

WEATHER

Increasing cloudiness today followed by light snow in west tonight. Saturday, cloudy with snow changing to rain. Cold today. Lowest temperatures 26-30 tonight.

The Shelby Daily Star

— STATE THEATRE TODAY —
"SERGEANT MIKE"
 Starring
 Larry Parks — Jeanne Bates
 and Mike
 News—Screen Snapshot—Comedy

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**GERMANS PUT NEWS BLACKOUT ON RED POSITIONS
 ALLIED TROOPS CLEAR 30 MILES OF RHINE BANK**

U. S. First And Third Armies Probe Into Thinly-Manned Line

PARIS, Feb. 2.—(AP)—American and French troops broke into the northern end of Colmar, provincial French capital 400 miles south of Strasbourg, at noon today after clearing 30 miles of the left bank of the Rhine and laying siege to the Neufbrisch bridge from a mile away.

In the center of the western front, the American First and Third armies probed deeper into the thinly manned Siegfried line and advanced up to two miles in its fringes on the western slopes of the Eifel mountains opposite the late Ardennes bulge.

Half a dozen hamlets were taken; more lines of dragon teeth tank barriers were passed; scores of pillboxes—many undefended—were captured.

The passive German resistance in the center strengthened the suspicion that the enemy might be falling back to the Rhine, from 20 to 60 miles east of present battle lines in the center and north.

An announcement from Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, Sixth Army group commander, said the advance into Colmar was made until recently by 25,000 resolute German troops.

The threat to the Alsation capital was all but dissipated, for gains also were made on the north, pushing the Germans to points about 15 miles away from

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Gardner-Webb Fund Above \$300,000

Gardner Tells Trustees Half Million Maximum Goal Definitely Attainable

Trustees of Gardner-Webb Junior College in session at Boiling Springs this afternoon raised their sights to the \$500,000 maximum goal of the Memorial Expansion Fund as the total swept past the \$300,000 mark and assurance was given that the \$350,000 minimum goal would be reached by July just as each period's quota has been attained on time.

WPB Orders Embargo On Use Of Gas

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The War Production board today ordered a 72 hour embargo on the use of natural and mixed gas in amusement places in all or parts of ten states and the District of Columbia. The order is effective at 3 p. m., Central War Time today.

The ban on theatres, moving picture houses, night clubs, bars and other entertainment establishments will last until 3 p. m. Sunday or "until further notice," WPB said.

It was accompanied by an appeal to householders, schools and institutions to conserve gas.

Precipitated by prolonged cold weather, the emergency action affects Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky and parts of Maryland and Virginia, and Washington, D. C.

The ban applies to the use of natural or mixed gas for cooking, heating or any other purpose.

ARTIFICIAL GAS

It does not apply where strictly artificial gas is used, but forbids the use of artificial gas when it is mixed with natural gas.

Presumably all amusement places in the affected area, which draw on natural gas in any way will have to close, unless their patrons are willing to shiver and eat cold food.

A number of big cities in the affected area, New York City for example, use only artificial gas and thus do not come under the ban.

Other developments in the fuel shortage which has enveloped much of the country as a result of severe weather, transportation and manpower difficulties included these:

1. An embargo on civilian freight, except for coal, was ordered for four days beginning tomorrow in eight states in the north and east.

2. Ohio's Gov. Frank J. Lausche ordered all state offices closed for three days starting tomorrow. He also asked that Ohio schools to close Monday.

3. The solid fuels administration asked all Pennsylvania anthracite miners to work a full day tomorrow. Miners in the Appalachian region are urged to work a full day tomorrow.

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BITTER FIGHT THREATENS IN LEGISLATURE

Rep. Pritchett Moves To Annex Part Of Wilkes To Caldwell

SAYS MOVE REQUESTED

RALEIGH, Feb. 2.—(AP)—What might develop into one of the bitterest fights of the 1945 legislative Session developed today when Rep. Pritchett introduced a bill to annex part of Wilkes county to Caldwell county.

Pritchett, a Democrat, represents Caldwell, T. E. Story, a Republican, represents Wilkes. Pritchett said he was requested by a delegation representing approximately 2,000 persons to introduce the bill. Story said that no part fight was involved, but that the measure was not necessary.

After sending up the bill, Pritchett told newsmen that a delegation visited him last Saturday night, saying it represented about 2,000 persons residing in Elk, Bear, and Booner townships in Wilkes county, all located in a corner bounded by Caldwell, Alexander and Wilkes counties. Spokesmen for the delegation said they were not getting proper benefits in Wilkes county and had to send their children to school in Caldwell. They also added that a dam on the Yadkin, proposed in a bill supported by Senator Josiah W. Bailey of North Carolina, would flood part of their section, whereas the bill specifically says that Caldwell county is not to be affected by the flood waters.

Pritchett said his county commissioners were not asking the

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PFC. COUCH IS KILLED IN ITALY

Ambulance Driver Dies Of Injuries Suffered In Wreck

Pfc. Ralph Couch, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Couch of near Gainesville, Ga., who made his home with his uncle, R. L. Couch and Mrs. Couch of 113 Shull St., Shelby, before entering the Army, was reported killed in an accident in Italy on October 28 while performing his duties as an ambulance driver, according to a telegram received by his parents from the war department, and later confirmed by a letter written from the chaplain of his medical battalion in the Fifth Army.

Pfc. Couch was employed by the Cleveland Lumber Co. two years prior to entering the Army in June, 1942. He received his training at Camp Grant, Ill., before being sent overseas in September, 1942. He was stationed in England and participated in the invasion of North Africa as an Ambulance driver.

Pfc. Couch is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Couch, of near Gainesville, his uncle, R. L. Couch of Shelby, two sisters and five brothers all of Gainesville.

— WHAT'S DOING —

TODAY
 7:30 P. M.—Young adult fellowship supper at Central Methodist church.

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Equal Rights For Women Given Today

RALEIGH, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The Senate today passed a bill granting equal rights to North Carolina women and providing specifically against the exclusion of women from jury service.

The senate measure, introduced on the third day of the session, amends certain sections of the state constitution, changing the word "men" to "persons" throughout.

Thus, one branch of the general assembly granted to women the right to vote, to worship God according to their own consciences, and to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—privileges formerly denied them by the constitution.

Rescued Prisoners Hope To Fight Japanese Again

By FRED HAMPSON
EVACUATION HOSPITAL, Luzon, Philippines, Feb. 2.—(AP)—They want their health back. They want to see their folks. Then they want to come back and fight the Japanese.

These are the prevailing sentiments of the 486 Americans and more than a score of Allied prisoners who were rescued by a picked band of fighting men Tuesday night from a stockade near Cabanatuan.

They have bitter memories of capitulation at Bataan and Corregidor. Many had to undergo the "death march" from

Bataan. For nearly three years as prisoners of the Japanese, they subsisted largely on a rice diet.

Yes, many would like to fight again.

Their memories goad them. "The Japs always liked to slap us and sometime they'd give us a pretty stiff beating," recalled Pvt. Travis W. Flowers of Scranton, N. C., an aviation engineer captured on Corregidor.

Another prisoner recalled how the Japanese guards tried to lure the

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Pierlot Government In Belgium Faces Test; Ministers Under Fire

BRUSSELS, Feb. 2.—(AP)—All five socialist members of the Pierlot government offered their resignations last night but agreed today to stay in the cabinet until Tuesday, when the question of continuance of the government may be decided.

Before it was announced that the five socialists had agreed to stay in office for the time being it was said that there was a possibility that as many as five other ministers also would resign.

Two of the latter five have been under heavy criticism — Maurice Verbaet, minister of justice, and Jules Delruelle, minister of economic affairs.

Verbaet has come under fire particularly in connection with the justice department's prosecution of collaborators. His opponents have accused him of going after the small fry while largely ignoring the more important figures.

Delruelle has been unpopular because it has been next to impossible for householders to obtain coal through legal channels at legal prices although fuel is available in the black market.

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The possibility that the Pierlot cabinet would remain intact after the parliamentary debate appeared remote, particularly in view of the firm mandate from the Socialist committee calling on party ministers to resign.

Another communique issued and cancelled during the cabinet session said Prince Charles had asked Premier Hubert Pierlot to return the reins of the government.

De Schrijver said the Socialist ministers, in agreeing to stay in service, headed a request of the Premier that "constitutional principles" be observed, in effect a request that "the fall of his government should be decided in a legislative assembly, and not outside."

New Luzon Landing Puts Manila In Trap

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Luzon, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Manila was in a deadly American trap today, U. S. Eighth Army invasion troops fashioned a pincers on the Philippines capital Wednesday morning by landing on the Batangas Province coast 67 road miles southwest of the city while Sixth Army spearheads drove to within a bare 20 miles on the north.

The eleventh airborne division swept ashore from landing craft virtually unopposed along five miles of Batangas beach near Masugbo and quickly pressed eastward toward 2,000-foot Tagaytay ridge, which commands fine highways leading to Manila and the Cavite naval base in Manila bay, 82 miles away.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today that this third Luzon invasion—the second by the newly-formed eighth army in 48 hours—again caught the Japanese by surprise.

"We landed without loss," he announced, explaining that the landing "largely seals off the possibility of the enemy troops south of Manila joining those in the north, and definitely outflanks the enemy's defense lines in southern Luzon."

The first wave of Maj. Gen. J. M. Swing's 11th division troops hit the shore without firing a shot at 8:30 a. m. and took the town of Nasugbu where happy Filipinos welcomed them with offers of hot coffee, wine and rum.

NOT BLOODLESS

It wasn't a totally bloodless landing as was Monday's invasion of the Zamboanga coastline to the north. A half hour after the first Yanks were ashore, Japanese in caves to the north brought machinegun and 77 mm fire to bear on the landing beach. This was quickly silenced by

Government Sees Errors In Ward Case Judgment

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The government contended today Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan had erred on 29 points—12 findings of fact and 17 conclusions of law and judgment—in dismissing suits against Montgomery Ward and company.

The 29 points were listed by U. S. Attorney J. Albert Woll as ground for an appeal when he asked the Federal Court clerk yesterday to certify the entire record to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Sullivan ruled President Roosevelt lacked either statutory or constitutional authority to order seizure of 18 Ward properties in seven cities. The Army took possession Dec. 25 after the mail order firm declined to comply with War Labor board directives ordering, among other things, maintenance of union membership.

ERRED

The 29 points included statements that Judge Sullivan erred when he found the President's

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Germans Said Ready For New U-Boat War

LONDON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Information received from neutral and underground sources indicates that the Germans are ready to send 200 U-boats into the sea lanes for a large scale attack on convoys en route to France and Russia, the Daily Telegraph said today.

Estimates have been made in Stockholm, the newspaper said, that the German navy has a total of 400 serviceable submarines and is building new ones at the rate of 20 monthly. A report from the Norwegian underground said many were based at Bergen and Trondheim.

The new submarines, many of them long range 1,500-tonners, were said to be fitted with a number of new devices.



MISSING—Pfc. Ben G. Sisk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Sisk of 129 Textile Street, is reported missing in action in Belgium since December 18, according to word received by his parents from the war department. His wife, the former Miss Annie Embry, is making her home with her parents on route 2, Shelby.

BERLIN BOMBED BEFORE DAWN

Destructive Raids Made On Ludwighafen Mainz, Siegen

LONDON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Berlin was bombed before dawn today after a night of attacks in which the major rail centers of Mainz, Ludwighafen and Siegen were attacked heavily to disrupt German movements from the west to eastern front.

Thick weather over parts of the Reich slowed the aerial attacks. In the last day and a half, 3,200 planes have hammered the overburdened German rail system. A dozen bombers and four fighters were lost.

Ludwighafen and Mainz are on the Rhine; Siegen is 40 miles southeast of Cologne.

The U. S. Ninth air force attacked a Rhine bridge near Coblenz and another over the Moselle 27 miles to the southwest. Six barges on the Rhine were destroyed.

British rocket planes struck railroads in the Dulman, Coersfeld and Bergstein triangle north of the Ruhr.

GROUNDHOG HAS HIS REVENGE

With his eyes blinking angrily in the beautiful sunlight of a typical North Carolina day, Mr. Groundhog gave his whiskers one swirl, gruffly dismissed reporters who tried to interview him on his International Weather conference, pulled his fur coat about him and stalked back into his hole with high dudgeon.

Thus it is, the amateur weather prophets, who put great faith in that old wives tale, that sunshine on Groundhog day means six more weeks of winter, called up their coal man and laid out another suit of heavies.

Old Man Groundhog seemed to get revenge immediately for the sunshine that was heaped upon him. The weather bureau, which puts no faith at all in this legend, nevertheless predicted snow flurries for the western portions tonight and colder weather.

NOMINATION ON ICE: Senate Votes To Divorce Lending From Commerce Post

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Big names in and out of government were mentioned today for the big job of running the government's lending agencies.

These were among those talked of for the post which the Senate voted overwhelmingly to keep out of the hands of Henry A. Wallace as prospective secretary of commerce.

Fred M. Vinson, economic stabilization director; Joseph F. Kennedy, former ambassador to London; Harriner S. Eccles, chairman of the fed-

One Russian Attempt To Storm Across Oder Said Blocked By Nazis

LONDON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Russian forces have made one attempt to storm across the Oder in their onslaught toward Berlin, a German broadcast said today, and other Berlin reports indicated Soviet patrols might already have crossed.

The German high command clamped a blackout on news from the sector as one military commentator told of the attempted crossing in the area of Kustrin, 40 miles east of Berlin.

Berlin radio accounts said Marshal Gregory Zhukov had brought up strong forces along the Oder on both sides of Frankfurt and that assaults to reduce the fortress of Kustrin, were underway.

The German communique, however, completely omitting mention of the sector, said the Russians everywhere else except in East Prussia, had been checked after hard fighting and Moscow dispatches said Zhukov had run into thick minefields and a hard shell of German armor along the 90-mile front threatening the German capital.

14th Air Force Base In China Is Abandoned

CHUNGKING, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The U. S. 14th air force base at Suchuan, east of Japan's China-Indo-China corridor, has been destroyed and abandoned, American headquarters announced today.

The base was east of the Japanese "corridor of occupation" and southwest of Hengyang, the communiqué announced. It was destroyed Jan. 24. Suchwan is in western Kiangsi, roughly midway between Hankow and Hongkong.

The new Chinese army spokesman, Maj. Gen. Kung Chi Kuang, denied that the Japanese, as claimed, have gained full control of the 685-mile Canton-Hankow railroad. He said fighting still was in progress at several points between Kukong, 125 miles north of Canton, and Chensien, 80 miles of Hengyang.

FIGHTING

Fighting also continued on the coastal region between Hongkong and Swatow, he said.

The American communique said Japanese divisional headquarters south of Nanning were strafed yesterday and that nearby river shipping was damaged heavily. Weather closed down most air operations in China.

A Japanese freighter driven aground by U. S. naval forces 70 miles south of Tourane in French Indo-China was destroyed. Another ocean-going vessel steaming along the coast was damaged, the bulletin added.

Declarer the capital could and would be defended, Hitler's newspaper said "German armed forces are in a position to build barriers which the enemy, who has crossed the Oder with very small forces only, cannot even threaten."

Heavy fighting raged on a line from the area of Glogow on the Oder 115 miles southeast of Berlin, to Kustrin, in the angle of the Oder and Warthe east and slightly north of Berlin.

THROWN OUT

The Germans declared they had thrown the Russians out of Kustrin, and that thousands of German men, women and children were being rushed to the east to dig a great system of trenches to make Berlin a "bloody disappointment" for the Russians.

Moscow dispatches reported, however, that Zhukov was working to bring up stronger forces, was massing his infantry and storm guns close behind his tank

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Two Tar Heels Among Rescued Prisoners

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 2.—(AP)—At least two Tar Heels were among the American soldiers liberated in the daring ranger raid on the Japanese prisoner of war camp on Luzon Tuesday night.

They were Pvt. Herman J. Keller of Pineola, in Avery county, and Pvt. Travis W. Flowers of Scranton, in Hyde county.

Flowers was at Clark Field the day before the Japs spilled their first bombs there in December 1941. His mother, who hadn't seen him since September 1941, said last night "it was the most exciting moment of my life," when she heard her son had been rescued.

Improved Weather Puts U. S. 15th Air Force Back In Skies

ROME, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Activity dwindled nearly to an all-time low along the entire Italian front today with only minor patrol actions reported by both the Fifth and Eighth armies.

Along the Eighth Army's Senio river line in northeastern Italy there were a few grenade-tossing duels, and casualties were inflicted on one German group a mile northwest of Tossignano.

Improved weather enabled the Allied air force to step up its aerial operations yesterday. For the second straight day heavy bombers of the U. S. 15th air force hammered the Moosierbaum oil refinery 22 miles northwest of Vienna through clouds, finding their targets with instruments.

PLANES SEEN

Liberators also bombed Austrian rail yards at Graz and Klagenfurt. About 50 German planes were seen, but none attacked.

Thunderbolts of the U. S. 12th air force made their deepest penetration yet into Axis territory by bombing and strafing important rail targets in Austria. A formation led by Lt. Alfred G. Hearne, Booker, Okla., destroyed or damaged a number of locomotives and railroad cars between Villach and Klagenfurt.

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ACTION LIGHT IN ITALY

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