

Yanks Cross Rhine River

Story Columns 7 and 8

Today's News

Follow world history in the making from day to day in the columns of The Bulletin. Also read the local news items, some small, some large.

THE BEND BULLETIN

CENTRAL OREGON'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Weather Forecast

Occasional light rain west portion, scattered light showers or snow flurries east portion today, tonight and Friday. Not much temperature change.

Volume LIII

TWO SECTIONS

THE BEND BULLETIN, BEND, DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1945

NO. 79

Last Mile on Bataan's 'March of Death'



After torturous, blood-stained miles in the hot sun, captive Yanks neared the end of the long death march of Bataan, the ones still able to walk carrying the few that fell through illness and sheer exhaustion. This Japanese photo was obtained from Filipino guerrillas through the U. S. Army Signal Corps.

Marines Gain in Iwo Battle

Third Division Drives to Edge Of Iwo Plateau

Veterans Say Struggle Is Bloodiest in History Of Pacific Engagements

By Frank Tremaine

(United Press War Correspondent)
Guam, March 8 (UP)—The third marine division drove to the northern edge of the central plateau and plunged down toward the northern beaches, only a few hundred yards away, in savage fighting on Iwo today.

A breakthrough to the coast would split the last few thousand Japanese holding out in pillboxes and gun emplacements studding the north and northeast coasts.

But those last few hundred yards were as the crow flies. It was considerably farther over the rocky ground, laced with steep crevasses and bristling with defenses.

New Gains Made

The fourth and fifth marine divisions, fighting north along the east and west coasts, also hammered out new gains in what literally had become a battle to the death with the decimated enemy garrison. "It is an inch by inch, terrible struggle for life and a few precious feet of terrain," United Press war correspondent Lisle Shoemaker reported from Iwo as a general offensive went into its third day.

"If you ever meet a marine who says he fought at the north end of Iwo, shake his hand because he has survived a hell of a gunfire, mortar blasting, night infiltration and hand-to-hand combat without cease," Shoemaker wrote.

Fight Is Bloody

"It is the grimmest, bloodiest and cruelest battle of the Pacific ocean."

Maj. Gen. Harry Schmidt, commander of the marine invasion force, said the campaign had been "even tougher than we figured, and we figured it tough from the very start." He described the island as the most heavily defended spot in the history of warfare and said the remaining Japanese would have to be "crowded out of their holes and killed one by one."

The veteran third division at the center of the line reached the northern rim of the 300-foot central plateau after an advance of some 500 yards in hand-to-hand combat yesterday.

Sun and Dog Blamed For Accident at Lake

A playful dog and a ready gun today were the causes of Willard Davidson, caretaker at Lake Paulina, coming to Bend for medical treatment.

Davidson reported that he was taking aim with a .22 caliber pistol at a "camp robber" bird, when his dog playfully jumped up on him, causing the weapon to discharge. The bullet passed through his hand, inflicting a flesh wound.

More Street Lights for Bend In Peacetime Era Suggested

Munkres Believes Illumination Problem Is More Serious Than Sewers, Swimming Holes

A street light at every intersection! That was the demand of the City Commissioner Melvin Munkres when the commission held its regular meeting last night in the city hall.

Munkres made his plea for a better lighted city when the commissioners were informally discussing suggestions for different postwar projects.

"It seems to me that our lighting problem is more serious than sewers or swimming holes," he said. The commissioner then cited two locations in Bend where he said that only one street lamp existed in a radius of many blocks.

Munkres said that he had discussed the matter with William A. Lackaff, manager of the Pacific Power & Light Company here, and that he had learned that the cost of adding more lights was "trivial when compared to the need for them."

The commission voted to invite Lackaff before them with plans for an extended lighting system.

Paving Requested

Three more street improvements were authorized by the commission, after reading petitions from property owners affected. The petitions asked for paving, and called for the improving of West First street between Awrey road and Portland avenue; Louisiana avenue from Wall street west to Congress street, and Columbia street from Galveston avenue to Nashville street.

Conference Called

After reading an invitation from Chief of Police Harry Niles of Portland, to attend a traffic conference March 16 in the Rose city, the commission authorized Chief of Police Ken C. Gullick to be present. Chief Niles said that the conference was called at the suggestion of President Roosevelt as a means of reducing traffic fatalities.

Argentina Given Final Chance To Join in Family of Nations

Mexico City, March 8 (UP)—The 20 American nations at the inter-American conference gave Argentina a chance today to return to the family of American nations.

They devised a formula, fulfillment of which would require a declaration of war by Argentina on the axis. It specifically calls for Argentina to change her policy so as to become eligible for membership in the United Nations.

A plenary session of this conference—from which Argentina was excluded—ratified the resolution containing the formula this morning.

The conference ends later today with a final plenary session. Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. signed for the United States after Mexican Foreign

Russians Lash Toward Berlin After Shattering Oder Lines

Foe Asserts Soviet Legions 27 Miles Away

Nazis Say Battle for Capital Launched as Zhukov Strikes West

London, March 8 (UP)—The Germans said today that the red army broke across the Oder river south of Kuestin, carved out a bridgehead 10 miles deep and stormed westward within 27 miles of Berlin.

Nazi broadcasts said Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian army massed along the Oder smashed westward from the area of Goeritz, six miles south of Kuestin, and plunged due west toward Berlin.

The vanguard of the bulging soviet bridgehead edged against Seelow, 12 miles southwest of Kuestin, 10 miles west of the last natural barrier before Berlin, and 27 miles from the capital itself, enemy radio dispatches reported.

Breach Admitted
The Nazi acknowledgment of a yawning breach in the Oder river line was broadcast a day after the Germans reported that Zhukov's mighty army was opening the battle for Berlin.

The whole Berlin front in the Oder valley was reported ablaze from the Oder elbow 29 miles northeast of Berlin to the sector around Frankfurt, a distance of some 40 miles.

Other Russian forces were storming the rear defenses of Stettin and hurrying the battle of eastern Pomerania to a victorious conclusion. The Germans said Marshal Ivan S. Konev was massing forces in Silesia in apparent preparation for a renewal of his drive into the south flank of the Berlin defenses.

Zhukov on Move

Belatedly, the nazis reported that Zhukov had seized a big bridgehead across the Oder which stretched from the area just south of Kuestin to that north of Frankfurt and a number of miles westward toward Berlin.

The nazis claimed that counterattacks had restricted the bridgehead. Yesterday the Germans beat back into Rathstok, six and a half miles southwest of Kuestin and three west of Theoder, one broadcast said.

To the north and east the Germans said the Russians reached the area of Altdamm, east bank suburb of Stettin, reached the Stettin lagoon, captured the rail town of Schlawe on the Baltic coast east of Koeslin, and reached the "outer defense ring" of Danzig.

Liberated Group Reaches Bay City

San Francisco, March 8 (UP)—A transport carrying a majority of the 513 army officers and enlisted men liberated from the Japanese prison camp at Cabanatuan on Luzon steamed through the Golden Gate today and tied up at an embarkadero pier.

The huge ferry building siren signaled the arrival of the rescued men who spent almost three years at Cabanatuan until their liberation by U. S. rangers dispatched by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

The men, including survivors of the losing Bataan and Corregidor campaigns and the infamous "March of Death," were met by Maj. Gen. C. H. Kells, commander of the San Francisco port of embarkation, and other service and city officials.

HULL GIVES UP BODIES

Vancouver, B. C., March 8 (UP)—Firemen removed three more bodies from the wreckage of the 10,000-ton freighter Greenhill Park today, bringing the casualty list to five known dead and three missing. The ship exploded in Vancouver harbor Tuesday.

Hitler Said to Have Admitted Germany Has Lost War No. 2

Fuehrer Reported to Have Accused Japanese Of Not Keeping Promise to Strike at Russia

Stockholm, March 8 (UP)—Unconfirmed German underground reports claimed today that Adolf Hitler confessed to high nazi officials that Germany had lost the war.

The admission was said to have been made Feb. 24 at a meeting of 30 responsible nazi leaders, mostly gauleiters and reichleiters.

Hitler told them, the reports said, that he lost the war because he "fell victim to the biggest treason in history" and as a result proclaimed a wanton destruction of Germany.

The Fuehrer's statement to the group, it was added, put all the blame for losing the war on "reactionaries" and treacherous allies, including Japan which he said had pledged to attack Russia simultaneously with Germany.

War Dead Listed

According to the reports, Hitler disclosed that German war casualties amounted to 12,500,000 dead, wounded, and missing.

Because of the hopeless situation, the underground sources said Hitler appointed Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler "special commissioner of destruction" with orders to devastate all German cities and industries even with the aid of the Luftwaffe if necessary.

The plans were reported to include the killing of all political prisoners and hostages, although it said Hitler was "still deliberating" ways and means of dealing with war prisoners.

Called Pirates

The reports asserted that Hitler, in commenting on the Yalta meeting, described the Big Three as "three world pirates" who "thought they could share the bear's skin."

"But when they march through Germany," Hitler was quoted as saying, "they will not find the bear's skin but stone heaps, rats, epidemics, hunger and death."

Rome Is Scene Of More Rioting

Rome, March 8 (UP)—A mob stormed a military clinic last night in an attempt to reach Gen. Francesco Jacomini, fascist war criminal, but was dispersed after a gun battle.

Police were investigating today to determine whether the crowd was trying to lynch Jacomini or help him to escape. It was from the same clinic that Gen. Mario Roatta, another Major Italian war criminal, escaped Sunday night.

Police Intervene

The riot began as a demonstration in front of the clinic, but Carabinieri intervened when the crowd surged toward the building. Shots were exchanged.

Jacomini was about to be transferred from the clinic to Regina Coeli jail. He was a former governor of Albania and one of the plotters of the Italian attack on Greece. Albania has asked that he be turned over to her for trial as a war criminal.

The new outbreak of violence came as the Bonomi government appeared to be weathering the political crisis touched off by Roatta's escape and fatal riots outside Crown Prince Umberto's palace.

Industrial Fund Meeting Tonight

Contributors to Bend's post-war industrial fund today were urged by Carl A. Johnson, chairman of the fund-raising committee, to attend without fail the organization meeting scheduled for 7:30 o'clock tonight in the main dining room of the Pilot Butte inn.

Since it is expected that the type of organization will be agreed upon, and a program of procedure be adopted, Johnson said it is imperative that all of the 140 donors to the fund attend.

First Army Men Reach Eastern Bank of Historic Stream, Race Toward Rich Heart of Germany

Americans Reported Pouring Steady Flow Of Troops, Armor Across Barrier; Nazis Frantically Broadcast Tales of Defeats

(By United Press)
Gordon Fraser, Blue network correspondent with the American First army, reported tonight that the first German prisoners taken east of the Rhine said Germany could last only 10 more days.

Paris, March 8 (UP)—Units of the United States First army have stormed across the Rhine and are advancing into the heart of Germany against light resistance.

Vanguards of Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First army made the historic crossing at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon south of Cologne, a front dispatch revealed.

A partial security blackout cloaked the progress of the first American columns east of the Rhine, but the announcement from Hodges' headquarters that only "light" resistance had been encountered in the early stages made it clear the advance was going well.

First army troops who broke the back of the German Rhineland army on the plains before Cologne in 12 days of sustained offensive and captured Cologne itself almost without a struggle won the first Rhine bridgehead.

Crossing Is Historic
Strong supporting infantry units were rushed into the bridgehead after the first shock troops had broken across and it was indicated that Hodges was pouring a steady tide of men and armor into the attack.

It was the first time an invading army had crossed Germany's historic western rampart since Napoleon's army pushed across the Rhine more than 100 years ago.

The assault put Hodges' fast-rolling infantry columns into the southern flank of the teeming Ruhr basin less than 290 miles southwest of Berlin.

The blow fell squarely upon the center of three German armies struggling to pull back behind the Rhine under a terrible storm of fire from American, British, and Canadian divisions massed along a 110-mile stretch of the Rhine from Coblenz northward to the Dutch border.

Germans Tell Of Crossing

Frantic German broadcasts hinted that a general assault on the Rhine was under way or about to begin at several points north and south of the First army bridgehead.

Berlin spokesmen said the Canadian First army was massing powerful tank and infantry formations along the lower Rhine near the Dutch border for a strike into the rolling plains of northwestern Germany. They warned their people, too, that the U. S. Ninth and Third armies flanking Hodges' men were deploying on the west bank of the river for a similar crossing.

Hodges' swift drive across the Rhine, coming barely 48 hours after the fall of Cologne, made it clear that the allied armies of the west were ready to carry the war into the heart of Hitler's reich without the expected pause for consolidation on the west side of the river.

Bonn Under Attack

Another potential crossing was in the making a dozen miles south of Cologne, where other First army troops captured half the university city of Bonn.

The Yanks also were ramming southward along the Rhine from Bonn toward a junction with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's rampaging Third army tanks in the Coblenz sector.

Elements of the First army cleared more than three-quarters of Badodesburg, two miles south of Bonn, and Berlin spokesmen said they plunged ahead almost 13 miles north to the confluence of the Ahr and Rhine rivers opposite Linz.

The advance carried past the Rhine crossing city of Remagen, two miles north of Linz, and the Germans said Hodges' troops were 10 miles from a Third army spearhead at Andernach, nine miles north of Coblenz.

U. S. Warplanes Sharply Increase Offensive Against Formosa; Yanks Gain in Philippines

Advancing with apparently little opposition, the troops captured Balayan, on the northwestern shore of Balayan bay, and Calatagan nine and a half miles to the southwest in the China sea coast.

The drive carried the American forces within four miles of Cape Santiago, at the tip of the peninsula across Verde passage from the north shore of Mindoro.

While the main forces of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's Sixth army were regrouping for an all-out assault against the Japanese on Luzon, heavy artillery continued to pound the principal enemy lines east of Manila.

The guns were concentrated along the entire 10-mile Kobayashi line from Wawa to Antipolo, 11 miles northeast of Manila, and

Hurt on Luzon



Photo Arts Studio

Pvt. Francis L. R. Smith, 19, former Bend high school student and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Smith, 421 East Seward, has been hurt in action on northern Luzon, the war department has announced.

BULLETINS

London, March 8 (UP)—The German radio said tonight that allied bombers were over the northern outskirts of Berlin, more were headed for Berlin, and still more were coming in over western Germany.

Washington, March 8 (UP)—The senate today wrote into its pending manpower bill fine and jail penalties for employers who violate employment ceilings.

Washington, March 8 (UP)—Adm. Chester W. Nimitz said today that the joint chiefs of staff are considering a new command and set-up in the Pacific.

Ottawa, Ont., March 8 (UP)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King left here at 4 p. m. today for Washington to visit President Roosevelt over the weekend, his office revealed.

AGUINALDO CAPTURED
Manila, March 8 (UP)—Emilio Aguinaldo, aged Filipino revolutionary who led his countrymen in two wars, was revealed to be in American custody.

U. S. Warplanes Sharply Increase Offensive Against Formosa; Yanks Gain in Philippines

Manila, March 8 (UP)—U. S. troops virtually cleared Batangas peninsula in southwestern Luzon today as American warplanes sharply increased the offensive against Formosa and Japanese shipping in the China sea.

Seventeen enemy vessels, including two warships, were sunk or damaged in the mounting aerial campaign from the Philippines. A communique said the offensive was aimed at the "sterilization" of Formosa and the "interdiction" of Japan's shipping lanes through the China sea.

The heavy aerial blows to the west came as elements of the 11th airborne division and the 158th infantry regiment pushed through Batangas peninsula to the southwest coast of Luzon.

Demolition teams of the First cavalry and Sixth infantry divisions also were working extensively through the area and sealed 19 Japanese caves with dynamite charges.

Other American troops of the 38th and 43rd divisions meantime were completing the combing of the Zambales mountain range north of Bataan peninsula for Japanese stragglers.

The heaviest toll of enemy shipping was taken in assaults on Formosa, 225 miles off the northeast tip of Luzon, and the surrounding areas by Mitchell medium bombers and army fighters.