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THE BEND BULLETIN

CENTRAL OREGON'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Weather Forecast

Partly cloudy today, tonight and Sunday. Not much change in temperature.

Volume LIII

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NO. 69

Death, Debris Line Bloody Road to Jap Pillbox on Iwo Jima



(NEA Telephoto)

American Marines proved this Jap pillbox on Iwo Jima wasn't impregnable—but they paid heavily with their lives to prove it. Their bodies sprawl in the volcanic sand amidst live Marines who have dug in for shelter against heavy Jap artillery, mortar and rocket fire. Packs, clothing, gas masks and toilet articles, many of them ripped by shrapnel, are scattered across the sand. Rifles are blown in half. Even letters are strewn among the debris as though the war insisted on prying into a man's personal life.

Yanks, Striking by Air, Sea, Land, Free 2,146 From Jap Prison Camp

Nippon Guards Quickly Killed In Dawn Blow

MacArthur Reports Low Loss of Life in Raid On Los Banos Quarters

By H. D. Quigg

(United Press War Correspondent)

Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters, Manila Area, Feb. 24 (UP)—American land, sea and air units in a daring coordinated strike have freed 2,146 American and other allied prisoners from the Los Banos internment camp, 25 miles behind the Japanese lines, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

U. S. Airborne troops and Filipino guerrillas struck Friday morning at the internment camp in the hills above the southern shores of land-locked Laguna bay south of Manila. The 243-man Japanese garrison was taken completely by surprise at morning setting up exercises. All were killed, including the camp commander and his staff and their barracks left burning.

Chutists Land

A picked group of U. S. paratroopers landed directly on the prison camp. They were supported in a coordinated attack by other troops from amphibious tractors who began mowing down the Japanese guards with machine gun fire.

A cordon of troops immediately surrounded the prisoners to protect them from harm.

A total of 1,589 Americans, including 12 army nurses, priests, nuns and Manila businessmen were liberated. Also among the prisoners were 329 British citizens, 33 Australians, 56 Canadians, 89 Netherlands, 22 Poles, 10 Norwegians, 15 Italians and one Nicaraguan.

"Nothing could be more satisfying to a soldier's heart than this rescue," MacArthur said in a special communique.

MacArthur reported that casualties among the raiders were only two killed and two wounded. Two of the internees suffered slight injuries during the dramatic rescue, he added.

The carefully coordinated raid was carried out by the 11th Airborne division of the 14th corps and the Luzon guerrillas under the overall command of Col. Robert H. Soule.

The main liberation force embarked in amphibious tractors from Canlubang in the predawn darkness and proceeded down Laguna bay to Los Banos which is at the southern end of the bay 40 miles from Manila.

Precisely at 7 a. m. guerrilla forces and other elements of the 11th Airborne division who had surrounded the camp under cover of darkness, attacked with rifles, knives and grenades.

Troops Bait Out

Simultaneously a reinforced paratroop company of the 511th regiment baited out directly over the camp, as amphibious tractors hit the shore.

(Continued on Page 3)

Big Bombers Hit Singapore In Heavy Raid on Japanese

Incendiary and Demolition Explosives Rain Down on Nippon Dock Facilities in City

Washington, Feb. 24 (UP)—The biggest fleet of Superfortresses ever to take off from India today bombed Singapore, crossroads of war traffic between Japan and her stolen southern empire.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of demolition and incendiary bombs were rained on Singapore's extensive and well-established dock and harbor facilities in the fourth B-29 daylight attack of the war on the naval stronghold.

A Singapore broadcast recored by the FCC said the giant bombers caused "some damage" to harbor facilities and the city itself during an hour and a half-long raid beginning at 10:30 a. m. Singapore time.

The bombers attacked in a dozen waves, Singapore said. At least nine planes were damaged, the broadcast said.

Raid Is Large

The 20th air force, in announcing the raid, for the first time described a Superfortress raiding armada from India as "large," an indication that it totaled well over 100 bombers. A Tokyo broadcast heard by the FCC said 130 B-29's participated.

Results will be announced after operation reports have been received from Brig. Gen. Roger Ramsey's 20th bomber command, the 20th air force said.

Drydock Destroyed

In the last previous raid on Singapore Feb. 1, B-29's sank a naval drydock, largest of its type in the world, and damaged other harbor installations.

The Superfortresses may have caught part of the elusive Japanese fleet at Singapore, largest naval base south of Japan itself. One of the Japanese naval forces, which participated in the sea battle in the Philippines last October, came from Singapore.

Liquor Also Hit In Curfew Ban

Washington, Feb. 24 (UP)—The war manpower commission, in an order defining the entertainment curfew, today banned the serving of liquor in all establishments after midnight each night. The ban becomes effective at midnight Monday.

The WMC also ordered the ban to be applied to gambling and the playing of juke boxes.

Restaurants customarily open after midnight may continue serving food after the curfew hour, but may not sell beer or other alcoholic beverages.

Midnight Is Deadline

The curfew hour in each place will be midnight, official local time.

Sole exception will be entertainment supplied for military personnel by authorized agencies such as the USO.

The curfew was ordered last Monday by War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes to save coal, transportation and manpower. The WMC was given the job of enforcing it.

Local police and the 300 WMC area directors will enforce the curfew request.

EGYPT DECLARES WAR

Cairo, Feb. 24 (UP)—Egypt declared war on Germany and Japan today.

Circled Poznan Taken By Reds; Breslau Target

Paris Reports Assent Koenigsberg Abandoned By Beaten Nazi Army

London, Feb. 24 (UP)—The Paris radio broadcast an unconfirmed report of doubtful authenticity today that the German army had evacuated Koenigsberg, capital of East Prussia.

A Paris broadcast said the garrison of beleaguered Koenigsberg had pulled out, "leaving the population to their fate." Two days ago Moscow said the Germans had opened a corridor through the Soviet siege lines to the Baltic port of Pillau.

The fall of Koenigsberg would mean the near completion of the red army campaign in East Prussia, where it trapped an estimated 200,000 German troops.

Poznan Captured

The fall of encircled Poznan, last enemy-held city in Poland, was expected to speed a Soviet smash across the Oder river on a broad front toward the doomed Nazi capital, 30-odd miles to the west.

The reduction of Poznan not only released troops under 24 generals for the drive on Berlin, but cleared the Moscow-Warsaw-Berlin trunk railway and highway as far as the Oder for the movement of reinforcements and supplies.

The last organized German resistance in Poznan, Poland's fourth largest city with a pre-war population of 272,000 was smashed yesterday after a month-long siege during which Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian army raced on 110 miles farther west toward Berlin.

25,000 Killed

Some 25,000 Germans were killed and 23,000 captured during the prolonged and bitter battle for Poznan. Adolf Hitler ordered the city held at all cost, but Major General Mattern, the Nazi commander, was among the prisoners taken.

Zhukov's forces also cleared another encircled German city yesterday, Arnswalde, 39 miles southeast of the Baltic port of Stettin and junction of the Danzig-Berlin and Poznan-Stettin railways.

Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army, meantime, broke into the streets of a third encircled German city, the Silesian capital of Breslau, 175 miles southeast of Berlin.

Shotgun Blasts Kill 'Big Boss'

Cleveland, Feb. 24 (UP)—Nathan Weisenberg, "big boss" of Cleveland's slot machine racket, was found shot to death in his parked car early today.

Police said Weisenberg appeared to be killed by two blasts from a shotgun as he sat in the driver's seat of his coupe not far from his Cleveland heights home.

Allies Press Toward Cologne Warships Blast Iwo Airfield

Marines Reach Island Plateau In Grim Fight

Nippons Reported Using Half-Ton Rocket Shells In Battle Against Yanks

Guam, Feb. 24 (UP)—Tank-led U. S. marines renewed the assault on Iwo's central air field from a springboard on its lower edge today and at noon were hammering out slow gains against violent resistance.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced that the marines charged Japanese positions on the Iwo airfield from a line on the southwestern rim of the base and south of its center.

With tank support the marines struck this morning after American planes, artillery, and warships had plastered the field with a great weight of explosives.

"By noon our forces were reported to be gaining ground slowly," Nimitz said in a communique.

"Enemy resistance is heavy."

On the southern tip of Iwo, patrols entered the crater of the extinct Sulfuric volcano, atop which the stars and stripes flew, and were mopping up remnants of the Japanese forces defending the natural fortress.

"Conditions on the beaches are generally improved, and the unloading of general cargo is proceeding," the communique reported.

(A BBC broadcast reported by CBS quoted radio Tokyo as saying that the Americans have established two new beachheads on the southeast coast of Iwo.)

Casualties mounted steadily on both sides in the bloodiest fighting of the Pacific war. While American losses have not been announced beyond 5,372 casualties for the first 58 hours of the six-day battle, the finding of another 717 Japanese bodies jumped the number of enemy dead to at least 1,939.

Big Toll Claimed

(A Japanese broadcast claimed that American losses on Iwo were "well over 17,000" up to Friday night. Eight more American warships, including two battleships, have been sunk or damaged off the island, Tokyo said.)

Elements of the third marine division fought onto the 300-foot southern tip of the southwest-northeast runway of Motoyama airfield No. 2 by dusk.

The fourth and fifth marine division still were attempting to clamber up the slopes of the plateau from the east and west under almost pointblank artillery, machine-gun and rocket fire from an intricate system of pillboxes, blockhouses and fortified caves.

Eisenhower Says Rhine Goal Of Allies in All-Out Drive

General Hopes to Destroy All German Power West of River; Russian Leaders Are Lauded

BY JACK FLEISCHER

(United Press War Correspondent)

Paris, Feb. 24 (UP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said today that the aim of his new Rhineland offensive is to destroy German power west of the Rhine in that sector, strike east as fast as weather and terrain permit, and meet the red army in central Germany.

"There is going to be no cessation of aggressive action on this front," Eisenhower said. He said that we are going to fight as violently and aggressively as we are able from now on.

Thus the allied supreme commander gave his tacit confirmation of the impression that this is it—the grand scale offensive looking to the showdown battle of Germany.

"Given conditions I can see now," Eisenhower said, "I don't ask for a July in Kansas—the attack just started should mark the destruction of the German forces west of the Rhine."

In all history, he observed, a river line never has been defended successfully.

Rhine Is Goal

Eisenhower, at a press conference of more than 90 minutes, said the battle which began yesterday promised to bring the allies to the Rhine. Given the breaks in weather and terrain, he said, the German force in the northern battle area can be eliminated without unreasonable losses in American troops.

He paid glowing tribute to the Russians. They have given him all the information he wanted, cheerfully and willingly, he said, and "I am completely satisfied."

"Our liaison with Russia always has been as close and intimate as necessary to meet any situation at any particular moment," Eisenhower declared.

JAPS USE ROCKETS

Aboard Admiral Turner's flagship off Iwo Jima, Feb. 24 (UP)—The Japanese on Iwo are using half-ton rocket-mortar shells for the first time in the Pacific war. Marines believed they were launched by rocket-mortar propulsion from platforms on northern Iwo.

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Seven Oregon Counties Are Free of Fatalities

Salem, Ore., Feb. 24 (UP)—Only seven of Oregon's 36 counties had no traffic fatalities during 1944, secretary of state Robert S. Farrell, Jr., reported today.

Only Sherman county has had no fatalities for two consecutive years.

The seven counties with clear records are Baker, Gilliam, Harney, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa, and Wheeler, Farrell said.

Tanks, Troops Break Through Yielding Lines

Nazis Reel Back Before One of Heaviest Blows Of War on West Front

Paris, Feb. 24 (UP)—American tanks and infantrymen drove two to 3 1/2 miles beyond the shattered Roer river line on a 22-mile front today in a driving offensive that rocked the Germans back within 19 miles of Cologne and the Rhine.

Everywhere the Germans were reeling back before one of the mightiest assaults of the western war. A dozen fortified towns on the west end of the Cologne plain and more than 1,200 stunned prisoners fell into American hands in the first 24 hours of the attack.

Six German divisions were overwhelmed in the first Yank surge across the Roer, as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower hurled armored and infantry divisions of the U. S. First and Ninth armies into the narrow offensive front.

Nazis Give Data

German spokesmen said the Americans had 20 divisions, including six armored divisions, totaling perhaps 300,000 men on the attack front.

Field dispatches said Yank engineers were working feverishly to throw additional bridges across the still-swollen Roer. The battle appeared to be developing into a race to get the Americans' full armored power across the river before the arrival of the Germans' main reserves.

Official reports said enemy resistance softened by a continuous drumfire of bombs and shells, was relatively light and that American casualties were small.

There was still no evidence that the Nazi retreat had become disorganized, however, and it was expected that the opposition would stiffen within the next few hours as the advance drilled into their main defenses behind the Roer.

Juelich Captured

Juelich, 22 miles west of Cologne and probably the toughest German stronghold on the Roer, fell to the Ninth army after a fierce street battle. Remnants of the enemy garrison still were holding out inside the town's walled, moated citadel this morning, but the tide of battle already had swept out beyond them and their elimination was only a matter of time.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth army spearheads also captured Glimbach, Gevenich, Rurhich, Boslar, Siegerdorf, Hambach, Korrenzig and Baal on the east side of the Roer above and below Juelich.

At Baal, the Yanks are 3 1/2 miles northwest of Linnich and the same distance southwest of the Nazi base at Erkelenz. At Hambach, they were on the edge of the Staats forest and barely 19 miles west of Cologne.

Iwo Fight Grim, Marines Assert

Somewhere in the Marianas, Feb. 24 (UP)—(Via Navy Radio)—A shipload of more than 600 battle torn marines arrived here today for hospitalization. They were the first battle casualties to be evacuated from the hellfire of Iwo Jima.

Unloading of the wounded, about two-thirds of whom were stretcher cases, was delayed several hours when a hospital ship rammed an obstruction while nearing a dock here.

Veterans of the Bougainville, Guadalcanal and Saipan invasions among the wounded described the Iwo battlefield as "worse than the worst of them."

Battle Is Grim

Wounded marines interviewed aboard ship said Japanese mines took a heavy toll of tanks, half-tracks and other combat vehicles. Wreckage of shattered landing craft, vehicles and the broken bodies of men clogged the beaches, and made subsequent landings difficult.

"You could find any part of the human body there on that beach," a 4th marine private said.

Battle for Manila in Final Phase; Big Guns Blast City's Aged Walls

Manila, Feb. 24 (UP)—The battle for Manila virtually ended today as American troops captured all but three of the enemy-held buildings in the devastated ancient walled city, after attacking the last Japanese positions in a church and small section on the west and south sides of the Intramuros area.

The final assault on the Japanese land and amphibious attack by the 37th division which breached the ancient wall around Intramuros.

Following in the wake of a thunderous artillery barrage, which virtually flattened the old Intramuros section, the American troops stormed through and over the medieval wall from the east and across the wide Pasig river on the north.

The double attack, which joined inside the walled city, was expected quickly to end organized Japanese resistance in Manila, although it may be several days before the last fanatical enemy is mopped up.

"The destruction of the final remnants of the enemy's trapped garrison in south Manila is in its final phases," Gen. Douglas MacArthur said in his communique.

He also announced that other American forces had seized Biri Island at the eastern end of San Bernardino strait to complete U. S. domination of the water passageway at the southeastern end of Luzon. The Americans first opened the strait with the occupation of Capul island at the western end of the waterway.

Reports of Japanese brutality in Manila reached a new mark with the disclosure that more than 3,000 American civilian internees at Santo Tomas were subjected to several days of heavy artillery fire.

The frenzied enemy deliberately shelled the face of the main building at Santo Tomas and the front entrance. Despite their weakened and emaciated condition, the internees were forced to spend hours a day in the protected parts of the institution during the bombardment.

Although the number of dead and wounded among the civilians was not announced, the communique said the casualties "fortunately were very light." The shelling occurred several days after Santo Tomas was occupied by the first cavalry division.

The final drive to wipe out the pocket of bitterly resisting Japanese in southern Manila was launched yesterday morning.

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