

WEATHER

Clearing and cooler today, preceded by light rains on the coast, during forenoon, followed by fair and cooler tonight. Saturday, fair and warmer.

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TELEMAT PICTURES

SINGLE COPIES—5c

- State Theatre Today -
"GIRL RUSH"
Frances Langford — Wally Brown
Also "THIS IS AMERICA"

NAZIS REPORT 'GRAND OFFENSIVE' BEGUN IN WEST STARS AND STRIPES FLY OVER MOUNT SURIBACHI

FORTRESS PEAK TAKEN; GAINS FEW ELSEWHERE

Drive On Central Air Field Renewed; Counterattacks Repelled

5,372 CASUALTIES

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Feb. 23.—(P)—American marines reached the summit of Mount Suribachi at the southern tip of Iwo Jima today, and began a renewed drive on the central air field after repulsing two Japanese counterattacks.

The Stars and Stripes were raised over the volcanic Suribachi fortress 87 hours after the costly invasion began and Marines began cleaning out Japanese still clinging to the crater with flamethrowers.

Little progress was made elsewhere in the most costly fight in which the Marines have ever been engaged—a fight that cost 5,372 American casualties, including 644 dead, in the first three days.

Japanese swimmers made a hopeless attempt to attack American forces on the western side of the island from the rear last night. They were mopped up on the beaches this morning.

Carrier aircraft sweeping over the Bonin Islands in protective sweeps to eliminate repeated enemy attacks on American shipping assembled off Iwo shot down three Japanese planes.

BRIGHT SPOT
Surmounting of Suribachi was the brightest spot in the entire Iwo campaign.

The Leathernecks won command of the 566-foot height from which the Japanese had cast down deadly mortar and artillery fire on other Marines spread out over the south third of the embattled island. Its capture eliminated the threat to the rear of three devilish divisions attempting to drive north where the main strength of the enemy garrison is dug in.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz condensed the drama into this special communique: "The 28th regiment of the United States Marines was observed raising the United States flag on the summit of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo island at 10:35 a.m."

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ARREST TWO ON ROBBERY COUNT

Wilbur Wood and Buren Short were arrested this morning at 2 o'clock at a local cafe on the charge of knocking Roy Crowder, Cleveland county farmer, in the head and robbing him of \$70 the incident having occurred last night near Clyde's Barbecue on Highway 74.

The money was found in Wood's possession, according to Police-man T. A. Upton who made the arrest. Upton said that Short had admitted hitting Crowder with a beer bottle. The assault was said to have taken place in Crowder's automobile, which was being driven by Wood. Short is said to have made the attack from the back seat.

Crowder was taken to the Shelby hospital where his condition was said to be serious. Short and Wood were each placed under \$1,000 bond and will be given a hearing next Friday morning in Cleveland Recorder's court.

Davis Urges Understanding Between U. S., Russia, Britain

By JOHN WEBB CANNON
City Editor The Star

A plea for a peace based on international justice within the framework of friendship and understanding between Great Britain, Russia and the United States was made last night by Dr. Jerome Davis, former member of the Yale university faculty, who has just returned from an extended stay in Russia, who spoke at the Senior High school auditorium under the auspices of the American Association of University Women and the Associated Book clubs of



MARINES TAKE 'IMPREGNABLE' PILL BOX ON IWO JIMA—American Marines, invading the Jap stronghold of Iwo Jima island, dig in after taking an "impregnable" enemy pill box (center background). The Marine in the center is digging a fox hole. Lying around are bodies, some in the open, some partly covered by sand. The caption accompanying the picture did not identify them. These are Fourth Division Marines in action Feb. 19. AP Photographer Joe Rosenthal, on assignment with the war time still picture pool, made the picture.

YANKS SEIZE MT. TORRACCIA

Better Way Through Nazi Trench System To Take Height

ROME, Feb. 23.—(P)—American troops, exploiting the capture of Mount Belvedere west of the Pistoia-Bologna highway, today stormed through elaborate German trench systems and seized 3,500 foot Mount Torraccia in a two mile advance.

The Americans launched their attack from both sides of dominating Belvedere and fought their way forward in the face of fierce resistance from dug-in Germans.

The attacks were going forward in terrain so difficult that some casualties were being evacuated by a cable tramway which makes virtually a vertical descent of 1,350 feet in a complete run of 1,800 feet.

COUNTERATTACKS
German counterattacks involving mostly 60 to 80 men were thrown against the Americans, but all were shunted back.

Brazilian troops on the right flank of the Americans captured Mount Castello and dug in on the peak under heavy enemy mortar fire. The Brazilians suffered less than 50 casualties—nearly all wounded—in their conquest of that strategic mountain yesterday.

The stubbornly defended mountain had been stormed three times previously by the Brazilians and yesterday's final victorious attack brought the total Allied casualties to 400.

Loneran Conviction Is Confirmed

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—(P)—The appellate division of the supreme court affirmed unanimously today the conviction for second degree murder of Wayne T. Lonergan, former RCAF airframe man now serving 35 years-to-life for the bludgeoning slaying of his wife, Patricia.

WHAT'S DOING

TODAY
7:30 p. m.—Regular communication Cleveland lodge 202 A. F. and A. M. at lodge room in Masonic Temple.

Capul Taken In New Philippines Invasion

Manila Hotel, City Hall And General Post Office Taken After Hard Fighting

MANILA, Feb. 23.—(P)—Doughboys of the Americal division, heroes of battles in the Solomons, mopped up Japanese today on little Capul island off the south tip of Luzon after a new Philippine invasion aimed at clearing the shipping lane from the United States to war-torn Manila.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced the Yank landing on Capul Wednesday, said those Yanks of the American Eighth Army encountered only light opposition. This island lies in San Bernardino Strait between Luzon and occupied Samar island.

Capul is a controlling point in the Straits through which units of the Imperial Japanese Navy steamed in an attempt to smash the American Leyte beachhead last October. It lies 260 air miles from Manila, where other Yank fighters are locked in a fierce battle against a bitterly resisting Japanese garrison.

From the shattered southern portion of the capital, (P) War Correspondent Fred Hampson reported 37th division infantrymen seized the Manila hotel, the city hall and all of the general post office except the basement.

ROOM-BY-ROOM
"The hotel was won," he said, "after a room-to-room and corridor-to-corridor fight through the succeeding floors. The postoffice was no less difficult."

The three-story city hall, near the Intramuros where the Japanese last night from which the Japanese jumped. Possibly the Japanese realized they had no choice except being killed or surrender—and Japanese just don't surrender to United States Marines. Or they have been stunned or crazed by the incessant bombardment by naval warships and carrier planes which worked on gun positions around the crater and on fat, imposing Suribachi.

Enemy planes succeeded in making their first raid last night. They came in the half twilight of the mist shrouded sunset last night. In front of us we could see blasts

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Chinese Pay Tribute To Soviets' Courage

CHUNGKING, Feb. 23.—(P)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek told Premier Marshal Stalin today that his able military leadership and the gallantry of the Red Army forces had won the deep admiration of the Chinese people.

Evoked by the 27th anniversary of the Red Army, the message said the collapse of Nazidom was now only a matter of days in view of the swift advance of the Soviet forces.

Dr. SunFo, president of the legislative Yuan, wired Stalin that China was looking forward to the day when Chinese and Russians would fight shoulder to shoulder against "the common enemy of the world."

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Turks Declare War On Japan, Germany Today

By WILLIAM B. KING
Former Chief of The Associated Press Bureau in Ankara.

Turkey declared war on Germany and Japan today, bringing several hundred thousand soldiers to the Allies' side.

The declaration was announced by the Ankara radio, reporting an action of the Turkish National Assembly.

Ankara said Turkey had been invited to participate in the United Nations conference at San Francisco in April.

By any standards the Turk is a good soldier and fighting in his own element—rough terrain where individual courage is the yardstick of success—he probably is as good as any in the world.

AIRFORCE
Turkey's small but effective airforce manned by an ardent group of young Turks who combine the old fighting tradition with a love of good machinery. The Turkish airforce has not been previously tested in battle but British and American instructors, who have assisted in building up the force, testify that the individual pilots show uniform daring in the air.

Well developed air bases will be available for the operation of British and American bomber forces. These bases, secretly located in the southwestern corner

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Air Liner With 22 Aboard Long Overdue In Nashville

KINGSPORT, Tenn., Feb. 23.—(P)—Officials of American Airlines reported a radio message from an Airlines pilot said the wreckage of a missing American Airlines plane had been sighted four miles southwest of Rural Retreat, Virginia.

The pilot reported that the plane apparently had not burned but that there was no sign of life about it. The scene is near Rollers Creek.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—(P)—American Airlines announced today that a transcontinental passenger plane with 19 passengers and a crew of three aboard was reported long overdue on a flight between Washington and Nashville, Tenn.

The plane left La Guardia Field at 9:39 p.m. (EWT) Thursday with its destination Los Angeles, R. S. Damon, vice president and general manager of the Airlines, said.

The plane left Washington at 12:15 a.m. (EWT) today for Nashville. At 2:05 a.m. a radio report from the airline said it was on course, running on schedule and was over Pulaski, Va. From that time until 8:45 a.m. nothing had been heard from or concerning the plane, the company said.

Names of the passengers were not available immediately, the company said, but the crew consisted of Capt. James E. Stroud, First Officer R. M. Brigman and Stewardess Sarah Padgett.

At Tri Cities airport, about 14 miles from Bristol, Va., a spokesman said the transcontinental passenger plane missing between Washington and Nashville, Tenn., reported at 2:05 a.m. (EWT) that it was having motor trouble.

The plane was due to reach the airport at 2:49 a.m.

REDS POISED FOR BIG DRIVE AGAINST BERLIN

Stalin Declares "Complete Victory Over Germans Is Now Near"

NAZI LOSSES HEAVY

LONDON, Feb. 23.—(P)—Russian troops, having almost encircled fortress Guben in an 11-mile smash through reinforced German lines, today were reported massing along an arc 30 to 50 miles east and southeast of Berlin for an end-the-war stroke triumphantly heralded by Premier Marshal Stalin.

"Complete victory over the Germans now is near," Stalin declared last night in a special order of the day which said the great Russian winter offensive had already cost the Germans more than 1,150,000 killed or captured.

The Moscow radio early today followed up the Stalin order with a German-language broadcast declaring "the zero hour has struck" and added that "dissolution of the German army in the east is in full swing."

"It is up to the German people in the army and factories to stop the war," the broadcast said. "Peace will not be negotiated with the generals."

Stalin yesterday asserted that

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CITY REFORMS ARE ADVOCATED

George Wray Would Lower Power Rates And Have City Manager

Lower power rates, a city manager form of government not bothered with politics, halting of the proposed development of the airport in the Sharon community for Shelby, and the building of a modern new bus station instead, were reforms George W. Wray said he would advocate if he were mayor of Shelby.

This talk was one of a series made last night to the Kiwanis club in a local talent program which was directed by D. Z. Newton. Reid M. Senheimer, president of the club, presided.

Clarence King, principal of the Junior high school, urged Kiwanians to give their undivided support to the schools, Tom Moore, city alderman, told the club members how they could help the municipal government by free and constructive criticism. He also asked Kiwanians to give co-operation in preserving the city's properties and signs.

R. T. LeGrand and Thad Ford discussed the proposed new community center as one of the outstanding needs of Shelby. They outlined the ways in which this institution can be of benefit to the city.

E. L. Kemper, of the state highway staff, gave a talk of humorous nature telling stories in his inimitable way.

Fallston Baptists Give \$5 Per Member To Red Cross Drive

Averaging contributions of over \$5 per member, the Fallston Baptist church today paced the Red Cross war fund campaign with contributions totalling \$1,068.50 and more to come, Rev. Lawrence Roberts, pastor, reported to Red Cross headquarters in the Finance building.

Last year the Fallston church contributed a total of \$933.50. Many churches are planning to make their appeal this Sunday although the campaign does not get underway formally until March 1 when the city-wide drive will be undertaken intensively.

Special gifts chairman Rush Hamrick and J. D. Lineberger are busily engaged in their solicitation of business and professional men and businesses this week and hope to complete their calls prior to kick-off breakfast next Thursday morning.

Enemy Says Attack On 35-Mile Front, From Roermond To Dueren

PARIS, Feb. 23.—(P)—German broadcasts said tonight that Gen. Eisenhower had started his "grand scale offensive" toward the Ruhr and Cologne, had bridged the Roer river at several places and advanced two miles east of the river in shattering power with tanks, artillery and infantry. Supreme headquarters maintained complete silence on any new attack. The Germans said the big push had been preceded by a three-hour artillery barrage by "thousands of guns." The enemy said the attack was on a 35-mile front all the way from Roermond to Dueren and was mounted by the American Ninth and First armies.

The Germans said the main bridgeheads were at these points: 1. Birkendorf, a suburb of ruined Dueren about a mile north of the city proper. This was said to be the largest bridgehead and the enemy said Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth army shock troops had turned south and penetrated the outskirts of Dueren. Birkendorf is 21 miles southwest of Cologne. 2. Genevich, two miles east of the Roer and northeast of Linnich. The town is 26 miles west of Cologne and 13 miles from the Ruhr rail and industrial center of Muenchen Gladbach.

3. At Selgersdorf, three miles southeast of Jukelich and 22 miles southwest of Cologne. The Germans said the offensive was on a 35-mile front all the way from Roermond to Dueren, the outskirts of which were reached. The enemy communique said the U. S. 9th Army attacked "after the heaviest artillery fire" and radio reports said the American tanks were striking down the 15 miles toward Dueren, attempting to roll up Nazi lines east of the Roer which have checked the Allies since December.

GOCH-RHINE
The British Second army, last reported in the Roermond area where the Roer flows into the Maas (Meuse), was said by Berlin to be fighting alongside the Canadians in the Goch-Rhine sector farther north.

Fogs which blotted out parts of

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U. S. Planes Keep Air Offensive Rolling

German Rail Targets Battered In Allied Effort To Destroy Transportation System

LONDON, Feb. 23.—(P)—At least 20 freight yards and other rail targets were blasted today by 1,900 American planes continuing the gigantic offensive to knock out the German transport system that feeds both the eastern and western fronts.

A force of more than 1,250 Fortresses and Liberators and 650 fighters followed the same pattern as yesterday's assault and spread out in small formations to smash at widespread targets from the relatively low altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 feet.

There was every indication that this operation was only part of a free-for-all attack by all seven Allied air commands in this theatre and Italy which probably were putting 5,000 planes into the air following yesterday's blow by 7,000 bombers and fighters.

It was the eleventh day of ruinous attacks on Germany from both west and south in which 20,000 planes probably have been thrown against the Reich in the last three days. More than 1,100 aircraft from Italy joined in the attack yesterday, hitting 54 separate rail targets in Germany, Austria and Italy, and the RAF kept the offensive going last night with Mosquito bombers hitting Berlin and other objectives.

TARGETS
Eighth air force targets today were located in a triangular area stretching from Leipzig to south of Nuernberg. Among the first places identified as targets were Crailsheim, Kitzingen, southeast of Wurzburg, Ansbach, Neumarkt, and Treuchtlingen, all junctions through which German troops and supplies pass on the way to the Russian front.

About 10,000 sorties were flown

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BOMBS ROCK CITY:
Berlins nowadays actually are very tough in respect to bombings. Not even the devastating effects of the last large-scale American air attack on Feb. 3 could make them forget the still greater and imminent danger outside the eastern gates of Berlin nor long delay the work of erecting barricades in every street.

I was in Berlin during that last great American attack. After experiencing more than 700 alerts and at least half as many raids,

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Will Nerves Of Berliners Hold Up As Reds Advance?

By JERGE GRANBERG
(Swedish Newspaper Correspondent Who Recently Returned to Stockholm from Berlin)
Written for The Associated Press Copyright, 1945, By The Associated Press.

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 23.—While the German home front has held together under the Nazis' iron grip, the big question now is whether the nerves of the people—reduced to the bare necessities of life—can continue to stand up under Allied bombings and the threat of the Russian advance.