

# YANKS 57 MILES FROM BERLIN

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### IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles S. Sprague

Once again the cutbacks in production orders on munitions and weapons. New plants under construction that were to turn out additional quantities of armored tanks will not be required. The aggregate of cancelled orders for ammunition is estimated at \$200,000,000. The war department Tuesday issued a statement as follows:

"American production is now at a level which assures American fighting men of a sufficient production rate to complete the war against Germany and provide the output necessary to supply forces to be used against Japan."

Yet some ten days ago the military authorities were demanding enactment of national service legislation, the work-or-jail bill, claiming it was needed to insure adequate supplies for the fighting forces in Europe and the Pacific. What a quick and abrupt about-face!

Senator Morse made his first full-length address in the senate on this work-or-jail bill. It was a very able address and evidently made a favorable impression on the senate and the country. One of his best points was to answer the argument that this bill was what the generals and admirals wanted. He said he was not at all impressed by that argument, and went on to say that in his work on the war labor board he had found the mind of military-minded men ill-adapted to the task of settling labor disputes. Praising the military leaders for their abilities in their own field, he discounted their judgment in matters relating to civilian life and work, saying:

"Mr. President, let us be frank about the matter: By training, by responsibility, by point of view, on the whole those in charge of the military and the navy are men of action. They are men who want immediate

(Continued on editorial page)

### Schindler Will Assist Wallace

WASHINGTON, April 11—(AP)—Alfred Schindler, a 50-year-old St. Louis businessman, was nominated today by President Roosevelt to be Secretary Henry Wallace's right hand man at the department of commerce.

Schindler issued a statement yesterday saying he's ready to "devote my all" to the task of helping business and industry.

The new undersecretary—subject to approval of the senate—was hand-picked by Wallace. He first met Wallace over 20 years ago when Schindler was a feed sales executive and Wallace a farmer.

### Laurel Branch Will Be Design on Peace Stamp

WASHINGTON, April 11—(AP)—A small laurel branch will be the unusually simple design of the United Nations commemorative stamp to be issued at San Francisco April 25.

Postmaster General Walker said the stamp, which will go on first-day sale simultaneously with the opening of the United Nations conference, will be blue and of five-cent denomination.

### Oregon Dairy Official Seeks Referendum of 3 Milk Bills

Declaring three bills relating to pasteurization of milk and milk products and to fixing of fluid milk standards by the state department of agriculture unsatisfactory to a large number of producer-distributors and particularly objectionable to raw milk operators, Henry Fruittiger announced here Wednesday that he hoped by May 1 to file preliminary petitions for referendum of the trio of measures.

Fruittiger, Portland, is president of the Milk Producers-Distributors of Oregon. His announcement here yesterday followed a conference with Sen. W. E. Burke, Yamhill county and Attorney General Neuner.

Completed petitions, which the law requires must be filed not

### Okinawa U. S. Dead At 2695

Bitter Fighting Raging on Both Ends of Island

By Merlin Spencer  
GUAM, Thursday, April 12—(AP)—American casualties of 2695—432 dead, 2103 wounded and 160 missing—in the first nine days of the Okinawa invasion were announced today by Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz as U. S. marines and infantrymen fought bitterly on both ends of that rain-swept island just 325 miles south of Japan.

Doughboys of Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge's 24th army corps were stalemated in the southern sector for the seventh straight day amid a full-blown artillery duel, and for the first time since the Easter Sunday invasion the marines in the north ran into organized resistance.

Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger's Third marine amphibious corps scored some advances but their speed was slowed materially. The leathernecks hold about two-thirds of the Notohu peninsula on Okinawa's west coast.

The Americans on the vital Ryukyu island were killing Japanese at the rate of about 11 to 1, considerably less than the ratio on Iwo Jima and Saipan. The American casualties were up to midnight Monday. By Sunday midnight the enemy had lost 5009 dead and 222 prisoners, but much heavy fighting has been under way since then.

Admiral Nimitz again reported "no substantial changes in the lines" in the southern sector, where the strongly-entrenched Japanese were pouring in artillery, mortar and small arms fire in increasing amounts. The action fought along the "little Siegfried line" about four miles north of Naha, was undeniably the fiercest artillery engagement of the Pacific war.

### Spain Severs All Relations With Nippon

MADRID, April 11—(AP)—Spain severed diplomatic relations with Japan today in what apparently was the aftermath of the killing of Spanish nationals by Japanese soldiers at Manila.

Japanese Minister Yakichiro Suma earlier in the day started to arrange his departure for Portugal but it was reported Spain would hold him and other Japanese diplomats until Tokyo arranged the safe departure of Spanish diplomats now in the Japanese capital.

Suma told neutral sources here yesterday that Japan had acknowledged on April 7 receipt of Spain's protest about the Manila killings. The protest was filed March 24. Details of the diplomatic exchange were not revealed.

### Chile Will Send Two Divisions to Pacific

SANTIAGO, Chile, April 11—(AP)—The magazine "Vea" said today that Chile will send two divisions to the Pacific front as part of a quota of 1,000,000 soldiers from Latin-America agreed upon at the Mexico City inter-American conference.

### 114 Inches of Snow at Santiam Road Junction

The state highway department received word Wednesday that there is 114 inches of snow at the junction of the North and South Santiam highways with prospects of additional snow within the next few hours.

Highway department officials said two road clearing crews had been sent to the scene with snow plows and other equipment. The snow depth on the Wapanitia cutoff was reported at 84 inches.

Friendship Pact Signed  
LONDON, Thursday, April 12—(AP)—The Moscow radio announced today that a pact of friendship and mutual assistance had been signed by the soviet union and Yugoslavia.

### Mule Afraid of Dark Turns On Light in Barn

KANSAS CITY, April 11—(AP)—Tobe, a mule, is afraid of the dark. Guards at municipal farm carefully turn off lights at the barn every night. Recently the bulb in Tobe's stall has been burning when employes make their morning rounds.

### 2 B-29 Forces Blast Koriyama Tokyo Targets

GUAM, Thursday, April 12—(AP)—Two "large forces" of Superfortresses today raided the Nakajima Musashino aircraft engine plant in Tokyo and the industrial and transportation center of Koriyama, 110 miles north of the Nipponese capital.

The Tokyo raiding force was escorted by Iwo Jima-based long range Mustang fighters flying their second war mission over Japan.

Superforts striking Koriyama flew a round trip of 3800 miles—the longest bombing flight ever made by 21st bomber command planes.

Tokyo said the Shizuoka district, south of Tokyo, also was a target of "approximately 150" B-29s which raided the mainland from 10 a. m. until noon (9 p. m. to 11 p. m. Wednesday, eastern war time).

### Rumors About Hitler Running Riot in Britain

LONDON, April 11—(AP)—The British press reported without confirmation today that Adolf Hitler, broken in health and perhaps dying, has been forced by the nazis to yield control over the toppling reich to Heinrich Himmler.

### Fred E. Neely Dies Suddenly

Chief of Police Fred E. Neely, 56, of 156 Gerth ave., West Salem, died Wednesday at 4:12 p. m. in a Salem hospital following a stroke he suffered shortly after 11 a. m. Wednesday in his home. Ill for several years Neely, although suffering severely at times, expressed confidently to his many friends that he was constantly gaining in his fight for health.

### Men of Nippon Riddled

British Lancasters sent the Admiral Scheer to the bottom with their bombs last Monday night as it rode moored in the inner basin at Kiel naval base, the ministry said.

### Jap General Joins Cabinet

SAN FRANCISCO, April 11—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Fujiharu Yasui, member of the powerful Japanese military faction known as the Kwantung army clique, has joined the new Nipponese cabinet as a minister without portfolio, Tokyo radio said today.

### Finn Premier Directed To Form New Cabinet

(By the Associated Press)  
President Carl Gustav Mannerheim of Finland directed Premier Juho K. Paasikivi to form a new cabinet, the Finnish radio reported last (Wednesday) night in a broadcast reported by the FCC.

### Offense In Italy Goes Well

Eighth Reaches Santerno River; 5th Also Gains

By Lynn Heinzler  
ROME, April 11—(AP)—The British Eighth army has burst out of its bridgehead across the Senio river against strong opposition and reached the Santerno river at many places, it was announced tonight.

Other troops of the Eighth army have landed on the shore of Lake Comacchio four miles behind the German positions in an amphibious leap-frog operation, a special communique disclosed.

At the same time the American Fifth army was reported to have advanced more than three miles north of Massa against heavy resistance. The Americans also pushed nearer Carrara.

The success of the Eighth army put British, New Zealand, Indian and Polish troops at least four miles beyond the Senio as allied headquarters announced the capture of three towns and said the enemy defenses on the Senio river had been "breached on a broad front."

(The German radio said a "first class" battle has developed between Lake Comacchio and the Via Emilia where the British are attacking on a 20-mile front.

### Adm. Scheer Sunk at Kiel By RAF Fleet

LONDON, April 11—(AP)—The German 10,000-ton pocket battleship Admiral Scheer—one of the two most formidable warships left in the German navy—has been bombed and sunk at the Kiel naval base, the British air ministry announced tonight.

It was another crippling blow to Germany's fast-waning might. The loss leaves Germany only one other pocket battleship, the Luetzow, and was the most serious disaster to the German navy since the sinking of the big battleship Tirpitz last November.

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Its decks covered with dead, dying, wounded and cringing crewmen, a Japanese frigate wallows in the sea off the Indo-China coast just before it sank after being attacked by American B-25s. It was part of a Jap convoy of 16 ships. (AP wirephoto from Far East air forces)

### The Berlin Funnel



Much of the allied might on the western front is forming into a funnel that opens onto Berlin. Today that might has progressed to Magdeburg, only 57 miles from the capital city.

### Soviets Sever One of Last German Escape Routes from Vienna, Storm Across Canal

LONDON, Thursday, April 12—(AP)—Red army tanks cut one of the last remaining German escape routes from Vienna yesterday while shock troops stormed across the Danube canal within the city and freed more than nine-tenths of that part of the Austrian capital lying on the Danube's south bank.

Hurdling the canal, a former branch of the Danube, Russian heavy tanks captured half of the nine-mile-long island where fanatical Nazi troops were making a final stand between the canal and the Danube.

### Nippon Relief Ship Believed Sunk by Sub

WASHINGTON, April 11—(AP)—The state department announced tonight that an allied submarine sank what may have been the Japanese relief ship Awa Maru, travelling under allied safe conduct.

The announcement said the navy department had reported that a ship about 40 miles from the estimated position of the Japanese vessel was sunk about midnight April 1 by submarine action.

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## Simpson's 9th At Magdeburg On Elbe River

By Austin Bealmear

PARIS, Thursday, April 12—(AP)—Armored columns of the US Ninth army swept within 57 miles of Berlin and within 115 miles of the Russian front yesterday in a startling advance of more than 50 miles that carried to the Elbe river at Magdeburg. A crossing of this last water barrier before the German capital was believed imminent.

The sensational eastward drive, longest single day's thrust yet made on German soil, was accomplished by the Second (hell on wheels) armored division, which by-passed the manufacturing city of Brunswick and roared through the heart of the reich against practically non-existent opposition.

A late dispatch said the river could be bridged within a few hours unless unexpected resistance developed. This would set the stage for an early junction with the red army. Correspondents said the linkup might be made within a few days.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth army troops were 57 miles away from the southwestern limits of Greater Berlin, which includes Potsdam, and the Russians were 32 miles from the capital on the east with the city itself stretching some 25 miles between these two points.

Essen and Bochum, great armament cities in the Ruhr trap, fell to other Ninth army troops, and tonight the Paris radio said Dortmund also had been cleared in the crumbling pocket.

First army forces to the south sped within 120 miles of a juncture with Russian troops while the Third army, springing to the attack

again after five days of comparative inactivity, blazed ahead along a 60-mile front, capturing Coburg and encircling Erfurt. Seventh loses some ground.

On the southern end of the front the U. S. Seventh army lost some ground but at the same time stormed to a point only 29 miles northwest of the big Nazi convention city of Nuernberg.

British troops in the north punched to within 45 miles of Hamburg, but were still held four miles outside the port of Bremen; to their west the Canadians crossed the Isel river deeper into Holland, where scores of thousands of Germans were trapped.

In making its spectacular dash to Magdeburg the Second (Hell on Wheels) armored division by-passed on the south the big aircraft center of Brunswick and plunged eastward on a solid 10-mile front, meeting only scattered opposition throughout the remarkable day.

The Nazi Brunswick garrison still was fighting bitterly through the streets against doughboys of the 30th division.

33rd Reaches Halberstadt  
Further south the 33rd division stormed ahead 20 miles and reached Halberstadt, 24 miles southwest of Magdeburg. A huge airplane factory at Alstedt was overrun.

The Germans lacked the manpower even to slow General Simpson's wave of men and armor. As occasional pockets of resistance were encountered the American avalanche simply built up before them and burst around both sides, leaving the Nazi garrisons to be cleaned out at leisure.

"South of Brunswick there were not even any pockets, and old 'Hell on Wheels' was moving like it did through Sicily," said Associated Press War Correspondent Wes Gallagher.

Another front dispatch declared the Elbe could be bridged within a few hours—unless the Germans decide to fight, something they haven't really done for two weeks.

Reach River On Both Sides  
The Ninth army troops apparently reached the Elbe on both sides of Magdeburg, and just to the north of that city is a wide autobahn, or super military highway, leading to Berlin.

The swift First army drove across the Thuringian plain south of the Harz mountains, crushing the small opposition in its path and outrunning its communications with headquarters.

Already the headlong advance of Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' forces and the flanking Ninth and Third armies threatened to bar German forces in the north from their last-ditch fortress in the Alps south of Munich. Yank infantry was mopping up behind the fast-moving armor.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army lashed out again after several days spent consolidating its positions and quickly fought into and encircled the city of Erfurt, between Gotha and Weimar some 130 miles southwest of Berlin. Twenty-three Nazi tanks and 18 planes were destroyed in capturing the Erfurt airport in the northern part of the city. Coburg, 50 miles south of Erfurt, surrendered to the 11th armored division.

Germans Accused of Killing 5,000,000 Jews at One Camp  
By Thoburn Wiant  
NEAR ERFURT, Germany, Apr. 11—(AP)—Dr. Bela Fabian, president of the dissolved Hungarian independent democratic party, accused the Germans today of killing 5,000,000 Jews at the Oswiecim (Auschwitz) extermination camp in Polish Silesia from which he himself narrowly escaped.

(The Polish ministry of information more than a year ago reported 500,000 Jews had been gassed and cremated at this camp and the international church movement Ecumenical refugee committee in a subsequent report on Oswiecim and its sister camp of Birkenau said 1,715,000 Jews had been killed at the two places.)

### Weather

San Francisco	Max.	Min.	Rain
Englewood	51	47	trace
Salem	53	39	.10
Portland	54	42	.00
Seattle	51	37	.00

WILMARET river 7 ft. 9 in.

FORECAST: (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem) Partly cloudy, with somewhat warmer temperatures.