

WEATHER

Cloudy today followed by mostly cloudy weather tonight and Friday with rain in west and north, cooler today, continued rather cool tonight and Friday.

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TELEPHONES 1100

- State Theatre Today - "DARK MOUNTAIN" Starring ROBERT LOWERY and ELLEN DREW

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TELEMAT PICTURES

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Russians Break Oder River Line

U. S. Troopship Sunk By Enemy Action; 248 Dead And 517 Missing

GERMANS OPEN NEW OFFENSIVE IN NORTH ALSACE

Somervell Demands 200 Per Cent Increase In Small Arms Ammunition

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Paris, Jan. 25.—(P)—U. S. production of small arms ammunition must be increased 200 per cent over last November to prevent a shortage on the western front. Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, chief of the Army Service Forces, said today.

Wallace Asks Probe Jones' RFC Lending

Tells Committee Big Versus Little Business Is "Real Issue" In Control Of RFC

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(P)—Contending big versus little business is "the real issue" in control of the government's huge banking powers, Henry A. Wallace today proposed a congressional investigation of RFC lending under Jesse Jones.

PATROLLING ON ITALIAN FRONT

Sleet And Snow Limit Activity To "Spirited Skirmishes"

ROME, Jan. 25.—(P)—Sleet and snow covered the Italian front today, but in spite of the wintry weather patrols were active along both the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts and spirited skirmishes took place at several points.

The Eighth Army discovered the Senio river bank which marks the German's eastern winter line in the Adriatic sector was booby-trapped southwest of Cotignola.

NIGHT PATROL A German night patrol was repulsed in an attack on an Eighth Army stronghold east of Fosso

Soviet Ambassador And Eight Others Killed In Crash

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 25.—(P)—Soviet Ambassador Constantine Oumansky, his wife, and seven others were killed today in the crash of a Mexican Air Force plane starting to take the ambassador to Costa Rica to present his credentials as minister there.

ATTACK ALONG 20-MILE FRONT; MODER CROSSED

May Be Effort To Win Back Whole Northeast France Province

BRITISH MAKE GAINS

PARIS, Jan. 25.—(P)—The Germans have opened a desperate new offensive against the western front in northern Alsace. It was announced late today at supreme headquarters, possibly in a supreme effort to win back the whole northeast France province.

Attacking on a 20-mile front from Haguenau northwest into the Vosges mountains, the enemy crossed the Moder river at places 15 miles below the Reich frontier.

Far to the north, the British Second Army under guns of the Siegfried line within a mile of the Roer river, where the fixed defenses begin. Seven towns within 30 miles of Dusseldorf fell to the Tommies.

The Allied air force again pounded on thinning German traffic filtering out of the Ardennes salient in the center. German troop movements toward the east still were seen.

The First and Third armies captured nine more towns in the Ardennes sector, three of them inside Germany. First

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COLD WAVE ON EAST SEABOARD

New York Bears Brunt With Temperatures As Low As 32 Below

By The Associated Press The winter's coldest weather struck the eastern seaboard north of the Carolinas today (Thursday) setting seasonal sub-zero records and, in some cases, sending the thermometer down to all-time low readings.

New York bore the brunt of the severe cold wave, with temperatures as low as -32, while its fringes extended south into Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The weather bureau said it would be at least another 24 hours before the cold snap would break. Following on the heels of a near blizzard in northern New York State, the cold front moved in with gale-like winds which whipped the snow into drifts, blocking many secondary roads and disrupting transportation services.

Four deaths were attributed to weather conditions in the upper part of New York State. Bus schedules were cancelled in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. Hundreds of thousands of workers were late for their jobs in New York City where the cold blast crippled subway operation.

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Red Offensive Disrupts Reich's Plan Of Defense

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(P)—Hitler's grand strategy for the prolonged defense of the fortress of Germany possibly has been thrown completely off balance by the terrific impact of the Russian offensive.



GEN. STILWELL

STILWELL WILL SUCCEED LEAR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(P)—War Secretary Stimson today announced the assignment of Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell to command of the Army ground forces succeeding Lt. Gen. Lear.

Lear's assignment as deputy commander in European theatre in charge of administrative matters concerning American troops was announced yesterday.

Stimson said Stilwell is in Washington and will take over his new command immediately.

Taxi Control Bill Offered In Assembly

RALEIGH, Jan. 25.—(P)—A bill to place taxicab companies under the supervision of the State Utilities Commission was introduced in the legislature today by Reps. Hatch of Wake, Caviness of Guilford and Wallace of Lenoir.

It would force operators to get franchises from the commission and to carry insurance or bond of an amount to be set by the commission for the protection of customers and property owners.

The commission, before granting a franchise for a petitioning company, must first determine whether additional taxicab facilities are needed, and if it does not act on a petition within 60 days the petition would be void.

The bill was sent to the finance committee. A similar measure was introduced in the senate by Carlyle of Forsyth and Currie of Durham.

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Roosevelt Refuses To Accept Resignation Of Secretary Ickes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(P)—Interior Secretary Ickes announced today that President Roosevelt had declined to accept his offered resignation, asking him to remain in the cabinet.

REMAINDER OF THOSE ABOARD, 1,400, SAVED

Stimson Reports Army Casualties Since Pearl Harbor 616,951

EUROPEAN WATERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(P)—An American troopship carrying more than 2,200 soldiers was sunk recently in European waters as a result of enemy action with the loss of 248 dead and 517 missing.

Secretary of War Stimson made the announcement at his news conference today.

The remainder of the troops aboard, more than 1,400, were saved, Stimson said.

Stimson at the same time disclosed that Army casualties since Pearl Harbor have reached 616,951. Coupled with a Navy total of 24,999, the aggregate for the armed forces since the beginning of the war now are 701,950.

This total represents an increase of 39,091 since last week's report. The Navy accounted for 1,633 of the increase and the Army for the remainder.

A breakdown on today's figures and comparable ones for last week: Army: Killed 117,256 and 111,306; wounded 356,813 and 343,250; prisoners of war 57,432 and 57,462; missing 85,450 and 68,477.

Navy: Killed 32,394 and 31,802; wounded 38,513 and 37,630; prisoners 4,477 and 4,417; missing 9,615 and 9,454.

Stimson said that of the Army's wounded 180,320 have returned to duty.

He added that his announcement of the troop ship's loss was in accordance with the department's "established policy of stating all losses in regular course even though some of the details may not yet be made available."

EXECUTIVES TO ORGANIZE HERE

Would Bring Outstanding Speakers To Dinner Sessions Of Group

Organization of a Cleveland Executive club is being projected among business and civic leaders of this section by E. E. Schlotz, of Denver, executive field director of Associated Clubs, who expects in the next few days to announce definite developments in that direction.

The group would bring to Shelby seven times a year an outstanding speaker to discuss current affairs at its dinner sessions to which the members and their wives would be invited. While the group would not be another civic club, leaders here contacted by Mr. Schlotz feel that it could have a strongly cohesive force in life of this section.

Originally projected to bring together executives of Cleveland county, there has come a strong suggestion that it serve also the general area including Cherryville, Cliffside, and Rutherford as well as the Cleveland communities.

Membership details will, of course, be worked out by the group once definite organization is effected. Membership will be by invitation only. Charlotte's Executive club has the largest membership of any of the over 100 such clubs in the United States, while Greensboro and Raleigh have flourishing groups as does Hickory, which draws upon neighboring communities for members of its organization.



MAJOR GEO. GOFORTH

FR Nominates Col. Roosevelt For Promotion

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(P)—President Roosevelt today nominated his 34-year-old son, Col. Elliott Roosevelt, to be a brigadier general in the Army air forces.

The proposed promotion went to the senate in the midst of a controversy over the Army's air priority system which gave a dog owned by Colonel Roosevelt precedence over three servicemen.

The nomination goes automatically to the senate military committee, which voted last Monday to inquire into the whole priority practice as well as the dog incident itself. The committee recommends for or against confirmation of such nominations.

If confirmed young Roosevelt would not be the youngest general officer.

Col. Roosevelt, who recently returned to duty in England, denied he ordered a priority for the dog, an English bull mastiff named Blaze. The three servicemen, flying west on furlough, were dumped off an Army cargo plane at Memphis Jan. 11 while the dog, with an "A-priority," was allowed to continue the flight.

The animal was sent from Washington to Colonel Roosevelt's bride, actress Faye Emerson, in Hollywood. It was one of two she said her husband sent from England to start a breed in this country.

Stalin Confers With Polish Representatives

LONDON, Jan. 25.—(P)—Premier Stalin met yesterday with representatives of the Lublin Polish regime to discuss Polish-Russian relations and the relief and restoration of Warsaw, the Moscow radio said today.

Senate Approval Of World Peace Organization Seen

By FRANCIS J. KELLY WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(P)—"Overwhelmingly" senate approval of American participation in an international peace preserving organization was predicted today by Foreign Relations Chairman Connally (D-Tex.).

He linked his prediction to the bipartisan endorsement of such a program by the senate's 16 new members.

The freshmen senators—10 Democrats and six Republicans—dispatched a unique letter to the White House yesterday assuring President Roosevelt of their sentiment on the matter and wishing them success in his conferences with other Allied leaders.

Connally's gratification was unbounded. As chairman of the foreign relations committee, he will have to carry the load when the treaty establishing the peace machinery comes before the senate.

Here not only were 16 assured votes for a Dumbarton Oaks model peace organization, but there was added satisfaction for the Texan in the similarity between their joint declaration and the lasting

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Reds 125 Miles From Berlin; East Prussia Cut Off

LONDON, Jan. 25.—Red army forces have broken the Oder river line in southeast Germany and are exploiting the breakthrough while in the north they apparently have cut off East Prussia, Soviet field dispatches announced.

Moscow broadcasts said the thunderous Soviet winter offensive was at one point a little more than 125 miles from Berlin and that Red army units were fighting "on the edge of Konigsberg," capital of East Prussia.

Capture of Gleiwitz, big industrial center just west of the Silesian manufacturing towns of Hindenburg and Beuthen, was announced by Marshal Stalin. Chrzanow, important center in the Bombrowa coal basin, 17 miles west of captured Krakow in Poland, also was taken.

Gleiwitz, 90 miles southeast of Breslau, is the largest German city captured by the Russians. Its 118,000 population was mostly engaged in large coal transshipping business and seven large arms and machinery plants, including a barbed wire factory.

German broadcasts said the Russians had broken into Elbing on the Gulf of Danzig, effectively shutting off East Prussia.

Fall of Breslau, capital of lower (northern) Silesia and most important industrial city in the eastern Reich, appeared imminent as Marshal Ivan Konev moved his First Ukrainian army rapidly west of the Oder to encircle the city.

Konev's forces, vanguards of the Russian avalanche, stormed across the broken ice of the Oder in the heart of Silesia at a point south-ward the mountains of Bohemia in Czechoslovakia.

Konev was fighting for yet other crossings northwest of the Oder-straddling city, and Berlin said he already had secured a bridgehead at Steinau, 32 miles northwest of the city and 138 miles from Berlin.

Yet other troops under Konev's command were reported hammering into the outskirts.

The crossing southeast of the city apparently was in the neighborhood of captured Oppeln, capital of upper (southern) Silesia, and about 30 miles northeast of a

Massed U. S. Troops Besiege Clark Field

Ten Japs Killed For Every American In 2-Week Campaign On Luzon, Up To Now

By C. YATES McDALE GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Luzon, Jan. 15.—(P)—A swiftly massing weight of 14th army corps motorized troops besieged Clark Field's 13 airstrips today after a two weeks campaign on Luzon in which 10 Japanese were killed for every American.

Manila lies less than 50 airline miles ahead of the southbound Yank columns, disclosed officially today to have paid the relatively low cost of 657 lives during the first 14 days of their 65-mile drive from Lingayen Gulf. More than 6,000 dead Japanese have been counted and the figure undoubtedly is greater because the Nipponese try to conceal their losses by dragging away many of the bodies.

An intricate maze of more than 30 fortress caves, which the Nipponese spent months building as a major defense belt for Clark field, littered with scores of wrecked Japanese bombers and fighters, is in the hands of 40th division soldiers. Disdainful of willing enemy

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FRANCE WANTS RHINE GUARDED

Will Maintain Military Forces All Along Border After War

PARIS, Jan. 25.—(P)—France intends to maintain military forces all along the Rhine after the war, Gen. De Gaulle told a press conference today.

Meeting newspapermen for the first time in weeks, the French leader said regretfully that he had not been invited to the forthcoming "big three" conference.

He told 200 French and foreign correspondents that France had made no formal request for an invitation to the conference, but had believed the heads of all three big

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CLIFTON DAVIS AMONG MISSING

Pvt. Clifton Davis, son of Adam Davis of route 2, Shelby, has been reported missing in action in France since December 4, according to a telegram received today by his father from the war department.