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ESTABLISHED 1888

AMERICAN SURGE TO RHINE FROM FRONT CRACKS

Allied Planes Pace March Of Ground Forces

By HENRY R. JAMESON

LONDON—(AP)—Close to 2,500 heavy bombers from Italy and Britain shattered German and Austrian targets today with Cologne and Dresden, immediately ahead of the American and Russian armies, as the chief targets.

For the first time since Jan. 14 the German Air Force came up in strength to give violent battle on this nineteenth consecutive day of the giant Allied air offensive. At least 42 enemy planes were shot down in battles over Germany. Twenty more were destroyed on the ground.

The Germans lost 185 planes when they last gave important battle nearly two months ago.

BLOW AT COLOGNE
The RAP smashed at Cologne with 750 to 1,000 planes in the sector directly ahead of the U. S. First Army, and 1,200 Flying Fortress and Liberator hit a series of targets in southeastern Germany, including Dresden and Chemnitz, in front of Russian armies in Silesia.

Other Fortresses and Liberator formations from Italy with Mustang and Lightning escort, bombed targets in the Linz area of Austria.

Half a dozen key rail and oil targets were hit by the American formations from Britain.

GREAT TRAIN
The great American armada streamed across the Reich in a 20-mile train. It first made a feint at Berlin, then broke into sections and winged southward. Berlin was in their shelters more than an hour.

Two strong forces attacked the huge freight yards at Dresden, just ahead of the Red Army, and Chemnitz, also a vital traffic artery to the eastern front.

Two Japs Are Pushed Into Trap

Marines Force Heavy Fighting

By LEIF ERICKSON

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam—(AP)—Tank-led U. S. Marines hammered ahead on smoking Iwo Jima today, compressing the island's desperate Japanese garrison into the rugged northern tip for a final stand.

The fighting was fierce and Thursday night dispatches reported the Japanese, pushed into a shrinking third of the island, were trying to exact a bloody toll for every American advance.

Confidence in the eventual outcome of the bitter battle was voted in the halls of Congress at Washington where President Roosevelt said "the situation is well in hand" on the island 750 miles from Tokyo.

While guns Thursday were limited against stiff opposition on the western shore, two divisions on the east and center struck ahead, under air cover and preceded by a shattering artillery and naval barrage.

AIRFIELD SEIZED
"Major Gen. Graves B. Erskine's Third Division captured the western end of uncompleted Motobama Airfield No. 3. The Devilfish already have seized Iwo's two other completed airfields."

Major Gen. Keller E. Rocker's tank-led Fifth Division punched forward on the west side to reach the Japanese from their last remaining fortified hill positions.

On the opposite side, one spearhead on the plateau drove 600 yards northeast to assault BH 302, which lies less than a mile from the island's northeast shoreline.

The advance was mounted from captured Motobama town, which did not yield a single civilian.

Aerial strikes among the supporting carrier aircraft reported the enemy's regrouping. AP correspondent Morris Landberg, aboard an expeditionary dispatch, wrote that the hole-up enemy had begun to lob shells at warships offshore in an extraordinary effort for land defense.

JAPS NEAR CRACKUP
"They may be beginning to crack," he reported.

Occasionally enemy mortars were directed at Marine headquarters but Adm. Chester W. Nimitz said the unloading of supplies for the Yanks proceeded.

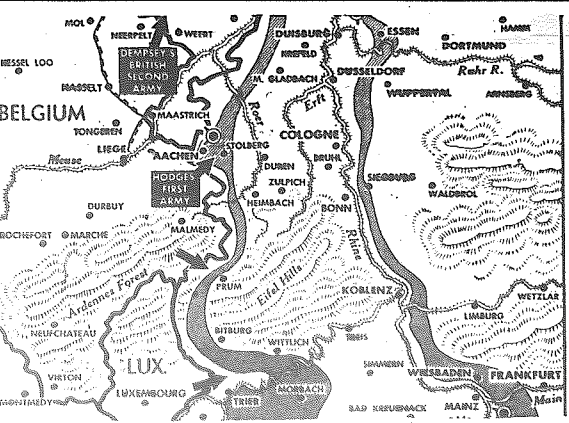
Carrier planes and ships' attack craft on the 17th of the few in the U. S. controlled waters. One Japanese bomber was shot down by Navy anti-air and bombs which were dropped "caused no damage," the communiqué stated.

Marines, fighting downhill after wading most of the island's beaches, repulsed several night counter-attacks. Rocker's Third captured seventeen more prisoners. The last since invasion day of '27.

"There was no sign of an all-out hand change. The enemy regrouping was both cautious and potentially advantageous to the Americans. It would mean the Japanese would have to cede up certain pillboxes which otherwise would have to be captured by Marine flamethrowers and machinegunners."

WEATHER
Partly cloudy and warm today and tonight. Saturday mostly cloudy and continued warm with showers.

Temperature at 2:30: 66-68 High & Low Last 24 Hours: 66-43



AMERICANS SWEEP FORWARD—The German Western Front defenses before the Rhine were collapsing today as the U. S. armies raced on. The Ninth Army reached the Rhine and artillery was shelling Duesseldorf. Other Ninth Army troops occupied Krefeld, seven miles from Duisburg. The First Army shelled Cologne. Well to the south Trier was captured by the Third Army.

German Divisions Flee North

American Heavy Artillery Now Dominating The Rhine

By WES GALLAGHER

NEUSS, Germany—(AP)—Lt. Robert Packer, a 23-year-old former college student from Brooklyn, N. Y., commanded the first American company to reach the Rhine opposite Duesseldorf early today, splitting Field Marshal von Rundstedt's armies in the west in two.

American guns now dominate the Rhine. It was apparent that American artillery fire on a 24-hour-a-day basis would make it impossible for the Germans to operate their war factories in Duesseldorf. From wrecked houses overlooking the Rhine U. S. Ninth Army guns pounded shells into Duesseldorf and the Ruhr as German divisions fled north to escape across a bridge near Krefeld.

Elements of the 8th Ohio Infantry Division reached the Rhine after fighting through Neuss. The city has been cleared except for sporadic resistance on the outskirts as enemy stragglers tried to cross the river. Packer's Company E entered Neuss last night.

The 3rd attacked Neuss after the Second Armored Division had cleared the way to within three miles of the city and then turned north, fighting its way across the Nord Canal in a thunderous pursuit of the Germans.

More than 20,000 civilians were bunched in air raid shelters here this morning. German soldiers in the city gave up easily as did most of the other uniformed men. The police battalion which was supposed to guard the city was captured.

MECKLENBURG CASUALTIES
(Stories Inside)
WOUNDED
Cpl. Thomas D. McCall.

Return To Corregidor

Old Glory Waves Over 'Rock' As Gen. MacArthur Comes Back

By DEAN SCHEIDLER
WITH GEN. MACARTHUR ON CORREGIDOR—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur returned to Corregidor today and ordered the Stars and Stripes raised to the peak of the flagstaff from which the Japanese took it down three years ago, almost to the sky.

Also present were eleven members of his staff who left the island with him aboard a PT boat three years ago, almost to the sky.

His officers accompanied him on the flag raising ceremony as a color guard of the 50th Parachute Infantry Regiment stood at attention.

"Turning to Col. George Jones of Memphis, Tenn., commanding officer of the paratroopers, MacArthur said: "Have your troops hold the colors to its peak, and let no enemy ever haul them down."

It was the same flagpole on the Japanese parade grounds where the Japanese tore down Old Glory, and MacArthur raised it again.

Duesseldorf Being Shelled By Ninth Army

German Strongholds Topple Before American Blitzkrieg

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS—(AP)—The American Ninth Army won a stand on the Rhine today and captured the western end of the Ruhr with its large cities of Krefeld and Neuss, the latter a suburb of Duesseldorf.

Germany's whole Western Front before the Rhine was collapsing.

TRIER CAPTURED
Far to the south, ancient Trier fell to the American Third Army which thus pruned open the gate of the Moselle Valley leading to the middle Rhine cities of Coblenz, Mainz and Frankfurt.

Cologne, largest and most important of all cities in the Rhineland, was placed under artillery fire again while the American First Army fought less than five miles away on plains as flat as Kansas.

Nearly 1,000 British heavy bombers spread new rubble in the metropolis, second only to Berlin as the most bombed city on earth.

The First also beat within 15 miles of Bonn and seven of Euskirchen, important Rhineland transit center.

The First, Ninth and Third Armies were waging the greatest all-American offensive in history and scoring the greatest victory since the Brittany breakthrough. The broken German Army was routed in sectors; segments had been trapped.

DUTCH CITIES TAKEN
Venlo and Roermond, Dutch bastion cities on the Meuse (Meuse) fell with scarcely a shot.

The Ninth and Canadian First Armies were within ten miles of joining hands in a move which might trap thousands of Germany's best parachute and tank troops.

Curiously, the 11 German Divisions fighting the Canadians to the north stood their ground until noon today, when they started frantically to cross the Rhine for refuge.

SEVEN MILES FROM DUISBURG
At Krefeld, the Americans were within seven miles of Duisburg, the great Rhineland post that serves the Ruhr. Duesseldorf already was being battered by artillery, as were other parts of the factory-packed industrial region whose value to Hitler's war machine already was largely lost.

The American triumphs had split the Rhine plain. The breakthrough salient widened to 55 miles from a point six miles north of captured Venlo to Zulpich, on the approaches to Cologne and Bonn. At Neuss, the Americans were 290 miles from Berlin, the nearest approach from the west. Maximum advances in the week old campaign were 23 miles from the Roer to Neuss, across the Rhine from Duesseldorf.

One trap already had snapped on whatever Germans were left in the 21-by-10 mile strip between Venlo and Roermond. Escape routes for the rest of Gen. Gustav Zangen's broken 15th Army were being sealed off swiftly.

Krefeld, a steel and rail center of 170,000 was greater Germany's 35th largest city.

Among Rhineland conquests, it was second only in size to the twin cities of Muenchen Gladbach and Rheydt, which were captured yesterday. With their populations swollen by war refugees, they formed a center of 300,000—the largest German center of population captured by either Gen. Eisenhower or his Russian Allies.

GREAT ARTILLERY DUEL
A great artillery duel was in progress across the broad and deep Rhine tonight.

The 83rd Infantry Division fought swiftly through the bomb blasted city of Neuss, which lies on the west.

See YANKS GUNN on page 4.

War Bulletins

NEUSS, Germany—(AP)—Five German infantry divisions have been destroyed by the Ninth Army's drive to the Rhine. Three armored divisions have been severely mauled. It was announced today.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front
German resistance before the Rhine north of Cologne is collapsing in the face of Gen. First Army, and Chemnitz, also a vital traffic artery to the eastern front.

The Pacific
In the Pacific, the end of the bitter campaign for Iwo Jima's eight square miles definitely is in sight. Associated Press correspondent Morris Landberg writes that the hole-up enemy had begun to lob shells at warships offshore in an extraordinary effort for land defense.

Philippines
To the south in the Philippines, American forces have seized control of the Archipelago's southern island, Palawan, after a surprise landing Wednesday. Palawan is the seventeenth Philippine island invaded by the Americans.

Russian Front
In northeastern Germany, Red Army cavalrymen are spearheading a Russian drive to split the Nazi province of Pomerania. Moscow dispatches say Cosack and Russian horsemen are striking to the German cities of Koblenz, Mainz and Frankfurt on Main.

Mecklenburg Casualties
(Stories Inside)
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