

## Russian Guard of Honor Greets Roosevelt



Sitting in his jeep, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reviews a Russian guard of honor that met him at Yalta airport in Russia. On the President's right are Churchill, Foreign Minister Molotov, and Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius. U. S. Army Signal Corps photo. (International Soundphoto)

## Bill Would Fix Control Of Schools

Stone Measure Has Governor Support Court Areas Asked

Raleigh, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Representative Stone of Reidsville introduced today, with Governor Cherry's endorsement, a bill to provide fiscal control of the State's public school funds, the appointment of a controller and to outline the duties of the State Board of Education and other school officials.

A recently adopted constitutional amendment made no provision for the controller, but Cherry in his annual message suggested that the matter be corrected. The State is divided by the legislative and judicial branches into 110 legislative districts and 110 judicial districts, but the bill would provide for the same number of members, other than those of the judicial branch, the State superintendent of public instruction and the State controller.

The bill would have control of the State fund and would divide the State into school districts, regulate the salaries, grades and qualifications of teachers. It would organize and centralize public school funds, select textbooks and generally supervise the school program.

A similar bill was introduced in the Senate by McByde, O'Berry and Faye. Senator Gay of Northampton introduced a joint resolution containing a commission appointed to make further investigations and recommendations for a reorganization of the judicial and school districts.

Senator Mitchell of Iredell sent up a bill to authorize the City of Statesville and the County of Iredell to acquire and donate to the United States government a site in Iredell for a veterans hospital. A special appropriation could be made to that purpose.

A bill to place licensed money lenders under supervision of the State Banking Commission passed the House reading 79 to 13. Representative Stone also sent up a bill increasing the authority of the State Board of Education, and to purchase supplies and their distribution to State schools.

## Would Allow Colored Oleo To Be Sold To Housewives

Raleigh, Feb. 15.—(AP)—The House Agriculture Committee voted today to allow the sale of colored oleomargarine to housewives, but public eating places would be prohibited from serving it is colored. The measure, as it now stands, is a compromise. Previously, the committee approved the bill to allow the sale of colored oleo anywhere, but the measure was referred to the committee. Colored oleomargarine carries an extra ten cents per pound Federal tax. The committee approved a measure providing a minimum of 18 units for

## Substitute Offered For Work-Jail Bill On Bipartisan Plan

Would Make Every Individual Liable For Best Service

Washington, Feb. 15.—(AP)—A Republican senator joined two Democratic colleagues today in proposing to substitute for the disputed work-or-jail bill legislation strengthening the War Manpower's effort to deal with labor shortages.

Terms of the proposed substitute were made public by Senators Kilgore, West Virginia Democrat, and Wagner, New York Democrat. Kilgore's office announced today that Senator Ferguson, Republican Michigan, had asked to be listed as a co-author. The two Democrats are members of the military affairs committee, which has had control of the House-approved limited military service bill for more than two weeks.

The bill would declare it the policy of Congress that every individual is obligated to serve the nation during the war in the capacity for which he or she is best qualified. In that respect, it is considerably more than the work-or-jail bill, which would apply only to civilian men of 18 to 45.

WMC would be given power to set employment ceilings for the maximum number of workers by sex, age or occupational qualifications in given areas of plants.

The commission could provide to regulate the hiring or rehiring of employees.

## Profit Sales Mark Stocks

New York, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Financial markets generally ran out of rising steam today as profits were cashed on the recent upswing. Stocks turned hesitant after an active opening, and, with dealings tapering appreciably, prices were irregular near the fourth hour. Bonds and commodities were uneven.

fertilizer, but voted to allow the sale of type 9-3-5, used chiefly in plant-beds, and type 2-8-5, if it bears a red tag showing it is under the minimum. (Units are determined by adding the numbers. For instance, type 9-3-5 would have 17 units.) House Judiciary 1 approved bills providing that mechanics must give the motor vehicles department twenty days notice before selling an automobile under the mechanics lien law, and to provide laborers' liens for landscaping. Representative Shuford of Buncombe said the latter was supported by nurserymen.

## U. S., Britain Getting Soft With Italy

Statement Coming Soon For Relaxing Armistice Rulings

London, Feb. 15.—(AP)—A joint British and American statement relaxing Italian armistice terms to some extent was reported in the office today as Paris dispatches declared President Roosevelt was expected to visit Rome before returning to Washington.

It was predicted the statement would permit greater economic aid to Italy and to lift some of the Allied control of administrative affairs.

An Associated Press dispatch from Rome declared it was understood here the discussion would be announced in Washington and London. This dispatch said agreement on the new status for Italy was expected to have been reached after the British steadily refused an American suggestion that the present armistice be scrapped.

The new proposition was believed in Rome to keep Italy still definitely in the category of a conquered country. Some Italian officials are said to have advocated full elimination of the armistice agreement on the ground it constitutes a psychological impediment to full Italian collaboration in fighting the Nazis.

While Paris dispatches were reporting it was expected President Roosevelt would call on Pope Pius, and perhaps visit France during his

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## U. S. Combat Losses Are Now 782,180

Washington, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Army ground forces on the western front lost 394,374 men from D-Day last June 6 to February 1.

In reporting this today, Secretary of War Stimson said that 63,410 were killed, 273,997 wounded and 37,467 missing. This report reflected an increase in casualties on the western front of 61,962 in January, including 8,848 killed, 41,325 wounded and 11,789 missing.

Simultaneously, Stimson reported that the army's casualties in all theatres since the beginning of the war now are 693,342, on the basis of names compiled in Washington through February 7, and reflecting combat action in the early part of January.

Linked with the navy's latest report of losses of 88,838, this puts the total American combat losses at 782,180, an increase of 17,596 since last week's report.

# Canadians Reach Rhine River, Drive Behind Siegfried Line; Russian Armies Join In East

## Reds Within 53 Miles Of Dresden Now

Breslau Surrounded And Fight For City Approaches Climax

London, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Marshal Ivan Konev was disclosed by Moscow dispatches today to have reached Goerlitz, on the Neisse river, only 53 miles east of Dresden, and an unconfirmed French broadcast reported a link-up of his right wing with the first White Russian army, menacing Berlin.

Huge fleets of British and American planes blasted key Nazi targets in paths of the Russian advance. Dresden and Chemnitz, railway and manufacturing centers, were hit.

While the main forces of Konev's first Ukrainian army bore down on Dresden, the bomb-battered Saxon capital, the French Telegraph Agency said the junction of his forces with the first White Russian spearheads of Marshal Gregory Zhukov was reported without confirmation to have been made in the region of Gubenberg, 83 miles southeast of Berlin.

Pravda last announced Konev's thrust to Neisse, the last major water barrier before Dresden. Its correspondent said whole groups of German towns had been captured, bypassed or sealed off in a spectacular 22-mile advance.

The speed of the drive indicated Nazi resistance in that sector was crumbling.

**Breslau Surrounded**  
The news agencies said Konev's troops left the Silesian capital of Breslau surrounded some 45 miles behind the Soviet vanguards, and the German radio said the fight for the city of 650,000 was at a climax.

Moscow announced that Marshal Zhukov's first White Russian army had completed the conquest of the hold-out fortress of S. Incidenmuhl, fifteen miles behind the Soviet lines in Pomerania to the north, killing more than 7,000 Germans and capturing 5,000 after a two-week siege.

Other Russian troops, moving northwest through the Polish corridor, captured fifty additional towns in an area some sixty miles south-west of Danzig, and were little more than two miles from the communications center of Chojnice.

## Cotton Higher At The Close

New York, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to ten cents a bale higher. Noon values were 25 to 40 cents a bale higher. March 22.00; May 21.91; July 21.54.

	Pv. Close	Open
March	21.95	21.96
May	21.86	21.83
July	21.46	21.50
October	20.32	20.33
December	20.73	20.75

## Aerial Blast On Germany At New Peak

London, Feb. 15.—(AP)—The Allied aerial offensive against Germany reached unprecedented proportions today as fresh fleets of bombers roared over the Reich following overnight assaults by 1,300 RAF planes, which included a smashing attack on the eastern front rail center of Chemnitz.

Five powerful waves of heavy bombers, each with a strong fighter escort, were reported participating in the new daylight raids, giving Germany a scouring exceeding anything she previously had experienced. In the 36 hours up to dawn today, more than 9,000 American and British planes had loosed thousands of tons of explosives and incendiaries upon German cities, supply lines and troop concentrations.

## SNIPER COULDN'T HOLD HIM BACK



TYPICAL OF THE FIGHTING SPIRIT that carried the Yanks back to Manila is that being displayed by Pfc. William Ward, Bladenboro, N.C. (rear), who was wounded in the snip by a Jap sniper. With his head bandaged and still wearing his bullet-pierced helmet, he is shown advancing along a road in the Obang area. Signal Corps photo. (International)

## Civilians In Manila Deliberately Slain By Desperate Japs

## B-29s Strike Home Islands Of Japanese

Washington, Feb. 15.—(AP)—B-29 Superfortresses hit again today a Japan's home island war industries.

An enemy communiqué broadcast after a War Department announcement here said the important manufacturing city of Nagoya, as well as areas in the prefecture, across Aichi bay, suffered "some damage" from high explosive and incendiary bombs.

The mission was flown by a force of B-29s from Major General Curtis LeMay's 21st bomber command in the Marianas.

A brief war bulletin from General H. H. Arnold, commanding general of the 20th air force, gave no additional details. Earlier the Tokyo radio reported that lone Superfortresses bombed the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan areas last night and early today and returned later in reconnaissance flights.

Today's strike was the fourth by B-29s since Saturday. An aerial factory at Oita, 40 miles northwest of Tokyo, was hit Saturday.

Almost simultaneously, the War Department announced that a new group of the giant bombers now is operating from Tinian island in the Marianas.

In announcing the new Tinian base, General Arnold said it "will increase the scope of bombing operations against Japan."

He added that with headquarters of the 21st command established on Guam and the original bases on Saipan and the original bases on Saipan in full operation, "all three major islands of the Marianas group now become an impressive center of B-29 operations in the Pacific."

## WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.  
Clear to partly cloudy tonight. Showers Friday, followed by colder.

## Attacks By Nazis Held By British

Big Guns Paralyze All Counter Blows; Flank Push Likely

Paris, Feb. 15.—(AP)—Canadians fought through flood waters to the west bank of the Rhine opposite Emmerich today and swung slowly along the northern end of the Rhine valley in a drive behind the Siegfried line, threatening to outflank the Ruhr munitions industries.

The 20-mile Kieve front was the only active one in the west. On its south flank, British engine troops crushed a series of Soviet German counter attacks and pressed close to the key defense bastions of Goch and Calcar.

Barrages from Eandreds upon hundreds of Field Marshal Montgomery's big guns and planes paralyzed every German attempt to regain ground, and exacted terrible casualties.

The Rhine was reached at Hurendich, where the river is normally 3,270 feet wide, but breaches in dykes in the desolate lowlands have made the Rhine even more imposing.

At low points north of Kieve and west of Hamerich, the Rhine was as wide as the English channel between Calais and Dover, and flood waters were eight feet deep, leaving only islands of silted villages.

The Canadians used amphibious tanks to advance.

The Canadian first army, already behind the Siegfried line and up to the Rhine, was in a position to push south and counter-attack the enemy on either side of his west wall fortifications.

Three of General Eisenhower's armies to the south watched with satisfaction a gradual recession of floods on the River barring their path to the Cologne plain.

The British engine troops cut forward in the wake of blows struck Germany by 10,000 planes in 36 hours, most of their night losses upon the area between the Rhine and General Eisenhower's seven armies.

German resistance stiffened on the eastern and southern flanks of the western battleground between the Rhine and Meuse.

## URUGUAY DECLARES WAR UPON THE AXIS

Montevideo, Uruguay, Feb. 15.—(AP)—The Uruguayan government decided today to declare war on the axis.

Some walls are forty feet thick at the base, were weakened but still standing. (George Thomas Folster, of NBC, broadcast that men, women and children had been burned to death in houses fired by the Japanese, and killed if they fled the flames. He said some civilians had been bayoneted or hacked to death with sabers in this wanton mass murder.)

## Epes Attempted Suicide After Burying His Wife

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 15.—(AP)—His throat and wrists swathed in bandages, 29-year-old Lt. S. C. Epes was under guard today in a post hospital after Sheriff Alex Heise said, he admitted burying his young school teacher wife in a shallow foxhole.

Army authorities at nearby Fort Jackson said the son of a wealthy family attempted to kill himself last Monday by slashing himself with a razor blade. The body of Mrs. Mary Lee Epes, 26, was exhumed yesterday.

Heise said she had apparently been dragged and the State identification bureau announced after an autopsy that a blow on the head seemingly was the cause of death.

The pretty Auburn-haired school teacher had left her job in Jacksonville, Fla., during the Christmas holidays and had come here to be with her husband while he awaited transfer overseas.

Although admitting he took his wife's body in the trunk of his car to the foxhole, the sheriff said, the lieutenant, whose father is head of the Epes-Fitzgerald Paper Company, of Richmond, Va., repeatedly denied that he had killed his wife.

Traveling in an ambulance from the post hospital, Epes himself led officers to the grave, one of about forty army fashioned foxholes recently dug by troops on maneuvers about twelve miles from here.