

NEWS!

ESTABLISHED 1888

Russians Reported To Have Opened Battle For Berlin

ALL SMASH HEAR

Berlin Says Oder Front Is Flaming With Action

Major Kuestrin Area Assault

LONDON — (AP) — German broadcasts today declared the Russians had opened the battle for Berlin, breaking into the northeastern defenses of Kuestrin on the Oder, 39 miles from the Reich capital, and assaulting Zelen on the Oder's east bank 31 miles from Berlin.

Berlin said the Oder front was flaming along a 10-mile stretch from south of Kuestrin almost all the way north to Stettin.

Tanks of Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian Army attacked Zelen, 28 miles northwest of Kuestrin on the winding Oder, the German radio said, and possibly were trying to drive a wedge across to turn on Berlin or Stettin from the flank.

BIG GUNS BOAB

Attacking after a 24-hour artillery barrage, the Soviets punched into the northeastern defense of Kuestrin, due east of Berlin, another Nazi broadcast said.

The German High Command said Zhukov launched a major assault intended to overwhelm Kuestrin and establish further attacking bases for a push on Berlin.

The Germans weeks ago said the Russians had shelled bridges over the Oder 20 to 60 miles below and above besieged Kuestrin.

Kuestrin was reported under attack from north and south. Moscow was silent concerning this front.

A full-fledged Soviet offensive from the east on Berlin has been awaited for weeks. The First Ukrainian Army is arrayed west of the Oder on Zhukov's southern flank.

The Russians three seven consecutive attacks at Kuestrin's northeastern defenses, the "Emancipator" broadcast continued, but they were repulsed.

Capital Reshuffle Stabilization Job Handed To Davis

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Roosevelt today reshuffled his top wage-labor policy makers.

Chairman William H. Davis of the War Labor Board was made Economic Stabilization Director, succeeding Fred M. Vinson, Vinson becoming administrator of the \$400,000,000 RFC and associated lending agencies which the ousted Jesse Jones formerly directed.

TAYLOR MOVES UP — George W. Taylor, vice chairman of the War Labor Board since its formation in 1943 and author of the "Little Steel" wage formula, moves up into Davis' post as chairman.

The President thus cleared the way for an early settlement of the dispute over "index" wage adjustments, a dispute which had been in the air since last year.

See DAVIS NAMES on page 7

Note Of Hope

Cold Wave May Stop Flood Rise

By ASSOCIATED PRESS — The Ohio River, out of its banks along nearly all its 981 miles, took seven lives, and crippled war production, but a cheering note appeared in the official forecast of clearing and colder weather for most of the valley.

Heavy rains which had spilled as much as 178 inches by the time it rained steadily from the Ohio River at Chicago reported, and clearing and colder weather was on route. The cold, extending below freezing, was expected to check the runoff, and thus give the river an opportunity to drain its crests.

Lansville, Ky., where a 45-foot crest was expected later today, reported 1.53 inches of rain. Pittsburgh, at the confluence of the swollen Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers which form the Ohio, reported precipitation totaling 1.51 inches.

Similar conditions prevailed along the watershed. Clarksville, W. Va., had 1.73 inches. Cold air moving across southern

Iwo Marines Open Fierce Final Drive

Big Guns, Planes Hit Doomed Japs

By VERN HAUGLAND — U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam — (AP) — An 11-0-0 P. M. push against the 6,000 to 8,000 Japanese still entrenched on the rocky northern end of Iwo Jima was under way today, with tremendous artillery support and Army fighters operating off the southern airfield for the first time. Those fighters are based within flying range of Tokyo.

The ground drive, breaking a two-day comparative lull in this fiercest battle of the Pacific war, achieved small gains yesterday in the center and on the left flank of the Marine line squeezing the bitterly-resisting enemy against the northern cliffs.

The Marines moved out behind a deadly rattling artillery barrage, the most intense of the campaign. But the Japanese fought back so tenaciously with a continuous stream of small arms and machine guns that the "Marines" were confined to "small local gains," by the words of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's communique today.

Those gains were scored on the west side by Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey's 8th Marine Division and just east of the center by Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' 4th Division. Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's 3rd Division moved up in the middle.

By nightfall the Devil Dogs were still some 600 yards from the northeast shoreline opposite a huge white, if rocky, would cut the remaining Japanese garrison to two.

The 4th Division was about 250 yards from volcanic cliffs which drop off onto a heavily-defended beach.

By 6 P. M. Monday, 14,455 Japanese dead had been counted out of an original 20,000 garrison estimated at 20,000. The last figure

Carothers Wants Name Withheld

ROCK HILL, S. C. — Mayor Edwin Carothers, who had been proposed as a member of the Winthrop College Board of Trustees, has asked that his name be withheld from consideration.

A Rock Hill group in messages to the members of the Legislature had urged that Mayor Carothers be appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of W. J. Rodney.

They don't have equal rights with men, mothers or widows in getting an increasing part already in the home, introducing a bill to correct Illinois. H. passed, H. to 21.

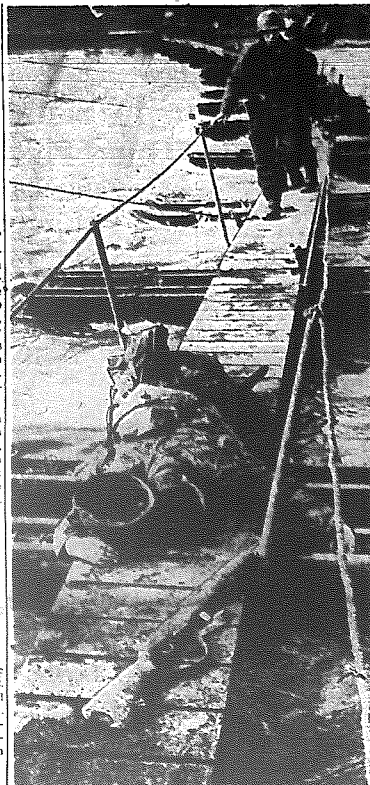
Mecklenburg Casualties

KILLED — Cpl. Baxter M. Neal. PERSONNEL — Mr. Elbe Lee Raley.

Japan's Fears Inte usified

Starting in the Philippines, the Navy banded via the Marshall, the Marianas and Guam in a steady drive into the Japanese home islands.

Meanwhile, Gen. Douglas MacArthur has entered a radio to China — "outfitting" from New Guinea to the Philippines.



RED RAN THE RIVER—Only fifty feet from the river bank and comparative safety, this American soldier was hit and killed by enemy mortar fire while crossing the Roer River. Coming along the bridge are American engineers assigned to repair damage caused by the shell that killed their comrade. (International News Photos.)

Final Phase Opens

Yanks Set Traps For Luzon's Japs

By RICHARD BERGHOLZ — MANILA — (AP) — The 58-day-old campaign for Luzon—it took the Japanese more than five months to conquer it—already is entering its "final phase," Gen. Douglas MacArthur said today.

With Manila liberated, Batavia and Corregidor retaken and the central Luzon plain overrun, the more than ten Yank divisions committed to the operation from the U. S. Sixth and Eighth Armies are preparing to go after scattered Japanese in the mountains.

On rocky Corregidor, at the entrance of Rorup Bay, Manila Bay, Yanks of the 20th Parachute Regiment have sealed off 200 caves and tunnels, a spokesman disclosed today. In those underground places, the few survivors of 6,000 Japanese which had formed the fortress garrison are doomed to die.

See TRAP SET on page 7

Fifth Army In Advance

ROME — (AP) — American mountain troops have gained five miles in the rugged Apennines southwest of Bologna in the strongest advance on the Fifth Army front in the Allied Headquarters announced today.

The action was officially described as "a most successful limited objective attack."

Striking northeastward west of the Fiesole Highway three days ago, the Americans have captured a number of dominating peaks and the town of Castel D'Aiano, twenty miles from Bologna. More than 1,200 prisoners have been taken.

Blackout Put On Operations Of First Army

Third Army Closes Within 14 Miles Of Rhine In Drive For Coblenz

By JAMES M. LONG — PARIS — (AP) — The American First Army moved within two miles of the Rhine city of Bonn tonight while the swift and powerful Third Army closed within 14 miles of the middle Rhine and less than 20 of Coblenz.

A censorship blackout suddenly was imposed on the First Army operations—secretary similar to that which prevailed before the great Rhineland breakthrough and the Third Army dash through the Eifel. The blackout suggested transcendent developments were in progress.

The First Army, closing on Bonn from all sides, was said officially to have gained up to seven miles during the day, overcoming more than a dozen settlements including Bruhl, five miles south of the captured ruins of Cologne. The blackout prevented pinpointing the advances on the First Army right flank, which has lagged far behind the left and center in the Cologne and Bonn areas.

The dashed Third Army tanks were reported at Supreme Headquarters to be near Monreal, a crossroads town, just west of Maysen. The report far behind actual progress, placed the Fourth Armored Division, within 20 miles of Coblenz and 50 of the large Rhine cities of Mainz and Wiesbaden. Frankfurt on the main was 81 miles away.

On the fateful anniversary of the Western Front passed the million mark and rose above 100,000 for the current campaign which started Jan. 30 with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's plunge into the Siegfried Line at Luxembourg.

A graveyard of German cities stretched from Cologne 50 miles back to the Reich frontier. Soon after the fourth day of Germany fell late yesterday, the American First and Ninth Armies cleared the whole west bank of the Rhine from Rheinsberg south to Coblenz save for a fractional pocket at Soest and Siegen all on main rail and highway routes from central and eastern Germany to the Western Front.

Oil targets included three benzol plants and a large refinery on Dortmund's outskirts. Bielefeld, Soest, and Siegen all are on main rail and highway routes from central and eastern Germany to the Western Front.

Smashing of the Bielefeld vastness would stop the main flow of traffic from the big inland bases of Brunswick and Hannover to the Ruhr battlefield.

Like Cologne, Bonn lies almost defenseless on the west bank of the eastern Rhine.

Maj. Gen. Hugh Gaffey's Fourth Armored Division approached the middle Rhine in the Coblenz area, the 37th sweep since early Monday. His tanks and infantry captured vast stores of booty—ammunition, food, clothing, blankets, and captured the German commander of the 52d Corps, Lt. Col. Gen. von Eschbark, who platonically commented:

"How can you expect to win a war when you have no gasoline and no horses? It will be over in four months—five months at the latest."

The exact spot where Gaffey was nearest the middle Rhine was immediately announced. Censorship prevented naming towns he overran in his five-mile overland advance from a point twenty miles from Coblenz, communications point and occupation headquarters for Americans after the last war.

The Third Army dash toward the Rhine outflanked the Saar industrial district from the north, but as the Seventh Army outflanked it from the south.

THOUSANDS CAUGHT — Prisoners were taken by the 37th Division. The German line in the rugged Eifel was collapsing. Third Army losses were extremely light. Associated Press Correspondents Edward D. Ball and Thoburn Wiant wirelessly.

The Fourth Armored Division a star unit of the Third Army, was plunging toward the Rhine in a narrow corridor—survived only the width of a road—extending like a corked finger northeastward from Aachen, through the forest of Hilsberg. Infantry followed the Fourth Armored Division in vehicles, of all descriptions.

The captured Gen. Eschbark was the commander who besieged Metz in Belgium and who got

B-29's Harass Jap Sections

By ASSOCIATED PRESS — Eight sections of Japan, including Tokyo, were disturbed during the night by at least eight B-29 Superfortresses on their second successive raiding party. Another B-29 from China spent three hours at mid-day prowling the skies over Korea, presumably taking pictures.

Two-Minute News Roundup

Western Front — Spectacular two-way gains have been scored against the Germans. The Third Army has smashed to within 14 miles of the Middle Rhine. The First Army has driven to within two miles of Bonn, the communications center on the Rhine below captured Cologne. Associated Press Correspondent Louis Lochner has revealed a tragedy resulting from the hasty departure of Hitler's supermen from Cologne, before its fall. Cologne citizens have told Lochner that there was a final mass exodus from the doomed city after a heavy air attack. Thousands of refugees used the last remaining bridges over the Rhine—some of limited capacity heavy vehicles were forbidden. Nevertheless, the Nazi big-eyes ordered trucks, presumably bearing documents, over the span. The bridge snapped and sank into the river, carrying its burden of refugees to their deaths.

Air Warfare — The air assault on Germany was carried on today by 50 heavy bombers, they covered by 250 fighters. The key fleet blasted all targets in the areas of Dortmund and rail objectives on routes leading to the western front.

Russian Front — Planing warfare along the Oder River is described in Berlin as the opening of the battle for the German capital. The Germans say that the Russians have crashed

into the northeastern defenses of Kuestrin, 29 miles east of Berlin. The enemy also tells of Soviet attacks against Zelen, which lies on the Oder, 28 miles northwest of Kuestrin. The Germans indicate the Red Army is trying to drive a wedge across the Oder to isolate Berlin or Stettin from the flank. Premier Stalin has announced the capture of Banka-Slavutca, a fortress in Slovakia, a mile northeast of Bratislava.

Italy — In Italy, American mountain troops of the Fifth Army have advanced five miles in a sector southwest of Bologna. By enemy account, British troops have made an unsuccessful attempt to land behind German lines along the Adriatic.

Iwo — The bitter intensity of the fight for Iwo Jima is reflected in a dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent Morris Landberg. The AP officer said only slight gains were scored by the Yanks yesterday despite a terrific shelling of Japanese positions. Staff Sgt. Tomp Smith, formerly with the Associated Press in Hawaii, says the points are the difficulties of warfare on Iwo. Smith says that the whole enemy position of 15,000 men covered hundreds of craters, went underground. The enemy lived in caves, tunnels, and underground recesses of every kind to hide from American bombs and shells.

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