

# Hannover Falls to U. S. Ninth Army

## Race For Berlin Is Given Momentum by Crumbling Defenses

LONDON, April 10 (UP) — Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower told the people of north Germany's maritime cities today that resistance in the west has collapsed and the power of the men behind the Nazi fanatics is crumbling.

PARIS April 10 (UP) — American troops captured Hannover today in an armored sweep that caved in Germany's northern and central defenses and rolled forward at a mile-an-hour clip 115 and 120 miles from the Nazi capital.

Two doughboy regiments of the U. S. ninth army's 84th infantry division stormed into Hannover from the northwest and southwest early this morning. By mid-day they had reached the center of the flaming stronghold that once was the 12th city of Germany.

A few isolated pockets of German resistance still held out late this afternoon, but American riflemen were combing them out one by one.

Crowds of curious German civilians thronged into the streets, ignoring the bullets, to watch the death struggle of the Nazi garrison.

Other ninth army forces stabbed 23 miles beyond the city toward Brunswick, 104 miles west of Berlin, and at last reports were only 16 miles from that town.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army advanced eastward as much as 15 miles in some sectors along a 56-mile front. Field dispatches said resistance generally was light.

Three Towns Entered  
A column of the 11th armored division advanced seven miles southeastward and entered Rodach, nine miles northeast of Coburg and 25 southeast of Suhl.

Another column of the same division pushed 15 miles southward into Wohlshach, three miles northeast of Coburg. Twenty-sixth division on a four-mile front which carried into Unterneunbrunn, 10 miles southeast of Suhl.

Far to the south, American first army tanks broke into the Harz mountains covering the southwestern approaches to Berlin after a 26-mile advance that met only scattered and disorganized resistance.

Both attacks were rolling swiftly forward behind a blazing allied aerial bombardment that reached back almost to the gates of Berlin.

Drive on Brunswick  
The Americans broke loose on the main Hannover-Brunswick-Berlin superhighway less than 16 miles from Brunswick and 55 miles from the Elbe river line that forms the enemy's last big defensive barrier in the west.

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**Weather**  
Data for 24 hours ending 7 a.m.  
Temperatures:  
Maximum 45  
Minimum 29  
Precipitation .02  
Forecast: Unsettled, probable showers or snow flurries tonight and Wednesday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

# La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Wallowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 10, 1945

FIVE CENTS

## Americans Invade New Jap Island

### Record Artillery Duel of Pacific Is On for Okinawa

Action flared along both coasts of southern Okinawa today with a new American landing reported off the east side and the greatest artillery duel of the Pacific war thundering on the west.

Tokyo said American troops had landed on tiny Tsukata island lying eight miles off the southeast coast and controlling the entrance to the newly-conquered Nakagusuku Bay naval anchorage.

Other troops driving along the bay shore on Okinawa advanced more than a mile and a half to Onaha on the edge of the Yonabaru airfield and only a mile and a half north of the port of Tonabaru, an enemy broadcast said.

American destroyers and other warcraft already were reported to have entered Nakagusuku Bay. Tokyo claimed that during the landing operation on Tsukata Sunday afternoon, Japanese forces, presumably artillery, sank an American destroyer and a small craft which entered the bay.

There was no American confirmation of the east coast operations.

On the west coast, American troops battled from cave to cave and from pillbox to pillbox against savage resistance. Advances were limited to yards as they fought to enlarge their wedge in the Japanese main defense line four miles north of Naha, the burning capital.

Japanese guns laid down a heavy barrage. Brig. Gen. O. P. Smith, deputy chief of staff for the 10th army, said the Americans were being supported by more battalions of artillery than ever used before in the Pacific.

Planes Baited Defenders  
Hundreds of American carrier planes and big guns of the fleet off Okinawa joined in hammering the Japanese positions. Naha gradually was being flattened by See AMERICANS . . . Page 5

Lend-Lease Given Year's Extension  
WASHINGTON, April 10 (UP) — The senate today passed and sent to the White House an act to extend lend-lease until June 30, 1946.

The action came by unanimous voice vote after the senate beat down two attempts to amend the act.

The first amendment, offered by Sen. Robert A. Taft, R., O., would have strengthened a house amendment to prevent use of lend-lease for postwar relief and rehabilitation. It was defeated by a vote of 40 to 39, with vice-president Harry S. Truman casting the deciding vote.

The second amendment, offered by Sen. William Langer, R., N. D., would have banned further shipment of farm machinery under lend-lease. It was defeated by a vote of 46 to 28.

Thrice Wounded Infantryman Returns Soldier Anxious To Get To La Grande  
Wounded three times and wearing the Order of the Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters is Lt. Eugene S. Becker, infantryman of La Grande, a patient at McCaw general hospital in Walla Walla.

La Grande, who has served in the army since July 1937, spent four years in Panama with an air-borne infantry unit. In July 1943 he was selected for officers' candidate school and went to Ft. Benning, Ga.

Shortly following his commission as an infantry officer he was sent to England with the 29th Division where he underwent further preparation and training for the invasion.

Book Part In Invasion  
Lt. Becker landed with the first wave on the beachhead in Normandy last June 6. On June 12 he was struck by fragments of a shell while crossing the Vire river in an assault boat. He was taken to an aid station then through the channels of army hospitals and sent to a hospital in England for treatment.

September 1 he was able to rejoin his unit in Brest, France. It was near Brest, a few days later, that he was wounded again. He and his men were in a line over open ground, attacking a bunker or fort which had been partially destroyed by artillery fire. Through a break in the fort they gained entrance. Of the approximately 400 men, after 15 minutes of hand-to-hand combat fighting, a re-

maining 130 were taken prisoners. Wounded Second Time  
As Lt. Becker was returning to his station heavy enemy artillery firing commenced and he took cover in a bomb crater. A shell hit the inner top of the crater directly above him and pieces of shrapnel hit his back. He also suffered a burst ear drum. He was then flown back to England where he remained in a hospital for three months.

On Jan. 10 he again was wounded. This time he was in the push up to the beachhead on February 23. He was wounded again. As we were advancing, a hidden Nazi machine gun started firing. After 15 minutes of hand-to-hand combat fighting, a re-

Wounded Three Times  
Lt. Becker was wounded three times during his service in the Pacific. He was wounded in the Philippines, in the Iwo Jima campaign, and in the Okinawa campaign.

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RECONVERTER — Henry P. Nelson, above, of Detroit, WPB aircraft division director, will also serve as coordinator of reconversion for the automobile industry. No "czar," the former International Harvester company executive will head a WPB staff to guide the auto industry on the road to civilian production.

### New Offense Cracks Nazi Italian Line

ROME, April 10 (UP)—A new British eighth army offensive crumpled the Adriatic wing of the German defenses in Italy, carried over the Senio river on a broad front, and today spilled out over the eastern Po plain between Bologna and Ravenna.

Gen. Mark W. Clark, commander of allied forces in Italy, announced that the eighth army attacked yesterday evening after a pulverizing air assault in the Senio sector by almost all of the air forces in this theater.

Clark Watches from Trench  
Clark himself was in a slit trench in the first hours of the offensive. Looking grim but confident, he watched the show from that vantage point for 15 minutes. Then he and a few staff officers accompanying him tramped back from the trenches.

The first onrush of Lt. Gen. Sir Richard McCreery's forces broke the Senio river line. His assault forces swept across the stream on a broad front around Lugo, 27 miles east of Bologna and 18 miles west of Ravenna.

Bombers Aid Troops  
Allied bombers attacking ahead of the eighth dropped some bombs short, causing a number of casualties in the allied ranks.

American and British bombers were out in strong force to support the offensive. Heavy and medium bombers gave the ground forces close support.

The eruption in the eastern coastal sector of Italy set both ends of the long dormant front in motion. The U. S. fifth army was plugging northwestward along the Ligurian coast in a close-in against Massa, big outpost of the La Spezia naval base.

Clark's armies now were pressing in against one of the last industrial areas left to the Nazis after the overrunning of the Ruhr and Silesia. This is the once rich production zone of northern Italy, centered around Milan.

The eighth army offensive closely followed an amphibious operation which secured the sandspit between Lake Comacchio and the Adriatic. It was aimed across the Senio river west of Lake Comacchio along the Ferrara arteries to Bologna and Ferrara.

The preparatory air activity was described by witnesses as the most intensive ever carried out on the Italian front.

Fighting Rages On Bougainville  
MELBOURNE, April 10 (UP)—Heavy fighting continued between Australian and Japanese forces on southern Bougainville, in the Solomons, Monday and Tuesday, Melbourne radio reported today.

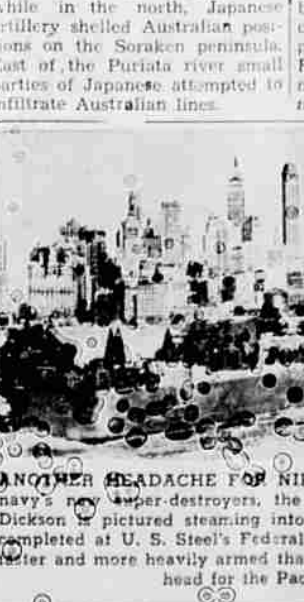
A Japanese bayonet attack was repulsed in the Horiniu area while in the north, Japanese artillery shelled Australian positions on the Soraken peninsula. East of the Puritara river small parties of Japanese attempted to infiltrate Australian lines.

Reservations Urged For Peace Meeting  
Reservations for the civic luncheon next Monday noon at which James Millar, field representative of the Oregon council of churches will speak on world peace plans, will close tomorrow night.

Horace J. Nelson, president of the Lions club, sponsors of the meeting, urged that members of other civic groups who plan to attend the meeting make their reservations before next later than tonight, or even rig with the secretary of the various clubs.

The luncheon will be held at the 1000 hall. The luncheon will be 75 cents.

Another Headache For Nips  
One of the newest of the navy's new war-destroyers, the 2200-ton U. S. S. Garlan R. Dickson, is pictured steaming into New York harbor. Recently completed at U. S. Steel's Federal Shipyard, Kearny, N. J., it is faster and more heavily armed than previous types and will soon head for the Pacific theater.



MAY GET FLA POST — Although no official confirmation has been made, Democratic Governor Ellis Arnall, 38, above, of Georgia, may be named by President Roosevelt to fill the post of federal loan administrator.

### Five Children Are Burned To Death In Trailer House

PORTLAND, Ore., April 10 (UP)—Five children are dead as result of fire caused by explosion of a gasoline can in a trailer house here yesterday. Three were burned to death and two died in hospitals today.

The dead are: Donald Cumpston, 3, Lois Cumpston, 5, and Barbara Cumpston, 9—all children of Bert Cumpston, widower, in whose home the fire occurred; Victor Jaeger, 4, and Shirley Jaeger, 6, children of Mr. and Mrs. Victor L. Jaeger, trailer camp residents.

Eugene H. and Charles, 7, children of Cumpston, escaped. The fire started when Eugene Cumpston used a can of gasoline to start a fire in the wood heater. He dropped the can when it caught fire, and the explosion followed.

Legion To Discuss Fish, Game Affairs  
George Ties, commander of the La Grande American Legion post today announced the Legion will devote its attention to sports legislation and matters pertaining to the state game commission at a meeting at 8 p. m. tomorrow in the Saeajava hotel.

He said the legion is particularly interested in the conservation of game for service men's hunting when the war terminates. Support of the Eastern Oregon sportsmen's council also will be discussed.

Chamber To Have Forum Meeting  
The chamber of commerce will hold a forum meeting Thursday noon in the Stein Coffee shop banquet room, at which time committee chairmen will give reports on the past year's work. Reservations for the luncheon must be made by Wednesday noon.

American Retake Big Rubber Source  
HEADQUARTERS, 41st DIVISION, Zamboanga, April 10 (UP) — Veteran infantrymen of the famed 41st division, who captured the island of Basilan off western Mindanao, have seized the first extensive rubber source to be recovered from the Japanese. It was announced today.

The island contains 356,000 rubber trees, all in good condition, which formerly supplied the entire requirements of the Philippine islands and provided a surplus for U. S. manufacturers. The holdings are owned by the American Rubber company, San Francisco.

The Japanese burned the processing mill and warehouses, and fled the island, but apparently had not extracted any rubber from the trees during their three year occupation.

Sweden Refuses Haven to Axis War Criminal Refugees  
LONDON, April 10 (UP) — Sweden shut her doors to fleeing Germans today in a move obviously designed to prevent Nazi war criminals from slipping into the country in the guise of refugees.

German refugees who have arrived in the past few days will be deported unless they are found to be genuine deserters from the German armed forces or in poor health, the Swedish government's decree said.

The action left Switzerland the only neutral haven adjoining Germany or German-occupied countries for German refugees. A Bern broadcast last night said Switzerland will continue to welcome "the unfortunate and innocent victims of this war," but added bluntly: "She is firmly determined not to accept on her territory any foreigners who have trespassed the elementary laws of human rights."

Should war criminals or other undesirables be found to have taken refuge in Switzerland, the broadcast said, "nothing can stop us from expelling those whom we do not wish to shelter."

Stockholm dispatches said the Swedish ban on German refugees was iron-clad. Justice Minister Thorwald Bergquist said Germans would be turned back even if they claimed to be political refugees entitled to customary asylum rights.

Local CAP Leader Launches New Unit  
The Civil Air Patrol flight of Heppner last night was activated when Lt. William M. Pearce, commander of a CAP flight from La Grande, inspected the 20 cadets in Heppner.

Leo Ready is the commanding officer of the new unit. In the La Grande flight were Lt. Pearce and his navigator, Dick Fuller, and Keith Province, Frank Schiro, Orville Pellett and Betty Strand, navigator.

"Flying Minute Men of the Air," a film made by the Spokane CAP squadron showing the work of that flight was sent from Spokane for the opening of the Heppner civil air patrol.

### Vienna Nazis Hold Reds at Danube River

LONDON, April 10 (UP)—Red army forces cleared two-thirds of Vienna today and battled for crossings of the Danube river and canal to complete the liberation of the Austrian capital.

Virtually all that portion of Vienna west of the river and canal, including the center of the city, was liberated by Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army yesterday.

Still in German hands was a 10-square mile pocket east of the Danube river and canal, mostly factories and the big Prater park.

The Germans were resisting stubbornly a Soviet communication announced, but Tolbukhin's troops cleared block after block in rapid succession. One Soviet column was fighting in the mint district, the enemy's last foothold west of the Danube canal.

The Third army also broadened its spearhead striking west across Austria with the capture of Berndorf, 21 miles southwest of Vienna.

The second Ukrainian army under Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky pushed a two-pronged offensive east and northeast of Vienna.

Far to the north, Marshal Alexander M. Vassilevsky's Third White Russian army beat at a 100-square-mile German pocket on the Samland Peninsula of East Prussia after capturing Koenigsberg, capital of the Junkers province.

Koenigsberg, last German stronghold in east Prussia, fell after a 70-day siege.

The victory was expected to release as many as 1,000,000 Soviet troops for action against Berlin or for service in the far east to guard the Soviets' frontiers with Japanese-occupied Manchuria.

Coal Mine Wage Pact Expected  
WASHINGTON, April 10 (UP) — Soft coal operators and the United Mine Workers were reported near agreement on a new contract today as the government contemplated seizure of some 200 strike-ridden captive coal mines.

The war labor board was understood to have referred the strikes in the captive mines — those owned by steel companies — to Stabilization Director William H. Davis because of the UMW's inability to get the miners back on the job. Some quarters believe seizure of the mines to be imminent.

Production in the vital Pennsylvania fields was estimated at only 60 per cent of normal yesterday despite reports of a strong back to work movement. The wildcat strikes cut deeply into output of steel.

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