

THE RED ARMY

Allies Hold Initiative All Along Western Front

Third's Troops Roll Up To Our River Frontier

War Industries Shut Down As Reds Roar On

Russians Drive To Obra River 97 Miles From Berlin In Brandenburg Area

Third's Troops Roll Up To Our River Frontier

By JAMES M. LONG
PARIS (AP)—U. S. Third Army troops striking on a twenty-mile front in Luxembourg and Belgium gained up to three miles today and reached the Our River barrier in Germany.

The Third's roll-up to the Our River frontier, wiping out last vestiges of the Ardennes bulge, came as the American Ninth and British Second Armies in the north consolidated their hold along the west bank of the Roer River inside Germany within 25 miles of Dusseldorf.

Allied troops held the initiative all along the winding Western Front, and the Germans' offensive in Alsace had dwindled out.

American 90th Division patrols reached the Our River at a point 1.2 miles northeast of Clerveaux in northern Luxembourg, a front dispatch said. They met no resistance. Troops of the Seventeenth Airborne Division punched forward three miles at a point seven miles below St. Vith. On "BREAKING DRIVE."

They and three other divisions were astride or across the "Silly Drive" Highway running to St. Vith on a 1,800-foot ridge overlooking the Our and the German Siegfried Line guarding the Reich. The 26th Division drove ahead 2.1 miles above Wittich, and the 2nd and 5th Divisions advanced from half to one mile. The Third Army bagged 91 prisoners today.

The U. S. Ninth and British Second Armies held the Roer River bank from Beersdorf to Monschau, nineteen miles south-east of Aachen, and had widened the only breach in the Siegfried Line to 3 1/2 miles.

Russian front offensives were being felt increasingly on the snowbound Western Front, as well.

Judge Gives Verdict With 'Reluctance'

Government Will Make Appeal

CHICAGO (AP)—Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan today declared President Roosevelt's order for Army seizure of Montgomery Ward & Co. properties was illegal.

The court held the President lacked authority either in the War Relocation Act or in his wartime powers as commander in chief for the seizure and upheld the company's contention that Ward's was a war production plant within the meaning of the act.

Samuel Goldschmidt, international president of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, principal union involved in the long labor dispute which led to the seizure, said the court's decision was a victory for the union.

After reading Avery's statement which said Ward had been "hunted for seven years for the workers' constitutional rights to join a union, not to join a union or to resign from a union as he wishes," Goldschmidt declared: "We to labor if Avery chooses to challenge the union."

Riding on a case which the government said affected the nation's war-time labor dispute machinery, Judge Sullivan asserted:

"Our nation is engaged in a global war and it is imperative that we contribute everything we have to the fight for victory and successful conclusion."

U. S. CRISIS
Our country is in a great crisis.

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Decision Of High Import

WASHINGTON (AP)—With Allied officers say that the busy train movements may reflect a last-minute transfer of hoarded military material toward the east.

The Pacific

In the Pacific Theater, American Superforts today smashed two ends of the Japanese Empire. One B-29 expedition bombed the Japanese home island of Honshu, and another blasted enemy bases in Japan-occupied Indo-China. But there is no word from our side as yet on the target or results of the twin assaults. However, a Japanese Imperial Headquarters communication says that about 20 Mustangs based B-29s raided Tokyo for approximately an hour today. The enemy announced damage done at several places by high explosives and fire bombs.

On Luzon in the Philippines, American troops driving down the central Luzon plain have run into their first appreciable resistance. Japanese batteries have opened up on recently captured Clark Field and other ground troops have chafed off with Japanese units south of the Bataan River.

Home Front

In Chicago, the long-awaited ruling on the legality of the Government's seizure of Montgomery Ward and Company facilities has come. Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan has declared illegal President Roosevelt's order for Army seizure of the Ward facilities. The court held that the President lacked authority to order the seizure.

The Government has announced it will appeal the decision.



"MAC" AND HIS CORNCOB—Smoking one of his favorite corncob pipes, Gen. Douglas MacArthur stands aboard ship with his aide, Col. Lloyd Lebruns (left). The General wears his new, circular, five-star insignia. (Acme).

Taft Reports

Most Republicans Against Wallace

By JACK BELL
WASHINGTON (AP)—Senator Taft (Republican, Ohio) predicted today that most Republicans will vote against Henry A. Wallace's Cabinet nomination regardless of whether the post is stripped of its lending authority.

The Republican Steering Committee met to consider Wallace's nomination already disapproved by the Senate Commerce Committee.

The Republican members emerged from their meeting free to vote as they choose, however, and Senator Wallace, Republican, New Hampshire, expressed a belief that even the minority vote for Wallace would be a victory for the Commerce Secretary's division of its lending powers.

FAVOR GEORGE BILL
Senators Lucas, Democrat, Ill., and McNamara, Democrat, S. C., said they would support Wallace for a committee-approved bill to separate from the Commerce Department the vast money-dispensing agencies built around the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which Jesse Jones managed for 12 years.

Senator Pepper, Democrat, Fla., generalissimo of the former Vice President's forces, virtually exploded the bill would save the Commerce Department from the nomination.

The inference was plain that he and others thought Wallace would be rejected.

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Japs Making Luzon Stand

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, LUSON—An American Sixth Army spearhead down the central Luzon plain dug into its first appreciable resistance Friday.

Japanese artillery opened up on Tank-captured Clark airfield as the Sixth Army moved forward.

The Japanese forces met the Sixth Army's advance with a determined resistance south of the Bataan River.

Clark Field, largest airbase in the Philippines and a major prize of the war was captured early Thursday by units of the 14th Army Corps who chased an enemy battalion of perhaps 5,000 into the nearby hills.

GOOD GUN SITES
Hillside cave positions west and north of the huge airbase, excellent artillery sites, could delay American use of the airfield's seventeen landing strips.

The Sixth Army, which had been opened only on its left flank as it drove eastward, now down the broad plain toward Manila, came up against the stiff resistance near the main Manila Highway.

There the 14th Corps, whose advance units are at least five miles beyond Clark Field at Angeles, found the first indication that the Japanese were making a stand.

MacArthur said his men were clearing the hills southwest of Clark Field.

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War Industries Shut Down As Reds Roar On

Russians Drive To Obra River 97 Miles From Berlin In Brandenburg Area

LONDON (AP)—The Germans announced today that the Red Army had knocked out Hitler's war-vital industries in rich Upper Silesia and had lunged up to the Obra River 97 miles from Berlin.

German war industries in Upper Silesia—roughly the area between Oppeln and the Sudeten Mountains—have been shut down, the Transocean Agency said. The broadcast added that workers and the population of the area were evacuated somewhere to the rear with the fate of "the industrial fortress of Upper Silesia handed over to the soldiers of the East Front."

The announcement meant that Hitler had lost the industrial power of one of the Reich's greatest arsenals, increasingly vital to the Germans since the mass bombings of the Ruhr in the West.

The Germans admitted the Red Army had crossed the Oder River in Silesia in great force. The heaviest fighting, Berlin said, was near the Russian bridgehead at Steinau, 35 miles northwest of besieged Breslau, where the Germans claimed to have knocked out 24 tanks.

FIERCE BATTLES
Soviet forces striking up beyond Northern Silesia beyond Breslau were only 143 miles from Berlin. The Germans told of fierce battles with a number of infantry and tank units.

The German High Command announced that spearheads of Marshal G. Zhukov's forces, now on the high road due east of Berlin, were halted in front of the border of the Soviet zone. This river runs 75 to 95 miles east of Berlin and bulges eastward to form part of the border of Brandenburg, province in which Berlin is situated.

DNB German news agency, said Russian tanks were stopped at Bentschen ("Bentschen," astride a main road from Poznan to Berlin. The town is 97 miles from the capital.

"BEELINE FOR BERLIN"
Berlin said Zhukov's "beeline for Berlin" drive from Central Poland had reached the German-Polish frontier in several places north and west of the city.

The Germans said Bentschen was in German hands, but that the bulk of the Soviet forces in this area will follow up and that a new front will be established.

The Nazi High Command said one arm of this drive advanced through the border of East Prussia, the province of East Prussia, which winds north-east in eastern Germany, touched the border of East Prussia, 153 miles northeast of Berlin.

The Russians were reported thrusting their troops into the Baltic Sea through Central Poland and Moscow dispatches said a significant shift of troops from the western to the eastern front to check the growing Red menace.

The northern arm of the drive appeared to the border "east of Schneidemuhl," said Transocean, a Nazi agency. The Germans said this spearhead reached the northern border of the Netze.

The German High Command also said the Russians made "several questions."

Chief of Detectives Walter Sturges made the estimate. Seven persons were detained, three of whom had been charged with robbery and one a woman with disordered conduct. Sturges added police were searching for three other men for questioning.

Those already charged with robbery are: Evelyn Morgan, 34; Thomas Leahy, 40 and Willie Sturges, 34, all ex-convicts. The woman is Mrs. Odella Chapman.

Sturges indicated another \$50,000 may be recovered, and the \$200,000 was the largest robbery proceeds ever recovered in Chicago, including the Edward G. Bremer, III, mail robbery.

Big Recovery

\$2,000,000

Of Robbery

Loot Found

CHICAGO (AP)—A paper carton, hidden in a West Side bungalow, today yielded an estimated \$2,000,000 in negotiable securities as police continued their hunt for loot from a Jan. 10 robbery of the R. H. Humboldt Realty Co.'s safety deposit vaults.

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Mecklenburg Casualties

(Sturges Inside)

KILLED

Capt. William Wade O'Connell, 34, killed in action.

MISSING

2nd Lt. Alvin M. Miller, 24, missing in action.

WOUNDED

Capt. Robert L. Hinkle, 34, wounded in action.

Pvt. John L. Love, 24, wounded in action.

Pvt. Richard E. Smith, 24, wounded in action.

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