

WEATHER

Fair and moderately cool today and tonight. Friday increasing cloudiness with little increase in temperature.

The Shelby Daily Star

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894

TELEPHONES 1100

VOL. XLIII-58

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

SHELBY, N. C.

THURSDAY, MAR. 8, 1945

TELEMAT PICTURES

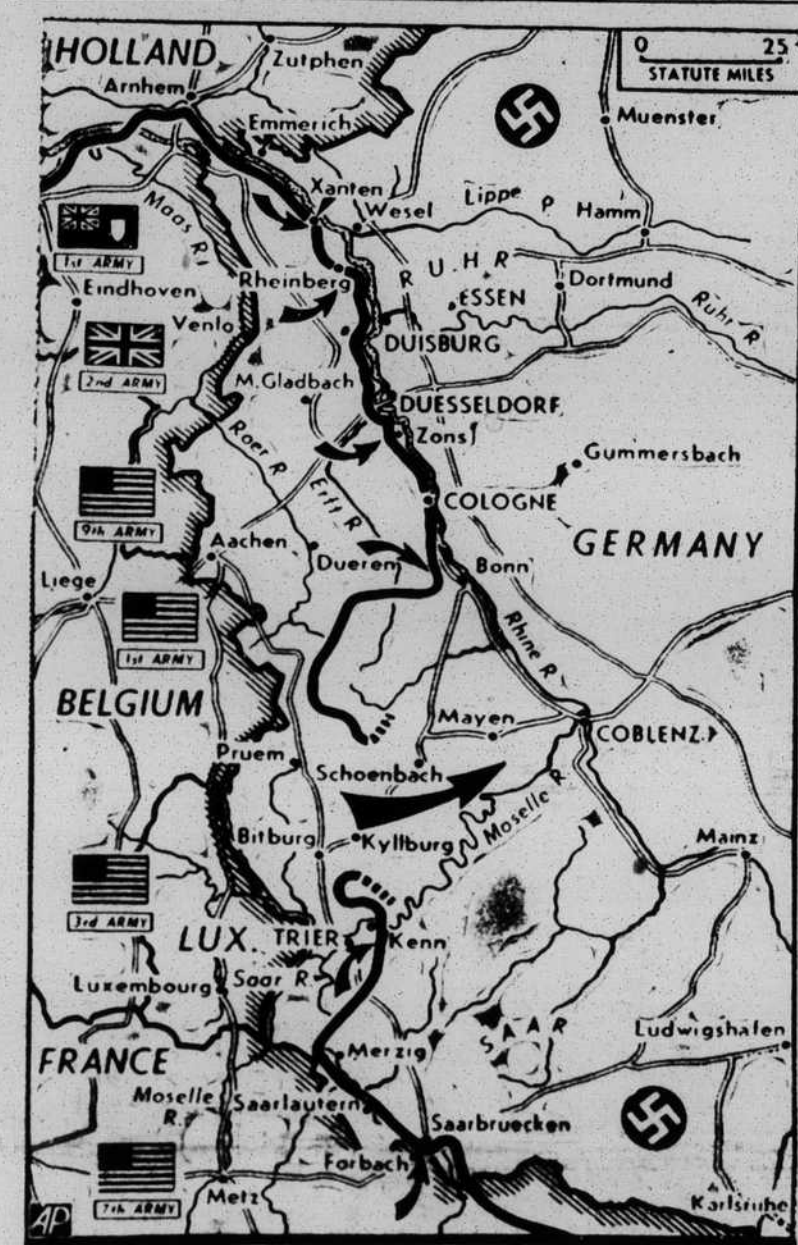
SINGLE COPIES—5c

- State Theatre Today -
"HER LUCKY NIGHT"

With
THE ANDREWS SISTERS
NEWS - COMEDY

FIRST ARMY CROSSES RHINE

GERMANS SAY RUSSIANS 25 MILES FROM BERLIN



YANKS BREAK THROUGH NEAR COBLENZ—The large arrow on this map indicates the U. S. Third Army breakthrough which has driven beyond Schoenbach to within 14 miles of the Rhine and only 20 miles from Coblenz. The exact position of the deepest penetration was withheld by censorship. To the north, the U. S. First Army is reported to have crossed the Rhine after capturing Cologne. Only the Koss and Xanten-Rheinberg areas in this sector of the Rhine's west bank remained in enemy hands.

Ground Forces On Luzon Get Support

U. S. Troops Reach Southern Shores; Japs Yield Terrain Only After Hard Fight

MANILA, March 8.—(P)—U. S. troops were on the southern shores of Luzon for the first time today as other Yanks, east of Manila, inched forward against Japanese positions softened by the heaviest air strikes thus far used in support of ground action in the southwest Pacific.

DOUGHBOYS IN ITALY ADVANCE

ROME, March 8.—(P)—The U. S. 10th Mountain division made "local improvements" yesterday despite German attacks on its newly won positions west of the Bologna-Pistoia highway on the Fifth Army Italian front. Allied headquarters announced today.

The rugged American division is consolidating a five-mile advance through rough terrain and heavy Nazi artillery, machinegun and mortar fire. Several dominating peaks within 20 miles of Bologna were captured in the drive which headquarters yesterday termed "a most successful limited objective attack."

In new overnight gains Fifth army troops seized positions at three small villages northeast of the Bologna-Pistoia road town of

See DOUGHBOYS Page 2

Knoxville Hotel Fire Kills 1, Injures Many

KNOXVILLE, TENN., March 8.—(P)—At least one person was burned to death and a dozen others were hospitalized with burns, some serious, in a fire which swept through the fire-crowded three-story, Cumberland hotel here early today.

Police Chief Elmer Dykes said he believed several other guests were trapped in the building and were burned to death.

The one body that has been recovered was identified as that of Henry M. Austin, formerly of Albemarle, N. C., a war worker at nearby Oak Ridge.

FORTRESS OF KUESTRIN IS OUTFLANKED

Reds At Seelow, 12 Miles West Of Oder; Front Is Aflame

ZHUKOV ON MARCH

LONDON, March 8.—(P)—The Russians have driven to within 25 miles of Berlin's city limits, outflanking the fortress of Kuestrin and reaching Seelow on the west side of the Oder, a Transocean broadcast from the German capital said today.

Seelow is directly east of Berlin and is 12 miles west of the Oder. It is on the main railway skirting the Oder which connects Stettin and Frankfurt.

Marshal Gregory Zhukov's massive new offensive, timed with the Allied drive to the Rhine, 321 miles to the west, also has reached a point 29 miles from Berlin northwest of Kuestrin, Berlin reported. Transocean said Seelow was reached from the Russian bridgehead at Goerlitz, between Kuestrin and Frankfurt, and said terrific fighting was taking place in the area, with many places changing hands repeatedly.

Heavy attacks are taking place at Niederwutzen, four miles southwest of Zehden in a loop of the Oder river, Col. Ernest von Hammer said in a Berlin broadcast, and the Russians have made two breaches in the defenses of the fortress of Kuestrin to the south-east.

Fighting was reported flaming along a 125-mile front along the Oder from Stettin bay to Crossen following a terrific artillery barrage that began 48 hours ago. The enemy said the focal point of the attack was on both sides of Kuestrin, 39 miles east of Berlin, with the Russians battering at the northwestern, eastern and southern fronts.

See FORTRESS Page 2

HOEY TO SPEAK BEFORE C OF C

Annual Dinner With Merchants Group Set For March 30

Shelby's own beloved Senator Clyde R. Hoey will deliver the address for the annual dinner meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association to be held March 30 at the Hotel Charles, it was announced today by Hopson Austell, chairman of the committee on arrangements.

Senator Hoey, who expects to spend the Easter week-end at his home here, accepted the invitation to address the Friday night gathering at which the annual report will be rendered to the large membership the organization has ever enjoyed.

Clyde A. Short, president will serve as toastmaster of the occasion. "We are pleased that Senator Hoey can be with us to make the address of the occasion," Mr. Austell said in making the announcement. "It means we ought to have the best annual meeting in the history of the local organization."

Rampaging Ohio Is Already 13 Feet Above Flood Stage

PORTSMOUTH, O., March 8.—(P)—The Ohio river continued to rise today while Portsmouth watched to see if sandbags atop its obsolete 62-foot floodwall would hold back both the Ohio and the tributary Scioto.

Swelling at the rate of 1 foot an hour, the big river passed a 63.2 stage, more than 13 feet above flood stage, at midnight. This was more than a foot higher than the wall, but the sandbags, laid in a night and day struggle by 350 Ohio State guardsmen and civilian volunteers, had held the two rivers

out except at one short section. Meanwhile a partly-finished new wall to protect to a 77-foot stage stood futilely above the flood. It will be completed after the war.

Already low-flying districts of the manufacturing city of 40,000 population were taking shelter on higher ground. Five hundred evacuees were taken by train to Chillicothe, 40 miles up the Scioto, where they were cared for by the Red Cross.

No damage comparable with that

See RAMPAGING Page 3

1,350 U. S. Bombers Hit Reich Today In Wake Of RAF Night Attack

LONDON, March 8.—(P)—German rail and oil targets were struck another blow today as 1,350 American bombers, following up the RAF's 1,250-plane night assault, attacked seven oil plants and five switching yards handling traffic to the Ruhr battlefields.

The American targets included the clogged yards at Essen, almost within earshot of the fighting along the upper Rhine: Siegen, Beidorf, Dillenburg and Giessen. Six benzol plants and one synthetic refinery in the Gelsenkirchen-Dortmund regions were the oil objectives.

Approximately 350 fighters provided cover for the bombers. Close protection against the German air force seldom is needed any more.

The British night attack was carried out by the largest force sent out by the RAF this year. The British planes blasted the Germans' eastern front base of Dessau, struck at vital oil refineries and gave Berlin its 16th successive night raid.

It was estimated that 3,000 tons of explosives and fire bombs were

See 1,350 Page 2

SITUATION ON IWO:

Nips Fight Fiercely To Hold Last Line

Marines Registered 500-Yard Gains Yesterday; Strive For Breakthrough

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Mar. 8.—(P)—Dents in the last-stand line of the Japanese on northern Iwo, driven up to 500 yards in hand-to-hand combat Wednesday, were exploited today by three marine divisions striving for a breakthrough.

In a maze of pillboxes and block-houses, with their backs to the cliffs, the Nipponese still showed no sign of a collapse as they met the all-out Leatherneck drive with tense small arms and machine-gun fire.

The latest push opened Tuesday. The fighting all that day netted only local gains. Yesterday one 500-yard salient was won on the west side by Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey's Fifth division. Another was pushed into the center of the line by Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's Third division. A dent of 200 yards was punched into the east side by Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' Fourth.

They were, by no means, general advances. Every step was contested by a foe which has lost two-thirds of an original garrison of 30,000 and is battling to the last man.

The full cost of the 18-day-old

See NIPS Page 2

EGG TRUCK IS WRECKED ON 18

Four thousand and five hundred dozen eggs were scrambled in gasoline on highway 18, five miles south of Shelby this morning at 8 o'clock when a truck driven by J. D. Johnson, of Vale, route three, turned over on the highway spilling the crates of eggs in the highway and on the embankment.

Johnson told Sgt. W. L. Hatcher, who lost control of his egg truck when a car driven by O. W. Brooks, of Mooresboro, stopped in front of him and began turning around. In dodging the car the egg truck lost its balance and turned over on its side spilling the entire cargo.

Johnson had to be assisted out of the cab of his truck by passers-by. Gasoline began to leak immediately from the truck tank and mingled with the egg yolks and whites which streamed down the side of the highway.

Johnson said that he was on his way from Cookeville in Catawba county to Spartanburg, S. C., to deliver the load of eggs to Swift and company. The eggs were owned by Johnson and they were not covered by insurance.

BRITISH PLUNGE INTO MANDALAY

CALCUTTA, March 8.—(P)—Spearheads of the British 19th division plunged into the northern suburbs of Mandalay today, and official estimates at Allied headquarters left the impression that the fall of Burma's second city was imminent.

In their 14 mile dash southward from Madaya to Mandalay Indian troops of the British division bypassed a considerable number of Japanese. These enemy groups appear dazed and bewildered and are scheduled for later elimination.

Chinese troops 130 miles north-east of Mandalay smashed two miles through Japanese defenses and occupied new Lashio and its railway station, establishing Allied control of the entire Burma road from Lashio to Kunming. The Chinese had captured old Lashio yesterday.

PLANS CHANGED
Enemy battle plans apparently have been disorganized by the British dash across the Irrawaddy River valley to the Meiktila area, an operation which has threatened the Japanese rear communications.

Unless the Japanese can bring in reinforcements immediately, it is believed here they may be ousted from Burma in the not too distant future. Supplying troops and reinforcements is a major Japanese headache since their key northern communications now are severed and tenuous alternate routes are under continual hammering by air.

SCHOOLS START EARLY SCHEDULE ON MARCH 19

Shelby schools will go back on the early schedule of operation, Monday, March 19, it was announced this morning by Walter Abernethy, local superintendent. Instead of starting classes at 9:15 o'clock as is being done now, classes will begin at 8:45 a.m.

The late schedule was continued about two weeks longer than usual, Mr. Abernethy said, in an effort to save as much coal as possible. When the new schedule takes effect, the buildings will open at 8:30 a.m.



MISSING—Pfc. Walter Hershel Elgin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Elgin of Cramerton, is reported missing in action in France since January 20, while serving with the 79th division of the Seventh Army, according to a telegram received by his wife, the former Miss Grace Falls, who is making her home on route 1, Kings Mountain, while he is in service.

Japs Profess Readiness For Yank Invasion

By The Associated Press

The Imperial Japanese high command is awaiting an American invasion of Nippon with the "greatest confidence," the Domei news agency reported today.

Domei quoted the Tokyo newspaper Asahi as saying the high command had completed plans for defense of the homeland and for "dealing the enemy literally an annihilative blow, thereby securing decisive victory at one stroke."

The broadcast, heard by the Federal Communications Commission, said the Japanese naval force is "being kept in full readiness" to strike "the first decisive blow" before invasion forces can land. "If some enemy forces should 'escape' they will meet 'smashing attacks' at the beach lines."

"Should enemy remnants still manage to invade inland," Asahi went on "then our field army in its all-out assault will literally wipe them out."

The broadcast said American invasion forces would meet the same supply problems that have hampered Japanese in defense of islands they have lost.

Carabinieri Guards Fired On In Night

ROME, March 8.—(P)—Shots were fired in the night at Carabinieri guarding a clinic where Lt. Gen. Count Francesco Jacomoni is held on war crime charges, in another of the series of demonstrations so far weathered by Premier Ivanoe Bonomi.

No attempt was made to burst into the hospital.

The escape Sunday of Gen. Mario Roatta and a protest riot before the Royal palace were previous incidents of the week.

The cabinet declared its confidence in Bonomi late yesterday. Opposition parties protested anew against his retention of control of the government.

River Crossed Last Night With Light Opposition

PARIS, March 8.—(P)—The American First Army crossed the Rhine river to the east bank last night, launching from the west bank the climactic battle for Germany.

A dispatch from Cologne announced the crossing. First Army infantrymen spanned the quarter mile wide river against rather light opposition before the startled Germans could grasp what had happened, A. P. Correspondent Wes Gallagher said.

The surprise announcement was passed by censors at 5:55 o'clock tonight after 24 hours of security blackout.

PARIS, March 8.—(P)—The First Army captured half of Bonn and half of Bad Godesburg today and was reported by Berlin to be within 17 miles of the Third Army in a maneuver periling perhaps 50,000 Germans west of the middle Rhine.

Bonn is a university city of 101,000.

Bad Godesburg is three miles up the river from Bonn and is the village where Neville Chamberlain pleaded with Hitler before Munich for "peace in our times." It is 21 miles from Third Army positions on the Rhine near Coblenz.

The German communique said the First Army had reached Remagen, only 17 miles from Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's watch on the Rhine.

Forward positions of the converging armies could not be disclosed through a security blackout, but every indication at supreme headquarters was that a great victory was shaping up.

The Ninth Armored division of the First Army was declared many hours ago to be over ten miles southwest of Bonn and "well under 25 miles" from the Third Army's superb Fourth Armored division.

The Berlin radio said today the American troops had broken into Bonn and that street fighting was raging.

The amazing dash of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army tanks to the Coblenz area and the Rhine outflanked the Saar industrial district from the north, snapping many of its communications and routes for war materiel. The Seventh army outflanked the Saar on the south and was two miles inside it.

Cologne finally was cleared completely and infantry moved up to the Rhine at places between that devastated city and Bonn. Troops besieging Bonn were almost astride the Rhine bank road leading south to Coblenz.

Thousands of dejected prisoners were streaming back westward from the 2,500-square-mile pocket in which five to six divisions were caught between the First and Third armies. The First army counted 3,873 yesterday and the Third had time to check in only 1,614 of the Germans who jammed the roads back to prison pens on the Kyll river.

See RIVER Page 2

WHAT'S DOING

TODAY

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.

FRIDAY

12:30 p.m.—Regular meeting of Rotary club at Hotel Charles.

7:00 p.m.—First meeting of Executives club at Hotel Charles.

Strike Threat Hanging Over Textile Mills

CHARLOTTE, March 8.—(P)—The threat of a strike involving approximately 100,000 southern textile workers hung over the industry today as locals of the textile workers union of America (CIO) made plans for an immediate decision.

TWUA last night directed locals to ballot immediately under provisions of the Smith-Connally act, which requires a 30-day cooling-off period after notification of a strike.

The action was a protest against a delay in final approval of a 5-cent hourly increase granted to workers in 23 southern textile mills, by the War Labor board. The Office of Economic Stabilization must approve the increase before it can become effective. The boost was announced three weeks ago.

IN FAVOR

A resolution unanimously adopted by some 40 southern agents of the TWUA in the second day of a two-day meeting here read "whether a strike vote should be taken," but Roy Lawrence, southern

See STRIKE Page 2

Marine Ace Is Killed On Iwo

WITH FIFTH MARINE DIVISION, Iwo Jima, Feb. 21.—(Delayed)—(P)—Sgt. John Basilone, first enlisted marine to win the Congressional medal in this war, was killed by Japanese artillery fire on the beach on the first day of the battle of Iwo.

Basilone, 27-year-old hero of Guadalcanal from Raritan, N. J., was leading his machine gun platoon through a heavy artillery barrage when he was felled "on the black sands."

He and several of his men were caught by the Japanese fire soon after they hit the beach in the opening assault.

Although Basilone could have stayed in the United States after the Guadalcanal campaign, he had volunteered for another tour of overseas duty which ended in his death. Men of his platoon praised his aggressive courage.

See AMENDMENT Page 2

Amendment On Theater Tax Reopens Revenue Bill Fight

RALEIGH, March 8.—(P)—Another fight over amendments to the continuing revenue act of 1939 developed today when Senator Aiken of Catawba introduced another amendment to impose a three percent tax on the gross receipts of theaters.

The tax, removed from the continuing act in 1943, was recommended by the advisory budget commission but was struck out by the joint finance committee.

Adoption of Aiken's amendment would mean that the amendments would go back on first reading, re-