

WEATHER

North Carolina—Partly cloudy and continued warm today, tonight and Sunday.

The Shelby Daily Star

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TELEPHONES 1100

State Theatre Today - "LET'S GO STEADY" PAT PARRISH JACKIE MORAN

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TELEMAT PICTURES

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2 MORE ARMIES ACROSS RHINE

Zhukov Attacks From Oder Bridgeheads To Open Drive On Berlin

LONDON, March 24.—(P)—The Germans said today that Marshal Gregory Zhukov had attacked "with strongest forces" from his Oder bridgeheads as part of a decisive drive on Berlin.

With perhaps 1,200,000 men massed along the Oder and ready to join in a multiple east-west Allied assault to crush the last breath out of the Reich, Zhukov threw six infantry divisions, waves of tanks and a tremendous artillery barrage into the new attack on both sides of Kuestrin and succeeded in reaching a point only 31 miles from the German capital, German broadcasts reported.

The German high command said Zhukov was attacking from bridgeheads on both sides of Kuestrin and that the stubborn German defense had taken a toll of 204 Soviet tanks in two days of battle there.

The Russians reached Golzow, six miles west of the Oder and 31 miles from Berlin, said radio dispatches from the Reich, and broke into Klestin, eight miles south of Golzow and 34 miles from Berlin.

The Germans, who claim still to hold a small part of the old city of Kuestrin just south of the Warthe river and east of the Oder despite official Soviet announcements of the capture of the ancient fortress, said: "The battle for Kuestrin has reached its climax. The Red army is throwing in all its material, regardless of losses of men and tanks."

This present offensive must be taken in connection with the long-planned Russian attack on Berlin.

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EPES MOVES TO FORCE HEARING

Brown Says Report Of Stomach Analysis In Hand Several Days

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 24.—(P)—Edgar A. Brown, defense counsel for Lieut. S. C. Epes charged in a warrant with murder of his pretty 26-year-old school teacher wife, moved today to force the prosecution to show its hand at a preliminary hearing.

Epes has been held since Feb. 15 after he had led Sheriff T. Alex Heise and other officers to the fox hole grave of his wife near Fort Jackson, 16 days after he reported her missing.

He was put in the state penitentiary hospital for treatment of throat and wrist lacerations and later moved to the Richland county jail.

In a letter to Magistrate Ollie Mefford, the committing officer, Epes, son of a wealthy Richmond,

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Advertisement for Easter seals featuring a cartoon rabbit and the text 'MORE DAYS BEFORE EASTER Buy and Use EASTER SEALS help Crippled Children'.

Cloth Mill New Unit To Extend Production

Construction will start next week on a two-story brick connecting unit by which the Cleveland Cloth Mills main plant and warehouse will be linked in alterations designed to facilitate production of war goods on which the plant is engaged, it was announced today by J. W. Gardner, executive vice-president.

Removal of two houses from Lincoln street to Lineberger street is underway to make way for the construction.

RED CROSS FUND HITS \$41,000

Yates Calls On Workers To Wind Up Job, Praises Spangler And Workers

Sweeping past the \$40,000 goal and mounting to \$41,000, the Red Cross War Fund drive continued to grow today as Chapter Chairman Dale R. Yates called on workers to complete their reports with next week.

Some few churches remained to be heard from, while one or two divisions hadn't completed reports this morning when Chairman

STILL TIME TO GIVE "While the goal has been reached, there is no reason why any who have not already contributed should shirk responsibility to give," Chairman Dale R. Yates of the Red Cross said today as he expressed the hope the Cleveland county contribution when complete will push the present \$41,000 total much higher.

"There is real need for every penny of money we can get together for the vast work of the Red Cross," Mr. Yates said.

Yates announced successful realization of the goal as he praised Chairman Mal A. Spangler, sr., and his organization of workers for the "most successful Red Cross Roll Call ever held in Cleveland county."

A contribution of \$1,024.37 from theatre-goers and the theatres gave the fund a final heave as the turn was reached, last night's high school band concert realized \$187.05 for the Red Cross, the band members themselves contributing \$30.20 of that, Miss Dorothy Parker, director, stated.

Several churches are planning to complete their campaigns tomorrow, Horace Eason, chairman of that division, stated.

MEADOWS TO BE RETRIED 'SOON AS POSSIBLE'

GREENVILLE, N. C., March 24.—(P)—Solicitor Dave Clark said today he would retry Dr. Leon R. Meadows, former president of East Carolina Teachers college on embezzlement and false pretense charges as soon as possible.

"There was no indication whether the case would be called at the next regular session of Superior court in April, or whether a special session would be called.

The first trial of Meadows, against whom the charges were brought in connection with his handling of special and student funds while president of East Carolina Teachers college, ended yesterday in a mistrial after the jury failed to agree in three days, the actual trial consumed eight weeks.

Seven of the original 16 embezzlement counts remain in the indictment. Verdicts of innocent were ordered yesterday by Judge Clawson Williams in the other nine, and in part of the false pretense charge.

The jury reported it stood 10 to 2.

GREAT ARMADA OF WARPLANES OVER GERMANY

Greatest Concentration Of Planes Ever To Cross Channel SUPPORT OFFENSIVE

LONDON, March 24.—(P)—More than 3,500 Allied warplanes, the greatest Armada ever to cross the English channel at one time, swarmed over northwest Germany today in support of the Allied storming of the Rhine, as possibly 1,500 transport planes and gliders showered a great army east of the river.

It was one of the war's most awe-inspiring aerial operations. The most devastating scourge ever laid down on a single area was exploded on the Ruhr valley in the crucial hours before daybreak. Then 1,900 American bombers and fighters hammered 12 Nazi airfields and carried out searing missions across the battle zone.

Shortly after noon the German radio warned of another bomber formation heading from Italy toward the heart of Germany, possibly for the U. S. 15th Air Force's first attack on Berlin.

Many of the parachute troop carriers and gliders—the number would indicate from 20,000 to 30,000 men, the greatest number ever engaged in an airborne operation—soared over Britain and thundered across the Strait of Dover no sooner had the parachute troops landed than other planes began the job of supplying them with additional ammunition.

Thick layers of heavy bombers and fighters streamed monotonously across the channel. Then came the gliders with their towing planes, and after them the troop-carrying craft, wing to wing and hundred after hundred, flying so low that every detail could be seen from below.

Before daybreak, swarms of medium and light bombers had worked over the Germans' defense on the eastern Rhine bank. Even before that, pilots said the whole

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BAND PLEASES BIG AUDIENCE

Declares That This Is Best Band She Ever Directed

A versatile high school band under the direction of Miss Dorothy Parker presented its third annual Red Cross concert to a delighted audience in the high school auditorium last night.

Reverent and still as the band opened its program with a beautiful rendition of "Nearer My God to Thee," the audience followed the mood of the musicians through stirring marches, plantation melodies and swayed with the youngsters through two renditions of a Boogie Woogie number.

In a brief intermission speech Miss Parker said this band was the best one that she had directed in her eight years of experience. She thanked the parents for their co-operation in permitting their children to stay for extra rehearsals.

Dale R. Yates, local Red Cross chapter chairman, thanked the band for its efforts in helping to put over the Red Cross drive. On behalf of Mal Spangler, campaign chairman and himself as chapter chairman, he presented gifts to Miss Parker.

The following program was given last night: 1. "Americans We March," Henry Fillmore; 2. "Ole South," A Plantation Patrol; 3. "S. Zamecnick"; 3. "Boogie Woogie Band," David Bennett; 4. "Bravura March," C. E. Doble; 5. "Richard III Overture," Floyd J. St. Clair; 6. "The Little Brown Jug Goes To Town," Jos. Bergelm Larry Champion, Soloist; 7. "The New Moon Overture," Sigmund Romberg; 8. "Don Quixote Suite," A Spanish Village; 9. "A Spanish Village," V. F. Safrenek; 9. "Holiday for Strings"; 10. "Billboard March," John N. Klorh; "The Star Spangled Banner," Key.



NEW ALLIED OFFENSIVE—Map shows location of the U. S. Ninth army, and the British Second army, units of which crossed the Rhine early today in the Duesseldorf area; the First army farther south, which is pushing its bridgehead lines farther east of the Rhine along an arc extending from Hennes to Neuwied; and the Third army, still farther south, which smashed across the Rhine Thursday night. Allied airborne troops are being landed in the Ruhr behind German lines.

BISMARCK SEA LOST:

U. S. Carrier Planes Bombing Okinawa

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Mar. 24.—(P)—Tokyo radio said today that American carrier planes were bombing the big naval and air base at Okinawa in the Ryukus, midway between Japan and Formosa, carrying the assault into the second straight day.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz offered no confirmation of this in his official reports today which disclosed loss of the escort carrier Bismarck Sea, in the battle for Iwo. Nimitz's reports also increased from 575 to 731 the bag of enemy planes during carrier attacks earlier this week on southern Japan.

Tokyo said 230 planes, presumably from Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's task force 58 which crippled Nippon's home fleet and heavily damaged major enemy naval air stations Sunday and Monday, opened up on Okinawa yesterday afternoon. Okinawa is 400 miles southwest of Kyushu, prime target of the earlier attack.

"Today also enemy ship-borne planes came to attack the same area from about 7 o'clock this morning," the Tokyo broadcast added. Seven hours later, the raid still was

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PAPER ROUNDUP SET FOR SUNDAY

A round-up of scrap paper, second of the month, will occur Sunday afternoon when Jaycees and Boy Scouts will again comb the town in an effort to gather additional of that vital war material.

Neal Wilson is general chairman of the canvass. The previous drive two weeks ago netted 30,000 pounds of paper, and tomorrow's is expected to list the month's total past the 20 tons mark, President Doris Bolt said today.

Householders are urged by Mr. Bolt to get their bundled paper to the curbing where the trucks can pick it up promptly. The Jaycees and Boy Scouts will meet at the Southern railway depot at 1 p. m. to launch the canvass.

U. S. Ninth, British Second Armies Make Leap Today; Airborne Troops Attack

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS, March 24.—(P)—The American Ninth and British Second armies crossed the lower Rhine at four places or more on a 25-mile front today and up to 30,000 airborne troops assaulted German lines from the rear and in the flatlands north of the Ruhr in a supreme bid for victory this spring.

Wesel and Rees on the east bank were entered. Bislich was captured. The German commander at Wesel was seized and the general commanding flak artillery was killed.

Troops pushed up to two miles east of the Rhine on the north German plains. Hundreds of Nazis surrendered. Those who fought were cut up by thousands of artillery shells and bombs.

GERMANS WILL FIGHT ON UNDER ANY CONDITIONS

Spokesman Says New Fronts Being Formed East And West

LONDON, March 24.—(P)—A German broadcast declared today the German high command "adopts the supreme principle of continuing the battle no matter under what conditions."

A Nazi military spokesman, after announcement of the Rhine crossing, asserted new German fronts were being formed in the east and west and that the battle would go on. "All the means at our disposal are being employed," he said. "It is the aim of the German command to inflict upon the enemy, during his advance, losses as high as possible."

Frankly declaring the Germans needed more time to develop troop deployments and establish new positions, the commentator said: "The race for time is the most important factor at present as the Allies are considerably pressed. The German command endeavors to delay a decision until the moment when the employment of additional German material and tactical means is advisable."

Ralph W. Gardner Promoted To Major

Promotion of Ralph W. Gardner to rank of major has been announced by the war department. Major Gardner is stationed at New Delhi, India, on detached duty from his field artillery unit to serve with the judge advocate general's department there.

Second son of former Governor and Mrs. C. Max Gardner, he was a practicing attorney here prior to his enlistment as a private in January 1942.

WHAT'S DOING

SUNDAY 10:00 a. m. to 8:00 p. m.—U. S. O. center open to soldiers visiting in the city.

3:00 p. m.—County-wide meeting of all officers and teachers of Methodist Sunday schools and churches of county in Central Methodist church.

MONDAY 7:00 p. m.—Chamber of Commerce directors meet at Shelby hotel.

Third Army Fights To Enlarge Foothold

(Editor's Note: Edward D. Ball of the Associated Press, who has covered the U. S. third army since its breakout from the Normandy beachhead last July, was the only correspondent to make the night crossing of the Rhine with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops. For the first 12 hours of the operation he was the only correspondent on the scene. This is his dramatic story):

By EDWARD D. BALL WITH THE U. S. THIRD ARMY EAST OF THE RHINE, March 24.—(P)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's

third army veterans battled with grim determination today to enlarge a bridgehead on the east bank of the Rhine which they firmly established yesterday in one of the boldest strokes of the European war.

The Doughboys, reinforced by a steady flow of men and supplies, maintained pressure on German troops which the amazing coup had caught completely by surprise. The astounded Nazis failed to fire even one burst as the initial waves stormed across the Rhine.

It was two hours after the crossing that the enemy fired his first heavy artillery salvo. American artillery replied with a thunderous barrage that outranked the Nazis a hundred to one.

The Germans were shelling, bombing and strafing the crossing site. But Patton's lightning army already had driven a spearhead into Hitler's inner fortress.

Coordinated with massive Russian attacks in the east, Gen. Eisenhower had unleashed upwards of 1,250,000 combat troops in eight or nine armies in a climactic onslaught to bring Germany to her knees within weeks. His 82 identified divisions, 22 of them armored, were equipped as no armies before them ever were.

The Ruhr was caught in a vise between Field Marshal Montgomery's 21st Army group and the American First Army, swiftly expanding its Remagen bridgehead less than a dozen miles south of the great industrial basin.

Farther south, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army secured its bridgehead on the east bank of the Rhine.

U. S. Ninth Army and British-Canadian troops crossed the lower Rhine in navy-manned assault and landing craft in the darkness of pre-dawn, protected by an earth-shaking artillery barrage and the bombing and strafing of thousands of planes.

Montgomery announced the German commander at Wesel, at the northwest corner of the Ruhr, was captured. Maj. Gen. Deutsch, commanding flak batteries in the area, was killed.

The first identified bridgeheads were at Res, across from Xanten. Troops captured Bislich on the east side of the barrier river.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 parachute troops of Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton's Allied First Airborne Army floated to earth behind German lines.

This was the third and perhaps decisive crossing of the Rhine. All arms of the Allies participated.

Winston Churchill, at Montgomery's headquarters when the offensive was launched, declared: "Once the river line is pierced and the crust of German resistance is broken, decisive victory in Europe will be near."

Montgomery told his troops: "The enemy has been driven into a corner and he cannot escape. The complete and decisive defeat of the Germans is certain."

The Rhine was crossed with amazing ease in at least seven places. By noon, some bridgeheads had been driven nearly two miles inland into the heartland of Germany, leading to the north door of Europe over ideal tank country. Significantly, one of the first British units across was a tank regiment.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's U. S. Ninth army crossed the stream in growing force, along with British, Scottish Canadian and Welsh troops.

Wesel, an industrial railroad of the Ruhr basin and a city of 25,000, is 32 miles northwest of Duesseldorf. Rees, a town of 4,500 surrounded still by remains of its ancient walls, is 11 miles down river to the northwest. Captured Bislich is a half mile east of the river and nearly midway between Wesel and Rees and opposite Xanten.

The tremendous artillery barrage preceding the assault and air landings across the Rhine made "opposition relatively light," Montgomery's headquarters said, "some hundred of prisoners were taken."

"Enemy forward positions were not strongly held and more powerful forces and more mobile reserves have yet to be met."

The Germans were fighting in old style trenches, well east of the ruins of the conquered Siegfried line.

Before this third Rhine crossing was the north German plain, as

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Leaders Think Nazi Army Will Disintegrate

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(P)—The German army is expected by top Washington officials to begin disintegrating soon.

This is the basis for a widely held belief that the European war will be won in the next few weeks except for large scale mopping up operations.

There is hope but no real expectation that Germany will surrender. Despite multiplying peace-feeler reports, it is possible to state authoritatively that none of the approaches thus far made is regarded here as coming from any person capable of surrendering Germany.

Under the unprecedented Allied military pressure of the war's final

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By dawn the first waves of Doughboys had pushed inland. A couple of Messerschmitt 262 jet-propelled planes that poked inquisitive noses over the bridgehead were promptly knocked down.

Assault craft, including amphibious ducks, were plying back and forth across the calm water with men and supplies. The greatest over-the-water assault since Normandy planned and rehearsed for months, had gone off far smoother than anyone could have hoped.

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