

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final

## Japanese Planes Strike At U. S. Fleet Units Off Iwo 100 ALLIED PLANES LASH AT MANY Mightiest Air Blow Of War Strikes Reich

LONDON — (AP) — Allied air forces hit Germany at dozens of places with approximately 7,000 planes today. It was the war's biggest and most spectacular bombardment of the Reich.

The onslaught was aimed at knocking out the Nazi communications network serving both the Eastern and Western fronts.

Explosives cascaded upon German targets at the rate of 100 tons a minute. Spearheading the "buckshot air war"—a new idea mapped by Allied air chiefs in readiness for clear weather—more than 1,400 U. S. Fortress and Liberator and 800 fighters attacked a middle Reich rectangle the size and shape of Indiana extending almost to Berlin and from Nuernberg north to Luebeck Bay.

Two divisions of this huge fleet poured into Germany from the north and a third from the south. These broke up into packs of up to 100 bombers each, which struck at least 24 freight yards and other rail targets in the heart of the Reich during the noon hour.

**8TH AIR FORCE AREA**  
The Eighth Air Force bombers were assigned to an area of 30,000 square miles.

Within this area the bomber packs planned more than 14,000 100-pound high explosive bombs on at least fourteen railroads, each located at a junction of two or more main rail routes.

Freight yards and rail repair shops were hit, miles of rail lines were twisted and broken, and three and four mile stretches of track and railroads were disabled. All the attacks on central Germany were crowded into the early afternoon hours.

Overnight, the British bombed Berlin and heavily assaulted the rail bottlenecks of Duisburg and Worms, which funnel reinforcements and arms to the Western Front.

Wave after wave of fighter-bombers smote German lines in the West and bivouac areas near by from daybreak to far into the afternoon in the best flying weather since last summer. Pilots could see for 50 miles. Medium bombers struck the German front and traffic lanes linked to it.

**GREAT BAYOU**  
With the planes still going out hour after hour, it was impossible to calculate immediately the damage and devastation. The planes, however, see 7,000 ALLIED on page 8

### Two-Minute

## News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Air Warfare

Great swarms of Allied warplanes rained destruction on beleaguered Germany today in the biggest bombardment of this or any other war.

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## Russians Again Drive Into Guben

LONDON — (AP) — The Russians again have battered into Guben, German stronghold on the Neisse 51 miles southeast of Berlin, a German military commander reported today.

Reported fighting is going on in the town, he said.

Guben previously was reported captured by the Russians, who announced gains up to the conference of the Neisse and Oder. The Germans said last Monday that the Russians had fought into Guben, but were forced to withdraw.

**NEW ASSAULT**  
Col. Ernst Von Hammer, Berlin correspondent, said a new assault was launched upon the stronghold this morning.

In East Prussia, Von Hammer reported, Russian pressure has "increased to the greatest ferocity" with more than 2,000 Soviet planes reported today to be in the air.

The Berlin radio said a surprise Nazi counter offensive had re-established a corridor between Guben and the rest of the Reich, 50 miles south. The Russians acknowledged some German advances in that area, but said the drive was costing the Germans enormously in men and equipment.

White Russian Army units were reported attempting to complete the encirclement of Frankfurt.

The German radio announced Zhusov had slashed communications between Berlin and that city on the west bank of the Oder, 20 miles from the German capital, but said they had been restored.

Franklin said the Russian Army stood only 25 miles from Berlin in that area. The paper did not specify the location but indicated Zhusov's troops had crossed the Oder.

Nazi radio spokesman said German forces were fighting a defensive battle between Berlin and the Frankfurt-Kuestrin front, but declared Russian bridgeheads west of the Oder were "far too small" for a major offensive toward Berlin.

The northland drive toward the Central two airfield met heavy resistance from snail arms, mortars and automatic weapons.

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## Nip Attacks On Island Beaten Back

Marine Casualties  
Rise To 4,553

By AL DOPKING  
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET  
HEADQUARTERS, GUAM —  
(AP) — (Via Navy Radio)

United States Fleet units in the vicinity of Iwo Jima have sustained some damage from attacks by Japanese fighters and bombers, Japanese counter-attacks have been beaten back and U. S. Marines casualties have risen to 4,553 in the desperate battle for the island, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

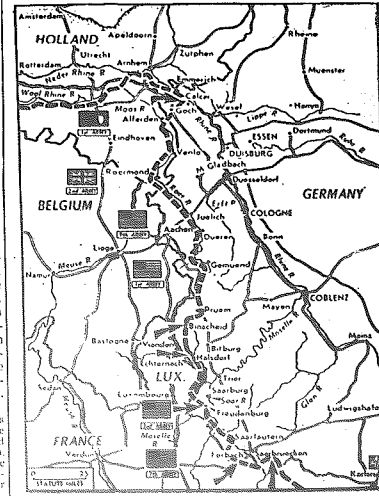
The attack by Japanese planes was the first against the island since the battle for the island 150 miles south of Tokyo began. Seven of the enemy planes were shot down. Nimitz did not elaborate on the extent of damage or the type of ships hit.

The casualties include 385 killed and 4,168 wounded in action up to 5:30 p. m. last night.

**JAP ATTACKS PAUL**  
Japanese counter-attacks accompanied by numerous attempts at infiltration of the island were beaten back during the night and the Leatherheads, strengthened by the U. S. Third Marine Division which landed yesterday, launched attacks both to the north and south against the divided forces of the enemy.

The northland drive toward the Central two airfield met heavy resistance from snail arms, mortars and automatic weapons.

See JAPS HIT on page 8



**PATTON'S MEN ADVANCE**—The American Third Army drove through the Moselle Valley to within five miles of the city of Trier, the Volturno River, which had already been entered. To the south, U. S. Seventh Army forces moved to within two miles of Saarbrücken. The Americans captured half of Saarbrücken, French gateway to the Saar capital. In the north, Canadians drove to within 2,000 yards of Calcar.

## Hot Battle Rages At Manila Hotel

By FRED HAMPTON  
MANILA — (AP) — Only scattered enemy remnants were left on Corregidor today but fanatically resisting Japanese troops still held out on the second floor of the famed Manila Hotel, turning the hotel into the hottest battle spot in the capital city at dawn today.

Early front line reports that elements of the First Cavalry Division had captured the hotel but one of the most luxurious in the Orient, have been corrected to say that the hotel was still in Japanese hands.

**BATAAN CLEARED**  
Historic Bataan was cleared of Japanese. Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported, and "so far as can be seen, no living Japanese soldier is now on the peninsula."

Hopefully seized in the vast network of tunnels of Corregidor, Japanese troops threw themselves up by touching off one of their main underground ammunition dumps.

Typical of the bitter inch by inch struggle for downtown Manila was the battle through most of the night between the Yanks and Japanese on the second floor of the Manila Hotel, where a continual fight to the death went on in the corridors and rooms and on the roof.

A succession of Japanese infiltration attempts resulted in the killing of 137 of the enemy around the captured Army-Navy Club, which was the last Japanese stronghold in the city.

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## Yanks Storm Toward Trier; Saar Crossed

33 More Nazi Moselle River Towns  
Captured By American Forces

By JAMES M. LONG  
PARIS — (AP) — Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American Third Army, running high, wide and handsome again, stormed within five miles of Trier today, crossed the Saar River against disintegrated German resistance and swept up 33 more Nazi towns in the Moselle Valley.

Already tanks and infantry were within sight of the main defense works covering Trier, a city of 88,000, the key of the whole German defense system before the middle Rhine. They were a mile and a quarter from Koms, site of a large fort at the confluence of the Saar and Moselle Rivers.

While Patton's columns advanced three miles or more immediately north of the industrial Saar district, Lt. Gen. Alexander L. Patch's Seventh Army smashed into the district from the south, advancing to within two miles of Saarbrücken, the capital.

French gateway to Saarbrücken, from raw concrete of the Volturno River, which had already been entered. To the south, U. S. Seventh Army forces moved to within two miles of Saarbrücken. The Americans captured half of Saarbrücken, French gateway to the Saar capital. In the north, Canadians drove to within 2,000 yards of Calcar.

**CANADIANS PUSH**  
The Canadian First Army in the north pounded to within 2,000 yards of bitterly contested Calcar, the French gateway to the Ruhr Valley.

A report from Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's Fifth Army Group Headquarters said German resistance in the Saar-Moselle triangle, now virtually cleared, appeared "slightly disintegrated." The Saar crossing south of Saarbrücken was unopposed.

Despite the spectacular gains of the Third Army and the slow shipping progress of the British and Canadian troops in the north, it was evident that Gen. Eisenhower had not yet lost his full-scale offensive.

Between these forces was the greatest potential weight on the whole Western Front. The British Second, the American First and Ninth Armies — still waiting for respect, but moving — were now poised to reach the Rhine.

Reports reaching Bradley's headquarters told of a tremendous advance by the First Army, which had crossed the Rhine at the "Urtilla" Dam on the Roer, and was now moving toward the Ruhr.

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## Casualties Top 800,000

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Army and Navy casualties since Pearl Harbor, 1941, are estimated at 800,000, the two services reported today. Secretary of War Stimson set Army casualties at 525,000 and Navy casualties at 275,000.

The aggregate represented an increase of 18,562 over the previous report. The Army accounted for all but 877.

A breakdown on the Army casualties as reported this week and corresponding figures for last week:

Killed 139,723 and 135,531; wounded 402,465 and 408,553; prisoners 60,085 and 58,565; missing 92,223 and 90,785.

Stimson said 207,328 of the wounded had returned to duty. Similar figures for the Navy: Killed 32,823 and 32,823; wounded 47,783 and 46,071; prisoners 1,474 unchanged from the previous week; missing 10,246 and 10,221.

## Say Jap Cities Scouted By Planes

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  
American Superfortresses reconnoitered five major cities of Japan and more than half the western coast of Korea today. Tokyo radio reported that the reconnoitering was by the Federal Communications Commission.

Tokyo said no bombs were dropped by the planes, scouting industrial areas in Japan.

Maritime-based B-29's flew over Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe. The planes also scouted the main Japanese island of Honshu and favorite Superfort targets.

## WEATHER

Clearing and cooler tonight. Friday fair and moderately cool.

Temperature at 3:30 Today... 68  
High at 5:30... 74  
Low at 11:00... 58  
Sunset Today... 7:11  
Sunrise Tomorrow... 6:48

## Rankin Vs. Hook House Floor Scrap Brief And Bloodless

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Two Democrats locked in a brief struggle on the House floor today after Rep. Rankin, Democrat, Mississippi, charged that two of our aircraft carriers were sunk.

"I don't take that talk from anyone," shouted the small, round-faced Rankin, who dashed across the aisle to lock his arms around Hook's neck.

The two struggled for almost a minute before fellow Congressmen separated them. Hook's demands were struck down from the record at the direction of Rep. Ransawer, Democrat, Georgia.

The clash occurred while Rep. Hoffman, Republican, Michigan, was delivering a speech on the CIO bill.

Hook took the men connected with the PAC and Rankin at his word, saying he would do better to get acquainted with "some of the good men in the 'C' and stop his 'con-tilting' ranting and raving."

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## Will Move Equipment

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The War Department, says Secretary Stimson, will transfer from Europe to the Pacific, after Germany falls, the maximum equipment which can be used effectively against Japan.

Stimson, in a letter which appears in the Congressional Record today, contradicted statements by highly placed but anonymous government officials who said troops shifted from Europe to the Pacific theater would leave behind the bulk of their equipment in the interest of speed and would be sent to the Pacific.

The latter report, and particularly an Associated Press story that the War Department was submitting to Stimson by Representative Engel, Republican, Michigan, a bill to transfer the War Secretary state whether or not he had adopted such a policy.

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## Battered Capital Ready For Death Stand Against Reds

By JEROME GRANBERG  
Swedish Newspaper Correspondent  
Written For The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — (AP) — I have just left Berlin, city of the doomed, where the fatal arrival of German Army deserters helped spread the news of the German collapse.

The severest punishment was threatened for anyone hiding them. Berlin's fall may not come as fast as most persons seem to believe, assuming the Russians are ready to concentrate their whole strength against the ruins of Berlin instead of cutting off the city with part of their forces and using the rest for other strategic aims. It certainly will be a question of weeks before they have forced the German defense back as far as the city proper. The first breakthrough will be a decisive one.

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## Eyewitness Report From Berlin

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## Mecklenburg Casualties

(Stories Inside)

## Western Front

By German admission, the Russians have broken into the Gdansk region, 100 miles southeast of Berlin on the Neisse River. And a Nazi commentator says the Third Army is carrying tremendous pressure on German forces.