

## SEALED OFF FROM THE RUHR

# Canadian First Army Aims Toward Heart Of Ruhr

### Germans Hurl Heavy Fire At Canuck Troops

PARIS — (AP) — The Canadian First Army, aimed toward the heart of the industrial Ruhr, thrust almost a mile deeper into the lower Rhine valley of northwest Germany today through storms of heavy artillery and mortar fire thrown by an ever increasing flood of enemy reserves.

The Canadians held twenty miles of the south bank of the flooded Rhine from the Nijmegen sector to opposite Emmerich, but made no threats at crossing the wide waterway. They stormed and captured water-bombed Hindenburg, four miles east of Kleve and nine from the Ruhr gateway city of Weeze.

Scots, Britons and Welshmen under Major General Crerar's Command inched toward the defense keystones of Goch and Calcar in the center of the bulging twenty-mile front. One front dispatch said the British Empire troops spread out south of Moers, indicating an advance into the area less than two miles from Calcar. Scots swinging down the highway from Kleve moved to within 1,000 yards of Moers.



### Konev Forces Turn Toward Nazi Capital

#### Firm Link Formed With Zhukov

LONDON — (AP) — An armored mass of Marshal Konev's First Ukrainian Army bore down on Berlin's Spree River defenses. Konev's forces, the southeast today, smashing toward Beeskow and Cottbus, 31 to 52 miles from the capital.

Soviet war correspondents indicated that the Nelse River defenses had been shattered after fierce battles in the areas of Forst and Guben, two towns on that river which joins the Oder south of Frankfurt.

They told of columns of tanks and cavalry rolling through shattered villages within sight of the Spree, and indicated that the main body of Marshal Zhukov's First Belorussian Army had been turned in the Berlin direction after forming a first attack with Marshal Konev's First Russian Army for an assault on the German capital.

### Giant Smoke Columns Over Capital Area

#### Mighty American Naval Armada Challenges Jap Fleet To Battle

By AL DOPKIN

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Saturday, Feb. 17.—(AP)—Smoke columns, 7,000 feet high plumed over the Tokyo-Yokohama area today marking targets blasted by more than 1,500 American carrier planes in yesterday's daring strike at the heart of Japan.

Returning fliers who rode B-29s over the targets while the Navy Hellicats and Avengers spit bombs and bullets at the Nipponese capital district said that aside from other damage, scores of enemy planes were caught on the ground.

The raid lasted more than nine hours while the greatest Navy armada ever assembled challenged the Japanese fleet within 300 miles of Nippon's shores.

(Carrier attacks of this type usually last for two or three days. The power of the American force indicated this pattern would be followed against Tokyo.)

Protecting Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's carrier force, battleships, cruisers and destroyers of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance's Fifth Fleet spread out in a 200-mile column in Japanese waters, daring the enemy fleet to come out.

Other troops closed slowly toward Goch from three directions and were within easy artillery range. Goch and Calcar both are important military highway hubs.

The Germans committed elements of an Eighth Division to the critical northern front, the Eighth Parachute Division. Three other parachute, two infantry and one tank divisions have been identified. Prisoners totaled 5,700 for the offensive.

Ground mista covered solid battlefronts, denying air support to the Canadian Army. Three more German counter-attacks were repelled and the stings appeared to have been taken from the Germans.

**SCOTS ADVANCE**

Synchronized with the thrust down the Kleve-Calcar military highway, a column of killed Scots advanced 1,000 yards east of the Kleve forest, cranking into German defenses. One report said 100 discouraged Austrians were waiting patently to surrender, but that the Scots were too busy to bother with them.

Front dispatches said the Canadians were established firmly on the Rhine, and were across the river into the teatle mills of Emmerich. Resistance along the Rhine was

They said the Germans depended on the width of the river and flooding from its breached dykes for protection. Mud, rain, fog and mist appeared to be doing as much as the enemy to hold back the offensive of Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's troops.

**SAY MISTAKE MADE**

Associated Press Correspondent Ned Norwood, writing from the Canadian front, said:

"Forward officers who know their war declare this slow shuffling match might well have been a spectacular breakthrough had not too many tanks and much equipment been crowded into the narrow battlefront."

The enemy's line offensive that broke eight days ago caught the Germans with the suddenness of a lightning bolt. "Then, they said, the mistake was made in attempting to move material over muddy roads that could not withstand the wear and tear."

"By the very weight of men and materials in the small maneuvering area, the Canadian Army has lost its initial opportunity to turn this into a spectacular break-through reminiscent of the dash through France, Belgium and Holland last year."

The American Third Army carried out half mile from the Pruen sector slowly reducing German fortifications. The Seventh Army in northern Aachen also acted after a local line strengthening operations which overran Rimling, two miles south of the German Saarland, and two other villages.

**BOES REJECTED**

With the Roer River receding rapidly at the site of the world plain, the Germans increased their artillery and V-weapon fire on the American tank and armor. The Germans said both these forces had been strengthened immensely for an imminent offensive toward the Ruhr.

### Manila Showdown

## Japanese Fight With New Fury

MANILA — (AP) — Documents showing that a large Japanese force expected to turn the tide of the Luzon campaign at Manila came to light today as the cornered remnant of that out-manned garrison fought with new fury in its blazing South Manila trap.

General Douglas MacArthur, announcing a deeper penetration into Bataan Peninsula, a 112-ton bombing of Corregidor and the steady reduction of the enemy's final pocket in the rubble of the once-capital, disclosed also the capture of the Nipponese remnants.

This indicated that the enemy "contemplated a major and successful defense of Manila."

**MACARTHUR PLEATED**

MacArthur reported the Japanese, prior to his Luzon landing, had a garrison of more than 20,000 men. Manila with great quantities of guns, munitions, boxes and fortifications, expecting the Japanese to land in the south and from Manila Bay.

"The enemy apparently hoped to hold Manila and Manila Bay in the thickened and impenetrable turning point of the Luzon campaign," MacArthur said.

He said the Japanese were surprised by the rapidity of the development by our forces and the dislocation and confusion caused by our unopposed advance and the attack from north and east.

Staff officers of the 14th Army Corps estimated that perhaps 10,000 Japanese originally manned the garrison and defended defenses of South Manila.

Several thousand may be left in the thickened and impenetrable district, along the bay shore just south of the Pasig River mouth, and in the adjacent Ermita and Malate districts.

**JAPS OPEN UP**

Three Japanese confined to an area about 5,000 yards by 1,500

They were reported to have been within 30 miles of the city of Berlin, the river which rises in the Czechoslovakian mountains, Frange, passing through Dresden and flows diagonally across Germany to the North Sea at Hamburg.

The Soviet armored trains bearing down on Berlin, Moscow dispatches said, were attacking a 30-mile stretch between Beeskow and Cottbus, and the German forces who held up Zhukov's attack at Frankfurt and Kuesen along the Oder.

Beeskow is 31 miles southeast of Berlin and 18 miles southwest of Frankfurt on the Oder. Cottbus, directly south of Beeskow, is 32 miles from Berlin and 12 miles east of Frankfurt. The Germans reported Soviet penetration yesterday.

Both Beeskow and Cottbus are on the Spree, which links up with many lakes and watercourses to form a natural barrier. Beeskow is the center of eight such lakes, including the main Frankfurter-See.

Both are important communication centers. Cottbus is the hub of 12 trunk railways, main highways and autobahns and Beeskow is the center of eight such lines, including the main Frankfurt-Leipzig railway.

Soviet correspondents said fighting was raging near the east bank of the Spree.

These dispatches indicated that the German forces, which were north, either had been by-passed or captured.

With the tank now solidly secured by the sensational advance of the First Ukrainian Army, Zhukov's forces are expected to break into the city of Berlin, the fortress in the heart of the German capital.

Puersteinberg is 12 miles north of the junction of the Netze and Oder.

Presumably these attacks were preliminary to an out-attack against the city of Berlin, the fortress in the heart of the German capital.

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### Say Landing Effort Made

LONDON — (AP) — The British radio said today the British attempted a landing on the Netherlands island of Schouwen at the mouth of the Rhine north of the Breda islands on Wednesday night.

A Transcon broadcast said the first wave of the amphibious assault was thrown back under the heavy fire of German coastal batteries and a second attempt was repelled with British units leaving behind their arms and ammunition.

Schouwen Island is part of the Rhine delta between the Oosterschelde, a branch of the sea, and Gravelingen, Krammer Volkerak, one of the mouths of the Rhine. It is 21 miles northeast of Antwerp and 24 miles southwest of Rotterdam.

**NOT COVERED**

Transcon did not indicate whether the assault forces finally gained a foothold. The report of the attack had not been corroborated by Allied sources.

The report served to recall, however, recent Allied naval statements disclosing that Allied forces are active along the Netherlands Islands and pointing out that the European coast north of the Rhine affords the same opportunities for amphibious operations that were exploited in France.

Wachter Island, to the south of Schouwen, was the scene of one of the most costly Allied amphibious landings when British troops forced their way ashore during the last campaign to clear the way to Antwerp port.

### Navy Longs For Battle

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A Navy spokesman said today "now is the time" for the Japanese fleet to meet the challenge of the United States Navy. Spruance's Fifth Fleet spread out in a 200-mile column in Japanese waters, daring the enemy fleet to come out.

Seven hundred miles to the south, another task force, which Spruance said was composed of four carriers, including battleships and carriers, including two Jims in coordination with land-based bombers which have been attacking the island outpost daily for more than two months.

**BASES BLASTED**

A Japanese Imperial communiqué reported that "carrier-based attacks of a powerful enemy task force which appeared in the sea adjacent to our shores" attacked the Japanese bases on the island of Iwo Jima in successive waves from 1 A. M. to 1 P. M. today (Japanese time).

The enemy Daily News Agency added that heaviest blows were rained on bases from which inter-continental ballistic missiles were launched, raiding the Nipponese capital.

London reported that Tokyo radio warned the American task force was still operating in Japan's front of the Japanese carrier force would probably renew the attack Saturday. The broadcast said ten inter-continental ballistic missiles formed the backbone of the U. S. force.

**INVADE TWO**

Tokyo broadcasts intercepted by the Federal Communications Commission said the Japanese predicted an imminent invasion of Iwo Jima to knock out the Japanese air base and to establish a base for the launching of land-based bombers against Japan.

Tokyo's seven million, long familiar with Superfortress raids, had never seen anything like today's carrier attack.

**SOMETHING BIG UNFOLDS**

The long-planned and extensive operations threatened the heart of the Japanese empire with:

1. The probability of knocking it into a condition for eventual invasion.
2. The possibility of a landing on Iwo Jima.
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Another dispatch, pointing to reduce its airplane factories, said:

Rockets and bomb-bearing Hell bombers are capable of doing much damage to the Japanese military targets in the islands because of their low flying. It is a good idea to have high-altitude bombers with high-precision bombs.

"We have no good reason to believe that the Japanese will be able to do anything to prevent the emergence of a new world order," the spokesman said.

He added that carrier forces are capable of doing much damage to the Japanese military targets in the islands because of their low flying. It is a good idea to have high-altitude bombers with high-precision bombs.

## Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### The Far East

The first on-the-scene accounts of our Navy's carrier plane attacks on Tokyo have come in. From radio observers and from the men who were in a B-29 Superfortress, watching the attack from Tokyo to Yokohama. Scores of Japanese planes were caught on the ground last night. And our carrier planes pounded the Japanese for a half-hour in a running series of air fights and air hits.

Now, back home in Washington, a Navy spokesman has declared that the Navy has a pretty good idea of the location of the Japanese fleet. The Navy spokesman says that this is the time for the Japanese to meet the challenge of our carrier task force.

Commenting on Japanese speculation as to a possible American landing on Iwo Jima, the Navy spokesman said today that the Navy is capable of effecting a landing anywhere.

### Eastern Front

The Russian troops under Marshal Konev's First Ukrainian Army have joined with Marshal Zhukov's First Belorussian Army in a drive toward the Nazi capital from the east.

Soviet troops moving toward Berlin from the southeast. The Russian forces are heading for Berlin's Spree River defense, which lie within 30 to 50 miles of Berlin.

Threatened Germany, meanwhile, has been put under what amounts to martial law. A new Reich decree threatens any German civilian who is in the hospital with punishment.

### Western Front

American heavy bombers from Britain today switched their air offensive back to targets in western Germany. More than 1,000 bombers, including B-29 Superfortresses, attacked a series of coordinated attacks on Nazi oil refineries and chemical plants in six cities in western Germany.

At the same time, American heavy bombers from Italy attacked German targets in southern Germany.

Last night American First Army troops, aided by the First Army's River to test German defenses but the patrols were forced back.

A Cairo dispatch quotes reliable information as saying that French General Charles de Gaulle will confer with some of the top British and American delegates to the recent Big Three conference. However, it was added that a possible meeting of de Gaulle, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill is uncertain.

### Home Front

In Washington, the War Department has revealed what would have been a physically unfit man, drafted under the Selective Training and Service Act, would get basic military training.

In New York, the condition of Dr. Charles Beard is described as good. The noted author-historian is in the hospital with pneumonia.

### Brief Aerial Lull Ended

LONDON — (AP) — More than 1,000 American heavy bombers from Britain, continuing the record air offensive against the Reich, switched their attack back to western Germany today with seven B-29 Superfortresses at targets and railroad yards in six cities. After a night lull in the offensive, the American bombers attacked Dortmund and Gelsenkirchen, three large freight yards at Hamm, and a steel mill at Duisburg.

**SMALL ESCORT**

The bombers were escorted by only 200 fighters, a good indication of the lack of punch the German air force. The marshalling yards at Hamm are the largest in Germany and the city of Dortmund and Gelsenkirchen, two cities just across the Dutch border, are important in the German scheme of supply against the Montgomery salient at Aachen.

It was officially announced that American forces in the Netherlands had captured a German target close to the Dutch border. The target was a large industrial plant. The American forces were eight bombers and five fighters. A number of planes previously had been shot down.

**See BRIEF AERIAL on page 12**

### Hitler Is Reported To Have Been Near Front

LONDON — (AP) — The Moscow correspondent today said Adolf Hitler had visited a German front line recently only two days before it was captured by the Red Army.

The correspondent did not identify the town, but said Hitler had "shortened" young and old to take up arms."

### Eye And Ear Witness Account

## Scores Of Nip Planes Caught On Ground In Attack On Japan

By ELMO WATTE

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Saturday, Feb. 17.—(AP)—Scores of Nipponese carrier planes were caught on the ground in a surprise attack on the Japanese capital today, according to a report received here today.

The eye and ear witness account, which disclosed that scores of enemy planes were caught on the ground, was given by Lt. J. G. David, C. M. of the Navy, who was in the air over San Francisco when the attack was launched.

David, who was in a B-29 Superfortress, said he saw scores of Japanese carrier planes caught on the ground in the Tokyo area.

He said that the Japanese planes were caught on the ground in the Tokyo area, and that the American forces were able to destroy many of them.

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### Today's Radio Program

The daily schedule of radio programs, customarily appearing on page 2-A, is on Page 2-A of this edition.

### Weather

Mostly cloudy and mild; rather foggy with scattered showers; rather thunderous today and tonight; cooler this afternoon and tonight. Saturday mostly cloudy and colder.

Temperature at 3:30 Today: 71 High & Low Last 24 Hours: 71-58 Sunday Forecast: 70-62

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### See NEW RED TANK on page 12

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NEW RED TANK MOUNTS 120 MM. GUN

LONDON — (AP) — The British radio said today that the new Red Tank, which is being developed by the British, is a very powerful tank. It is equipped with a 120 mm. gun and is capable of destroying enemy tanks and fortifications.

The new Red Tank is being developed by the British and is expected to be ready for service in the near future.