

AMERICAN NEWS

Americans Bisect Okinawa In Swift Two-Day Advance

Yanks Reach Eastern Shore Of Jap Island

By ELMONT WAITE

GUAM—(AP)—Almost ten days ahead of schedule, 24th Corps infantrymen were on the eastern shore of Okinawa just above Nakagusuku Bay today. They bisected the strategic island in a swift two-day dash against slight resistance.

Observation planes, meanwhile, operated off of two captured airfields, Matsuda and Taira. This indicated that before long land-based combat planes will join the mighty armada of carrier aircraft closely supporting the advance by easy invasion of the principal Ryukyu Island, only 225 miles south of Japan itself.

Maj. Gen. John H. Hodges' 24th Corps severed the thin waist of south-central Okinawa by reaching the east coast village of Taira in a two and one-half-mile drive yesterday, the second day of this campaign.

The Americans also captured the town of Awashi on the east coast southeast of Taira. Grant MacDonell, Associated Press correspondent, reported from the front.

The Japanese put up practically no resistance to the 24th Army Corps troops who entered Awashi after pushing across eight miles of rough terrain.

The Yanks were on the shores of Katsuren Bay, immediately north of the extensive bay at Nakagusuku Bay—once a favorite maneuvering ground of the Japanese Fleet.

BARBET INVASION

So far this has been the easiest invasion of the entire Pacific War. The Americans apparently have seen more civilians than Japanese soldiers charged with defending the security of the homeland.

Not a single Japanese prisoner of war has been taken.

Severing of Okinawa cut off the city of Naha, population 65,000, and its large airfield from the many harbors and military installations from the north of the 65-mile-long island.

Reds Drive On Vienna Approaches

Soviets Capture Wiener Neustadt

LONDON—(AP)— Russian troops have captured Wiener Neustadt, Messerschmidt assembly center 25 miles south of Vienna, Marshal Stalin announced tonight in an order of the day.

Russian spearheads were reported by the German High Command to have reached the Baden area about ten miles south of the Austrian capital.

Marshal Stalin also announced that Eisenstadt, twelve miles north of Wiener Neustadt and Gloggnitz, eighteen miles southwest of the industrial center, also had been captured.

The order described the cities as "important strong points of German defenses at the approach to Vienna."

Pravda said the Russians in a bold thrust from the southeast had reached the Baden area and claimed the Germans had "succeeded in halting the onrushing" Red Army troops in the Austrian mountains.

NEW DRIVE

The German propaganda agency also reported Marshal Rodion V. Malinovsky had started a new drive northwest from Italy against Bratislava, capital of the puppet state of Slovakia, probably aimed at driving the Czechoslovakian and machine gun manufacturing center. At captured Bratislava the Russians were about 70 miles southeast of Brno.

The Germans said Malinovsky's second Ukrainian Army group was on the move toward the city of Bratislava and indicated the Germans were prepared to sacrifice the foreign city on the scale of Budapest.

German propaganda broadcasts said the Russians had stepped up their campaign on the Danube in Silesia with heavy artillery fire and that the "whole west part of the town is now aflame with battle."

The Nazi radio also predicted an early assault on Berlin from the southwest. It said the "lively activity had been observed" behind the main Red Army lines before the Reich capital.

U.S. Airmen Blast Kiel

Luzon War Flares Legaspi Area Nips Trapped By Yanks

LONDON—(AP)—The U. S. Eighth Air Force renewed its blows against Kiel today with a heavy attack on the Kiel naval base by approximately 750 Flying Fortress bombers with an escort of 500 fighters.

In another assault on the Nazis, U. S. 15th Air Force Lightnings and fighters were built in the vicinity of the Tannach-Stein rail bridge ten miles east of Klagenfurt in Austria.

MANILA—(AP)—Encirclement of Japanese in Southern Luzon virtually was completed Sunday when troops of the 14th Army Corps and the 158th Regimental Combat Team, running through a moderate but ineffective gale of Japanese artillery fire, landed at Legaspi Harbor on the southeastern "tail" of Luzon, headquarters reported today.

They quickly captured the City of Legaspi, population 45,000, and its airfield almost without a struggle.

Destroyers and smaller units of the U. S. Seventh Fleet, guided with Japanese artillerymen deep in the hills as Brig. Gen. Hanford MacDonnell said his combat force advanced through the hills.

Between Navy guns and Fifth Air Force bombs, Japanese guns were silenced by an estimated 50 rounds, although they continued to shell the command ship of MacDonnell. The landing was made without opposition.

Damage to the city, the best port on Luzon's East Coast, was negligible.

Meanwhile, other units of Maj. Gen. Oscar W. Griswold's 14th Corps, driving the last of the Japanese out of the Ilocos Peninsula, on which Legaspi is located, scored a telling breakthrough at Alang, Pampanga, by way of Bunsulan and Mapat hills, where the enemy desperately was trying to preserve some semblance of organization.

So fast was the advance of First Army that Gen. Stilwell who said it did not in any way alter the President's promise, during the Big Three meeting at Yalta, to support Russia's request for two additional votes through the seating of the Ukrainian and White Russian Soviets.

This was a dramatic reversal of the American position as disclosed by the White House only last Saturday. It was said then that the United States got an agreement from Britain and Russia to support the Yanks.

Drives Within 140 Miles Of Nazi Capital

Empire Troops To North Move Toward Zuider Zee And North Sea

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS—(AP)—The Third Army's Fourth Armored Division plunged 19 miles eastward, raced into the outskirts of the old German city of Gotha today, reaching a point three-fourths the way across the Reich to Czechoslovakia and 140 miles from Berlin.

Gotha is 26 miles west of Weimar, birthplace of the German republic installed after the last world war. The town is 75 miles from the border of Czechoslovakia and 75 miles from Leipzig.

FIGHT IN KASSEL

To the northeast of the Gotha spearhead, the Third Army was fighting a house to house battle in falling Kassel, locomotive manufacturing center.

In the north, British and Canadian troops advanced to within 25 miles or less of the Zuider Zee and within 80 miles of the North Sea in the drive to close a trap on the German garrisons of Northern Holland and its V-bomb and rocket sites.

West of Berlin the U. S. Ninth Army fought within nine miles of the Weser River and the First Army, beating Germans to the punch, turned back attempts of a striking force from 110,000 trapped Nazis to break out of the Ruhr pocket and tightened its nets.

The Canadians menaced Arnhem, bridged the Lower Rhine twice and fought toward the Zuider Zee, less than 20 miles away. When they reach the great water mass, soldiers of the German Army Group B and part of Group H was sealed for destruction and "ripe for annihilation."

The trap was tightened on the north side by Ninth Army divisions which captured Recklinghausen, which captured Hamm and cleared virtually all the built-up Ruhr area north of the Emmerich Canal between Dursberg on the Rhine and Dortmund.

"FATE IS SEALED"

The Ninth Division of the First Army beat down thrashing German efforts to break eastward from the Ruhr trap where Gen. Eisenhower said the "fate is sealed" for 101 German divisions.

Two-Minute News Roundup

Western Front

The Pacific

Philippines

British Ships Reported

Return Of War Dead Planned

Mecklenburg Casualties

Was Surrendering Arms

Maj. Gen. Rose Killed After Being Captured By Germans

Nazi Ships Reported

U.S. Alters Vote Stand

Yanks Fight In Kassel

Nazi Caught In Ruhr Ripe For The Kill

Eisenhower Says

Weather

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