

Four Allied Armies Cross Rhine

—Story Columns 7 and 8

THE BEND BULLETIN

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May Save Life

Paper makes flare parts, helmet linings, blood plasma containers. Saves yours.

Weather Forecast

Increasing cloudiness today, followed by light rain west portion tonight and over state Sunday. Warmer today.

Soviets Storm Defenses Along Oder; Armies Only 32 Miles From Berlin

Germans Hint Final Struggle Is in Progress

Capital of Reich Now Goal, Asserts Enemy; Moscow Is Still Silent

London, March 24 (U.P.)—Nazi broadcasts said at least 90,000 red army troops, already six miles beyond the Oder river, were storming German defenses 32 miles east of Berlin today in what may be the first stages of the climactic battle for the capital.

Six Soviet rifle divisions, supported by 100 or more tanks, cracked through the Oder river line opposite Kuestrin and smashed down the shortest road to Berlin as far as Golzow, 32 miles from the capital, before being halted yesterday, German broadcasts admitted.

The Germans said a "ding-dong" battle was raging in the outskirts of Golzow.

Other German broadcasts said Soviet pressure was increasing all along the Oder front between Kuestrin and Frankfurt, 16 miles to the south.

Attacks Are Fierce
The Russians have been attacking Klessin, 3 1/2 miles east of Berlin and nine miles south of Kuestrin, fiercely "from all sides" for nine days, the Germans said. The reference to "all sides" indicated the fortress town two miles west of the Oder may have been surrounded.

While Moscow did not immediately confirm the thrust, both Russian and Nazi dispatches for the past few weeks have reported preparations for a resumption of the Soviet march on Berlin almost complete.

Allied observers have speculated that the Russians would strike toward Berlin simultaneously with an allied smash across the Rhine in the west in coordinated win-the-war offensives.

Berlin Releases News
Berlin said crack units of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian army launched their attack yesterday from Oder bridgeheads at Mantschow, three miles southwest of Kuestrin, and (Continued on Page 3)

Bomb Nip Palace, Urges Dr. Steiner

Seattle, March 24 (U.P.)—A rain of bombs on the Japanese Imperial palace in Tokyo was urged yesterday by Dr. Jesse Steiner, former resident of Japan.

Steiner, now executive officer of the University of Washington sociology department and who spent seven years as a teacher in Japan, said sparing of the shrine now is "unrealistic and absurd."

"Bombing the palace and hitting the old gentleman himself wouldn't be sacrilegious in any sense," he said. "The Jap government itself has claimed for years that the official shrine of Shinto is not a religion, and that Shintoism is not a religion."

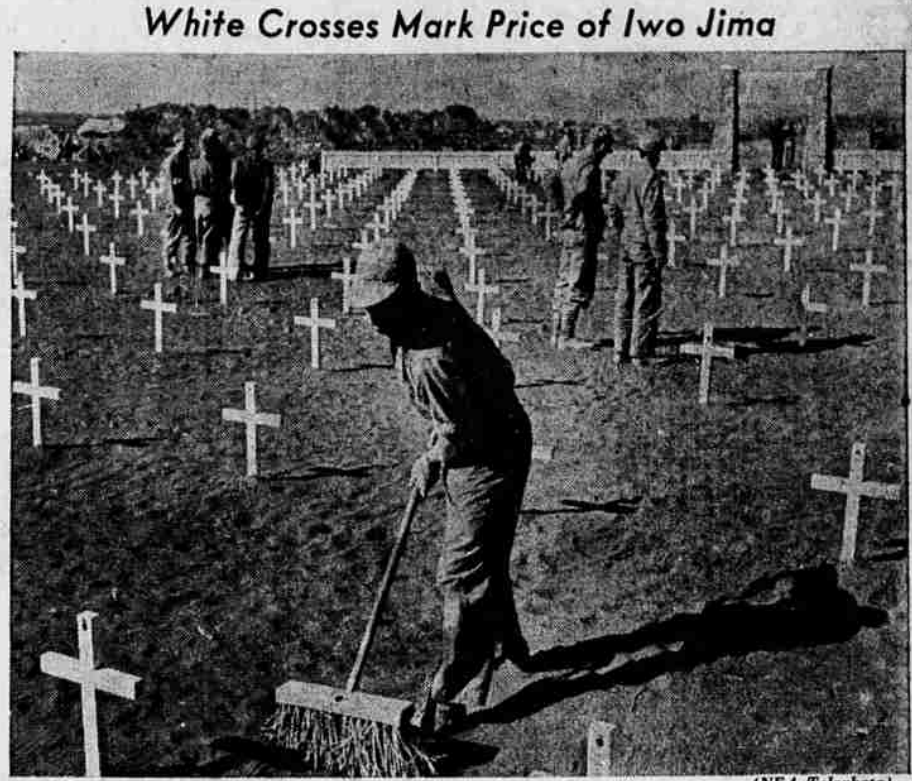
Steiner said the Japanese people would think their gods have deserted them and the people would "go to pieces."

Official Envisions Battles in China

Seattle, March 24 (U.P.)—U. S. naval installations around Seattle were under scrutiny today of Cmdr. Lin Sian-Kwan, Chinese assistant naval attaché to the United States, helping his country plan for an enlarged postwar navy.

The officer, formerly personal aide to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, predicted that the final battle between Japan and the United Nations will be on Chinese soil.

"The Japs now have about 1,500,000 soldiers in China," he said. "They must be beaten before Japan is conquered. And the fighting will be in China."



Hundreds of white crosses dot the volcanic sand of Iwo Jima in this cemetery for the men of the Fifth Marine Division who died in fighting to secure the island. This is only a part of the toll American fighting men paid for the strategically important stepping stone to Tokyo.

Citywide Paper Pickup Scheduled for Sunday

As news dispatches told of the crumbling German fronts and the retirement of Japs closer to their homeland, residents on the home front in Bend today prepared to intensify their warfare against the foe by contributing much needed salvage paper when the city-wide pickup takes place tomorrow.

For the fourth time, a committee of the Bend Junior chamber of commerce, prepared to sweep the city of old paper and send it to processing plants where it will be made into various weapons for use against the land of the Rising Sun and the reich.

Chamber Opposes Valley Authority

The Bend Chamber of commerce, following the example of the Deschutes county Sportsmen's association, today was on record as being opposed to two congressional measures which would set up the Columbia Valley authority. Previously the sportsmen's group had adopted a resolution opposing the bills on the grounds that such an authority might affect fish and wildlife in the Deschutes country.

The chamber directors extended their opposition, however, and in letters to Senators Guy Cordon and Wayne Morse, and to Rep. Lowell Stockman, claimed that passage of the bills might affect state water rights, county road programs and fish and wild life.

The letters, pointing out the chamber's opposition to Senate bill 460 and House resolution 18,241 were addressed to the legislators today.

Smoke Blanket Covers Rhine Front; Big Guns Assist Yanks

By C. R. Cunningham
(United Press War Correspondent)
Aboard Piper Cub over Ninth Army Rhine Bridgehead, Mar. 24 (U.P.)—American troops streamed across the Rhine this afternoon like New York commuters heading for the Jersey ferries.

The biggest hazard of flying over our bridgehead is the concussion of American artillery shells which fill the air and have started huge fires in the positions which our troops are moving up to assault.

A blanket of smoke covered the Rhine front as I flew over the lines in the rear cockpit of a Piper Cub, piloted by staff Sgt. Bob McConahey, Long Beach, Calif. We winged up the Rhine from a point near Cologne.

There was plenty of our own artillery in action. The outgoing shells rocked our little plane so much that both of us felt a little seasick.

So far as I was able to determine the Germans were hardly putting up any resistance. That phase will come no doubt within the next 24 to 48 hours.

American artillery battalions are throwing everything they have at the German rear. There were fires in numerous towns and villages and one big fire in a city.

The artillerymen seemed to be making the job a little easier for the doughboys.

From the Piper Cub it was easy to see that this was no Remagen bridgehead. Here the crossings were on a grand scale with men and equipment on the scale of D-day. It appeared that this was the beginning of the end for Germany.

County Attains Red Cross Goal

Campaign workers who for 24 days have been waging the Deschutes county drive for the American Red Cross fourth war fund, today triumphantly announced that it was "over the top," and that the county's quota of \$22,300 had been exceeded by nearly \$300.

When figures were checked at the Red Cross offices in the Bank of Bend building this morning, it was shown that a total of \$22,599.80 had been collected.

This makes Deschutes county the 16th one of the state to report it had reached its goal, according to a United Press report from Portland state headquarters.

Returns Surveyed
A survey of returns, according to Bruce Gilbert, county campaign chairman, showed that the residential district of Bend subscribed almost as much as the city's business firms. Breakdown of donations follows:

Bend business district, \$6,422.75; residential area, \$6,282.71; Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company Inc. employees, \$2,215; The Shevlin-Hix-on Company employees, \$2,253.75; Ninth service command ordinance shop, \$463.60; rural districts, \$474.33; Redmond, \$3,552.71; Sisters, \$769.75; and Lapine, \$165.

One of the last donations came from the United Air Lines, through John H. Standish, district traffic manager. The company gave a check for \$50 to Loyde S. Blakley, city commissioner, who in turn presented it to Chairman Gilbert.

Loss of Ration Books Reported

Persons who lose their ration books face a delay of at least 30 days in getting replacements, Harold C. Carille, chairman of the local war price and ration board reported today, in urging that holders of these OPA books take every precaution to safeguard them.

Mank books have been lost in Bend and vicinity recently, board members report, and, they add, it appears to be the belief of the public that these books can be immediately replaced.

At present, these books are more valuable than money, OPA officials warn, and they ask that the ration books be given the same protection as money.

REDS TAKE NEISSE

London, March 24 (U.P.)—Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army today captured the south Silesian strongholds of Neisse and Leobschuetz, opening up the border area of Czechoslovakia.

Big Foe Naval Base, Okinawa Under Attack

Carrier Planes Launch Blow at Citadel Only 300 Miles From Japan

By Frank Tremaine
(United Press War Correspondent)

Guam, March 24 (U.P.)—Tokyo reported that hundreds of American carrier planes attacked Okinawa island, enemy naval and air base 300 miles southwest of Japan, last evening and today.

Some 230 planes opened the assault late yesterday and other formations carried it into a second day with raids still continuing after eight hours today, Japanese broadcasts said.

Miyako Island, 180 miles southwest of Okinawa and only 210 miles northeast of Formosa, also was under attack today, Tokyo said.

The planes presumably came from the Fifth fleet with Vice-Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's force of a dozen or more carriers fresh from wrecking at least 731 Japanese planes and damaging 17 warships in attacks on Kyushu and Japan's inland sea Sunday and Monday and in air battle to the south Tuesday and Wednesday.

"New" Force Sighted
Tokyo, apparently seeking to justify the new raids in the light of earlier claims that Japanese planes had broken up the fleet with the sinking of 11 warships, said Okinawa and Miyako were being attacked by a "new enemy task force."

The new force, with two or three aircraft carriers as its nucleus, appeared off Okinawa yesterday, Tokyo said. Earlier Tokyo broadcasts had reported Mitscher's force approaching the waters east of Okinawa Wednesday night, however.

Today's raids began at 7 a. m. (Tokyo time), Japanese broadcasts said, and still were continuing at 3 p. m.

Important Link
Okinawa lies midway between Japan proper and Formosa in the Ryukyu island chain and is an important link in the belt of air and sea bases protecting the southern approaches to the enemy homeland.

The task force which struck at the inland sea earlier this week, Tokyo insisted, was "reported in flight" near Foru gulf, 600 miles east of Formosa, "with the greater part" of its carrier units smashed by the Japanese attackers.

Capt. Etsuzo Kuliha, chief of the Japanese navy's press section, boasted in a Tokyo broadcast that if the American task force again should appear off Japan, "we'll deal them another crushing blow."

Near Zero Chill Grips High Passes

Near zero weather prevailed on lofty Cascade passes last night, the Bend headquarters of the state highway department reported today. New snow fell on the high divides, but all highways remained open to travel.

A report from the Santiam summit said that it was two above zero this morning, and that the total snow depth was 91 inches. On the Willamette highway a depth of 73 inches of snow was reported.

Packed snow was on both highways and maintenance men advised cautious driving and the use of chains on automobiles crossing the lofty passes over the weekend.

Low temperature in Bend early today was 17 degrees above zero, with warmer weather and possible rain being forecast for the weekend.

NAZI CHIEF CAPTURED

With British Second Army in Germany, March 24 (U.P.)—The German garrison commander at Wesel was captured by British troops today and a Major General Deetsch, commander of Nazi anti-aircraft forces in the area was killed.

BULLETINS

With 21st Army Group, Mar. 24 (U.P.)—Heavy fighting was going on this evening in the Wesel-Dees area along the east bank of the Rhine. The British second army took more than 1,500 prisoners.

Guam, Sunday, March 25 (U.P.)—Approximately 225 superfortresses dumped hundreds of tons of demolition bombs on Nagoya today in an attempt to knock out Japan's Mitsubishi aircraft industry.

London, March 24 (U.P.)—Radio Berlin said tonight that allied airborne landings occurred this morning at Bocholt, ten miles east of the Rhine and an equal distance northeast of Rees.

Cislich, East Bank of Rhine, March 24 (U.P.)—Scottish troops linked up with American airborne forces around noon today, some two hours after the first paratroopers landed.

Sailors Join U. S. Soldiers In Rhine Fight

By Clinton B. Conger
(United Press War Correspondent)

With United States Navy on the Rhine, March 24 (U.P.)—Bereft of their mother ships and fostered by tank retrievers, amphibious forces of the United States navy today are fighting on the Rhine after five cock-eyed months of army life ashore.

The navy task unit, attached to the American Ninth army, consists of officers and men running LCM's and LCPV's which were dragged on trawlers over damaged roads and through narrow village streets for the operation.

The men had been waiting patiently since October. They were mainly veterans of D-day in Normandy who volunteered for this particular job.

Uniforms Barred
Since the members of the unit assembled in England in October, they have been forbidden to wear their navy uniforms or to mark their vehicles with "USN." They had to paint their boats an olive drab instead of regulation battleship gray. They were even forced to jettison the navy's traditional ship rule, drawing the army ration instead.

But the boatswain's mate, sitting in the command post—on the bridge—still tells callers "the skipper's just come aboard sir" or passes along word for his steward to "secure galley" (quit making coffee).

Skipped Fleet
The skipper is Lt. Cmdr. Willard T. Patrick of Ark, N. J., who led a squadron of infantry landing craft onto the beaches in the first blazing hours of Normandy. He skipped a fleet minesweeper off Panama for two and one-half years before joining the amphibious forces.

"I don't think they like it particularly," Patrick said of his brown-clad navy. "They've learned that army living is damned uncomfortable and they've gotten an inkling—just an inkling—of what the riflemen are going through up forward."

"Even way back here the quarters we get can't compare to navy accommodations. Army food just isn't navy food."

Headquarters spokesmen said the Germans' main reserves had not yet joined the battle and it was indicated that the tremendous allied aerial bombardment of the past three days had crippled the enemy's main communications lines.

Almost 40,000 veteran American and British sky troopers were reported running riot through the German rear, slashing communications, knocking out gun positions and clearing the way for a lightning armored sweep into the German heartland.

Japanese Forces Flee Into West Luzon Hills As Yanks Thrust Toward Stronghold of Baguio

Manila, March 24 (U.P.)—Japanese troops were reported fleeing into the western Luzon hills today before American 33rd division forces which overran Naguilian and its airfield and thrust to less than 10 miles from the enemy stronghold of Baguio.

Naguilian, which had a pre-war population of 15,000, was taken against only minor resistance. Its airfield provided another base for Gen. Douglas MacArthur's bombers which sank or damaged 11 more Japanese ships, including two destroyers and a minesweeper. In new attacks through the China sea.

The Japanese had blown up the 250-yard bridge across the Naguilian river and the American troops were forced to wade across the river to reach the town.

A rolling artillery barrage blasted a path for the advancing troops and they met little opposition in pushing into Naguilian Wednesday. One heavy artillery shell scored a direct hit on a Japanese ammunition dump, causing an explosion that rocked the earth for several miles.

(Tokyo radio said the Americans had concentrated four divisions in the mountainous area south of Balete pass, and were building a road "indicating their intentions of penetrating into Cagayan valley.")

(The broadcast declared the Japanese counterattacks which MacArthur said had been repulsed with heavy losses had been "carried out by only a handful of soldiers.")

A front report said the Japanese around Naguilian were fleeing into the hills before riflemen under the command of Lt. Col. Arthur Collins, Boston, Mass.

The thrust carried the 33rd division to less than 10 miles from Baguio, former Philippines summer capital and headquarters for Japanese forces in the Philippines. There were no further reports of another American column which last was revealed only six miles south of the city.

Bitter fighting continued in north-central Luzon, where American troops were closing a two-way drive on Balete pass, escape route into the Cagayan valley. Four sharp counter-attacks were repulsed by the Yanks as they moved within four miles north and south of the pass.

Land, Air Troops Break Foe Lines

Yanks, British and Canucks Strike Sudden Blow on 40 Mile Front; Massive Forces Smash Eastward Toward Blazing Westphal

Paris, March 24 (U.P.)—Four allied land and airborne armies swept across the Rhine on a broad front north of the Ruhr today and won a bridgehead more than three miles deep on the rim of the northwest German plain stretching east of Berlin.

Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's engineers at once began bridging the Rhine in a bid to establish a solid passage over Germany's breached western barrier for a win-the-war push into the heart of the reich.

Field dispatches this evening said the U. S. Ninth army was driving east against light to moderate resistance. It consisted mostly of small arms fire, with forward elements running into growing artillery shelling.

FRONT FALLING APART

(By United Press)
The whole Rhineland front before inner Germany is apparently falling apart, allied headquarters announced tonight. Airborne and land armies have joined forces east of the Rhine and are plunging into the plains of northwest Germany.

Commandos Aid
An unofficial dispatch said Scottish commandos linked up with troops of the allied first airborne army. In the biggest single descent of the war, they had showered down on and behind the Germans positions while the land forces broke over the Rhine.

Dispatches reported heavy fighting along the Rees-Wesel stretch of the Rhine where the new bridgehead was bulging inland through a number of German towns and villages.

Bridgehead Held

In the Mainz-Worms area at the other end of the Rhine front, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army was revealed to hold a bridgehead four miles deep across the Rhine. Patton's forces sprang the amphibious operation on the stunned Germans last night, and had a foothold over the Rhine before the Nazis knew what was happening.

The U. S. First army at the center of the Rhine front beat off two German counterattacks against the Remagen bridgehead. Suddenly resurgent resistance in some sectors was described officially as "very heavy." Yesterday it was reported virtually non-existent at some points around the bridgehead.

Infantry Advances

U. S. infantry advanced eastward 200 yards at the south end of the Remagen bridgehead today for a total gain of 4,000 yards in the past 24 hours against light resistance.

Today's operations boosted to six the number of allied armies having footholds east of the Rhine. They were the U. S. Third, First and Ninth, the British Second, the Canadian First and the allied First airborne.

A Third army front report said the Americans were pushing on against light opposition. Elements of the 12th corps, including armor, had crossed the Rhine, and one bridge thrown over by the engineers was in operation.

Four Towns Taken

Four towns had been captured in the new bridgehead. By 10 p. m. Friday "hundreds" of troops already were over the river.

The broad Rhine barrier was breached at four or more points along a front of perhaps 40 miles extending south from the Rees-Wesel sector to Duesseldorf in the Ruhr basin.

Massive armored and infantry forces of the American Ninth, British Second, and Canadian First army were smashing eastward across the burning Westphalian plain against amazingly weak opposition.

Veteran amphibious assault teams of the United States navy were working side by side with the ground troops, manning hundreds of big invasion craft massed secretly behind the Rhine for the spectacular crossing.

Germans Stunned

Twenty hours after the first British shock troops plunged across the river into Wesel the stunned Germans had failed to mount a single major counterattack.

Their boasted battle screen along the east bank of the Rhine was shattered beyond repair, and a decisive allied breakthrough that could knock Germany out of the war appeared a definite possibility.

Headquarters spokesmen said the Germans' main reserves had not yet joined the battle and it was indicated that the tremendous allied aerial bombardment of the past three days had crippled the enemy's main communications lines.

Almost 40,000 veteran American and British sky troopers were reported running riot through the German rear, slashing communications, knocking out gun positions and clearing the way for a lightning armored sweep into the German heartland.

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