

WEATHER

Clear to partly cloudy and warm today and tonight, showers Friday followed by colder, rather windy Friday.

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TELEPHONES 1100

STATE THEATRE TODAY, "THE MARK OF THE WHISTLER" Richard DIX - Janis CARTER Musical - Science - Cartoon

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TELEMAT PICTURES

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CANADIANS REACH RHINE, SWING BEHIND WEST WALL RUSSIANS SMASH AHEAD 17 MILES IN 24 HOURS

Woman Questioned In Effort To Find Motive For Mrs. Epes' Slaying

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 15.—(P)—Police officials said today a woman had been questioned as they sought to establish a motive in the "slaying" of comely 26-year-old Mary Lee Epes, Jacksonville, Fla., school teacher whose blood-spattered and drugged body was unearthed yesterday from a shallow foxhole grave near the Fort Jackson military reservation.

Sheriff T. Alex Helse said that Lt. Samuel C. Epes, 29, son of a prominent Virginia family and husband of the dead woman, attributed his wife's death to an overdose of sedatives.

A 16-day search for the missing woman was ended yesterday when Epes, whom Fort authorities said attempted suicide Monday by slashing his wrists and throat with a razor blade, was taken in an ambulance to lead officers to the scene.

Epes in a signed statement given to the Richland sheriff said: "Mary Lee was ill and upset. She had in her possession sodium secobarbital that had been given her for relief purposes by an army medical officer.

"We came home Saturday night (Jan. 27) at 10:30. We had a couple of drinks, but were not intoxicated. Mary Lee took a couple of capsules and later in the evening she took about 10 more.



MRS. EPES

KONEV'S MEN SAID 45 MILES FROM DRESDEN

Other Spearheads Also Advance Rapidly; Resistance Light

KOHLFURT BYPASSED

LONDON, Feb. 15.—(P)—A German military spokesman said today Russian tank and cavalry forces, smashing ahead 17 miles in 24 hours, had crossed the Neisse river in an area only 65 miles from Berlin in the drive on the German capital from the south-east.

Other spearheads, Moscow dispatches said, had raced 22 miles in the offensive west of Breslau and reached Goerlitz on the Neisse only 53 miles east of Dresden and were now battling for bridgeheads in southern Germany.

A Tass broadcast from Moscow later said the Russians had reached a point only 45 miles from Dresden.

Marshal Ivan Konev's reinforced blows fell with a speed and success which suggested that German resistance had been almost paralyzed.

Allied bombers continued one of their greatest offensives just ahead of the Soviet columns.

The Berlin military spokesman said Konev's free-wheeling columns had reached the Autobahns, or military highways, both north-west and southwest of Forst, 65 miles from Berlin.

The Germans said Konev in this area had established a "loose connection" with Marshal Gregory Zhukov's forces fighting east of Berlin, where they have established bridgeheads over the Oder south of Guestenberg.

To the south Konev apparently had bypassed the important railway junction and stronghold of Kohlfurt in his 22-mile jump from Bunzlau to Goerlitz on the Neisse, last natural barrier before Dresden.

The speed of the drive indicated Nazi resistance in that sector was crumbling.

The Russians were reported battling for a bridgehead across the Neisse, last major obstacle before Dresden, the city of 630,000 which Adolf Hitler once had planned to make the artistic capital of the Reich.

Konev's northern wing spreading

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Alternate U. S. And RAF Raids Continue Air Offensive Against Reich

LONDON, Feb. 15.—(P)—American heavy bombers carrying out one of the greatest air offensives of the war, blasted Dresden again today, smashed at Berlin for the fourth time in two days, and bombed the clogged railyards of Cottbus, only 12 miles from a sector in which Russian spearheads were reported operating.

Still another force of American heavy bombers again attacked the synthetic oil plant outside Magdeburg, 75 miles southwest of the smoking German capital.

Even while this great armada of more than 1,100 fortresses and Liberators with 430 fighter escorts was making these attacks, the German radio sounded new alarms. Fresh formations of Allied bombers were reported flying in over Holland and also from the south over Austria.

The attacks brought to about 11,000 thus far the number of planes which have linked the eastern and western battlefronts under a blanket of explosives and incendiaries in the last 48 hours.

Frontline reports said tactical aircraft, also, were having another great field day against Nazi road movements.

Cottbus is a big rail and high-

way junction squarely in front of Marshal Ivan S. Konev's right flank. It is a fat target, jammed now with Nazi troops and supplies.

OVERNIGHT BLOWS

Today's powerhouse assaults came after overnight blows by 1,300 RAF planes which struck at the east front rail center of Chemnitz, as well as at other targets. Twenty-two bomber command aircraft were lost, but some may have landed on the continent.

American losses from yesterday's 2,250 plane strike had not been announced because a number of "missing" planes were believed to have landed safely in France, air headquarters said.

Germany was undergoing a scourging such as she never before experienced.

Chemnitz, main target of the

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EDITOR FIRED — Miss Marilyn Kaemmerle (above) from Jackson, Mich., editor of the student newspaper, the Flat Hat, at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., has been dismissed from the staff as a result of her editorial in which she suggested negroes should be admitted to the college at some future date, and would "join the same clubs, pin the same classmates, and marry among us."

WLB HAS NEW SECRET WEAPON

Will Deny War Contracts, Priority Assistance To Violators

By KARL R. BAUMAN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(P)—The government brought out today a new drastic weapon for use against defiers of War Labor board orders.

Its first use cancelled the war contracts of, and denied priority assistance to, E. A. Laboratories, Inc., Brooklyn, N. Y. The first manufacturing ship landing lights and other electrical equipment.

Denial of priority assistance in these days of scarce materials is a penalty of extreme seriousness. Conceivably it could put a manufacturer out of business.

On the ground that the company had "persistently refused" to comply with WLB orders, Fred M. Vinson, director of economic stabilization, last night directed the Army and Navy to cancel "all contracts with this employer as rapidly as possible."

He also directed the War Production board to deny all applications of the firm for priority assistance or for the allocation of materials, and to cancel all outstanding priorities and allocations.

Vinson acted under executive order No. 93700 which empowers him to issue "such directives as he may deem necessary" in connection with the enforcement of WLB orders.

This he described as the "other weapon in our arsenal," the other being government seizure.

Indicating the government may use the seizure procedure less sparingly in the future than in the Montgomery Ward and other cases, Vinson called government possession and operation not always the answer. "The government is reluctant to seize . . . The government can not run numerous plants. In some cases the seizure methods is easy; it can be quick; it can bypass painstaking work in trying to figure out some other means of securing compliance, but so far it has not and it must not become an opiate for all of our non-compliance troubles."

CONFERENCE ECHOES: Relaxation Of Italian Armistice Terms Expected

By The Associated Press LONDON, Feb. 15.—(P)—Some relaxation of Italian armistice terms and a possible inquiry by President Roosevelt into arrangements for the relief of French civilians were indicated today by continental dispatches.

The best available information in Paris was that Mr. Roosevelt had not yet reached France, although a Paris broadcast said the President, on his way back from the Crimean conference, was reported by the Marseille press "to have made a short stay" at Mar-

Kleve Front Only Active One In West; 3 Armies In South Halted By Floods

PARIS, Feb. 15.—(P)—Canadians fought through flood waters to the west bank of the Rhine opposite Emmerich today and swung slowly along the northern end of the Rhine valley in a drive behind the Siegfried line threatening to outflank the Ruhr munitions industries.

The 20-mile Kleve front was the only active one in the west. On its south flank, British empire troops crushed a series of violent German counterattacks and pressed close to the key defense bastions of Goch and Calcar.

Barrages from hundreds upon hundreds of Field Marshal Montgomery's big guns and huge fleets of Allied planes paralyzed every German attempt to regain ground and exacted terrible casualties.

The Rhine was reached at Hurendelch. There the river is normally 3,270 feet wide but breaches in dykes in the desolate lowlands have made the Rhine even more imposing.

At low points north of Kleve and west of Emmerich, the Rhine was as wide as the English channel between Calais and Dover and flood waters were eight feet deep, leaving only islands of sunken villages. The Canadians used amphibious tanks to advance.

BEHIND WEST WALL The Canadian First army, already behind the Siegfried line and up to the Rhine, was in a position to push south and confine or kill the enemy on either side of his west wall fortifications.

Three of Gen. Eisenhower's armies to the south watched with satisfaction a gradual recession of floods on the Roer river barring their path to the Cologne plain.

The British empire troops crept forward in the wake of blows struck Germany by 10,000 planes in 36 hours, much of their might loosed upon the area between the Rhine and Gen. Eisenhower's seven armies. One group wrecked the Rhine bridge at the Ruhr city of Wesel, 18 miles ahead of British troops. Gen. Henry Crerar's Canadian First army appeared definitely headed south toward the Cologne plain. On the west edge of that plain, the British Second and the American First and First Armies were checked back by Roer River floods, flowing from opened dams at the headwaters.

INSIDE GERMANY The Canadians, Britons, Scots and Welsh commanded by Crerar captured Hommersum, Hejlen and Warbeyen. Opposite Emmerich the American First Army is in Germany and 49 from the great Rhine city of Dusseldorf.

German resistance stiffened on the eastern and southern flanks of the oozing battleground between the Rhine and Meuse. Two bridgeheads were widened and strengthened across the Niers river along which the Germans had hoped to shield Goch.

The small Kleve state forest three miles north of Goch, A was cleared. Empire troops were within three miles of Calcar, road center close to the Rhine.

Bitter, see-saw fighting continued at the edge of Kessel, on the

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ARTILLERY British coastal craft torpedoed and sank a large enemy merchant ship and destroyed three heavily armed coastal vessels off the Istrian peninsula at the end of the Adriatic Sea, the Allied naval command announced today.

Typifying the heavy use of artillery on the static Fifth army front is the instance of the 348th field artillery battalion of the 91st (Powder River) division which fired 73,000 rounds from its howitzers in 157 days of combat. The Fifth army command credited the battalion with destroying twice its number of Nazi guns. Its toll included 23 enemy artillery pieces, 12 tanks, 12 trucks and at least four ammunition dumps.

Two Killed In Crash Of Bomber FLORENCE, S. C., Feb. 15.—(P)—A light bomber from the Florence air field crashed, 90 miles north of Atlanta, killing two men Tuesday night, the air base announced last night. They were 2nd Lt. Harold Gilbert of Philadelphia, and Cpl. Anthony J. Simnowski of North Tarrytown, N. Y.

BURKE WOMAN ADMITS SLAYING Held On Charge Of Murder, Mother Of Nine Children

MORGANTON, Feb. 15.—(P)—Mrs. Alice Mull, 44, mother of nine children is in jail here today awaiting a preliminary hearing on a charge of murder in connection with the rifle slaying of her husband, Carza Alexander Mull.

Members of the sheriff's department found Mull's body in a field near the couple's home in the Laurel Hill section five miles southeast of Morganton, after the woman gave herself up and reported the shooting.

Mrs. Mull told officers that she shot her husband three times while he pursued her with a shotgun after attempting to set fire to the house. She said he was intoxicated.

Rural Officer C. A. Fox said he found evidence of slight fire damage to the house.

Officers said two bullets entered Mull's chest over the heart, and there was another bullet hole in the back of the body.

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Fiscal Control Of School Funds Asked

Bill Proposes Closer Supervision Of State's Public School Funds

RALEIGH, Feb. 15.—(P)—Rep. Stone of Rockingham introduced today, with Governor Cherry's endorsement, a bill to provide fiscal control of the state's public school funds, the appointment of a controller, and to outline the duties of the state board of education and other school officials.

A recently adopted constitutional amendment made no provision for the controller, but Cherry in his inaugural message suggested that the matter be corrected.

The state is to be divided by the legislature into eight educational districts and the bill would provide for the staggering of terms of the members, other than those of the lieutenant governor, the state superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer.

The board would have control of the library fund and would divide the state into school districts, regulate the salaries, grades and qualifications of teachers. It would appoint and equalize public school funds, select textbooks and generally supervise the school program.

The board would appoint the controller and fix his salary. He would have control of the fiscal affairs of the school system, control the nine months term appropriation, the textbook appropriation, the state literary and building fund, state and federal funds for loans to schools for building programs, federal funds for vocational education, funds for vocational rehabilitation, funds for the maintenance of the board, and other miscellaneous funds.

SUPERVISION The superintendent of public instruction would supervise the teaching program and be secretary to the board.

A similar bill was introduced in

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Carolinians To Return On Gripsholm

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(P)—The following Carolinians are among the army officers and enlisted men who were prisoners of war in Germany being returned home on the Gripsholm:

North Carolina: Pfc. Carl J. Bengue, son of Earl R. Bengue of Statesville; S/Sgt. John E. Guy, son of Mrs. Myrtle M. Packers of Reese; Cpl. James R. Sisk, husband of Mrs. Pauline Sisk of Gastonia.

South Carolina: Pvt. Thomas P. Edwards, husband of Mrs. Katherine D. Edwards of Gresham; Pfc. Sam K. Jeffords, son of Samuel K. Jeffords, Sr., of Elliott.

WHAT'S DOING

TODAY 7:00 p.m.—Regular meeting of Kiwanis club at Hotel Charles.

7:30 p.m.—C.A.P. members meet at Hotel Charles.

7:30 p.m.—Special communication of Cleveland Lodge 202 A. F. & A. M., for work in third degree.

FRIDAY 12:30 p.m.—Rotary club meets at Hotel Charles.

Yanks Tighten Noose On Japs In Manila

Enemy Determined To Make Capture Costly To Americans; Civilians Wantonly Slain

MANILA, Feb. 15.—(P)—Under skies black from new enemy demolition destruction, American troops cautiously tightened an inevitable death noose today on Japanese so desperate they cold-bloodedly shot and bayoneted civilians in South Manila.

Yanks of three divisions closed in on the enemy, fighting for each street intersection, amid a flood of front line reports of Japanese atrocities matching the rape of Nanking.

The Americans had to move carefully so as not to kill civilians within the Japanese lines.

Explosions and flames swept the old Intramuros, the Ermita and Malate districts along the Manila Bay shore south of the Pasig river mouth. The devastation, wrought by demolition charges, threatened to equal that which ravaged the Escolta business district north of the river.

The doomed Japanese, holed up primarily in the Intramuros, where some walls are 40 feet thick at the base, were weakened but still fighting.

Troops of Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler's 37th division, bearing the brunt of the house-by-house onslaught, yesterday reached the University of the Philippines campus, a half mile from the high commissioner's residence on the bay front.

HOLD HOSPITAL The Japanese still held the General hospital nearby, however, and the American position was untenable. The hospital has been converted into one of the enemy's strongest positions.

Associated Press Correspondent Fred Hampson said the enemy was confined to an area about 5,000 yards by 2,000 yards.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur said

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Chinese Take Kutrai On Old Burma Road

KANDY, CEYLON, Feb. 15.—(P)—Chinese First Army troops, driving southward along the old Burma road, occupied Kutkai, 48 miles north of Lashio without opposition yesterday, the southeast Asia command announced today.

The advance elements continued their push south and later tanks manned by Americans and Chinese engaged a small Japanese armored force midway between Kutkai and Hsenwi, 32 miles from Lashio. Three of the enemy tanks were knocked out and machine guns and other weapons captured.

The capture of Kutkai placed the Chinese over halfway between the junction of the Lido and Burma roads and Lashio.

15 DIRECTORS NAMED BY CLUB

Election of a board of 15 members for the new Cleveland Executive Club was completed today as results of the balloting were announced along with plans for an early meeting of the group to arrange the initial dinner lecture meeting of the group which is nearing its membership completion.

The directors are Herman A. Beam, Fallston; B. G. Beason, Bolling Springs; Glee A. Bridges, Kings Mountain; Mason L. Carroll, Shelby; J. R. Dover, Jr., Shelby; Phil Elliott, Bolling Springs; J. W. Gardner, Shelby; J. Byron Keeter, Kings Mountain; R. T. LeGrand, sr., Shelby; W. K. Mauney, Kings Mountain; Holt McPherson, Shelby; C. R. Neisler, Jr., Kings Mountain; D. W. Royster, Shelby; John F. Schenck, sr., Lawndale; J. L. Suttle, jr., Shelby.

CHARLOTTE MEETING The directors have been invited by George M. Ivey, of Charlotte, to be guests of his at the Charlotte Executives club meeting next Tuesday night and several are making their plans to go.

At the organization meeting next week the directors will elect officers, arrange the initial session and in general establish the local government of the club.

Elmer E. Schlotz, of Denver, executive field director for the Associated Clubs of America, is here handling details preliminary to the formal local organization when the directors and officers will assume charge of policies and direction of the group.

Lt. Bowers Bags Two Planes Over Reich

LONDON, Feb. 15.—(P)—Capt. Robin Olds of Beverly Hills, Calif., shot down three German planes yesterday for the best individual score among Eighth air force fighter pilots, who got a total of 19 enemy aircraft in scattered dogfights over the Reich.

Two kills each were credited to Maj. Donald Strait, Montclair, N. J.; Lt. Melvin Baylor, Richardson, Sask., Canada; Lt. James Bowers of Shelby, N. C., and Lt. Eugene Wendt Horicon, Wis.

Casualties On Western Front 394,874 Since D-Day

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(P)—Army ground forces on the western front lost 394,874 men from D-Day last June to February 1.

In reporting this today Secretary of War Stimson said that 63,410 were killed, 273,997 wounded and 57,467 missing. This report reflected an increase in casualties on the western front of 61,962 in January, including 8,848 killed, 41,325 wounded and 11,789 missing.

Simultaneously, Stimson reported that the army's casualties in all theaters since the beginning of the war now are 693,342 on the basis of names compiled in Wash-

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