

WEATHER

Clearing weather in most sections and cooler today but considerable cloudiness in mountains followed by fair and colder tonight. Thursday fair and rather cold.

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TELEMAT PICTURES

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Third, First Armies Plunge Ahead REDS SAID TO HAVE OPENED BATTLE FOR BERLIN

Defenses Of Kuestrin On Oder 39 Miles From Berlin Are Penetrated

LONDON, March 7.—(P)—German broadcasts today declared the Russians had opened the battle for Berlin, breaking into the northeastern defense of Kuestrin on the Oder 29 miles from the Reich capital and assaulting Zehden on the Oder's east bank 31 miles from Berlin.

Berlin said the Oder front was aflame along a 70-mile stretch from south of Kuestrin almost all the way north to Stettin.

Tanks of Marshal Gregory Zhukov's first white Russian army attacked Zehden, 28 miles northwest of Kuestrin on the winding Oder, the German radio said, and possibly were trying to drive a wedge across to turn on Berlin or Stettin from the flank.

Attacking after a 24-hour artillery barrage, the Soviets punched into the northeastern defenses of Kuestrin, due east of Berlin, another Nazi broadcast said.

The German high command said Zhukov launched a major assault intended to overwhelm Kuestrin and "establish further attacking bases" for a push on Berlin.

The Germans weeks ago said the Russians had shoved bridgeheads over the Oder, 30 to 40 miles below and above besieged Kuestrin. Kuestrin was reported under attack from north and south. Moscow was silent concerning this front.

The new report of action on the Oder came as the western Allies threatened Germany's Rhine line.

Moscow dispatches made no mention of the Berlin-Oder front, but said Soviet troops were sweeping across Wollin, the first of the stepping stone islands in Sietzin Bay to the north, in a push aimed at cutting off Stettin from the sea. They captured the city of Wollin, 28 miles north of Stettin, on the coastal route leading to the U-boet base of Swinemuende and beyond to Germany's Mecklenburg province north of Berlin.

The Berlin radio said "a Russian artillery barrage is raining down on the Oder front."

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Speaker Wants All Bills In This Week

Richardson Says Business Of House Moving Too Slowly; 772 Bills Considered

RALEIGH, March 7.—(P)—Speaker Oscar Richardson called upon representatives today to get in all their bills this week, next Monday at the latest, and said that business of the house was not being transacted fast enough.

W. H. DAVIS TO SUCCEED VINSON

Vinson Confirmed As RFC Administrator; Taylor Follows Davis

WASHINGTON, March 7.—(P)—President Roosevelt today reshuffled his top wage-labor policy makers.

Chairman William H. Davis of the war labor board was made economic stabilization director, succeeding Fred M. Vinson. Vinson became administrator of the \$40,000,000 RFC and associated lending agencies which the ousted Jesse Jones formerly directed.

George W. Taylor, vice chairman of the war labor board since its formation in 1942 and author of the "Little Steel" wage formula, moves up into Davis' post as chairman.

The president thus cleared the way for an early settlement of the dispute over "fringe" wage adjustments, a dispute which had locked Vinson and Davis in a tight policy snarl.

RESIGNATIONS Both Davis and Taylor had submitted their resignations last fall but were persuaded by Mr. Roosevelt to remain with the WLB through the war emergency.

Davis, who was 65 last August, pleaded he wanted rest, and Taylor urged the president to release him so he could return to the University of Pennsylvania, where he is on leave as professor of industry.

"I think perhaps it is jumping out of the frying pan into the fire," Davis smiled today when informed of his new job. "All I can say is that I will do the best I can."

As economic stabilization director, Davis will be responsible in a sense for some of the same sort of problems with which he has dealt exclusively as war labor board chairman—problems of trying to keep a balanced relationship between wages and prices.

YANKS MAKE 5-MILE GAIN BELOW BOLOGNA

Strongest Advance In Weeks; New Landing On Coast Reported

PEAKS CAPTURED

ROME, March 7.—(P)—American mountain troops have gained five miles in the rugged Apennines southwest of Bologna in the strongest advance on the Fifth Army front in weeks, Allied headquarters announced today.

The action was officially described as "a most successful limited objective attack."

(The German high command said in a broadcast communique today that British troops had made a "local attempt" to land behind German lines on the Adriatic coast, but the attack was beaten off.)

Striking northeastward west of the Pistoia highway three days ago, the Americans have captured a number of dominating peaks and the town of Castel D'Aiano, 20 miles from Bologna. More than 1,200 prisoners have been taken.

The attack began at 7 a. m. March 3 under a 20-minute artillery barrage and with air assistance. Headquarters permitted disclosure of the assault only this morning.

Brazilian troops, advancing simultaneously with the U. S. 10th Mountain division, seized the town of Castelnuovo, three miles southeast of Castel D'Aiano and a mile west of highway 64, running between Pistoia and Bologna.

Castel D'Aiano is the closest reported approach to Bologna by the Fifth Army west of that highway. To the east of it other Fifth Army forces reached the hamlet of Bisopra, 13 miles from Bologna, two days ago.

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TWO CLEVELAND MEN CASUALTIES

In casualty reports received today, two Cleveland county soldiers were listed. T/4 Royal A. Hamby was reported killed in action on Luzon and Pfc. J. L. Bridges is missing in Germany.

T/5 Royal A. Hamby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garfield Hamby of route 3, Lawndale, was reported killed in action February 10 on Luzon, according to a telegram received by his wife, the former Miss Jocelyn Wiggins, daughter of C. A. Wiggins of near Casar. Mrs. Hamby and their two children are making their home on route 3, Lawndale.

Mrs. Velma K. Bridges of route 4, Shelby, was notified by the war department that her husband, Pfc. J. L. Bridges, is reported missing in action since February 24 in Germany.

Lieut. Boyd E. Hicks Hero In Repulsing Nazi Counter-Drive

WITH THE 26TH DIVISION, Feb. 10.—(Delayed)—Lieut. Boyd E. Hicks' deliberate order of artillery—unless a mercenary barrage squarely upon himself—is credited with repulsing a vicious German counterattack in the Ardennes. For that outstanding act of gallantry the Shelby, N. C., infantryman has been recommended for the Distinguished Service medal. But the lanky, dark-haired, Gary Cooperish type of boy, forward artillery observer—number One Hero to Capt. Angelo J. Mantenuto, commander of Company B—says he would rather have the combat infantryman's badge. Hicks is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Hicks, of Shelby. Company B, known as "Boston's Own," got the credit for repulsing the attack, but it was Lieut. Hicks' gallantry that turned the trick when he gave the co-ordinates of the spot he was standing on as the target in directing artillery fire. He dived into the nearest foxhole



LIEUT. BOYD E. HICKS

as soon as he gave the order. Luckily, he got there in time. The risk was terrific. Odds of survival were virtually non-existent, for there already were two men crowded into that one-man foxhole! The following story of Hicks' bravery is quoted from a column by Catherine Coyne which appeared in the Boston Herald recently: HE HIT THE GROUND FIRST

"As soon as he gave those coordinates," Mantenuto said, "Hicks dropped his glasses; but he hit the ground before they did!"

We talked about that counter-attack and Hicks' bravery tonight in the battalion headquarters of Lt.-Col. Albert L. Graham of Worcester and Boston, former foreman at Chelsea Clock company, who was commanding the battalion from the dining room of a partially destroyed house in the poorer district of a Luxembourg town.

His company commanders were as soon as he gave the order. Luckily, he got there in time. The risk was terrific. Odds of survival were virtually non-existent, for there already were two men crowded into that one-man foxhole!

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YANK ARMOR IN STREET OF COLOGNE—Troops and armor of the Third Armored Division of the U. S. First Army wait in a side street in the German city of Cologne before driving for the heart of the city whose capture was announced March 6. This is one of the first photos taken in Cologne and was made by AP Photographer William C. Allen, on assignment with the still picture pool.

GRAND PUSH ON IWO UNDERWAY

Army Fighters Operating Off Southern Air Field First Time

By VERN HAUGLAND U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, March 7.—(P)—An all-out push against the 6,000 or so Japanese still entrenched on the rocky northern end of Iwo Jima was under way today, with tremendous artillery support and army fighters operating off the southern airfield for the first time. Those fighters are gased within flying range of Tokyo.

The ground drive, breaking a two-day comparative lull in this fiercest battle of the Pacific war, achieved small gains

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WHAT'S DOING

TODAY

7:00 p. m.—Workers council of First Baptist church meets at the church.

7:30 p. m.—Fellowship hour at Central Methodist church.

7:30 p. m.—Presbyterian prayer meeting at church.

7:45 p. m.—Mid-week prayer and praise service at First Baptist church.

THURSDAY

5:00 p. m.—Prospective nurses' aide enrollees meet in young people's room at First Baptist church for preliminaries to organization.

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

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

Big Fleet Of U. S. Heavies Batters Reich

Campaign Is 58 Days Old; Took Japs 5 Months To Conquer It

By HENRY B. JAMESON LONDON, March 7.—(P)—More than 900 U. S. heavy bombers struck in a seven-pronged attack today at oil plants in the Dortmund area, a large railway viaduct at Bielefeld, and railroad yards at Soest and Siegen after steady RAF night assaults on German troops massed at Wesel on the Rhine.

The eighth air force bombers were covered by 250 fighters in this 23rd straight day of aerial blows closely coordinated with the ground attack.

Oil targets included three benzol plants and a large refinery on Dortmund's outskirts. Bielefeld, Soest, and Siegen all are on main rail and highway routes from central and eastern Germany to the western front.

Smashing of the Bielefeld viaduct would stop the main flow of traffic from the big inland base of Brunswick and Hannover to the Ruhr battlefield.

WESEL ATTACKED British warplanes overnight made an eight-hour attack on Wesel, Nazi escape town on the east bank of the Rhine. It was the longest air attack ever carried out against a German city.

A strong force of RAF heavy bombers last night blasted Sassiniz on the Baltic island of Ruegen, a terminal point for the supply and evacuation of East Prussia, the air ministry announced today.

RAF Lancasters also struck a heavy early morning blow at Wesel on the east bank of the Rhine north of Duisburg, which was reported clogged with German troops retreating before the Canadian First army.

Mosquitos simultaneously made their 15th consecutive night attack on Berlin.

TWO INJURED WHEN TRUCK TURNS OVER

Floyd Hester 516 East Marion street, and Jack Sepaugh, Shelby route 2; both employees of Duke Power company, are in the Shelby hospital with injuries received this morning at 10 o'clock when a fire blew out on the truck in which they were riding, causing it to turn over in a creek near Fallston.

Hester is suffering from shock, other lacerations and bruises while Sepaugh is in a serious condition with a spinal injury.

The truck was being driven by Joe Helms, who was not injured in the accident. This was a small truck and was going out on a call when the tire blew out. The injured men were brought to the Shelby hospital by a Mr. Boyles who was passing by when the wreck occurred.

LUZON BATTLE IN FINAL PHASE

Campaign Is 58 Days Old; Took Japs 5 Months To Conquer It

By RICHARD BERGHOLZ MANILA, March 7.—(P)—The 58-day-old campaign for Luzon—it took the Japanese more than five months to conquer it—already is entering its "final phase," Gen. Douglas MacArthur said today.

With Manila liberated, Bataan and Corregidor retaken and the Central Luzon plain overrun, the more than 10 Yank divisions committed to the operation from the U. S. Sixth and Eighth armies are regrouping to go after scattered Nipponese in the mountains.

On rocky Corregidor, at the entrance of reopened Manila Bay, Yanks of the 502nd parachute regiment have sealed off 300 caves and tunnels, a spokesman disclosed today. In those underground places, the few survivors of 6,000 Nipponese which had formed the fortress garrison are doomed to die because they refused to surrender.

Brilliantly aided by Filipino guerrillas, the Yank divisions on Luzon are preparing death traps

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Births Lead Deaths 101-91 In February

One hundred and one births against 19 deaths were registered in Cleveland county during February according to reports made to the office of Dr. Z. F. Mitchell, Cleveland health officer this morning.

In the list of communicable diseases reported during the month, venereal diseases led the list with 14 cases. Other diseases reported were: spinal meningitis, 1; whooping cough, 3; diphtheria, 2; tuberculosis, 1; scarlet fever, 1; typhus fever, 1; septic sore throat, 1.

West Bank Of Rhine Is Cleared For 70 Miles North Of Fallen Cologne

PARIS, March 7.—(P)—The powerful American Third Army drive routed Germans to within 15 miles of the middle Rhine today while the First Army fought within three miles of Bonn, 15 miles south of fallen Cologne.

The dashing Third Army tanks were reported at supreme headquarters to be near Monreal, a crossroads town just short of Mayern. The report, far behind actual progress, placed the Fourth Armored division within 20 miles of Coblenz and 50 of the large Rhine cities of Mainz and Weisbaden. Frankfurt on the Main was 61 miles away.

On this fateful anniversary of Hitler's militarization of the now overrun Rhineland, the prisoner toll for all Allied armies on the western front passed the million mark and rose above 100,000 for the current campaign which started Jan. 30 with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's plunge into the Siegfried line east of Luxembourg.

Soon after Cologne, fourth city of Germany fell late yesterday, the American First and Ninth armies cleared the whole west bank of the Rhine from Rheinberg south to Cologne save for a fractional pocket at Zons, just south of Duesseldorf. The distance was 45 airline miles but nearer 70 as the Rhine flows.

The last sizable German bridgehead of the lower Rhine opposite Wesel was hammered down to a strip eight miles long and up to five miles wide. On Monday, 50,000 Germans were estimated to be in the pocket. Many have fled, but now the last two bridges at Wesel are virtually impassable.

Nazi troopers who survived the debacle of Cologne fled south along the Rhine toward Bonn, a city of 101,000 and the birthplace of Beethoven. The First Army's Ninth division fought at dawn in the village of Alfthen, only three miles from Bonn.

Like Cologne, Bonn lies almost defenseless on the west bank of the Rhine.

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Red Cross Gifts From Mills Up 50 Per Cent

Workers At Cleveland Cloth Mill Give \$2,100, Gifts At Esther Above \$1,200

A better than 50 per cent increase in employee donations to the Red Cross from workers at the Esther Mill and the Cleveland Cloth Mill today spurred the industrial division whose chairman, J. W. Gardner, said he hopes to have a complete report from the mills by March 15.

Employees of the cloth mill have contributed a little more than \$2,100—leaders there are hoping to push the total past \$2,200 by next week's final report—while employees at the Esther mill have thus far subscribed in excess of \$1,200. Last year the Cloth Mill employees gave \$1,265 and the Esther employees \$745, indicating a sharp increase in support of this year's campaign in that division.

The rural churches are likewise running ahead of last year, but less percentage-wise, than the industries thus far reported, and when compilations are completed later this week the tabulations will be published. Meanwhile, Horace Eason, chairman of the rural church group, appealed to all of the individual chairmen to press their campaigns this Sunday and render reports Monday of next week of the exact present status of the drive in their

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ARCHDUKE FELIX COMING FRIDAY

Initial Session Cleveland Executives Club Will Be Brilliant Affair

The Archduke of Austria, son of the Empress Zita and the late Emperor Karl of Austria-Hungary, has accepted the invitation of the Cleveland Executives Club to be guest speaker at the initial session of that group at the Hotel Charles Friday at 7 p. m. He leads off a program to be followed next month by Fulton Oursler, senior editor of Reader's Digest and formerly editor of Liberty and a galaxy of internationally-famous speakers to follow later this year, President Phil Elliott stated today.

Reservations for the initial dinner session are being made with

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Ohio River In Flood Along Entire Course, Nearing Peak

CINCINNATI, March 7.—(P)—The Ohio river, in flood its full 981 miles, continued its slow but relentless rise today toward stages passed only twice in its 300 years of recorded history.

Expected to reach and possibly pass the 70-foot mark here by mid-morning, the big river already had produced a toll of eight dead, thousands of homeless among lowland refugees, and shut-downs of hundreds of warplants, both on the main stream and tributaries.

Official forecasters, hoping that colder weather would halt the run-off from the saturated ground of the Ohio valley's 202,000 square miles, still withheld definite predictions of a crest. However, they watched the progress of a new bulge coming down from Pittsburgh,

where continued rains had pushed the Ohio more than three feet above the 25-foot flood stage. At 70 feet the Ohio here would be 18 feet over flood stage, but nearly ten feet under the 1937 record crest. The second highest stage recorded was 71.7 feet in 1884 and the third, 60.0 in 1913.

RELIEF BURDEN Relief agencies in the Cincinnati area were taxed heavily and the American Red Cross reported 5,000 to 6,000 families evacuated from their homes on both sides of the river.

Blankets and supplies were rushed here from headquarters of the Army's Fifth Service command at Columbus, O., and the Coast Guard

Members of their families left here yesterday afternoon for Newport, Tenn., to be with the injured men.

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