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THE HUMAN FOLLOWS COURSE CHARTED BY GER

President Makes Call For Unity By Nation

Joint Session Of Congress Hears

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman called upon the nation for complete unity today in whipping the Axis into unconditional surrender and in building a strong United Nations organization for peace.

In his address to a joint session of Congress—and to America and the world—the President pledged the United States to continue the "fight for freedom" until the unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan.

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2. Declared the grand strategy of the war must continue "unchanged and unhampered" under the military commanders now in charge.

3. Promised punishment for war criminals "even though we must pursue them to the ends of the earth."

4. Pledged his personal support to the ideals of peace and progress to be embodied in the "United Nations Charter" and called upon the nation to unite in their defense.

5. Declared that the great nations which mustered the force to defeat the Axis must continue to cooperate in peace—"the responsibility of the great states is to create and not dominate the peoples of the world."

6. Appeared for support in building "a strong lasting United Nations organization" at the San Francisco conference for master-

Text of President Truman's address to Congress is on page 7.

Clark Attacks Spring Offensive Begins In Italy

By LYNN HEINERLING

ROME — (AP) — Gen. Mark W. Clark announced today that the "Spring offensive in the Mediterranean theater has begun." The U. S. Fifth and the British Eighth Armies engaged in operations along the entire Italian front.

The British Eighth Army struck on the eastern end of the front a week ago and the U. S. Fifth thrust into the fight today along the central and western sectors.

The British attack was preceded by 1,223 heavy bombers of the U. S. 15th Air Force which blasted German targets south of Bologna. At places the carpet of bombs fell within five and a half miles of the Fifth Army base.

The operations of the Eighth Army in its west-end offensive indicate the Fifth will face bitter and bloody fighting in its effort to break out of the mountain south of Bologna and into the head of the Valley.

The Germans have chosen to fight for northern Italy despite military disasters which are crippling the Fifth Army.

British Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Allied commander in chief in the Mediterranean, in a special order of the day declared:

"German forces now are very strong and only one military punch to knock them out for good. This punch is now being made. We are to take the field for the last battle which will end the war in Europe. It will not be a slaughter. The heavily wounded head still will be very dangerous. . . . But the end is quite certain. You who have seen every battle you have fought are going to win this one."

"Soldiers in the east, you yourselves know Adolf had three sons, particularly the German youth, girls and children. While old men and boys are being killed, women and girls are being treated to the status of prostitutes. The remainder led away to Siberia."

EXPECTED OFFENSIVE
"We have expected this offensive and since January of this year everything has been done in order to build up a strong front. A tremendous artillery concentration is meeting the enemy."

"This time the Bolsheviks will suffer the old fate of Asia—they must and will perish in front of the German capital."

"Whoever at this moment does not fulfill his duty is a traitor to his country."

"Anybody who orders you to retreat and is unknown to you must be arrested immediately and necessary disposed of, whatever his rank."

"Berlin remains German. Vienna will remain German. Moscow and Europe will never become Russian."

He concluded with an appeal to the Bolsheviks to accept a blood bath.

"At the moment when fate has eliminated the greatest criminal in all times, the turn of the tide will follow," he said.

The Russian offensive had been planned a few hours earlier by the German High Command. Berlin broadcasts said Soviet armies in the east were pushing on a front of more than 100 miles at 2:30 A. M., with the shock force on the Moscow north and south of the capital. The Russians were reported breaking through the German defense a 40-mile smoking to within 25 miles of Berlin.

REPORT AT TIRANON
The British frontiers report to his East front soldiers dramatically effected the conditions within his reach. His order of the day hit:

See ROOSEVELT on page 6
See REPORT BIG on page 6

Hitler Calls For Germans To Halt Reds

Drive Announced By High Command

By RICHARD KASISCHKE

LONDON — (AP) — Adolf Hitler declared tonight that the Russians, Germany's "arch enemy," had launched their final, long-expected offensive on the Eastern Front.

Hitler exhorted his soldiers to beware of treacherous officers.

In an order of the day to German soldiers on the Eastern Front Hitler said:

"We had the last time the Jewish-Bolshevik arch enemy has launched his massed attack. He is trying to destroy Germany and to wipe out our people."

"Soldiers in the east, you yourselves know Adolf had three sons, particularly the German youth, girls and children. While old men and boys are being killed, women and girls are being treated to the status of prostitutes. The remainder led away to Siberia."

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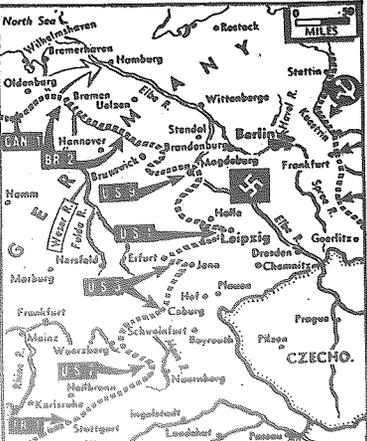
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AMERICAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS — Germany was not hit by today's attack. The Czechoslovakian border. The Seventh Army was 8 miles from Nuremberg. Berlin was in grave danger with the nearest tanks 45 miles away. The British opened an assault on Bremen.

Goals On Fires Another 400 B29 Planes Hit Tokyo

By ELMONT WAITE

GUAM — (AP) — Another 400 Superforts burned incendiaries early this morning on Tokyo, still raining from last Saturday's fire raid which burned out ten and three-quarter square miles.

Reconnaissance photographs showed 250,000,000 square feet of Tokyo's central area were burned out Saturday, bringing to 27 and a half square miles the area devastated in the incendiary raids of the Japanese capital March 10 and Saturday.

Saturday's fire sweep over twice the target area, including the port of Matsuyama, including the port of Matsuyama.

By LEIF ERICSON
GUAM — (AP) — A noticeable decrease in Japanese artillery fire along the long-stalemated Iwo Jima "Sieged Line" on southern Okinawa was reported today as the campaign only 20 miles south of Japan itself went into its third week.

The Tenth Army Yanks, who control the central two-thirds of the Ryukyu island and were rapidly overrunning the northern upland, were dedicated in the south for the ninth straight day yesterday but still were well ahead of schedule.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz' command today, reporting no change in the line, was interrupted here at midnight by two commanders were saving American lives by taking up an attack on the way to sea level by artillery.

MARINES MOP UP
Marines were mopping up small enemy pockets in the northern part of the island. The island could take weeks longer. The See RYUKYU FIGHT on page 6

Germany All But Bisected By 3rd Army

Americans Within 7 Miles Of Border As Junction Of Hof Captured

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS — (AP) — Third Army infantry advanced to within 7 miles of Czechoslovakia today and virtually bisected Germany, whose Western Front already has been split into northern and southern commands.

The Germans rushed troops and tanks from the Eastern Front and Berlin to oppose the grave threat to their ruined capital, 45 miles from the Ninth Army elements north of Magdeburg. Three Nazi divisions stamped out the original Elbe River bridgehead at Magdeburg, but another east bank salient at Barby was deepened 5 miles to within 52 miles of Berlin on the open Brandenburg plain.

The British opened an assault on Bremen and moved to within 2 1/2 miles of that port. The U. S. Third Army besieged the big Saxony center of Chemnitz from the same distance, while the First Army tightened its grip on Leipzig and cleared the northern third of Halle, and fought within 2 miles of Dessau, 62 miles southeast of Berlin.

Canadians and Poles reached the North Sea within five miles of Emden, pocketing perhaps 200,000 Germans. The First and Ninth Army formed another trap in the Harz Mountains of 550 square miles.

Over 3,500 Planes Hit
By HENRY B. JAMESON
LONDON — (AP) — More than 3,500 Allied warplanes scoured Germany from Berlin to Regensburg in Bavaria today, hitting at least fifteen railroads and bridges along routes through which the Nazis are straining to get supplies into Southern Germany.

Some 750 U. S. Eighth Air Force heavy bombers hit the Rebenburg bridge and airfields in front of Berlin, while British bombers hit more than 850 U. S. Ninth Air Force medium bombers rained down on Chemnitz in Central Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Berlin was bombed three times during the night.

Today's big fleet of American heavy bombers hit freight yards and rail bridges in Regensburg. British bombers at Strasbourg, 24 miles to the southeast, and freight yards at Landshut, 35 miles south of Regensburg and Flitting, 23 miles to the southeast.

This morning 450 Flying Fortress bombers bombed German ground installations at Strasbourg, 24 miles to the southeast, and freight yards at Landshut, 35 miles south of Regensburg and Flitting, 23 miles to the southeast.

The Fortresses, again firing without the aid of fighter cover, concentrated their bombs in the Pointe Du Orve area on the south side of the Estuary where the Nazis had several coastal guns guarding entrance to the port.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Home Front

President Harry S. Truman has made a ringing call to the nation for unity in whipping the Axis and building a strong world organization for peace. The President delivered his first address to a joint session of Congress. Amid interruptions from applauding lawmakers, Mr. Truman pledged the United States to continue the fight for freedom until the unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan.

Western Front

The Red Army action comes at a moment when the hard-fighting British contribution to speed the stage for victory. Late dispatches from General Dwight D. Eisenhower's front talk of continuing gains. The American Third Army has plunged to within seven miles of the French border.

Russian Front

The war news is dominated by German and Russian disclosure of a mammoth Soviet attack aimed at Berlin. The long-expected Red Army surge along a hundred-mile front is recapitulated in statements from Adolf Hitler and the German High Command. Hitler made a frantic appeal to his East Front soldiers to drown what he called the Bolshevik assault in a blood bath.

Italy

Allied armies in Italy, too, are making their contribution to speed the stage for victory. Late dispatches from General Dwight D. Eisenhower's front talk of continuing gains. The American Third Army has plunged to within seven miles of the French border.

The Pacific

On the other side of the world, the British continue to speed the stage for victory. Late dispatches from General Dwight D. Eisenhower's front talk of continuing gains. The American Third Army has plunged to within seven miles of the French border.

Congressmen & Diplomats Join In Praise Of Truman's Speech

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Congressmen and diplomats praised President Truman's speech before the joint session of Congress today as an "excellent," "fine" and "courageous" address.

Senator Minority Leader Bartley Crum, continuing to speak at the annual session of the Senate, said: "It was a very excellent address. Full of reassurance to all Americans. The President made many fine points."

Other comments included: Andrew Crampton, Republican ambassador to Washington, said: "The President's message was a great contribution to this time."

Senator George, Democrat, Georgia, said: "The President's message, reassuring not only to America but to all of the United Nations. The high point was the undoubted and deep sincerity."

Rep. Blanton, Democrat, New York, said: "The President delivered a message that is full of hope. It was a reassuring message."

Mecklenburg Casualties

(Special Inside)

WOUNDED
Cpl. Joseph S. Wulley Jr.

Road To Berlin

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
Eastern Front: 24 miles from Witten — German report.
Western Front: 45 miles from Witten — German report.
Italian Front: 50 miles from Trieste.

Yanks Mopping Up Ruhr Pocket Battle Great German Defeat

By DON WHITEHEAD

U. S. 1ST ARMY, GERMANY — The Ruhr pocket action is one of the greatest defeats any German Army ever suffered on German soil. A First Army staff officer said today as First and Ninth Army troops took their 175,000th prisoner from the trap.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, First Army was in the final stage of writing off the great battle of annihilation.

About 20,000 German troops still are believed to be in the severed pocket.

WATER

"Establishing of the Ruhr bridgehead was a decisive factor in the defeat of the German Army," declared a First Army staff officer today. "The Ruhr pocket has been one of the most decisive for the German Army."

Considerable quantities of warm water and foodstuffs were scattered about the Ruhr pocket. Tuesday clearing and mopping up. Temperature at 11:00 today: High and low 40s. Wind: Light and variable. Sun: Partly cloudy. Sunset: 7:45. Sunrise: 5:45.