

Americans Pouring Over Rhine

Reds Loose Heavy Blow On Stettin

School Law For Biennium Is Approved

Committee, However, Freezes Number Of Teachers Permitted

Raleigh, March 9.—(AP)—The House Education Committee today approved the school machinery act for the next biennium, but not before amending it to freeze the number of teachers in high or elementary schools having four or less teachers.

The State Board of Education recommended yesterday that the number not be frozen, because of changing populations caused by the war. Among other things, the act would extend control of the school system over kindergartens, extend the State's liability to children injured on school grounds by school buses (liability already covers those injured on buses to or from school); allow teachers to serve notification of their acceptance or rejection of a contract within ten days of rejection, instead of the present rule of ten days after closing the schools; change teacher allotments from being based on the first six months of average attendance of the previous year to the last six months of a seven months period; allow the State Board of Education to determine which school districts shall be bonded; extend the State liability under workmen's compensation to vocational teachers; amend the present law to force children to go to the schools assigned to them; and allow the State Board of Education to lease land to the State Department of Conservation and Development for game and fish preserves.

The board of education would retain all and mineral rights, however. The House roads committee voted favorably on an amended bill to allow 15-year-olds to drive motor vehicles with written permission of their parents.

Senators Eyeing Moscow Dealings With the Poles

Washington, March 9.—(AP)—Senators watched the Moscow negotiations on the provisional Polish government today for advance signs of the kind of big three nation conference they may expect at the world security conference.

Calling the Moscow meeting a "testing ground," Senator Vandenberg, Republican, Michigan, told a reporter the results will demonstrate, to him at least, how far Russia is willing to go in accepting American and British viewpoints on political matters affecting the Soviets.

"This is the acid test of our ability to cooperate with the Russians and the British on questions of international security," Vandenberg said.

Bills To Regulate Sale Of Wine Given Assembly

Raleigh, March 9.—(AP)—Bills to control the sale of all wine in North Carolina, to allow handling only by reputable dealers and grade "A" hotels, restaurants and cafes were introduced today in the legislature under the sponsorship of Governor Cherry.

Indiscriminate selling of wines, Cherry said in a statement, had caused boisterous conduct, immorality and unlawful conduct at some of the places where it was sold on premises. Such conditions, he said, should be outlawed.

General supervision of the manufacture and sale of wines would be held by the State Alcoholic Board of Control. A bill to authorize the State Board of Education to appoint five of its members to study the school building problem and make recommendations for improvements to the 1947 legislature was introduced by Representatives Gann of Caswell, Stone of Rockingham, Royster of Vance, Watkins of Granville and Barbour of Chatham.

The measure said that war conditions had caused many dilapidated

HOW COLOGNE LOOKED TO THE CONQUERING YANKS



AS AMERICAN TROOPS ENTERED COLOGNE, 1,300 year-old Rhineland capital, this picture was taken and immediately relayed back to America by a portable radiophoto transmitting machine which has followed the Yank invaders and set new speed records for news-picture coverage of historic events. In the background can be seen the spires of the far-famed cathedral of Cologne. (International Soundphoto)

Iwo Battle Is In Final Stages Now

Japs Are All But Overcome By Yanks, Who Gain Further

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, March 9.—(AP)—The fierce battle for Iwo Jima is assuming the pattern of the final phases of American conquest of other Pacific islands—but it may be several days before correspondents can flash "two secured."

Today's communique disclosed small gains which at one point saw the United States Marine division gaining a cliff top only 300 yards from the northeast coast.

The Japanese, compressed into a rough, crescent-shaped area measuring 300 to 1,500 yards wide along the north and east coasts, have adopted desperation tactics such as prodded collapse of their organized resistance on Guam and elsewhere.

Front line dispatches tell of small banzai charges, of suicidal attacks against American tanks by Japanese armed only with poles, to which

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Zhukov's Army Is Again In Keustrin In Heavy Fighting

London, March 9.—(AP)—Troops of Marshal Gregory Zhukov, in their offensive toward Berlin, have fought into Keustrin a second time, the Germans reported, and a bitter battle is raging in the ancient streets of the Oder river fortress. Russian tanks and infantry attacked 17 times from the north-eastern part of the city—which the Germans said yesterday has been bypassed on the north and south by the Russians, who had driven across the Oder to within 25 miles of Berlin, but were finally driven back to the suburbs, a German broadcast announced.

Ohio Cities Hope Flood Peak Reached

Portsmouth, Ohio, March 9.—(AP)—This city of 40,000 inhabitants crossed its fingers today and put its trust in a thin line of sandbags as the Ohio river approached a crest of 65 feet, 15 above the flood stage. The rise of the Ohio had slowed to .02 of a foot an hour. The river was stationary at Ashland, Ky., 30 miles upstream, encircling the citizens in their fight to whip the flood. Up the Ohio river, the swollen waters were receding at Steubenville and East Liverpool, while Marietta and Ironton—the latter safe behind a 73-foot flood wall—awaited crests of 47.9 and 61 feet, respectively, today. The river was falling slowly at Cincinnati after reaching a crest of 63.7 feet Wednesday night. Louisville momentarily expected a crest of 47.3 feet.

U. S. Troops Make Further Advances On Italian Front

Rome, March 9.—(AP)—U. S. Fifth Army troops, closing in on the German highway stronghold of Vergato, 17½ miles southwest of Belgrin, have occupied Carviano, about a mile east of their objective, Allied headquarters announced today. The push, although slowed somewhat by the enemy in the last 24 hours, was the closest approach yet to Vergato, which has held out against Allied attacks for four months. The Nazis, meanwhile, stepped up their artillery fire against the United States tenth mountain positions, newly bordering the Bologna-Pistoia highway, as well as Allied positions farther west.

U. S. Troops Have Landed On Mindanao

Southern Philippine Island Is Menaced; End Near on Luzon

Manila, March 9.—(AP)—American troops have landed on Mindanao, second largest island of the Philippines, said an unconfirmed Tokyo radio broadcast heard in London today. An earlier report by Tokyo said United States warships were shelling Zamboanga on the southwestern tip of Mindanao, but "no landings had been made up to Thursday night."

American forces on Luzon were closing in on Baguio, northern capital of the commonwealth, and securing their holdings on the south coast.

The severe wounding of Major General Mudge, commander of the first cavalry division, was made known today. He was wounded on the battlefield northeast of Manila February 28 by a grenade thrown by a Japanese soldier who had been left for dead. Fragments hit the veteran cavalryman in the abdomen, but the medical staff said his recovery was certain.

Tokyo radio said warships had been bombarding Zamboanga since

Germans In Retreat In Confusion

Russians Advancing Under Heavy Fire Of The Nazi Artillery

Moscow, March 9.—(AP)—Red army bombers loosed a heavy attack today on German retreating into Stettin, destroying a vital bridge near Atslanam, eastern gateway of the big port for Berlin at the mouth of the Oder river.

A large enemy column moving across the bridge was thrown into confusion and the Soviet bombers and Stormoviks strafed the Germans mercilessly.

While the air force stepped up its attacks, Russian ground troops were reported to have assembled boats and landing craft the banks of the Dammshcer See, farther north, where a crossing to the west shore may already have started in an out-flanking maneuver on Stettin.

The Red army troops were reported moving swiftly under constant artillery fire in the area between Stettin and Puchitz, on the east bank of the Oder estuary, nine miles to the north.

At the northern tip of the Dammshcer See, Soviet units have pushed into the region where the Bna river flows to the isthmus and were engaged in hand-to-hand fighting.

The German command is well aware any penetration here or across the See insures an out-flanking drive on Stettin from the north, and may set up a powerful springboard for a new drive on the German capital.

The Russian high command, meanwhile, continued the news blackout on developments on the central front east of Berlin, where the Germans reported Red army units west of the Oder, and only 25 miles from the German capital.

The tempo of front dispatches, however, indicated the Russians may be preparing to employ their highly successful enveloping operations against Berlin. A dispatch in Izvestia pointed out reports that the Russians had killed or captured 300,000 Germans during January and February in this type of military strategy.

early Thursday. Zamboanga has gone airless.

Mindanao has been bombed heavily by American planes for months, General Douglas MacArthur's communique today told of a 129-ton bombing of Zamboanga by bombers of all sizes.

An American force was last reported within five miles of Baguio, the 11th airborne division and the 158th regiment of the eighth army captured the town of Lemaay in a 12-mile sweep eastward along a good highway fringing Balayan bay.

Bridgehead Now Is Good 5 Miles Deep; Resistance Slight

Patton's Army to South Continuing Plunge and May Trap 50,000 Germans

In Italian Crisis



THE ESCAPE of Gen. Mario Roatta, former Italian Chief of Staff, from a prison hospital in Rome has resulted in widespread rioting. The demand for resignation of Premier Bonomi's government may result in Count Carlo Sforza obtaining the premiership. Above is a picture of Roatta taken during his recent trial for treason. (International)

Bombers Hit Nazi Centers In Vital Area

London, March 9.—(AP)—The German industrial city of Kassel, heavily bombed by the RAF last night, was attacked again today by the main force of a 1,000-bomber fleet sent out by the U. S. 8th air force.

In the night raid the British also hit submarine building yards at Hamburg and unreported objectives in Berlin. German radios began warning of the approach of daylight bombers shortly after 3 a. m.

The U. S. 15th air force struck a heavy blow at German communications yesterday in Hungary, hitting railway yards at Komorn, 20 miles in advance of Russian ground forces, and blocking all through lines near the Austrian frontier, 42 miles west of Komorn.

Paris, March 9.—(AP)—The American first army steadily enlarged its Remagen bridgehead in inner Germany today to an east bank width at least five miles deep and ten wide.

Paris, March 9.—(AP)—The American first army steadily reinforced and built up its Rhine bridgehead today at a point south of Cologne, which the Germans said was Remagen, 27 miles southwest of Berlin.

Remagen is about midway between invested Bonn and and threatened Coblenz. Of the crossing, the Berlin radio said:

"At Remagen, the Americans succeeded in crossing to the eastern bank of the Rhine. These relatively weak U. S. A. forces could penetrate on the eastern bank of the Rhine. Their advance guards were, however, halted by German hold positions before the town of Linz."

Linz is three miles east of Remagen, where the Ludendorff rail bridge was reported intact only two days ago.

Supreme headquarters continued strict secrecy. This much was known, however, through the mere that 45 shrouded hours since the infantry crossed at 3:50 p. m. Wednesday in one of the greatest military strokes since the invasion of Normandy.

Lt. Gen. Hodges was pouring troops by the thousands into the bridgehead, which was a good five miles deep.

At supreme headquarters, it was said the Germans neither had been able to rally enough strength for a fighting stand nor to get enough troops to the danger point for serious counter attacks, although three small ones were mounted.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's aggressive third army overran two-thirds of the Coblenz plain and seized Nissenburg, fifteen miles south of Remagen. With the first army he was rapidly forging a trap on perhaps 50,000 Germans caught in his audacious plunge to the Rhine near Coblenz two days ago.

On the lower Rhine, the Canadians captured Xanten and compressed the west Rhine bridgehead opposite Wesel down to a ten-square-mile triangle. Just north of Remagen, however, New Yorkers and others of the veteran first division were cleaning out Bonn and driving to the Rhine inside the ancient university city. Resistance was strong but the city of 101,000 was being cleared block by block by infantry tank combat teams.

The Bonn bridge was blown and was within sight of infantrymen who were on the river. The fall of Bonn could not long be delayed.

Three White Boys Die In Gas Chamber

Raleigh, March 5.—(AP)—Elmer Hardy Biggs, 22; William Dalton Biggs, 20, brothers, and John Edgar Messer, 20, died today in the State gas chamber for the slaying February 19, 1943, of E. J. Swanson, elderly Jamestown storekeeper. The three maintained innocence until the last and professed their faith in Christianity and in eternal life. Each appeared calm as he was strapped into the chair and the death mask adjusted.

A small group of spectators witnessed the executions. William Biggs, the first to die, was pronounced dead in 10 1/2 minutes. Messer, the second to die, was pronounced dead in 12 minutes, and Elmer Hardy Biggs was pronounced dead in nine and a half minutes.

ONE STRIKE ENDED IN DETROIT REGION

Detroit, Mich., March 9.—(AP)—A one-day strike affecting 3,000 workers at the Graham-Paige Motors, Inc., today ended, but 13,000 strikers at seven Briggs Manufacturing Company plants were expected to remain off their jobs, at least until after the week-end.

Says CIO Cut Production In Auto Plants

Detroit, Mich., March 9.—(AP)—Describing the CIO as "the most powerful private organization in the history of our country," George Romney, speaking for the nation's automotive industry, charged the labor organization today with using its power during wartime to reduce production efficiency of automotive plants between 25 and 50 percent.

Romney, managing director of the Automotive Council for War Production, appearing before members of the Senate war investigating committee, repeated contentions he had made before that union representatives were seeking the usurp management functions. He claimed also

RACE FOR BONN AND KOBLENZ



IN A TWO-SALIENT SWEEP to clean up the Nazis' middle Rhineland, Gen. Patton's 3rd Army tanks are rolling (1) toward Koblenz, while the U. S. 1st Army, following its victorious occupation of Cologne (2), is just outside of Bonn and moving to cut off all Germans in the Rhine-Moselle triangle. In racing for Bonn, Lt. Gen. Hodges' forces seek to close Nazi escape routes across the Rhine at that point. (International)

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WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Considerable cloudiness, especially in eastern section. Fair and cold tonight. Saturday fair and warmer.