

WEATHER

Fair and mild in west portion, clearing and slightly cooler in east today, preceded by showers on coast this morning. Tonight, fair and cooler.

The Shelby Daily Star

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894 TELEPHONES 1100

STATE THEATRE TODAY "PRACTICALLY YOURS" - ADDED ATTRACTION - Highlight in the Career of the Late President Franklin D. Roosevelt

VOL. XLIII-93 ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS SHELBY, N. C. WEDNESDAY, APR. 18, 1945 TELEMAT PICTURES SINGLE COPIES-5c

THIRD BISECTS REICH, INVADES CZECHOSLOVAKIA

U. S. Heavy Bombers Batter Traunstein, In Berchtesgaden Sector

GERMANS SAY BATTLE ON EAST FRONT AT CLIMAX

DEFENSE LINES 18 MILES AWAY SAID BREACHED

Third Offensive Begun On 17 Mile Front Along Oder River

REPORT UNCONFIRMED

By Richard Kasishke LONDON, April 18.—(AP)—German broadcasts declared today the battle for the eastern approaches to Berlin had "reached its climax," with Russians breaching defense lines only 18 or 20 miles from the capital, and that the Soviets had launched a third offensive south of Stettin aimed at linking with the Allies on the north German plain.

Front dispatches to Moscow asserted the Russians could see Berlin burning, but did not yet specify that any offensive was underway. Nine Russian armies are smashing toward Berlin, the Germans said, conceding Red army gains through the strong Hedegehog positions in the blazing arc east and northeast of the bomb-shattered city.

The enemy declared Stalin had thrown in a third offensive on a 17-mile Oder river front south of Stettin, intending to slice in between that Baltic port and Berlin, and join the western Allies north and west of Berlin. This drive has assumed great dimensions, the Germans also declared Marshal Ivan Konev's offensive across the Neisse southeast of Berlin on a 33-mile front still was driving westward. Moscow has not confirmed any of the three enemy.

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2,280 ENEMY PLANES BAGGED

Number Represents Toll Of Japanese Planes In Last Month

By AL DOPKING GUAM, April 18.—(AP)—More than 2,280 Japanese planes—a sizeable chunk of the Japanese air force—were destroyed by American and British carrier planes and anti-aircraft gunners in the last month in support of the Okinawa invasion.

This staggering toll was announced by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz today amid increasing indications that Japan's fierce air attacks on the American invasion armada off Okinawa heavily drained the enemy's supply of planes and pilots. The planes were knocked out of enemy air fleets attacking the Americans on and off Okinawa, and also in U. S. and British carrier raids on the Ryukyu and the Japanese main islands. Pilots from Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's fast carrier force shot down the greatest number—1,600. Land-based aircraft, anti-aircraft guns and planes flying from escort carriers accounted for 600. British carrier planes covering the southern flank wiped out 80.

Destruction of the Japanese air force thus averaged 76 planes a day from March 18 through April 17.

This toll does not include planes shot down by Superfortresses or by escorting Mustangs from Iwo Jima. In one recent Tokyo raid, B-29 gunners alone shot down or damaged 136 aircraft and escorting fighters added 37.

Japanese planes hit the Okinawa area heavily again on Monday, striking in 10 waves between 9 and 10:30 a. m. at least 10 of the attackers were demolished in suicidal attempts. Sixty-two were shot down in combat and 38 fell to anti-aircraft fire.

B-29s and Mustangs sweeping airfields on Kyushu, southernmost of Japan's mainland islands, yesterday.

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TRUMAN CHOOSES HIM LOAN ADMINISTRATOR — John W. Snyder (above), vice president of the First National Bank of St. Louis, has been appointed by President Truman to be Federal Loan Administrator. The appointment must be approved by the Senate. Snyder, warm personal friend of Truman for 25 years, succeeds Fred M. Vinson who has been made director of War Mobilization and Reconversion.—(AP Wirephoto).

DICK LEGRAND HEADS JAYCEES

Organization Completes Successful Year; Officers Elected

Dick LeGrand was elected president of the junior chamber of commerce Monday night at the regular dinner meeting of the Jaycees at Hotel Charles. He will succeed Doris Bolt, who served as president during the past year. Other officers elected at this meeting were Charles Oehler as first vice president, R. K. Wilson as second vice president, Roy Lee Connor as treasurer, Howard Rollins as secretary, Wayne Hoyle, John Ed Queen, Ervin Anthony, and Neil Wilson were elected as new directors to serve two year terms and J. E. Noggle was elected as a director to fill R. K. Wilson's unexpired term of one year. The directors who still have another year to serve are Howard Caveny, J. P. Smith and Gordon Chambers.

The junior chamber of commerce has just completed one year.

Japs Claim Thirteen U. S. Vessels Sunk

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—(AP)—A Japanese imperial communiqué claimed today that nine U. S. warships and four transports were sunk Monday and Tuesday by Japanese suicide plane attacks near Okinawa.

Simultaneously Tokyo radio asserted an American submarine was sunk in the western Pacific by Japanese patrol units. Neither dispatch, both recorded by the Federal Communications Commission, had Allied confirmation. The communiqué listed the assertedly sunken warships as five aircraft carriers, a battleship, two battleships or cruisers, and one cruiser.

Friends Think Truman Will Run His Own Show

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(AP)—President Truman intends to run his own show. He will take advice from friends. But he will make the decisions. That was the interpretation Washington put today on several separate actions in which the President displayed a firmness not surprising to those who knew him on Capitol Hill. 1. He definitely overruled the high command on a matter that had more domestic than military significance in nominating Lt. General George Smith Patton, jr.,

ERNIE PYLE IS DEAD:

Japanese Machinegun Bullets Claim Life Of Famed Correspondent

By Leif Erickson GUAM, April 18.—(AP)—Ernie Pyle, the GI's columnist, was killed today by Japanese machinegun ambush on Ie Jima, 10-square-mile island just west of Okinawa. Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' headquarters said Pyle was killed instantly by a surprise machinegun attack at 10:15 A. M. on the southern side of the island, while observing the advance of 10th army troops who had invaded the island Monday.

Pyle when hit was standing with a regimental commanding officer of headquarters troops when a Japanese machinegun opened fire.

The commanding general of the Ie Jima invasion troops officially reported Pyle's death as follows: "I regret to report that War Correspondent Ernie Pyle who made such great contribution to the morale of our foot soldiers was killed in battle on Ie Jima today."

In Washington his death was announced by Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and President Truman issued a statement of condolence.

"The nation is quickly saddened again by the death of Ernie Pyle," Mr. Truman said. "No man in this war has so

well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told. x x x He deserves the gratitude of all his countrymen." Forrestal said Pyle was killed instantly by Japanese machinegun fire while standing beside a regimental commanding officer.

(Because Okinawa is 14 hours ahead of Washington time, it was Tuesday in Washington but Wednesday, April 18, on Ie Jima when Pyle died.)

The secretary's statement said: "With deep regret the navy announced the death of Ernie Pyle." See PYLE'S DEATH Page 2

Airdromes On Jap Mainland Bombed

Around 150 B-29's, Flying From Marianas Bases, Wreck Enemy Runways

By Elmont Waite GUAM, April 18.—(AP)—Superfortresses delivered another heavy bombing on six principal airdromes on the southernmost Japanese mainland island of Kyushu today—even before another large force had returned from the same targets.

Probably around 150 B-29s, flying from Marianas bases, again wrecked buildings and cratered runways of airfields from which Japanese planes have attacked American forces on and around Okinawa, 325 miles to the south.

Six task groups of B-29s took off for the mission while six earlier ones were winging their way back. The attacks, 17 hours apart, supplemented carrier plane strikes against Kyushu Sunday and Monday.

It was the fourth assault within five days on the Japanese homeland. The Tokyo area, including Kawasaki, was hit by Superfortresses Sunday and Monday, and photographs revealed today that eight and one-tenth square miles of industrial district were burned out in the Monday raid.

ACRES DEVASTATED In the three latest fire raids on the Nipponese capital, 32 7/10 square miles, or 20,950 acres, of urban industrial and commercial Tokyo has been devastated.

Results of yesterday's and today's high level demolition assaults on Kyushu were not disclosed immediately. Bombing was continuing.

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ALLIED GAINS IN ITALY SLOW

By LYNN HEINZERLING ROME, April 18.—(AP)—Polish troops of the eighth army, sweeping up the Po valley, advanced today to within ten miles of Bologna, major German base in northern Italy.

Fifth army forces also fought slowly closer to the big Italian art and industrial center from the south, battering their way through enemy troops entrenched in scores of caves, tunnels and pillboxes along the mountain highway from Florence.

Other eighth army forces have advanced beyond Argenta on the extreme right, cutting the Germans off from this strongpoint in the Argenta gap, the key to Ferrara

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WHAT'S DOING

- TODAY 6:30 p.m.—Cleveland and Rutherford county schoolmasters clubs hold joint meeting at Hotel Charles. 7:00 m.—Sunday school of officers and teachers of First Baptist church meet at the church. 7:30 p.m.—Presbyterian prayer meeting. 7:45 p.m.—Mid-week prayer and praise service at First Baptist church. 8:00 p.m.—Fellowship hour at Central Methodist church. THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.—Kiwanis club meets at Hotel Charles. 7:30 p.m.—C. A. P. members meet at armory. 8:00 p.m.—Capping exercises for nurses aides at hospital nurses home. 8:00 p.m.—Workers conference of officers and teachers of Presbyterian church at the church.

RAIL TARGETS IN GERMANY ARE BATTERED

Berlin Pounded By Coordinated Double Blow From East, West

CONCENTRATED RAID

LONDON, April 18.—(AP)—U. S. heavy bombers today battered railyards at Traunstein in southeastern Germany less than 25 miles from Hitler's mountain stronghold at Berchtesgaden.

The force hitting Traunstein was part of a fleet of more than 750 Flying Fortresses and Liberators which attacked 10 rail objectives in southern Germany and western Czechoslovakia.

Another target was Rosenheim, just north of the Austrian border and within 40 miles of Berchtesgaden. Rocket-firing American Thunderbolts based in Italy attacked Berchtesgaden itself last night.

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NINE MAJOR BATTLE ZONES

By EDWARD J. DENNEHY LONDON, April 18.—(AP)—Establishment of nine major fighting zones where Germany's remaining forces plan to carry on the war to the bitter end, even though geographically isolated, was announced today by Max Krull, DNB commentator.

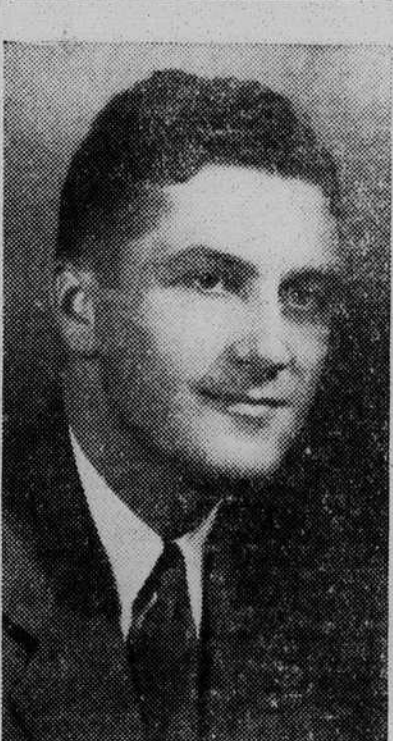
"The organic structure of the German front has ceased to exist," said Krull. "The terms west front and east front have lost their meaning."

He declared that the "newly German-formed fighting zones" all were "self-contained in an operational sense."

His statement, implying an imminent junction of the Russian and American armies, represented enemy acknowledgement of a belief expressed on the Allied side for some time—that the European war eventually would devolve into fighting in a number of isolated pockets.

Two of the zones he mentioned—the Ruhr and the Dutch front—already are definite pockets. Allied troops are steadily whittling down each and taking out numbers of prisoners.

Another was Fortress Bavaria, including Hitler's mountain hideout at Berchtesgaden. By many accounts, the Germans have hauled vast quantities of supplies into this region and have built the strongest kind of fortifications.



GIDNEY HEADS LIONS PROJECT

Officers Elected For Lions Fresh Air Camp, Inc.; Plans Made

Robert Gidney was elected president of Shelby Lions Fresh Air Camp, Inc., at an organization meeting of the board of directors held last night. At this meeting plans were completed for the camping program for deserving boys of Cleveland county between 9 and 14 years of age.

Other officers chosen by the directors were: W. P. Biggerstaff, vice president; Jesse E. Bridges, treasurer; and R. T. LeGrand, jr., secretary. Other members of the board are: J. Lowery Austell, B. G. Beason, C. Doris Bolt, C. C. Horn, W. W. Morris, H. C. Thompson, Floyd Willis and Parris Yelton.

The organization received its charter several weeks ago from Secretary of State Thad Eure.

Lion J. G. Hagaman will serve as camp director with his official staff to be announced at a later date. The camp will be conducted from July 2 through July 14 under careful supervision.

Reservation has already been made for the camping site at the Kings Mountain battleground park and selection of the happy and deserving youngsters who will be given this two-weeks encampment is now being made with the cooperation and assistance of the local welfare department.

The estimated cost of sending a boy to camp for two weeks is \$15. The project which is under the sponsorship of the Shelby

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Bitter Battles Rage Inside German Cities Of Leipzig, Nuernberg

By James M. Long PARIS, April 18.—(AP)—Tank-riding U. S. Third Army infantrymen invaded Czechoslovakia today, bisecting Germany with a plunge into the Sudetenland, which Hitler annexed to the Reich after Munich in 1938.

As Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops crossed the Czechoslovak frontier, the First Army stormed to within 4,000 yards of the center of surrounded Leipzig and the Seventh Army cleared half the Nazi city of Nuernberg.

All along the front, Gen. Eisenhower's armies were gathering strength for the final drive eastward to meet the Russians.

The Ruhr triumph assumed proportions of the greatest victory of the war, even more costly to the Germans than the defeat at Stalingrad. Already 309,484 prisoners have been taken from the industrial trap and 40,000 more were expected to surrender today.

The Germans lost 330,000 in killed and captured alone three years ago at Stalingrad in one of his- eight years of the lower Elbe and drove into the outskirts of Lüneburg, a city of 30,000, against scattered resistance.

CONTACT STILL The halving of Germany was of more geographical than immediate military importance, because the enemy still has circuitous contact between north and south Germany through the mountains of Czechoslovakia.

Censors would pass only the bare report that Czechoslovakia was en-

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Americans Fighting In City Of Baguio

More Than 7,000 Filipino Civilians Rescued; Four Miles From Heart Of City

By Fred Hampson MANILA, April 18.—(AP)—American soldiers fought inside the Japanese stronghold of Baguio today as Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced the rescue of more than 7,000 civilians from the once gay, attractive summer capital of the Philippines.

From a line on the northwest outskirts, four miles from the center of the ruined city, Doughboys of Maj. Gen. Percy W. Clarkson's 33rd division encountered heavy fire from guns dominating this approach.

The battle increased in intensity as the Japanese indicated they intended to defend their mountain citadel to the limit.

Other units were moving in

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Reds Within Eyesight Of Burning Berlin

MOSCOW, April 18.—(AP)—Red army dispatches from the Oder front today declared Soviet troops were within eyesight of burning Berlin.

But neither these dispatches nor official announcements specifically said that the Russians were on the move toward the Nazi capital.

Divisions massed "near Berlin," a dispatch to Red Star declared, carry victory banners which they intend on Stalin's orders to nail to flagpoles in Berlin.

Front dispatches also declared Soviet units in Czechoslovakia had sighted the ancient battlefield of Austerlitz in their push toward Burenn and Prague.

BELOW BRUENN Austerlitz is 12 miles southeast of Bruenn.

One dispatch from the Berlin front said a divisional commander told his adjutant, "let's go see the work of our Allies." The group then went up a steep, half-ruined staircase, it continued.

"There, dancing on the horizon, was red flame and the sky was like a nervous tick often winking with the golden sports of anti-aircraft bursts."

"Look," the divisional commander said, "there Berlin burns. We see it with our naked eyes."

Soviet veterans, the dispatch added, carried banners stating "Banner of victory. Death to the German invaders." This erected in Berlin by the famous 'X' infantry regiment of the heroic 'X' guard division.

New successes were reported in Austria and Czechoslovakia.



30TH DIVISION YANKS BLAST WAY THROUGH GERMANY—U. S. Ninth Army tanks, carrying 30th Division Yanks, smash their way through the town of Born, Germany, about 22 miles from Magdeburg. Smoke from burning buildings darkens the sky. The town was captured and the Yanks advanced across the Elbe river, last water barrier before Berlin. The road sign points to Magdeburg, 37 kilometers to the south. The famous 30th (Old Hickory) Division is composed largely of troops from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.—(AP Wirephoto from Signal Corps Radiophoto).