

# Reds Nearing Heart of Berlin

—Story Column 8

## THE BEND BULLETIN

CENTRAL OREGON'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

**Weather Forecast**  
Rain west and showers east portion today and tonight. Clearing Tuesday. Cooler tonight and Tuesday.

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Volume LIII

THE BEND BULLETIN, BEND, DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON, MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1945

NO. 118

### Reports, Not Yet Verified, Say Allied and Soviet Lines Merged

#### Patton Strikes For Nazi Alps In Quick Move

U. S. Forces Racing for Redoubt at Mile an Hour Pace; River Is Reached

Paris, April 23 (UP)—Three American and French armies opened the battle for Nazi Germany's last retreat in the Bavarian Alps today amid a flurry of reports that other American forces south of Berlin had linked up with the red army to merge the western and eastern fronts.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. third army shot out in front of the Bavarian offensive with a sudden armored lunge south along the Czechoslovak border into the Danube valley 120-odd miles northwest of Berchtesgaden.

Patton's flying tank columns reeled off gains of as much as 32 miles in as many hours, sweeping up thousands of stunned Nazi prisoners and liberating at least one enemy prisoner-of-war camp with hundreds of allied captives.

**Naab River Crossed**  
Late dispatches said the third army crossed the Naab river on a seven-mile front after capturing Nabburg and Schwarzenfeld and pushed southeast four to five miles to the Kemnath and Wilhof areas. At Kemnath, they were 23 miles north of the Danubian fortress of Regensburg, little more than 70 miles from Munich and 123 miles from Berchtesgaden.

Other third army forces were moving down on the Danube along a front of more than 30 miles extending west from the Naab river to Neumarkt, 18 miles southwest of Nurnberg. Amberg, 14 miles west of the river, was captured by an unidentified third army infantry force.

At the same time, the U. S. seventh army broke across the Danube at Dillingen, 64 miles southwest of Nurnberg, and fanned out along a seven-mile stretch of the river's south bank to Hochstadt and Lauingen, about 53 miles northwest of Munich.

**Danube Reached**  
Another seventh army column reached the Danube farther west at Echingen, moving within 10 miles of French first army troops who pushed 18 miles eastward from their Danube bridgehead at Sigmaringen to Keppel.

Front dispatches also relayed a sensational but unconfirmed report that Adolf Hitler and a number of other top-ranking Nazi leaders might be hiding out in the (Continued on Page 3)

#### Ex-Cook's Helper Bags 16 Nippons

Manila, April 23 (UP)—A former cook's helper who quit his pots and pans to volunteer for front-line duty as a forward scout recently killed 16 Japanese near Baguio in five and one-half hours.

"It was a busy day," admitted Pfc. Dexter J. Kerstetter, 37, of Centralia, Wash., an infantryman of the 33rd division.

After drawing enemy machine gun fire, Kerstetter sneaked within 15 yards and killed five Japanese with his rifle. Then he moved forward and picked off two more machine gunners.

He returned to his command post for more food and ammunition and resumed his patrol. He bagged three singles and killed three more flushed from foxholes. He got his 13th when a Japanese hopped from a foxhole and ran toward the brush.

He spotted three more Japanese on route back to his base and killed them with his rifle. He came through his busy day without a scratch but two days later a machine gun bullet hit his shin bone and glanced up his thigh.

"This time I didn't even fire a shot," Kerstetter said. "I was just an innocent bystander."

#### Nearly 12,000 Nippons Killed In Battles on Okinawa Island

Nimitz Reveals Marines Have Landed on Two More Spots; 125 Japanese Warplanes Bagged

Guam, April 23 (UP)—American aerial forces wrecked 126 Japanese planes and six ships in two days of battle along an 850-mile front from Japan to the southern Ryukyus.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced the heavy toll of Japanese aircraft today. He also revealed that U. S. marines had landed on two more islands off Okinawa and disclosed that army troops had killed 11,738 Japanese and captured 27 on southern Okinawa.

The Japanese planes, of which 105 were destroyed, were accounted for by Mustang fighters from Iwo and carrier planes from the U. S. task force in the Ryukyus. In addition, a large force of B29 Superfortresses from the Marianas may have destroyed many others in a raid on Kyushu's airfields.

Flying a 1,500-mile round trip mission from Iwo, the army Mustangs destroyed or damaged 47 planes in an attack yesterday on Suzuka airfield, 32 miles southwest of Nagoya on the principal Japanese home island of Honshu.

**Nine Shot Down**  
Of the planes destroyed, nine were shot down in combat and 17 others were damaged, probably destroyed. The Mustangs also swept over Ise bay, south of Nagoya, to sink two small oilers, one small tanker and a 66,000-ton ship and damage one coastal vessel.

Carrier planes shot down 49 planes from a "substantial" Japanese force which attacked American ground and naval forces in the Okinawa area yesterday afternoon. The Japanese succeeded in sinking one light fleet unit, Nimitz said. The raid followed one on a smaller scale Saturday night, when four Japanese planes were shot down.

**No. 1 Problem**  
The Big Three discord over Poland headed the list of problems confronting the chunky Molotov and his Anglo-American counterparts, secretary of state Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., and British foreign minister Anthony Eden.

With but two hours to shake off the weariness of his six-day trip from Moscow, Molotov hurried into an introduction to President Truman at the Blair house, then crossed Pennsylvania avenue for an 80-minute conference with Eden, Stettinius and Anglo-American experts on Russian-Polish relations.

Molotov is staying at the Blair house, official guest mansion adjoining the Blair house.

**Ministers Meet**  
The Big Three foreign minister met at 10:30 a. m. EWT. Molotov, according to authoritative sources, also planned to follow up his introduction to Mr. Truman with a business visit to the White House.

The three foreign ministers were expected to leave for San Francisco by tonight.

The lateness of the Russian's arrival made it certain that the discussions already begun would be continued during the early days of the United Nations conference. The Polish dispute in particular is almost certain to require private Molotov-Eden-Stettinius talks after the big parley gets under way Wednesday.

#### German Radio Says Hitler on Berlin Front; Rumor Asserts Fuehrer Is in Mountains

By W. R. Higginbotham (United Press Staff Correspondent)  
London, April 23 (UP)—The German radio said today that Adolf Hitler was in the "main fighting line" in embattled Berlin.

If Berlin and Prague are lost, the German broadcast said, "all Europe is lost."

"Therefore, Hitler has remained in Berlin," it said.

"He will stay there despite all rumors. The main front line runs straight through Berlin and the newly established 'Frickcorps'—Adolf Hitler is fighting with women in his ranks."

The broadcast was carried by a Hamburg station, one of the few in Germany still broadcasting under Nazi control. It said Hitler was determined that neither Berlin nor Prague should fall to "bolshhevism."

#### Allied Tanks Shatter German Lines in Italy, Surge North In Gains of Some 35 Miles

Armies Reported Nearing River Po at Points Widely Separated; Nazis Flee in Disorder as Yanks Strike Out After Capturing Big Center

Rome, April 23 (UP)—American and British tanks neared the Po river today after surging 20 to 35 miles north from Bologna in less than 48 hours.

Eighth army units had smashed within 2500 yards of the airfield at Ferrara, key road center three miles south of the Po.

Modena, other immediate objective of the northward push, also was directly threatened, but a partial news blackout hid the position of fifth army forces driving on the city.

Allied force headquarters reported that after "good progress," fifth and eighth army troops were nearing the river Po at several widely separated places—an indication they had fanned out along a wide front after breaking loose on the Po plain.

**Near Po Banks**  
Measured due north of Bologna a 35-mile advance would put the Americans virtually on the banks of the Po, last big river barrier south of the Italian Alps, guarding the back door of Hitler's Bavarian redoubt.

The Germans were fleeing in disorder after the Bologna breakthrough, their retreating columns hammered and harried by allied air forces. Minefields, rather than enemy resistance, slowed American troops in the area northwest of Bologna and just south of the Po river.

The newly liberated Bologna last night and early this morning, Ferrara astride the Po di Primaro river, which flows through the city.

**Patriots on Rampage**  
Adding to the German woes, Italian patriots were reported on the rampage behind the Nazi lines in northern Italy. A communique from patriots headquarters in occupied territory told of numerous successful ambushes throughout Piedmont.

The BBC reported that the Italian government had told Apennine patriots that the hour to strike had come, and they should act according to secret instructions given them earlier.

German planes bombed and strafed newly-liberated Bologna last night and early this morning, United Press War Correspondent James Earl Roper reported from Bologna that the German bombing started a small fire in the central part of the city.

#### French Take Over Supply Program

Paris, April 23 (UP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced today that, beginning May 1, the French provisional government will assume responsibility for the entire French supply program.

Previously, supply of essential civilian needs in France had been handled by allied headquarters on behalf of the United States and Britain.

Most of France already has been removed from allied headquarters' jurisdiction.

High allied military and civil officers worked out the change-over in collaboration with the French provisional government and the headquarters mission to France and under supervision of Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

Allied headquarters reserved the right to handle supplies for civilian needs in the operational zones of eastern France, and coal and petroleum products will continue to be provided through military channels.

#### Four Found Dead In Missing Plane

Austin, Tex., April 23 (UP)—A four-day search for a missing army plane ended north of Eureka, Tex., early today with finding of the wrecked craft and its four-member crew dead.

The plane had been missing since Wednesday midnight when it left Bergstrom field for Mason, Tex., on a training flight.

#### Mayor Rogers Dies

Hillsboro, April 23 (UP)—Funeral services for Hugh Samuel Rogers, 75, mayor of Hillsboro, will be held tomorrow in Hillsboro. Rogers had been elected mayor four times. He was born in Iowa, and lived in Oregon most of his life and in Hillsboro since 1912.

The remainder of the morning was spent making flights, with cadets as observers, and on military drill.

#### Civil Air Patrol Starts Training

The local Civil Air Patrol squadron started its summer training program Sunday with an early morning field day at the Bend municipal airport.

The cadets met at headquarters at 6:30 a. m. and assembled for roll call at the field at 7:15 a. m.

#### William Burton Killed on Luzon

Pfc. William G. Burton, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Burton, 2143 East Third street, Bend, and a graduate from the Paisley high school with the class of 1942, was killed in action while serving with the Sixth United States infantry on Luzon March 10, his parents have been notified.

No details of the manner the young soldier, who was previously wounded in action, met death were contained in the war department telegram.

A native of Bend, William attended school both here and in Paisley, and entered the service in September, 1943. He went overseas just a year ago, in April, 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton's last letter from their son was dated March 6.

Aside from his parents, Pfc. Burton is survived by one sister, Mrs. Mary Redfield, of Silver Lake.

#### Waits Fate in Allied Hands



With ankles chained and under heavy guard, Nazi Storm Troop Leader Joseph Kramer anxiously waits to see what fate is in store for him after Allies discovered he was commander of Belsen death camp where British found thousands of dead, dying and starving men, women and children.

#### 3 Project Jobs Nearing Finish

Three of the major jobs on the North Unit irrigation project are nearly completed, it was reported today at the U. S. Bureau of reclamation headquarters in Bend.

Wixson & Crowe, Redding, Calif. contractors, have completed concreting Tunnel No. 2 in the Smith Rocks northeast of Terrebonne, with the exception of the transitions, it was said. Crewmen today were busily engaged in removing all concreting equipment from the 3,400-foot-long subterranean water way into Tunnel No. 1, to the south. It was estimated that 2 1/2 months would be required to complete Tunnel No. 1.

The huge siphon across Sherwood canyon, connecting the two tunnels, has been completed except for the cleaning up, by the McLaughlin Construction company of Livingstone, Mont.

Only the connection of electric circuits is necessary now to completion of installing of a huge fish screen at the canal's intake at the Deschutes river, north of Bend. The big screen, one of the largest ever to be installed, is electrically-operated.

**Camp Set Up**  
Meantime conscientious objectors from the Wickiup camp have nearly finished a camp eight miles north of Bend on the canal right-of-way, where "conchie" will make headquarters while priming and puddling the big ditch.

Twenty men are now stationed at this camp, hastily constructed with CCC buildings removed from near Camp Abbot. As work begins in checking the canal for leaks, more men will be brought down from the Wickiup camp, it was said. Bureau officials said that water would be turned into the ditch and the priming and puddling work be started, as soon as warmer weather comes.

#### Chemical Blast Burns Local Boy

Clarence Bells, 16, a Bend high school sophomore, last night received serious burns about his face and neck when an explosion occurred in his chemical laboratory at his home, 415 Hill street, it was reported today. The boy was taken to St. Charles hospital where attending physicians described the burns as "severe."

Clarence is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Bells, and was studying chemistry at the high school.

#### Mrs. Honeyman Is Seriously Ill

Portland, Ore., April 23 (UP)—Mrs. Jessie M. Honeyman, 92-year-old civic leader of Portland, is seriously ill in the Good Samaritan hospital in Portland, it was learned today.

She is president of the Oregon roadside defense council and has been active in Portland civic life for 60 years.

#### BULLETINS

Paris, April 23 (UP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. Third army drove forward an additional 21 miles in its Bavarian offensive today and broke into the Danube valley 13 miles northeast of Regensburg.

London, April 23 (UP)—An exchange telegraph dispatch from the northwestern front tonight said a question has been raised whether one of three bodies found in a wrecked car might be that of Heinrich Himmler, gestapo chief and commander of the German home army.

The car, a big black Mercedes, was found burned out on the Bremen-Hamburg road after it was shot up by British armored cars. Crewmen of the British vehicles saw the car as it was accompanied by armored cars and about 20 SS troops on motorcycles.

Washington, April 23 (UP)—The German government has offered to leave all allied prisoners of war in prison camps as the allies advance, the war department announced today.

#### Clothing Pickup Due on Sunday

The Lions-Elks sponsored drive in Bend for clothing for overseas war relief, will be culminated next Sunday by a city-wide pickup of contributions, it was announced today by Clarence Bush, chairman of the Lions campaign committee.

At that time, Lions and Elks, aided by Boy Scouts and other children, will make a canvass of the city in an effort to greatly increase the tonnage of clothing to be shipped after the first of the month to process-centers.

Approximately three tons of clothes and footwear have been donated, and the salvage depot in Leedy's basement is taking on the appearance of a super rummage sale. Great piles of clothing fill the center of the depot, while along the walls are scores of paper cartons tightly packed for shipment.

**Elks Give Aid**  
Almost another ton of clothing and shoes was gathered Saturday at an unique dance and party held by the Elks. Admission to the event was by garments or shoes only, and as the evening wore on a huge mound of usable clothing grew.

Persons who have contributions to make and who are able to do so, were urged by Bush to take their bundles to the depot in the basement at Wall street and Oregon avenue. This will facilitate packing and shipping, he explained. On the other hand, those unable to go to the depot were asked to prepare their bundles for next Sunday's pickup.

#### GRASS FIRE PUT OUT

Bend city firemen yesterday morning were called to the river gate of the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company Inc. to extinguish a grass and sawdust fire. Firemen reported it required 240 gallons of water to bring the fire under control.

### Marshal Stalin Says Russians Deep in Citadel

Frankfurt Is Captured; Special Order of Day Reveals Various Gains

London, April 23 (UP)—Marshal Stalin announced tonight that two great Russian armies were driving deep into Berlin from the east and south. Other Soviet forces have reached the Elbe northwest of Dresden, he said, and apparently a juncture with American troops is imminent.

Stalin, in two orders of the day, revealed that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's army had shattered Berlin's eastern defenses and plunged within four miles of the heart of the city, and that Marshal Ivan S. Konev's forces had swept up from the south and broken into the German capital.

London, April 23 (UP)—Marshal Stalin announced today that the red army had smashed within four miles of the heart of Berlin, outflanked the stricken capital on the north in a push through Oranienburg, and captured the by-passed Oder river citadel of Frankfurt.

Stalin broke his silence on the battle of Berlin with an announcement that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov had advanced a siege line deep into the city and captured the Birkenwerder, Pankow, Friedrichsfeld, Karlshorst and Koepenick districts.

Moscow broadcast Stalin's special order of the day—his first on the great offensive—as the faltering German radio admitted that Russian armored spearheads were probing into the heart of Berlin from three directions and neutral dispatches said Soviet tanks were clanking along Under Den Linden.

**Hitler in Charge**  
The Nazis claimed that Adolf Hitler had taken personal command of the defense of Berlin in the twilight hour of the nazism which hoisted him to the leadership of Germany.

The Soviet assault forces broke into Berlin, Stalin said, after over-running many of its key outposts, including Frankfurt. This city of 85,000 on the west bank of the Oder, 33 miles east of Berlin, had anchored the now-crumbled German defenses in the Oder valley.

Storming into the city from the east, the siege army overran the city's districts and drove through the rubble-strewn streets for Potsdamer Platz in the heart of the city. Neutral reports of the push to Unter Den Linden indicated the Soviet vanguard was within a mile or so of the Platz.

**Districts Ringed**  
The captured districts ringed the entire northern and eastern side of Berlin. Among them was Henningsdorf, 12 miles northwest of Potsdamer Platz.

Stalin ordered a salute of Zhukov's forces of 20 salves.

Nazi broadcasts claimed that the Germans were fighting ferociously for Berlin, but acknowledged steady reverses.



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Starts In The Bulletin Today