



WEATHER
Considerable cloudiness today and tonight with a few widely scattered showers in west today and east tonight. Cooler tonight. Sunday partly cloudy and cooler.

The Shelby Daily Star

- State Theatre Today -
CHARLES KORVIN
ELLA RAINES
"Enter Arsene Lupin"

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894 TELEPHONES 1100
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YANKS 175 MILES FROM BERLIN



PATTON EXPLAINS TO EISENHOWER—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower (left) meets three of his top-ranking commanders somewhere in Germany, and laughs good naturedly as one of them, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., waves his hand above his head and explains a point. Watching with obvious amusement are Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley (second from right), 12th Army Group commander, and Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges (right) of First Gp., U. S. First Army commander. The impromptu conference took place March 25.

Shelby To Have New Fertilizer Plant

Southern Cotton Oil company Plans For Construction Of Modern Plant

Development of one of the most modern fertilizer plants in the south will be started by the Southern Cotton Oil company as soon as priorities can be obtained. The new plant will be located at the junction of the Seaboard and Southern railroads in the northwestern part of the city. R. C. Barnett, general manager of the company's local branch said today in announcing plans for the new development.

REICH TARGETS HIT FROM AIR

Brandenburg, Important Rail Junction, Oil Plants Damaged

LONDON, March 31.—(AP)—More than 1,300 Flying Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by 850 fighters, attacked railway and industrial targets today in Brunswick and Brandenburg, freight yards at Halle, and a synthetic oil plant at Zeitz.

Brandenburg, 25 miles southwest of Berlin, is now serving as the key rail junction for the bulk of military freight the Germans are no longer able to route through the capital.

Declaring today's targets also included Bremen and Hamburg, the German radio flashed repeated air raid warnings as the U. S. Eighth Air Force heavies swept over the Reich.

4,000 TONS BOMBS

The largest fleet of Fortresses and Liberators dispatched this year by the Eighth Air Force yesterday showered 4,000 tons of bombs on U-boat yards in the Ports of Bremen.

Wednesday Closing Starting Next Week

Wednesday afternoon closing of these stores and offices which desire to observe that summer-time merchandising schedule will start with next week, the Merchants division of the Chamber of Commerce decided at their annual meeting last night.

The Wednesday closings will continue through August.

AIRMEN DAMAGE 46 JAP SHIPS, 87 AIRPLANES

U. S. Carrier Plane Attacks On Okinawa Area Continued

18 DEFINITELY SUNK

GUAM, March 31.—(AP)—American carrier planes sank or damaged 46 Japanese ships and 87 airplanes Thursday and Friday, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today as warships continued heavily bombarding Okinawa in the center of the Ryukyu chain which Tokyo said was threatened by imminent invasion.

Nimitz announced that 18 enemy ships were definitely sunk, 13 probably sunk and 15 damaged in strikes ranging over much of the 700 mile long Ryukyu island chain and Kyushu island, southernmost of the home islands of Japan.

Kyushu and Honshu were also hit today by substantial formations of Superfortresses flying out of the Marianas islands.

American carrier planes and anti-aircraft gunners on shipboard shot down 29 Japanese aircraft. Yank pilots also destroyed 16 Japanese planes on the ground and damaged at least 42 others.

Twelve American planes were shot down and six pilots lost.

The fleet admiral's announcement came as the Japanese Domei news agency was reported to have said:

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KYAUKSE TAKEN BY BRITISH

Seizure Traps Japanese Forces Hemmed In Against Irrawaddy

CALCUTTA, March 31.—(AP)—British 14th Army troops driving south in Central Burma have captured Kyaukse and established contact with forces heading north from the Meiktila area, trapping Japanese forces hemmed in between that area and allied positions along the Irrawaddy river to the west.

The Japanese were compressed into an ever-narrowing pocket. Strong enemy rearguard units battled savagely southeast of Kyaukse to cover the main body's withdrawal from the city, which is 24 miles south of Mandalay on the main trunk road and railway, the southeast Asia command communique announced.

The linkup of the two British forces was established at a point ten miles northeast of Meiktila. The town of Mahlaing, 20 miles northwest of Meiktila, was entered early yesterday. Several more enemy gun positions in the Meiktila area were overrun.

Enemy positions in the hills overlooking the road from Myingyang to Meiktila at Taungtha, 12 miles southeast of Myingyang, have been cleared. The advance here forged the western jaw of the trap. The British captured Natogyi, 18 miles east of Myingyang on the road to the main north-south highway.

Yanks Land On Last Major Jap-Held Philippines Isle

By FRED HAMPSON
MANILA, March 31.—(AP)—Major Gen. Rapp Brush's 40th division of the Eighth army landed Thursday against light opposition on Negros, last remaining major Philippine island under Japanese control, seized an airstrip and menaced the insular capital, Bacolod.

Other Yanks had to fight hard, Gen. Douglas MacArthur disclosed today, to take tiny Caballo Island, which is within rifle range of famed Corregidor on Manila Bay.

With the invasion of Negros, MacArthur asserted the enemy in the Visayan Island group "seems bewildered and his defense is rapidly collapsing." Negros is a part of the Visayas. Masbate and Bohol are the only remaining large islands of the group that have not been invaded by U. S. forces.

Brush's Doughboys crossed Guimaras straight eastward from Guimaras island, between American-controlled Panay and Negros, and went ashore near the mouth of the Bago river. One column pushed northward along the coast

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Moscow Demands Polish Provisional Government Be Represented At Meet

LONDON, March 31.—(AP)—Moscow demanded today that the Warsaw Polish Provisional Government be represented at the San Francisco world security conference and highly authoritative London sources said Russia had been informed that Britain could not accede to such a request.

These London sources declared without equivocation that the British position was that Poland could obtain representation only by complying with the Crimean conference agreement that the Polish provisional government be expanded to include wider representation.

Prospect of such action before the April 25 conference opening date appeared slim.

The Russian demand, broadcast by the Moscow radio, said failure of the United States and Britain to recognize the Warsaw group was no excuse for withholding an invitation, and that an "early reply" was expected to the Soviet request.

Bernard M. Baruch, special representative of President Roosevelt, and U. S. Ambassador John G. Winant conferred today with Prime Minister Churchill.

Although the nature of their discussions remained unannounced, it appeared inevitable the question would be raised concerning Russia's demand on Polish representation.

Another subject probably on the agenda was the control and economic future of Germany.

For the third successive day, there was an abnormal flow of government communications between Washington and London, most of them from Washington.

A statement by the Russian news agency Tass said that if reorganization of the Polish government was not effected or completed in the nearest future, "representatives of the provisional government in Warsaw should be invited to the San Francisco conference." Both the Warsaw regime and the Polish government in exile here have bid for seats at San Francisco.

The broadcast made no reference to the economic future of Germany.

See MOSCOW Page 2

C Of C Hears Hoey, Honors Wilkins

Senator Calls For Courageous Meeting Of Problems Of Reconversion

The greatest membership Shelby's Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association has ever known assembled in annual meeting Friday night to pay tribute to John S. Wilkins, retiring farm agent, and hear Senator Clyde R. Hoey warn of the dangers ahead, unless the nation meets the challenge of reconversion and guaranteeing peace.

Mr. Wilkins, who next week takes up new duties in directing the development of Turkish tobacco growing in western North Carolina, was warmly praised for his effective contribution to the agricultural advancement of Cleveland county during his 10 years as county agent; O. M. Mull, who made the citation, termed him head of the biggest business and the most successful business—one in which 25,000 engaged now are producing more than 40,000 products 10 years ago—as he presented him a scroll expressing appreciation of the community for his service and voicing the affection of those he leaves as he goes to new work.

WILKINS PRAISEFUL

Responding, Mr. Wilkins praised the spirit and accomplishment of Cleveland's agricultural community and said there could be no happier place or people with which to work.

A number of guests joined the membership in the occasion, among those presented by Mayor Harry Woodson being James E. Gaither and Miss Helen Anderson, of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce, Glee A. Bridges of

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Star Gives Vets Free Advertising

Free classified advertising for any honorably discharged service man or woman seeking employment here will be given by The Shelby Daily Star, it was announced today by the management.

Recognizing the vital necessity for furthering the interests of returning veterans of this war, the new policy will allow ex-service personnel to publish classified advertisements for jobs without cost to them.

Miss Barbara Elam, manager of the classified department, or any member of the organization will gladly assist any veteran in such.



PVT. HAL BUFF REPORTED DEAD

Son Of Mr. And Mrs. Bryan C. Buff Killed On Iwo Jima

Pvt. Hal V. Buff, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan C. Buff of Lawndale, died March 19 at Iwo Jima Volcano Island of wounds received in action, according to a telegram received today by his parents from the war department.

Pvt. Buff entered the Marines June 16, 1944 and received his training at Parris Island and Camp Lejeune before going overseas in November, 1944. He had been serving in the South Pacific for the past 15 months. Prior to entering service Pvt. Buff was employed by the Cleveland Mill and Power Company in Lawndale.

Surviving Pvt. Buff are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Buff and two brothers, Edward and Cecil Buff of Lawndale.

Germans Cling To Bologna Defenses

ROME, March 31.—(AP)—German forces clung stubbornly to their defense arc below Bologna yesterday in the face of numerous Fifth army patrol snafus. Allied headquarters announced today.

On the Eighth army front, most of the activity was along the Senio river where there were a number of grenade duels. On one occasion Eighth army guns opened up on enemy movements near the Baginacavallo-Lugo railway. There were a number of stiff patrol clashes in the mountains south of Highway 9.

French First Army Crosses Rhine

PARIS, March 31.—(AP)—The French First army crossed the Rhine today on a 10-mile front, a French military communique announced.

The operation is progressing, the bulletin added. It did not disclose the location of the crossing.

(A Brussels broadcast yesterday, apparently premature or transmitted to confuse the enemy, said the French First army had occupied Baden, 10 miles east of the Rhine and 16 miles southwest of Karlsruhe.)

Evidence Of Anti-Trust Violations Are Found

Affidavit tending to show that the government has found evidence of violation of the anti-trust laws in the operation of the Asheville Lumber company, the Richmond Mica companies and other mica mining and processing companies was filed this morning with Judge E. Yates Webb by Otto L. Englehardt, special assistant to the attorney general of the United States.

On this showing Judge Webb granted the government the right to inspect further documents and records for operations prior to the four years operations, right to examine which he had previously granted.

The mica companies represented by J. H. Lewin, of Washington, D. C. Kester Walton and George Shuford, of Asheville, sought to compel the government to show how the defendant companies had violated the anti-trust law. Judge Webb indicated however, that a simple affidavit by government attorneys saying that they had examined the records for the four years prior to 1945 and that they had found evidence of infractions of the laws together with an affidavit tending to show that the

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Armored Columns Closing Trap On 40,000 Germans

PARIS, March 31.—(AP)—U. S. armor punched to within 175 miles of Berlin at two points today in the vanguard of an avalanche of 3,000 allied tanks surging swiftly through Germany and closing a potential trap on up to 40,000 Nazis in the wrecked Ruhr.

Security silence largely masked the extent of the gains of five Allied armies, but a front dispatch disclosed the 6th Armored Division of the U. S. Third Army had battered to within 10 miles of industrial Kassel (pop. 220,000), 165 miles from the Reich capital. The fall of Kassel today was considered likely. The Sixth Armored division had sped 45 miles since yesterday.

Thirty miles farther southeast, the U. S. 4th Armored "breakthrough" division drove to a point four miles south-east of Herzfelds, also spearing to within 175 miles of Berlin.

U. S. Fifth Army tanks had dashed northward through Paderborn, and were nearing a junction with American Ninth Army tanks which ran on through Friday night by moonlight in an obstacle race over wrecked bridges and past roadblocks.

The First and Ninth rapidly were closing a gap, now apparently less than 50 miles wide, to bottle up from 30,000 to 40,000 Germans still fighting in the ruined cities and mining areas of the Ruhr, Germany's last and greatest arsenal.

On the Ninth army's flank the British Second Army, paced by three armored divisions, was sweeping deeper across the north German plain, and was 50 miles beyond the Rhine.

With such a depth beyond the Rhine, British armor might be in or near Muenster, or midway between Muenster and Hamm.

The German radio said that British Second army troops have crossed the Dortmund-Emms Canal, a 170-mile waterway which connects Dortmund and the industrial Ruhr with the river Ems, and had established a bridgehead on the east bank.

Presumably such a crossing would be in the area where the British are driving from Dülmen toward Muenster. The RAF mined the canal last August and on Nov. 21 placed hits upon its banks which drained it for a distance of 16 miles.

The U. S. Ninth army's breakthrough along the northern rim of the Ruhr valley progressed

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RUSSIANS STEP UP ASSAULTS

LONDON, March 31.—(AP)—Russian troops moving into Austria 52 miles south of Vienna rammed into reinforced German lines today and farther northeast stepped up an assault toward the Bratislava gate which already had carried to within 44 miles of the Austrian capital.

Another Soviet offensive menaced Vienna from the northeast, rolling toward the Moravian Gap. The German high command declared this push in the corner of German Upper Silesia had broken the Ratibor and Katscher, only a few miles from the Czechoslovak capital.

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WHAT'S DOING

SUNDAY
6:50 a.m.—Easter service at LaFayette Street Methodist church.
7:30 a.m.—Sunrise Easter service at Bethel Baptist church.
9:30 a.m.—Special Easter service at Episcopal church of the Redeemer.
11:00 a.m.—Special Easter services at other Protestant churches in the city.
8:00 p.m.—Opening service in Revival meeting to be held next week at First Baptist church.

MONDAY
10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.—U.S.O. center open to service folk visiting in the city.
7:30 p.m.—City Council meet at council chamber at city hall.
7:30 p.m.—Boy Scout court of honor at the courthouse.

STORMS HIT DEEP SOUTH

By the Associated Press
Considerable property damage but only one slight injury were reported today in the wake of heavy winds and rainstorms which swept parts of Louisiana and Mississippi yesterday.

Houses were destroyed or damaged, communications and power lines were disrupted and trees were uprooted by the winds which reached a reported velocity of 80 miles per hour in some communities.

Several cities, including Jackson, Miss., were without electricity and cut off from communications for several hours because of felled wires.

HEAVY RAINFALL

In New Orleans the rainfall was measured at 1.05 inches in one hour and several streets were flooded because of the strain on drainage facilities.

In western Louisiana heavy rains along the Red River basin presented a grave threat. A 24-hour down-pour ending Friday reached a total of 10.96 inches at Whitecliffs, Ark. on the Little River and weather bureau predictions were that the river would crest at 32 feet compared with a flood stage of 15 feet.

In Shreveport, La., Caddo Parish (county) levee crews were prepared for a Red River stage of 32.5, two feet over the early March level when considerable damage was done at Dixie Bend by bank cavens. Flood stage at Shreveport is 39 feet.

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