

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy in west, partly cloudy in east portion, continued warm, rain showers and thunderstorms in west portion tonight beginning in extreme west today.

The Shelby Daily Star

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894

TELEPHONES 1100

State Theatre Today - Charles LAUGHTON Ella RAINES "THE SUSPECT"

VOL. XLIII-73 ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS SHELBY, N. C. MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1945 TELEMAT PICTURES SINGLE COPIES-5c

FRANKFURT ENTERED BY YANKS

Japs Report 'Attempted' U. S. Landings In Okinawa Islands Group

FOURTH RED OFFENSIVE IS LAUNCHED

Moscow Says Enemy Shifting Divisions From Italy, West Front TOWARD VIENNA

LONDON, March 26.—(P)—A fourth Russian offensive has been launched toward Germany's southern mountain area, Berlin announced today, and Moscow dispatches said the enemy had shifted divisions from Italy and the sagging western front to defend Vienna against a not distant attack.

Two Russian armies already had overrun four-fifths of Hungary below the Danube and their spearhead was within 36 miles of the Austrian border and 77 miles south-east of Vienna.

Berlin broadcasts said a new assault had been sprung north of the Danube in Slovakia, while Marshal Ivan Konev's First Ukrainian army group continued to grind through the Moravian mountains north of Vienna.

The newest attack, described in Berlin as an "all-out offensive" was started on the lower reaches of the Hron river in Slovakia at 4 a. m. yesterday, a German broadcast said, and a bridgehead over the Hron was gained at Leva, 50 miles northwest of Budapest and 37 miles northeast of Komaron, the Danube river key to Bratislava.

Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army linked up with the Second Ukrainian army under Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky in drive that swept along a 90-mile front through Hungary with gains of up to 16 miles.

See FOURTH Page 2

PLANES WRECK FORMOSA PLANT

Hydroelectric Plant Damaged In U. S. Bombing Raid Friday

By JAMES HUTCHESON MANILA, March 26.—(P)—Philippine-based American bombers wrecked the big Jitsugetsu hydroelectric plant on Formosa Friday in their continued pounding of the southern bastion protecting the Ryukyu Islands "bridge" to Japan, headquarters reported today.

The new blow by more than 50 Liberators and Lightning fighters of Maj. Gen. Ennis C. Whitehead's Fifth air force was disclosed as Tokyo reports said the Ryukyus were being invaded by Americans.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Monday and Sunday communiques, in addition to announcing the crippling of the power plant, reported other damage to Formosa installations.

UNITS SHIFTED A shift of units of the famous First (dismounted) cavalry division from central to southern Luzon was disclosed for the first time. The Monday communique said they were initiating a drive along the main highway south of Santo Tomas in Batangas province.

Doughboys of the 25th and 32nd divisions, fighting for important Balet Pass of northern Luzon, bloodily repulsed six Japanese counterattacks.



DANIELS TO SUCCEED EARLY

Takes Over As Presidential Press Relations Secretary Today

WASHINGTON, March 26.—(P)—Steve Early bowed out today as presidential press relations secretary and Jonathan Daniels took over the spot he had been holding on a temporary basis.

Early, for a time, will serve as Mr. Roosevelt's appointment secretary, replacing the late Maj. Gen. Edwin M. Watson. By June 1 he will be free to accept an offer of private employment.

To date, Early told reporters, he has not accepted an offer, and am not obligated to anyone.

Early was busy removing the 12-year accumulation of papers from the desk which Daniels will occupy. He said it was a somewhat pleasant but dirty job.

Daniels said he and his assistant, Eben Ayers, "hoped very much to be able to do something approaching the job Steve has done, and I am as anxious to get into this hot seat as Steve is to leave it."

Early just returned from a mission to Europe on which he surveyed public relations for the Army. Daniels, a North Carolina newspaperman and author, is the son of Joseph Daniels, secretary of the Navy in the First World War. Ayers went to the White House from the office of Inter-American Affairs.

INQUEST INTO EPES DEATH SET FOR WEDNESDAY

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 26.—(P)—An inquest into the death of Mrs. Mary Lee Epes, whose husband, Lt. S. C. Epes, has been held on a murder warrant since Feb. 15, has been set for Wednesday afternoon.

A chemical analysis of Mrs. Epes' stomach was made recently at Ft. McPherson, Ga., and a report is expected to be presented at the inquest.

At the time of his arrest officers quoted Lt. Epes, member of a prominent Richmond, Va., family, as saying his wife died from an overdose of sedative and he had become "panicky" and buried her body in a fox hole previously dug by soldiers on maneuvers.

Epes was lodged in the state penitentiary for treatment of razor wounds, but was later removed to the county jail.

Senators Will Investigate Food Situation In U. S.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—(P)—Senator Shipstead (R-Minn.) said his information was that butter was unrationed in Canada.

IN RYUKYUS, 325 MILES BELOW KYUSHU

Aerial Bombardment Of Islands Preceded Reported Invasion ON SMALL ISLES

GUAM, March 26.—(P)—American troops, supported by intensive bombardment from a large carrier-battle-ship task force, are "attempting" landings on the Okinawa group in the Ryukyu chain, only 325 miles south of Kyushu in the Japanese homeland, Domei news agency reported without confirmation today.

Aerial bombardment of several of the Ryukyu islands, including Okinawa itself, and of air bases in all of the southern Japanese home islands of Kyushu, Shikoku and Honshu, preceded the reported landing.

Tokyo said Okinawa itself was bombed three times Saturday by U. S. battleships—presumably some of the biggest, newest 16-inch battlewagons in Adm. Raymond A. Spruance's Fifth fleet. Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz has announced only that Minami Daito, 250 miles east of Okinawa, was shelled.

The enemy broadcast, made in English and recorded by the federal communications commission, reported the landings were attempted on Toka Shima and Aka Jima, small islands west of the southwestern tip of Okinawa.

Okinawa, most important in the Ryukyu chain and an ideal base for strikes at either Japan or the China coast, probably would be the chief objective in any amphibious operation in the central Ryukyus.

Okinawa has several airfields and good harbors suitable for anchorage of large warships.

Tokyo said a powerful U. S. task force of "15 standard and converted carriers, 11 battleships, 10 cruisers, 32 destroyers as well as innumerable auxiliary vessels" was lying southwest of Inawa to support and protect the landing troops.

Capture of Okinawa would give the United States control of the east China sea and would provide airfields to strike at the Japanese homeland, Formosa and China with heavy bombers by even the smallest U. S. bombers and bomb-carrying fighter planes.

Lloyd George's Condition Critical

LONDON, March 26.—(P)—The condition of David Lloyd George, who has been ill for some weeks at his home in north Wales, is "becoming critical," a bulletin from his bedside said today.

"The physical weakness of Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor has increased considerably during the last 24 hours and his condition is now becoming critical," the bulletin declared.



GERMANS CAPTURED IN RHINE CROSSING — German soldiers taken prisoner lie on a Rhine river embankment after being put out of action as the U. S. Ninth Army established a bridgehead on the east bank in the mighty four-army crossing March 24.

DEATH CLAIMS GEN. RUPERTUS

Led First Marine Division In South Pacific Battle Zone

WASHINGTON, March 26.—(P)—Major General William H. Rupertus, 55, commandant of the U. S. Marine corps schools at Quantico, Va., who led the first Marine division in the South Pacific, died here last night.

Death was due to a heart attack while he and his wife and five-year old son were visiting Col. R. C. Kilmartin, commanding officer of the Marine Barracks at the Navy Yard.

His last assignment in the Pacific war theater was commander of the Marines in the invasion of Peleliu in the Palau Islands.

Since 1913, General Rupertus had served in the Marine Corps since 1913. When he was commissioned a second lieutenant, advanced to the rank of brigadier general when the invasion of the Solomon Islands began in August, 1942, he personally led the Marines who captured Tulaga, Gavutu and Tnambogo islands in that group after bitter fighting.

When Lt. Gen. A. Vandegrift was recalled from the south Pacific to become commandant of the

Japan's People's Army To Run From Ages 14 to 60

By the Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO, March 26.—(P)—Japan's vast "people's volunteer army" being mobilized to meet the critical war situation will include "graduates of the elementary schools of the national school who are over 14 years of age, men below 60, and women younger than 45," Tokyo radio said today.

Patrolling By Nazis In Italy More Aggressive

ROME, March 26.—(P)—German patrolling became more aggressive along the Fifth army front in Italy today and there were a number of sharp clashes, particularly in the area southwest of Bologna.

An American patrol killed 11 Nazis in one encounter in that sector. The Germans attempted to ambush another patrol there but the Americans discovered the ruse and killed three of the enemy without loss.

The first all-Jewish brigade has been active in patrolling along the Eighth army front farther east, it was disclosed yesterday. The brigade is led by Brig. Gen. Frank Benjamin, a Jew in the regular British army. Many of the brigade's members previously had been held in Nazi concentration camps. Their family origins cover 37 different countries.

Communist Tung Pi-Wu Is Security Delegate

CHUNGKING, March 26.—(P)—The Chinese Communist leader Tung Pi-Wu was disclosed today as one of the 10 Chinese delegates to the world security conference at San Francisco, but doubt was expressed whether the Communists would be satisfied with only one representative. Tung is the former representative of the Chinese Communists in Chungking.

B-29's Wreck War Industry Area In Nagoya

TWENTY-FIRST BOMBER COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Monday, March 26.—(P)—Five of Japan's big war industry plants in Nagoya were left wrecked by Sunday's B-29 demolition raid, bomber command headquarters announced today.

Headquarters also disclosed that "first adequate photo coverage" of the March 12 and 19 mass incendiary raids of the big Marianas-based bombers showed five square miles of the heart of the city in ruins.

The plants destroyed or damaged were the Nagoya arsenal, Mitsubishi aircraft engine plant, Asahi pottery works, Kurma textile plant, and Mitsubishi electrical company, all producing articles of war.

The Aichi aircraft engine plant and the Nagoya arsenal, as well as barracks and other buildings in the vicinity of the supposedly empty Nagoya castle, were shown to have been damaged in the March 12 and 19 raids.

Reconnaissance reports showed that the fire-swept section represented 11.6 per cent of the total city area.

Some Saipan-based bomber crews in Sunday's demolition raid said clouds broke over Nagoya to give them a good view of the target.

When Lt. Gen. A. Vandegrift was recalled from the south Pacific to become commandant of the

WHAT'S DOING

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

TUESDAY 7:00 p.m.—Regular meeting of Lions club at Hotel C. 7:30 p.m.—C. A. P.—members meet at armory.

7:30 p.m.—Called meeting of Shelby Chapter 110 Order of Eastern Star at Masonic Temple.

BOMBERS BLAST WAR TARGETS

Oil Plants And Gun Factory Get Bomb Loads; Berlin Attacked

By HENRY B. JAMESON LONDON, March 26.—(P)—Two oil plants, a gun factory and an armored car works in southeastern Germany were attacked today by 300 escorted American bombers as the airmen switched back to strategic targets after a week-long bombing prelude for the Rhine offensive.

The small force of heavy bombers split into two task forces over Leipzig. One went for a synthetic oil plant and natural oil refinery at Seitz, 20 miles south of Leipzig. One went for the synthetic Plauen, 10 miles from the Czechoslovak border, and blasted the twin war factories.

The attack was the 41st heavy bomber assault on Germany in 42 days and was part of another two-way blow coordinated with the U. S. 15th air force in Italy. Bombers from Italy hammered communications in Austria, the German radio reported.

ATTACK BERLIN The Germans also indicated that Russian bombers attacked Berlin. The American bombers yesterday launched what may be one of their toughest assignments—hunting out and blasting German underground factories and warehouses.

Last night, Mosquitos attacked Berlin for the 24th consecutive night and American night-prowling planes joined in hammering German targets. The night attacks followed yesterday's pulverizing of German strongpoints and reinforcement centers in front of Field Marshal Montgomery's drive into

Rhine Offensive Hardest Blow Yet To Nazi Morale

LONDON, March 26.—(P)—Gen. Eisenhower's great Rhine offensive has plunged the German people into the deepest gloom, dispatches from neutral European capitals said today, but there seemed general agreement that it still is too early to look for a complete collapse of the German home front.

Advices from Bern said the comparative ease with which the Allied armies swept across the Rhine had started the greatest wave of defeatism and despair yet recorded in Germany.

These dispatches emphasized however, that even though the Ger-

All Allied Units East Of Rhine Plunging Ahead

PARIS, March 26.—(P)—The Third Army besieged Frankfurt on the Main today and sent its tanks crashing across the Main at Aschaffenburg into the plains of central Germany, a bare 250 miles from Russian lines.

One unconfirmed report said Frankfurt had been entered. The last "dimmed out" battle accounts hours before had placed Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's mighty shock troops six miles away. The city's radio went dead last night.

The Fourth Armored division again had burst loose 40 miles beyond the Rhine in a sweep so swift that the Germans were caught without time to blow the Aschaffenburg bridge, 22 miles southeast of Frankfurt. The "breakthrough" division's coup was so complete that Frankfurt was hopelessly outflanked. Frankfurt, a city of 547,000, is the ninth largest in Germany and one of the Reich's greatest railroad centers.

The First Army also broke from its original Rhine bridgehead at Remagen and pushed 19 miles east of the shattered river line.

The U. S. Ninth and British Second Armies in and north of the Ruhr were ten miles past the river on a solid 31-mile front and battle dispatches said a general breakout there was expected momentarily.

"The decisive fighting of the whole war now is unequivocally under way in the west," a German military spokesman said by radio from Berlin, 235 miles from vanguards of Patton's army.

The Ninth army fought in the northeast suburbs of Duisburg, vast inland port of 431,000, and within ten miles of rubble-piled Essen, where the sprawling Krupp Works have been rebuilt seven times after bombers' calls.

The Germans reported fighting outside the Baden capital of Karlsruhe, suggesting yet another crossing by the Seventh army, which had cleared the Palatinate and routed the last Germans west of the Rhine between Switzerland and Holland.

The whole western front was becoming fluid as Gen. Eisenhower's offensive turned into a powerful floodtide. The humblest infantryman sensed complete victory over Germany, because the Russians also were pushing in from the east in massive power.

136 MILES IN With troops already 136 miles deep in the heart of Germany and the Rhine crossed at seven places, the Third army threw yet another bridgehead across the upper Rhine at an undisclosed place where the

MYITTHA IN INDIA TAKEN

British Troops Pushing Northward Above Kume In Burma

CALCUTTA, March 26.—(P)—British 20th division armored troops, pushing 10 miles northward along a railway from Kume, have captured Myittha, an important rail and road junction in central Burma.

Front line reports said today the appearance of British armor took the Japanese by surprise and some 500 of the enemy were killed.

South of Kume in the vicinity of Meiktila Japanese troops were suffering heavy casualties in a futile effort to check the flow of supplies to Allied forces in the area. The British 14th army is now killing more than 500 Japanese daily. Since January, 16,500 enemy dead have been counted.

Chinese forces pushing west from Lashio have linked up with other Chinese troops moving eastward from Hsinmaw, clearing the Lashio-Hispaw section of Meiktila road.

Northwest of Meiktila in the Taungtha-Myangam area the Japanese were offering bitter resistance.

Marshal Von Model Wounded By Bomb

LONDON, March 26.—(P)—A German underground report today said Field Marshal Walter von Model, commander of the northern group of armies on the western front, had been wounded by a bomb.

The report said von Model's injury necessitated the quick switch of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring from Italy to take charge of the western front when von Rundstedt was removed.

Advertisement for Easter Seals featuring a child and the text 'MORE DAYS BEFORE EASTER' and 'EASTERN SEALS help Crippled Children'.

Wehrmacht Officers Replaced By SS

LONDON, March 26.—(P)—Moscow radio today broadcast a statement by the Free German committee there declaring "the entire officer corps of the Wehrmacht has been eliminated and replaced by Himmler's 'SS' through 'intrigues, dismissals, wholesale arrests, suicides and war casualties."