

WEATHER

North Carolina—Cloudy and warm with scattered thundershowers today and tonight. Thursday partly cloudy and cooler in west.

The Shelby Daily Star

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894

TELEPHONES 1100

STATE THEATRE TODAY "THE SIGN OF THE CROSS" Fredric March — Elissa Landi Claudette Colbert — Charles Laughton

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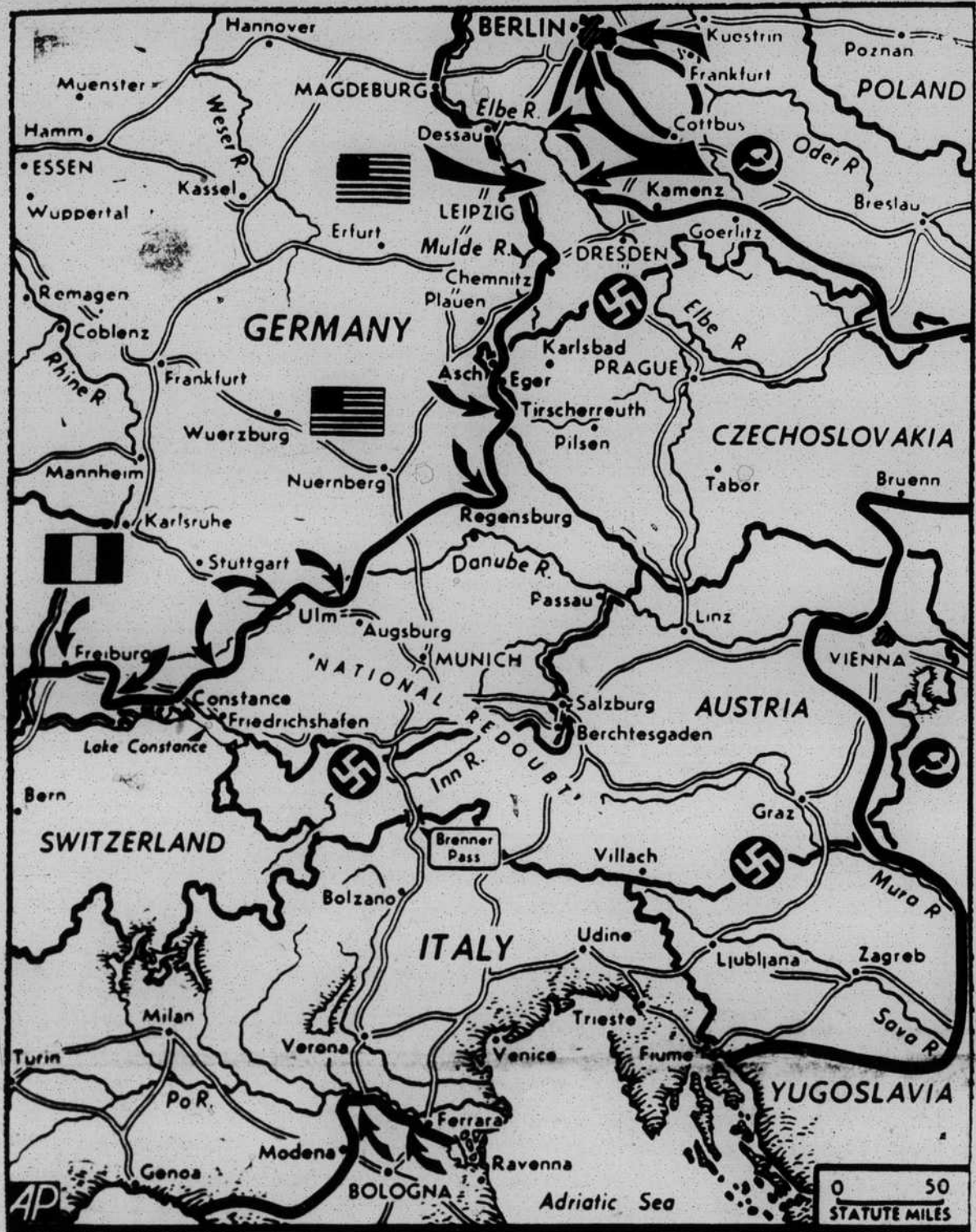
SHELBY, N. C.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 25, 1945

TELEMAT PICTURES

SINGLE COPIES—5c

ENCIRCLEMENT OF BERLIN VIRTUALLY COMPLETED ARMIES HEADED FOR REDOUBT THREATEN MUNICH



ALLIED POSITIONS IN THE BATTLE FOR GERMANY—This map shows where American and Russian troops are near a juncture south of Berlin, and where other U. S. forces are pushing southward toward Munich and the Nazis' "National Redoubt" area. The Russians are fighting closer toward the heart of Berlin. In Italy, the Allies have reached the Po river.—(AP Wirephoto Map).

Hitler's Berchtesgaden Chalet And Grounds Bombed By RAF

CELL PREPARED FOR PETAIN

French Press Hurls Invektive At Aged Hero Of Verdun

By RELMAN MORIN PARIS, April 25.—(P)—A cell in an unnamed fortress near Paris was prepared today for Marshal Petain, former idol of France, as a precaution against disorders when the aged hero of Verdun is returned here to stand trial on charges of high treason.

The semi-official French press agency reported Petain and his party crossed the French frontier near Geneva this morning but a dispatch from Zurich indicated he was still in Switzerland. The Swiss dispatch said he had gone out at 11:30 a. m. for a one-hour stroll on the terrace of the hotel where he was quartered upon his arrival from Germany yesterday.

An almost complete news blackout has been thrown over details of the marshal's return in official

WHAT'S DOING

- TODAY 7:15 p.m.—Sunday school officers and teachers of First Baptist church meet at the church. 7:45 p.m.—Presbyterian prayer meeting at the church. 8:00 p.m.—Fellowship hour at Central Methodist church. 8:00 p.m.—Mid-week prayer and praise service at First Baptist 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.—Called meeting of Cleveland Lodge 202 A. F. & A. M. at Masonic Temple for work in second degree.

12,000-Pound Earthquake Bombs Laid On Target Today; Skoda Works Raided

LONDON, April 25.—(P)—RAF Lancasters today bombed Hitler's chalet at Berchtesgaden in a possible attempt on the fuhrer's life.

FINAL REPORT ON RED CROSS

Contributions Total \$49,070.02; 16 Per Cent Over Last Year

Contributions to the American Red Cross in Cleveland county amounted to a total of \$49,070, an increase of 16 per cent over last year, according to final report made this morning by Mal Spangler, who had charge of the campaign.

The division of rural churches led all others in the total amount given for this cause, the report showed. These churches contributed \$19,125.99.

Other contribution totals were listed as follows: Business \$9,165.21 Outlying Business \$1,302.50 Residential \$1,841.00 Schools and band \$703.16 Lawndale \$1,794.35 Manufacturing \$12,330.31 Colored \$2,817.50

Chairman Spangler said that he appreciated the fine spirit shown by Cleveland people in responding to this call and he emphasized the unselfish way in which local people have worked in the drive.

Congressional Medal Of Honor Approved For Late President

WASHINGTON, April 25.—(P)—The house judiciary committee today approved legislation authorizing President Truman to award posthumously to the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt the congressional medal of honor.

Representatives Of 46 Nations Assemble Today To Lay Plans For Peace

Opening session of United Nations conference on international organization. Place: War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco. Time: 4:30 P. M., Pacific War Time (7:30 P. M., Eastern War Time).

Speakers: Secretary Stettinius, President Truman (by radio from Washington), Governor Earl Warren of California, Mayor Roger D. Lapham of San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—(P)—With one chair for Poland dramatically empty, 46 victorious nations of World War II assemble in their first historic political conference today to try to blueprint machinery for preventing World War III.

This is the day that millions of people over the earth have waited and worked for through the years of fighting to the verge of victory. It dawned bright with expressions of hope for lasting peace, yet darkened by one cloud—the Anglo-American dispute with Russia over Poland.

Barring some dramatic move by Premier Marshal Stalin of Russia, that dispute on Polish representation at the conference is as dead-locked today as ever—splitting the ranks of the Allied powers in the moment they strive for unity.

Otherwise there is evidence of close big-power cooperation which members of the American group interpret to mean that Russia is determined to help the conference succeed and is already making concessions for that purpose.

CITY ABUSTLE This conference city abustle with activity. The American delegation scheduled a pre-conference caucus at 9:30 a. m. (Pacific War Time) with Secretary of State Stettinius.

Russian members met with Foreign Commissar Molotov, who arrived Tuesday afternoon, and British delegates had a conference with Foreign Minister Anthony Eden.

There was some expectation that the Big-Three foreign ministers themselves would get

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TORNADO HITS GRIFFIN, GA.

Storm Leaves Four Known Dead, 20 Injured, Mill Unroofed

GRIFFIN, GA., April 25.—(P)—A tornado dipped into a textile community a mile north of here last night, unroofed a mill where hundreds were at work, and left a known toll of four dead.

About 20 persons were injured, a fourth of them seriously. The mill, Dundee No. 1, manufacturers with his working in the weave room on the top floor. Only one person in the weave room, a woman, was killed.

The smokstack blew down, smashed the boiler, and a negro was scalded to death. Two small children were killed when a house in the mill village was demolished. A number of other houses in the village were demolished or damaged.

Residents recalled that a tornado hit Rushon mill here April 25, 1908, killing several people. Thunder and wind storms were general over the state last night, and hail fell at many places.

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U. S. Forces Make Gains On Okinawa

GUAM, April 25.—(P)—U. S. Seventh division infantrymen, seizing high ground near the village of Ishin, today threatened the eastern flank of the strongly-fortified Japanese defense wall on southern Okinawa.

Capture of the elevation was the first marked change in the fiery front since the beginning of the all-out attack last Thursday, when three divisions of Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge's 24th Army Corps gained up to 800 yards.

THIRD ARMY 82 MILES FROM HITLER HIDEOUT

Three American Armies Rolling Through Foot-hills Of Alps

GOOD TANK COUNTRY

By Austin Bealmear

PARIS, April 25.—(P)—The American Third Army reached the Danube and moved within 82 miles of Berchtesgaden today while two other armies, assaulting Hitler's final Alpine redoubt, crashed forward in a great maneuver to encircle Munich, greatest of south German cities.

British in the north stormed Bremen while armies in the center awaited a junction with the Russians.

The American Seventh and French First armies are exploiting their Danube bridgeheads in drives to the Swiss and Austrian borders with the encirclement of Munich shaping up steadily. (P) Correspondent A. I. Goldberg reported from Gen. Jacob L. Devers' Sixth army group headquarters.

The vaguely defined redoubt in the south perhaps has been invaded already by Devers' troops which outflanked Lake Constance, its western limit.

The Tiger (Tenth armored division) of the Seventh army captured Oberbalzheim, 67 miles southwest of the Munich and 97 from the Brenner Pass into Italy. Other Seventh army troops were but 46 miles from Munich—capital of the Nazi party and third largest city in Germany—on the north.

All three armies were rolling with unchecked power through foothills of the Alps through terrain 2,000 or more feet high.

"KEY TO CONTROL" Lt. Gen. George Patton's Third army reached Regen, 32 miles from Austria, and 123 miles from Russian lines in the St. Polten area west of Vienna. Both armies are in the Danube valley, good tank

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SUPERFORTS BOMB TOKYO

Hitachi Aircraft Engine Works Hit; 31 Jap Planes Shot Down

GUAM, April 25.—(P)—American Superfortresses, flying without fighter cover, blasted the Hitachi aircraft engine works near Tokyo yesterday, shooting down 31 of 75 to 80 Japanese interceptors which came out to meet them.

Radio Tokyo reported, following this latest blow at Japanese aircraft production, that five of Tokyo's 35 yards were virtually destroyed and another 13 were heavily damaged.

Four of the 100 to 150 Superforts were lost.

Flight crewmen on the latest blow at the Nipponese home island said that the Hitachi plant was "blown all to pieces," and that "big fires and great clouds of smoke" were seen in the target area.

A radio Tokyo domestic broadcast admitted that a large Tokyo industrial area was "mostly in ruins as a result of fires" from American incendiary raids between "the beginning of March and the middle of April."

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' command today reported continued heavy fighting along the entire front. Big guns of battleships, cruisers and destroyers poured hundreds of tons of shells into the enemy defenses, sealing off caves and destroying emplacements.

Nimitz, after a personal inspection of the island, said the enemy's defenses on southern Okinawa, where the bulk of the Nipponese garrison of 60,000 or more has concentrated, appeared to us "as strong, and perhaps stronger, than any we have tackled before."

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Soviets Reach Elbe Northwest Of Dresden Along 22-Mile Front

LONDON, April 25.—(P)—Soviet troops have reached the Elbe river on a 22-mile front northwest of Dresden, and all but completed encirclement of Berlin, slicing the last escape rail line to the west, the German high command announced today.

Moscow announced Monday that Russians had reached the Elbe Monday northwest of Dresden. At last reports Americans stood on the Mulde river, east of Leipzig, and 20 miles from the Elbe there.

The broadcast German communique said the Russians reached the Elbe between Riesa, 25 miles northwest of Dresden, and Torgu, another 22 miles farther northwest.

Half of Berlin was held by Soviet troops beating down German barricades of stone and iron, knocking back German tanks and fighting Nazis who came out of subways behind Russian lines. The city was described as a wreckage of stone jungles roaring with bitter battle.

The first White Russian army cut nine miles southward west of Berlin to Ketzin, 14 miles due west of the capital, all but encircling the city, the German communique said.

This push by Marshal Gregory Zhukov's troops, carrying nine miles south of Nauen captured yesterday, cut the Germans' last railroad of escape or reinforcement westward through Spandau.

The Germans said the first Ukrainian army had reached Babelsberg, fashionable suburb between Potsdam and Berlin. Babelsberg is 11-12 miles east and slightly south of Ketzin. There the Soviets sniped the last link southwestward.

Other troops of the first Ukrainian army were striking northward from a point southwest of the capital toward a junction with Zhukov. Any German outlet from Berlin was under Soviet artillery fire.

The Germans said Russians hitting into Berlin from the South had advanced to a line from Babelsberg to Zehlendorf to Neukollin. A first reports, Red Army troops were within a mile of the heart of Berlin and Unter Den Linden.

The two assault armies already had united in the southeastern section of the city, pocketing German forces to the southeast.

Russian guns were methodical reducing the huge city block by block.

ISOLATION NEAR Complete isolation of the capital was near. The German defenders young and old, fought stubbornly and the city, once one of the world's greatest, was reduced to a heap of blasted masonry and ashes.

The first White Russian army driving from the north and the first Ukrainian army advancing from the south, joined forces yesterday in southeastern Berlin, cutting off large forces of Germans

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Eighth, Fifth Army Forces Across Po

American Troops Won Foothold Beyond The Stream Monday In Face Of Heavy Fire

ROME, April 25.—(P)—Both the British Eighth and U. S. Fifth Armies sent troops across the Po river in pursuit of disorganized German forces reeling back toward Italy northern border.

The crack 10th American mountain division won the first Allied foothold beyond the barrier stream Monday morning in the face of what a communique called a "remarkable fierce" concentration of enemy fire.

Units of the Eighth army also spanned the stream to the east later.

Exactly where the Allied forces won the crossings was not disclosed on a security blackout to keep as much information as possible from the enemy.

It was known, however, that the U. S. 10th division, racing forward 55 miles in two days, crossed the river at a point where it is about 200 yards wide with gradually sloping shores. The Germans, protected by earthworks, poured a hail of lead into the allied assault boats, but the 10th quickly secured a bridgehead.

MOPPING UP In the Po valley northwest of Bologna, other Fifth army elements mopped up extensive German units by-passed in the first advance, which overran Modena.

Everywhere along the long, twisting battle line from Ferrara on the right flank to the port of La Spezia on the Ligurian coast, Allied troops were reported moving swiftly ahead through shattered enemy defenses. Ferrara fell yesterday to the Eighth army. The Fifth won La Spezia.

Up to noon yesterday, 40,000 prisoners were taken. The Fifth army accounted for 25,000.

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Yanks Prepare For Final Push To Take Baguig

By FRED HAMPSON MANILA, April 25.—(P)—Americans consolidated their Baguig positions today for a final push in the ruined summer capital of the Philippines while far to the south on Mindanao Island, other Yank

Maj. Gen. Percy W. Clark's 33rd division held commanding positions in the pine-covered hills the northwest, west and southwest of mile-high Baguig. One column moving down highway nine from the northwest, was little more than a mile from the city center.

ROAD REPAIRED A section of the road blown by the defending Japanese was being repaired by engineers for movement of heavy equipment.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported in today's communique that "the enemy has as yet been unable to concentrate his forces in effective resistance." Some 50,000 Japanese troops and thousands of pro-Nipponese settlers are believed to be on Mindanao.

New Philippine-based plane raid Japanese shipping and shore installations at Formosa, the Sogon naval base in French Indochina, Swatow and Hainan, Chi and the Dutch East Indies. Japanese freighters and a number of smaller craft were sunk or damaged.

In the central Philippines, American division unit under Col. Louis F. Franco of Chicago, cut off Japanese remnants fleeing north from Cebu City by a landing near Danao, nine miles north of Cebu City.

FOUR VETERANS OFFICES WASHINGTON.—(P)—Four veterans administration offices will be established in North Carolina at Asheville, Gastonia, Roanoke and Wilmington. Sen. H announced last night.