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ESTABLISHED 1898

Reeds Reported 25 Miles From Berlin

LONDON — (AP) — The Russians have driven to within 25 miles of Berlin's city limits, outflanking the fortress of Kuestrin and reaching Seelow on the west side of the Oder, a transcon broadcast from the German capital said today.

Seelow is directly east of Berlin and is 12 miles west of the Oder. It is on the main railway skirting the Oder which connects Stettin and Frankfurt.

Marshal Gregory Zhukov's massive new offensive, timed with the Allied drive to the Rhine, 321 miles to the west, also has reached a point 29 miles from Berlin northwest of Kuestrin, Berlin reported.

Holdup Execution U. S. Paratrooper Hanged In Britain

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Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges poured more and more infantrymen across the river after his sudden and sensational crossing in darkness. The exact location of the bridgehead over the quarter mile-wide river was shrouded by military censorship because the Germans obviously did not know the exact situation.

The crossing started at 4:30 P. M. yesterday. In the hours since then, a steady stream of men and materiel have been pouring onto the eastern bank and moving forward in a drive to get the bridgehead out of range of enemy artillery.

GERMANS STARTLED

First Army infantrymen spanned the quarter mile-wide river against rather light opposition before the startled Germans could grasp what had happened. An Our correspondent West Gallager said.

The surprise announcement was passed by censors at 5:55 tonight after 24 hours of security black-out—used while events of great importance are shaping.

Hodges seized the opportunity of establishing a Rhine bridgehead, and with no delay threw in troops quickly. The Germans were found disorganized after the severe mauling they took in their rout across the Cologne plain.

SOLDIERS GRIN

News of the Rhine crossing swept through the Army from division to division and down through the ranks to the privates in the front lines, Correspondent Don Whitehead reported.

It brought grins to their whiskered and grimed faces and cheered everyone in the Army.

"If we can hold that bridgehead, it means the war is months nearer an end," Lt. Col. Robert Evans of Davenport, Iowa, told Whitehead.

The sentiment was echoed by many officers and soldiers who had looked on the river as the greatest obstacle to be faced by the Army since it landed on the sands of Normandy last June 6.

Gen. Eisenhower had six other armies standing on the west bank of the Rhine and its grey-green waters.

The crossing of the Rhine—one of the great achievements of the entire war—came just two days after the capture of the great Rhineland capital of Cologne, which was cleared completely today.

HALF OF BONN TAKEN

Other units of the First Army captured half of the Rhine university city of Bonn (101,000) and half of nearby Bad Godesberg, where Hitler six years ago humbled the late Neville Chamberlain before Munich.

The Germans said the First Army was within 17 miles of forming with the Third Army near Coblenz a trap on perhaps 50,000 Germans caught west of the middle Rhine.

Bonn is a university city of 101,000.

Bad Godesberg is three miles up the river from Beuth.

See HODGES' FIRST on page 6

Rail, Oil Targets Hit

The 3rd Division captured the left bank of the Rhine at Bonn, almost within cordon of the fighting along the upper Rhine: Siegen, Betdorf, Dillenburg and Glessen. Six Benzen plants and one synthetic refinery in the Greisbach-Dortmund region were the oil objectives.

Approximately 350 fighters provided cover for the bombers. Close protection against the German air force seldom is needed any more.

The British Air Ministry has carried out by the largest force sent out by the RAF this year. The lead-14 German attack planes shot down.

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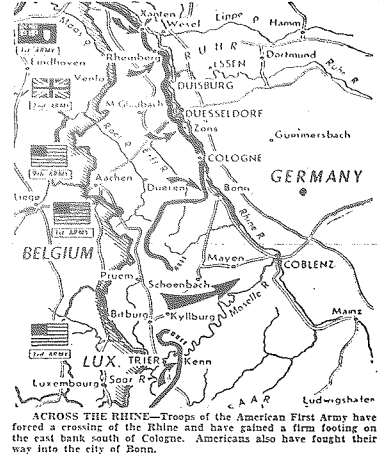
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ACROSS THE RIVER—Troops of the American First Army have forced a crossing of the Rhine and have gained a firm footing on the east bank south of Cologne. Americans also have fought their way into the city of Bonn.

Campaign On Iwo In Final Stages

ABOARD ADMIRAL TURNER'S EXPEDITIONARY FORCE FLAGSHIP OFF IWO JIMA — (AP) — (Via Navy Radio) — Marine infantrymen compressed Japanese into a narrow corridor on northern Iwo today in the final stages of the long, bloody campaign to conquer this air stepping stone to Tokyo.

STUNCHED CHANGE

A Yank battalion reported Japanese made a suicidal charge on Iwo Jima today in the final stages of the long, bloody campaign to conquer this air stepping stone to Tokyo.

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