

# STORM BATTERS RHEIN BEFORE FRANKFURT

## Tokyo Reports Ryukyu Chain Landing Effort

By ELMONT WAITE

GUAM—(AP)—American troops, supported by intensive bombardment from a large carrier-battleship task force, are "attempting" landings on the Okinawa group in the Ryukyu chain, only 225 miles south of Kyushu in the Japanese homeland, Domei News Agency reported without confirmation today.

Aerial bombardment of several of the Ryukyu Islands, including Okinawa itself, and of air bases in all of the Southern Japanese home islands of Kyushu, Shikoku and Honshu, preceded the reported landings.

MINAMI DAITO SHELLED

Tokyo said Okinawa itself was bombed three times Saturday by U. S. battleships—presumably some of the biggest—narrowed six-inch battlewagons. In Adm. Chester W. Nimitz's announcement, only that Minami Daito, 250 miles east of Okinawa, was shelled.

The enemy broadcast, made in English and recorded by the Federal Communications Commission, reported the landings were attempted on Taka Shima and Aka Shima, islands west of the southwestern tip of Okinawa.

Okinawa, most important in the Ryukyu chain and an ideal base for strikes at either Japan or the China coast, probably would be the chief objective in any amphibious operation in the Central Ryukyus.

Okinawa has several airfields and good harbors suitable for anchorage of large warships.

Tokyo said a powerful U. S. Task Force of 15 standard and converted carriers, 11 battleships, 10 cruisers, 22 destroyers as well as innumerable auxiliary vessels, was lying southwest of Okinawa to support and protect the landing troops.

Japanese garrison units "now are fiercely intercepting enemy forces" that by means of "approximately 100 bombers" attempted landing, Tokyo said.

CLAIM CONTRADICTED

Tokyo's statement that 15 carriers were included in the great naval force off Okinawa contradicted its own earlier claim of having nine, several flatly in "The Star." Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's raids last night against Southern Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku and the Ryukyu Islands had reported 15 carriers.

## Reds Open New Drive In Slovakia

Attack North Of Danube

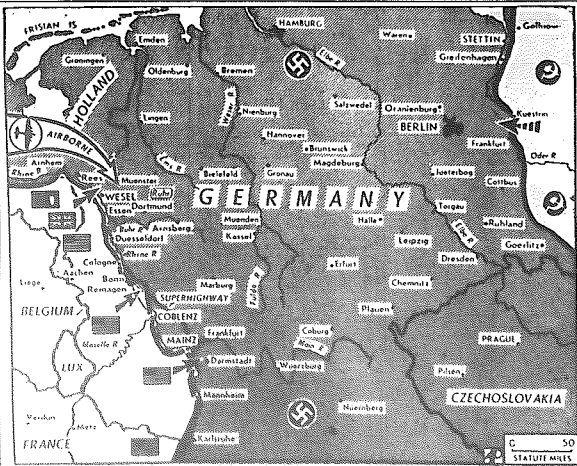
LONDON—(AP)—Marshal Stalin announced tonight the opening of a new offensive north of the Danube in Slovakia and said that the Russian forces, former headquarters of a Czechoslovak underground uprising, had been captured.

The push, by Marshal Rodion Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army, was the fourth offensive launched by the Russians on the Danube and in effect a converging drive on Vienna. Moscow said the Russians had shifted forces from Italy and the sagging Western Front for defense of the Austrian capital.

BRON RIVER FORCED

The fall of Bratislava, Slovakia, twelve miles above Budapest and 75 miles north of Budapest, meant the Russians had forced the Danube and in effect a converging drive on Vienna. Moscow said the Russians had shifted forces from Italy and the sagging Western Front for defense of the Austrian capital.

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WHERE ALLIES SMASH AT REICH ACROSS RHINE—American, Canadian and British troops above at the head of the Rhine from three bridgeheads (solid arrows) across the Rhine River on the Western Front. The Russians on the Eastern Front were reported driving across the Oder River in the Kustrin area (broken arrow) toward Berlin. German-held territory is shaded. (AP Wirephoto).

## Allied Armies Surge Through German Lines

Heavy Battle Rages As 30th Division Breaks Lippe River Defenses

By HAL BOYLE

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY—First Army troops in a sensational coup today sprinted 22 miles through German lines. Elements of an armored unit wheeled northeast of Coblenz, fought onto a highway and then rolled on "without major opposition," an officer said.

This push was timed with other tank drives farther north in the First Army sector.

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS—(AP)—American Ninth Army troops and armor broke through German defenses on the Lippe River east of Dortmund, 17 miles east of the Rhine, today while the Third Army besieged Frankfurt.

American and British airborne divisions were crashing through the broken and disorganized enemy for huge gains against light opposition in the northern sector.

The Ninth Army's 30th Infantry Division, breaking through Nazi defenses on the Lippe River, collided with infantry of the German 116th Panzer Division and a field dispatch said a heavy battle was raging.

BRITISH SWEEP FORWARD

Sweeping out of their positions along the Isel River, British parachute troops drove to within little more than a half-mile of Brunen, six miles northeast of Wesel, and were still advancing.

"There is nothing to halt a break-through," the commander of an American airborne unit said tonight.

The Third Army sent its tanks crashing across the main river bridge at Aachenburg into the wide Frankfurt plain a bare 250 miles from Russian lines in the East.

One unconfirmed report said Frankfurt had been entered. The last "dimmed out" battle accounts hours before had placed Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's mighty shock troops six miles away. The city's radio went dead last night.

The unverified report reaching Supreme Headquarters said that the great cathedral city, where many German emperors were crowned, was found virtually deserted.

BRIDGE TAKEN

The Fourth Armored Division again had burst loose 40 miles beyond the Rhine in a sweep so swift that the Germans were caught without time to blow the Aachenburg bridge, 22 miles southeast of Frankfurt. The "break through" division's coup was so complete that Frankfurt, was hopelessly outflanked. Frankfurt, a city of 547,000, is the ninth largest in Germany and one of the Reich's greatest railroad centers.

"The decisive fighting of the whole war now is unequivocally underway in the West," a German military spokesman said by radio from Berlin, 235 miles from vanguard of Patton's Army.

With troops already 136 miles deep in the heart of

## Churchill At British Front

LONDON—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill, accompanied by Field Marshal Montgomery, visited the British Second Army front in the Rhine today. He had visited the U. S. Ninth Army's bridgehead Sunday.

The Prime Minister is expected to give the House of Commons an eye-witness account on his return to London.

Churchill almost certainly will appear in the House before his adjournment Thursday for the Easter holiday, and it was felt the visit would not miss the opportunity to describe the opening phases of what he has called "the big heave."

The Prime Minister had a close call while standing at the shattered western end of the bridge at Wesel. Guided by Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, commander of the Ninth Army, the Prime Minister had inspected recently occupied territory, when a German shell crashed 50 yards away. Churchill was nearly hit and his car was damaged.

DEBATED BY RAIL LAWYERS

Railroad attorneys denied the assertions. They said the time was required by law "for point rates and file them with the Interstate Commerce Commission."

The attorneys said that Georgia already had a similar case pending before the ICC, and contended that to permit suit rate cases to be decided by the entire principle of ICC regulation of the industry.

Attorney General Biddle recommended that the court hear the complaint, on the ground that the anti-trust laws support the relief asked by Georgia.

## High Court Agrees Rail Rate Case Review Granted

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Supreme Court today agreed to consider a complaint by the State of Georgia which seeks to force equalization of freight rates between the South and other parts of the country.

Justice Douglas delivered a 5-4 opinion explaining the court's decision. Chief Justice Stone wrote a dissent in which Justices Roberts, Frankfurter and Jackson concurred.

Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia, in urging the court to consider the complaint, asserted that recently major railroads had "resorted to conspiracy and coercion" to prevent lower freight rates. He said they were operating an "illegal combination" against the state, resulting in Northern manufacturers, shippers and other shippers gaining an advantage over Georgia business concerns.

## Strategic Raids Made

By HENRY B. JAMESON

LONDON—(AP)—Two oil plants, a gun factory and an armored car works in southeastern Germany were attacked today by 300 American bombers as the airman switched back to strategic targets after a week-long bombing campaign for the Rhine offensive.

The small force of heavy bombers, 200 B-24s and 100 B-29s, was sent to a synthetic oil plant and a natural oil refinery at Ludwigshafen, near the mouth of the Rhine, and the other two to a gun factory at Mannheim and an armored car works at Karlsruhe.

The attack was the first heavy bomber assault on Germany in 42 days and was part of another two-day raid re-organized with the U. S. 15th Air Force in Italy. Bombers from Italy hammered communications in Austria.

The Germans indicated that Russian bombers attacked Berlin. The attack was the first heavy bomber assault on Germany in 42 days and was part of another two-day raid re-organized with the U. S. 15th Air Force in Italy.

## Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Western Front**

General DeWitt Eisenhower's magnificent Western Front offensive has turned into a powerful floodtide rolling toward the heart of Germany. The American First Army has broken through the defenses of its original Roman bridgehead to score sweeping gains eastward.

The Ninth Army's 26th Division broke through a German river defense line 11 miles east of the Rhine. The shattered enemy line is on the Lippe (Elbe-Th) River near the town of Duerksen. A front dispatch says the breakthrough was achieved in a severe tank and infantry battle.

To the south, the American Third Army has besieged Frankfurt—the Main. An unconfirmed report says Lt. Gen. George Patton's fighting men already have broken into Frankfurt.

The Third Army has captured 30,478 prisoners, including the First Army in this report. The First has seized 250,000 captives.

**Air Warfare**

Allied air might has gone back to the task of punishing strategic targets after a busy week of tactical attacks attendant upon the Rhine crossings. Three hundred American bombers heavily bombed Southern Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku and the Ryukyu Islands.

## Mecklenburg Casualties

(Storia Inside)

KILLED  
Pvt. Lemuel J. Newhouse  
Edward J. Erwin  
WOUNDED  
T/S Lighten R. Frader

## No Collapse Yet, However

LONDON—(AP)—Gen. Eisenhower's great Rhine offensive has plunged the German people into a deep gloom, diplomats from neutral European capitals said today, but there seemed general agreement that still is too early to look for a complete collapse of the German home front.

Observers from here said the comparative ease with which the Allied Armies swept across the Rhine had started the greatest wave of defeatism and despair yet recorded in Germany.

These dispatches emphasized, however, that even though the German people apparently have lost heart, they are not yet ready to surrender.

## Eisenhower's Rhine Offensive Breaks Heart Of German Nation

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## The Western Front

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ninth Infantry: In First Army drive.

17th Airborne: Links with ground forces near Rhine.

20th Infantry: Spearheads Ninth Army drive over Rhine, makes deepest penetration.

28th Infantry: Driving out of Remagen bridgehead.

79th Infantry: Spearheaded Ninth Army drive with 20th Infantry, nears Duisburg.

47th Infantry: Crossed Rhine south of Coblenz.

10th Infantry: Captured Darnstadt.

90th Infantry: Participating in First Army push.

101st Infantry: Cleared road pocket near Duisburg.

103rd Infantry: Mopped up Germans west of Rhine.

**WEATHER**

Cloudy and mild with occasional light rain this afternoon followed by partly cloudy, mild tonight and Tuesday.

Temperatures at 8:00 a.m.: High and Low Last 24 Hours: 60-50, 55-45, 50-40, 45-35, 40-30, 35-25, 30-20, 25-15, 20-10, 15-05, 10-00, 05-05, 00-05.