Henderson Daily Dispatch

THIRTY SECOND YEAR | LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | HENDERSON, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 7, 1945 | PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY | FIVE CENTS COPY

AMERICANS AT RHINE ON 45-MILE FRONT

Russians Launch Great Attack On Berlin

Representatives Asked To Present Bills At Once; Business Moving Slowly

Bill Introduced For Bond Issues Covering State Fair Improvements

Raleigh, March 7.—(AP)—Speaker Clyde R. Hoey called upon representatives today to get in all their bills this week, next Monday at the latest, and said that business of the House was not being transacted fast enough.

Representatives Edwards, of Greene, and Quinn, of Duplin, sent a bill to enable the State Department of Agriculture to finance and construct facilities and improvements at the State Fair. The department would be authorized to issue $100,000 in bonds, with the interest rate approved by the Council of State. The department also would be authorized to invest up to 10 percent of its surplus in the fair fund.

Representatives Hatch, of Wake, and Moseley, of Guilford, introduced a bill to authorize the governor to issue certificates to families of discharged veterans expressing the appreciation of the State for their services. A bill to authorize the governor to issue certificates of appreciation to all veterans of the current war. There are approximately 300,000 North Carolinians in the armed service.

Senator Eagles, of Wilson, also introduced a bill similar to the one in the House, authorizing the State Board of Agriculture to use funds, other than general funds, for improvement of the State Fair.

Representatives Kerr, of Warren, and Uzzell, of Rowan, introduced a bill incorporating the recommendations of a subcommittee which studied methods of working out a more equitable system for taxation on insurance premiums. The bill would repeal that tax of two percent on gross receipts upon all insurance companies, foreign and domestic, and a tax of four percent on companies applicable to liabilities under the workmen's compensation act.

Prisoners In Rome Escape In Disorders

Rome, March 7.—(AP)—Disorders spread to the Regina Coeli prison today as sporadic bomb explosions throughout Rome punctuated Italy's political crisis today.

Following yesterday's clash before the royal palace between carabinieri and a crowd in which a communist demonstrator was killed, convicts and persons awaiting trial for fascist crimes burst out of their antiquated cells at the prison before dawn. Police and firemen quelled the riot with fire hose.

Bombs burst sporadically in various sections of the capital and crowds were reported to have demonstrated before carabinieri in outlying sections.

House Group Demands End Lend-Lease

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—The House Foreign Affairs Committee today expressed in blunt terms its insistence that lend-lease end when the war is won.

Apparently moving to offset Republican-expressed fears that the program might become a vehicle of postwar reconstruction in Europe, the committee said:

"When the war has been won, lend-lease should end and be liquidated as promptly and efficiently as possible."

The statement was attached to the committee-approved legislation extending lend-lease one year beyond its present June 30 expiration date, and validating contracts made under the act until June 30, 1949.

Appeals to F.D.R.

FIFTEEN-MONTHS-OLD Vesta Ann Miller, who is suffering from an incurable heart condition, rests in the arms of her mother, Mrs. Claude A. Miller, of San Antonio, Tex. The mother has appealed to President Roosevelt and Navy Secretary Forrestal to allow her husband, on duty in the Pacific, to come home. The doctors have given the child 60 days to live. *(International)*

Wm. H. Davis Is Named As Stabilizer

WLB Chairman Will Succed Mr. Vinson; Taylor Heads WLB

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—The White House announced today that President Roosevelt is appointing William H. Davis, chairman of the War Labor Board, to succeed Fred M. Vinson as economic stabilization director.

The White House also announced selection of George W. Taylor, vice-chairman of the War Labor Board, to succeed Davis. As economic stabilization director, Davis will be responsible in a sense for some of the same sort of problems with which he has dealt exclusively as War Labor Board chairman, problems of trying to keep a balanced relationship between wages and prices.

Senate Ponders Drafting Of Married Nurses

Washington, March 7.—(AP)—A decision whether nurses who may be drafted for armed service duty should include married women faced the Senate today. It is one of the major barriers to passage of the first women's draft legislation ever to reach the floors of Congress. Once it is hurdled the House expects to send the measure to a Senate already balking at a coercive manpower bill.

Unfinished business headed today's docket included an amendment by Representative Bolton, Republican, Ohio, to strike from the pending bill a section limiting the proposed nurse-draft to unmarried women not over 44 or under 20. Should it be adopted another amendment deferring women with children is expected to be offered.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Clearing weather in most sections and colder today but considerable cloudiness in mountains, followed by fair and colder tonight. Thursday fair and rather cold. Temperatures near freezing in west portion tonight.

Brigdeheads Cross Oder At Kustrin

Violent Barrage Is Laid Down Prior To Starting of Attack

London, March 7.—(AP)—A Berlin broadcast said today the Russians had launched a large-scale attack on Berlin from both sides of Kustrin on the Oder after a 24-hour artillery barrage.

Kustrin is on the Oder 36 miles due east of Berlin. By German account, the first White Russian army has forged bridgeheads over the river both north and south of the city.

Moscow dispatches made no mention of the Berlin-Oder front, but said Soviet troops were sweeping across Wollin, the first stepping stone islands in Stettin bay to the north, in a push aimed at cutting off Stettin from the sea.

They captured the city of Wollin, 28 miles north of Stettin, on the coastal route leading to the U-boat base of Swinemunde, and beyond to Germany's Mecklenburg province north of Berlin.

The Berlin radio said a Russian artillery barrage is raining down on German positions on the Oder; "this barrage preceded their all-out offensive on this front."

A Transocean broadcast said Marshal Gregory Zhukov's army sought to knock out long beleaguered Kuestrin "to win jumping off ground for a drive on Berlin on the Oder's west bank."

The assault extended southward toward Frankfort, 18 miles up the river.

A half-fledged Soviet offensive from the east on Berlin has been awaited for weeks. The first Ukrainian army is already west of the Oder on Zhukov's southern flank.

State Nears End Rebuttal Charges In Meadows Case

Greenville, March 7.—(AP)—The State neared the end of its rebuttal testimony today in the trial of Dr. Leon Meadows, charged with embezzlement and false pretense in connection with his handling of special and student funds as president of Eastern Carolina Teachers College.

R. G. Deyton, of Raleigh, assistant director of the State budget, said that during the ten-year period ended in 1944, the college had returned $169,500 in unexpended army appropriation.

The State put S. T. Jacks, William Dawson Smith, Hayt Cherry, and William Shiver, on the stand for brief testimony. Cherry and Shiver said they had done some work on Meadows' private property, and the State tried to show that Meadows had charged the payments against the college.

AFTER WAR CAME HOME TO THEIR GERMAN TOWN

TWO HOUSEWIVES OF HOLSTUM in Germany seem shaken by the turn of events as they help each other past a group of captured fellow-countrymen and over the rubble of a building smashed by the battle that took their town. They obey the directions of two armed Yanks engaged in rounding up civilian inhabitants, while with arms up and hands clasped the Nazi prisoners of war await their own start toward prison. *(International)*

Luzon Fight Is Entering Final Phase

U. S. Units Regroup To Kill Nipponese Sneaking In Hills

Manila, March 7.—(AP)—The fifth day said enemies for Luzon—it took the Japanese more than a month to conquer it—already is entering the "final phase," General Douglas MacArthur said today.

With Manila liberated, Bataan and Corregidor reclaimed and the central Luzon plain overrun, the American and Yank divisions committed to the operation from the United States—sixth and eighth armies are regrouping to go after scattered Nipponese in the mountains.

On rocky Corregidor, at the entrance of recaptured Manila Bay, Yanks of the 503rd parachute regiment have sealed off 300 caves and tunnels, a spokesman disclosed today. In these underground places the few survivors of 6,000 Nipponese who have turned the fortress garrison are doomed to die because they refused to surrender.

Brilliantly aided by Filipino guerrillas, the Yank divisions on Luzon are preparing death traps for the four Japanese divisions left of the original ten—an enemy loss to date on Luzon of more than 90,000 men.

GETS FORESTRY POST.

Asheville, March 6.—(AP)—Dr. Jesse H. Buell, head of research in silviculture and mensuration at the Appalachian forestry experiment station here, has been appointed senior forester at the U. S. forest office in Washington.

Final Drive Begun To Wipe Out Japs Entrenched On Iwo

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, March 7.—(AP)—An all-out push against the 6,000 or so Japanese still entrenched on the rocky northern end of Iwo Jima was under way today, with tremendous artillery support and army fighters operating off the southern airfield for the first time. Those fighters are based within flying range of Tokyo.

The ground drive, breaking a two-day comparative lull in this fiercest battle of the Pacific war, achieved small gains yesterday in the center and on the left flank of the Marine line, encircling the bitterly resisting enemy against the northern tip.

The Marines moved out behind a deadly rolling artillery barrage, but the Japanese fought back vigorously with a concentrated stream of small arms and mortar fire that the Marines were assumed to "small local gains" in the words of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's communique today.

By nightfall the devil dogs were 400 yards or 600 yards from the northern shore line, opposite a bunge which, at peacetime, would cut the ro mainland Japanese garrison in two. By 6 P. M. 5,000 Jap. 11,456 Japanese dead had been counted, and yesterday, the garrison estimated at 6,000, the 7,000 figure for American dead, 2,000, reported Sunday by Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal.

The toll of Japanese would mount, with none left on Iwo, but their resistance continued strong, despite 16 days of constant blasting.

Rains on Christmas Day, in the Bonins, lasted fully month, the Philippines, and the Carolines, and Rots in the Marianas were announced as "heavy" yesterday.

Flood Menace Grows For Western Rivers

Ohio, Mississippi Cities Threatened From Rising Waters

(By The Associated Press)

Floods of a planned Ohio River Valley—Eight dead, numerous homeless and war plants closed down along the river and its tributaries. The Red Cross estimated 5,000 to 6,000 families evacuated from Cincinnati homes.

Western Pennsylvania faced worst conditions since 1942. Railways in Pittsburgh area prepared to remove valuable machinery. Seven coal mines employing 3,000 workers closed at Bellaire, Ohio. Hundreds evacuated from lowlands around Louisville, Ky. Flood in its entire length through 981 miles, with high tributary and agricultural districts, the Ohio saw the third second stage crested at Cincinnati early in 1937 and 1934.

Mississippi Valley—Army engineer troops thrown into fight to save threatened levees along lower White River in Woodruff, Monroe and Prairie counties in Arkansas. One hundred families homeless and others expected to be forced out west of Dyersburg in western Tennessee, where the Mississippi river pounded a stretch of levees. Conditions improved in Mississippi delta, but bottom lands were expected to drain for several days.

PROPHY CONFIRMED.

Washington, March 6.—(AP)—The Senate confirmed today the nomination of William A. Brophy of New Mexico to be commissioner of Indian affairs to succeed John Collier, who resigned.

Legislators Given $10 Day For Expenses

Raleigh, March 7.—(AP)—The House Committee on Constitutional Amendments voted favorably today on a bill by Representative Hamilton, of Craven, to allow legislators $10 a day for expenses. It would cover only 60 days of a session. Legislators now receive $800 a session.

No provision was made for the lieutenant governor, whose salary recently was increased by $2,000 a year. He now receives $2,000 when the assembly is not sitting and $4,700 when it meets in regular session.

The Senate Committee on Education voted favorably on a bill approving a recent amendment to the Constitution, to divide the State into eight educational districts, each to have a representative on the State Board of Education.

The Senate committee also approved a House bill to pay school principals ten months, instead of the present nine.

The House health committee postponed indefinitely action on a bill to regulate the profession of nursing and nursing attendants. It would have placed the attendants under the supervision of the State Board of Nursing and reshuffle the membership of the Nurses Examining Boards.

Toll Of Nazi Prisoners Is Over Million

Last Bridgehead Of Nazis Is Hammered Town To Mere Strip

Paris, March 7.—(AP)—The powerful American third army drove routed Germans to within fifteen miles of the middle Rhine today, while the first army fought within three miles of Bonn, fifteen miles south of fallen Cologne.

Hitler's militarization of the now overrun Rhineland, the prisoner toll for all Allied armies on the western front passed the million mark, and rose above 100,000 for the current campaign, which started January 30 with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's plunge into the Siegfried line east of Luxembourg.

A graveyard of German dead stretched from Cologne fifty miles back to the Reich frontier. Soon after that fourth city of Germany fell late yesterday, the American first and ninth armies cleared the whole west bank of the Rhine from Rheinberg to Cologne, save for a fractional pocket at Zons, just south of Duesseldorf. The distance was 45 airline miles but nearer seventy as the Rhine flows.

The last sizable German bridgehead west of the lower Rhine opposite Wesel was hammered down to a strip eight miles long and up to five miles wide. On Monday, 50,000 Germans were estimated to be in the pocket. Many have fled, but now the last two bridges at Wesel are virtually impassable.

Nazi troopers who survived the debacle of Cologne fled south along the Rhine toward Bonn, a city of 141,000 and the birthplace of Beethoven. The first army's ninth division fought at dawn in the village of Altrim, only three miles from Bonn.

Lost Cologne, Bonn has almost defenseless on the west bank of the crested Rhine.

Major General Hugh Gaffey's fourth armored division approached the middle Rhine in the Coblenz area, after a 37-mile sweep since early Monday—tanks and infantry captured cold stores of booty stacked for miles along the road.

U. S. Bombers Hit At Nazis' Escape Outlet On Rhine

London, March 7.—(AP)—U. S. heavy bombers thundered over Germany in a long procession today, the 23rd day of the current air offensive.

British war planes overnight made an eight-hour attack on Wesel, Nazi escape town on the east bank of the Rhine. It was the longest air attack ever carried out against a German city.

Sugar Scores Moderate Gain

New York, Wall Street, March 7.—(AP)—Sugars, specialties and a few industrial and rail leaders scored moderate gains today as other sections of the stock market remained in a narrow and indecisive range.

Firmness of U. S. Steel helped to lift the market on a better footing after early irregularities.

Americans Gain 5 Miles On Italy Line

Rome, March 7.—(AP)—American mountain troops have gained five miles in the rugged Apennines southwest of Bologna in the strongest advance on the fifth army front in weeks, Allied headquarters announced today.

Striking northeastward west of the Pistoia highway three days ago, the Americans have captured a number of dominating peaks in the town of Castel d'Aiano, 20 miles from Bologna. More than 1,200 prisoners have been taken.

The objective of the drive presumably was to gain control of the Pistoia-Bologna highway, which the Germans have dominated far to the south for months through control of a number of peaks.

BATTLE FOR RHINE BRIDGES

IN THE BACKGROUND of this photograph can be seen one of the two vital bridges in the cross-river suburbs of Duisburg, Germany, for which the U. S. Ninth Army has been battling in its mighty duel for possession of the western Rhine banks and over-the-Rhine bridges. The western approach to the bridge may be in U. S. hands. *(International)*