14 KILLED IN CHICAGO FIRE

Clark Hotel On Edge Of Loop Consumed By Spectacular Blaze

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—(AP)—A fast moving, spectacular fire early today attacked the seven-story General Clark hotel in North Clark street, on the edge of the loop, killing at least 14 persons and injuring five others.

Six hours after the conflagration was discovered firemen continued to search the ruins for bodies of additional persons possibly trapped in the 40 year old stone and frame constructed building.

Fire Commissioner Michael J. Corrigan said 13 bodies were found in the wrecked hostelry while one woman was fatally injured when she missed a fireman's net in a jump from a third floor window.

Scores of persons in the hotel, which contained 75 rooms, were rescued or fled to the streets on the escapes. Several leaped to firemen's nets while others were carried down ladders by firemen.



MISSING IN ACTION—1st Lt. Joseph H. Jones, son of Mrs. J. Henry Jones of Bolling Springs has been reported missing in action in Luxembourg since December 16, according to word received from the War department today by his mother.

Lt. Jones has two brothers in the Armed Forces, Dan Watson Jones who is serving with the Navy in South West Pacific and Bobby Jones, stationed in New York with the Army.

3 ROBBERIES ARE REPORTED

Three robberies, two in Shelby and one at Waco, all similar in character were perpetrated some time during last night according to report made this morning to the Shelby police department and to Sheriff J. R. Cline. Gas stamps and money were taken at all three places.

Joe Philbeck's filling station on East Marion street was entered through a window after an unsuccessful attempt had been made to enter the front door. A total of \$29 in cash, two automobile tires, three tubes, and two boxes of shotgun shells and gas stamps were taken.

CITIES SERVICE Further out on East Marion street thieves entered the Cities Service Station and took \$150 in money and gas stamps were stolen. Entrance was also made to this place by a window.

Sheriff Cline received this morning a report that A. J. Putnam's store at Waco was entered by the front door out of which the plate glass had been broken. Fifteen dollars in cash was stolen as well as gas stamps and other articles.

That there might be some connection between the three robberies was being investigated today by the sheriff and police department. Some fingerprints were found but as yet it has not been determined whether they will be clear enough to be of value.

American Prisoners Shot Because Of Food Shortages

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY IN BELGIUM, Jan. 16.—(AP)—German captives declared yesterday that Nazi officers in several instances recently ordered American prisoners shot because of food shortages.

One captured German quoted his lieutenant as telling his company: "The food situation in Germany is bad. We don't have enough to feed any more prisoners. I hope you understand me."

Other prisoners from the same Volksgrenadier infantry division confirmed the statement and added they had been given permission to remove shoes and clothing from American dead or prisoners.

CITY DIRECTORY:

Enumerators See Shelby's 1945 Population 18,000

A belief that Shelby's 1945 population will be up to 18,000 persons was expressed today by enumerators of the Southern Directory Company who in their checking of names for the new directory appearing this spring have found local houses more completely occupied than they have ever before seen here.

A. E. Miller, superintendent of the five-man field staff gathering the new lists, said that his group hadn't come across a habitable house that wasn't occupied or engaged for occupancy — and many

Carrier Fleet Airmen Bomb China Coast Ports After Big Naval Battle

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Swinging north from the Indo-China coast where they sank or damaged 69 ships, U. S. Third Fleet pilots bombed Hongkong, Swatow and Amoy along 350 miles of Cina's coast Saturday for the first full-scale carrier raid of the war on these ports vital to Japan's lifeline.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz gave no details in his communique yesterday of the bold China coast blow, which took the Americans in behind the big Japanese base of Formosa, bombed anew at the same time.

However, Nimitz disclosed that the venturesome Third fleet pilots sank 41 Japanese ships and damaged 28 in wiping out two convoys off Indo-China on Thursday. His preliminary estimate of 25 ships sunk and 13 damaged had been reported Friday.

The overall picture was that of an audacious American carrier force sweeping like a huge paint brush from Formosa, where more than 100 ships and 98 planes were destroyed or damaged Jan. 8, down to Indo-China for the Thursday strikes and back to the China coast on Saturday.

In the Indo-China sweep the American fliers destroyed 112 planes—77 were caught on the ground, so great was the surprise—and damaged about 50 others in their westernmost penetration of

the work of Lt. Gen. Ronald N. Scobie, British commander in troubled Greece, drew praise from the prime minister under critical questioning. Churchill said: "I think he has done admirably."

The Prime Minister spoke extemporaneously. He plans a full scale war statement Thursday.

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Capt. McBrayer Is 'Young Man Of Year'

Winner Of Annual Jaycee Award Has Distinguished Service Record

A veteran of 68 combat missions in China, Capt. John Z. McBrayer, who lost his left leg on his final flight, was acclaimed Cleveland county's Young Man of the Year 1944 by the Junior Chamber of Commerce which Monday night presented him its annual Distinguished Service Award given annually to that man under 35 years of age judged to have rendered the outstanding unselfish community service for the preceding year.

The coveted Jaycee award, presented by Shem K. Blackley as chairman of the selection committee that included also J. O. Lutz and R. J. Rucker, thus rests on a chest that bears already the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal. But Capt. McBrayer, standing straight as an arrow without aid of his crutches as he modestly accepted it, said "I consider it a sincere expression of good will for my fellows in service—it makes easier any of the hardships I may have experienced in coming to this honor."

It is the second successive year that the judges handling the award, projected for unselfish community service, have held armed service members the winner, last year's presentation being made posthumously to Pfc. John D. Horner of the Marines, who gave his life storming a Jap-held South Pacific island. The year before it was won

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Chinese Take Enemy Fortress At Namkham

MYITKINA, Burma, Jan. 16.—(AP)—The Japanese garrison at Wanting remained the sole obstacle to opening of the new India-China supply road today with the fall of the twin enemy stronghold at Namkham to besieging Chinese forces.

Namkham, last Japanese bastion in north Burma, was captured by the troops of the 30th division of the Chinese first army under Gen. Sun Li-jen, which slipped through the jungle and stormed the town from the rear.

Fall of Namkham climaxed six weeks of bitter fighting, during which the Japanese have clung desperately to a 25-mile stretch needed to complete the new overland supply route to China.

"I'm betting on youth," Mr. Mull declared as he urged his hearers not to be afraid of small beginnings. "I don't care how small you start or how big you grow—the sky is the limit—but above all else, be willing to work, have faith in yourself and your community will show its faith in you."

Declaring that it is men and not money that's needed to make the city grow, the speaker vied humble beginning of "others" who have achieved success here. He said that the late John R. Dover, with the help of friends, got together \$100,000 and started the present Ella mill, sold it for \$500,000 and launched the Dover group which is an outstanding unit of the textile industry; he told how Frank Sherrill came out of the Army and with the Webbers started the S. & W. cafeterias with a veritable hole in the wall in Charlotte that since the

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CHURCHILL AND FDR AGREED ON CHARTER AIMS

Says War Will Be Continued For 'Unconditional Surrender'

SCOBIE PRAISED

By The Associated Press LONDON, Jan. 16.—Prime Minister Churchill indorsed today President Roosevelt's declaration that the objectives of the Atlantic Charter remain valid, though not all could be achieved immediately.

He told the newly reconvened House of Commons he did not believe the Allied slogan of unconditional surrender had great political value for Hitler and he insisted: "The war will be prolonged until unconditional surrender has been obtained."

The work of Lt. Gen. Ronald N. Scobie, British commander in troubled Greece, drew praise from the prime minister under critical questioning. Churchill said: "I think he has done admirably."

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Fag Distributors Have Voluntary Rationing Plan

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Cigarettes, which since last fall have been one of the nation's wartime hard-to-get commodities, will be available at the rate of about 15 daily to civilians under a voluntary rationing system planned by the National Association of Tobacco Distributors. The Association estimated the average daily civilian consumption last year was slightly more than 17 cigarettes.

The association, with a membership of 2,900 which controls distribution of cigarettes to the country's 1,250,000 retail outlets, said last night that a card system of issuing smokes will be inaugurated within two weeks. The plan, described as designed to achieve orderly allotment, would mark the first time an industry attempted to ration in wartime a scarce commodity.

The association's action followed a stand taken by the Office of Price Administration that it would not attempt to ration cigarettes because of the uncertainty of determining the number of smokers.

The NATD system did not meet with any immediate objection by the OPA.

RATION CARDS Under the system numbered ration cards will be issued by retailers to consumers who will be required to sign a declaration that they have not obtained cards elsewhere. The rationing will not be attempted at outlets for transient trade—hotels, railroad and bus stations—or at chain stores. About 13 per cent of the available cigarettes are sold at these places, the association estimated.

There is no immediate prospect for any "substantial" improvement in supplies this year, the association said, stating that in 1944 33 million packs of tax paid cigarettes were produced daily for domestic consumption.

CRITICISM The system was described by distributors at a wartime conference by Joseph Kolodny, association executive secretary, who said he believed the plan will prevent "raids" on dealers' stocks by hoarders. "To be successful," he said, "do not want to conduct their establishments like speakies."

The rationing attempt was criticized by John W. Dargavel, executive secretary of the National Association of Retail Druggists, who said few retail druggists have had any difficulty in rationing to their regular customers.

"If we were getting the 70 per cent of normal we're supposed to get from distributors, every one would be happy, including the customers," he said. "Wholesalers are giving us less all the time."

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MR. BOWMAN

BOWMAN NAMED HEAD OF BANK

Believed Oldest Bank President In U. S.; Others Elevated

When J. T. Bowman, who will be 91 years on March 12, assumed the presidency of the Union Trust Company following the election of officers by directors after the annual stockholders meeting of the institution this morning, he became, his associates believe, the nation's oldest bank president in the active service.

Mr. Bowman succeeds the late Charles C. Blanton, with whom he was associated in the formation of the Union Trust Company, which took over the old Shelby National Bank of which Mr. Bowman was an organizer and president early in the century. He has been actively engaged in banking for the past 70 years, from the time shortly after he finished Washington and Lee University where as a student he came under tutelage of General Robert E. Lee as president of that school.

ELEVATED J. Worth Morgan, formerly cashier of the Forest City branch, and

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WHAT'S DOING

TODAY 7:30 p.m.—C. A. P. members meet at armory.

7:30 p.m.—Cleveland Lodge 202 A. F. & A. M. meets for work in third degree.

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BYRNES URGES DISCRETION:

WMC Must Decide If Jobs Are Essential Or Critical

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Workers and industrialists with claims to war usefulness awaited last night the government's decision on whether their homefront jobs are of "critical" importance to victory.

On the answer, expected from the War Manpower commission today, hinges the decision on where the selective service will make its first new inroads into industry in taking some 200,000 men of age 26 through 29 this spring by ending their draft deferments.

Admitting their loss would hurt war production, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes asked last night that the disruption be minimized by careful operation of the selective service system.

On the question, "where will the ax fall first?" Byrnes gave half an answer by laying down a job-priority table. This if followed by local boards, would insure that the least important workers, and those able to be replaced, would be inducted before the

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German Stand On Salm River Cracks Under Blows From 3 Divisions

PARIS, Jan. 16.—(AP)—The Belgian road center of Houffalize, once at the heart of the vanishing Belgian bulge, was captured today without a fight by the "Hell on Wheels" Second Armored division of the American First Army.

Behind Houffalize, the German stand on the Salm river cracked as a three-division American assault team beat slowly down the last six miles to St. Vith, a door for Nazi withdrawal to the Siegfried line forts.

The capture of Houffalize narrowed the bulge to 15 miles west of the German frontier. The penetration, started a month ago, had extended to 40 miles almost to the Meuse and overran about 2,000 square miles. Only about 400 remained today in Field Marshal von Rundstedt's grasp.

It seemed at best that the Germans would be able to hold only a buffer bump a few miles in front of their thick fortress line. When the Germans attacked, Hitler told his generals that the offensive might knock one of the Allies—presumably Great Britain—out of the war.

Armored scouts of old "Gravel Voice", Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon, entered Houffalize at 10 p.m. last night. The Germans apparently had abandoned the strategic town at the crossroads nine miles northeast of Bastogne and 18 southwest of St. Vith. Formal occupation was slowed by burned out wreckage of German equipment cluttering roads

around the outskirts. (The British radio said the U. S. 7th army had attacked powerfully north of Strasbourg in an effort to erase a German bridgehead across the Rhine.)

HIGH HOPES Statements from prisoners disclosed the high hopes Hitler had for the offensive into which he sent 20 divisions making up three armies. The Fuehrer was said to have addressed a select gathering of army and divisional commanders in Berlin just before the drive opened. He asserted that the Meuse would be reached in two days and that Antwerp, major allied supply port, would be taken in three weeks. The Germans got within three miles of the Meuse before the tide turned.

Hitler was represented as saying the capture of Antwerp would pin down 38 Allied divisions for another "Dunkerque", at best, however, the offensive had interrupted Gen. Eisenhower's winter offensive and

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Two Yank Columns Push Toward Manila

One American Force On North Road Meeting Heavy Resistance, The Other Meets Very Little

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Luzon, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Sixth Army motorized columns are rolling down a twisting provincial road within 98 miles—80 miles airline—of Manila against no more opposition than an occasional sniper but other Yank forces are in a foot-by-foot fight with hill-entrenched Japanese on the extreme northeast flank defending the vital Manila north road.

(Tokyo radio, which is hinting strongly that the Philippines reverses are leading up to the ouster of Premier Kuniaki Koiso, quoted an Imperial headquarters communique as acknowledging that "the enemy is gradually closing in our forces on the central plains of Luzon.")

The deepest penetration toward Manila reported today carried Gen. Douglas MacArthur's south-bound doughboys out of Pangasinan, invaded one week ago from Lingayen gulf, into Tarlac province where they captured the highway junction of Camiling. That is an overall gain of 30 miles. From Camiling a lateral road runs 11 miles east to Paniqui on the Manila north road.

That strategic highway, No. 3, which more and more will figure in the Luzon campaign, links Manila with the summer capital of Baguio. Japanese forces in the Baguio area northeast of the expanding American beachheads at Lingayen gulf must hold the road as the last good connection between them and other forces of Lt. Gen. Tomoquki Yamashita trying to struggle up bomb-cut roads from the Manila sector under constant aerial attack.

One Yank force already has reached the Manila north road by

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BILL SEEKS TO CHANGE TAXES

Legrand Presents Measure To Allow Income Tax Deductions

RALEIGH, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Rep. LeGrand of New Hanover, in the assembly's first move to change the tax laws, introduced a bill today to allow deductions of federal income taxes in filing state income tax returns.

The measure went to the finance committee, which holds its first meeting with the Senate finance committee this afternoon.

After comparatively short sessions, the Senate and House adjourned in memory of Major George E. Preddy, jr., Greensboro's act of the second world war, who was killed last Christmas day in action over Germany.

A measure by Senator Mitchell of Iredell would authorize the commission for the blind to cooperate with the federal government under the Darden Rehabilitation Act for the blind and to authorize the appointment of guardians for incompetent blind persons. BACON HONORED Senator Rogers of Polk sent up a resolution memorializing the United States secretary of state to appoint Francis Pickens Bacon, mayor of Tryon, as minister to a central or South American country. Bacon, a native South Carolinian, has held two ministerships. He is a textile manufacturer and has served two terms in the state senate. Measures by Senator Penny of Guilford would provide for the improvement of livestock; and provide for the keeping of records by dealers in metals, leather, rubber and glass sold as junk; and to allow the state, counties, cities and towns or other subdivisions to purchase supplies and equipment from the federal government without having to advertise for bids or to sign contracts.