

Check Your Tires
From the day the Japs attacked Pearl Harbor, tires have been a valuable spot in U. S. armor.

THE BEND BULLETIN

Weather Forecast
Partly cloudy with widely-scattered showers today, tonight and Tuesday; cooler tonight.

U. S. Troopers Race Into Reich

Isles Close to Japan Proper Invaded, Nip Radio Reports

Tokyo Asserts Kerama Group Yanks' Target

Enemy Says Landings Preceded by Heavy Fire From Huge U. S. Flotilla

Guam, March 26 (UP)—Tokyo said today that 2,000 American invasion troops were storming two and perhaps three tiny islands in the Okinawa group in a major amphibious leap toward Japan proper, only 380 miles to the northeast.

(A Tokyo broadcast, quoted by BBC and recorded by CBS, said the Americans "tried to get ashore on Okinawa Island," the principal island in the group.) Thirteen aircraft carriers, 11 battleships, 10 cruisers, 22 destroyers and other smaller craft were supporting the invasion with a terrific air and naval bombardment that began Friday, Japanese broadcasts said.

Stiff Fight Reported At 11 p. m. (Tokyo time), Tokyo radio recorded by United Press, San Francisco, said the Japanese garrisons were putting up "fierce resistance" to American "landing operations" in the Kerama group, which includes Tokoshika and Aka. This indicated possible beach-head fighting, and eliminated the word "attempted."

In this broadcast Tokyo said there were "four groups of enemy task forces and many other war craft" cruising off the Ryukyu. Earlier Tokyo had said the American task forces disappeared Monday morning after the Sunday morning landing "attempt."

"Intercepting" Forces Though not saying specifically that the Americans had succeeded in landing on Tokoshika and Aka, Tokyo reported that "our garrison units are now intercepting enemy forces" which attempted a landing.

Another broadcast said the garrisons were offering "stiff resistance." There was no official confirmation of the landings available at Pacific fleet headquarters, but one and possibly two task forces of the Pacific fleet were known to be in the Okinawa area.

Headquarters did confirm that battleships, other warships and carrier planes had bombarded Kerama Retao — which includes Tokoshika, Aka and Zamami — along with Okinawa and other islands in the Ryukyu chain stretching down from the southern tip of Japan to Formosa on Friday and Saturday.

Would Cut Distance A landing in the Okinawa group would put American ground forces nearly twice as close to the Japanese homeland as the marines newly captured Iwo, 695 miles south of Japan. However, two lies only 750 miles south of Tokyo, whereas Tokoshika is nearly 1,000 miles away.

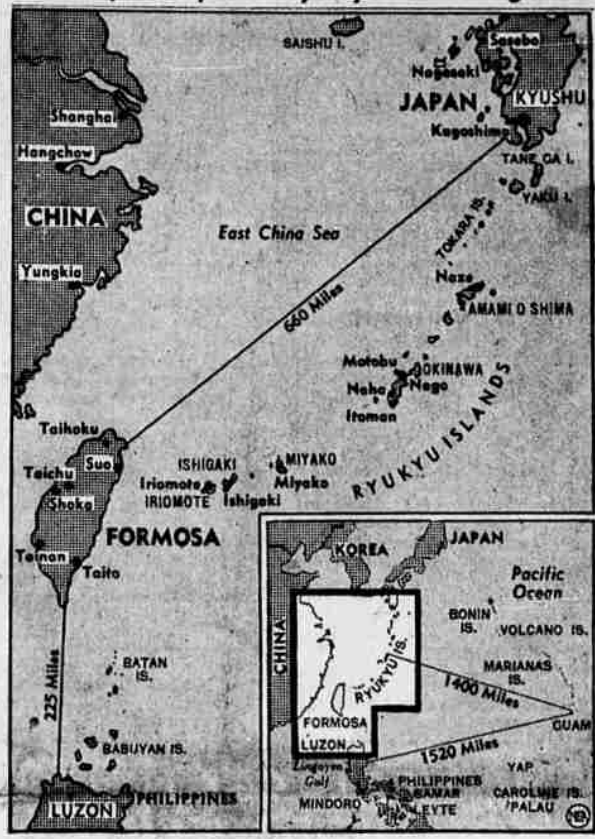
The Okinawa group also is less than 400 miles from the China coast at a point south of Shanghai.

Tokoshika and the other islands in the Kerama Retto appeared of no importance themselves except as bases from which to attack Okinawa, site of a naval base and important air installations midway between Kyushu, southernmost of the Japanese home islands, and Formosa.

Okinawa, largest island in the group of the same name, is 67 miles long and has a maximum width of 10 miles. Thickly populated, it has some 450,000 inhabitants, of which 66,000 are concentrated in the Naha area of the southwest coast, opposite Tokoshika.

BULLETIN Twelfth Army Group GHQ, March 26 (UP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower today conferred with Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley of the 13th army group, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton of the Third U. S. Army and Lt. Gen. Courtney M. Hodges in what was described as "a significant conference."

Japs Report Ryukyu Landings



Japanese radios reported today that American invasion troops were storming several islands of the Okinawa group in the Ryukyu chain, in a major amphibious leap toward Japan proper.

25 Tons of Paper Collected In Jaycee and Scout Drive

Members of Bend's Junior chamber of commerce today viewed with satisfaction the salvage paper city-wide pickup yesterday, which they reported met with success, with an estimated 25 tons of paper gathered in the city.

Although a larger boxcar had been provided for the shipment of the paper to the processing plants, at least another ton of paper was left over, according to Don Higgins and George Thompson, co-chairmen of the salvage drives. The car was reported to have had a capacity of 50,000 pounds, and it was packed full.

Since the Junior chamber men assumed sponsorship of the paper salvage work last August, they have collected approximately 100 tons, they reported today. Only once before was the total tonnage exceeded, and that was in the first pickup when 35 1/2 tons were collected.

Scouts Assist Boy Scout Troop No. 24 assisted the Jaycees in yesterday's pickup en masse, and other individual scouts played an important role by carrying paper bundles from the homes of donors to the routes followed by the trucks. Higgins and Thompson reported that they encountered some difficulty because contributors had not securely tied their paper, causing considerable delay in handling it and storing it in the car. Jaycees who worked in the pickup were Higgins, Thompson, Bruce Gilbert, Carroll Meeks, Joe Van Wormer, Marion Cady, Wallace Guthrie, Harold Gentry, Virgil and William Lyons, Mark Sanders, Richard Brandis, Frank Prince, Jr., Don Connor and Wilfred Jossy.

In-Plant Feeding Plans Abandoned

Portland, Ore., March 26 (UP)—Plans for installing in-plant feeding facilities in the three Kaiser shipyards here, after being approved by the government Mar. 8, have been abandoned, U. S. maritime commission officials said today.

The project would have cost \$1,100,000 for construction of buildings and installation of equipment at Vancouver, Oregon ship and Swan island yards. The facilities review board, a part of the WPB, refused to grant the necessary materials, it was reported.

Russian Army Nears Vienna In New Drive

Soviets Strike Within 35 Miles of Hungary; Million Reds on March

By Robert Musel (United Press Staff Correspondent)

London, March 26 (UP)—Berlin said today that the Russians have thrown a Third Army group into their Vienna-bound offensive, already within 35 miles of the Austrian border.

Ernest Von Hammer, German DNB commentator, said the new force seized a bridgehead across the Hron river near the Slovakian-Hungarian border some 96 miles east of Vienna in an attack that began at 4 a. m. Sunday. The army group went over to the attack north of the Danube river while two other red army groups — the Second and Third Ukrainian — were driving the Germans back toward Austria in disorder along a 90-mile front south of the river.

City Outflanked Vanguards of the Third Ukrainian army already had outflanked the western Hungarian fortress city of Győr and were less than 78 miles southeast of Vienna.

The new assault widened the offensive front to at least 130 miles and put well over 1,000,000 Russian troops on the march in a determined bid to thwart Nazi plans for a last stand in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps beyond Vienna.

Von Hammer acknowledged that the Russians had forced the Hron on a wide front in the new attack north of the Danube river, but asserted that apart from a "narrow bridgehead" southwest of Leva, they had been unable to obtain a "firm foothold" on the west bank.

"The small bridgehead is exposed to heavy German artillery fire and attacks," Von Hammer said. Lies On Border Leva lies on the Hungarian-Slovakian border some 30 miles up the Hron river from its confluence with the Danube.

Forcing of the Hron would open the way for an attack on Komarom, 29 miles to the west, one of the main strongholds on the trunk railway from Budapest to Vienna.

Far to the north, the Russian siege of Danzig and Gdynia, twin German-held ports on the Baltic, appeared to be entering its last days. Soviet forces captured suburbs within a mile and a half north-west and two and a half south and southwest of Danzig and within a mile and a half south-west and two miles south of Gdynia yesterday. They also widened their wedge between the two ports to seven miles.

800 Persons Die When Fliers Err

London, March 26 (UP)—More than 800 persons were killed and 1,000 injured in a mistaken bombing of The Hague, Dutch capital, by RAF planes March 3, it was revealed today.

The RAF planes were attempting to attack rocket-launching sites but their bombs fell wide of the mark and hit the heavily populated civilian area.

Big Jap Hydro-Electric Plant on Formosa Bombed and Destroyed By American Fliers

Manila, March 26 (UP)—Liberator bombers were believed today to have paralyzed all enemy war production in two-thirds of Formosa by shattering the island's big Jitsugetsu hydro-electric plant. More than 50 Liberators and escorting Lightnings from the Fifth air force hit the hydro-electric installations Friday with 145 tons of explosives which wrecked the power plant and transformers. A communique said the raid left "water pouring from the penstocks" and a spokesman estimated the attack knocked out 75 per cent of Formosa's hydro-electric generating capacity.

Bad News Due Germans, Nazi Chief Says on Eve of Emergency Parley

London, March 26 (UP)—A Zurich dispatch said today that Adolf Hitler has called an emergency meeting of his ministers and gauleiters (district leaders) for tonight at Berchtesgaden.

Subject matter of the conference was not disclosed, the dispatch said, but it quoted a German war office spokesman as saying that Germany "must be prepared for unfortunate news."

The dispatch, distributed by the Exchange Telegraph agency, said the plans for the meeting were disclosed by an "unquestionable source." Ministers and gauleiters will be transported to Hitler's Bavarian retreat by plane, it said. Reports reaching Sweden from Berlin said the Nazi capital was more jittery and tense than at any time since the invasion of Normandy.

Nippons Expect U. S. Armies To Invade 'Sacred Mainland'

'The Situation Requires Us to Sit and Think Deeply,' Speaker Warns Jap Rulers

Members of the Japanese diet concluded their 86th session today with gloomy forebodings of an American invasion of the "sacred mainland."

Tadahiko Okada, speaker of the lower house, declared in an interview after the closing that it was "earnestly desired that the government put into practice a powerful policy to surmount the national crisis."

"The situation requires us to sit and think deeply to ponder the enemy's successes and his new undoubted attempts at invading our sacred mainland," Okada said. "Never before in history have we faced a (like) situation. The days ahead have no past precedent and we must find our own way out."

Rock Slide Blocks Santiam Route

A rock slide today had forced the closure again of the south Santiam highway, according to the Bend headquarters of the state highway department. There was no likelihood that it would be opened today, it was stated.

This highway was closed for two days last week by deep snows. As six inches of new snow fell in the night, and it was reported snowing lightly, plows were operating to keep traffic moving on the north Santiam highway. At the summit of this artery, a total depth of 90 inches of snow was reported this morning.

The Willamette highway was reported shrouded in fog this morning, with snow being packed on the pavement east of the summit. A total of 72 inches of snow was reported along this route.

Weather conditions were said to be clear along the Dalles-California highway, with packed snow being on the route in the vicinity of Sun mountain.

Airplane Is Used In Hunt for Car

Lima, O., March 26 (UP)—O. F. Reynolds went up in the air when his car was stolen—and had it back today.

When his car—painted a peculiar green color—was stolen Saturday, he hired a plane and cruised over the city, looking for that color. He spotted the car in a war plant parking lot, landed and called the highway patrol.

80-Mile Drive Carries Allies To Frankfurt

Entire Western Front Is Reported Cracking; Patton Again on Loose

Paris, March 26 (UP)—Germany's western front cracked wide open today with the American First Army streaking eastward in a 22-mile gain and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's tanks running wild and reported entering Frankfurt-on-Main, near the Bavarian stronghold of Wuerzburg in a sensational 80-mile drive and reaching the outskirts of Wiesbaden.

The First Army advance was made from the southern sector of the Remagen bridgehead.

Patton's Third Army was on the loose and was reported ranging behind the crumpled German defenses almost at will.

City Nearly Empty Reports from Radio Brussels and Radio Luxembourg said that Third Army forces drove into Frankfurt-on-Main this morning and found the city practically empty.

Other reliable quarters reported that some units of Patton's forces had raced forward 80 miles by highway from the Rhine bridgehead to a point near Wuerzburg. That would represent a gain of 37 miles to the southeast from the last reported positions at Aschaffenburg on the Main.

Radio Paris said that Patton's advance elements also penetrated to the outskirts of Wiesbaden, about five miles north of Mainz on the north bank of the Main river.

Patton on Move While the reports of the sensational Third Army gains still lacked official confirmation they were in line with the free-swinging advance by Patton's tankers who had been running wild in the German rear ever since the hard crust of Nazi resistance was broken.

The exact location of the First Army breakthrough was not immediately specified. A 22-mile advance would place the First Army spearhead in a position to threaten or flank Limburg, 22 miles east of Coblenz.

A report from the British Second Army front said that the whole German Rhine defense system appeared to be collapsing. This correspondent said there were indications that the Germans had given up efforts to (Continued on Page 5)

Strike Vote Due For Coal Miners

Washington, March 26 (UP)—The soft coal wage controversy entered its most crucial phase today with mounting signs that the government will step in at any moment to prevent a strike.

The present contract between the mine operators and John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers expires Saturday and there was virtually no hope that a new one could be negotiated in the six days remaining. "No contract, no work" has been the motto of the UMW in the past.

The miners' readiness to follow that principal this time will be tested day after tomorrow when they take a strike vote under supervision of the national labor relations board. The government, however, has set up machinery to seize the mines to prevent a work stoppage.

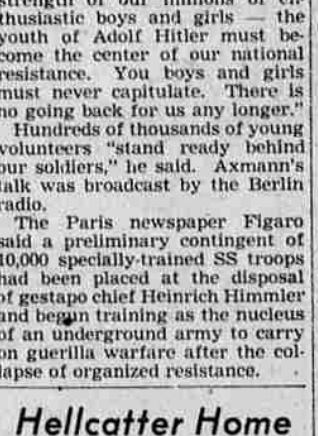
The government may step in even before the vote is taken. Howard T. Colvin, acting director of the U. S. conciliation service, conferred with both parties at their closing session last week and indicated that government intervention might come after today's session.

Amedee Smith Dies in Portland

Portland, Ore., March 26 (UP)—Amedee M. Smith, 76, president of Willamette Iron & Steel Corp., and a former president of the Portland chamber of commerce, died here Sunday.

Mr. Smith, a native of Buena Vista, Ore., was Multnomah county commissioner from 1924 to 1928, and during his term of office was instrumental in construction of three bridges in Portland. While he was chamber of commerce president—in 1933 and 1934—he received much of the credit for expediting federal legislation resulting in construction of the Bonneville dam.

Hellcatter Home



Lieutenant Louis A. Menard, 23, of Palmetto, Fla., one of the first Navy Hellcat fighter-bomber pilots to get a crack at Tokyo pictured upon his return to San Francisco. With nine Axis planes and a long list of medals to his credit, Menard is here to report that the Japs do not do so well when the chips are down.

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Lloyd George, 82, Ex-Premier, Dead

London, March 26 (UP)—David Lloyd George, world war I prime minister of Great Britain, died today at 82 after a lengthy illness.

Lloyd George's condition had been grave for more than a month. He had not been in good health for several years but had continued to make occasional appearances in the house of commons until recent months.

Turns For Worse Lloyd George's condition took a turn for the worse in the last 24 hours and his physicians gave up hope.

The former world war prime minister died at 8:35 p. m., it was announced.

Rhine Crossed by Prime Minister

London, March 26 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill went across the Rhine again today in company of Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery who said the "battle is going extremely well."

Churchill visited British Second Army troops, accompanied by Chief of the Imperial General Staff Sir Alan Brooke and by Lt. Gen. Miles C. Dempsey, commander of the British Second Army.

Churchill watched troops and vehicles streaming across the Rhine and inspected troops on the west bank on the site of Saturday's battles.

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