

FR Returns To U.S. With Hopes High For Lasting Peace

Soviet Army In Smashing Advance On Baltic Sea

By RICHARD KASISCHKE

LONDON—(AP)—The Second White Russian Army driving toward the Baltic has captured Neustettin, Marshal Stalin announced tonight, and Berlin said it had raced over 30 miles northward to Pothow, within 15 miles of severing the escape route of Nazis battling in eastern Pomerania and the Polish Corridor.

The Germans earlier announced evacuation of Neustettin.

Stalin's order of the day also proclaimed capture of Pothow, 12 miles north of Bublitz and only 20 miles from the Baltic. It is 15 miles from the coastal town of Danzig.

The Russian advance toward Berlin said the Russians had reached Pothow and a military spokesman called the "breakthrough in that area toward Koenigsberg" the "most dramatic event of the last 24 hours."

The Russian Baltic-bound Red Army vanguards were constantly covered by the Red Fleet, the spokesman said.

The German "Finn" Command announced that Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian Army had expanded its "breakthrough" south of Koenigsberg, 50 miles east of Berlin.

Premier Quits In Rumanian Crisis

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Premier Ion Niculescu of Rumania has resigned, the Bucharest radio announced today, in a crisis in which the Government has been under attack from the rightist National Democratic Front.

The resignation followed by a few hours the disclosure that Andrei Vichinskiy, Soviet Vice Premier and Soviet Affairs, had arrived in the Rumanian capital.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front

Allied armies are racing eastward across the Rhine plain in the biggest breakthrough since Normandy.

Associated Press Correspondent Dan Whitehead says there are strong indications that the campaign of making only a rear-guard fight to the Rhine. The First Army has crossed the Elbe River in a hard-fighting advance, according to reports from the front.

The First Army is less than 50 miles from the edge of Cologne. To the north, the Ninth Army has penetrated Düsseldorf, in the western part of the Rhine. In the center, the Ninth Army has crossed the Rhine, in the center of the Rhine.

Air Warfare

The non-stop aerial offensive against German communications has been carried into its third week by a strike of five major aircraft.

States heavy bombers blasted targets in a 100-mile circle behind the Rhine. A second strike of four bombers, striking a benzol plant near Gelsenkirchen, was launched by the First Army.

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Home Front

President Roosevelt returned to Washington today after a week in the field, arriving in the capital by a special train from an East Coast port where he reached last night by cruiser. On his history-making trip to the Crimea conference, where he met with Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin, the President covered 14,000 miles and was gone five weeks.

Associated Press Correspondent Douglas Cornell says that Mr. Roosevelt returned with buoyant hopes for an enduring peace and a world-wide reduction of armaments.

Another of his peripatetic meetings with Churchill, after the San Francisco party has finished its work, the British frequently have suggested that the President visit London.

Mr. Roosevelt came ashore at an East Coast port last night and reached Washington this morning by special train. He left here January 22 for eight days of non-stop talks on war and peace in the East Coast port.

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Senate Majority leader, Charles McNary, said today that President Roosevelt will make his report to Congress on the "Big Three" conference at 12:50 P. M. (EST) tomorrow.

Mr. McNary will deliver the report in person to a joint assembly of the House and Senate in the House chamber. It will be broadcast.

On the round trip were in Alaska, Egypt and Algeria. In Egypt, the President conferred with King Farouk and with the British and French.

The return trip included a speed run through the Straits of Gibraltar.

See ROOSEVELT on Page 11

Long Trip Ends

President Back From Conference

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt returned today from the Crimean conference with buoyant hopes for an enduring peace and world-wide reduction of armaments.

Back from a five-week, 14,000-mile journey to Russia by cruiser and plane, Mr. Roosevelt planned a report to Congress on the "Big Three" conference at 12:50 P. M. (EST) tomorrow.

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See ROOSEVELT on Page 11

Great Tokyo Area Ruined By B-29's

By LEIF ERICKSON

21ST BOMBER COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Guam

(AP)—Two hundred and forty city blocks of Tokyo are in smoldering, twisted ruins today as a result of Sunday's Superfortress raid, 21st Bomber Command headquarters announced today.

The greatest punishment yet dealt the Japanese nation's proud capital was inflicted without the loss of one single plane of the more than 200 which participated in the raid.

Admiral Curtis LeMay, commander of the Superfortresses, after studying the reconnaissance photographs said the results were "excellent."

The photos show 2,000,000 square feet of important factory and trade areas burned out. This is 600 acres.

In comparison, New York's United Nations City-Radio Center covers a smaller area of less than 12 acres.

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Yanks Blast Two's Wild Jap Hordes

Marines Launch New Offensive

By LEIF ERICKSON

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam

(AP)—Marines along a line bisecting two kept terrific pressure today on the Japanese in a supreme effort to crack a foe known to be short of water and believed to be huddling in ammunition.

After noticeably slackening artillery and mortar fire Monday, the Japanese lost a heavy barrage Tuesday at Lushan, straightening out their line with slight advances north up high ground flanked by pillboxes and blockhouses.

The Marine line, manned by three divisions, cuts across the island's center at the north end of the lighter airfield where the Japanese still hold a fighting group after a week of battling over that base.

JAPS HOLE UP

As the fight for the island entered its tenth day, Japanese dug in on the higher northern heights still showed a marked power to resist, although they have been shelled incessantly from the sea, bombed from the air and pounded by artillery.

The even have tanks left on the barren island where enemy positions have been taken by the Marines.

The Marines have taken the island's center at the north end of the lighter airfield where the Japanese still hold a fighting group after a week of battling over that base.

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First Army Six And Half Miles From Big City

German Retreat Across Rhine Plain Virtually A Rout

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS—(AP)—First Army tanks and infantry battled within 6 1/2 miles of Cologne tonight after throwing three bridgeheads across the Ert River. Only flat plains lay ahead to the great city of the Rhine.

With Ninth Army sweeps through disordered German resistance imperiled the Ruhr administrative center of Dusseldorf, already in artillery range.

German west of the Rhine "realize the jig is up and are withdrawing their artillery," a Ninth Army officer said at dusk.

In the center, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army captured the military highway center of Bonn—the "strategic of Germany."

Third Army tanks were curving about Aachen Trier in an encircle through.

The Germans retreated across the Rhine plain before the massive growing might of the American First and Ninth Armies in the biggest breakthrough since the Battle of the Marne.

The First Army crossed the Rhine near Moudra, 1-2 miles south of Cologne, and encountered German resistance south of the river.

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