

WAR PLANS CHECKED

WITH GERMAN SECRET

Report Yanks Have Ryukyu Isle Foothold

GUAM (AP)—A Japanese imperial communique announced today that U. S. forces established beachheads Sunday on Okinawa, in the Ryukyus.

The customary claim of anti-living enemy landing forces was omitted in the communique broadcast intercepted by the Federal Communications Commission.

The first assertion of U. S. landings has not been confirmed by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz headquarters.

American communique, however, did report damaging blows to Japan's undersea by B-29s, B-24s, and fleet surface and aerial bombardments.

BLOWS DELIVERED

These are the blows which have usually preceded former landings and again may cast their shadows ahead:

1. Shore installations of Okinawa Island were raked by Adm. Raymond A. Spruance's Fifth Fleet guns for three consecutive days. Radio Tokyo said they had entered the fourth day.
2. Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's swift carrier planes, which recently raided the nearby home island of Kyushu, rippled and blasted Okinawa's air installations. Radio Tokyo said 1250 U. S. carrier planes landed into Okinawa's fields.
3. A large fleet of Marianas-based B-29s raked homeland

airfields within easy airplane reach of Okinawa.

4. Planes operating from the Philippines, announced Gen. Douglas MacArthur today, continued to lambast Formosa's air installations to the south of Okinawa.

Repeating his fears, Radio Tokyo said: "Behind the large-scale operations of the enemy forces there is certain to be another operation. . . . The enemy strives to pin down our air force power of activity prior to the actual launching of landing operations."

Okinawa is less than 400 miles from the Japanese home islands—an easy two-hour bomber trip or a day's steaming by warship.

Formosa is being neutralized by Philippine-based planes of MacArthur's command. Today the enemy radio, without confirmation, extended the paralyzing naval and air sweep of the Allies 200 miles southwest of Formosa, saying ten cruisers shelled the island of Palau, midway between the Philippines and Hong Kong.

Maj. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay's B-29s, departing from their low level bases, delivered a high altitude attack shortly before noon today on Kyushu. The enemy placed the raid's duration at "about an hour."

The targets extended to the west coast of Kyushu where the sky giants hit a big aircraft assembly plant at Onuma—thus for the first time blasting a point

See YANKS GO ON Page 7

WEATHER

Fair and warm this afternoon, tonight and Wednesday.

Temperature at 2:30 Today: 74

High & Low Last 24 Hours: 75; 54

Sunrise Today: 7:40

Sunset Tomorrow: 7:15

Two-Minute News Roundup

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front

Victory-flushed American Armies have made rapid gains in a continued sweep toward Berlin. Front dispatches reveal that German positions have fallen apart. The retreat of the Nazi supermen has turned into a rout. Thousands of German captives are streaming to the rear. Built armor of both the American First and Third Armies is racing across the Reich unchecked.

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower has made the dramatic announcement that enemy lines have been broken in a massive defeat. The Supreme Commander declares that the enemy has suffered a defeat which he cannot afford.

Earlier dispatches revealed that First Army tanks have lanced into Wehrburg, 244 miles southwest of Berlin. The enemy says that Third Army columns are approaching Wehrburg in Bavaria. Wuerzburg is 223 miles from Berlin.

Along the British Second Army front to the north, front dispatches declare that enemy defense have been broken completely beyond Brunen, fifteen miles north of Dusseldorf. The British Second Army is racing eastward almost unopposed.

Russian Front

Marshall Stalin announces that Soviet troops are expanding their Siberian offensive. The Russians have captured Strolin, 21 miles south of Breslau and the town of Rybick which is 14 miles west of Kladno.

The British radio quotes Berlin

Argentine Cabinet In Big Decision

Move To Join In American Family

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina.—(AP)—Argentina today declared a state of war with the Axis.

Presidential Secretary Colonel Gregorio Tamba announced to newsmen that the Cabinet had adopted a decision which involved the "grave decision of declaring a state of war with the Axis nations."

The announcement followed a Cabinet session of nearly two hours at which the furling touches were put to a week-long deliberation to determine what Argentina could do to meet the requirements of the Mexican City inter-American conference invitation to rejoin the American family of nations.

Tamba said the decisions would bring Argentina into effective union with the American nations and that a communique could be issued later.

Some reports said Argentina probably would move promptly to re-establish relations with Soviet Russia in event the Cabinet's decision wins for Argentina recognition and admission into the United Nations.

It was considered likely that conversations to that end would be initiated in Washington.

Narcotics Ring Leaders Charged

NEW YORK (AP)—U. S. Attorney John D. Sedgwick announced the indictment of 17 persons accused of being leaders of a nationwide syndicate which he termed the nation's chief supply source for illegal shipments of opium and heroin from Mexico.

McGohey said the men had disposed of up to \$1,000,000 worth of narcotics in the last four years, operating their base of operations in New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, New Orleans, San Francisco and Santa Cruz, Calif.

Mecklenburg Casualties

(Statistics Inside)

It Isn't Over Yet

White House Remark Brings Flood Of Idle Peace Rumors

WASHINGTON (AP)—A White House disclosure that President Roosevelt wants his Cabinet officers and American diplomats abroad to stick to their own jobs during the San Francisco conference next month today started a torrent of rumors about immediate victory in Europe.

So far as the White House was concerned, they were only rumors.

It all began when Jonathan Daniels, Presidential press secretary, was asked whether he looked for a very large outpouring from Washington to the World Security Conference starting April 25.

"No, very definitely, we don't," Daniels said. "The President has sent a message to the Secretary of State and members of the Cabinet pointing out to the Secretary of State the importance of all chiefs of mission remaining at their posts during this critical time, and a similar message to members of his Cabinet agreeing that he felt that they should stay at their posts."

By chiefs of mission, Daniels said, he meant American ambassadors and ministers to other nations.

"Through Secretary of State Stettinius, as chairman of the American delegation to the San Francisco conference, Daniels said the President 'has asked the members of the delegation to keep their advice to the President as a compact group in order that there won't be a stain on transportation within the country or on hotel facilities so that we can take care of our distinguished guests from other countries.'"

Reds Drive Near Austria

LONDON (AP)—The Third Ukrainian Army has struck to the lower Raba River which runs within 20 to 25 miles from the Austrian border, and 60 to 65 from Vienna, the German High Command announced today.

Beat Toward Vienna

Vienna of both the Third and Second Ukrainian Armies were beating toward Vienna along the Danube at Gyor, stronghold guarding the Bratislava Gap entrance to Vienna.

March 27—Tolbukhin's troops may have reached the Raba upstream from Gyor in an advance from Paps of the area of Lovatskaya farther northeast. Both towns were seized yesterday.

Great Joyride In Germany

BY HAL BOYLE

ON THE ROAD TO BERLIN—the greatest armored joyride in history—and Adolf Hitler literally paved the way to his own downfall.

The great single and double-lane highways he built in peace to shuttle his armies out from the heart of Germany to attack neighboring countries are providing his undoing.

NAZIS CAN'T STOP IT

They are smooth concrete avenues to Berlin and other great German cities over which the millions of armor ever assembled in the West are rolling at this blistering pace in a dozen columns, coming from so many directions the Germans are powerless to arrange together enough troops to halt them all.

The Nazi military machine has gone to pieces on its own home grounds. It is in chaos in many sectors. Tanks of Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st Army and Gen. Patton's Third Army have yet to engage in a really strong line—and there is none yet in sight.

Hodges has thrown into the grinding combat the largest tank task forces ever used by any American Army on the battlefield—forces which make 24 Alamein look like a snail's march. And other attacking Allied armies have armored strength almost as powerful.

To ride in a half-track or light tank spearing through obscure

Fighting First Armor & Infantry Drive Into Reich

BY DON WHITEHEAD

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY DRIVING EAST—(AP)—The victory-flushed First Army continued its sweep toward Berlin today with armored and infantry columns running wild in another 24 hours of spectacular gains.

Except for stubborn enemy resistance in front of the First Army's Division just south of the Sieg River at the southern boundary of the Ruhr industrial region, enemy opposition has fallen apart before the hammering from Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' mighty tank forces.

The armored columns are followed closely by infantry, and are flowing eastward over roads like their churning tank treads under cover of bombing warships were reported by radio today, but Gen. Douglas MacArthur, announcing the heaviest air raid yet on that Central Philippines island, ordered no coordination.

Cebu, between the big enemy-held island of Negros and American-occupied Leyte, is one of the two major Philippine islands still in Japanese hands.

The enemy radio said American troops "commenced landings" yesterday morning at Talisay, a fortified town about five miles south of the island's principal port, Cebu City, midway along the east coast.

AREA SHELLED

A task force of the cruisers and

Japs Report Cebu Attack

BY JAMES HUTCHESON

MANILA (AP)—Invasion of Cebu Island by U. S. forces was reported by radio today, but Gen. Douglas MacArthur, announcing the heaviest air raid yet on that Central Philippines island, ordered no coordination.

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AREA SHELLED

A task force of the cruisers and

men were cautiously hopeful. They weren't sure just what kind of anti-tank defenses were ahead. Now that the search is under way at full speed, they are exuberantly confident.

EASIER THAN EXPECTED

Haltling briefly by the side of a burning German house to munch a quick lunch of K-rations, cheese and crackers, First Lt. Glenn Adkinson, of Lincoln, Neb., executive officer of a light tank company, poked his head out of the turret and smiled grimly from a cheerful, dirt-streaked face.

"It's gone a lot easier than we thought—even though they told us this wouldn't be a tough one," he said. "We think the war will be over soon. Soon as we get clear of these woods and hills we will end it pretty quick."

"Yeah, we will," he said now—the German Army isn't much good any more," chimed in his gunner, Pfc. Wilbur Burgess, Chicago, Ill., and the driver, T-5 Neeson Burgess, Highland Home, Ala., poked out his grinning, dirt-streaked head to add:

"It's just much longer. They are giving up too easy. We just passed up a column of 500 prisoners going back and the day had half done."

That's the way most tank crews feel—it can't go on much longer.

Minifields, roadblocks and anti-tank guns slow these giant col-

Tanks Strike Into Plains Of Middle Reich

Eisenhower Declares German Lines Broken In Great Defeat

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY—(AP)—The First Army spearhead is a point 14 miles west of the Rhine today to within two miles of Wehrburg.

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS (AP)—American tanks burst into the open plains of middle Germany less than 244 miles from Berlin today through enemy lines which Gen. Eisenhower declared had been broken in a massive defeat.

Swift armor of both the First and Third Armies raced across the Reich unchecked, because—as Eisenhower said—the foe had insufficient strength at hand with which to make a stand.

Gen. Eisenhower, fresh from visits to the British and First Army fronts, said he believed that unconditional surrender would be imposed on Germany when the Allies and Russian Forces finally meshed together. He expressed doubt there would be a negotiated unconditional surrender.

GERMAN ARMY WHIPPED

He declared the German Army was whipped, although tough fighting lies ahead—particularly in the Ruhr and Westphalian plain, where the bulk of enemy strength in the West is concentrated.

Hours ago, First Army tanks lanced into Wehrburg, 244 miles southwest of Berlin. A dispatch filed later, but shrouded by a censor blackout said the victory-flushed army made spectacular new gains in the continued sweep toward Berlin against opposition that had fallen apart. The retreat became a rout; thousands of German captives streamed to the rear.

The First Army's dash—far past the rugged Rhineland hills into open and sparsely wooded farm country in the heart of Germany—had outflanked the whole Ruhr from the south.

The enemy said that Third Army columns were approaching Wuerzburg, in Bavaria 223 miles from Berlin, and had reached Lohr, 225 miles from the capital.

Wuerzburg and Lohr both are barely more than 100 miles from Czechoslovakia, long since being rolled up by mighty Russian armies charging in from the East.

CHAOTIC RETREAT

Chaos was apparent in German retreats in some sectors and even in the enemy's radio cries. The Berlin radio told off troops and officials to "report immediately to their respective authorities and take up again duties in defense of the Fatherland." This was the army which set out in 1933 to conquer the world.

The Germans appeared greatly concerned about the Third Army push beyond Frankfurt on the Main, Germany's ninth largest city, which was being mopped up. Confirming that, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., was bearing down upon Wuerzburg, the enemy radio said:

"This breakthrough specialist, remaining faithful to his practice of ruthlessly keeping his advances fresh, is fanning out time and again with assault spearheads. He is trying to open a drive for the Wehrmacht and Kessel Valleys. A third tank wedge is advancing from Aschaff-

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Leapfrog Tactics

Whenever the columns run into a strong enemy position, one section coils off to deal with it as the rest of the tanks wheel forward. In this leapfrog fashion doughboy and tank teams have kept up the impulse of the advance.

They have swept through some towns so fast the housewives never had time to put up white flags of surrender and the surprised Nazi garrisons were caught outside their positions, their guns smashed. After a few minutes shelling they give up readily and the tanks move in to clean out impiles.

No attempt is being made to save Nazi real estate. Whenever the tankmen suspect a building or home may house a German strongpoint, they blow it apart and move on.

"When in doubt—fire first!" is their motto.

Armored vehicles escort ammunition and food trains trailing behind the far-ranging columns and guard them from ambush. Despite advances of 70 to 80 miles in a day, the tanks have run out of shells and no man has gone without food.

"We are getting most of the men at least one hot meal a day."