

WEATHER

Cloudy and mild and light rains today and tonight becoming cooler over west and central portions tonight. Thursday, clearing and mild.

The Shelby Daily Star

State Theatre Today - "Frenchman's Creek" JOAN FONTAIN ARTURO DE CORDOVA

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SHELBY, N. C.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28, 1945

TELEMAT PICTURES

SINGLE COPIES 5c

Yanks Pounding Toward Cologne RUSSIANS ADVANCE 30 MILES NORTH OF POLLNOW

President Back Home, Has High Hopes For Enduring World Peace

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—(P)—President Roosevelt returned today from the Crimean conference with buoyant hopes for an enduring peace and world-wide reduction of armaments. Back from a five-week, 14,000-mile journey to Russia by cruiser and plane, Mr. Roosevelt planned: A report in person to congress and the country, tomorrow or Friday, on the meetings at which he, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin blueprinted "final defeat" of a "doomed" Germany and strong machinery for perpetuating eventual peace. An appearance at a United Nations conference opening in San Francisco April 25. As official host, Mr. Roosevelt probably will welcome and address the delegates. Another of his periodic meetings with Churchill, after the San Francisco parley has finished its work. The British frequently have suggested that the president visit London. Mr. Roosevelt came ashore at an east coast port last night.

See PRESIDENT Page 2

Red Cross Drive Begins Tomorrow

Intensive Solicitation Of Funds To Get Underway After Kick-Off Breakfast

Shelby's Red Cross War Fund will get rolling with Thursday morning's "kickoff" breakfast at 8:30 a. m. in the Charles hotel dining room when a field of workers in the business and residential division will get last-minute instructions from Willis McMurry, chairman of the business district, and Mrs. Rush Stroupe, women's division chairman.

Collectors Make Round

Itinerary of Deputy Collectors O. Hicks Stacy and Troy L. Strange in their rounds assisting income tax payers file their returns was announced today as follows: City hall, Kings Mountain, March 1 and 2. Company Store Leland, March 3-5; Cleveland Cloth Mills, March 6 and 7; Postoffice building, Shelby, March 8-15. Most taxpayers have already made substantial payments on their 1944 federal tax through withholding from their wages or direct payments to the collector but nevertheless all taxpayers must file annual returns on or before March 15. This applies to any person whose total income for 1944 was \$500 or more.

GI Loans To Be Discussed Here By Loan Executives

Veterans' home loans under the G. I. bill of rights will be discussed by C. J. Burns, executive secretary of the North Carolina Building and Loan League, in a special dinner meeting of building and loan officers and directors and real estate men from this and surrounding territory tonight at 7 p. m. at the Hotel Charles.

CURRY FAVOR:

Many Nazis Now Profess To Have Joined Unwillingly

By DANIEL DE LUCE MOSCOW, Feb. 28.—(P)—Eighty Nazis lined up recently at a registration center in occupied Brandenburg province in Germany and tried to persuade a skeptical Russian reporter they were helpless and unwilling tools of Hitler. Writing in Red Star, the Red army's newspaper, Correspondent Vasily Grossman reported today: "Some of these people have been members of the Nazi party 12 or 13 years and a number actually are acquainted with Hitler and Himmler, yet they

claimed they were forced to join under pressure and that they really hated the regime and were very glad to be rid of it. Even a German who had taken part in a punitive expedition against Soviet guerrillas tried to represent himself as a Hitler victim who had been paralyzed by fear of fascist terror." Grossman implied that hard-headed justice was ahead for the Nazis, in spite of their protestations of innocence. See MANY Page 2

DRIVE AIMED AT SEVERING ESCAPE ROUTE

Breakthrough Called "Most Dramatic Event Of Last 24 Hours" COVERED BY FLEET

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(P)—The Germans announced the evacuation of Neustettin today and said the Russians had raced on 30 miles to the north of Pollnow, where they were within 15 miles of cutting the last escape route of Germans fighting in eastern Pomerania and the Polish corridor. Pollnow is 12 miles north of Durbitz and only 20 miles from the Baltic. It is 15 miles from the coastal railway connecting Danzig with Stettin.

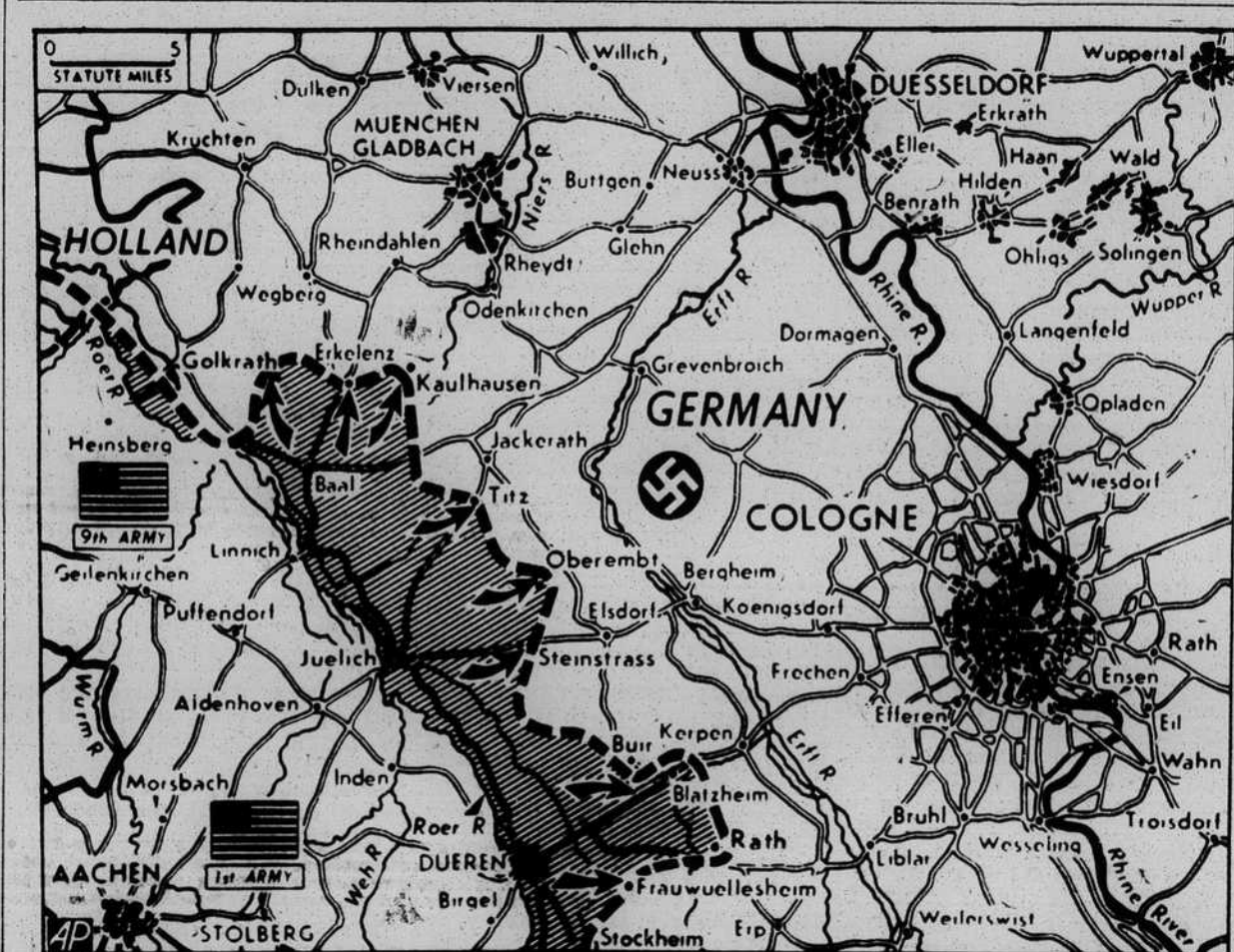
A transoceanic broadcast from Berlin said the Russians had reached Pollnow and a military spokesman called the breakthrough in that area toward Kooslin "the most dramatic event of the last 24 hours." The rushing Baltic-bound Red Army vanguards were constantly covered by the Red fleet, the spokesman said. Neustettin is 30 miles east of Stettin and 40 miles from the Baltic.

Moscow dispatches, however, said the Russians had forged even closer to the Baltic in the area northeast of Neustettin and were only about 20 miles from Kooslin, on the last railway escape route linking Danzig with Stettin. A Reuters dispatch from Moscow said the Russian spearheads had reached the Danzig-Stettin coastal road and were "in sight of the Baltic." Associated Press dispatches from Moscow, however, said Marshal Constantin Rokossovsky's Second White Russian Army had been allowed in its push toward the Baltic by rapid and fierce counterattacks designed to prevent the closing of the trap on thousands of Germans in eastern Pomerania and the rest of the old Polish corridor. The German high command announced that Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian Army had expanded its Oder river bridgehead south of Kuestrin, 39 miles from the Baltic.

Krug Declares Production Peak Still To Come

SEATTLE, WASH., Feb. 28.—(P)—War Production Board Chairman J. A. Krug, here for an inspection of war industries, asserted that a 65 billion dollar war production program must be carried out in 1945, and said the increase will call for 700,000 more war workers before July 1. "The toughest part of the war production effort lies ahead," Krug said in a press conference. The chairman stated that "we should hit the peak of production in June or July and there must be a 10 percent monthly increase in overall production." "In the 20 billion dollar aircraft building program, schedules must advance at an even steeper rate."

MANPOWER NEEDS He pointed out that in addition to the 700,000 more war workers, the armed services will require 900,000 during the first half of the year. "The 'work or fight' talk, he said, has helped the manpower problem by about 100,000, but the need is still great. "Few people realize the tremendous war orders workers must fill in the fight against the Japs," he declared. "Many under-estimate how tough the Japs will be." The popular opinion held last year that large sections of the nation might reconvert to civilian life after the war with Germany while the Pacific Coast continued on an all-out war basis, is definitely out of the window, Krug asserted.



ONRUSHING AMERICANS WITHIN SIGHT OF COLOGNE—Arrows on this map of the central and northern sectors of the Western Front locate Allied drives toward the Rhine river. The shaded area represents territory won since the offensive across the Roer river started Feb. 23. Blatzheim and Rath fell as the U. S. First Army advanced within sight of Cologne and began firing artillery shells into that great German arsenal. At the same time, the U. S. Ninth Army to the north was within five miles of the German's factory-packed Ruhr basin. The broken line is the approximate battle front.

U. S. Marines Now Hold Virtually Half Of Iwo; Japs Lack Supplies

EDEN DEFENDS POLISH ACTION

Future "Poland Will Be As Strong Or Stronger Than Before"

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(P)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told commons today that "when the settlement is finally reached, Poland will be as strong or stronger than the Poland which existed in 1939." Eden took the floor to fight off a challenge by a rebellious, out-

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(P)—The house of commons by an overwhelming vote of 396 to 25 late today defeated a motion of protest against the Big Three's plan for the future of Poland.

numbered group from the conservative party against full-fledged support of the Big Three's Crimea charter decisions. A vote was scheduled tonight on the conservative group's proposed amendment to a general motion of confidence in the Yalta decisions. This amendment is critical of the Polish aspects. The confidence motion is to be voted upon.

Members Gen. Clark's Staff Die In Crash

ROME, Feb. 28.—(P)—Ten persons, including three officers of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's staff, were killed Feb. 19 while en route home on leave when their transport plane crashed upon taking off from an Italian field, it was disclosed today.

Legislature To Consider Revenue Bill Tomorrow

RALEIGH, Feb. 28.—(P)—The \$129,000,000 revenue bill, one of the several big barriers to final adjournment, was reported to the house floor today and set for special consideration tomorrow. The bill must pass three separate readings on separate days in both the senate and house. Its report to the floor today constituted first reading. Latest estimates are that the bill will raise \$129,115,000, or nearly \$1,500,000 less than recommended appropriations. Those figures are only for the

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Feb. 28.—(P)—Marines along a line bisecting Iwo kept terrific pressure today on the Japanese in a supreme effort to crack a foe known to be short of water and believed to be hoarding ammunition. After noticeably slackening artillery and mortar fire Monday, the Japanese loosed a heavy barrage Tuesday at Leathernecks straightening out their line with slight advances north up high ground blanketed by pillboxes and blockhouses.

The Marine line, manned by three divisions, cut across the island's center at the north end of the fighter airfield where the Nipponese still hold a finger-tip's grasp after a week of battling over that base.

As the fight for the island entered its 10th day, Japanese dug in on the higher northern half still showed a marked power to resist, although they have been shelled incessantly from the sea, bombed from the air and pounded by artillery. They even have tanks left on the barren island where enemy positions.

French Vote To Be Co-Sponsors Of Security Conference

PARIS, Feb. 28.—(P)—The French cabinet voted today to accept the Yalta offer to be co-sponsors of the San Francisco security conference alongside the United States, Russia, China, and Great Britain.

The action followed a report from foreign Minister Georges Bidault, who returned yesterday from conversations in London with Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

WHAT'S DOING

- 2:00 p.m.—County-wide basketball tournament opens at armory, with play to continue through afternoon and evening. 7:00 p.m.—Workers Council meets at First Baptist church. 7:30 p.m.—Fellowship hour at Central Methodist church. 7:30 p.m.—Regular prayer service at Presbyterian church. 7:45 p.m.—Mid-week prayer and praise service at First Baptist church. 7:30 p.m.—State Guard officers meet at armory. THURSDAY 8:30 a.m.—Kick-off breakfast for workers in Red Cross war fund drive at Hotel Charles. 7:00 p.m.—Kiwanis club meets at Hotel Charles. 7:30 p.m.—C. A. P. meets at armory.

Nazi Defenses Collapse; First And Ninth Armies Make Sweeping Gains

PARIS, Feb. 28.—(P)—First Army tanks and infantry charged down the last eight miles on the flat plain toward Cologne tonight after widening a bridgehead on the Erft river and the Ninth army imperilled Duesseldorf in sweeping gains at the western edge of the Ruhr. A news blackout cloaked gains and prevented disclosure of towns captured by the spreading Ninth Army tanks, but German defenses had collapsed into a virtual rout. When censors started damming up reports last night, the Ninth Army was at the edge of the Ruhr and the gates of Muenchen Gladbach. British pilots spotted long columns of German transport rushing back for the Rhine and a getaway. The First Army plunged ahead so swiftly that it captured a bridge intact across the Erft, Cologne's last natural defense. Infantry swarmed across the river at another place where it was not bridged. Canadians on the north cleared 44 miles of the west bank of the Rhine and beat upon the last swaying defenses of the northwest corner of the Ruhr at points 296 miles from Berlin, the nearest approach from the west. Americans before Cologne were 39 miles deep in Germany and within 298 miles of the Reich capital. In the center, the American Third Army advanced up to three and a half miles on a 50-mile front and started an encircling maneuver against the ancient bastion of Trier, fortified by the Romans before the days of Christ. The American Ninth and Canadian First armies were within less than 29 miles of a junction in the Rhineland, a coup which might trap 15 or more of Germany's best divisions. An officer at supreme headquarters said there had been some signs of German attempts to stiffen resistance early this morning—but there was no indication that Field Marshal Von Rundstedt had been successful. The four attacking Allied armies captured more than 8,000 Germans yesterday and ran the total for the six day offensive to 25,718. AIR SUPPORT All along the northern battle front, Allied bombers and fighter bombers struck through low clouds to harry the retreat and heighten the havoc in German ranks. A "breakthrough blackout" cloak-

667 ACRES IN TOKYO'S HEART LAID WASTE

Sunday's Superfort Raid Left Center Of City In Ruins

By LEIF ERICKSON 21ST BOMBER COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Feb. 28.—(P)—Two hundred and forty city blocks of Tokyo's most highly congested industrial and business district are in smouldering, twisted ruins today as a result of Sunday's Superfortress raid, 21st Bomber command headquarters announced today. The greatest punishment yet dealt the Japanese nation's proud capital was inflicted without the loss of one sky giant of the more than 200 which participated in stormy weather. Maj. Gen. Curtis (Iron Pants) Le May, commanding general of the sky mammoths, after studying the reconnaissance photographs said the results were "excellent." The photos show 29,074,000 square feet of important factory and trade areas burned out. This is 667 acres. In comparison, New York's famed Rockefeller city—Radio Center covers a surface area of less than 12 acres, 1-55th of the destroyed area in Tokyo. The ravaged area extends a short distance from Emperor Hirohito's mowed palace eastward to the crowded waterfront. The Superfortress assault was made in coordination with Vice-Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's carrier-based plane attack which hit earlier in the morning and knocked out two aircraft plants in the northwestern suburbs. After hearing his pilots' reports, the leathery-faced admiral said: "I don't believe the Japs will get them back into production for this war." The damage was wreaked while snow was falling. Bombarriers called "blows away" while some of their pilots could not see the wingtips of their own planes due to the heavy cloud formations. The remarkable results attest to the perfection of the newly invented precision radio bombing instruments. While Tokyo's heart was burned, See 667 ACRES Page 2

AIR OFFENSIVE IN THIRD WEEK

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(P)—The non-stop Allied air offensive against Germany's railway system entered its third week today with another two-way bombardment in the making after Berlin was hammered with blockbusters for the eighth consecutive night. Long before noon, German radio stations had begun flashing alarms for the western and southern sections of the country. Fighterbombers buzzed up and down over the western front. During the night, RAF Mosquitos made two separate raids on Berlin. Port installations at Bremen, where the Nazis are said to be rushing work on new type submarines, also were bombed last night. More than 1,000 tons of bombs dropped by U. S. 15th air force heavy bombers in the Augsburg railway yards, 30 miles northwest of Munich, in yesterday's raid caused widespread damage.

Japs East Of Manila Launch Large Scale Banzai Charge

By FRED HAMPSON MANILA, Feb. 28.—(P)—Screaming Japanese, attacking behind the heaviest artillery barrage in the growing battle for the Marikina watershed east of Manila, launched a large-scale banzai charge against elements of the American Sixth Infantry division today. The Nipponese were beaten off with heavy losses. The banzai attack occurred near Montalban, 12 miles northeast of Manila and close to the northern end of elaborately prepared enemy defenses along the watershed.

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