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ALLIES MASS FOR RHINE ATTACK

THOUSANDS OF PLANES LASH RUHR

Konev Rolls Forward On Wide Front In Silesia

Drive Threatens 5 Large Cities

By RICHARD KASISCHKE

LONDON — (AP) — Marshal Ivan Konev's new Silesian offensive rolled forward along an 80-mile front today toward the inner mountain fortress of Germany where Adolf Hitler's SS men have been reported making preparations for a final stand.

With swift tank - led rushes, Konev's First Ukrainian Army group threatened five large Silesian cities—Frankenstein, Neisse, Ziegenhals, Leobschuetz and Ratibor—in the Moravian Mountains and already was reported fighting in one of them and in the suburbs of another.

On the Berlin front the German High Command announced that Marshal Gregory Zhukov attacked from the flanks of his Oder bridgehead at Kuestrin, 38 miles east of Berlin, with strong tank and infantry forces.

The Germans declared that the attack was smothered in a storm of German fire and 55 Soviet tanks were destroyed, but Stockholm reports and an American broadcast from Moscow declared a fullscale assault on Hitler's capital was immediately at hand.

Moscow reports suggested that Konev's victory in Upper Silesia was paving the way for the Berlin attack.

A break-through of 25 miles celebrated in Moscow last night by a victory salute, was hailed by Izvestia as "most important and in a direction dangerous for Germany."

Quick fall of the five threatened cities, Moscow dispatches said, would be the tip-off that Germany lacked sufficiently heavy forces in the Bohemian Passes, and

See KONEV ROLLS on Page 4

Greatest Air Blitz

Warplanes Soften Germany For Kill

By HENRY B. JAMESON

LONDON — (AP) — Continuous day and night bombing of Germany at the rate of 274 tons of explosives an hour is turning the Reich into chaos in preparation for a knockout blow from the ground.

Since the big aerial offensive started three weeks ago, Allied bombers have hit Germany with more than twice the tonnage of bombs dropped on England since the start of the war.

WAY EASIER FOR TROOPS

The terrific devastation is almost beyond comprehension, but the relentless flailing of every type of military objective from the smallest crossroads to Berlin itself unquestionably has made the way easier for the doughboys, as Gen Eisenhower has declared.

During the past 10 days of this greatest of the blitz in history, the industrial Ruhr Valley and the vast rolling Rhine plain have been systematically isolated from the rest of the Reich and deprived of rail and highway movement necessary to resist a full-scale ground assault. As the great bombardment reaches its apex its chief significances lies in the tremendous disorganizing effect which it has had upon communications across the Rhine.

Figures on the number of planes participating have reached almost astronomical figures. When the Germans put 950 aircraft over London one day back in 1940 it was regarded as a tremendous

See ALLIED PLANES on Page 4

Third Day Of Assaults On Region

Efforts Made To Seal Off Area

LONDON —(AP)— Thousands of American and British warplanes lashed out today for the third day at the Ruhr, where a blazing mass of wreckage marked the record assault of yesterday.

Again the fury of the assault was concentrated on supply lines with the presumed object of isolating the industrial area east of the Rhine, alone which powerful Allied armies are massed.

RAILYARDS HIT

Eleven railyards in the Ruhr were attacked in bright weather by 1,250 American heavy bombers and 350 fighters while a force of British Lancasters went after an important rail bridge at Bremen with the 11-ton Volcano bombs.

The German radio said new waves of bombers were over the same area later in the afternoon and that American heavies from Italy dashed into southeastern Germany.

All German radio telegraphic and news service appeared to be sporadic and military reports were interrupted for several hours. Transocean's broadcasts abroad were shut down completely for at least eight hours following transmission of the German communique.

Rail targets attacked by the Americans included Osnabrueck, Rheine, Muenster and Coesfeld, all north of the Ruhr, Recklinghausen and Bergisch Gladbach in the Ruhr, and Hengstey, Gelsecke, Unna - Dortmund, Holzwickede and Siegern in the east and southeast Ruhr.

CAMPS ATTACKED

A special communique from Headquarters of U. S. Strategic Air Forces declared all nine German Army camps attacked in the Ruhr yesterday by American heavy bombers were wrecked by 3,250 tons of bombs.

Thousands of small incendiaries were scattered among German troops.

At least three airfields used by jet-propelled fighters were made unserviceable, the communique said.

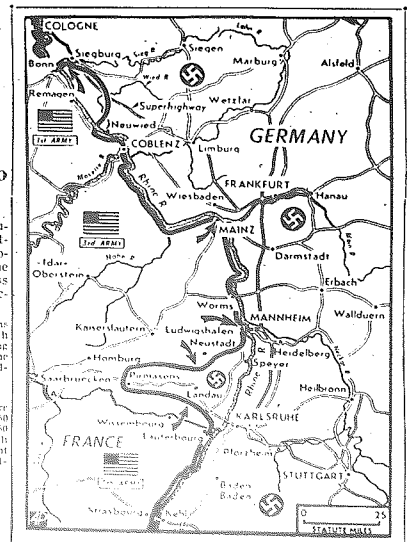
BERLIN BOMBED

Berlin was bombed for the 31st consecutive night by RAF Mosquitos, which also struck followup blows at enemy troop movements across the Rhine in the region battered yesterday by the bulk of more than 9,000 American and British planes which struck Germany from dawn to dusk.

British Sweep South From Mandalay Area

CALCUTTA — (AP)—British 14th Army troops swept southward from the Mandalay area of Burma today, steadily pinning the Japanese against other forces driving north from captured Meiktila.

Pindale, a village road junction 10 miles north of Meiktila, and Wundwin, on the main north-south trunk road 18 miles northeast of the base, were captured after stiff opposition. Meanwhile, from Meiktila bases, other troops overran Japanese positions in the northern sector of the city and captured Myingyan, on the Irrawaddy, and its airfield.



SCENE OF GERMAN DEBACLE—The Saar-Palatinate battle moved to a close today after the Nazis had lost more than 100,000 men in prisoners alone. The Third Army added Mainz and Landau to its list of captured cities. The seventh Army took Pirmasens as the jaws of the two American armies meshed tightly around the last German stragglers left west of the Rhine.

Armies Ready For Crossing 'At Any Time'

Nazis Nervously Wait For Zero Hour For Invasion Of Inner Germany

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS — (AP) — Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley declared today that Allied armies massed along the Rhine can cross the river "most anywhere at any time" and a Berlin broadcast said that Field Marshal Montgomery in the north "seems to be ready" to do just that.

"The necessity of keeping the (Remagen) bridgehead small is now removed." The Twelfth Army Group commander told correspondents in a broad review of the victory in the Rhineland in which his First and Third Armies had major roles.

Bradley said the First Army's east-Rhine salient had been purposely held back from its fullest exploitation until the operations of the Third and Seventh Armies below the Moselle could be completed.

American losses have been comparatively light, Bradley said. His remarks suggested that conditions now permitted immediate crossings of the river without allowing the usual pause after a major campaign for rest, refitting and regrouping.

FAST OPERATION

"The whole operation of clearing the Rhineland has gone faster than we dared hope," Bradley said.

Besides the First and Third, Bradley's command contains the new U. S. 13th Army.

Between Feb. 8 and March 22, Allied Armies captured 203,010 Germans in the Rhineland—not including some 30,000 reported captured by the Third Army and not yet processed through prison cages, Bradley said.

The figure includes 51,381 taken by Field Marshal Montgomery's 21st Army Group in the north, including the U. S. Ninth, British Second and Canadian First Armies. These Germans were caged between Feb. 8 and March 9.

The General did not announce American casualties on the Western Front but the War Department has said these included 30,414 killed, 297,547 wounded and 57,046 missing from D-Day to March 1.

Bradley gave the following figures for the First and Third Armies:

The greatest number of Americans killed on any one day between Feb. 22 and March 21 was 269 on Feb. 28. On that day the First and Third Armies captured 3,101 Germans.

The lowest number of Americans killed on any one day was 80—on March 11, when the First and Third Armies captured 3,996 prisoners.

On six days, American dead in

See ARMIES MASS on Page 4

Skirmishes In Italy

ROME—(AP)—Brisk patrol skirmishes occurred yesterday on both the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts with the enemy reacting to Allied raiding parties with heavy machinegun and small arms fire, Allied Headquarters announced today.

In a short fight near San Ansano, at the entrance to the Bologna road net which has been heavily defended in recent months, one American patrol suffered light casualties. A short time later a 15-man enemy patrol tried to slip through the same area and was driven back.

In the Fifth Army area, American artillery concentrated on groups of enemy soldiers as well as movements behind the German lines.

An Eighth Army patrol operating northeast of Cotignola on the enemy's Senio River line caught a German work party digging in the opposite bank and inflicted a number of casualties. Farther south enemy patrols crossed the diked stream north of Faenza, but were driven off.

During the past seven days American, French and British ships have been bombarding enemy targets on the Franco-Italian frontier and the Gulf of Genoa.

Two French destroyers shelled Port Savona, 22 miles west of Genoa, last Sunday night. Tuesday French ships hit the harbor of San Remo, striking gun positions. The U. S. destroyer Parker bombarded enemy supply dumps and troop concentrations, scoring a number of direct hits.

Welder Gets Five Months For Giving Fatal Hotfoot

PHILADELPHIA — (AP)—A Navy yard welder began a five-month prison sentence today for administering a fatal "hotfoot."

Rufus Bisserup, 40, said he lighted a piece of paper at the foot of a fellow welder, Naron Jackson, 36, while Jackson was asleep at the Navy Yard foundry. Jackson's grease-soaked pants caught fire. Badly burned, he died several weeks later.

Bisserup pleaded guilty to a charge of "manslaughter on a Government reservation" and was sentenced by Federal Judge Guy K. Bard.

Goes To Senate

House Approves Draft Extension

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House passed unanimously and sent to the Senate today legislation extending the draft law for one year beyond May 15, 1945.

The measure was discussed less than five minutes and passed without a record vote under procedure requiring unanimous consent. One objection could have blocked it, but there was none.

The legislation extends the 1940 Selective Service Act and its implementing amendments until May 15, 1946, or until the end of the war, which ever comes first. Should the war not be over by May 15, 1946, an additional extension would have to be approved by Congress. However, should it end on all fronts before then, the draft law could expire.

Opposition to unrestricted extension of the law dissolved in the face of figures showing a need for more than 405,000 inductions between now and July 1.

Prospects thereafter, however, are for a 31 per cent drop in the draft rate—from 135,000 to 93,000 men a month.

Tokyo Raid Report Made

WASHINGTON — (AP)—The Superfortress incendiary attack against Tokyo on March 9 knocked out at least 20 per cent of the city's industrial production for three months and five per cent for a full year.

Brig.-Gen. Lauris Norstad also told a news conference today that 170 B-29's have been lost since they started operations last June 5. Of these, 84 were lost in combat and 86 as a result of accidents and similar operational losses. Norstad, chief of staff for the 20th (Superfortress) Air Force, said the fire attack on Tokyo had destroyed an estimated 3,000 plants and shops, a total of 200,000 to 250,000 buildings and left an estimated 1,200,000 factory workers homeless.

Forty-five large factories were destroyed, 26 extensively damaged, twenty moderately damaged and eleven others damaged to some extent, he reported.

German E-Boat Attack Thwarted Without Loss

LONDON—(AP)—An attempt by a large force of German E-Boats to attack an Allied convoy off the east coast of England Wednesday night was beaten off without damage to any of the ships, a joint Admiralty and Air Ministry communique announced today.

Mopup Is Extended

Bombers Hit Japs In Philippines War

By FRED HAMPSON

MANILA—(AP)—Seizure of Little Guimaras Island, across a narrow strait from the captured Port of Iloilo on Southeastern Panay, was announced today as heavy bombers stepped up their pounding of Cebu, one of the few major Philippine Islands still in Japanese hands.

Maj. Gen. Rapp Brush's 40th Division, which invaded Panay Sunday and quickly conquered Iloilo and an important airdrome, hopped across the mile and a half channel Wednesday to take 25-mile-long Guimaras without opposition. It was the twenty-seventh island invasion of the Philippines campaign.

Guimaras helps form one of the best harbors and seaplane bases in the central Philippines. It safeguards shipping lanes into Iloilo.

In three successive days, heavy bombers poured 214 tons of bombs on bivouac and supply areas in the vicinity of Cebu City, midway along Cebu's long east coast. Considerable fires and explosions resulted.

Naval P-T boats patrolling the Cebu coast by night sank several small Japanese craft, and Navy rocket-firing planes sent a major submarine to the bottom off Cebu City.

Twelve small freight vessels and four landing craft were sunk in the China Sea as patrol bombers maintained their tight blockade.

PRESS ON BAGUIO

On Luzon Island, Maj. Gen. Percy W. Clarkson's 33rd Division reached within four miles of Baguio, Summer capital of the Philippines.

See U. S. PLANES on Page 4

Williams Rejected

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Senate rejected today President Roosevelt's nomination of Aubrey Williams as Rural Electrification Administrator.

The vote was 52 to 36 against confirmation.

Senate action came two months and a day after the President submitted the name of the former National Youth Administrator for director of a lending program expected soon may reach the proportions of a billion dollars.

Some Southern Democrats joined with Republicans to defeat the 44-year-old Williams, an ardent New Dealer.

It was the first Senatorial rejection of a Presidential appointee other than a postmaster since June 1939 when a nominee for United States attorney for Nevada was turned down. Some other nominations were withdrawn thereafter.

Supporters contended that Williams was falsely accused of communist leanings. Opponents said he was not fitted for the job.

Majority Leader Barkley of Kentucky, pleading for confirmation, hardly before the vote was taken, called Williams a champion of the underprivileged.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warmer today, tonight and Saturday.

Temperature at 2:30 Today	69
High and Low Last 24 Hours	69, 40
Sunset Today	7:37
Sunrise Tomorrow	7:21

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front

The scope of the American victory in Germany's Rhineland was emphasized today by Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, who summed up our achievements with the statement that the Allies now can cross the Rhine most anywhere at any time.

Bradley, who commands the 12th Army group, said that the whole operation of clearing the Rhineland has gone faster than we dared hope. The 12th Army group includes the American First, Third and 15th Armies. The General disclosed that American - First Army operations across the Rhine in the Remagen bridgehead were deliberately held back until the American Third and Seventh Armies had completed their operations below the Moselle River.

However, General Bradley added a word of caution. He said that the war may be almost over, or that it may last a long time to come, he declared that how much resistance the Germans can put up remains to be seen.

Even while Bradley said Allied forces can cross the Rhine almost anywhere at any time, the Germans were saying that Field Marshal Montgomery's forces on the northern Rhine are getting ready to do just that.

Air Warfare

The air war still is going at top speed. More than 1,200 American heavy bombers from Britain roared out with an escort of 350 fighters to attack the Ruhr again today. The targets were 11 railyards. Later, RAF Lancasters attacked Nazi troop concentrations on the east bank of the Rhine. Use of the Lancasters in this manner usually precedes an offensive.

The German radio tells of more Allied bombers coming in over Germany from both Britain and Italy.

Russian Front

On the Eastern Front, tank spearheads of Marshal Konev's First Ukrainian Army Group are leading the new Russian drive through Silesia. Moscow dispatches say the new offensive caught the Germans off balance. The Soviet troops are rolling toward the Moravian mountain passes into Czechoslovakia and inner Germany. There is no confirmation from Moscow, however, of the German claim that Marshal Zhukov has attacked from the Oder River front facing Berlin.

The Pacific

In the war against Japan, enemy troops have launched a new drive in China. Sixty thousand Japanese troops supported by armored units have moved out from Northwest of Hankow. A Chinese Army spokesman says the Japs have two objectives—to knock out American airfields in the area and to seize the vital wheat crop in two provinces.

In the Philippines, General MacArthur has moved to protect his newly won port on Panay. Troops of the fortieth Division have moved across a narrow strait from Iloilo harbor to the Island of Guimaras.

American troops on Iwo have made a meal of their first fresh vegetables since the invasion. Transport planes have flown 2,000 pounds of watermelons, radishes, onions and tomatoes to the Marines. The vegetables were grown in the Marianas.

The Mariner will be amazed to hear that the Tokyo radio says the Japs plan to launch an offensive to take back Iwo, Saipan and even Guadalcanal.

Doughboy Coup

Yanks Capture Big Underground German Factory Across Rhine

By HAL BOYLE

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY ACROSS THE RHINE, March 22—(Delayed)— (AP) —A huge $1,000,000 underground Nazi factory carved out of solid mountain rock has been captured by American doughboys who found it crowded with 1,500 German civilians and 500 slave laborers.

For eleven days, huddled miserably together like cattle, they waited in the stone walled factory for the battle to pass them by after disobeying Nazi military orders to evacuate the area.

MOVED TWICE

The factory, blasted out of sheer cliffs in the Rhine hills near the town of Koenigswinter, manufactured fuel pumps for heavy German Army vehicles and Focke-Wulf-190 fighter bombers. The factory had been moved twice—finally going underground last October—to escape heavy Allied bombing.

Troops of the 78th "Lightning" Infantry Division led by Lt. Col. Richard W. Keyes of Houston, Texas, discovered the underground plant after a civilian told them of its existence.

Climbing a high hill, overlooking Koenigswinter, doughboys found a cave entrance ten feet wide and twelve feet high about 75 feet from the crest. It had been cleverly camouflaged by a huge net running some 300 feet down the hillside from the cave's mouth.

"This has been as near to hell as I ever hope to come," said an English-speaking German woman who asserted the 2,000 persons crammed there had been anxiously waiting the entire eleven days for the Americans to come.

BABY BORN

She said one baby had been born in the cave and one man had committed suicide with poison.

"I was ordered two weeks ago to destroy my machinery and to bring my foreign work

See NAZI FACTORY on Page 6

Former Soldier Electrocuted

LINCOLN, Nebr. — (AP) — Joseph P. MacAvoy, former Army sergeant from Brooklyn, N. Y., was electrocuted today at the Nebraska Penitentiary for the slaying last year of a fifteen-year-old farm girl.

MacAvoy, who observed his 28th birthday Monday, was the first person to die in the Nebraska electric chair since 1929. He was pronounced dead at 6:01 A. M., two minutes after the first shock.

He was a member of a guard squadron at the Harvard, Nebr., Army Air Field when the blind, crooked body of Anna Milsay, Sutton, Nebr., was found in a ditch beside a lonely country lane near Sutton two days after she had disappeared.

The Western Front

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

The northern sector: Germans reported massive artillery barrage by fires massed on lower Rhine along smoke-shrouded 65-mile front, while Nazi reports said crossings had started. Ruhr attacked again in machines' air offensive.

The East-Rhine sector: Americans captured Neuwied on the Rhine eight miles northwest of Coblenz, extended bridgehead length to 31 miles, held nine-mile stretch of Sieg River on the far bank.

The Saar-Palatinate sector: Battle in south drew to close. Germans lost 100,000 prisoners in disaster. Mainz cleared. Landau captured. Germans said Third Army massed amphibious and other tanks at Rhine.

THE ARMIES IN THE WEST

Canadian First, British Second, U. S. Ninth Armies: Germans said massive artillery barrage opened along 65-mile smoke-shrouded front facing Ruhr; some Nazi reports said assault crossings of lower Rhine had begun.

U. S. First Army: Captured Neuwied, factory city eight miles northwest of Coblenz on East Rhine bank, lengthened east bank hold to 31 miles, held nine-miles of Sieg River's south bank facing Ruhr.

U. S. Third, Seventh Armies: Saar-Palatinate battle neared close; Mainz cleared; Landau captured; Nazis still resisted east of Neustadt. 100,000 German prisoners taken; Germans said Third massed tanks on Rhine.

U. S. DIVISIONS:

Tenth Armored: Advanced in Palatinate west of Bad Duerkheim.

71st Infantry: Captured Pirmasens. Siegfried Line bastion.

90th Infantry: Cleared Mainz.

85th Armored: Has reached the Rhine.

103d Infantry: Advanced northwest of Wissembourg Gap.