

Five U. S. Armies Storm Nazi Defenses

VICTORY OVER NAZIS NEAR, SAYS CHURCHILL

British Leader Pledges Help In Nippon War

England to Repay Japs' For Cruelties, States Premier in London Talk

London, March 15 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill said today that victory in Europe may come before the end of summer "or even sooner."

The quickening progress of the war means Germany will be forced into unconditional surrender or "beaten to the ground in chaos and ruin," he told the annual conference of the conservative party.

Churchill's prediction that the war in Europe may end within six months coincided with a wave of optimism throughout Britain and on the western front.

One front dispatch said reliable non-military sources believed peace possible within six weeks.

A former Berlin correspondent now in Stockholm wrote that Adolf Hitler early this month had made a peace feeler through Sweden to the United States and Britain, but had been rejected.

Churchill promised an intense British war effort against Japan. "No mood of war weariness must prevent us from doing our duty to the last inch and to the last minute," he said.

The scale of the war against Japan is not limited by manpower. That will be readily forthcoming. It is limited by shipping and other means of transport over vast ocean spaces and through steaming jungles.

He said Britain must repay "infernal cruelties perpetrated against British subjects" by the Japanese.

There may be less blood and fewer tears in the months to come, he said, but physical sweat and the united resolve of every man and every woman to give all that is in him will be required "long after the last bomb or cannon has ceased to thunder."

Churchill inferentially told the United States and Russia that Britain has no need of advice on how to run the British empire and commonwealth of nations.

Recalling that the entire empire with the exception of southern Ireland rallied behind the mother country "to die or conquer with us in righteous cause," he said:

"Certainly, with this unparalleled record, we have no need to seek advice even of our most honored allies as to how we should conduct ourselves with regard to our own affairs.

"Imperium et libertas"—our empire and liberty—is still our guide. Without freedom, there is no foundation for our empire. Without the empire, there is no safeguard for our freedom.

Iwo Jima Officially Captured After 24 Days of Bloody War

Nimitz Named Military Governor; Nippons Hidden in Caves Still Fight; 20,000 Dead

Guam, March 15 (UP)—Marines still were hacking away at two shrinking enemy pockets on Iwo Jima today, but the island was declared officially captured with 20,000 of its defenders already killed.

The Stars and Stripes were raised over the tiny stepping-stone island 750 miles south of Tokyo at a formal ceremony at 9:30 a. m. yesterday—24th day of the battle of Iwo.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz proclaimed himself military governor of Iwo and "other" occupied islands in the Volcano group, presumably barren Kangoku and Kama rocks off the west coast of Iwo seized two days ago.

Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey's fifth marine division gained 200 to 400 yards in compressing the main enemy pocket at the rocky northern tip of Iwo yesterday.

The Japanese were fighting to the death from long-prepared defenses.

Pocket Under Assault A smaller pocket was under assault by Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' fourth division on the east coast.

Pacific fleet headquarters, in fixing the number of enemy dead on Iwo at 20,000 through yesterday, emphasized that its estimate was conservative and less than the detailed estimates of front-line commanders.

The figure was based on the number of Japanese bodies buried and a "very careful" guess as to the numbers sealed in the fortified caves which the enemy refused to surrender. On Monday alone, 115 such caves were sealed with demolition charges.

Casualties Not Given There has been no announcement of marine casualties since March 3, when 2,050 Americans were listed as dead. At that time, the number of Japanese dead was placed at 12,864.

Some American dead were found to have been booby-trapped by the Japanese.

(An NBC broadcast from Guam said unofficial information indicated American casualties on Iwo would be "very high." An NBC commentator in Washington predicted they would total 17,000, including 3,000 dead.)

MacArthur Train Reaches Manila Manila, March 15 (UP)—A new diesel electric locomotive pulled into the Manila station today on the reopened 132-mile railway from Lingayen gulf.

In the cab rode Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

He boarded the train, the first to arrive in the capital on the reopened line, at Caloocan, three miles away.

At every crossroad along the way Filipinos gathered, shouting and cheering. The train of 16 tankers and freight cars was draped with bunting and bore a five-star flag and American and Filipino flags. It bore also a large sign: "MacArthur special."

By the Stockholm Dag Bladet account, Hitler was persuaded to make the peace overture by foreign minister Joachim Von Ribbentrop in a "dramatic conference" at Berchtesgaden, the Nazi leader's Bavarian retreat.

Hitler was represented as agreeing to send a high official of the German foreign office—unidentified in the dispatch—to Stockholm.

This emissary purportedly got in touch with similarly unidentified American and British "circles" in Stockholm. Contact was said to have been made with Swedish assistance.

The Dag Bladet said the envoy returned to Germany empty handed. He was said to have insisted that Hitler and Heinrich Himmler

retain power "in order to avoid chaos" even if Germany were surrendering unconditionally.

The emissary was pictured by the newspaper as "describing in moving words the dangers of German bolshevization."

Three reliable non-military sources told a United Press war correspondent at British 21st army group headquarters that peace was possible within six weeks.

Military sources at the headquarters refused to speculate on any specific dates, but said the end appeared considerably closer than it did six weeks ago.

Richard D. McMillan, veteran United Press war correspondent with the British second army, said both American and British soldiers at the Rhine believed "one big hit" would collapse the last real German resistance.

River Spanned East of Berlin, Nazis Report

Germans Say Russians Pouring Over Oder in Great Attack Waves

London, March 15 (UP)—The German radio indicated today that the red army had a bridge across the Oder 33 miles due east of Berlin, and men and arms were pouring over it in "massive soviet attack waves."

The nazis broadcast a Transocean news agency dispatch which said German artillery scored eight direct hits on a bridge near Lobus, Oder river town 10 miles south of captured Kuestrin.

Whether the bridge was a pontoon span or a permanent structure was not disclosed. That it withstood at least seven direct hits suggested the possibility of its being some solid structure which the Russians might have seized in a coup similar to the American capture of the Remagen bridge over the Rhine.

Red Forces Strike Transocean said the concentrated bombardment dispersed Russian concentrations "preparing for action in the centers of gravity" of the soviet offensive at Kitz, Klessin and Podelzig, respectively three miles southwest of Kuestrin, eight miles south of Kuestrin, and nine north of Frankfurt.

Between Frankfurt and Kuestrin, the nazis said, the Russians were attacking repeatedly in assault waves. Thus Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov appeared to have focused his bridgeheads west of the Oder for the big push against Berlin.

Other German broadcasts admitted that the Russians scored deep penetrations in the defenses of Danzig, Gdynia and Koeningberg.

Danzig Stormed Moscow said Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's Second White Russian army was storming the suburbs of Danzig and Gdynia. A Nazi military spokesman conceded that the Russians had plunged wedges deep into the German defense area before the two cities, but claimed that they had not yet reached Gdynia proper.

A mass onslaught by seven soviet armies broke into the German defense front near Koeningberg, capital of East Prussia, a Berlin broadcast said.

There was no further word on the progress of the Russian column which the Moscow newspaper Pravda said yesterday had driven across the Oder river beyond Kuestrin on the direct road to Berlin, some 37 miles to the west.

Nazis Give Version Berlin said two soviet armies from Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian group were fighting for high ground west of the Oder between Kuestrin and Frankfurt, 13 miles to the south. German artillery on the contested hills has been pounding soviet bridgeheads on the west bank.

Describing it as his "favorite position," Coxswain Helmar Wallen, of the U. S. navy, stationed in New Guinea, sent his mother, Mrs. Fritz Wallen, 1037 East Fifth street, a snapshot showing him in his bunk reading a copy of The Bend Bulletin. Mrs. Wallen received the photograph today.

The picture shows the Bend sailor reclining in his bunk, a broad and satisfied smile on his face, with The Bulletin held at full width before him. Prominent also in the picture are Wallen's feet, encased in socks. A netting which screens the picture is proof of the oft-mentioned battle the fighters have to wage against mosquitoes. On the photo Helmar wrote:

"Here's a snapshot of me in my favorite position—"In the sock."

THREE MINERS KILLED Kenilworth, Utah, March 15 (UP)—Three miners were killed and nine other burned, five seriously, in a coal dust explosion in the Independent Coal & Coke Co. mine here late yesterday. Four escaped injury.

FDR Confers With San Francisco Delegates



President Roosevelt confers with members of American delegation to forthcoming San Francisco world security conference in first of several meetings designed to unify the delegation of goals to be sought in deliberation with other United Nations. Left to right: Rep. Sol Bloom; Virginia Gilderleeve; Sen. Tom Connally; Secretary of State Edward Stettinius; Cmdr. Harold Stassen; Sen. Arthur Vandenberg; and Rep. Charles A. Eaton. Former Secretary of State Cordell Hull, eighth member of delegation, was unable to attend meeting because of illness.

Nippons' Big Osaka Arsenal Believed Hit By U. S. Bombs

Explosion Tosses Planes Thousands of Feet Into Sky; Pilots Tell of Terrific Blasts

Guam, March 15 (UP)—A building believed to have been the Osaka arsenal, one of Japan's biggest war plants, blew up during Wednesday's fire raid in an explosion so violent that it nearly wrecked two Superfortresses a mile and a half overhead, it was announced today.

Definite proof of the explosion awaited clearing weather that would permit reconnaissance photographs of the five-square-mile area devastated in the 2,300-ton attack on Osaka.

The arsenal, well within the target area, covers 150 acres and produces anti-aircraft guns, artillery, machine guns, rifles, shell cases, bombs and fuses. The plant also contains a steel mill, chemical works and a research laboratory.

The explosion sent two Superfortresses rocketing 3,000 to 4,000 feet into the sky within a few seconds.

Plane Tossed Skyward "Joltin' Josie," a Saipan-based plane piloted by Maj. J. J. Catton of (523 West 6th street) Los Angeles, was blown from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. Out of control, the B-29 plunged back to 8,000 feet before Catton was able to right the ship and limp back to Saipan.

A Tinian-based plane piloted by 1st Lt. Stanley C. Block of Helena, Mont., was blown from 7,000 to 11,000 feet, where it turned over, made a slow roll and fell to 2,000 feet before being brought under control. All of its rivets were sprung and the plane was discarded as unfit for further flying.

(A Tokyo Domei dispatch said the Tokyo and Osaka stock exchanges were closed, presumably because of the Superfortress raids on the two cities.)

Picture Shows Bulletin Being Read in Pacific

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Uniform Salaries Granted Judges

Salem, Ore., March 15 (UP)—A bill granting uniform salaries for all the circuit judges of the state passed the house today.

The bill (SB 186) calls for \$6,000 for each circuit judge within the state, with the exception of Clackamas and Multnomah, where the county is to provide an additional \$1,000.

As explained by Rep. William Niskanen, Bend, the uniformity is justified because judges of small districts often are assigned to cases in large districts, and Rep. Burt Snyder, Lakeview, displayed a three-foot-long list of cases which one judge heard out of his own district in one year, traveling 9,000 miles in the process.

"They are circuit riders again," Snyder said.

Cascade's Snow Depth Increases

Seventy-two inches of snow, heaviest mid-March cover of recent years, blanketed the Santiam pass area today as a winter storm continued to whip over the high Cascades. Snow showers from the mountain storm occasionally visited Bend through the day, but the flakes melted as they touched the ground.

At Santiam summit, as well as atop the Willamette highway. It was reported "snowing hard," with a depth of 62 inches on the Willamette summit.

The storm was reported lighter along the Wapinitia route, where a total depth of 54 inches was reported for the season. Four inches of new snow had fallen on the Willamette summit, but the Bend headquarters of the state highway department had no report as to the amount of the fall in the present storm.

Red Cross Goal Seems Assured

With less than \$4,000 yet to be raised to complete Deschutes county's American Red Cross Fourth War Fund quota of \$22,300, campaign workers expressed the belief today that the campaign would be over by the end of the week.

Employees of The Shevlin-Hixon Company contributed largely to the fund when they turned in \$2,253.75, it was revealed by Bruce Gilbert, county drive chairman. Workers at the Ninth Service command ordnance shop also made a sizeable donation when they gave \$463.60, according to Gilbert.

Residents of Redmond have donated a total of \$2,481 to date, and are still working, according to reports from there.

Before the campaign staff closed its headquarters in the Chamber of Commerce offices yesterday they had received \$2,729 for the day, Mrs. Don Higgins, chairman of the Junior chamber auxiliary in charge, reported.

Since the headquarters has been closed, donors were asked to send in any additional contributions to (Continued on Page 6)

HOAX IS ADMITTED

Chicago, March 15 (UP)—Fred Walcher, the 44-year-old tavern porter who police believe planned his own crucifixion, admitted it today.

Two More Isles in Philippines Seized as Yanks Open Channel

Manila, March 15 (UP)—U. S. troops secured the southern approaches to the main shipping channel through the Philippines today with the seizure of two more islands southeast of Luzon.

Elements of the 24th division captured the islands—Romblon and Simara—in the Sibuyan sea, east of Mindoro, in a surprising tactical operation Sunday night against light opposition, a communique said.

The small Japanese garrison on Romblon, midway between Tablas and Sibuyan island, put up several brief skirmishes near the town of Romblon but was quickly destroyed.

Romblon and Simara were the 22nd and 23rd islands in the Philippines invaded by U. S. troops of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's southwest Pacific forces.

All but two—Luzon and Mindanao—were under complete control, but American regulars and Filipino guerrillas were rapidly overcoming the Japanese on those islands, the largest in the archipelago.

Germans Hint All-Out Drive Is Under Way

Berlin Reports Main Highway Reached; U. S. Sources Are All Silent

Paris, March 15 (UP)—Five American armies were reported storming the Rhine and Saar basin defenses of Germany today in a coordinated offensive along a 200-mile front from Duisburg to the Karlsruhe corner of Alsace.

A flood of German reports and Allied front dispatches indicated that a general offensive to crush the Nazi armies in the west is in full swing along the entire southern half of the western front.

Officially it was disclosed that the U. S. third and seventh armies were driving with armored and infantry divisions into the northern and southern corners of the Saar basin.

To the north, the United States first army struck eastward from its Rhine bridgehead in a power drive that may already have cut the Rhine-Ruhr-Berlin superhighway and split the German front east of the Rhine.

Road Crossed, Say Nazis Unconfirmed Nazi reports said the Americans were astride the highway which parallels the Rhine river in the Remagen sector. Late front dispatches, however, said they were fighting from street to street through Agildenberg, less than a half mile from the road and 6 1/2 miles northeast of Remagen. Rhondorf, on the river bank 6 1/2 miles north of Remagen, was captured after a fierce battle.

Berlin said the newly-formed U. S. 15th army had joined in the battle in the bridgehead east of the Rhine and that perhaps 180,000 American troops were moving eastward in an all-out try for a break-through into the Ruhr industrial sector.

The nazis also reported that the American ninth army had gone over to the offensive from its springboards on the east bank of the Rhine opposite the Ruhr.

Crossing Reported The German Transocean news agency said shock troops of the ninth army attempted to force a crossing of the Rhine opposite Duisburg but were "smashed" on the river bank.

There was no Allied confirmation of the reported appearance of the 15th army on the Rhine bridgehead nor of the ninth army's assault on Duisburg.

The Germans gave no immediate indication as to the size of the attacking force in the Duisburg area, but the reference suggested that the thrust was made in considerable strength.

Far to the south, the Germans appeared to be getting ready to abandon their arsenal cities in the industrial Saar basin to escape envelopment between the seventh army attacking along the southern rim of the Saar and the third army sweeping down from the north and northwest into the rear of the Siegfried fortifications.

Revised Old Age Bill Is Now Law

Salem, Ore., March 15 (UP)—Gov. Earl Snel today signed the Harvey Hill (HB 52) which eliminates the \$40 "ceiling" on old age pensions.

The bill emerged as a compromise of many legislative pension plans. It permits old age relief recipients to be helped on the basis of need without regard to the previous limit of \$40 per month.

Also included in the signed bill are liberalized provisions for continuation of aid while receiving hospital care, and burial benefits.

BURNS MAN RETURNED

Washington, March 15 (UP)—The name of 2nd Lt. George W. Eilers of Burns, Ore., was among American prisoners of war returned to Allied control in the European-Mediterranean theaters, the war department announced today.

Next of kin was listed as Theodore G. Eilers, box 296, Burns.

Peace Offer to Britain and America Made By Adolf Hitler, States Swedish Newspaper

London, March 15 (UP)—The Stockholm newspaper Svenska Dag-Bladet published a wholly unconfirmed report today that Adolf Hitler made a peace offer to America and Britain early this month and it was rejected.

A British foreign office commentator said he had no information regarding the Stockholm reports of a Nazi peace gesture.

The Dagbladet dispatch was written by Arvid Fredborg, the newspaper's former correspondent in Berlin. He said a Nazi emissary made contact with "English and American circles" in Stockholm to advance Hitler's proposal.

Rumors of the move by Hitler coincided with a wave of optimism over prospects for an early victory in Europe, both in Britain and some sectors of the western front.