

GERMANS STORM LOWER RHINE

10,000 Planes Strike Biggest Aerial Blow

LONDON — (AP) — Ten thousand Allied warplanes struck Germany the greatest co-ordinated aerial blows in history today.

Air fleets joined in the spectacular bombing of the Rhine and laid a protecting wall of fire, rockets, and bombs around the charging Allied troops, while heavy bombers from Italy hit a Berlin tank factory in a 1,600-mile round trip, the longest escorted operation ever flown over Europe.

It was one of the war's most awe-inspiring aerial operations. The most devastating source ever laid down on a single area was exploded on the Ruhr Valley in the crucial hours before daylight. Then 1,500 American bombers and fighters hammered 12 Nazi airfields and carried out searing missions across the battle zone.

Many of the parachute troop carriers and gliders numbered would indicate from 20,000 to 30,000 men, the greatest number ever engaged in an airborne operation — soared out from Britain and thundered across the Straits of Dover. No sooner had the parachute troops landed than other planes began the job of supplying them with additional ammunition. The first batch of supplies was dropped across the Rhine in a drop by some 250 U. S. Eighth Air Force Liberators.

Thick layers of heavy bombers and fighters streamed monotonously across the Channel. Then came the gliders with their towing planes, and after them the troop-carrying craft, wing to wing and hundred after hundred, flying so low that every detail could be seen from below.

Before daylight, swarms of me-

Red Drive From Oder Is Reported Called Decisive Push On Berlin

LONDON — (AP) — The Germans said today that Marshal Gregory Zhukov had attacked "with strongest forces" from his Oder bridgeheads as part of a decisive drive on Berlin.

With perhaps 1,200,000 men massed along the Oder and ready to join in a multiple east-west Allied assault to crush the last breath out of the Reich, Zhukov's tanks and a tremendous artillery barrage into the new attack on both sides of German capital, German broadcasts reported.

The German High Command said Zhukov was attacking from bridgeheads on both sides of Kuestrin and that the stubborn German

LONDON — (AP) — Marshal Stalin announced a new Russian offensive in Hungary to-night and said Soviet forces had advanced 45 miles on a front of more than 63 miles and captured numerous communications points including Szekesfehar.

The Red army has taken a toll of 204 Soviet tanks in two days of battle there.

The Russians reached Gdow, 56 miles west of the Oder and 31 miles from Berlin, said radio dispatches from the Red, and took into Klesin, eight miles south of Gdow and 34 miles from Berlin.

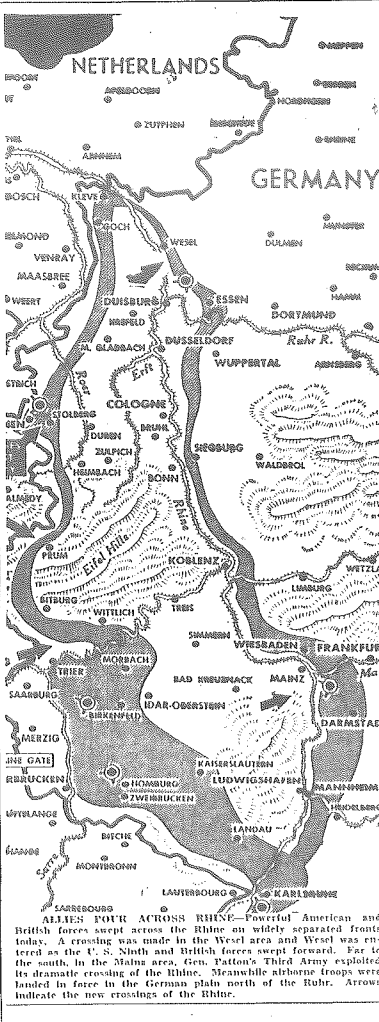
The Germans, who claim to have lost one part of the city of Kuestrin just south of the Warthe River and a Soviet airfield, said in a Soviet visit announcements of the capture of the city.

"The battle for Kuestrin has reached its climax. The Red Army is finishing in all its material, regardless of losses of men and tanks."

"This present offensive must be held on one part of the city of Kuestrin and a Soviet airfield on Berlin," declared a DMI broadcast from Berlin.

"Kuestrin has been cut off from all communication to the west for some time. They have, however, still in German hands. Russian fighting continues in this sector."

There was no mention from Moscow of the opening of a new Zhukov attack, but the Soviet High Command announced that the German defenders of the Baltic ports of Gdow and Danzig had been cut off from the coast between the two cities, and that the Russians were clamping a huge pincers on the inner German fortress area of Moravia, Bohemia and Vienna in the south.



Across The Rhine

Patton's Troops Extend Foothold

By EDWARD D. BALL
WITH THE U. S. THIRD ARMY ACROSS THE RHINE — (AP) — The Third Army rapidly expanded today the Rhine bridgehead which it established yesterday after crossing the stream in one of the boldest strokes of the European war.

It was two hours after the crossing that the enemy fired his first heavy artillery salvo. American artillery replied with a thunderous barrage that outranked the Nazis a hundred to one.

By late yesterday many troops had been shoved across the Rhine and the Germans were shelling, bombing and straddling the crossing site. But Patton's Lightning Army already had driven a spearhead into Hitler's inner fortress.

Land & Sky Troops In Great Offensive

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS — (AP) — Four Allied armies won virtually all of a 25-mile stretch across the Lower Rhine today in and north of the rich Ruhr Valley, driving up to four miles beyond the river in a mighty land and airborne offensive bidding for final victory this Spring.

The U. S. Ninth Army crossed the river two miles south of the Ruhr city of Wesel and advanced three to four miles northeast of the river, capturing several small towns.

WESEL AND REES ENTERED
The British Second Army captured more than 1,500 prisoners and fought into Wesel and Rees.

The Allied First Airborne Army landed northeast of Xanten in the largest sky invasion in history, gliding and parachuting to earth from an enormous sky train more than 500 miles long. Up to 30,000 sky troops landed after 10 A. M.

Also in the attack were elements of the Canadian First Army. The Rhine was being bridged. Field Marshal Montgomery's onslaught, following closely behind Rhine crossings of the U. S. First and Third Armies farther south, gained power every moment. Casualties were light. German resistance was spotty.

"The enemy has been driven into a corner and he cannot escape," Montgomery said in an order of the day, "the complete and decisive defeat of the Germans is certain."

Ringside View
The German commander at Wesel was seized and the general commanding flank artillery was killed.

HUNDREDS SURRENDER
Hundreds of Nazis surrendered. Those who fought were cut up by thousands of artillery shells and bombs.

Co-ordinated with massive Russian attacks in the East, Gen. Eisenhower had unleashed upwards of 1,500,000 combat troops in eight or nine armies in a climactic onslaught to bring Germany to her knees within weeks. He 82 identified divisions, 12 of them armored, were equipped as no armies before them ever were.

In places the Germans were caught badly off balance and in fatal disarray as no armies before them ever were.

The first preliminary crossings were made as early as 9 P. M.

LONDON — (AP) — The Brussels radio quoted an unconfirmed news agency report today that French troops have crossed the Rhine in the area located in Baden Province, fifteen miles south of Karlsruhe.

Friday and the United States and Royal Navy shelled the men across in force before dawn today.

RHINE IN VIEW
The Ruhr was caught between the American First Army's original Rhine bridgehead opposite Remagen and Bonn and the new crossing by Field Marshal Montgomery.

'Anti-Hitler Weather'
The weather finally turned against Hitler in one of the Allies' big offensives.

WEATHER
Partly cloudy and continued rain this afternoon, tonight and Sunday with slight scattered showers this afternoon.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front
Supreme Allied Headquarters in Paris has announced the first details of actual plans for the Allied troops on the east bank of the Northern Rhine. Four Allied Armies now hold almost all of a 25-mile stretch of the Rhine River and above the Ruhr. Some units are four miles beyond the Rhine.

In other words, a Rhine bridgehead 25 miles long and up to four miles deep now links the American Ninth, the Canadian First, the British Second and the First Allied Airborne Armies.

The American Ninth Army crossed the Rhine two miles south of Wesel and advanced three to four miles northeast of the river, capturing several small towns.

The British Second Army has captured more than 1,500 prisoners and has fought his way into both Wesel and the town of Rees, some fifteen miles to the north.

The Allied First Airborne Army landed somewhere northeast of Xanten (Zutphen) in the largest sky invasion in history. The huge armada—the greatest ever—flashed from England to one time—was joined by thousands more bombers and fighters streaming up from continental bases.

Russian Front
On the Eastern Front Adolf Hitler's new Soviet offensive—this one in Hungary. The amphibious land from Moscow and Allied Air Force have advanced 45 miles on a front more than 63 miles long.

The Pacific
In the Pacific, Tokyo says the American carrier plane attacks on Okinawa may be the last of the summer. The island in the Ryukyu group between Japan and Formosa is being bombed by 230 Navy planes, lasted at least eight hours.

At Guam, Admiral Nimitz has decreed that Jap planes get one of our carriers during the two campaigns. Two days after the invasion, enemy planes bombed the invasion fleet and sank the baby flat-top U. S. S. Bismarck Sea. More than 200 men out of 1,500 were killed as casualties of the sinking.

In the Philippines, General MacArthur's troops are moving down Luzon. The Summer of 1945. A town and airfield 10 miles away have been captured.

Spain
MADRID — (AP) — The Spanish Government announced today that it had ordered all Spanish diplomatic missions abroad to cease representing Japanese interests.

Mecklenburg Casualties
KILLED
Sgt. Edward H. Black

ON THE RHINE — (AP) — The most intricate battle ever planned by American and British soldiers, elements of three armies were making amazing progress today after crossing the Rhine by a combination of skill and guts.

To get a ringside view of the greatest co-ordinated attack ever staged on the Western Front I followed the doughboys and Tommies from their secret assembly areas to the Rhine over mountainous terrain, watched the attack develop from a front-line command post, went across the river, and finally took a flight in a Cub airplane for a 3,000-foot-high seat over the great Rhine for the air drop by thousands of parachutists and glider troops.

I will try to draw into one view the tremendous overall significance of the attack by the ordinary men of Britain and America armed soldier.

There is not a man, American or British, from generals to privates, who does not feel that this is the beginning of the last major battle that will bring the war to a quick end.

It is the first time that this feeling has permeated into the hearts of the always persistent GIs who have to do the fighting.

Everying the Allies, amateurs to begin with, have learned in three years of war has been thrown into this battle against the most powerful German fighting force left on the Western Front.

German defeat now means loss of the Ruhr, opening of the gate to Berlin, an eventual linkup with the Russian Armies and the end of the war for the Germans.

Despite these stakes, German resistance at first was spotty. Abnormal numbers of German prisoners were taken in small attacks. The division alone had nearly 1,000 before the morning was over.

It was the same type of feeble resistance that was encountered at the Roer last month when German soldier morale slid down and the front collapsed.

But the Allied attack was succeeding primarily not because of German morale. It was because of these factors and hundreds like them.

The calm, icy courage of British Commandos who lay within 1,500 yards of Wesel while the RAF put on one of the greatest night raids of the war. Three hundred Lancaster bombers flattened the town in 15 minutes.

The Commandos rushed into the flaming rubble and crushed the resistance of tough German parachute troops.

YANK PLOTS BRAVE
The bravery of American transport pilots who flew their cumbersome ships with heavy gliders in low line a storm of flak and dropped grim air-borne troops. Sometimes they came back across the Rhine in flames, sometimes not at all.

But these are only snapshots in the great battle. How is how-it-developed:

Yesterday afternoon a pall of smoke hung over the entire Ruhr and the Rhine from Dusseldorf to Aachen. Some of it was the result of Allied smoke pots along the river, but most of it was from flaming buildings of the Ruhr. And it impacted thousands of American and British bombers and fighters.

There was little movement behind the front late yesterday afternoon as the Ninth Army and the British Second Army lay quiet.

FRONT TIPS
But with darkness the front stirred to life. From the Rhine to the Moselle, the front advanced in places.

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