

LARGEST CIRCULATION  
IN TEXAS  
OVER 175,000 DAILY

# FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

EVENING

(CTS)—Chicago Tribune Service • (CDN)—Chicago Daily News  
(NANA)—North American Newspaper Alliance.

A Fort Worth Owned Newspaper

(INS)—International News Service • (NYT)—New York Times  
(AP)—Associated Press (Four Wires).

★ ★

SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR. NO. 36.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS \*\*\* Where the West Begins \*\*\* THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1945.

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES

PRICE FIVE CENTS

# FIRST ARMY CROSSES RHINE



**ANOTHER LIBERATED**—Col. Thomas D. Drake, left, reads with eagerness a newspaper account of the liberation of Lt. Phillip G. Poteet of Fort Worth, one of the officers who was confined with him at a German prison camp in Poland. Colonel Drake, repatriated last September on account of illness, was in Fort Worth Thursday, accompanied by Lord Grenfell, a British colonel serving as a liaison officer to this country. (Staff Photo).

## Visiting Colonel Alert For News of Prisoners

BY W. L. REDUS.

Col. Thomas D. Drake, whose repatriation last September ended 19 months as a prisoner of the Germans, is keeping an ear tuned to the "grapevine" and a close eye on the newspapers for news of the men he left behind at Oflag 64, the prison camp in Poland for American ground forces

same battle and who was confined in the same camp.

With Colonel Drake was Lord Grenfell, a colonel in the British Army, who is a liaison officer with the British general staff to the American War Department. They are on their way to the West Coast with other officers, whom they left at Dallas, for a training

## Red Troops Are 25 Miles From Berlin

LONDON, March 8 (AP).—The Russians have driven to within 25 miles of Berlin's city limits, outflanking the fortress of Kuestrin and reaching Seelow on the west side of the Oder, a Transocean broadcast from the German capital said Thursday.

Seelow is directly east of Berlin and is 12 miles west of the Oder. It is on the main railway skirting the Oder which connects Stettin and Frankfurt.

Marshal Zhukov's massive new offensive, timed with the Allied drive to the Rhine, also has reached a point 29 miles from Berlin north-west of Kuestrin, Berlin reported.

### Terrific Fighting.

Transocean said Seelow was reached from the Russian bridgehead at Goerlitz, between Kuestrin and Frankfurt, and said terrific fighting was taking place in the area, with many places changing hands repeatedly.

Heavy attacks are taking place at Niederwutzen, four miles southwest of Zehden in a loop of the Oder River, Col. Ernst von Hammer said in a Berlin broadcast, and the Russians have made two breaches in the defenses of the fortress of Kuestrin to the south-east.

Fighting was reported flaming along a 125-mile front along the Oder from Stettin Bay to Crossen after a terrific artillery barrage that began 48 hours ago. Germans said the focal point of the attack

## CROWD OUTSIDE PENTONVILLE

### Paratrooper Hanged; Woman Tries To Crash Prison Gate in Protest

BY BARBARA WACE.

LONDON, March 8 (AP).—Karl Gustav Hulten, 22-year-old American paratrooper, died on the Pentonville prison gallows Thursday while a middle-aged woman, protesting his execution for the holdup-slaying of a London cab driver, was trying to crash the courtyard gates in a garbage truck.

## SAINT IN HER EYES

### Mother Still Is Proud of Hanged Son

BOSTON, March 8 (AP).—Mrs. Signe Hulten broke into uncontrollable sobs Thursday when informed by the Associated Press that her son had died on a London gallows for the robbery slaying of a cab driver.

Words failed her completely and she could only murmur "yes, yes" as the news was brought to her in her Boston rooming house.

Then the tears came again, choking all coherent expression.

Both she and the Cambridge, Mass., paratrooper's wife were under a doctor's care as they waited the long night hours away, hoping and yet fearing to hear from London.

Earlier Mrs. Hulten characterized her American private son as

A crowd had to jump fast to avoid injury as the unexpected incident occurred outside the prison. The woman, Mrs. Elsie van der Elst, who long has been a vigorous opponent of capital punishment, repeatedly cried:

"You let the girl off, but you hang the man. It's a damned shame!"

She referred to the reprieve granted Hulten's co-defendant, Mrs. Elizabeth Marina Jones, 18-year-old British strip tease dancer. Home Secretary Herbert Morrison recommended to the king Tuesday that her sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

Hulten, whose home was in Cambridge, Mass., and the girl were convicted in an internationally publicized trial at Old Bailey on charges of killing George Edward Heath, a taxicab driver known as the "man with the cleft chin," last Oct. 6.

Hulten, sentenced to death Dec. 23, was the first American soldier to receive such a sentence at the hands of British authorities in wartime.

He was executed at 9:10 a. m. in the presence of a handful of British prison officials and two American officers.

## COME OVER, WE'VE GOT FRESH EGGS

WITH U. S. 90TH DIVISION IN GERMANY, March 8 (AP).—Staff Sgt. Gerald Dykstra of Grandville, Mich., walked into an empty pillbox Thursday and found the enemy communications system intact.

He picked up the phone. Someone answered and Dykstra, speaking fluent German, said he and his American buddies were frying fresh eggs for breakfast.

"If you care to join us we will be glad to have you," he added.

Five minutes later three Germans showed up for chow.

## Rail and Oil Targets Hit

LONDON, March 8 (AP).—German rail and oil targets were struck another blow Thursday as 1,350 American bombers, following up the RAF's 1,250-plane night assault, attacked seven oil plants and six switching yards.

## Infantry Pouring Over River South of Cologne

PARIS, March 8 (AP).—The American 1st Army crossed the Rhine south of Cologne Wednesday night and secured a firm footing Thursday on the east bank of the great German barrier stream.

General Hodges poured more and more infantrymen across the river after his sudden and sensational crossing in darkness.

The exact location of the bridgehead over the quarter-mile-wide river was shrouded by military censorship because the Germans obviously did not know the exact situation.

The crossing started at 4:30 p. m. Wednesday. In the hours since then, a steady stream of men and materiel have been pouring onto the eastern bank and moving forward in a drive to get the bridgehead out of range of enemy artillery.

(Cologne is in about the same latitude as Newfoundland, and the days at this season are extremely short).

During the first 24 hours, there was little artillery or mortar fire on the bridgehead, indicating the enemy was in utter confusion when he fled back across the river from the ashes of Cologne before Hodges' hard-driving divisions.

### Opposition Is Light.

First Army infantrymen spanned the quarter mile-wide river against rather light opposition before the startled Germans could grasp what had happened, AP Correspondent Wes Gallagher said.

The surprise announcement was passed by censors at 5:55 Thursday night after 24 hours of security blackout—used while events of great importance are shaping.

Other units of the 1st Army captured half of the Rhine university city of Bonn (101,000) and half of nearby Bad Godesberg, where Hitler six years ago humbled the late

to the United States, liberated when the Russian drive toward Berlin overran the area where they were held. Usually they report to him soon after reaching this country, sometimes with news of others who have not been heard from officially.

#### Reunion Dinner.

In Fort Worth Thursday, Colonel Drake picked up a newspaper to read about the release of Lieut. Phillip G. Poteet, one of the six Fort Worth officers who were at the camp with him. It gives him hope that others soon may find their way back to this country, freed of the cold and tedium and hunger of prison camp life.

He had dinner two weeks ago with eight of the liberated prisoners, who were flown from Russia to the United States after hitchhiking their way from Poland to Moscow.

Colonel Drake was senior officer at the camp for 16 months (he spent three months at a camp in Bavaria for the British after his capture in North Africa in February 1943, before illness brought about his repatriation. Most of the officers confined there he knew by their first names.

#### On Way to West Coast.

Now on active duty with the G-3 section of the general staff in Washington, Colonel Drake was in Fort Worth to visit Amon Carter, whose son, Lieut. Amon Carter Jr., was captured in the

Colonel Drake knew at the German prison camp are Capt. Joe K. Emerson, Lieut. Robert T. Henry Jr., and Lieut. John T. Jones Jr.

He said Lieut. Weldon Maples and Lieut. Walter Parks, formerly of Breckenridge, must have been sent to the camp after his departure. Officers captured by the Germans in the Normandy invasion, he said, had just begun arriving at Oflag 64 at the time he left the camp last July 27.

#### Over 1,000 at Camp.

Population of the camp then was swelled to between 1,000 and 1,500.

Colonel Drake believes there is at least a 50-50 chance that most of this contingent have been liberated. News dispatches have said 2,000 American officers are at Odessa, and Colonel Drake pointed out that all U. S. ground forces officers, with a few exceptions, were confined at Oflag 64.

At last accounts, he said, the men from this camp were being marched westward over the ice roads, informed that they were to be put on trains for transfer to Germany.

"But," said Colonel Drake, "Russian forward elements overran the area, freeing some of the officers, and it seems unlikely that the entire column was not overtaken."

During their stay at the camp, Colonel Drake said, the officers had to depend for food upon the

Turn to Col. Drake on Page 6

miles east of Berlin, with the Russians battering at the northwest-ern, eastern and southern sides of the fortress.

#### 19 Miles of Danzig.

To the northeast, the Germans said, the Russians have invaded the old Danzig free state and smashed to within 19 miles of Danzig.

Eighty miles west of Danzig, near the Baltic coast, the Russians captured the railway center of Schlawe, a town of 8,000, the Germans said.

Moscow had not officially confirmed German announcements of the second phase of Marshal Stalin's offensive, but correspondents in the Soviet capital were permitted to hint that the German broadcasts were true.

Zhukov, who drove to the Oder in the first phase, has been preparing his forces for the grand assault for more than a month while Marshal Konev on the south pushed abreast to the Neisse River and other forces brought the

Turn to Russians on Page 6.

### INDEX

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Comics-Crossword ..... | 20 |
| Editorial Page .....   | 14 |
| Financial-Oil .....    | 21 |
| Gasoline Alley .....   | 16 |
| News in Pictures ..... | 8  |
| Radio .....            | 24 |
| Society .....          | 17 |
| Sports .....           | 19 |
| Woman's Page .....     | 16 |

"I am still proud of my son," she said in a statement to the Boston Globe Wednesday night.

Then she criticized those who "dared to call" Karl G. Hulten "a cold-blooded murderer."

Wednesday was the 21st birthday of the paratrooper's wife and she and her daughter, June, 21 months, were ill.

Nevertheless, Rita Hulten marshaled strength enough to send a cablegram to the London Daily Mirror to be delivered to her husband before the execution.

"Keep up your hope and courage, darling," she cabled. "Trust in God that this will come out all right. I love you and am with you hoping for the best."

## Wounded Need Boxes at Show

A rotation plan whereby 80 patients of McCloskey General Hospital, Temple, will be transported to and quartered in Fort Worth to attend the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show rodeo was announced Thursday by Henry Love, manager of Hotel Texas, and Mrs. Roger Owings, captain of the Red Cross Motor Corps.

Transportation to and from the hospital and to the show grounds will be furnished by the Motor Corps. Guests will be housed in the hotel overnight.

"Our main problem is to obtain box seats for the boys unable to climb stairs to the reserved seats we have on hand," Love said. Box seat holders who plan not to use their seats on certain nights of the show, or who will exchange their boxes for reserved seats, may contact Love at his Hotel Texas office.

Arrangements are complete for the first group of ten veterans to arrive in Motor Corps vehicles Friday at 4:30 p. m. They will attend the opening performance and be returned to the hospital Saturday morning when Motor Corps drivers make the trip to bring more patients to view Saturday night's show.

## \$60,000 in Jewelry Stolen From Texans

DALLAS, March 8 (INS).—Mrs. C. W. Murchison, wife of a Dallas oil man, and her sister, Mrs. Royal C. Miller, both of Dallas, had more than \$60,000 worth of jewelry stolen from them in Tampico, Mexico, Saturday, it was reported Thursday after their return to Dallas.

Mrs. Murchison said that her sister lost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in rings and bracelets in addition to the approximately \$50,000 Mrs. Murchison lost.

an idle garbage truck and, with the driver, tried to break through the police guards at the gate. The police wheeled another truck in its path. They dragged both the woman and the driver out and took them away.

Earlier the police had sought to persuade her to leave the prison area, but she shouted "Don't touch me."

Members of the crowd then joined in hooting protests against Morrison's decision to reprieve the dancer and let Hulten die. By 9 a. m. the crowd had grown to more than 200, most of them women, and its temper had developed into bristling hostility.

Mrs. Van der Elst, wealthy widow of a Belgian army captain, is reported to have spent a fortune on social work. Once, describing her activities for the abolition of capital punishment, she said:

"I have suffered several times and I have been outside every prison in England."

Although Morrison favored a reprieve for the dancer he ruled there were insufficient grounds for interference with Hulten's sentence.

## Nazis Shoot Selves

IN GERMANY, March 8 (P).—Lt. William J. O'Connor of Milwaukee said Thursday that when his platoon began closing in recently on a group of Germans two officers took careful aim and killed each other.

## THE WEATHER

(By the United States Weather Bureau.)

Sun sets Thursday at 7:31.

Sun rises Friday at 7:47.

Highest temperature here Wednesday 59 degrees; highest a year ago Wednesday 59. Lowest temperature Thursday morning 40; lowest a year ago Thursday 35.

Fort Worth and Vicinity—Partly cloudy and slightly warmer Thursday afternoon with highest temperature in middle 60s. Fair Thursday night and Friday. Continued mild temperatures, with lowest Thursday night in lower 40s and highest Friday in upper 60s.

West Texas (West of 100th Meridian)—Partly cloudy except cloudy with occasional light rain in Del Rio-Eagle Pass area Thursday afternoon and night. Friday partly cloudy, not much change in temperature.

East Texas (East of 100th Meridian)—Mostly cloudy, occasional light rain in south portion Thursday afternoon. Cloudy, warmer in northeast and north central portions, occasional light rain Thursday night and Friday except extreme northwest portion.

The most sustained air campaign of the war carried through its 24th consecutive day.

The Americans' targets included the clogged yards at Essen, almost within earshot of the fighting along the upper Rhine; Siegen, Betzdorf, Dillenburg and Giessen. Six benzol plants and one synthetic refinery in the Gelsenkirchen-Dortmund regions were the oil objectives.

Approximately 350 fighters provided cover for the bombers.

The British night attack was carried out by the largest force sent out by the RAF this year. The British planes blasted the Germans' eastern front base of Dessau, struck at vital oil refineries and gave Berlin its 16th successive night raid.

## Redistricting Bill Is Killed by House

AUSTIN, March 8 (P).—By a vote of 75 to 57 the House Thursday killed a bill intended to redistrict House representation in the Legislature.

## THINK IT OVER

By H. M. STANSIFER.  
Some people can't broaden out without slowing down.

forming with the 3rd Army near Coblenz a trap of perhaps 50,000 Germans caught west of the Middle Rhine.

## Germans Disorganized.

General Hodges seized the opportunity of establishing a Rhine bridgehead, and with no delay threw in troops quickly. The Germans were found disorganized after the severe mauling they took in their rout across the Cologne area.

News of the Rhine crossing swept through the Army from division to division and down through the ranks of the privates in the front lines, Correspondent Don Whitehead reported.

It brought grins to their whiskered and grimed faces and cheered everyone in the Army.

## End of War Believed Nearer.

"If we can hold that bridgehead, it means the war is months nearer an end," Lt. Col. Robert Evans of Davenport, Iowa, told Whitehead.

The sentiment was echoed by many officers and soldiers who had looked on the river as the greatest obstacle to be faced by the Army since it landed on the sands of Normandy last June 6.

General Eisenhower had six other armies standing on the west bank of the Rhine and its gray-green waters.

The crossing of the Rhine—one of the great achievements of the entire war—came just two days after the capture of the great Rhineland capital of Cologne—which was cleared completely Thursday.

In the Wesel area north of the Ruhr capital of Duesseldorf, the Canadian 1st Army launched two dawn attacks against the 40 square-mile pocket where 20,000 German troops last were reported fighting resolutely.

(See Map on Page 6).

# Bomber Crashes, Burns In Pasture North of City

A four-motor bomber from the Fort Worth Army Air Field crashed, exploded and burned just north of the city at midmorning Thursday.

The tower at Municipal Airport reported to the Army field shortly before noon that all eight of the crewmen had parachuted to safety and had been picked up uninjured.

B. R. Johnson, foreman at the Sensibaugh Ranch, said he picked up two of the men in his car near the crash scene, and one reported that the entire crew jumped.

Ground witnesses said a motor of the big ship caught fire as it circled at low altitude, and that the men began bailing out. The plane went into a steep dive and crashed about two miles east of the Globe Aircraft plant.

Most of the wreckage was in a pasture just north of the Saginaw-Watauga road, near Northwoods Farm. Parts were scattered widely and the flames, which roared sky-

ward amid black smoke, seared a quarter-mile area.

The fliers reached the ground along an eight-mile line stretching east of the Globe plant.

Men and crash equipment from the Army field were rushed to the wreck. Spotter planes guided jeeps and reconnaissance cars to the parachuters.

The ship was on a training flight.

The following crew, the Army Air Field announced, were aboard: First Lt. M. G. Alderfer, pilot; 1st Lt. F. O. Bock, student airplane commander; 2nd Lt. Charles M. Purlee, student pilot; Staff Sgt. Harold A. Keller, instructor-engineer; Staff Sgt. Willis G. McDuffett, student engineer; Staff Sgt. M. J. Hartings, crew chief; Staff Sgt. S. D. Krodell, observer, and Corp. L. J. Powell, observer. Their home towns were not immediately available.

R. W. Cantwell, a Globe employe, and Harvey Russell, also of

Globe, who went to the wreck, said part of the landing gear had landed along the road after a gigantic bounce. Wreckage was strewn everywhere.

Witnesses were divided on whether the explosion occurred before or after the crash. Officers from the airfield are investigating.

The blast was so heavy that it rattled windows in the Globe plant and in some North Side residences.

M. W. Davis of Ponder and Sid Crawford, 1560½ W. Magnolia, Globe workers, said the ship, with one motor afire, went into a sharp left turn before it crashed. They saw one of the fliers bail.

Two of the airmen later walked to the scene of the wreck, their parachutes rolled up under their arms. They were muddy but unhurt. Army regulations prevented their telling what happened.

The blast and high flames brought hundreds of spectators to the scene, but military police soon blocked off the area.



SURRENDER PARADE—German civilians, with hands upraised, follow a dog through the street to surrender to troops of the U. S. 3rd Army who captured Trier. (AP Wire-photo).