

# AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS

## U. S. Landing On Mindanao Reported By Tokyo Radio

### Second Largest Philippine Isle

By Associated Press  
American forces have landed on Mindanao island after a heavy bombardment from a Naval task force which included four battleships, twenty other craft, the Tokyo radio said today.

Mindanao is the second largest island of the Philippines.

A Tokyo broadcast, heard in London by the Associated Press, gave this "flash":

"Formy trying to land at Zamboanga at Mindanao since March 8."

It added:

"The landing was preceded by a heavy bombardment. The attacking 30 enemy ships appeared from the west. Soon afterward three destroyers, four battleships, 20 other ships and 20 landing boats were being off Zamboanga."

## Modern Crucifixion Chicagoan Found Nailed To Cross

CHICAGO—A man was found crucified today with a crown of thorns on his head and a minor wound in his side.

Police Capt. Patrick O'Connell said the man, identified as Fred Walscher, 42, was found nailed to a cross early today. The cross, of 2 by 6 planks joined with new bolts, was fastened upright to a pillar of the elevated railroad structure on the rear north side.

Temporary nails were driven through Walscher's palms and into the horizontal timbers. His arms were spread-eagled, but his feet, instead of being nailed as were Christ's, were supported by ropes and the weight of his body was taken by a rope around his chest.

Thumbtacks to the head of the cross was a crudely-inked sign—simulating the sign at Christ's head—which read:

"Peace on Earth—the Brother of Jesus Christ. This good man is chosen to sacrifice by the noblest and greatest and most inspiring for world peace. Let's all follow for the good of mankind (sic), God bless him, Amen. By the Unknown World Controllers."

O'Connell reported Walscher had a crude crown, fashioned of the thorny stems of a rose bush, on his head. A superficial wound of a razor or similar instrument, was found on the left breast, apparently an attempt to simulate the spear thrust of a Roman soldier 1800 years ago.

Walscher was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, where Dr. Paul Sam Filippi reported his condition poor, and later removed to the county jail hospital for observation.

O'Connell said he was dissatisfied with Walscher's replies to questioning, and said the man at first gave no account of his experience:

"A man came to his basement bedroom about 11 P. M. last night and said there had been an accident at a neighboring intersection. Walscher went with him and under the structure they were with some solid."

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See CHICAGOAN on Page 4

## Reds Again Make Entry In Kuestrin

### Bitter Battle In Oder Fortress

By RICHARD KASISCHKE  
LONDON—(AP)—The troops of Marshal Georgy Zhukov in their offensive toward Berlin have fought into Kuestrin a second time, the Germans reported today, and a bitter battle is raging in the ancient streets of the Oder River fortress.

Russian tanks and infantry attacked 17 times from the northwestern part of the city—which the Germans said yesterday had been bypassed on the north and south by the Russians who had driven across the Oder to within 25 miles of Berlin—but were finally driven back to the suburbs, a German broadcast announced.

Kuestrin, 30 miles east of Berlin, was first reported penetrated about a week ago, before the momentum of Zhukov's drive from Warsaw was spent.

The Russians, however, had not yet contained officially the crossing of the Oder—an announcement which would signal that the Allies in the east as well as in the west had joined battle with the Nazis in the heart of Germany.

To the north the Russians pushed forward from an arc eight miles southeast, east and northeast of Berlin. Battle post of Stettin and rushed up boats and landing craft for an assault on the mouth of the Oder Lake which fronts Stettin on the east.

Moscow dispatches said a crossing which would outflank Stettin on the north and threaten a northern sweep around Berlin, might succeed, have been made along the southern bank of the Oder between the lake and Stettin Bay.

Soviet bombers tossed a torrent of bombs and fire on German naval forces, had destroyed and destroyed an important bridge near Altdamm, the Stettin suburb on the east side of the Oder outlet.

The Germans admitted the assault had reached the port's "outer defense zone" and declared German naval forces had joined the battle along Stettin Bay.

## Gerow Leader U. S. 15th Army Is On Continent

PARIS—(AP)—The U. S. 15th Army is on the continent and under the command of Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, according to a German broadcast tonight.

Gerow was commander of the First Army at the time of the Normandy campaign, when the First Army was commanded by Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, now 12th Army Group Commander.

The 15th is the ninth army under Gen. Eisenhower's command.

## Yanks Seize Remagen Railroad Span Intact

PARIS—(AP)—The American First Army steadily enlarged its Remagen bridgehead in inner Germany today to an east bank wedge at least five miles deep and ten wide.

Daring armored infantrymen of the Ninth Armored Division captured the double-tracked Ludendorff railroad bridge at Remagen and swiftly raced along its 1,200-foot length into the steep cliffs of Erpel, 276 miles southwest of Berlin and 30 southeast of Cologne.

Tanks quickly followed the foot troops, aware of the danger that the Germans at any second might blow up the structure. The Sherman reached the span at 3:50 Wednesday, it is possible to disclose for the first time tonight.

In a matter of seconds after the infantry company commanded by a Jersey City Lieutenant, Emmet J. Burrows, had seized the Ludendorff bridge, the Ninth Armored Division was racing across and fanning out in all directions.

GERMAN HEART MENACED  
The great Ruhr basin was in imminent peril of being outflanked; the very heart of Germany was menaced.

Some explosions accompanied the Ninth Armored Division's dash across the Rhine and caused slight damage to the bridge. Wires to explosive charges were cut swiftly before any more than superficial harm was done.

Repairs under German fire were started immediately.

Erpel (pop. 1,000), at the east end of the bridge, was swiftly overrun and the tanks and foot troops swarmed into the Balastische hills beyond. A German medic surrendered the town and 600 wounded Germans and a few American prisoners in it.

NAZIS STUNNED  
The Germans were stunned almost into paralysis. Hundreds laid down their arms. White flags flapped along the entire route of the Ninth Armored Division's charges.

When night fell Wednesday, all roads west of the Rhine leading to the Ludendorff bridge were choked with trucks of troops and shells, tanks self-propelled guns—every kind of military equipment in easy reach. The steady stream of east-bound military traffic since the bridge had never experienced since Napoleon crossed 140 years ago continued through the night, yesterday and today.

VERY VALUABLE SPAN  
Only one-way traffic crossed the bridge in much the same way. Infantry and armor was across. Engineers were repairing and strengthening the span, a task termed more valuable to Gen. Eisenhower than Cologne or any other Rhine city.

By German account, the American First Army had been halted before the easted east bank town of Remagen, three miles east of Remagen.

The buildup in the Rhineland hills was swift and under a protective cover of fighter planes and anti-aircraft fire, which the surprised enemy still had been unable to stiffen.

Remagen is about midway between the Ruhr basin and the Rhine.

Two prisoners were taken on the bridge itself.

Within two hours hundreds of other prisoners were laying down their arms and continuing the situation by cutting up the position on the east bank while it was still barely a foothold.

White flags, already flapping along the entire route of the Ninth Armored's drive, began to appear in Erpel on the east bank.

The inhabitants here, with the Rhine most protecting them, had made no more toward evacuation.

A German medic came out of town and surrendered to the Ninth Armored's medic, Henryetta, Ohio, and asked him to come and take over the whole town. Gible did not drive on the east bank.

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## Japs Squeezed Advance On Iwo Slow And Tough

By MORRIS LANDSBERG  
ABOARD ADMIRAL TURNER'S EXPEDITIONARY FORCE FLAGSHIP, Iwo Jima—(Via Navy Radio)—(AP)—Japanese remnants contested the American advance "rock by rock" today in the slow moving continuation of the Marine effort to dislodge the enemy from sheltered positions in the rugged northern part of Iwo Jima Island.

The Marines have all of the island with the exception of the extreme northern end and a sector some thousand yards long on the northeast coast.

The Fifth, Third and Fourth Marine Divisions, stretched across the island in that order, reported only small gains in fighting yesterday.

The enemy was surprised Tuesday by a Marine attack but failed in time to impede the advance.

push by Leathernecks seeking to outflank Japanese troops in the main sectors of the north.

The Fourth Division on the northeast coast reported some Japanese withdrawing from caves on their immediate front where the opposition has been continuously heavy.

Fifth Division men were slowly reducing enemy pillboxes but were subjected to heavy mortar fire. Tanks were called in to help knock out the positions from where the fire was coming.

## 12 More Ships Sunk By Subs

WASHINGTON—(AP)—United States submarines have sunk twelve enemy vessels, including an escort carrier and a destroyer, in the western waters, the Navy announced today.

The announcement raised to 1,057 the total of enemy vessels of all types sunk by U. S. submarines in the Pacific since the war began in December, 1941, and 945 non-combatant craft.

Non-combatant ships included in today's announcement included a large cargo transport, a large tank, two medium cargo transports, five medium cargo vessels and a small cargo transport.

## Hitler Visits Oder Front

LONDON—(AP)—The German radio said today that Hitler had visited the Oder River front.

The Transocean agency said he personally examined himself personally the fighting on the Oder.

"A number of photos of the visit have been published in the German press," it added.

The broadcast also said that Hitler had inspected the German defensive measures. It did not specify the date of the visit.

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## Heroic Doughboys Intrepid Yanks Get That Bridge

By HOWARD COWAN  
ACROSS THE RHINE—(AP)—A daring band of armored infantrymen, utterly ignoring the fact that the 1,200-foot steel road and rail bridge might blow up in their faces, raced across the Rhine at Remagen and saved the Allies the costly price of an amphibious invasion of inner Germany.

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## Weather

Clear and mild this afternoon with a few clouds. Temperature near freezing Saturday and warmer.

Temperature at 2:30 Today 53  
High & Low Last 24 Hours... 53, 38  
Temperature at 2:30 Yesterday 52  
Sunrise Tomorrow 7:11

## News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Western Front**  
The clash of Jerry has been lifted from the American First Army's crossing of the Rhine to several miles of the west bank, where episodes and probably one of the most decisive.

Supreme Headquarters now has announced officially that the crossing was made from the town of Remagen to Erpel on the east bank of the Rhine. This crossing links in 20 miles southeast of Cologne and 276 miles southeast of Berlin. And of tremendous significance is the fact that the Ninth Armored captured intact the double-tracked Ludendorff bridge at Remagen to the steep cliffs on the east bank.

From Associated Press Correspondent Edward Ball comes word that the American Third Army has won domination of the Rhine River north of Cologne. In a dispatch sent from before the city of Cologne, Ball says the Third Army Yanks have seized the ferry terminal of Antwerp and the town of Burchell. Toward the right bank south of Remagen, the First Army troops have crossed the Rhine by bridge.

## Russian Front

Eastern front news is coming principally from the Germans who say the Russians have broken into the Oder River, fortress of Kuestrin, and are pushing toward Berlin. The German radio said Adolf Hitler has visited the Oder River front. For his part, Moscow has little to say about the sector in front of Berlin but tells of new contacts toward the Baltic port of Stettin. Marshal Stalin also has announced the capture of Stolz, a rail town 44,000 in northeastern Poland, ten miles from the Baltic.

## The Pacific

In the Far East, a Japanese shell landed within 25 feet of American General Dan Sultan at Eniwetok, today but he could capture unharmed. There still is no confirmation of Japanese claims that an American invasion of Iwo Jima Island in the southern Philippines has started. Meanwhile, the Marines on Iwo Island have split Japanese forces on the island in two.

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# Road To Berlin—And Home Flood-Tide Of U. S. Power Rolls Over Rhine

scattered German fire to meet the great counter-attacks which the Germans are certain to make unless they are ready to concede that the war is lost.

GERMANS FUMBLE  
The Germans fumbled. They were caught by surprise—caught, flat-footed by the great amphibious which has turned into a brilliant coup.

There is rugged beauty at the site of the crossing—where bluffs and rolling green hills above the silver river. But that very ruggedness could have made this crossing site all but impregnable, had the Germans been the best they could muster was the bitter-tempered artillery fire and this has been ineffective in halting the advance of the American power plunger.

The narrow and winding roads to the crossing were made by military traffic. Patient infantrymen in jeeps traveled at snail's pace in driving rain. Military police swarmed, shouted and swore at the traffic jams on every crossing, but the doughboys' plod little attention.

These were tired and muddy men in mud-spattered vehicles.

They joked because all American soldiers joke in the shadow of danger. They knew they were going to cross the Rhine, and everyone wanted to be among the first, and they joked about this. But there was tenseness in this elation. They are certain the Germans still have a last effort store and note of the American want to get killed now, but victory was clearly in sight.

"HURRY UP AND WAIT"  
Even in such a historic event as the crossing of the Rhine, the infantrymen were resigned to the truth of that old Army adage: "Hurry up and wait."

They had little eye for the beauty around him—the deep valleys with quaint, ancient villages nestled among them, the towering church spires, the imposing castles—because the beauty has been obscured by the scores of knocked-out German vehicles and military equipment littering the stream of the little village. These German vehicles were being pushed ahead—blasted—they were late in getting back across the Rhine.

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