

THE IWO DRIVE REPORTED

Marines Reach Volcano Top In Spectacular Iwo Drive

Yanks Push For Central Air Field On Island

Japanese Counter-Attacks Repelled

By ELMONT WAITE U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam (AP) — American Marines reached the summit of Mount Suribachi at the southern tip of Iwo Jima today, and began a renewed drive on the central air field after repulsing two Japanese counter-attacks.

The Stars and Stripes were raised over the volcanic Suribachi fortress 97 hours after the costly invasion began and Marines began cleaning out Japanese still clinging to the crater with flame-throwers.

COASTLY FIGHT Little progress was made elsewhere in the most costly fight in which the Marines have ever been engaged—a fight that cost 5,372 American casualties, including 644 dead, in the first three days.

Japanese swimmers made a hopeless attempt to attack American forces at the western side of the island from the rear last night. They were mopped up on the beaches this morning.

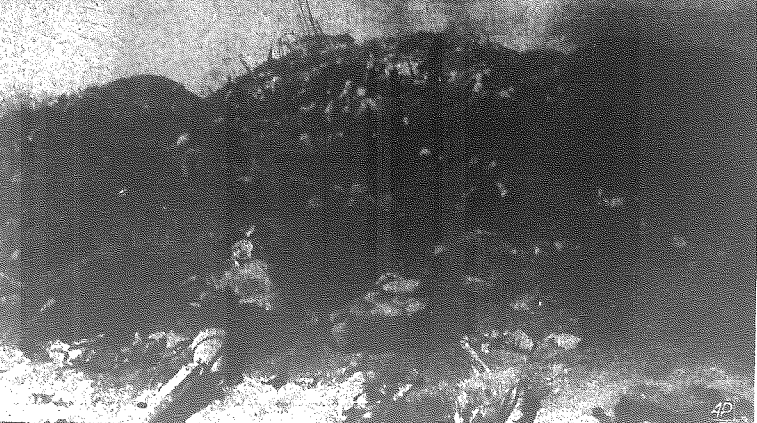
Carrier aircraft sweeping over the Bonin Islands in protective sweeps to eliminate repeated enemy attacks on American shipping assembled off Iwo shot down three Japanese planes.

Summitting of Suribachi was the brightest spot in the entire Iwo campaign.

The Leathernecks won command of the 665-foot high peak which the Japanese had cut down a deadly mortar and artillery fire on other Marines areas. The Iwo Marines were cut out of the south third of the embattled island. Its capture eliminated the threat to the rear of three decisive divisions attempting to drive north where the main strength of the enemy garrison is dug in.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz conferred with MARINES on page 8

U. S. MARINES HIT THE BEACH ON IWO JIMA—Fourth Division Marines dash from landing craft, dragging equipment, while others "go over the top" of sand dunes as they hit the beach of Iwo Jima Monday. Smoke of artillery or mortar fire rises in the background. This photo was made by Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press photographer on assignment with the wartime still picture pool. (AP Wirephoto).



TAKE 'IMPREGNABLE' PILL BOX—Marines dig in after taking an "impregnable" enemy pill box on Iwo (center background). The Marine in the center is digging a fox hole. Lying around are bodies, some in the open, some partly covered by sand. Photographer Joe Rosenthal, also made the picture. (More Iwo pictures on page 8).

Mecklenburg Casualties

(Stories Inside)

RILLED Sgt. Lonnie R. Turner PRISONER Pfc. James C. Grizz Jr.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front The long-awaited Allied breakthrough on the Western Front apparently has begun. The Berlin radio announced early today that General Eisenhower has begun his expected offensive on the River Rhine from both north and south of Linnich, 25 miles west of Cologne and Berlin.

The Germans also claim that Marshal Montgomery on the north has joined the drive with a new attempted breakthrough, but Berlin does not specify Montgomery's attack point. It says that no new construction of any of the German claims by Allied headquarters.

Meanwhile General Patton's Third American Army has been driving forward again. Patton's men have made their third crossing of the Saar River. The hard-driving Third Army troops have taken five more German towns in the Prüm area and have now begun to within five miles of the fortified German city of Trier.

Air Warfare

The full weight of Allied air action against Germany began today. Huge formations of American heavy bombers headed east of Britain and Italy to attack the Nazi transportation target. More than 1,000 heavy bombers from Britain entered at least 20 German target areas, while Liberators

Airliner Overdue

BRISTOL, Va.—An American Airlines airplane at Tri-Cities Airport today with a scheduled flight to Washington and Nashville, Tenn., was overdue.

Save Oil Subsidy Program Failure

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Government oil subsidy program, designed to spur wartime oil production, has been "a complete and costly failure," Walter S. Hallahan, production chairman of District 1, Petroleum Administration for War, said today.

Great Offensive

LONDON (AP)—At least twenty freight yards and other rail targets were blasted today by 1,900 American planes continuing the gigantic offensive to knock out the German transport system that feeds both the Eastern and Western Fronts.

China Hopes To Fight Alongside The Russians

CHONGKING (AP)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek led Premier Marshal Stalin today that his army's military leadership and the ability of the Red Army to force the Soviet Union to fight alongside the Chinese people.

1,900 American Planes Hit Reich

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Weather

Clear and cooler today and tonight. Saturday fair and warmer. Temperature at 7:30 today 52; at 11:30 48; at 1:30 45; at 3:30 48; at 5:30 51; at 7:30 54; at 9:30 57.

Reds Mass For End-Of-War Stroke

Stalin Says Full Victory Near

LONDON (AP)—The Russians have captured Pusan in Korea, Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

LONDON (AP)—Russian troops, having almost encircled fortress Guben in an eleven-mile smash through reinforced German lines, today were reported massing along an arc 30 to 50 miles east and southeast of Berlin for an end-the-war stroke triumphantly heralded by Premier Marshal Stalin.

"Complete victory over the Germans now is near," Stalin declared last night in a special order of the day which said the great Russian Winter offensive had already cost the Germans more than 1,150,000 killed or captured.

The Moscow Radio early today followed up the Stalin order with a German-language broadcast declaring "the zero hour has struck" and added that "dissolution of the German army in the East is in full swing."

It is up to the German people to save their territories to stop the war," the broadcast said. "Peace will not be negotiated with the generals."

Stalin yesterday asserted that Soviet and Allied armies have coordinated their offensive operations and are "successfully conquering the Reich."

See RED TROOPS on page 8

Germans Say Eisenhower's Offensive On Roor Said To Have Been Bridged At Several Places By Americans

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS (AP)—German broadcasts said tonight that Gen. Eisenhower had started his "grand scale offensive" toward the Ruhr and Cologne, had bridged the Roor River at several places and advanced two miles east of the river in shattering power with tanks, artillery and infantry.

Supreme Headquarters maintained complete silence on any new attack. The Germans said the big push had been preceded by a three-hour artillery barrage by "thousands of guns." The enemy said the attack was on a 35-mile front all the way from Roermond to Dueren and was mounted by the American Ninth and First Armies.

Main Bridgeheads

The Germans said the main bridgeheads were at these points:

1. Birkendorf, a suburb of ruined Dueren about a mile north of the city proper. This was said to be the largest bridgehead and the enemy said Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth Army shock troops had turned south and penetrated the outskirts of Dueren. Birkendorf is 21 miles southwest of Cologne.

2. Gevenich, two miles east of the Roer and north-east of Linnich. The town is 26 miles west of Cologne and 13 from the Ruhr rail and industrial center of Muechen Gladbach.

3. At Selgersdorf, three miles southeast of Juelich and 22 miles southwest of Cologne.

At Linnich (pop: 5,000), the Allies were 16 1/2 miles from the heart of Muechen Gladbach, Ruhr industrial and rail center. Linnich and its sister fortress cities of Dueren and Juelich on the Roer were but piles of red bricks as the result of months of Allied artillery and air bombardments.

At Dueren (pop: 39,000), the U. S. Ninth Army was 20 miles from Cologne. The Allies moved up to its western edge last December. Between Linnich and Dueren, the Germans have built three earthen defense lines. The whole Roer River sector is beyond the Siegfried Line which has been breached totally by 55 miles in the Aachen area.

The Germans said the Roer offensive started with a See ALLIED TROOPS on page 8

Terrible Attack

U. S. Raid Tests Berliners' Nerves

By ERIK GRANBERG Swedish newspaper correspondent who recently returned to Stockholm from Berlin.

Written for Associated Press Copyright, 1945, by Erik Granberg. STOCCKHOLM—While the German Home Front has held together under the smashing blows of the big question now is whether the nerves of the people—reduced to the bare necessities of life—can continue to stand up under Allied bombings and the threat of Russian advance.

Berliners nowadays actually are very tough in respect to bombings. After the devastating effects of the last large scale American air attack on Feb. 3 could make them believe the still greater and imminent danger outside the eastern city of Berlin nor long delay the work of erecting barricades in every street.

I was in Berlin during that last great American attack. After experiencing more than 700 alerts and at least half a dozen air raids, I can say that this unquestionably was one of the war's worst bombings.

When the first air raid came, the ground heaved, lights flickered. It seemed as though the ground was being dug out. People scrambled about like frightened animals.

In a group of Russian laborers began to sing. "Shut up, somebody shouted, but the song went on.

Then came the next load of bombs—darkness fell above us and a strong further away. The lights in the tunnel went out. We sat in misery. Some people looked at the ceiling and some at the floor. The sound of the crowd shouting and the sound of the crowd shouting and the sound of the crowd shouting.

Turks War Against Axis

LONDON (AP)—Ankara announced today the Turkish assembly had voted unanimously to declare war on Germany and Japan as a result of a declaration by the Big Three to qualify as "Associated Nations" all countries which take up arms against the Axis before March 1.

The assembly also voted unanimously to adhere to the United Nations declaration.

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