

Troopers Cut Nazi Highway, Split Germans

Americans Strike Out Of Woods to Bar Road Leading to Foe Capital

Paris, March 16 (UP)—American troops split the German defenses on the east bank of the Rhine today with a breakthrough across the Rhine-Ruhr-Berlin superhighway in two places seven miles northeast of the Remagen bridgehead.

The breaks, opening the way for an American armored sweep down the six-lane highway into the exposed southern flank of the Ruhr valley, came as the U. S. Third and Seventh armies to the south started a nut-cracker offensive against the industrial Saar basin.

Doughboys of an unidentified American infantry division severed the Rhine-Ruhr-Berlin superhighway with a rapid-fire advance into and through the village of Hovel, seven miles northeast of Remagen.

Use Woods As Cover The Yanks swept out of the woods north and south of Hovel and across the roadway into the shelter of another wooded cluster on the east side of the highway.

Nazi rear guards fell back before the American attack, and field dispatches said German villages east of the Yank battle lines were festooned with white flags. Rhineland villages everywhere in the battle area were said to have appealed to the Wehrmacht to retreat in order to save their homes from destruction.

American pressure all around the bridgehead perimeter was beginning to tell on the German defenders after 10 days of close-in fighting.

Anchor Captured Hoeningen, southern anchor of the German defense line five miles southeast of Remagen, was captured and United Press war correspondent John McDermott reported that the Yank salient now measured 13 miles in length and was as wide as seven miles—an area of 91 square miles.

That represented an advance of a mile lengthwise and a half-mile inland in the last 24 hours.

Thousands Perish As Cities Flame

(By United Press) Thousands of persons were burned to death in the destructive American B-29's raids on Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka, the Japanese radio said today amid mounting clamor in the enemy capital for more adequate air relief measures.

The situation in Japan was reaching such serious proportions that the Japanese propaganda outlets openly admitted the extent of the damage caused by the increasing Superfortress attacks.

Tokyo's newspapers caustically attacked the government relief program as "inadequate" and warned that the Americans would increase not only the number of raiding planes but the frequency of the raids.

Gets New Job The gravity of the war situation in Japan was emphasized by the Domei agency which said that under an "extraordinary" arrangement, Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso would become a member of the Japanese imperial headquarters.

The dispatch, heard by FCC monitors, said the unprecedented action, fully sanctioned by Emperor Hirohito, was taken so that Koiso could participate in the division of military operations. He will have a status equal to the army and navy chiefs of staff.

Man Accused of Killing Mother

St. Louis, March 16 (UP)—A mild-mannered 49-year-old disabled veteran of world war I put his 75-year-old invalid mother to death today by smothering her with pillows, police said.

When the day nurse arrived at the home of Mrs. Frances Hammann, Clarence Hammann, the son who had been a mental patient, met her at the door of the bedroom.

"Don't come in," police quoted him as saying. "Call the police. I killed mama. I couldn't stand to see her suffer any more."

NEWBERG DEFEATED

Salem, Ore., March 16 (UP)—Eugene high school's basketball team eliminated Newberg from the state high school tournament in Salem today with a 47-31 victory.

Wanted: Arm Stretchers



Those overcoats probably were designed for supermen, and not for this motley group of German prisoners captured by the U. S. Ninth Army on its drive to the Rhine. Sleeves apparently were designed as finger warmers, and coat length for overshoes.

Senate Passes Important Bills in Rush to Adjourn

State Solons Approve County Manager, Fish And Retirement Measures in Swift Move

By ERIC W. ALLEN, JR. (United Press Staff Correspondent)

Salem, Ore., March 16 (UP)—The Oregon senate today gave final passage to retirement systems for public employees, authority to counties to adopt a manager form of government and an over-all coastal fishing control law, as the legislature drove toward adjournment either late tonight, or, more likely, tomorrow.

With all the controversial measures in the senate, the house coasted along, cleaning up odds and ends, and concurring in final amendments as the end of the longest session in the history of Oregon approached. House concurrences before noon recess sent to the governor for signature the county manager bill (HB 121), tighter control of Bang's disease in dairy herds (HB 369) and bringing six circuit court judges up to the \$6000 minimum of other courts (SB 186).

Manager Bill Approved

The senate approved the county manager bill, 21 to 7, in line with a vote of the people requesting it last November. Opponents argued it would set up a "czar" running all county affairs. Advocates, headed by backers of successful city manager systems already operating, such as Oregon City, Astoria and Bend, said it was a progressive step to wipe out "inefficient and outmoded county government."

Only two votes—Jones and Strayer—were cast against the public retirement bill after Patterson explained it provided compulsory retirement provisions for state and school employees, and optional for counties and cities.

Three Bills Passed

Three other bills were passed (HB 259-261) which would allocate school and tax funds. One (HB 259) would put the county school tax into the last group of succession to benefit when there are excess income tax funds.

The other two would provide that in event of a ballot proposal June 22 fails to authorize \$5,000,000 yearly levy for a building fund for schools of higher learning, the money will not be lost but will be diverted into the property tax reduction "cushion" under income tax surpluses.

Windsor Resigns As Bahamas Chief

London, March 16 (UP)—King George VI was reported today to be pondering a new post for his eldest brother and predecessor on the throne, the Duke of Windsor.

Windsor's resignation as governor and commander in chief of the Bahamas, effective April 30, was announced by the colonial office last night. William L. Murphy, colonial secretary at Bermuda, was named to succeed him.

The duke and duchess were expected to take a long vacation in the United States and may go to France where they have several residences. Windsor expressed a wish to continue serving the empire.

It was understood that Windsor resigned primarily because the semi-tropical climate affected the duchess' health. A Nassau dispatch said his resignation came as no surprise since his five-year term as governor would have expired in August.

BULLETIN

Guam, Saturday, March 17 (UP)—More than 300 Superfortresses rained Kobe today. The B-29s dropped more than 2,500 tons of incendiaries into the heart of the great Japanese industrial city.

Yank Pincers Menace Foe

Japs Chased Inland by 41st Troops

Veterans Gain On Mindanao; Villages Seized

Nippon Landing Attempt On Luzon Broken Up and All Barges Are Blasted

Manila, March 16 (UP)—American troops firmly secured a 28-mile long beachhead around Zamboanga on the southwestern tip of Mindanao today and were pursuing the Japanese more than five miles inland.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique also disclosed that other U. S. forces smashed a Japanese attempt to land approximately 100 men on Luzon's Batangas bay, while American bombers delivered another heavy attack on Formosa.

Sixteen more villages were seized by the 41st division as they fanned out east, west, and north from Zamboanga's administrative city. The drive pushed the beachhead 14 miles westward to the San Ramon river and a similar distance eastward to the Manicaban river, opposite Sacol Island.

Resistance stiffens The thrust into the hills north of Zamboanga, which swept through Pasañanca five miles above the city, was meeting increasingly stiff resistance. Front reports said the Japanese in that area had begun using artillery, together with machine guns and mortars, in an attempt to halt the American advances.

Troops of the 158th regiment, working with the 11th airborne division in clearing Batangas bay in southern Luzon, nipped a Japanese attempt to land at Bolu on the north shore four and a half miles northwest of Batangas.

All barges were destroyed, a communique said, and the Japanese not killed in the initial attack were dispersed. Although the number of barges used by the enemy was not disclosed, headquarters estimated that they carried a total of about 100 men.

Formosa Target In continuing the neutralization raids on Formosa, some 200 miles off northwestern Luzon, Liberator bombers delivered another 174 tons of explosives on the island fortress Tuesday and hit the vital Jitsugetsu hydro-electric plant for the second straight day.

Returning pilots reported columns of smoke 5,000 feet—nearly a mile high—rising from the blazing electric plant, the center of Japan's power supply on Formosa.

Other Liberators struck north of Formosa to rake the big Japanese base of Okinawa in the Ryukyus for the second successive day, sinking one freighter and damaging three others.

STORM WARNINGS UP

Portland, Ore., March 16 (UP)—Small craft warnings were ordered up on the Oregon coast south of Newport for strong southeast winds from 1:30 p.m. to sunset today, the U. S. weather bureau office here announced.

Japs, Squeezed Into Island Pocket, Fight to Death from Heavy Defenses

Guam, March 16 (UP)—Marines of the fifth division squeezed the last fanatically resisting Japanese off Iwo into a pocket less than a quarter mile square on the north coast today.

Only a handful of the enemy remained, but they were well organized and were fighting to the death with mortars and small arms from a maze of heavy defenses. Their backs were against a precipitous cliff and the sea.

Japanese fire still was taking a toll of marines, but front dispatches indicated that American dead in the campaign would total fewer than 4,000 against more than 20,000 enemy troops killed. (A Japanese broadcast communique, recorded by the FCC, claimed that marine casualties in Iwo totaled 25,800.)

Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, commander of fleet marine forces, told United Press war correspondent Lisle Shoemaker aboard the

IWO BATTLE ENDS

Guam, Saturday, March 17 (UP)—The battle of Iwo Jima ended Friday after 26 days of fighting which cost the U. S. marines 19,938 casualties—highest toll of the central Pacific campaign. It was announced today. Of the total American casualties, 4,183 were dead.

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced that organized Japanese resistance ended at 6 p.m. Friday when marines overcame the last desperate remnants holding out at the northern tip of the 8 1/2-square mile island.

invasion flagship off Iwo that the marine motto of Semper Fidelis—Always Faithful—never before had been challenged or tried as it was in the attack on that island. "We know from the start of the

operation that there was only one way to attack—frontal assault," Smith said. "The marines knew the Japs had had years to perfect defenses and in doing so could register every available weapon on the only beaches possible for a landing.

"The cost of winning was no doubt weighed carefully against the importance of having this island as an operating base and speeding the ultimate defeat of Japan."

While the fifth marine division steadily whittled down the last enemy pocket, the 11th and fourth marine divisions in eastern Iwo mopped up stragglers and snipers overlooked in their breakthrough to the east coast.

Front dispatches said construction forces were rushing repairs to the three captured airfields on Iwo and otherwise converting the island into a major base for the coming assault on Japan.

2 Nazi Armies West of Rhine Face U. S. Trap

Patton's "Rolling 4th" Division Crosses River in Lightning Advance

Paris, March 16 (UP)—The American Third and Seventh armies slashed into the northern and southern flanks of the Saar basin today in a powerful nutcracker offensive threatening to envelop elements of at least two German field armies west of the Rhine.

Simultaneously, the American First army lashed out with a new burst of power from its narrow foothold on the east bank of the Rhine and rammed to within 200 yards of the great military highway linking the nazis' Rhine-Ruhr front with central Germany and Berlin.

Armed on Move

German military spokesmen said all five American armies on the western front were on the move in the opening phase of a general Berlin-bound offensive. They asserted that the U. S. 15th army was in action on the Rhine bridgehead and that the Americans there were using major tank forces for the first time in a determined effort to break loose into the open country leading north to the Ruhr.

But the most spectacular news came from the American Third and Seventh armies to the south, where a great armored pincer was closing in on the last major German fighting forces remaining west of the Rhine.

Seventh Makes Gains

The Seventh army, crowding into the southern edge of the Saar on a front of more than 50 miles, piled up gains as much as five miles last night and early this morning, on top of the three-mile advance hammered out in the opening rush of the offensive yesterday.

Berlin said the drive already had carried into the main Slegfried defenses at some points and described the Seventh army blow as the "second phase" of the allies' general offensive in the west.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's famous "rolling Fourth" armored division burst suddenly across the Moselle river south of Coblenz and raced more than 12 miles southeastward in a bold flanking sweep that threatened to turn the last 50-mile belt of the Nazi Slegfried line in the Saar basin.

Patton in Action

Striking in concert with the United States Seventh army's frontal assault on the Saar from the south, Patton apparently was wheeling the main weight of his Third army across the Moselle to take the Germans in the rear and squeeze their remaining forces back behind the Rhine.

Less than 50 miles of thinly-held enemy territory separated the rampaging Fourth armored division from Seventh army forces battering northward on a 50-mile front between Saarbruecken and the Rhine. At the western end of Patton's assault line the gap was barely 22 miles and narrowing by the hour.

The Fourth division crossed the Moselle at an undisclosed point.

Water Forecast Group to Meet

The 10th annual meeting of the Central Oregon water forecast committee will be held in Bend this year, on April 6 in the Deschutes county court house, according to information received today from W. T. Frost, associate hydraulic engineer with the Oregon Cooperative snow surveys. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m., Frost announces.

Purpose of the annual surveys is to compile and interpret data bearing on expected runoff and reservoir storage for the coming crop season, for the guidance of farmers and stockmen. The conferences are rotated between Redmond, Prineville and Bend. Members of the snow survey staff will be present to confer with mid-state reclamationists.

Data Sought

After all available data are compiled, the season forecasts are made available for the various irrigation districts.

Members of the Central Oregon water forecast committee are Olaf Anderson, LaSelle Coles, C. W. Goodnight, Phil F. Brogan, Ralph W. Crawford, H. G. Smith, Henry C. Hulett, W. R. Lawson, G. W. Montgomery, E. N. Hoffman, Charles C. Parsell, A. E. Perry, R. L. Schee, C. H. Spencer, E. L. Woods, C. J. Youngstrom and A. M. Christenson.

Seven Sailors Die In Plane Crash

San Francisco, March 16 (UP)—The 12th naval district announced today the names of four of seven men killed Wednesday night in the crash of a navy transport plane in the San Carlos hills 25 miles south of here.

The dead included: Lt. Cdr. J. H. Brahtz, USN, La Jolla, Cal.; Victor Salazar, seaman 1/c, San Antonio, Texas; Lt. Cdr. R. H. Allen, USCG, Winthrop, Mass.; and Richard B. Johnston, gunner's mate 3/c, San Jose, Calif.

Injured included: Arley W. Adams, seaman 2/c, Mother, Mrs. O. M. Adams, 4821 N. E. 14th Ave., Portland, Ore. P. W. Hudson, gunner, wife, Joyce Hudson, 1134 Tacoma Ave., Port Orchard, Wash.

Deputy Collector Ends Busy Period

The door of the tax department office was closed at 11 o'clock last night by A. E. Hill, deputy collector of internal revenue after ushering out his 125th customer for the day.

A number of residents were unable to file their returns before the deadline, Hill explained, as they had not yet received withholding statements from old employers.

Hill announced that former employees of Camp Abbot may secure withholding statements by writing to the Barnes general hospital, payroll section, Vancouver, Wash.

The collector will be in his office for several days and will be available for questioning.

Nazi Rockets Blast London, Kill Hundreds

London, March 16 (UP)—Censorship permitted the first disclosure today that hundreds of Londoners have been killed or wounded by German V-2 stratosphere rockets.

It had been permissible only to say that V-2 bombs fell in "southern England."

How many rockets have fallen in the metropolitan area and the specific places they have hit remain a closely guarded secret.

V-2 casualty figures here since the first rockets crashed to earth from heights up to 70 miles were not revealed, but censorship permitted the use of the word "hundreds" in describing them.

Red Cross Drive Donations Drop

Contributions to the Deschutes county American Red Cross fourth war fund campaign again took a slump yesterday, only \$379.67 being received, it was announced today by Bruce Gilbert, county chairman. The small sum was donated at the offices of the Red Cross in the Bank of Bend building, since the Junior chamber of commerce headquarters in the chamber of commerce offices had been closed.

Gilbert said that he had received only a few additional reports from Bend business houses, approximately 30 per cent of which have not yet turned in their donations. He said that he was hopeful that when these reports and those from the rural districts are received, the quota will have been reached.

"First" Honors Sought

"We had hoped that this campaign could have been finished in 12 days, and thus give Deschutes county a chance of being among the top in the state," Gilbert said. "But perhaps we are not too late."

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8 Battle Veteran Is Bend Visitor

Sgt. W. C. Billings of Bend, veteran of eight major battles, is in the city visiting his mother, Mrs. Etta Billings of 490 Dekalb. He is accompanied by his wife, the former Zora Stankovich of Portland.

Sgt. Billings is home on a 60-day convalescent leave recovering from injuries. In the service three years, the sergeant spent two years on overseas duty where he fought at Casa Blanca, on the Anzio beachhead and in Europe.

At the conclusion of his furlough the sergeant will report to Dibble hospital at Menlo Park, Calif., for further medical attention.

GETS PRISON TERM

Paris, March 16 (UP)—Vice-Admiral Jean Pierre Esteva, Viceroy resident-general of Tunisia, began a term of life imprisonment today as a traitor to France.

Mine Operators Reject Demands

Washington, March 16 (UP)—Soft coal operators today formally rejected the 18 wage contract demands of the United Mine Workers. But they offered counterproposals on six of the demands which they said would add \$1.69 a week to miners' basic earnings.

The operators presented their answer to the union demands at a morning session of the joint wage conference which is seeking to draft a new contract to replace the one which expires March 31. The conference immediately adjourned until tomorrow.

Both sides went into individual sessions to plan for continued negotiations tomorrow. The operators flatly rejected the union's demand for a 10-cent a ton royalty which would be used for an insurance and hospitalization fund under the union's jurisdiction.

Charges Made

The operators charged that this proposal presented an entirely "new social theory and philosophy" which would affect every industry in America.

"As such (it) must be considered and acted upon as a national problem and not as one relating to the coal industry alone," the operators said. "And in the judgment of the committee, we repeat, it is one to be considered by public legislative bodies."

Flaming Targets Please Admiral

Admiral Nimitz Advanced Headquarters, Guam, March 16 (UP)—(via navy radio)—Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, whose fast carrier task force recently staged full-scale carrier attacks on Tokyo, messaged congratulations today to Maj. Gen. Curtis Lemay, commander general of the 21st bomber command.

"We are proud to operate in the same area as a force which can do as much damage to the enemy as your force is consistently doing. "May your targets always flame."

Roosevelt Upholds His Policy Of Sending U. S. Food Abroad

Washington, March 16 (UP)—President Roosevelt today vigorously defended the administration's policy of having this country help feed other less fortunate nations.

He told a news conference he was aware of some opposition to reducing American consumption of certain items so that people in other nations do not starve. But it is a matter of national decency that this nation help feed those who do not have enough to eat, he said.

Roosevelt said he could not bring himself to think that this country had suffered greatly or was going to when the American standard of living is compared with that of other countries.

He added that he thought his feelings reflected not only the attitude of the administration but that of a large majority of the American population.

The president got into a discussion of this nation's foreign export policy in referring to the recent creation of a government committee which will examine and control the export of items other than actual military and lend-lease shipments.

This, the president said, had led to criticism in some quarters and the assertion that this country would be starved to feed other nations.

He rejected this idea flatly. Suppose he said, that we take as an example a specific commodity which everybody uses; then suppose we find that by cutting domestic consumption of this item 1 per cent we would still live at the level of 10 per cent of what the diverted 10 per cent would permit other people to live who otherwise might starve.

Holland, for example, is a very bad case and needs help, Roosevelt said.