

JAP WARSHIPS SUNK IN BATTLE OFF OKINAWA

Hannover And Bremen Nearing In Big Drives

WITH U. S. FIRST ARMY—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' infantry crossed the Weser River northeast of Kassel today, the third Allied army to open the last major water obstacle before the Elbe. Tank columns thrust ahead seven miles to Helmshausen, 30 miles east of Paderborn.

PARIS — (AP) — American tanks struck within 10 miles of Hannover today in a breakout from their Weser bridgehead, and British armor fought less than 12 miles from the great port of Bremen.

Both Allied advances hearing down on the great Northern German cities still were going strong this afternoon. The U. S. Ninth Army lashed out from Hameln on the Weser River and careened eight miles toward Hannover (472,600). The British plumes carried 35 miles, flanking Bremen (342,000) and hitting to within 60 miles of Hamburg, Germany's third city.

The German High Command declared a fierce battle was raging in the U. S. Third Army territory east of Muehlhausen and within 130 miles of less of Berlin.

The German-reported battle is near the Eisleben area, where enemy broadcasts yesterday announced airborne operations within 50 miles of the Reich capital. Third Army correspondents said they were unable to confirm or deny the Eisleben sector operations.

A spectacular 35-mile drive by the British Seventh Armored Division carried to a point less than a dozen miles southeast of Bremen, a front ditch said, and also topped the crossroads town of Schwarfoerden, 22 miles due south of the city of 342,000.

British tanks in twin drives charged from Diepholz, 35 miles southwest of Bremen, in a beeline toward Hamburg, Germany's third city of 1,622,000.

Canadian armored columns were lunging through Holland, and already were 16 miles from the Zuider Zee and within nine miles of Snijeping the last German rail escape from the big western Holland cities.

Well to the south, American First Army troops pushed another seven miles to a point 12 miles east of Kassel. Other First and Second Army units are in a salt mine by the Third Army.

WESTERN FRONT—Routed Germans still fled toward the Elbe River through the Central German plain before intensified Allied pressure. London is thankful; Canadians' drive, clearing the "rocket coast," hit Emden's outer defenses. British armor surged within 12 miles of Bremen, citadel port. Tanks across the Weser are hammering environs of Hannover. Berlin reported U. S. tanks and paratroops at Eisleben, near Halle, 90 miles from Berlin. Great tank attack is developing on arc before Erfurt. Americans' push toward Nuernberg is slowed to permit mop-up. Ruhr encirclement steadily is tightened upon German horde. White line limits major Allied advances; arrows indicate major offensives.



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44 German Planes Fall

LONDON — (AP) — At least 44 German planes were shot down today as the Nazis pressed frantic attacks against the American heavy bombers and 250 fighters making a sweep of airfields, ammunition dumps and railroads ahead of the Allied advance across northern Germany.

The number of German planes destroyed was expected to mount considerably as the 44 represented claims from only a part of the fighter groups and not from the bomber, a U. S. Air Force staff officer said.

Heavy combat occurred within 50 miles of Hamburg, in the district where several of today's targets were located.

Other targets were Italian-based planes of the 10th Air Force at communications in Northern Italy for the third straight day.

Other targets were aircraft in the Danube River east of Vienna, which had been smashed, and that the Soviets also were attempting to cross the Danube between Vienna and Hamburg, 25 miles to the east.

Clear this afternoon and tonight with scattered light frost tonight. Sunday fair and warmer. Temperature at 2:30 Today: 53 High at Low Last 24 Hours: 52; 53 (Sunday Today: 7-50) (Sunday Tomorrow: 7-50)

Soviet Army Wins Bitter Battle Suburb Of Vienna

LONDON — (AP) — Russian troops have captured Moedling, southern suburb of Vienna, after bloody house to house fighting and the fiercest combat inside the Austrian capital is raging in the eastern quarter where most of the city's utility plants are located, a German broadcast said tonight.

Soviet veterans of Stalingrad and Budapest had battered to within four miles of St. Stephen's Church in the center of Vienna. They were battling heavily-armed Germans who resisted stubbornly.

German officers also declared the Russians had captured 20 miles east of Vienna and reached St. Ploeten on the road to Linz. The retreating spearheads were wiped out, DNB added.

The broadcast said several Russian bridgeheads thrown over the Danube River east of Vienna had been smashed, and that the Soviets also were attempting to cross the Danube between Vienna and Hamburg, 25 miles to the east.

Jimmy Stewart Full Colonel LONDON — (AP) — Movie Actor Jimmie Stewart, who enlisted in the Army Air Force as a private, is now a full colonel.

He is serving as chief of staff for a U. S. Eighth Air Force combat wing consisting of several bomber groups. He came to the European theater of operations sixteen months ago as a B-24 pilot with the rank of captain.

Huge B-29 Force Hits Japan Cities

Fighters Protect Tokyo Raiders By LEIF ERICKSON

GUAM — (AP) — A new phase in the aerial war against the Japanese homeland opened today as the war's greatest B-29 force attacked Tokyo and Nagoya protected for the first time by land-based fighter planes.

Two of the P-51 Mustang fighters from newly captured Iwo Jima were lost as they spearheaded the Superfortresses' devastating demolition bombs on two large aircraft factories. The fighter pilots were credited with shooting down 21 enemy interceptors, probably downing six others and damaging 18.

A flight of 1,908 planes was made by the Mustangs in the round trip from Iwo to Tokyo.

The big bombers went in at medium altitudes to clear roads by indicating visual bombing of their targets, the Nakajima-Bombing Aircraft Plant in western Tokyo and the Mitsubishi aircraft plant at Nagoya.

An Imperial Japanese communiqué said 270 planes were in the raiding force, 120 over Tokyo and 150 at Nagoya. No claim was made by the Japanese of any U. S. planes being downed but a Domei agency dispatch said four or five "enemy" planes were downed over Tokyo.

The Mustangs were units of the Seventh Fighter Command, headed by Brig. Gen. Ernest M. Moore, recently established headquarters on the islands 750 miles south of Tokyo.

This is the first time Army Air Force fighters ever have been over Japan, and we had to go a long way to do it," General Moore said.

Jap Cabinet Organized

SAN FRANCISCO — Japan's third War Cabinet was formed today amid the roar of demolition bombs bursting in Tokyo on the greatest land-based air raid ever mounted against Japan.

The Japanese Debut News Agency announced that Premier Adm. Baron Kantaro Suzuki appointed himself Foreign Minister and Chief Cabinet Officer, two of the most important posts in the Cabinet.

NAVY MINISTER KEPT Adm. Mitsumasa Yonai was retained as Navy Minister although under his administration the Imperial Navy suffered two disastrous defeats in Philippine waters and lost more than 100 admirals.

Gen. Korojima Anami, recently appointed director general of Army Aviation Headquarters, was appointed War Minister. Both Yonai and Anami had the blessing of the controlling military cliques of their respective services.

Planes Smash Nips' 'Banzai' Naval Charge

Nip Superbattleship Among Victims Of American Carrier Plane Blows By ELMONT WAITE

GUAM, Sunday — (AP) — U. S. Navy carrier aircraft smashed probably the last strong Japanese naval force, including the super-battleship Yamato, in the East China Sea Saturday as the Japanese steamed out apparently in a "banzai" effort to turn the tide of war.

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced from his headquarters here that the battle was fought around noon Saturday, Japanese time (11 P. M., Friday, EWT), 391 PLANES DESTROYED

The communiqué reported six Japanese warships, including the Yamato, and 391 enemy planes were destroyed in Friday and Saturday sea and air actions.

In Washington an official Navy spokesman said "a good 25 per cent of the remaining Japanese major combat force" was lost or put out of action in the engagement.

U. S. Pacific fleet losses were listed as three destroyers sunk, several other destroyers and smaller craft damaged and seven carrier planes destroyed.

The Japanese initiated the two days of desperate action in efforts to shatter the American amphibious force invading Okinawa Island, some 325 miles south of the Nippon homeland.

A large force of Japanese aircraft attacked the invasion ships and Okinawa shore positions Friday. The communiqué said the desperate Japanese airmen succeeded in sinking three destroyers and damaging the other warships. U. S. fighter planes and gunners brought down 116 Japanese planes.

The Japanese surface force—representing probably about all that remained of the Emperor's once proud combined fleets—was sighted heading into the East China Sea from Nippon's Inland Sea bases by U. S. Fleet Air Wing One search craft before noon Saturday.

MOVE TO INTERCEPT Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher immediately sent his carrier task force to intercept the Japanese.

The carrier planes struck the Nippon force "during the middle of the day" only 50 miles southwest of Kyushu Island, which is a part of the Japanese homeland.

There was no air opposition over the Japanese ships—even that close to the heart of Nippon's empire—indicating the Nipponese had used all available aircraft in the heavy attack on Okinawa the previous day.

Swarming in from all directions, despite heavy gun fire from the ships, the American planes sent their deadly torpedoes and bombs into the hulls and decks of the Japanese force.

The 45,000-ton Yamato—which the U. S. communiqué said was the "most powerful ship in the Japanese Navy"—went down belching smoke and fire from at least three torpedoes and eight heavy bomb hits.

Other Craft Sunk Also sunk were a light Agano class cruiser, one other small light cruiser or large destroyer and three destroyers. Three other destroyers were left burning.

About three destroyers' worth of enemy ships were all that escaped from the attack.

Nimitz announced that units of Mitscher's carrier force in the Saturday battle were commanded by Rear Adm. F. C. Sherman, A. W. Blandford, G. P. Bogan and J. Clark.

The Yamato was the fifth Japanese battleship definitely reported sunk in the war. It was 269 feet long and had a main battery of 16-inch guns.

Two-Minute News Roundup

The Pacific The elusive Japanese Fleet at last has come out again to fight and again it has been defeated by the mighty American Fleet. Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief, has just announced the results of the great sea and air battle which took place off the Ryukyu Islands only 50 miles southwest of Japan. The battle opened Friday afternoon, Japanese time. Strong forces of Japanese planes attacked American carriers and shore installations in the vicinity of Okinawa and sank the three destroyers, but 116 Japanese planes were shot down. The battleship Yamato was sent down with eight aerial torpedoes and eight bombs. Actual attacks also accounted for the five other enemy warships. From the wreckage of the communiqué, apparently there were no direct gun battles between Japanese and American warships.

In ground fighting on Okinawa, Marines pushing northward up the narrow isthmus in the middle of the island have advanced nearly three miles. Army forces in the south have been slowed by Japanese defenses about four miles west of the capital of Naha.

WESTERN FRONT In Western Europe, tanks of the American Ninth Army have broken through the German lines and are about to reach a point ten miles from the industrial center of Hannover. The Communists are within 12 miles beyond captured Kassel and the 4th and 9th are compressing the Ruhr pocket where possibly 100,000 Germans are trapped. The Third Second Army has dashed 25 miles to a point 12 miles from Bremen, and 60 miles from Hamburg, great port on the Elbe. The Communists are within 10 miles of the Zuider Zee. The toll of enemy prisoners yesterday alone was more than 40,000.

RUSSIAN FRONT The German radio says the Russians have captured another southern suburb of Vienna, and that their fighting is reaching within the city in the eastern quarter.

The Germans also say that the Russians have sent a separate report westward 29 miles beyond Vienna and have reached the Danube at St. Ploeten (Erfurt), a city of 300,000 on the main road from Vienna to Berlin (Erfurt).

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