

Tremendous Allied Aerial Assaults Scourge Germany

Drive On Nazi Capital From The Southeast

By JAMES F. KING LONDON — (AP) — A German military spokesman said today Russian tank and cavalry forces, smashing ahead 17 miles in 24 hours, had crossed the Neisse River in an area only 65 miles from Berlin in the drive on the German capital from the southeast.

45 FROM DRESDEN

A Tass broadcast from Moscow later said the Russians had reached a point only 45 miles from Dresden.

Marshal Ivan Konev's steady reinforced blows fell with a speed and success which suggested that German resistance had been almost paralyzed.

Allied bombers continued one of their greatest offensives just ahead of the Soviet columns. American and British bombers smashed at the clogged railroads at Cottbus, only 12 miles west of the deepest penetration reported by the Germans, and exploded tons of bombs at Dresden, Chemnitz, Berlin and Magdeburg.

The Berlin military spokesman said Konev's free-wheeling columns had reached the Autobahn, a military highway, both northwest and southwest of Berlin, 65 miles from Berlin.

Forst is on the west side of the Neisse, 12 miles east of Cottbus and 40 miles north of Goerlitz. The town is 17 miles west of Sommerfeld, which the Germans said the Russians reached yesterday.

LINK WITH ZUKOV The Germans said Konev in this area had established a "loose connection" with the main part of the Western Front may soon end.

Meeklenburg Casualties

(Merle Inside) PRISONER Sgt. Everett Ward Bell Jr., WOODEN PVT. Glyndrew J. Stafford, Pvt. Marshall Parker Hinson, Pvt. Junior B. Seabrook

Two-Minute News Roundup

Russian Front Russian troops under Marshal Ivan Konev spread out in two directions today toward Berlin and toward Dresden.

Italy The battlement in Italy still is ineffective, according to the Italian press. The Vatican has announced that Pope Pius the 12th is confined to bed with influenza.

The Pacific In the Pacific war, our War Dept. says Russian news reveals that the island of Iloilo has become a base for a new B-29 Superfortress group.

South America There's news for Hitler and Hirohito from South America. Uruguay has joined the list of nations which have decided to declare war on the Axis.

Americans Hit Dresden And Cottbus Bomb Near Where Reds Are Driving

LONDON — (AP) — American heavy bombers carrying out one of the greatest air offensives of the war, blasted Dresden again today, and bombed the clogged railroads of Cottbus, only 12 miles from a sector in which Russian spearheads were reported operating.

Still another force of American heavy bombers again struck the synthetic oil plant outside Magdeburg, 75 miles southwest of the leading German capital.

Even while this great armada of more than 1,300 B-24 Superfortresses and Liberators with 50 fighter escorts was making these attacks, the German radio sounded new alarms.

The attacks brought to about 11,000 tons far the number of planes which have bombed the area under a blanket of explosives and incendiaries in the last 40 hours.

Frontline reports said tactical aircraft, also, were having another great day against Nazi road networks.

ROAD RUM Cottbus is a big rail and highway junction. It is in front of Marshal Ivan S. Konev's right flank. It is a fat target, jammed now with 2,250 German planes.

Today's superforce assaults came after overnight blows by 1,200 B-24 Superfortresses and Liberators from the front rail center of Chemnitz, as well as at other targets.

Germany was undergoing a scourging such as the never before and never again.

Manila Made Into Giant Funeral Pyre

SAN FRANCISCO — Correspondent George Polster said in a radio broadcast from Manila today that the city has become a "giant funeral pyre" and that "every day new evidence of Japanese atrocities is being uncovered."

Polster declared that for the past eleven days the Japanese have been burning the city, women and children. "They have shot them down in the streets as they fled before the flames and reported they found the bodies of 22 Filipino civilians who were bayoneted or shot and burned."

Polster said he saw a Filipino man and woman huddled a white dog all alone a street and that when he went to help them they said "Look, Joe." They lifted a blanket, he added, revealing the body of a man whose head had been blown off.

American soldiers in blood-stained uniforms, he reported, unloaded ambulances after ambulances at a civilian hospital.

Manila Battle Yanks Tighten Noose On Japs

By NOLAN NORGAARD ROM — German infiltration tactics drove back American outposts on the Tyrrhenian coastal sector of the Italian front and a Nazi raid in the Serchio Valley forced another slight withdrawal but the ground level was regained, Allied Headquarters announced today.

Describing the Tyrrhenian action, the official report said: "Between Streteta and Seravacca our outposts moved back a short distance after enemy forces infiltrated our lines and also launched a raid about 500 yards east of Streteta."

Retreating Nazis forced American troops back a few hundred yards east of Lama Di Sotto but the positions were regained later, the communique said.

Explosions and flames swept the old Intramuros, the Ermita and Malate districts along the Manila Bay shore south of the Pasig River mouth.

JAPS WEAKENED The doomed Japanese, held up primarily in the Intramuros, of some walls are 40 feet thick at the base, were weakened but still standing.

Troops of Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler's 31st Division, hearing the bruit of the house-by-house onslaught, yesterday moved to the aid of the Philippine campaign, a half mile from the High Commissioner's residence on the bay front.

The Japanese still hold the General Hospital nearby, however, and the American position was untenable.

Stassen Now In Washington

WASHINGTON — Gen. Commander Harold E. Stassen, named President Roosevelt to the American delegation to the San Francisco World Security Conference, is in Washington.

Stassen, Democrat, Washington, told reporters today that he would be in San Francisco next week.

Uruguay Will Declare War

MONTEVIDEO — The Uruguayan government decided today to declare war on the Axis.

There have been indications that Venezuela will follow suit, leaving Argentina the only South American country not at war with Germany and Japan.

Today's Uruguayan decision was made by the Cabinet and President, and now goes to Parliament for ratification.

Crerar Heading South Toward Cologne Plain

By HOWARD COWAN PARIS — (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 twenty-mile Klevre front was the only active one in the west. On its south flank, British Empire troops crushed a series of violent German counter-attacks and pressed close to the key defense bastions of Goch and Calcar.

The Canadian First Army attack gathered momentum today after the troops shook off at most frenzied counter-attacks, the same number as yesterday. There were signs of enemy fatigue under the bombardment of massed batteries of artillery and siles full of planes.

Newly captured prisoners in sodden mud-caked grey uniforms looked at the sea looking like a parade of sea-urchins. They were silent and unresponsive, their stubbled faces gawed with hunger. All the night was gone.

There was evidence that the Canadians were attempting to cross the wide Rhine. The offensive had overrun 120 square miles, most of it in Germany.

More and more Germans were driven into the semi-aquatic battle which steadily was turning the German flank in the north.

Barriers from hundreds upon hundreds of Field Marshal Montgomery's big guns and huge fleets of Allied planes paralyzed every German attempt to regain ground and exacted terrible casualties.

Nonetheless, the threat was so real to the Ruhr and Rhineland, the very heart of the German war effort, that Field Marshal Walter Von Model mustered every reserve he could scrape for his defending line.

The Rhine was reached at Hurdendich. There the river is normally 370 feet wide but breaches his bed in the flood lands, and have made the Rhine even more imposing.

At low points north of Klevre and at a factory at the rear of the Rhine was as wide as the English Channel between Calais and Dover and the water was eight feet deep, leaving only islands of sunken villages.

The Canadian First Army, already behind the Siegfried Line, was in a position to push south and confine or kill the enemy on either side of his west wall fortifications.

The British Empire troops crept forward in the wake of bold operations against the German positions. One group crept through the Rhine bridge at the Ruhr City.

"Really," the article said, "Goch has not lost his American advocates yet."

The newspaper declared that the Soviet people not only heartily approved of the conference decisions, but were "determined by all means to realize them."

Clear to nearly dawn on March 15, 1945, the night. A few scattered clouds were in the sky, but the sun was shining brightly.



HE RETURNED—With his forces en route to Manila, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's jeep is stopped in Guiguinto, eighteen miles from the island capital, by crowds of Filipinos waving Philippine and American flags to greet the General who said he would return—and die. (Photo by Willard Hatch, Acme War Pool Photographer)

Overrun Nazi Refineries

By AUSTIN DEARBAR SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Paris.—(AP)—Soviet armies in the east and Gen. Blawhorn's forces in the west have overrun 22 synthetic oil plants as major producers of fuel and lubricants for German armed forces. All were marked for destruction.

As a result of the ground attacks, German production of motor fuel which once ran well over 500,000 tons per month now is 100,000 tons per month, according to information available here. This is considered by the Allies as hardly enough to keep an average sized army in the field.

When the U. S. Air Force started all-out attacks on German oil refineries last April, the High Command selected 58 refineries and 22 synthetic oil plants as major producers of fuel and lubricants for German armed forces. All were marked for destruction.

Since April, 52 of these refineries and 22 of the synthetic plants have been attacked and 450 tons of American heavy bombs were dropped on the plants.

But with the Red Army and those of the West have been in from two directions, only 45 of these refineries remain in enemy hands.

Because of the constant "poling-in" by Allied strategic air forces, only four synthetic oil plants now are believed to be operating. These are at Bohlen, Ruhlberg, and Merseburg, where the huge Leuna plant is located. All the crude oil plants have been made inoperative, with one possible exception.

Soviet Paper Hits Wheeler

MOSCOW — (AP)—Ivestin called Senator Burton K. Wheeler today critic of the Polish agreement in the Crimea government, calling the Montana Democrat "a wrecker of the reactionary clique of the Polish government."

"Really," the article said, "Goch has not lost his American advocates yet."

The newspaper declared that the Soviet people not only heartily approved of the conference decisions, but were "determined by all means to realize them."

A statement of "Thomas Ardesewski," Premier of the London Polish exile Government, as "remarkable for its lack of realism," and added that "the democratic government of Ardesewski," fears democracy above all else.

An editorial said that some foreign observers had held out long ago it was not possible to commence a war in the West. The article commented: "How do they feel now, that the Allies have won the war, and exact terms and scales of justice operations?"

WEATHER Clear to nearly dawn on March 15, 1945, the night. A few scattered clouds were in the sky, but the sun was shining brightly.