

## WEATHER

North Carolina—Partly cloudy and warm today, tonight and Saturday except cool again east portion tonight.

# The Shelby Daily Star

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894

TELEPHONES 1100

— State Theatre Today —  
"LET'S GO STEADY"

PAT PARRISH  
JACKIE MORAN

VOL. XLIII-71

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

SHELBY, N. C.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1945

TELEMAT PICTURES

SINGLE COPIES—5c

# RHINE NO LONGER GREAT OBSTACLE SAYS BRADLEY

## THOUSANDS OF WARPLANES LASH RUHR

Area Already Mass Of Wreckage From Previous Raids

### RAIL LINES ATTACKED

LONDON, March 23.—(AP)—Thousands of American and British warplanes lashed out today for the third day at the Ruhr, where a blazing mass of wreckage marked the record assault of yesterday.

Again the fury of the assault was concentrated on supply lines with the presumed object of isolating the industrial area east of the Rhine, along which powerful Allied armies are massed.

Eleven rail yards in the Ruhr were attacked in bright weather by 1,250 American heavy bombers and 350 fighters while a force of British Lancasters went after an important rail bridge at Bremen with the 11-ton Volcano bombs.

The German radio said new waves of bombers were over the same area later in the afternoon and that American heavies from Italy dashed into southeastern Germany.

The succession of violent air attacks begun on German airfields and troop concentrations earlier in the week continued unabated through the night.

### 4 FORMATIONS

Before 10 a.m., the German radio warned that four bomber formations were over the Reich. Three came from the west while the other was heading north from Italy.

Berlin was bombed for the 31st consecutive night by RAF Mosquitos, which also struck follow-up blows at enemy troop movements across the Rhine in the region battered yesterday by the bulk of more than 8,000 American and British planes which struck Germany from dawn to dusk.

The night pilots said smoke from burning towns hung so thickly over the Ruhr that it was difficult to locate ground targets, despite bright moonlight and powerful flares.

## SPAIN ANGRY AGAINST JAPS

Nips Charged With Cold-Blooded Murder Of Spanish Citizens

MADRID, March 23.—(AP)—Spain's relations with Japan were strained toward the breaking point today as the government formally charged the Japanese with "systematic and premeditated murder of Spanish nationals in Manila."

Indignation spread rapidly. Whether it would lead to an outright break with Tokyo—and possibly a declaration of war—was not yet indicated.

A government communique, made public last night, enumerated a list of 172 Spanish men, women and children bayoneted to death by the Japanese while American troops were overrunning the Philippine capital.

It confirmed a report made in Washington last week by Brig. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, resident commissioner of the Philippines. This report drew a storm of editorial denunciation of Japan from the Spanish press.

The communique did not say whether Spain has officially protested to the Japanese government. It is known, however, that Japanese Minister Yachihiro Suma was called to the foreign ministry Monday and asked for an explanation, which, it is reported, he was unable to give.

Senator Hoyt To Discuss Congress And The Country

Senator Hoyt will go to Statesville April 3 to discuss the Dumbarton Oaks peace plan in a talk sponsored by the Junior Service League, the women's clubs and the Eclectic Club of Statesville.



JAPS WIPED OUT BY AMERICAN FLAME THROWER—Bodies of Japanese soldiers smoulder on the crest of "Bryant Hill" near Puncan in the hills of Luzon Island in the Philippines after an American flame thrower silenced a heavily fortified group of 23 Japs in a hole. They had been placed in a strategic position on the hill to resist American mopping-up activities.

## Bombing Preparing Reich For Knockout

Bomb Tonnage Dropped In 3-Week Offensive Twice Total Dropped On England

LONDON, March 23.—(AP)—Continuous day and night bombing of Germany at the rate of 274 tons of explosives an hour is turning the Reich into chaos in preparation for a knockout blow from the ground.

Since the big aerial offensive started three weeks ago, Allied bombers have hit Germany with more than twice the tonnage of bombs dropped on England since the start of the war.

The terrific devastation is almost beyond comprehension, but the relentless flailing of every type of military objective from the smallest crossroads to Berlin itself unquestionably has made the way easier for the doughboys, as Gen. Eisenhower has declared.

During the past 10 days of this greatest air blitz in history the industrial Ruhr valley and the vast rolling Rhine plain have been systematically isolated from the Reich and deprived of rail and highway movement necessary to resist a full-scale ground assault.

Figures on the number of planes participating have reached almost astronomical figures. When the Germans put 600 aircraft over London one day back in 1940 it was regarded as a tremendous blitz. Today with fleets of 7,000 or 8,000 Allied planes aloft, 500 aircraft hardly constitute a good sized escort force.

### 4,000 DAILY

Since the first of the month the Allies have sent an average of 4,000 planes over the Reich a day a total of about 92,000 individual flights. Of this total, about 21,950 have been flown by U. S. heavy bombers.

The U. S. Eighth and Ninth air forces, the RAF bomber command and the Second tactical air force have dropped approximately 145,000 tons of bombs in this period. Since the beginning of the war the Germans have hit England with only 70,000 tons—including flying bombs.

### OUT OF GEAR

A detailed examination of Cologne proves how a great city can be thrown completely out of gear and made almost helpless by constant bombing. So far as the war effort was concerned it was a dead city when Allied troops arrived.

Duesseldorf was reported even more completely destroyed. Other

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## Kesselring Has Conducted Strong Campaign In Italy

ROME, March 23.—(AP)—Allied intelligence officers said today Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's departure from the Italian front probably would have little effect on operations in this theater.

Military textbooks of the future probably will judge Kesselring's campaign from the standpoint of slow and costly Allied progress through Italy. He has been credited generally with a masterly withdrawal up the peninsula, although some have criticized his handling of his troops during the pursuit through Rome, when

## RUNYANSES ARE ARRESTED HERE

Pair Charged With Impersonating Red Cross Solicitors

For impersonating Red Cross solicitors and collecting money in the name of that organization and converting it to their own use, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Runyans, of Earl, were being held under \$1,000 bond each by the federal authorities this morning after Sheriff J. Raymond Cline arrested them yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Runyans was arrested first after an exciting chase across the city by Sheriff Cline, Deputy Sheriffs E. J. Cordell and Jerry Runyans who met her in an automobile in Belvedere about 7 o'clock yesterday evening. The officers had been looking for her for several days and she had eluded them in each instance. Sheriff Cline's car was about half a block behind the Runyans car when it was wrecked in a collision with a Canipe electrical truck on West Warren street. She was given a hearing on reckless driving charges this morning in Cleveland Recorder's court but judgment was held in abeyance until after the federal charges are disposed of. Sheriff Cline said that while he was following Mrs. Runyans in her automobile, she drove recklessly without stopping for intersections and through heavy traffic. Her husband was picked up a short while later at a local filling station.

When questioned by the officers, Mrs. Runyans readily admitted, they said, that she had made out her own credentials as a Red Cross relief worker and had asked people to be as generous as possible. She and her husband had collected around \$50 in Cleveland and Gaston counties, officers say after examining her list of gifts. She had none of the money with her but said that she applied it on debts.

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## ACTION LIGHT IN ITALY

Small Engagement At Heavily Defended Bologna Road Entrance

ROME, March 23.—(AP)—Brisk patrol skirmishes occurred yesterday on both the Fifth and Eighth army fronts with the enemy reacting to Allied raiding parties with heavy machinegun and small arms fire. Allied headquarters announced today.

In a short fight near San Anasario, at the entrance to the Bologna road net which has been heavily defended in recent months, one American patrol suffered light casualties. A short time later a 15-man enemy patrol tried to slip through the same area and was driven back.

In the Fifth army area, American artillery concentrated on groups of enemy soldiers as well as movements behind the German lines.

### PATROLS

An Eighth army patrol operating northeast of Cotignola on the enemy's Senio river line caught a German work party digging in the opposite bank and inflicted a number of casualties. Farther south enemy patrols crossed the diked stream north of Faenza, but were driven off.

During the past seven days

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## Jap Forces In Central China Launch New Drive

CHUNGKING, March 23.—(AP)—Using 60,000 troops supported by mechanized units, Japanese forces in central China have launched a new drive from positions northwest of Hankow with the apparent object of seizing the vital wheat crop of southern Honan and northern Hupeh provinces, a Chinese army spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the Japanese are apparently were hoping to knock out advance airfields in that area and to remove the Chinese threat to Japanese communications along the Peiping-Hankow railway.

## German E-Boats Attempt Attack On Allied Convoy

LONDON, March 23.—(AP)—An attempt by a large force of German E-boats to attack an Allied convoy off the east coast of England Wednesday night was beaten off without damage to any of the ships, a joint admiralty and air ministry communique announced today.

At least three E-boats were sunk or set afire. Others were damaged. One Allied aircraft which helped to break up the attack is missing. Several groups of E-boats were spotted by naval aircraft off the Dutch coast. The planes attacked and then summoned fleet escort ships to intercept the pack before it reached the convoy route.

## KONEV'S MEN THREATENING FIVE CITIES

New Silesian Offensive Rolls Toward Inner Mountain Area

### ON BERLIN FRONT

LONDON, March 23.—(AP)—Marshal Ivan Konev's new Silesian offensive rolled forward along an 80-mile front today toward the inner mountain fortress of Germany where Adolf Hitler's SS men have been reported making preparations for a final stand.

Konev's First Ukrainian army group threatened five large Silesian cities—Frankenstein, Neisse, Ziegenhals, Leobschuetz and Ratibor—in the Moravian mountains and already was reported fighting in one of them and in the suburbs of another.

On the Berlin front the German high command announced that Marshal Gregory Zhukov attacked from the flanks of his Oder bridgehead at Kuestrin, 38 miles east of Berlin, with strong tank and infantry forces.

The Germans declared that the attack was smothered in a storm of German fire and 55 Soviet tanks were destroyed, but Stockholm reports and an American broadcast from Moscow declared a full scale assault on Hitler's capital was immediately at hand.

Moscow reports suggested that Konev's victory in Upper Silesia was paving the way for the Berlin attack.

Quick fall of the five threatened cities, Moscow dispatches said, would be the tip-off that Germany lacked sufficiently heavy forces in the Bohemian passes, and there would be an immediate advance upon Prague, capital of Czechoslovakia.

### SMASH INTO PRAGUE

The threatened smash into Prague would penetrate to the heart of the southern fortress area where Hitler has contemplated making his last stand, cut the northern communications of Vienna and outflank it at Austrian capital.

Vienna already was threatened from the east by a new offensive by Marshal Fedor Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army.

The German high command announced a new retreat on that front, where Berlin said the Russian thrust neared Komarom on the Danube, 89 miles east of Vienna. Komarom, on the north side of the Danube and east of the Vag river, is one of the most important strongholds guarding Vienna.

### NEUSTADT TAKEN

Already, Moscow announced, Konev had captured industrial Neustadt in the center of the front, killed or captured 45,000 Germans and reached within a mile of the Czech border.

Moscow further reported fighting in the streets of Neisse, and the capture of a number of suburbs of Neustadt.

Ratibor at the southeastern end of the front, was outflanked by an advance which had reached the Zinna river near Bauerwitz from the captured village of Matz-

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## PVT. BLANTON REPORTED DEAD

Killed In Action In Germany On March 6, With Third Army

Pvt. Arthur R. Blanton, 26, has been reported killed in action in Germany on March 6, while fighting with the Third Army, according to a telegram received from the War Department by his wife, the former Miss Lela Hamrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hamrick of Bolling Springs.

Pvt. Blanton was the son of Henry Randolph and the late Mrs. Randolph, but was adopted by the late Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Blanton at the death of his mother.

Pvt. Blanton entered service in September, 1944, and received his infantry training at Camp Croft, S. C., and reported to Fort Meade, Maryland, before going overseas in January, 1945. Prior to his induction he was engaged in farming.

Surviving Pvt. Blanton are his wife, who is making her home with her parents in Bolling Springs; his father, two brothers serving with the Army somewhere overseas, and one sister who is with the WAC stationed in New York.



LAST STAGES OF RHINELAND BATTLE—German holdings west of the Rhine remained little more than bridgeheads as U. S. Third and Seventh Army forces smashed further into Germany. Third Army troops were cleaning up Nazi remnants in Ludwigshafen. Germany's great chemical manufacturing center. Other Third Army units were fighting in the city of Mainz. Another thrust took the Yanks beyond the Neustadt. The Seventh Army pressed northward, forming junctions with the Third Army.

## Mistrial Ordered In Meadows Case

Jury Began Deliberations Tuesday Afternoon, Said To Have Been 10 To 2 For Conviction

GREENVILLE, March 23.—(AP)—A mistrial was ordered today in the case of Dr. Leon Meadows, former president of East Carolina Teachers college who was charged with embezzlement and false pretense, and Solicitor Dave M. Clark announced immediately he would ask for another special session of superior court to retry the case.

Judge Clawson Williams ordered the mistrial when the jury, after three days of deliberations, informed him that it was deadlocked at 10 to 2. Reliable sources said the majority was for conviction.

Judge Williams ordered verdicts of innocent in nine of the original 16 counts of embezzlement, which he already had ordered non-suited, and gave a similar instruction for the part of the false pretense charge which he had non-suited.

Meadows, against whom the charges were brought in connection with his handling of special and student funds while president, remained under \$5,000 bond.

As the mistrial was ordered, the state moved that all records in the case be impounded. The defense objected and Judge Williams ordered the return of documents to the side which presented them.

### NOT PRESENT

Meadows was not in the courtroom when the mistrial was ordered.

The trial lasted eight weeks, the longest criminal trial in the state's history. The state tried to show that Meadows diverted more than \$18,000 to his own use and used college labor on his property. The defense tried to show that Meadows not only had properly accounted for every cent, but had

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## WHAT'S DOING

TODAY  
7:30 p.m.—Mission revival meeting at First Baptist church.  
7:30 p.m.—Regular communication of Cleveland Lodge 202 A.F. & A.M.

### PAID YOUR TAXES?

## T-Men Have Eyes On Big Shot, Easy-Spending Boys

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(AP)—The big shot easy-come-easy-go boys are getting the eye of Uncle Sam's T-men.

The T is for treasury.

It wants to know whence came all the dough that's flowing so freely in resorts across the country; whether enough of it has gone for income taxes.

That's the reason head T-man Elmer Irey took a crew of his best treasury enforcement agents to Miami recently—and garnered a cool \$50,000 in "forgotten" taxes just by letting the word get around.

That's the reason more of Irey's men are giving other resort spots a careful going over. To see who's spending how much. And how does his income tax return back home jibe with that kind of money.

That's the reason, too, treasury Secretary Morgenthau told newsmen yesterday he's devoting "quite a little time" to the subject.

Morgenthau emphasized he's not worrying over little guys—the ones pocketing tips and forgetting

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## MONTGOMERY APPEARS READY TO SPAN RIVER

German Positions On East Bank Of River Heavily Bombed

### THREE CITIES TAKEN

PARIS, March 23.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley declared today that Allied armies massed along the Rhine can cross the river "most any time" and a Berlin broadcast said that Field Marshal Montgomery in the north "seems to be ready" to do just that.

Forty miles of the lower Rhine were shrouded in a massive screen through which the Germans said Montgomery was heavily shelling their positions on the east bank and maneuvering his three armies—as well as large sections of the American First Army. The skies were dotted with Allied planes isolating the imminent battlefield.

Far to the south, the cities of Mainz, Pirmasens and Landau topped and Ludwigshafen was being cleared in close hours of the great Palatinate-Saarland victory. More than 100,000 prisoners have been taken there; Bradley said 203,010 had been captured in the Rhineland since Feb. 8.

"There is complete calm on the Allied side of the lower Rhine," Ross Munro of the Canadian press wirelessly from Montgomery's headquarters, "it is anybody's guess when the zero hour will come."

The only fighting on the 65-mile critical stretch of the lower Rhine between Arnhem and Duesseldorf was by increasingly active patrols, by artillery batteries and the bombing and strafing air fleets.

Bradley's remarks implied that no pause for rest and refitting was needed before his First and Third armies crossed the Rhine at places other than the Remagen bridgehead, now lengthened to 33 miles with the capture of Neuwied near Coblenz and hamlets within 12 miles of the lower rim of the Ruhr. American losses in driving up to the west bank were extremely small compared to the catastrophic losses of the foe, Bradley said.

## YANKS CAPTURE GUIMARAS ISLE

Heavy Bombers Batter Cebu, Large Isle Still In Jap Hands

MANILA, March 23.—(AP)—Seizure of little Guimaras Islands, across a narrow strait from the captured port of Iloilo on southeastern Panay, was announced today as heavy bombers stepped up their pounding of Cebu, one of the few major Philippine islands still in Japanese hands.

Maj. Gen. Rapp Bush's 40th division, which invaded Panay Sunday and quickly conquered Iloilo and an important airdrome, hopped across the mile and a half channel Wednesday to take 25-mile-long Guimaras without opposition. It was the 27th island invasion of the Philippines campaign.

Guimaras helps form one of the best harbors and seaplane bases in the central Philippines. It safeguards shipping lanes into Iloilo.

In three successive days, heavy bombers poured 214 tons of bombs on bivouac and supply areas in the vicinity of Cebu City, midway along Cebu's long east coast. Considerable fires and explosions resulted.

Naval P-T boats patrolling the Cebu coast by night sank several small Japanese craft, and navy rocket-firing planes sent a mid-

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## BRITISH PUT VISE ON JAPS

Push South From Mandalay, Enemy Caught Between Two Forces

CALCUTTA, March 23.—(AP)—British 14th army troops swept southward from the Mandalay area of Burma today, steadily pinning the Japanese against other forces driving north from captured Meiktila.

Pindale, a village road junction 19 miles north of Meiktila, and Wundwin, on the main north-south trunk 18 miles northeast of the base, were captured after stiff opposition. Meanwhile, from Meiktila bases, other troops overran Japanese positions in the northern sector of the city and captured Myingyan, on the Irrawaddy, and its airfield.

American and RAF bombers battered enemy communications and installations in Burma and Thailand, destroying 27 locomotives and collapsing six bridges in yesterday's operations.

Libertators of the Seventh Bombardment group hit enemy radio installations on Cocos Island, in the Bay of Bengal. American and British fighter squadrons assaulted waterway communications, rail targets and supply and troop concentrations all the way from the Rangoon area to the north Burma front.