

WEATHER

Considerable cloudiness and warm with showers and thundershowers in west portion. Partly cloudy and mild tonight and Tuesday preceded by few showers in extreme east.

The Shelby Daily Star

- State Theatre Today - "Here Come The Co-eds" Bud ABBOTT Lou COSTELLO Bud Abbott - Lou Costello

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TELEMAT PICTURES

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NAZIS CAUGHT IN RUHR ATTACK

YANKS FIND GOING SURPRISINGLY EASY ON OKINAWA

Push Eastward Toward Bay Fleet Anchorage; New Landings Reported

GUAM, April 2.—(AP)—Thousands of U. S. Tenth Army infantrymen and marines invaded strategic Okinawa—325 miles from Japan proper—Easter morning at little cost and found the going still surprisingly easy as they pushed eastward today toward the important Nakagusuku Bay fleet anchorage.

The Yanks went ashore on the west coast at 8:30 A. M. yesterday (6:30 P. M. Saturday, eastern war time), quickly captured two airfields and a dozen virtually deserted villages and towns. By nightfall they had carved out a beachhead three miles deep at points on an isthmus eight miles wide, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

Front reports said a third airstrip—unidentified—also was seized.

The Yank invaders walked inland from the beaches 200 yards or more without once having to seek shelter.

Tough fighting is expected, however, as the Japanese reorganize for defense. The enemy, surprised by invasion of Okinawa's western shore near Katena after a 10-day bombing and bombardment of his eastern shore defenses, was expected to fight fanatically from prepared positions, probably in the low hills in the center of the island. Estimates of Japanese strength on Okinawa range from 60,000 to 100,000 troops.

"Final, decisive victory is assured," Nimitz declared as he personally read his Sunday communique announcing the invasion. But he warned that Japan itself still must be conquered.

Capture of Okinawa will afford airfields for intensified aerial neutralization of the empire's home airfields and continued devastation of its war vital industrial centers.

"It is difficult to over-emphasize the importance of this operation," asserted Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, jr., commander of the new 10th army. His command comprises the 24th army corps and the Marine Third Amphibious Corps, made up of probably six divisions—all veterans of Pacific fighting.

Buckner watched the landings from the flagship of Vice Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner, commander of the Amphibious operation. "From the standpoint of our offensive, this is the most valuable island yet invaded," he told Associated Press Correspondent Vern Haugland.

Okinawa is only 325 air miles southwest of Kyushu, southernmost of the Japanese home islands, 365 northeast of Formosa, 750 from Luzon and 400 from the China coast. Nakagusuku Bay, would afford

See PUSH Page 2

Japanese Dead In Philippines Above 307,000

By FRED HAMPSON MANILA, April 2.—(AP)—American troops, clearing the Japanese out of the Philippines on a dozen fronts, counted 10,971 additional enemy dead in the last five days.

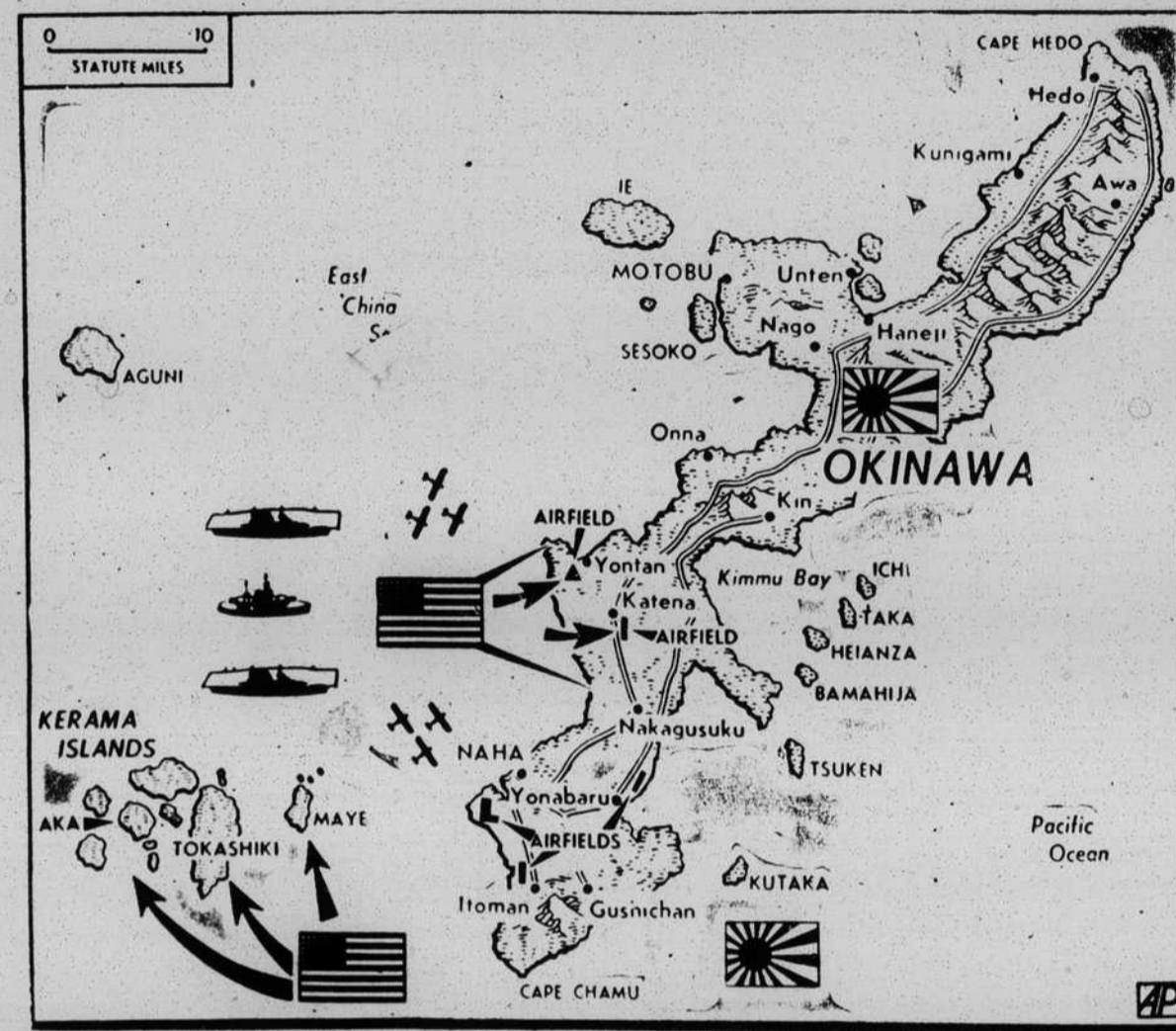
This brought Japanese dead for the entire Philippines campaign to some 307,000—against an announced American toll of dead, wounded and missing of around 30,000.

Sen. Douglas MacArthur's Monday communique, reporting the five-day count, said 185 Japanese were captured. American losses for the period were given as 340 killed, 48 missing and 919 wounded.

American gains on all fronts were announced. Japanese counterattacked elements of the 26th division in stubborn fighting on northern Luzon but were beaten off. The 26th continued mopping up by-passed positions along the Villa Verde trail.

Thirty-third division troops, pushing towards the Philippine

See JAPANESE Page 2



AMERICANS LAND ON OKINAWA ISLAND—Pointers from flag indicate approximate extent of initial U. S. beachhead on Okinawa, Japanese island invaded in what Adm. Chester W. Nimitz described as the largest amphibious operation of the Pacific war. Arrows from flags point to airfields taken on Okinawa and to Kerama Islands, taken by Yanks March 26.

Byrnes Resigns; To Be Succeeded By Vinson

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(AP)—President Roosevelt accepted today the resignation of James F. Byrnes as director of war mobilization and reconversion, and picked Fred M. Vinson to succeed him.

Byrnes will stay on the job until Vinson's nomination is approved by the senate. Then he will break Vinson into his new duties. It was the second change of jobs for Vinson in less than a month. On March 6 he was nominated

SOUTH IS HARD HIT BY STORMS

Floods, tornadoes, tidal waves leave 8 dead, property damage

By The Associated Press Floods, tornadoes and tidal waves left a toll of at least eight dead, hundreds homeless and uncounted property damage in the deep south today.

Week-end deluges, which accompanied the sporadic storms, increased the flood danger along the Mississippi's tributaries where engineers have battled to save levees for weeks.

A three-foot tidal wave from the Gulf of Mexico swept up Atchafalaya river into Horgan City, La., flooding 30 blocks and driving 70 families from their homes.

At Mobile, Ala., high winds and tides capsized a boat in Mobile Bay and a man was drowned. In several waterfront areas residents had to be evacuated from their homes.

THREE KILLED Three persons were killed, three others injured and several homes destroyed by a tornado which hit Caney, La. Another twister de-

See SOUTH Page 2

Victory In Europe Seen 'In Sight' By Byrnes

By STERLING F. GREEN WASHINGTON, April 2.—(AP)—Told officially that victory in Europe "is in sight," Americans had this double promise today from War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes:

1. The midnight curfew, the brown-out and the horse racing ban will be lifted promptly when that victory comes. Gasoline rations may be increased slightly.

2. Otherwise reconversion at home will be slowly-paced; we will not eat as well this year, and price, wage and rationing

See VICTORY Page 3

BEN JENKINS FARM AGENT

Commissioners Pick Native Cleveland For County Post

Ben F. Jenkins, jr., a native of Cleveland county and assistant farm agent in Alamance county, was the unanimous choice this morning of the Cleveland board of commissioners for Cleveland farm agent to succeed John S. Wilkins, who has resigned to enter State college extension service.

The new agent is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Jenkins of the Newhouse community. He attended Polkville high school, Gardner-Webb college for two years and graduated from North Carolina State college in 1937. He worked with the Randolph county farm agent's office for several years.

See BEN JENKINS Page 2

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.

See I.177 Page 2

Jap Documents Indicate Manila Atrocities Ordered By Officials

(Editor's Note: Most of the Manila atrocity stories herein summarized were reported by the Associated Press as they were discovered during the fighting in the city. The following is a summation as compiled by American military units and sworn to by civilians who survived them or by soldiers who discovered them. The complete reports, most of them in affidavit form, were disclosed today.)

By FRED HAMPSON MANILA, April 2.—(AP)—Captured

Japanese documents bearing dates between last Dec. 23 and February 14 strongly suggested today that the wholesale atrocities on civilians in Manila were the result of battle orders issued to the Japanese garrison.

The atrocities were not, the reports indicated, the work of isolated groups of Japanese who took matters into their own hands, although at the time a good many of them so appeared.

REDS BATTLE FOR NEUDORFL IN AUSTRIA

Soviets 4 Miles From Vital Railway Between Vienna, Italy

TOLBUKHIN ADVANCE

MOSCOW, April 2.—(AP)—Russian forces battled for Neudorf, three miles east of the Messerschmitt assembly center if Wiener Neustadt in Austria today.

Other Soviet Columns smashed within 20 miles of Vienna and drove hard against Germans in the Bratislava Gap.

Spearheads of Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army pounded gap fortifications from the south between captured Sopron on the Neusiedler See and Wiener Neusadt, and pushed into the Liecha mountains farther north. The Russians drove within eight miles of Wiener Neustadt, and were only four miles from the vital railway linking Vienna with northern Italy.

East of Bratislava, troops of Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian army were moving down the Karpaty mountains, west of Trnava and within 12 miles of the capital of the puppet state of Slovakia.

Another Russian column fought for the railway junction of Lans-atz, only eight and a half miles due east of Bratislava and five

See REDS Page 2

1,177 YANKS ARE RELEASED

5,000 Allied Prisoners Taken In Bulge Fighting Rescued

NEAR SIEGENHAIN, GERMANY, April 2.—(AP)—Twelve hundred and seventy-seven Americans captured in the Belgian bulge battle last winter were among 5,000 prisoners freed from a barbed-wire enclosure here by the U. S. Sixth Armored division after enduring diabolical mistreatment from their Nazi captors.

The Americans, who came from almost every state of the union, had lost 25 to 40 pounds a man during 3 1/2 months as prisoners on a semi-starvation diet.

Equally mistreated were other nationals found in the enclosures in an open field in this sector, about 14 miles south of Kassel. They included 2,000 British and Dominion troops, 1,000 Russians and 300 of other nationalities.

In addition, the American Armored division also rescued 300 Jewish women who had been brought into the area from Hungary as slave laborers. The women were between the ages of 16 and 35. They told of atrocious mistreatment at the hands of the Germans and said that in some instances sick girls unable to work had been thrown into trucks with corpses, hauled off and cremated.

The Americans' clothes hung on

See I.177 Page 2

110,000 Crack German Troops Said Encircled

WITH U. S. FIRST ARMY, April 2.—(AP)—The Germans launched their first coordinated attack today to break an escape corridor through the Allies' steel ring circling the Ruhr. Hard fighting still was in progress early tonight.

German infantry supported by tanks hit the First Army's Ninth division near Winterburg about halfway between Paderborn and Siegen, trying to smash a lane through Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' lines to the east.

But at last reports the doughboys were holding firm and beating back this desperate attempt of Marshal Kesselring to save some of his troops trapped in the Ruhr.

Tens of thousands of German troops were caught in a steel vise formed by the juncture of the First and Ninth armies, who had cut all major escape routes.

Swift American infantry, following quickly in the wake of the Third Armored division, mounted guard over all possible escape avenues.

PARIS, April 2.—(AP)—The American First and Ninth Armies have trapped 21 divisions of 110,000 first line enemy troops in the Ruhr and the British Second Army, driving swiftly northeast, threatened today to throw a noose about another whole army group in Holland, reducing German strength in the west by two thirds.

The Ninth army has driven 100 miles east of the Rhine, well past the Ruhr and its vast steel and coal works.

The Third army, rambling swiftly and almost at will over central Germany, crashed into Kassel and Fulda and drove within 155 miles of Berlin and 198 of the Russian lines in the east in a mighty campaign to bisect Germany.

The British Second army, wheeling toward the north German ports, plunged to the outskirts of Lengerich, 20 miles northeast of the Westphalian capital of Muenster and 122 from Hamburg. Lengerich is 74 miles from Bremen and 217 from Berlin.

Field Marshal Montgomery lifting the long silence about the 21st army group advance in the Ruhr and on the Westphalian plains late today.

Among towns captured were Rheine and Enschede. Britons were in the outskirts of Gronau. The Zutphen-Enschede canal has been reached.

The entire German army group B commanded by Field Marshal Walther von Model was trapped in the Ruhr. In army group B are the Fifth German Panzer army, last

See I.100,000 Page 2

1945 EASTER HITS NEW PEAK

Easter 1945 was observed in most significant manner throughout the country. Several things contributed to making it the greatest Easter the country, state and nation have ever celebrated.

It is an early spring. Flowers are in full bloom and in great abundance. Trees are budding, leaves are forming and all nature is taking on renewed life from a dormant winter, just as Christ rose from the sealed grave and defied the armed Roman guards that stood watch over the sepulchre where he had lain for three days after the crucifixion.

Churches had special Easter services of music, prayer and sermon. The attendance at Easter services broke all records. The observance of this momentous event in the life of Christ began with sunrise services at many churches and continued throughout the day.

Florists had more orders than they could fill. Merchants report a heavy pre-Easter buying of spring clothing.

Another thing that contributed to the spirit of this Easter occasion and its wide celebration was the good war news from all fronts. People are confident of an early victory in Europe and this gives them hope for a lasting world peace and good-will which the risen Christ lived and died for.

The following is a paragraph

See ATROCITIES Page 3