

WEATHER

North Carolina—Fair and slightly warmer today and tonight. Increasing cloudiness and mild Saturday.

The Shelby Daily Star

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894

TELEPHONES 1100

VOL. XLIII—35

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

SHELBY, N. C.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 1945

TELEMAT PICTURES

SINGLE COPIES—5c

STATE THEATRE TODAY "NIGHT CLUB GIRL" Starring Vivian AUSTIN — Billy DUNN News — America — Flashback

BRITISH SPEARHEAD IS WITHIN 3 MILES OF RHINE RUSSIANS THREATEN ENCIRCLEMENT OF BRESLAU

REDS REPORTED ONLY 25 MILES FROM STETTIN

German Fortifications On Oder Pounded By Artillery Fire

KURTSCHE CAPTURED

LONDON, Feb. 9.—(P)—The Russians have smashed to within 25 miles of Stettin, the port of Berlin, and have exploded a fresh offensive northwest of Breslau threatening the encirclement of that huge Silesian industrial center, it was reported today.

Marshal Gregory Zhukov unlimbered one of the war's heaviest artillery batteries at fortifications along the Oder temporarily blocking the direct way to Berlin.

One of the first towns to fall in the new offensive of Marshal Ivan Konev from his Malsch bridgehead over the Oder was Parchwitz, 30 miles west-northwest of Breslau, the Berlin radio said. The German communique said the First Ukrainian army thrust had carried "almost to the east fringe" of Liegnitz, a rail center of 76,000 of a little more than eight miles southeast of Parchwitz.

The Russian armies were within 40 miles of closing the escape gap from Breslau, a city of 615,000. The town of Kurtzsch, 12 miles south of Breslau, was captured yesterday.

While Moscow had not officially confirmed the launching of the new drive, Moscow dispatches said Konev in heavy fighting was "hitting at Liegnitz guarding the approaches to Saxony."

Rapid gains toward Stettin were reported in Moscow dispatches since the Soviet communique announced the capture of Retz, Bernstein, Sammenthin and 100 other towns, the closest 38 miles from the Baltic port.

On the Berlin front Zhukov was out-running the Germans in the grim duel across the middle Oder, but the Germans declared they had narrowed down or eliminated some of the seven bridgeheads they previously reported thrust across the river.

Moscow still had not officially announced creation of any of these bridgeheads, and correspondents in the Soviet capital said it was unlikely any Soviet announcements would be made until the Russians were sure they had won the battle.

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2 TRAPPED IN CHICAGO FIRE

15 Welders Escape From Steel Plant After Explosion

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—(P)—Two men were believed to have died early today when they were trapped in a spectacular fire which shot flames 250 feet into the air from the plant of the Verling Steel company.

Ray Olsen, night superintendent, identified the two as Martin Lightfoot, a negro, and John Gagajewski, night watchman. Olsen said the two were near him on the second floor when an explosion occurred, and that he heard the screaming.

Fifteen others, all welders, escaped. Olsen said the blaze apparently started in a paint vat near where the welders were at work. Attempts to extinguish it with hand equipment failed.

Fire Commissioner Michael J. Corrigan estimated damage at \$150,000 and said a wind fanned sparks across two blocks of the neighborhood.

The block-in-progress plant is wholly engaged in war work, company officials said, making structural items for the Army and Navy.



ALLIED SOLDIERS RESCUED FROM JAP PRISON CAMP — Allied soldiers, prisoners of the Japs for more than three years, reach the 92nd Evacuation hospital on Luzon Island in the Philippines after their rescue from the enemy's prison camp at Cabanatuan by American Rangers and Filipino guerrillas in a daring night raid Jan. 30. Many of the liberated men had been captives of the Japs since the fall of Corregidor and Bataan, and some since the Japs captured Singapore.

TO ENLARGE BUS SERVICE

Four Companies Are Contending Over Shelby-Gaffney Line

Shelby is in a fair way to get increased bus service. Four lines, the Atlantic Greyhound, Queen City, Carolina Scenic lines and the Rutherford Transit lines are contending over the right to establish a Shelby-Gaffney link. The North Carolina phase of the matter will be aired at a hearing to be held before the utilities commission in Raleigh on January 21.

It is understood here that if the Atlantic Greyhound is successful in getting the franchise it will operate the Shelby-Gaffney link as a part of its Winston-Salem-Atlanta service and will designate part of the schedule which now goes via Kings Mountain to Gaffney to be brought by Shelby and Bolling Springs. It now operates some 12 schedules via this route.

The other three lines are understood to want to connect the Shelby-Gaffney route with their present network via Bolling Springs.

Budapest Aircraft Plant Camouflaged

LONDON, Feb. 9.—(P)—A Budapest establishment camouflaged as an undertaking parlor has been found to be the entrance to an underground aircraft parts factory, the Moscow radio said today. The Germans employed thousands of foreign workers there.

New England Blizzard Takes Toll Of Lives And Property

BOSTON, Feb. 9.—(P)—A raging blizzard swirled northward from New England today leaving a lengthening list of dead in its wake and a snow blanket that carried down wires, damaged other property, and paralyzed rail, highway and air transportation.

The storm took a toll of ten lives. Damage was expected to run into millions.

Snowfalls ranging up to 17 inches was whipped into vast drifts by a shrieking gale. The snow bore down power and communication lines and poles and trees, crushed a Springfield, Mass., warehouse beneath its

German Oil Supplies Hit By U. S. Bombers

Armament And Motor Transport Factories Also Blasted; British Bombers Out Last Night

LONDON, Feb. 9.—(P)—Approximately 1,300 American heavy bombers, escorted by more than 850 fighters, attacked German oil supplies and railways today, adding their weight to what may be a record 24-hour assault.

The main force attacked the synthetic oil plant at Lutzendorf, a few miles northeast of Leipzig. Other flying fortresses and Liberators hit armament and motor transport factories at Welmar in central Germany, switching yards at Magdeburg and several other undisclosed communications targets.

About 1,000 British bombers last night blasted a synthetic oil refinery at Politz, 10 miles north of Stettin in an area lying ahead of Soviet troops. British Mosquitos struck sharply at Berlin.

The RAF struck the Politz oil works in two attacks, spaced two hours apart. The refinery is one of the two largest in Germany and specialized in aviation fuel. It virtually was put out of action January 13, the RAF reported, but had been partly rebuilt by impressed labor working around the clock.

Returning crewmen said the bombings were highly concentrated and many large fires and explosions were observed.

British and American tactical air forces based on the continent

WHAT'S DOING

TODAY 7:30 p.m.—Called meeting of Cleveland Lodge 202 A. F. and A. M. at Masonic temple for work in third degree.

Koenigsberg Mayor Hanged For Desertion

LONDON, Feb. 9.—(P)—The mayor of Koenigsberg has been hanged for deserting the besieged East Prussian capital, the German radio announced today.

Mayor of Koenigsberg Schroeter was hanged for having left his town without having received evacuation orders," the announcement said.

This was the third in a series of eastern front civilian executions announced by the Germans. Previously the deputy mayor of Breslau was executed and the police president and other officials of Bydgoszcz (Bromberg), the fallen fortress in Poznan province, were executed "for cowardice."

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FRANKLIN H. PEELER

TWO CLEVELAND CASUALTIES

Pfc. Cansler Of Kings Mountain Killed; Pfc. Peeler Missing

Pfc. Grady Cansler of Kings Mountain was reported killed in action and Pfc. Franklin H. Peeler of route 2, Lawndale, is reported missing in casualty reports received yesterday by their families from the war department.

Pfc. Grady Cansler, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Cansler of Kings Mountain, was reported killed in action January 21 while fighting with the infantry in the European theatre of operations, according to a telegram received by his wife, the former Miss Gaynell Parrish of Kings Mountain.

Pfc. Cansler was a graduate of Kings Mountain high school and attended the University of Tennessee, before entering the army in March, 1944, he was assistant manager of the Pauline grocery store in Kings Mountain. He received his infantry training at Camp Fannin, Texas and was given his only furlough when he spent 10 days with his family en route to a port of embarkation. He sailed for an overseas station in September, 1944.

Pfc. Cansler is survived by his wife, Mrs. Grady Cansler; two daughters, Dian and Kay; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Cansler of Kings Mountain; and two brothers, Luther of Kings Mountain and Anthony, who is serving in the navy.

Mr. Franklin H. Peeler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Peeler of

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U. S. FORCES DRIVE TOWARD MANILA DOCKS

Rain Halts Some Of Fires; Intramuros Burns Unchecked

NEW DEMOLITIONS

MANILA, Feb. 9.—(P)—U. S. infantrymen, splashing across the Pasig river in amphibious tanks drove toward the prized dock section of Manila today in the face of new enemy demolition charges set off in old Intramuros district, a death trap for its congested Filipino and Chinese residents.

Unseasonal rain dampened many of the scattered fires set wantonly by the desperate and trapped Japanese defenders but the Intramuros, or walled city, blazed so fiercely for a time that the heat could be felt for blocks away.

(Some fires are still burning but the worst of the flames seem to have burned themselves out, Gen. Thomas Polster reported in an NBC broadcast from Manila.)

(He said a regiment of Doughboys crossed the Pasig today "and there is hope that the property destroying phase of the battle for Manila may be nearing a close.")

The 37th Infantry division entered Southern Manila by crossing the wide Pasig river near the governmental Malacanang palace and began to root out the Japanese who had destroyed the four bridges.

The Yanks worked south and southwestward through comparatively open spaces around the gas works, with the harbor facilities their prime immediate objective.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today the 37th was "assisting the 11th Airborne division in clearing South Manila."

FRINGE OF CITY Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Swing's 11th Airborne, which swept into the suburbs from a parachute invasion to the southwest, was last reported fighting around Nichols Field, on the southern fringe of Manila. Small-scale but stiff resistance slowed this spearhead.

Japanese artillery fire began to taper off yesterday after two days of continuous shelling of American-held north Manila.

MacArthur announced the destruction of more than 200 Nipponese tanks — more than

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Chinese Prepare To Strike Against Japs

CHUNGKING, Feb. 9.—(P)—Chinese armies are speeding preparations for a counter offensive against the Japanese in collaboration with Allied forces, Maj. Gen. Kung Chi-Kuang, Chinese army spokesman, declared today.

Ridiculing the idea that the Japanese are winning on the Asiatic continent, Kuang said:

"The time really has come for Japan to accept unconditional surrender."

He asked how Japan expected to defend her holdings in China with its far longer coastline if they could not defend Luzon and asserted Americans could land on the China coast at will.

Opposition To Work-Or-Jail Bill Growing In Committee

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—(P)—Senator Chandler, (D-Ky.) reported today that opposition to the work-or-jail bill is growing in the senate military committee which is rounding out its first week of semi-secret hearings on the measure.

Friends of the bill, however, said they are encouraged by the general trend of testimony and the concerted endorsement of the measure by high government officials.

Although no tangible progress has been made in four days, Sena-

6 TOWNS TAKEN:

New Allied Offensive Drives Into Westwall, Two Miles Since Dawn

PARIS, Feb. 9.—(P)—Field Marshal Montgomery's powerful new offensive toward the Ruhr carried within four miles tonight of fire-racked Kleve, northern terminal of the original Siegfried line, and penetrated deeply into the west wall fortifications in the Reichswald.

Since dawn, the flame-throwing Canadian First Army had advanced more than two miles deeper into northwest Germany and captured six more towns, one of them three miles from the Rhine before it branches out to form the Waal and Neder Rhine in Holland.

Most of the villages were in Germany. The nearest to Kleve was Frassel and the nearest to the Rhine was the Dutch village of Leuth. Tuthees, on the main road from captured Kranenburg to Kleve, was taken along with Zanpof, Niel and Bredeweg in the onward surge of the Canadian and British tanks and infantry.

The new attack, bringing to life a long dormant sector, applied a pincer on the Ruhr, far to the south the American First and Third armies were cutting up toward the arsenal region of coal and steel. In the center the American Ninth and British Second armies were deployed along the Roer river for a frontal blow to the dense industrial area.

Burning Kleve, northern terminal of the Siegfried line, was imminently menaced. The new attack front widened to seven miles. Formidable forest defenses in the Reichswald, considerably weakened by a terrific artillery and air bombardment, were being mopped up swiftly. Five German and two Dutch towns fell. More than 1,200 Germans, including

two battalion commanders, surrendered.

The American First Army 80 miles to the south advanced to within a mile of the vast Schwammenauel dam, controlling flood waters on the Roer river—a barrier to the Ruhr and the Cologne plain.

NEAR PRUEM The Third Army advanced to within a mile of Pruem and reached the Pruem river eight miles inside the Reich.

The French First Army broke the last German opposition south of Strasburg and drew up to the Upper Rhine banks on a 90-mile front from north of Strasburg to Switzerland.

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Bills Offered To Aid Mentally Ill

O'Berry Presents Measure To Establish 500-Bed Hospital For Spastic Paralytics

RALEIGH, Feb. 9.—(P)—Bills to extend additional aid to the mentally unfortunate and to provide for the establishment of a 500-bed hospital for spastic paralytic children were introduced today in the legislature.

Senator O'Berry of Wayne, sponsor of two of the measures, said that a special commission appointed by former Governor Broughton had studied the needs of a spastic paralytic hospital and had found a great need for it.

A nine-member board of directors would be appointed by the governor to study the matter and report back to the next assembly. It would have authority to select a superintendent and fix his salary, subject to the approval of the budget bureau. It could accept donations but could not spend money on permanent improvements until such provision is made by the assembly. State-owned property could be utilized for the hospital.

Another O'Berry bill would direct that the hospital board of control should have a representative from each congressional district and three at large, all appointed by the governor for staggered terms. Three members would constitute the executive committee, and there would be a five-member advisory committee. The board would have authority to

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Nomination Of Wallace Before Rules Committee

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—(P)—The congressional controversy over the government future of Henry A. Wallace marched today into the house rules committee, where majority admittedly opposes him.

However, before the poverty committee opened public hearing Speaker Rayburn (D-Tex.) personally intervened to forestall shelving there of the George bill. The bill would clear the way for the former vice president to become secretary of a commerce department shorn of RFC and other loan agencies.

The anti-Wallace faction had hoped to put on ice in the committee the senate-approved legislation by Senator George (D-Ga.) and thereby bring about outright senate rejection of Wallace, in a vote of confirmation as commerce secretary and head of RFC.

FLOOR VOTE Now it appears the committee will vote, sometime next week, let the George bill go on the house floor for a vote, but under a special rule allowing a vote of an amendment taking away President Roosevelt's war power to assign federal agencies.

Wallace opponents want the amendment, they say, to make sure the president assigns no duties the former vice president other than those of a bob-tailed commerce department. They also want an amendment removing the commerce secretary as a member of the Export-Import Bank board. These amendments, dealing with matters apart from the commerce department, could not be attached to the George bill without a special rule making them germane.

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