

Drive Into Ruhr Opened by Allies

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Soviets Take Silesian Hubs

Czech Border Is Cut As Other Red Forces Push Drive on Berlin

LONDON, March 24 (UP)—Marshal Ivan S. Konev's first Ukrainian army today captured the south Silesian strongholds of Neisse and Leobschuetz, opening up the border area of Czechoslovakia.

Marshal Stalin issued two orders of the day announcing Konev's victories and a new offensive in Hungary that broke the defense line between Lake Balaton and the Danube, overrunning Szekesfehervar and 350 other towns in advances up to 43 miles.

Neisse is 43 miles southeast of Breslau and Leobschuetz is 28 miles to the southeast. Both are major rail junctions. Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin's third Ukrainian army beat off attacks by 11 German tank divisions southwest of Budapest before swinging over to the offensive that broke through toward Vienna.

Tolbukhin's forces captured more than 6,000 prisoners in the offensive which overran Mor, 36 miles southwest of Budapest and 74 miles from the Austrian border, and Vaspreim, 60 southwest of Budapest, as well as Szekesfehervar, the anchor base of the Balaton-Danube line.

City of Union Is 15 Percent Over Red Cross Quota

Topping its quota by more than 15 per cent, the city of Union today had reported total collections for the American Red Cross war fund of \$2,334.25, with an original quota of \$2,000.

G. I. Hess, Union campaign chairman, declared that the drive in that area is now nearly completed with only a few persons still to be solicited.

"We want Union to go over the top as much as possible, however," he said, "and urge all who have not yet contributed to do so at once, without waiting to be solicited."

"Our workers here had done a splendid job and I want to express my commendation of their efforts."

Starkey Passes Quota

Residents of the Starkey district contributed \$402.63 to the 1945 Red Cross war fund, 15 percent more than their quota. This was reported today by Mrs. Frank Fehrmann, district campaign chairman, in announcing completion of the solicitation there.

She reported that Red Cross women of the district provided See CITY ... Page 7

Japs Lunch Drive To Protect Route Through China

CHUNGKING, March 24 (UP)—Six columns of Japanese troops supported by waves of planes converged on the air base town of Lohokow today in an offensive designed to protect the corridor bisecting China.

Front line dispatches reported the enemy spearheaded the attack with "large numbers" of motorized vehicles, tanks and heavy artillery.

Lohokow, 230 air miles northwest of Hankow, is situated on the Han river in northwest Hupeh province. Advancing elements of the Japanese ground forces were reported approximately 60 air miles from their objective.

Fighters and bombers of the 14th air force rose to challenge this new enemy drive. A communiqué announced dive-bombing attacks were carried out against columns of Japanese tanks, cavalry and trucks in the Tsehsin sector of southwest Honan province.

Felon Faces Life Prison Term as Habitual Criminal

Facing the possibility of life imprisonment as an habitual criminal, George W. Durham will appear before Circuit Judge R. J. Green at 10 a. m. Monday for sentence on a conviction of being a felon in possession of firearms.

Boone Gason, Portland, defense attorney, has notified the court he will file a motion for a new trial and has said he will carry the case to the supreme court if necessary.

District Attorney C. R. Eberhard has filed an information accusing Durham of being an habitual criminal, conviction on which would entail a life sentence in the state prison.

Durham was arrested in Union county after escaping from the state prison in Salem, where he was serving a term on a Multnomah county conviction. A revolver was found in his possession at that time, leading to his conviction in the local court a month ago.

Japs Flee into Hills as Yanks Close on Baguio

Naguilian and Its Airfield Are Doughboy Prize

MANILA, March 24 (UP)—Japanese troops were reported fleeing into the western Luzon hills today before American 33rd division forces which overran Naguilian and its airfield and thrust to less than 10 miles from the enemy stronghold of Baguio.

Naguilian, which had a pre-war population of 15,000, was taken against only minor resistance. Its airfield provided another base for Gen. Douglas MacArthur's bombers which sank or damaged 11 more Japanese ships, including two destroyers and a minesweeper, in new attacks through the China sea.

(Tokyo radio said the Americans had concentrated four divisions on the mountainous area south of Balete pass, and were building a "road" indicating their intentions of penetrating into Cagayan valley.)

Bitter fighting continued in north-central Luzon, where American troops were closing a two-way drive on Balete pass, escape route into the Cagayan valley. Four sharp counterattacks were repulsed by the Yanks as they moved within four miles north and south of the pass.

In the fighting east of Manila, the 43rd division advanced to one mile from the town of New Boso, east of the shattered Japanese Shimbu line, while the Sixth division steadily compressed enemy pockets at the northern end of the line against machine-gun and mortar fire.

On southern Luzon, the 125th combat regiment cleared the enemy from Cuenca and Mt. Maco, southeast of Lake Taal, and pushed on to Dita, two miles northeast of Cuenca.

Governor Signs New Dairy Laws, Other Legislation

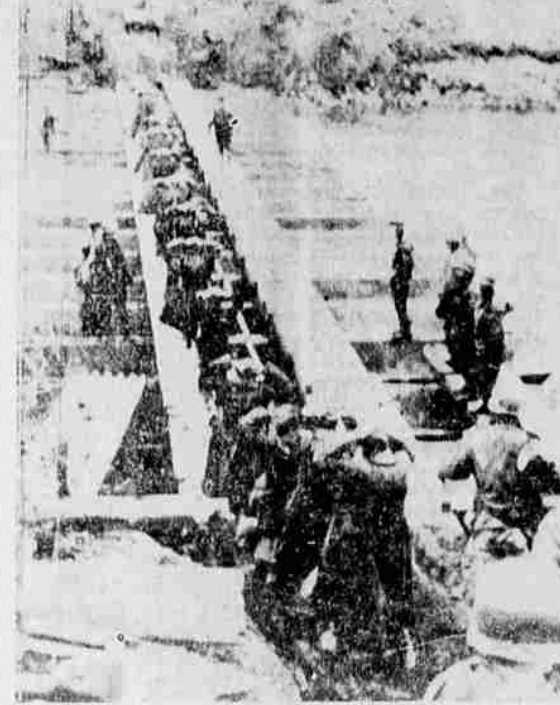
SALEM, Ore., March 24 (UP)—Thirty-nine new bills were signed by Gov. Earl Snell today. They included a group of seven appropriation bills, the "fish bill", cattle disease control and pasteurization bills, veterans loan bill, a community property measure, and the reapportionment bill.

The cattle and pasteurization bills (HB's 234 and 369) provide that all milk except that from certified disease-free herds must be pasteurized. Administrative machinery also is set up in the bills.

The fish bill (HB378)—Niskanen limit commercial fishing in a number of coastal streams. The bill also establishes the premise that shad, striped bass and salmon are primarily food fish, and that steelhead are primarily game fish.

The bill also calls for a study of the coral fishing situation by the fish and game commission.

Veterans Loans Provided House bill 227 allows savings and loans associations to make assured loans to veterans. The community property bill (SB7) allows persons who filed under See GOVERNOR ... Page 7



PRISONERS BAGGED IN SAAR CAPITAL.—An endless stream of Nazi prisoners taken in bitter fighting in outskirts of Saarbrücken, file across this bridge over Saar river under guard of 70th division infantrymen. This pontoon bridge was thrown across river to outflank the capital city of the Saar basin.

Umatilla Timber Situation

By BOYD L. RASMUSSEN, Forester, and CARL EWING, supervisor, Umatilla national forest.

(Editor's note—This is the final installment of an analysis of the timber situation in northeastern Oregon as prepared by officials of the United States forest service based upon recent surveys.)

As most people realize, 27 years in terms of tree growth is a very short time. It is also a short time in the life of an industry. After 27 years, then, and until the second growth pine is large enough to cut, all of the sawmills would be forced to close down, or as previously pointed out, continue a limited cut, using minor species.

From this it is evident that even though the national forest timber were used in such a manner, widespread shutdowns must eventually result and long before the second crop is ready to cut.

Thus, today the lumber industry is faced with a serious problem. How can the limited supply of mature timber be made to last until second-growth timber is large enough to cut?

The forest service believes that the supply of mature timber can most effectively be used to keep a portion of the lumber industry in operation until the time when the second growth timber is ready for harvest. For this reason the national forest timber cannot be thrown into the pot indiscriminately with no thought of the future.

This, instead of correcting the situation, would merely delay the time when the entire industry would have to close down. Rather it is planned that the national forest timber in this unit for the See FOREST ... Page 8

The cake baking ability of Ray Conner, Elgin, member of the crew of an American aircraft carrier in the Pacific, has won the plaudits of Ernie Pyle, famous correspondent, for whom Conner baked a masterpiece during the writer's second voyage aboard the vessel.

It seems Conner cleaned up his regular duties a little early and thought it would be a good idea to "build" a confection for dinner the next night.

The result was something unusual—so large in fact, that there was nothing on the ship large enough to serve it on, so the ship's carpenter fashioned a large board.

The huge white cake bore, in pink letters, the greeting "Welcome aboard, Mr. Pyle."

Conner, ship's baker second class, and son of Walter V. Conner, Elgin school teacher, was a student at Eastern Oregon college during the 1941-42 school year, following which he entered the navy.

"If I had to be in the navy," said Pyle, "I think I'd about as soon be a baker as anything else. The bake shop is always clean as a whistle, and it always smells good. And you are almost your own boss."

"Ray is quite satisfied with his lot in the navy, mainly because a bakery is so wonderfully clean."

Four Armies Slash Across Rhine In Push Aimed to End Conflict In Europe; Opposition Is Weak

PARIS, March 24 (UP)—Allied airborne and land armies joined forces east of the Rhine and north of the Ruhr today. The allies made a massive sweep across the Rhine and plunged steadily deeper into the plain of northwest Germany.

The greatest airborne attack in history paid dividends in short order. Brig Gen. Floyd L. Parks, chief of staff of the allied first airborne army, announced the junction of the sky army with Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Berlin-bound forces.

The whole Rhineland front before inner Germany is falling apart.

PARIS, March 24 (UP)—Four allied land and airborne armies swept across the Rhine on a broad front north of the Ruhr today and won a bridgehead more than three miles deep on the rim of the northwest German plain stretching east of Berlin.

Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's engineers at once began bridging the Rhine in a bid to establish a solid passage over Germany's breached western barrier for a win-the-war push into the heart of the reich.

Field dispatches this evening said the U. S. ninth army was driving east against light to moderate resistance. It consisted mostly of small arms fire, with forward elements running into growing artillery shelling.

An unofficial dispatch said Scottish commandos linked up with troops of the allied first airborne army. In the biggest single descent of the war, they had showered down on and behind the German positions while the land forces broke over the Rhine.

Dispatches reported heavy fighting along the Rees-Wesel stretch of the Rhine where the new bridgehead was bulging inland through a number of German towns and villages.

The ninth army took more than 700 prisoners by noon. The British second army reported taking more than 1,500 prisoners.

In the Mainz-Worms area at the other end of the Rhine front, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army was revealed to hold a bridgehead four miles deep across the Rhine. Patton's forces sprang the amphibious operation on the stunned Germans last night, and had a foothold over the Rhine before the Nazis knew what was happening.

Nazi Attacks Halted The U. S. first army at the center of the Rhine front beat off two German counterattacks against the Remagen bridgehead. Suddenly resurgent resistance in

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower today warned the Germans not to execute captured allied airborne soldiers on pain of "severe punishment" for anyone taking part directly or indirectly in such executions.

The warning was made in a proclamation issued at allied headquarters and broadcast to the Germans by allied radio stations.

"The excuse of having carried out orders received from above will not be considered valid," the proclamation said.

some sectors was described officially as "very heavy." Yesterday it was reported virtually nonexistent at some points around the bridgehead.

U. S. infantry advanced eastward 200 yards at the south end of the Remagen bridgehead today for a total gain of 4,000 yards in the past 24 hours against light resistance.

Today's operations boosted to six the number of allied armies Rhine. They were the U. S. third, having footholds east of the See ALLIES ... Page 8

Oregon Payrolls Are Three Times Pre-War Level

SALEM, Ore., March 24 (UP)—Total reported wages for the year 1944 may total nearly \$600,000,000 in Oregon, the state unemployment compensation commission reported today, more than three times the pre-war average of \$240,000,000.

A slight gain was registered last year over the previous year. Oregon payrolls of firms covered by the state commission reported by March 21 were up to \$793,661,000 as compared to \$788,252,000 the year before.

The employer contribution rate for the year averaged 2.198 per cent, as compared to the normal 2.7 per cent.

Benefits paid in the first 11 weeks of 1945 were up slightly from the same period a year ago, with \$55,965 compared to \$50,699 for the early part of 1943.

More than half the claimants were women.

Jap Plane Center Blasted by B-29s

GUAM, Sunday, March 25 (UP)—Approximately 225 Superfortresses dumped hundreds of tons of demolition bombs on Nagoya today in an attempt to knock out Japan's Mitsubishi aircraft industry.

Explosions jarred the city as the 21st bomber command resumed its series of punishing raids against the principal centers of war-making facilities in the Japanese homeland.

The Superfortresses, carrying a huge but undisclosed tonnage of "general purpose" bombs, dived over blacked-out Nagoya shortly after midnight at 5,000 feet altitude.

The five previous raids against major Japanese cities—Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe—were incendiary-bomb attacks designed to burn out target areas.

It was the second attack against Nagoya—the far west's greatest aircraft center and Japan's third largest city—within a week. And it was the fifth time in he war that the Mitsubishi plant has the target for the Superforts.

The Nagoya plants produce a large percentage of Japan's aircraft engines.

Reports on the results of today's attack were not available immediately. It was the first time that the B-29s have dropped demolition bombs from such a low altitude, and greater accuracy could be expected.

Okinawa Attacked Tokyo reported that hundreds of American carrier planes attacked Okinawa island, enemy naval and air base 300 miles southwest of Japan, last evening and today.

Some 230 planes opened the assault late yesterday and other formations carried it into a second day with raids still continuing after eight hours today, Japanese broadcasts said.

Miyako island, 180 miles southwest of Okinawa and only 210 miles northeast of Formosa, also was under attack today, Tokyo said.

Meat Control to Be Made Tighter WASHINGTON, March 24 (UP)—The senate appropriations committee today approved a last-minute request of Price Administrator Chester A. Bowles for an additional \$565,000 to tighten OPA controls in the meat industry and try to curtail the black market.

Bowles appeared before the committee to present the request in person. The additional funds were included in the first 1945 deficiency bill, which the committee approved.

Committee officials said Bowles testified the money would be used for additional personnel and enforcement facilities, particularly for checking of packing houses not licensed by the federal government.

Woman Faces Charge Of Aiding Deserter DETROIT, March 24 (UP)—Mrs. Christina McCarty, 20, Ashland, Ore., pleaded innocent today to charges of aiding an army deserter.

Mrs. McCarty appeared before Federal Judge Ernest O'Brien. She allegedly helped a Detroit soldier escape from Louisiana army camp. No date for a trial has been set.

Weather Data for 24 hours to 77 a. m.: Temperatures: Maximum 44 Minimum 25 Forecast: Partly cloudy and unsettled over Sunday.

Helpless Yanks Slain in Sea by Japs

GUAM, March 24 (UP)—Survivors of the U. S. escort carrier Bismarck Sea, sunk by enemy aerial attack off Iwo Jima Feb. 21, said today that Japanese machine gunners strafed and killed 190 of their shipmates as they struggled helplessly in icy, mountainous seas.

(The Japanese Domei agency said today that two American aircraft carriers which it identified as the "Randolph" and the "Coupens" had been "seriously damaged" at Iwo Jima in the western Carolines in a surprise attack by Japanese navy planes the night of March 13. The dispatch was reported by the FCC.)

Nimitz Reveals Loss Loss of the 10,200-ton Bismarck Sea with more than 300 casualties, including those shot in the water, was announced today by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

The commander, Capt. John Lockwood Pratt of Milford, Del., and Coronado, Calif., and about three-fourths of the ship's personnel were rescued by a destroyer and destroyer escorts.

Among the survivors were six aerial observers of the fourth marine division.

They had come aboard after a scouting mission over Iwo Jima just five minutes before the Bismarck Sea received two mortal hits 30 miles offshore.

Two of the observers, Lt. Col. Charles F. Duchain of Baton Rouge, La., and Capt. Norman Goulet of South Milwaukee, Wis., went over the side near the anchor when the "abandon ship" order was given. They were about 1,000 yards away when the Bismarck Sea sank from sight.

Both told of the merciless Japanese strafing. Duchain said the Japanese repeatedly strafed swimmers near the sinking carrier. He said he saw one rubber raft piddled by enemy fire and its occupants hit. None on the raft survived.

Duchain credited Goulet with saving one of the carrier's officers.

"He was an elderly man and badly scared," Duchain said. "He

was ready to give up. Norm kept him encouraged by telling him he'd see a raft over the next wave. It was a lie but it worked.

VANCOUVER, Wash., March 24 (UP)—The aircraft carrier USS Bismarck Sea sunk by Jap planes off Iwo Jima in February, was the 41st baby flattop launched by the Kaiser Vancouver shipyard.

Gov. M. C. Wallgren of Washington, then a United States senator, spoke at the launching last April 17 and Mrs. Wallgren christened the ship Alukula Bay for an Alaskan waterway. The ship later was renamed the Bismarck Sea, went on escort duty, then struck out with the offensive forces in the Pacific actions.

The 10,200-ton ship was about 300 feet long and carried about 20 planes. It was the fifth of its kind from the Kaiser yard to be victim of Japanese action, the others being the Lipscombe Bay, Gambier Bay, Ommaney Bay and the original Midway, renamed the St. Leo.