

RUSSIAN TOWARD BERLIN DRAW BEFORE 9 AM

Siegfried Line Section Taken Without Fight

By JAMES M. LONG
PARIS (AP)—The American Ninth Army captured the last four-mile section of the Siegfried Line before 9 a.m. today and with the British Second Army closed up to the Roer River all the 40 airline miles from Holland to below

Strangely, the Germans had abandoned the Hitlerian fortifications and fled to the Cologne plain east of the Roer. The white-clad men of the Ninth closed to within 25 miles of Dusseldorf, twelve of Munchen Gladbach and twenty of Cologne in a limited attack which overran Brachelen (Pop. 5,000) and six nearby industrial villages of Rhemish Prussia.

The Roer banks provided Gen. Eisenhower with a potential springboard for a decisive lunge into the forests of chimneys of the German Ruhr and Rhineland. U. S. OFFENSIVE FEARED.

The river possibly is frozen. Zero or near zero weather has prevailed most of the week. The Germans reputedly speculated on a new Allied offensive, and told of Americans massing west of Juelich, 25 miles west of Cologne. Russian writers also said that an Allied drive was perhaps imminent.

With flame throwers ready but with field batteries saving the strictly rationed shells of the 102nd Ozark Division advanced up to four miles into the Ninth Army front. They seized 97 Siegfried pillboxes, some ten feet thick, in a sector from 10 to 15 miles inside Germany.

Gen. William H. (Texas Bill) Simpson's Army captured only 75 prisoners in its surge forward as much as three miles from Linde. Some of the captured Siegfried line pillboxes were less than ten feet thick; their guns had been removed. The Germans late today dropped heavy shells into Linde and American field guns and howitzers were splintering Nazi gun positions on the white slopes east of the Roer.

Brachelen long had been a troublesome salient near the junction of the Ninth Army and the British. Several nearby small towns also were taken.

Aggressive patrols found the Germans withdrawing. A great row of pillboxes along the Roer River north of Brachelen fell without an artillery shot.

The elaborate attack plan prepared by the 13th Corps, headed by Maj. Gen. A. C. Gillem Jr., U. S. Army Command, was discarded in favor of quick infiltration.

By late morning, the Ninth Army

Clark Field In Hands Of U. S. Troops

Manila 40 Miles South Of Yanks

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Luzon (AP)—Clark Field, with its seventeen airstrips within striking distance of the China coast, was firmly in American hands today along with adjacent Fort Stotsenburg. Triumphantly Yanks rolled on south against such light opposition that combat officers expressed doubt the Japanese would make a determined fight short of Manila, some 40 miles south.

Vast Clark Field, most highly developed aviation ground in the Philippines with its extensive network of landing strips, shops and other installations, was captured early Thursday by Maj. Gen. Omar W. Grainger's 14th Army Corps.

The Americans found few Japanese but numerous land mines and booby traps as they advanced. Clark, in pursuit of an enemy aviation force, perhaps 3,000 which fled into the hills where artillery positions could keep the airstrip unusable.

The main body of Japanese was being bounded by American artillery. Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique today said "our forces are engaged in clearing enemy troops from the nearby hills."

Capture of Clark Field, certainly a major prize of the war, consisted of personal satisfaction for MacArthur, whose main air strength in the Philippines was based on Clark Field.

Japanese dive bombers struck devastating blows to open the airfield. The Japanese Sixth Army Yanks moved onto Clark Field so fast the Japanese failed to put up stiff field defenses carefully dug into ridges at the northern approaches.

Maj. Gen. Ralph Bruns' 40th Division overran the field and Fort Stotsenburg, a large military installation before the war, and then advanced into the hills north of Angeles on a main Manila highway.

Engineers followed to put the field into shape. The 37th Division of Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beghler sent patrol squads across the valley to clear the highway.

This meant the two divisions were on parallel highways some 10 miles apart, 10 miles to the south at San Fernando, capital of Pangasinan Province. From there, the highway threads between two streams and marshes along the home front.

At Magalang, the Americans flanked the Japanese where the Japanese had expected to put up defense against Yank advance. The Japanese moved from the central Luzon plain.

Associated Press Correspondent Fred Hanson, with the advance units, wrote that "although reports of Japanese resistance are increasing all along the front, they are not succeeding in slowing our advance."

Still it is impossible to tell whether the enemy will make a determined stand between Clark Field and Manila, little more than 40 miles away.

Home Front
Members of the House Military Committee disclosed that their group has turned down an amendment to the manpower bill, under which the Fair Employment Practices Committee would have been given statutory backing. The FEPC amendment is said to have been taken out in the interests of harmony along with an anti-cholesterol amendment.

The OPA has announced the rationing of its old policy of making food ration stamps expire on definite dates. So from now on, all food stamps will be good about four months after the date they become valid.

Berlin Broadcasts
Allied Ships Sunk
LONDON (AP)—A Berlin broadcast asserted today that U-boats had sunk the fully-laden Allied supply ship and two destroyers en route from Britain to France in recent attacks.



STALIN'S LEGIONS ADVANCE—According to German reports, Red forces have driven to the province of Brandenburg, of which Berlin is the capital. The province border is within 91 miles of Berlin at the nearest point. The Russians announced that communications with Breslau in Silesia had been cut off, and the Nazis said that the Reds had launched an all-out drive for Konigsberg in the far north.

Try For Defeat Frontal Attack Made On Wallace

By JACK BELL
WASHINGTON (AP)—Opponents shifted to a frontal attack on the cabinet nomination of Henry A. Wallace today as the former Vice-President set up boundaries on the authority he might wield as Secretary of Commerce.

Food Stamp Policy Given

WASHINGTON (AP)—The OPA today re-established a policy of rationing food stamps, with each series good roughly four months. At present, a new series of red stamps for meat and dairy products and blue stamps for processed food will be validated each month. Instead of being good indefinitely, however, they will expire after about 16 weeks.

The agency also restored its rationing policy for sugar stamps. Sugar stamp No. 35, good for five pounds beginning Feb. 1, was valid through Jan. 1. Overlapping this coupon, a new stamp is due to be validated May 1, OPA said.

As previously announced, the new stamp will have to last three months instead of two and see FOOD STAMP on Page 7.

War Shifts To Berlin's Gates

Eastern Front Untenable For Germans; Next Decision Difficult And Important

By MAX WERNER
International Military and Political Analyst

Russian pressure in East Prussia and Silesia, especially violent during the last three days, is compelling the German High Command to make an immediate decision as to which vital objectives the Wehrmacht must defend. East Prussia and Silesia are not longer advanced salients from which sudden sorties, counter-offensives directed to relieve the center of the German front around Potsdam are possible. Both these German flanks are almost broken, their com-

Grew Holds Conference

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has received a memorandum from the Polish Government-in-Exile asking establishment of an Inter-Allied Commission to administer Poland until elections can be held.

This was disclosed today by Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew at a news conference which covered a wide range of diplomatic affairs.

1. Announced that Herbert Pelt, United States member of the United Nations War Crimes Commission in London, had to be relieved of his job for lack of Congressional approval. Grew said Lt. Col. Joseph V. Hodges, former Attorney General, had been named to replace Pelt and that the Government will continue its active interest in the punishment of war criminals.

2. Applauded as "reassuring and forthright" a letter by U. S. Senator Charles McNary, U. S. Senator, supporting American participation in a world security organization patterned after the Dumbarton Oaks agreement and plans for the demilitarization of Germany and Japan.

3. Revealed that Russia has agreed to exempt the United States and Great Britain from clauses in the Hungarian and Romanian armistices giving the Soviet High Command control of all communications including code from those two countries.

Grew said the clauses were intended to apply to the nations not represented on the Control Commission, composed of the United States, Britain and Russia.

Bypass Poznan In Daring Push Nearer Capital

East Prussia Cut Off From Rest Of Germany In Northern Campaign

LONDON (AP)—Russian tanks streamed past Poznan today in an audacious drive westward toward the frontier of German Brandenburg, which Berlin broadcasts said was already threatened. Moscow dispatches said East Prussia had been cut off from the rest of Germany.

Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov, leaving Poznan to be cleared by the infantry and artillery, carried the ground war closer to Berlin than at any time since the beginning of the war. At its closest point the Brandenburg frontier is only 91 miles from Berlin, capital of the province as well as of the Reich. But where the two main roads between Poznan and Berlin cross the border the distances to Berlin are 106 miles in the north and 95 in the south.

Fleet Units Shell Iwo

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, PEARL HARBOR (AP)—The eight square miles of little Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, midway along the route the Superfortresses fly from Japan to Tokyo, were shelled for the second time this year, and the first time in the war, by fleet units today.

The warships, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed, raked that Japanese air and observation base with 200 shells from the battleships. Superfortresses and Liberators dropped more than 100 tons of bombs on it, starting fires visible for 20 miles.

Two, from which the Japanese send raiders against Saipan and spot the B-29s winging to Japan, have been attacked on at least 15 of the 32 days of 1945.

One surface unit inflicted severe damage on island installations, Nimitz's communique reported.

One enemy cargo vessel exploded and two others were left burning.

The enemy raid said four cruisers and eight destroyers carried out the bombardment at a point 150 miles south of Tokyo.

Attending to the effectiveness of neutralizing blows on Iwo, no enemy planes opposed the B-29s, but attacks Tuesday and anti-aircraft fire was described as meager.

Warships shelled Iwo on Jan. 4, then moved even closer to Japan the next day to bombard islands in the Bonin group within 418 miles of Tokyo.

Yesterday's communique also reported that the 11th Air Force which had been based on Iwo Jima, was moved to the Kuriles by planes of the 11th Air Force which had been based on Iwo Jima, at a cost of on their own.

Mecklenburg Casualties

(Stories Inside)
KILLED
Pfc. Richard Smith
Sgt. William F. Reynolds
Capt. James H. Nelson Jr.
MISSING
Pvt. Robert G. LaFare
WOUNDED
Pvt. John W. Sowers Jr.
Pfc. Nash B. McKee

Escort Aircraft Carrier Handed Over To French

LONDON (AP)—The American escort aircraft carrier USS S. Bitter has been handed over to the French, the Paris radio reported today.

The Bitter was assigned to the Atlantic convoy duty and has been fought a five-day battle with German U-boats in the North Atlantic. Her planes also helped provide cover for the North African invasion.

WEATHER

Fair and rather cool today with a few clouds. High 60, low 40. Wind light S. Slight rain or snow possible Saturday.