

Showdown Battle Looms in South; Two-Thirds of Berlin Conquered

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The war department is planning to release, starting at mid-year, a number of soldiers who are rounding out four to five years of service. In this group for example would be the national guard which was mobilized in September of 1940, also the earliest inductees and the early volunteers in the army and navy. Their length of service has taken a whole lot out of their lives, and they surely have earned first consideration for discharge.

As is usual with such announcements however, a string is tied to it. The qualification is made that all these men can be spared, and where they can't their discharge will have to be deferred. Now why can't they be spared? For this reason: the veteran is the best soldier. You have to have a skeleton force of veterans to give an outfit backbone and organization. This is true of the men in the ranks and it is true of officers.

Follow the history of a division: First it is activated; its cadre of officers is obtained and their instruction begun. Then come the men to fill the companies and regiments and battalions. Their training begins, first in the manual of arms, then in platoons, and on up the line in larger operations until finally come the division or corps or army maneuvers. The division is then declared trained and is shipped overseas; but it still is composed of green troops, of men who have never faced gunfire and artillery fire aimed to kill them. Soon the division gets

(Continued on Editorial page)

Still More Meat To Be Rationed Next Sunday

WASHINGTON, April 26 (AP)—Still more meat was put under rationing control today, effective Sunday, with the average point price higher, but some canned fruits and vegetables were reduced in point values.

Chester Bowles, price administrator, said the point raises for meat, putting about 99 1/2 per cent of the civilian supply under rationing control, reflected a supply for May some 2 1/2 per cent less than that of April. About 94 1/2 per cent of the meat supply was rationed this month.

Processed food ration value cuts were highly selective: In canned snap beans, tomato catsup and chili sauce, apricots, and tomato juice and vegetable juice combination. The point price of grape juice went up.

(Additional details on page 2)

U. S. Sticks by Geneva Rules On Prisoners

WASHINGTON, April 26 (AP)—Although there have been "plenty of instances" of German violations, the war department asserted today its intention to adhere to the Geneva convention for the treatment of prisoners of war.

The department, Brig. Gen. R. W. Berry told the house military committee as it opened its study of the war prisoner situation, has no other choice.

"The army's treatment of German prisoners of war is not a question of army policy but a question of law," General Berry said when committee members asked if there was any intention to tighten up on treatment of German prisoners in this country because of Axis abuses of American prisoners.

Work Schedule for Bay City Conference

SAN FRANCISCO, April 26 (AP)—Tomorrow's work schedule for the united nations conference: Steering committee (chiefs of delegations) to meet at 10:30 a. m., Pacific war time. Plenary sessions of delegations, 3:30 p. m. American delegation meeting at 9:30 a. m.

Weather

San Francisco	Max.	Min.	Rain
Eugene	56	43	50
Salem	57	42	50
Portland	57	42	50
Seattle	57	42	50
Willamette river 7 ft. 4 in.			

FORECAST: (From U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem) Cloudy today, with scattered light showers and little change in temperature. Maximum today near 55 degrees.

Stettin, Bruenn Captured

Soviets Extend Big Bridgehead Over Elbe River

By Romney Wheeler
LONDON, Friday, April 27. (AP)—Soviet armies conquered almost two-thirds of Berlin's pulverized and burning ruins yesterday, seized the great German Baltic naval base of Stettin and extended their bridgehead across the Elbe river 17 miles from the American First army.

As the Russians began to forge an inner ring of encirclement within the smoke-blanketed and encircled German capital, infantry and cavalry of a fourth great Russian army toppled the huge armament city of Bruenn (Brno), second largest city of Czechoslovakia and one of Hitler's last remaining war production centers.

Berlin's deadly street battles paled bitter fighting in another German fortress city. Far behind the lines, soviet troops battled into the western streets of the long-besieged lower Silesian capital of Breslau, occupying 26 blocks and several factory districts.

Meetings Near
As the world waited for a three-power announcement that red army and American forces had linked up, Moscow and Berlin reports indicated that two historic meetings were imminent.

West of Berlin, by German account, Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian army yesterday raced 22 miles westward, by-passing the city of Brandenburg, to reach a point only 14 1/2 miles from the American Ninth army on the middle Elbe.

The enemy high command said Zhukov's troops had reached the Rathenow area near Ninth army lines on the Elbe and Ninth army front reports said soviet shells were falling a few miles from Yank lines.

Second Junction
Southwest of Berlin another junction neared - - if, in fact, it had not already occurred. Here, Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army extended bridgeheads on the Elbe's west bank and seized Strehla and Riesa only 17 miles from the American First army on the Mulde river. But First army dispatches said American patrols had struck deep into the narrow corridor between the Elbe and the Mulde, and the Swiss radio said a link-up along a many-mile front had taken place yesterday afternoon.

Fleet warships, meantime, continued their close fire support, knocking out numerous enemy artillery batteries, gun emplacements and defense installations.

Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge, commander of the 24th army corps, which includes the Seventh, 27th and 96th divisions—reported all key features of the outer Japanese defense line now secured by the Yanks in the eighth day of their grand offensive toward Naha, the capital city, about three and one-half miles to the south.

Tires to Cost Less May 1

WASHINGTON, April 26 (AP)—The public will pay from \$4.5 to \$2.20 less for synthetic passenger tires beginning May 1.

The OPA said the new retail prices will be the lowest since 1942.

Ceiling prices on larger sized truck and bus tires will be reduced about 7 1/2 per cent at the same time.

The new retail ceiling on the most widely used size of passenger tire—the 6.00 x 16 four-ply—will be \$15.20, as compared with the ceiling of \$16.05 which has been in effect since last May 1. Before that—from April, 1942, to May 1, 1944—the ceiling for the same size tire was \$17.11.

500 Nazis Reported Killed at Berchtesgaden

NEW YORK, April 26 (AP)—The Swedish newspaper Stockholm-Tidningen said in a dispatch reported to the OWI today that a "total of 500 leading nazis are said to have been killed" in yesterday's allied air raid on Berchtesgaden.

The captured German general - - unidentified in a U. S. Ninth army front dispatch but termed "internationally known and one of the best-informed members of the German general staff" - - predicted the war would end within a few days and said that Goering probably already had been executed.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851
NINETY-FIFTH YEAR 14 PAGES Salem, Oregon, Friday Morning, April 27, 1945 Price 5c No. 27

Molotov Opposes Stettinius

Russians Entering Berlin



This radio-photo was relayed from Moscow and is one of the first pictures showing the soviet smash into Berlin. It depicts two red army tanks entering the ruins of Berlin. (International radiosoundphoto)

Wedge Driven Into Secondary Okinawa Lines

GUAM, Friday, April 27. (AP)—Infantrymen of Maj. Gen. James L. Bradley's 96th division drove a wedge into the deep Japanese secondary defenses on southern Okinawa yesterday by capturing high ground in the center of the line.

The heights, just east of Urasoe Mura village, were won in an attack which followed a general Japanese withdrawal under heavy artillery shelling.

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Shoe Stamp Good August 1

WASHINGTON, April 26 (AP)—The OPA announced tonight that a new shoe ration stamp will be validated August 1.

The agency said several weeks ago that shoe supplies were not adequate to permit validation of another stamp May 1, as planned originally. At that time OPA said there would be another stamp some time this summer.

Airplane stamps 1, 2 and 3, in book 3, all valid now, will continue to be good indefinitely along with the new coupon, OPA said. The number of the new stamp will be announced later.

Herr Goering Resigns Post Because of Heart Trouble?

By James F. King
LONDON, April 26. (AP)—The German Hamburg radio announced tonight that Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering had resigned as head of the dying Nazi air force because of an "acute" heart illness, while a high-ranking German general staff member captured by the Americans predicted that Adolf Hitler would die with his troops in encircled Berlin.

The captured German general - - unidentified in a U. S. Ninth army front dispatch but termed "internationally known and one of the best-informed members of the German general staff" - - predicted the war would end within a few days and said that Goering probably already had been executed.

The Hamburg station said that the portly Goering, whose proud airforce has been blasted almost to extinction, had been succeeded by Gen. Ritter von Grein who was made a marshal. The text of the announcement: "Reichsmarshal Goering who had been suffering from heart trouble for some time and whose condition has become acute has asked the fuhrer to be relieved of his command as chief of the luftwaffe at a time when his strength is needed. The fuhrer has granted his request. The new chief of the luftwaffe is Gen. Ritter von Grein who has been promoted to general field marshal."

Von Grein was once reported head of German air forces in Russia, and also a commander at Orel.

Russian Causes Deadlock

Soviet Blocks Chairmanship For U. S. Leader

By Douglas B. Cornell
SAN FRANCISCO, April 26. (AP)—Russian Commissar Molotov catapulted the world security conference into a tight deadlock today by blocking the election of Secretary of State Stettinius to its chairmanship.

The stolid Russian also rejected a British compromise. What was to have been a routine, initial business meeting of chiefs of delegates broke off abruptly, its tasks far from complete, its participants stunned and amazed at prospects of another big-three row.

After setting off his explosion, Molotov proceeded calmly into a news conference to give public assurances of an eventual solution to a controversy already flaming among Russia-Britain and the United States—over a knotty Polish problem.

And, from here, he moved on to the conference's first plenary session to pledge full cooperation, Russia's "inflexible" support, in erecting a new and powerful peace keeping organization.

According to customary procedure at international gatherings, this was the session which would have ratified the steering committee's selection of the leader of the host nation's delegation as permanent chairman or president.

That was what Britain's Anthony Eden had proposed at this morning's steering committee meeting. And that was what Molotov blocked, along with a British compromise of four rotating chairmen.

At one point Russia foreign commissar even delivered a more or less veiled threat to withdraw his country as one of four sponsoring powers. He did not threaten to take Russia completely out of the San Francisco picture but declared that unless his plan was followed the Soviets would sit among the lesser powers in protest.

What drew his greatest ire was the fact that as proposed and voted, the rotating chairmanship would apply only to the plenary sessions with Stettinius still sitting as permanent chairman of the steering committee.

Delegates had no ready reason for Molotov's action. They thought perhaps Russia regarded the chairmanship question of such importance that the foreign commissar was sparing for time in which to consult Moscow.

Porter did not identify the area over which he flew other than to say "we reached the Elbe at a place north of Leipzig."

Writer Says Allies Lined Along River

NEW YORK, April 26. (AP)—Returning from a flight over the Elbe river, NBC correspondent Roy Porter declared tonight in a Paris broadcast that "the Russians and Americans are lined up on opposite sides of the river like two picnic parties waiting for a ferry to take them across."

At one point, which cannot be identified, Porter said he saw the Russians building two temporary bridges. One was well under construction and the other was just being started.

"It was all very peaceful and calm, with hardly a German between the two armies," he continued. "All of which means that German control has ceased to exist in this area, which is in the heart of Germany."

Porter did not identify the area over which he flew other than to say "we reached the Elbe at a place north of Leipzig."

North Salem Studies Means of Guaranteeing That It Has Continued Adequate Water Supply

A committee of north Salem men was being formed today to work out plans under which the area north of the underpass on the Portland road might be assured a continued adequate supply of water.

A score of the sector's businessmen met earlier this week to consider the recent action of the Salem city council in decreasing that areas outside of the city limits, with no utility or fire protection district or not established contract with the city, should not use city water facilities after a specified time.

British Capture Bremen

Swiss Broadcast Reports Link-Up Of Reds, Yanks

By Robert Emsson
PARIS, Friday, April 27. (AP)—Heavily-gunned U. S. Third army tank columns battled eight miles from Austria yesterday in a bid for a swift showdown with last-stand enemy troops massing at the border, and in the north the British captured Germany's second greatest port of Bremen.

As these blows fell on the north and south segments of dismembered Germany, allied capitals of Europe buzzed with rumors started by a Swiss radio report that the Americans and Russians had met in the Elbe river area on "a front of many miles."

Censorship covered American positions at the reported junction area, but a front dispatch from the U. S. First army told of a patrol moving a will through German lines between the Mulde and Elbe rivers.

Whirlwind Drive
Bremen fell after a whirlwind assault of two days, and only snipers remained in the rubble to challenge the victorious British moving through the dock area of what once was a city of 350,000 people.

While the world awaited confirmation that the Americans and Russians had met somewhere near Berlin, Gen. Patton's U. S. Third army in ground-eating strides was 95 miles from a junction with the red army in Austria that would convert Czechoslovakia into a giant German trap.

In close echelon with the U. S. Seventh and French First armies, Patton's forces broke across the Danube at three points, leaving that river line shredded along a 180-mile front and Munich imperiled by three separate American columns each about 40 miles from the city.

Press Southward
Some 20 divisions in these three armies were pressing steadily southward, bent on engulfing the Nazi Alpine redoubt before the SS troops could get set for a stand.

A decisive battle appeared to be shaping up on Patton's front nearest Austria, where Germans were massing in the mountain passes 70 miles from Hitler's Berchtesgaden to meet the shock of the south-bound tanks and infantry.

The French drove up to the Swiss frontier all the way from Basel, at the Swiss-French-German border junction, eastward to Lake Constance, and the Swiss said these forces also had captured the city of Constance, where many Nazi big-wigs and their families first took refuge.

Petain Gives Himself Up at Swiss Border

PARIS, April 26. (AP)—Marshal Philippe Petain surrendered to French officials at the Swiss border today to await trial in France on a charge of high treason, for which his scheduled prosecutor announced he would ask a sentence of death—without clemency.

The 89-year-old former Vichy chief of state was met at the frontier by Lt. Gen. Joseph Pierre Koenig, commander of the French forces of the interior at the time of the Normandy invasion and before. Petain extended his hand, but Koenig did not respond.

The Commissar of Dijon and a French guard of 30 men also were present at the frontier station of Valerbe to form an escort for the aged marshal and his wife, who proceeded by automobile to Les Hôpitaux-Neufs and there boarded a special train for Paris. He is expected in Paris before dawn.

Ed Masonic Is Liberated

"My husband was released from a German prison April 1 and I had a letter from him Monday." With this announcement, Harry-ette Masonic, whose husband is Ed Masonic of the 70th infantry division, easily took top honors among members of Toastmistress last night when they told of their "greatest thrill."

Masonic had been missing since January 8 in Germany and has written his wife, a teacher at Englewood school, that he is in reasonably good health. Notification by the war department of her husband's release was received Thursday.

Industries located in the north Salem area include such firms as Valley Packing, Wallace H. Bone-steel, Inc., Oregon Textiles, Caspar & Cutler, Dick Meyer Lumber, Slentz Feed, Eyerly Tractor, Reimann's, Capitol Lumber, Salem Sand, Minden's lumbermill and A. C. Haag & company.

There have been reports that industries contemplating developments in the area have become more hesitant in the belief a sufficient supply of water was not a certainty.

Lack of manpower, coupled with the fact that fire department employees are not covered by workmen's compensation if injured outside a city limits, were among reasons given by cities for a changed attitude in regard to more widespread protection.

Emergencies Answered
Merrill Ohling of Salem, civilian defense county fire chairman, said Thursday he knew of no case wherein the Salem fire department had failed to respond to a real emergency call solely because the property involved was over the city line, and declared the city had nothing to do with the net increase in suburban fire insurance rates thus far this year.