you're MORE time to read the NEWS!

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

ESTABLISHED 1888 | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1945 | 18 Pages—Price Five Cents

YANKS DRIVE THROUGH COLOGNE; PATTON LASHES TOWARD RHINE

Ohio Valley Mobilizes As River Flood Waters Rise

War Factories Begin To Close

CINCINNATI — (AP) — The Ohio Valley's first major wartime flood began to silence scores of munitions plants today as the river slowly swelled toward stages reached only twice before in history.

Transportation was crippled in sections; telephone service was jammed. In Cincinnati, for the first time in history, telephone subscribers were asked to cut their lines and take instruments with them if they had to evacuate their homes. Telephone company officials said instruments were virtually irreplaceable.

With the Ohio rising 2 feet an hour on the heels of a continuing three-inch or more rain, Federal, state, and city officials strained resources to meet calls for aid from residents of low-lying areas and from war plants in the bottoms areas.

MID-DAY STAGE

The mid-day stage was 64.9 feet, nearly thirteen feet over flood stage, and the Ohio threatened to reach at least 70 feet here, with comparable stages for many miles both up and downstream.

This compared with the record 79.99 stage of 1927 and 72 feet in 1913, the previous peak.

Backwaters of the Ohio and Little Miami ripped a 40-foot section from the Beechmont levee protecting Lunken Airport, isolating suburban Mount Washington except for a long detour, and cutting all gas service there. The airport already had been flooded.

Cincinnati's busy Mill Creek industrial area was protected from the Ohio by a barrier dam, but a

See OHIO VALLEY on Page 7

Mecklenburg Casualties

(Stories Inside)

WOUNDED

Pvt. Shirley M. Green Jr.

KILLED

Sgt. James B. Dunn

MISSING

Pvt. David P. Houlbrook

Two-Minute

News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front

The rich but devastated prize of Cologne is one-third in American hands, Associated Press Correspondent James Long reveals that the Yanks have forced the German defenders back into the old city section around the heart of the Rhineland metropolis. Three Yank divisions (Third Armored, Eighth and 104th Infantry) have battled over trivial opposition to reach the centuries thoroughfare known as the Ringstrasse. AP Reporter Don Whitehead earlier asserted that the fall of the bomb-shattered, queen city of the Rhine could be but a few hours away.

Air Warfare

The concentrated air offensive against the Reich has swept into its 22nd day with a strike by RAF heavy bombers. The British planes blasted an oil refinery 27 miles northwest of Muenster.

Russian Front

On the Eastern Front, the Red Army has captured Grudziadz, encircled holdout fortress in the Polish Corridor on the Vistula. The fortress is 55 miles south of Danzig.

Italy

In Italy, the Fifth Army has taken Bisopra, thirteen miles from Bologna.

Iwo

On Iwo, our Marines are getting ready for a grand scale assault on the northern end of the Jap island. They are ready for anything. Yesterday's fighting didn't alter positions much, but the Americans drove back several Jap attempts to come through our lines for water. Meanwhile the Japs are not only fighting for water. Every Marine on Iwo realizes that the enemy considers Iwo a piece of his homeland and 12,000 of the enemy have died already in defense of it. We have lost 2,050.

Philippines

In the Philippines, American troops and Filipino guerrillas are engaged in battling the four remaining divisions on northern Luzon. General MacArthur estimates that six out of ten Jap divisions have been wiped out. In Manila, military and civilian engineers say that it will take fifteen years to make the city what it was before the battle for liberation. Two thousand square blocks are in utter ruin as are bridges, the waterfront, the power system and much of the transportation facilities.

Visits German Soil

Churchill Makes Rhine Front Tour

LONDON—(AP) — Prime Minister Churchill visited German soil overlooking the great Rhine barrier to Berlin last week-end and told front line troops that "soon the enemy will be driven across the Rhine and anyone can see that one strong heave will win the war," it was disclosed today.

The visit "touched off an atmosphere of great expectancy on the Western Front," said a dispatch by Associated Press Correspondent Roger D. Greene.

During his tour of the battlefront, the doughty 70-year-old British statesman fired an artillery shell directed to Adolf Hitler—the same Hitler who four years ago promised to visit Britain—and paid calls at the headquarters of Marshal Montgomery and Gen. Eisenhower.

BACK IN BRITAIN

He returned to Britain today, his residence announced.

Entering a gun-pit south of rubbled Goch, Churchill wrote on a 240-mm shell the words "to Hitler personally." He chewed grimly on his cigar as he pulled the lanyard of the American-made gun, sending the missile screaming toward the Germans holding out on the Rhine banks.

"I am not responsible, if it doesn't get Hitler," he remarked. "The artillery boys get the

MR. CHURCHILL

sights. I just shot it off."

Churchill walked into the enemy country through the shattered Siegfried Line, once the symbol of

See CHURCHILL on Page 7

U. S. Victory Near

Luzon Jap Forces Hit Hard By Yanks

By JAMES HUTCHESON

MANILA—(AP)—Destruction of six of the ten Japanese divisions on Luzon Island was announced today by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who said the remaining enemy troops, effectively bottled up in the mountains, were under continuous attack and "their position is critical."

Six Japanese divisions could number close to 100,000 men.

More than 125,000 Japanese have been killed on bloody Leyte Island, south of Luzon, making a total for these two islands alone of 225,000 dead Nipponese troops, including some of the empire's best.

MacArthur, reporting gains on all Luzon fronts and effective air strikes against Formosa and China Coast shipping, said that on Luzon "the equivalent of six divisions, with supporting elements, have been destroyed, together with the main supply depots."

Supplies destroyed or captured included great quantities of munitions, trucks, guns, food and clothing.

JAP FORCES SPLIT

The remaining Japanese on Luzon, MacArthur said, "are split up into a number of divergent groups" with their supply lines cut or harassed by Americans and guerrillas and "our naval and air forces blocking their route of evacuation.

"Their position is critical."

The announcement came just a day after MacArthur disclosed the destruction of thousands of Japanese in Ilocos Norte Province, on the northwest shoulder of Luzon, by guerrillas operating under an American Army officer, Col. R. W. Volckman. The guerrillas cleared the enemy from the entire province.

Twenty-Fifth Division Yanks, pushing into the Carabello Mountains, won more of the Balete Pass Road leading to the Cagayan Valley of northern Luzon, while the 38th and 43rd Divisions near the west coast drove through the Zambales Mountains in an envelopment move against enemy positions.

Northeast of Manila the 37th

See LUZON JAPS on page 7

Ship Battles Of Jap Planes

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The U. S. merchant ship Cape Constance survived 53 days of attack by Japanese planes during the Leyte invasion — and shot down two of the raiders.

A War Shipping Administration report today said the attacks began as the Cape Constance approached the Philippines with its military supply cargo and continued daily and at night when moonlight permitted.

"Although damage was inflicted on the war freighter, none of the crew was seriously injured," WSA said. "A few days after the first attack, the Navy armed guard brought down the first enemy plane. On the same morning another plane was hit and it crashed, killing the pilot."

Last Japs Near Death On Iwo Jima

Marines Prepare All-Out Drive

By VERN HAUGLAND

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam—(AP)—The clincher blow in the savage sixteen-day old battle for, little Iwo, where more than 2,000 Marines have died while killing more than 12,000 Japanese, was poised today—grown in power by supplies pouring ashore on the east and west coasts.

There were no appreciable changes in the lines yesterday as the Leathernecks, holding more than two-thirds of the eight square mile island, built up their positions for a grand scale assault on the rocky defense-studded north end.

In Washington yesterday, Navy Secretary Forrestal disclosed on his return from a visit to Iwo that 2,050 Marines have been killed, adding the loss was not out of proportion to the importance of taking the island. It is needed to put American fighter planes and Liberator bombers within range of Japan.

U. S. LOSSES LARGE

Forrestal gave no figures for wounded and missing. The last official figure supplied by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz covered casualties for the first three days. The figures included 644 killed, 4,168 wounded and 560 missing, although some of the missing since have been located.

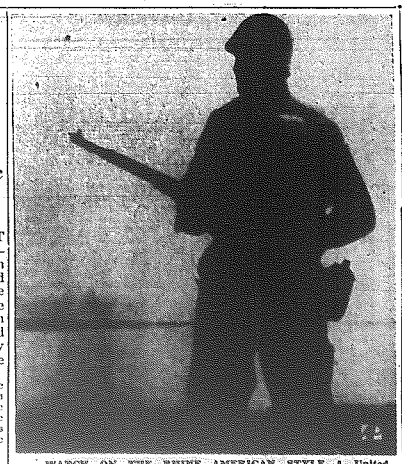
Both Forrestal and Nimitz have given the incomplete count of Japanese dead found inside American lines at more than 12,500. Other enemy dead are known to be buried under smashed pillboxes. Still others are behind the Japanese lines, a dwindling area which has been shelled by Fifth Fleet warships, pounded by Marine artillery and bombed by planes.

This morning's communique briefly summarized the ground situation: "On the night of March 4-5, the enemy made a number of attempts to infiltrate our lines on Iwo Island and subjected the Marines to substantial small arms and artillery fire. All enemy efforts to move into our positions were broken up. No appreciable change was made in the lines of the opposing forces on March 5."

Possibly indicative of a momentary lull, the communique for the first time since the invasion opened Feb. 19 made no reference to either carrier plane attacks or warship shelling at Iwo.

In Washington, Secretary Forrestal praised the fighting of the three Marine Divisions as "highly successful" but the Japanese there were stronger than had been expected and had made good use of their weapons.

Forrestal's account of 2,050 Marines killed made Iwo from that standpoint the bloodiest battlefield in the Pacific War. Marine dead in the comparative period on Saipan slightly exceeded 1,200. American dead on Guam for the full twenty days it took to end organized resistance totaled 1,214.



WATCH ON THE RHINE—AMERICAN STYLE—A United States soldier, one of the first to reach the historic Rhine River, looks across the water barrier into the heart of Germany. Visible in the background is the shore line along the east bank of the river near Duesseldorf. (AP Wirephoto via Press Wireless from the Ninth Army Front).

Port Threatened

Russians Closing In Upon Stettin

By RICHARD KASISCHKE

LONDON—(AP)—Russian troops closing on Stettin have reached the Oder near Greifenhagen, 11 miles south of the port, a Moscow dispatch said today. The Germans declared the Soviets had thrust to within 13 miles of Stettin Bay and 35 of the U-boat base of Swinemuende.

Red Army artillery was shelling Stettin, the port of Berlin at the Oder's mouth.

The river divides into two main channels at Greifenhagen.

The German High Command said Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian Army was wheeling westward on a 40-mile front from Stargard to Greifenberg, the latter town 14 miles from the Baltic coast and 17 northeast of captured Naugard.

It said a Zhukov spearhead had been stopped northeast of Gollnow at a point 13 miles from Stettin Bay. Gollnow is northwest of Stargard and southwest of Naugard, both captured yesterday.

BERLIN PUSH FEARED

The Berlin radio asserted Zhukov had massed five infantry and two tank armies on the central sector for a push westward on Berlin.

Moscow dispatches said Zhukov's First White Russian Army was advancing steadily beyond Stargard, 18 miles east of Stettin, and Naugard, 22 miles north of Stargard, and tightening his flank on the Baltic coast in preparation for a new push on Berlin.

Romans In March

By GEORGE BRIA

ROME — (AP) — A civilian was killed, another was injured and a British soldier was wounded when Romans waving red flags attempted to attack the Royal Palace today while Crown Prince Umberto was inside.

Two bombs were thrown and shots were fired in the clash between mounted Carabinieri and the crowd near the entrance to Quirinal Palace in the midst of an Italian political crisis generated by the escape of an Italian general accused of war crimes.

Umberto, who as lieutenant-general of the realm has taken over the duties of King Vittorio Emanuele, failed to appear during or after the disturbance, in which the demonstrators shouted "death to the king."

The crowd, thousands strong, marched to the Quirinal from Colosseum Square after a mass meeting there protesting the escape of Gen. Mario Roatta during his trial on war crimes charges.

450-Mile Front

Germans Gird For Battle On East Bank Of Rhine Barrier

By ROSS MUNRO

Canadian Press War Correspondent

WITH THE CANADIANS ON THE RHINE— (AP) —The Germans are organizing their defenses today on the east bank of the Rhine and putting more guns into position.

The river is a natural backstop for the shattered Siegfried Line.

SHELLING INCREASES

Enemy shelling along the river was increasing. Under protection of mist and low clouds the enemy has fired 200 shells into the Kleve area, during the last 24 hours and tried to shoot up roads in the Canadian Army sector.

Once the artillery now supporting Gen. H. D. Crerar's troops in the last phase of the fighting in the Germans Kanten-Wesel bulge can be turned east again counter-battery work will certainly reduce this enemy fire.

Defenses beyond the Rhine are nothing like as strong as the Siegfried Line. They consist of hastily dug trench systems, ditches and machine-gun and artillery positions. They are not in great depth and are manned by an assortment of troops from formations which fought west of the river and units brought up from northern Holland.

The major portion of the German forces escaped across the Rhine, but the Allies have gained the west bank and now dominate the Ruhr.

Field Marshal Von Rundstedt faced a great problem in manning the Rhine defenses. It is believed impossible for him to have strong forces all along the 450-mile front.

Within three months he has had four Armies mauled. These are the Fifth and Sixth Panzer Armies in the Ardennes, and the First Parachute and Fifteenth Armies in the current Rhineland battle.

While the latter two were not trapped and destroyed, they suffered heavily. (Supreme Headquarters said Saturday the First Parachute and Fifteenth Armies had been destroyed as effective fighting forces).

The latest figure on prisoners taken by the Canadians now is 19,500, an increase of 2,500 over night. The Germans likewise are suffering heavily in killed and seriously wounded.

Third Army In South Stages Dazzling Drive

Patton's Troops Spurt 25 Miles Toward Rhine In Coblenz Area

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS — (AP) — American troops fought through Cologne to the Rhine tonight, and in the south the U. S. Third Army spurted 25 miles toward the Rhine in the Coblenz area.

American First Army tanks and troops fought past the famous Dom Cathedral in Cologne, Germany's fourth city, and a front dispatch declared "Cologne for all military purposes has fallen."

In Cologne, greatest prize yet taken in Germany by the Western Allies, only a knot of resistance was left in the main part of the city. Infantry and armored columns were driving against it.

By mid-morning today, the First Army had won one-third of Cologne, and then smashed on through.

The Third Armored Division and 104th Infantry Division closed on the last Germans resisting in Cologne. There the enemy had manned only key points, instead of making a house-to-house defense in the manner of Aachen. The Eighth Infantry was the third outfit which punched into and through the city of 768,000 population.

Three divisions—the Third Armored, Eighth and 104th Infantry—reached the Ringstrasse against surprisingly light opposition. The Germans fought in what once was the walled section of Cologne, by far the greatest traffic center in Western Germany.

Germans fought from dugouts in the ruins mainly with small arms and some cannon and with artillery support from across the Rhine.

Berlin was 288 miles to the northeast.

Gains to 10 A. M. overran at least eight of the city's 25 square miles and placed the tanks and infantrymen less than two miles from the medieval cathedral and the wrecked Hohenzollern bridge. The fringe sections of Effern, Aistaden and Hermulheim all were cleared; Bransfeld was almost conquered.

Germans retreated south from Cologne along a corridor to Bonn.

The Germans were battling to hold open their escape corridor down to Bonn, with Americans only six miles from that university city.

The Third Army tanks broke out of their Kyll River bridgehead farther south yesterday morning and in 30 hours raced 25 miles, or more than half-way the distance to the Rhine. They were meeting "only medium resistance" in its push to the river in this sector. More than 1,500 Germans including a corps commander were captured.

The drive of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army had been blacked out for security reasons.

American troops had driven to the Rhine all along a line north of Cologne except for a bend in the river south of Duesseldorf, and captured the Ford Motor plant just north of the city.

North of Cologne, which once was the greatest traffic center in

See YANKS DRIVE on Page 7

Road To Berlin

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

1—Eastern Front: 32 miles (from Zellin).

2—Western Front: 384 miles (from Cologne.)

3—Italian Front: 544 miles (From Reno River.)

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warmer this afternoon and tonight. Wednesday cloudy and cooler with showers.

Temperature at 2:30 Today	72
High & Low Last 24 Hours	72/ 46
Sunset Today	7:23
Sunrise Tomorrow	7:45

RAF Bombs Refinery

LONDON — (AP) — RAF heavy bombers staged a high-concentration attack in daylight today on the Salzbergen oil refinery 27 miles northwest of Muenster in a follow-up to their 1,100-bomber assault last night on Chemnitz, Berlin, and three other cities.

It was the 22nd consecutive day of Allied air blows.

The night assault concentrated on Chemnitz, hit during Monday by 250 U. S. Flying Fortresses. Other formations hit synthetic oil plants at Bohlen near Leipzig, and targets at Mannheim and Celle-Kirchen while Mosquitos again bombed Berlin. Thirty-three planes were missing from this night fleet, but some may have landed on continental bases.

4,000 TONS DROPPED

The night raiders had dropped approximately 4,000 tons of high explosives on their three targets.

Two hours after the attack on Chemnitz, reconnaissance pilots saw large fires still burning. At Bohlen there were violent explosions, diffusing so much light that the last planes over the target were able to bomb visually as in daylight.

Chemnitz is one of the main centers of the vast railway network spreading over Saxony and Allied air chiefs apparently are determined to deal it a knockout blow.

Its importance was emphasized by the Air Ministry, which said: "Very few large industrial towns now remain comparatively undevastated to serve as bases for the organization of defense against the Russian Army or for administrative control of Germany."

CO-ORDINATED BLOWS

This is the same type of co-ordinated blow by which American and British heavy bombers virtually flattened Dresden and numerous other German industrial centers.

Tokyo Reports Raid On Honshu

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo radio reported seven Superfortresses raided scattered targets on Japan's main island last night and early today, ranging from Tokyo to Shimonoseki, 500 miles southwest on the extreme southern tip of Honshu Island.

The broadcast, recorded by the Federal Communications Commission, said a single B-29 over the capital at 7 P. M. opened the alarm disturbing sorties.

Norway Battle May Erupt

LONDON—(AP)—Active fighting in the "Battle of Norway" may start at any time, a Swedish broadcast quoting the underground Norwegian paper Kronikken said today. All plans were declared ready.

"During the past six months many people have expressed a desire for partisan warfare in Norway," the paper said. "The present task of Norwegians is to prevent German forces in Norway from reinforcing the hard-pressed German armies on the Western fronts. The Norwegian way is at present a battle of transport."