

Give MORE time to read the NEWS!

ESTABLISHED 1888

U. S. & British Fleets Pound Ryukyu Islands

By ELMONT WAITE

GUAM (AP)—The combined United States and British Pacific Fleets continued their terrific pounding of Japan's Ryukyu Islands today and Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced further heavy damage inflicted on the enemy.

Carrier aircraft and warships of the U. S. Fifth Fleet carried their blazing attack into the ninth consecutive day.

They were centering their rain of bombs and shells on the Ryukyu principal island of Okinawa, 223 miles south of Japan's main land.

An unconfirmed enemy Domei news agency dispatch said the attacking American fleet included about 15 battleships. It declared a powerful transport armada is following close behind.

Nimitz still made no mention of the Japanese reports that attempted American landings on the Ryukyu, in the vicinity of Okinawa, had been going on since last Sunday.

"No landings have been attempted yet," on Okinawa itself, today's Domei dispatch said.

Nimitz communique said the British force of aircraft carriers, battleships and supporting units, under Squaire's operational command, was continuing its attack today on the Ryukyu's southern Sakishima group.

American-based Superfortresses, meanwhile, attacked airfields on the south Japan mainland island of Kyushu, further disrupting the enemy's ability to send planes in support of the Ryukyu defenses. A smaller force of B-29s attacked the aircraft production center of

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front

Gen. Eisenhower has taken another of his many army out of the hole on the Western Front today. The new American Fifteenth Army has been added to the powerful force already pushing deep into Germany beyond the Rhine. Details are not yet available, but it is reported that the Fifteenth already is holding a front line position. The Fifteenth is under the command of Lt. Gen. Gerow.

In another late development, according to the British radio, Field Marshal Montgomery's 21st Army Group now is said to be on to 70 miles beyond the Rhine north of the Ruhr.

Another announcement says Montgomery's men gained sixteen miles today. The Ruhr has been all but encircled. But there is no confirmation yet for a Brussels radio claim that Montgomery's troops actually have met those of the American First Army beyond captured Paderborn (Pah-durn).

Somewhere between Mannheim and Karlsruhe, the French First Army has captured a bridge over the Rhine. The American Third Army is engulfing the last ten miles of the Ruhr.

South of this sector, the surprise thrust of the United States Seventh Army is still going, and these forces have burst through the Oden Forest to within fifteen miles of Wuerzburg.

Marshall Stalin has announced the fall of Rostov, the last important German city ahead of Soviet forces charging toward the Moravian Gap leading to the heart of Czechoslovakia.

Simultaneously, the Second and Third American Armies are press-

Reds Pose New Threat To Vienna

Strategic City Of Ratibor Captured

LONDON — (AP) — The Red Army has captured Ratibor, Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

The strategic city, only a few miles from the Czechoslovak border, is 150 miles northeast of Vienna and 16 from Moravia Ostrava, which controls the northern approach to the Moravian gap.

The new offensive drive posed another threat to Vienna. Other Red Army troops moving into Austria 52 miles from Vienna rained into reinforced German lines, and farther to the northeast stepped up an assault toward the Bratislava gate which already had carried to within 44 miles of the Austrian capital.

Blauk also was captured. Like Ratibor, this place was described as "a large communications center and enemy stronghold on the left bank of the Oder."

On the southern end of the Eastern Front, other Soviet battle groups smashed to within 234 miles of the Italian frontier.

The fall of Danzig to the north freed perhaps 20 Russian divisions for the coming battle of Berlin.

The German communique finally announced the loss of Kuestrin, fortress city on the Oder's east bank, 20 miles from Berlin. It also said the First Ukrainian Army had battled into the encircled fortress of Olkava, 55 miles northwest of Breslau.

German were fighting desperately to protect Vienna. Moscow dispatches said the Russian offensive toward Bratislava ran into areas of minefields and heavy artillery and mortar fire.

The huge Austro-German army, however, the German line was heavy and was supported by waves of infantry moved southward from Vienna barracks.

British Trap Japs In Burma

CALCUTTA (AP)—British 14th Army troops driving south in Central Burma have captured Kyaukse and established contact with forces leading north from the Moulmein area, trapping Japanese forces between that area and the Irrawaddy river to the west.

The Japanese were compressed into an ever-narrowing pocket. Strong enemy rearward units battled savagely southeast of Kyaukse to cover the Japanese withdrawal from the city, which is 24 miles south of Mandalay.

The British 14th Army Command communique announced: "The 14th Army has established a point 70 miles northwest of Meiktila. The next 20 miles northwest of Meiktila, was entered early yesterday. Several more enemy gun positions in the Meiktila area were overrun."

Say Brechtsgaden Now German Government Seat

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The newspaper Morgendagens printed a Bern dispatch today saying that the German government now sits in the Reich's seat of government.

Without citing its authority, the dispatch said Hitler, Heinrich Himmler and all other leading Nazis are at the mountain hideout.

On recently invaded Cebu Island the American Division overcame moderate resistance at Guadalupe and also joined up with guerrillas. The Associated Press Correspondent Richard Berghoff reported the Japanese were well dug in on the hills behind Cebu City and said the cleanup there would take time.

The taking of the tiny Cayalla Island, situated in the new Navy guns, was one of the biggest sugar producers in the Philippines.



HOW ALLIES CAN ISOLATE NAZIS' LAST DITCH—Junction between fast-flying Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army in the West and Russia's First and Second Ukrainian Armies in the East would cut off German forces, where Nazi leaders and remnants of their legions are reported to be fleeing for possible "last stand." Map above shows how junction of the two armies would effect the cutoff and also how other sections of the Third are striking for possible junctions with Allied forces to the north and in Italy.

Japs Bewildered Yanks Near Finish Of P. I. Invasions

By FRED HAMPTON

MANILA (AP)—Maj. Gen. Rapp Brush's 40th Division of the Eighth Army landed Thursday against light opposition on Negros, last remaining major Philippine Island not yet invaded.

Other Yanks had to fight hard. Gen. Douglas MacArthur declared today, to take the Cayalla Island, which is within rifle range of Manila Corregidor on Manila Bay.

With the invasion of Negros, MacArthur accented the enemy in the Visayan Island group "seems bewildered and his defense is rapidly collapsing."

Negros is a part of the Visayas. Masbate and Bohol are the only remaining islands of the group that have not been invaded by U. S. forces.

Brush's doughboys crossed Guimaras Island, between American-controlled Panay and Negros, and went ashore near the mouth of Iloilo River. One column pushed northward along the coast to take the airship and approach the capital city of 50,000 while another column turned southward, capturing two bridges and making contact with guerrillas.

The landing parties were supported by naval gunfire and Third Army Air Force planes.

Negros, more than 120 miles long and 50 miles at its widest part, is one of the biggest sugar producers in the Philippines.

On recently invaded Cebu Island the American Division overcame moderate resistance at Guadalupe and also joined up with guerrillas.

The Associated Press Correspondent Richard Berghoff reported the Japanese were well dug in on the hills behind Cebu City and said the cleanup there would take time.

The taking of the tiny Cayalla Island, situated in the new Navy guns, was one of the biggest sugar producers in the Philippines.

Huge Bomber Fleet Hits

LONDON (AP)—More than 1,300 flying Fortress and Liberator bombers, escorted by 850 fighters, attacked today in Brunswick and Brandenburg, 25 miles southwest of Berlin, a now serving as the key rail junction for the bulk of the German forces.

A force of approximately 750 B-24 Liberators and B-29 Superfortresses made a concentrated attack on the huge Berlin-Hamburg building, the yards at Hamburg, which was attacked yesterday through heavy clouds by American bombers.

The Zettz factory, 25 miles south of Leipzig, was one of the few major plants operating at night, where new machine production recently. Halle, 20 miles northwest of Leipzig, is an important rail junction for central and southern Germany.

Last night RAF Mosquitoes gave Berlin its fiercest bombing in the last 30 nights, and ranged wide over Germany, hitting down trains and motor cars near Munich.

Czechoslovak and Austrian frontiers.

Security Conference Snarl

U. S. Rejects Russian Request For Warsaw Seat At Frisco

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has rejected a Russian request that the Soviet-sponsored Warsaw Government of Poland be invited to the San Francisco conference at this time.

The American position is based on the hope that it will be possible to have Poland represented at the meeting by a reorganized Government which the Big Three, in the Yalta meeting, agreed to create.

BRITISH DECLINE
Information on the American position came from a State Department official this afternoon.

partments official this afternoon, in conformity with the decisions of the San Francisco conference, will be completed in time to send a delegation to the San Francisco conference.

Allies Spear Deeper; 15th Army At Front

Third Army Forces Rush Down Last 10 Miles To Kassel

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS — (AP) — Twelve Allied armored divisions spearheaded into Germany 175 miles from Berlin and 130 from Munich today, and all but encircled the Ruhr.

The new Fifteenth Army now is holding a front line position, it was disclosed. The Fifteenth is commanded by Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow. Details of its sector and role were not announced.

Twenty-five thousand Germans had laid down their guns in yesterday's fighting. 3,000 TANKS IN PUSH

More than 3,000 Allied tanks were in the push east of the Rhine.

The French First Army lunged across the Rhine south where between Mannheim and Karlsruhe, this morning.

The U. S. Seventh Army burst through the Odenwald to within 15 miles of Wuerzburg and 130 of Munich.

Northward, the American Third Army rushed down the last 10 miles to Kassel, 165 miles from Berlin, and perhaps already had reached the industrial city of 220,000 population.

The First and Ninth American Armies sped toward a linkup around the Ruhr beyond Paderborn, with the gap narrowing hourly. Up to 40,000 Germans in the Ruhr might be trapped by their juncture.

BRITISH ADVANCE
The British Second Army driving into the heart of Westphalia racked up overnight gains against little opposition except ruins and roadblocks.

Troops of the 21st Army Group struck forward at least 16 miles today, but the location of their penetrations was not given.

Security silence concealed the extent of Allied gains, but a front dispatch disclosed the Sixth Armored Division of the Third Army had struck to within 10 miles of Kassel after speeding 45 miles since Friday.

Thirty miles farther southeast, the U. S. 4th Armored "break-through" division drove to a point four miles south of Hersfeld, also appearing to within 175 miles of Berlin.

Infantrymen of the First Army closed up behind the tank spearheads which had carried more than 120 miles in a six-day drive with virtually no rest. This push had broken the back of Nazi resistance of the First Army front and outflanked the Ruhr on the east. The enemy did not halt the drive, it was simply necessary to pull up and give the infantry a chance to close with the armor and seal off escape routes for the battered Germans in the Ruhr region.

Wherever along the entire First Army front which stretches east of the Rhine for more than 60 miles and north for more than 50 has there been any organized resistance. The six-day attack has netted 41,722 prisoners—the equivalent of more than four German divisions as they are now constituted.

The 104th and 1st Infantry Divisions closed up behind 3rd Division armored spearheads, and the 99th and 9th Infantry were coming up behind the 7th Armored, declaring the area near Marburg. The 9th Armored Division moved north of the captured Eder Dam and took Nitten, an dthe 2nd Infantry Division followed up behind this 2 1/2 mile advance.

American First Army tanks tonight swept through Paderborn, 40 miles northwest of Kassel, and west of Berlin, but Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodge allowed his racing armor column today to consolidate his tremendous gains. AP Correspondent Don Whithead reported. The third, dual-green tankmen badly needed rest after six days of battle.

EDER CROSSED
The First Army had crossed the Eder River in going up to 21 miles and had entered Paderborn, 40 miles from Kassel, on the Ruhr River and the capital of Lower Saxony Province.

U. S. First Army tanks dashed northwest through Paderborn, and were reaching a junction with American Sixth Army units which ran through Friday night by moonlight in an attack on the Ruhr.

See YANK ARMOR on page 2