

Fall of Berlin Near, Say Reds

General Patton, in Sweep to Danube, Breaks Open Hitler's Redoubt Barrier

Nazis Expected To Make Fight On River Bank

More Than 2,000 Tanks Race Toward Hitler's Last Mountain Retreat

Paris, April 24 (UP)—American Third army troops broke open the outer defenses of Hitler's Bavarian redoubt on a broad front today and rammed an armored spearhead up to the Danube river on the western outskirts of Regensburg.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army tanks and armored troop carriers reached the northwestern bend of the Danube opposite Regensburg—the old Napoleonic city of Ratisbon—this afternoon after a 10-mile advance through weak and disorganized enemy opposition.

A few Nazi snipers battled the speeding American armored columns along the west side of the historic river, but were cut down.

Field dispatches indicated the Germans were planning a delaying fight on the eastern bank of the Danube and inside Regensburg, where the enemy was reported throwing up barricades and moving hundreds of anti-aircraft guns into position for the battle.

Strong infantry forces were crowding up close behind the American tank spearheads, reaching Duerling, eight miles west of Regensburg, this afternoon.

At Regensburg, the Americans were only 61 miles north of Munich, gateway to the Bavarian redoubt.

There was no immediate word on the progress of other Third army columns advancing southward along the Czechoslovak border to the east within 105 miles of Berchtesgaden.

More than 2,000 American and French tanks were on the move against the Nazis' last retreat in the Bavarian Alps along a 200-mile front manned by Patton's veterans and the powerful American Seventh and French First armies.

Headquarters revealed that one of the greatest armored striking forces in military history had been thrown against the Bavarian retreat where the hunted Nazi were trying to gather their remaining SS divisions for the last battle of Europe.

The American Third and Seventh and the French First armies were advancing flank to flank through the outer Bavarian defenses on a battle line extending from the Swiss to the Czechoslovak borders, using possibly 10 or more armored divisions, to spearhead the assault.

Flying tank columns of the U. S. (Continued on Page 3)

German Radio Reports Hitler Making Last Stand in Berlin

London, April 24 (UP)—The German-controlled Scandinavian Telegraph bureau said today that Adolf Hitler has abandoned plans for a final stand in Bavaria and will stay in Berlin to "conquer or die."

The report followed a broadcast by the German radio at Hamburg yesterday saying Hitler was remaining in the "main fighting line" in Berlin.

The German radio said Hitler had replied to birthday greetings from Benito Mussolini with an expression of confidence that Germany still can win the war with "heroism."

"In a spirit of tenacious defiance of death, the German people and all those animated by a kindred spirit yet will bring the onslaught to a halt, however severe the struggle, and after the course of the war by their unparalleled heroism at this historic moment in which the fate of Europe is being decided for centuries to come," he said.

European dispatches said panic



Early arrivals at conference scene

Early arrivals on the San Francisco scene were American delegates Commander Harold Stassen (at left with Mrs. Stassen); and (at right) Dean Virginia Gildersleeve and Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan.

Bids on Laterals Asked By Bureau

Bids for the construction of approximately 25 miles of laterals, covering 5,000 acres of ground north of Juniper butte and east of Culver, were sought today by the U. S. bureau of reclamation in furthering the construction of the North Unit irrigation project.

The bids are to be opened at the local bureau offices at 10 a. m. on May 23, it was announced.

Ten miles of the main waterway, from which the proposed laterals will extend, is now under construction in the vicinity.

Principal items of work called for in the invitation for bids include:

Excavation of 136,000 cubic yards of dirt and 1,100 cubic yards of rock; making 1,300 cubic yards of compacting embankments and moving 6,000 station cubic yards of overhull; excavating 13,000 cubic yards of earth and 1,500 cubic yards of rock for structures; 7,000 cubic yards of backfill; 3,600 cubic yards of compacting backfill; laying 3,030 cubic yards of concrete for structures; placing of 152,000 pounds of reinforcing bars; erecting 48 million feet of timber for structures; installing 18,000 pounds of gates and miscellaneous metalwork; and the placing of 2,625 feet of different sized concrete pipe.

TANKS BLOCK TRAFFIC London, April 24 (UP)—The Moscow radio, in one of its rare flashes of humor in war broadcasts, said today that Russian tanks advancing into Berlin were "seriously infringing traffic regulations," particularly by filling all the lanes instead of staying on one side of the street.

Senate Approves Pre-Fight Study

Washington, April 24 (UP)—The senate today adopted an amendment to the selective service extension act requiring six months pre-combat training for 18-year-olds.

The amendment requires six months pre-combat training for all inductees under 19, but provides that the navy may assign 18-year-olds to vessels for completion of training, even though the vessels may ultimately be engaged in combat.

It was introduced by Sens. Tom Stewart, D., Tenn., Edwin C. Johnson, D., Colo., Chapman Revercomb, R., W. Va., and George A. Wilson, R., Ia.

Meanwhile, Sen. Owen Brewster, R., Me., introduced another amendment to prohibit drafting of men over 31.

Brewster said this amendment was in accord with the action of the British government, which recently announced that after that date it would stop the draft of men over 31.

A new version of the report of Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels' reported flight from Berlin said he boarded a four-motored private plane west of the capital for a flight to Bavaria or Norway, probably the latter.

An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from the British Second army front said British troops were speculating that they may have caught Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler in an ambush.

British armored cars shot up a big Mercedes limousine on the Bremen-Hamburg road. The sedan was escorted by German armored cars and about 20 SS troops on motorcycles.

Three bodies were found inside the burned-out car, the dispatch said. Himmler was known to have been in the area last week, visiting garrisons at Bremen and Hamburg.

BULLETINS

With U. S. First Army in Germany, April 24 (UP)—Front correspondents were unable to confirm a junction with the Russians on the American First army sector up to noon today, despite a Moscow radio report that a link-up had been made.

With U. S. Ninth Army, Germany, April 24 (UP)—American troops cleaning out the Hartz mountain pocket Monday captured the commanding general of the German 11th army and a majority of his staff, it was announced today.

Rome, April 24 (UP)—U. S. Fifth army troops captured the big Italian naval base of La Spezia today and crossed the Po river at several points north of Bologna.

At least 40,000 prisoners were captured by Gen. Mark Clark's swift-moving 15th army group.

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House Burglary Probed by Police

Burglars who broke a west window open and entered by that means, completely ransacked a home at 353 East Second street, according to police today. Officers investigated the burglary at the request of C. A. Sutton, 153 East Olney street, who said that he had an equity in the burglarized property. Police were unable to estimate the loss, because they could not determine what the house contained.

The property had recently been occupied by a soldier and his wife, officers learned. A neighbor residing across the street told police that he saw two girls, about 14 years of age, coming out of the house late yesterday.

5th Army Closes In on Navy Base

Rome, April 24 (UP)—The American Fifth army closed in on the great naval base of La Spezia today on the heels of fast-retreating German forces in northern Italy.

Allied force headquarters reported the Americans were moving in for the kill at La Spezia, while Italian radio reports said the city was flanked from the east and northeast and faced encirclement.

A security blackout obscured exact Fifth army positions. La Spezia, with a peace-time population of 89,000, has a large harbor and was the Italian navy's chief base.

Eighth In Action

Meanwhile, Eighth army units fought a bitter battle in the outskirts of Ferrara, where the Nazis were making a suicide stand to save at least one Po river crossing for their routed forces.

Today's communique reported that the Fifth and Eighth armies generally had closed to the Po banks along a wide front, but a stricter-than-ever security blackout prevented the mention of specific positions.

So far there were no reports of crossings of the Po, last great river barrier in northern Italy.

V-E Day Closing In Bend Opposed

Bend stores will not be closed on V-E day, if the recommendation of the retail trade committee of the chamber of commerce is carried out, it was reported today.

The committee met last night in the chamber offices and reached that decision, as well as recommending holidays on which establishments should close.

The committee members were reported to have felt it would be unfair to mill workers and others engaged in war production who must "carry on," to close the stores and permit the employees a holiday. It was suggested, however, that employees wishing to attend thanksgiving services in the churches, be allowed time enough off for this.

Sam Scott, chairman of the committee, said that its members proposed that stores close on the following days: New Year's, Christmas, Memorial day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Armistice day and Thanksgiving.

Labor Board Gives Miners Big Raise

Washington, April 24 (UP)—The threat of a soft coal strike this year appeared to have blown over for good today.

This followed war labor board approval late yesterday of all money provisions of the new soft coal wage contract. The board estimated the new contract would give 310,000 miners an average raise of \$1.02 a day.

England Backs Russia's Bid For 3 Ballots

Stettinius Is Confident Parley in San Francisco Will Meet Final Success

By Lyle C. Wilson (United Press Staff Correspondent) San Francisco, April 24 (UP)—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., expressed confidence today the world security conference would succeed and Britain repledged her support to Russia's demand for three votes in the security assembly.

Britain's pledge was placed on record by Maj. Clement R. Atlee, deputy prime minister, who also expressed hope that the knotty Polish controversy might be settled along the lines of the Yalta proposal for broadening the base of the present Warsaw government.

Atlee said that since the Ukraine and White Russia both have foreign ministers the Russian proposal that these states be represented in the security assembly was sound.

Questions Unanswered Stettinius, first of the big three to arrive by plane from Washington, confined himself to a general statement expressing confidence in the success of the conference. He declined to answer specific questions about the Polish problem which was left still unsettled when time ran out on the foreign ministers and they were forced to transfer their deliberations to San Francisco.

Stettinius' colleagues in the Polish discussions—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov—are due here later by plane from Washington.

Stettinius expressed "firm belief" that the United Nations are united in their determination to succeed in establishing a world organization.

Sentiments Echoed His sentiments were echoed by veteran statesman, Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, South African premier and the only veteran of Versailles who is playing a major role at San Francisco.

"South Africa," Smuts said, "has only one proposal to make and that is for the success of the conference. All the rest is detail."

Smuts strongly urged that the preamble of the charter setting up the peace organization declare "a statement of our faith, our objectives, the things we stand for."

Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk of Czechoslovakia, arriving in San Francisco, said that "little people should be seen and heard." He said that later on "I may have something to howl about."

Red Banners of Conquering Russians Fly Over Berlin; Writer Tells of Grim Battle

(The following dispatch is the first eyewitness story from inside blasting Berlin. It was written exclusively for United Press by the famed Russian war reporter, Roman Karmen. Veteran reporter of the Spanish and Chinese wars, Karmen has followed the Red army through every big battle, including Leningrad, Stalingrad, and Warsaw.)

By Roman Karmen (Copyright, 1945, by United Press) Berlin, April 24 (UP)—The deeper we penetrate Berlin the more fierce the battle rages.

But already the victorious red banner flies over the Nazi capital. I am writing this inside tank T-34, which the command placed at my disposal to enter Berlin with the vanguard units.

We rode across the suburbs of Blankenburg and the Malchow and Welsensee districts on Berlin streets cleared of the enemy. On Heckenstrasse and Berliner Allee heavy enemy artillery and mortars pound incessantly.

The streets are deserted. Our infantry, clinging to the house fronts, advances chainwise. Furious battles rage in neighboring streets.

We run into a group of captured Volkssturmer unescorted. Our assault units, consisting of a tank group, anti-tank guns and self-propelled guns together with sappers, smash toward the center of the city, storming each house, cellar, and balcony turned into fortresses.

Barricades constructed from the wreckage of houses block our way. There is heavy cannonading from the northern, eastern, and southern districts.

These are unforgettable minutes. It is a long way from the grim days of the battle of Moscow. I remember famished, besieged Leningrad and Stalingrad. We marched and fought four years on battle-scarred roads, profoundly confident the day would come when the red army would hoist its victorious banner over the Nazi capital. We have just done that.

Okinawa, Not Yet Conquered, Being Prepared as Big Base

Nimitz Asserts Island Will Serve as Vital Area in Next Phase of March Toward Japan

(By United Press) American forces have conquered three-quarters of Okinawa island and are preparing it as a key base for the next phase of the march toward Japan and the China coast, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz said today.

A fleet of 150 Superfortresses, meanwhile, smashed for the first time at the huge Hitachi aircraft plant in the Tokyo area and ground forces in the Philippines cut Japanese forces in two on Mindanao and continued a virtually unopposed drive toward the principal city of Davao.

The attack on the Hitachi plant at Tachikawa, 14 miles west of Tokyo, was made from medium altitude and good results were expected. Radio Tokyo, acknowledging the attack, said 70 B-29's were in the raiding force and claimed six were shot down and 20 damaged.

The broadcast said the bombers also attacked air bases at Tachikawa and nearby Tokorozawa.

Nimitz' regular communique said warships and carrier planes continued to bombard Japanese positions on southern Okinawa but said there was no further report of progress by ground forces, temporarily stalled before enemy defenses three and a half miles north of Naha.

The communique said carrier planes and fighters destroyed 28 enemy aircraft through the Ryukyus Sunday and Monday.

A Tokyo broadcast said Japanese suicide planes had damaged two allied ships northeast of Okinawa and set fire to a transport off the southwest coast. It said also that Japanese artillery fired on ships entering Nagasaki bay yesterday and sank a destroyer.

Nearly 11,000 Killed Gen. Douglas MacArthur, announcing the gains on Mindanao, disclosed that 10,896 Japanese had been killed and 353 captured throughout the Philippines in the last eight days.

The figures boosted total Japanese casualties in the Philippines to 334,465, compared with 24,518 for American forces. The American casualties included 7,491 killed, 26,606 wounded and 421 missing. The majority of Japanese casualties represented known dead.

3, Marines Shoot Down 16 Planes Aboard Adm. Turner's Flagship Off Okinawa, April 24 (UP)—Three marines became aces in 20 minutes of aerial combat about 60 miles northwest of Okinawa last night.

They were Maj. George C. Axtey, Jr., 24, commanding officer of a marine fighter squadron who shot down five Jap dive bombers and damaged three others; Maj. Jefferson Davis Dorrach, 24, who sent six bombers crashing into the sea, and Lt. Jeremiah J. O'Keefe, 21, who bagged five bombers.

Dorrach is from Hood River, Ore. His wife lives in Riverside, Calif.

FIRE DESTROYS STORE Milwaukie, Ore., April 24 (UP)—Fire destroyed the Hoesly Brothers Furniture and Appliance store today with loss estimated at about \$35,000.

MICE GET OXYGEN Chungking, April 24 (UP)—U. S. pilots flew 100 white mice over the Himalayas to Kunming for the Chinese-British scientific cooperation institute, it was disclosed today. At 18,000 feet altitude, the mice were given oxygen.

Work Together "American and Russian tanks and motorized columns already are working together," the Luxembourg broadcast said. It was recorded by the Exchange Telegraph agency.

The Soviet-American junction—severing Europe and cutting off Berlin and northern Germany from the national redoubt in the south—was expected to be announced formally soon by Washington, Moscow and London.

A poll of high Soviet officers in Moscow revealed that they believed all German resistance north of Berlin and south of Dresden would be crushed in the next fortnight, leaving only the redoubt to be conquered.

Ex-King Ferdinand Reported Killed Ankara, April 24 (UP)—A report from Vienna said today that former King Ferdinand of Bulgaria had been killed in a road accident while attempting to flee from his home in Slovakia to Austria.

Ferdinand, 84 years old, abdicated his throne in 1918 in favor of his son, the late King Boris.

ROAD IS CLOSED Salem, Ore., April 24 (UP)—A section of the south Santiam highway about 60 miles east of Albany was closed as a precautionary measure today, after a small slide jammed a culvert on the road, the state highway department said today.

Moscow Says Yanks, Soviet Armies Linked

Capital of Germany Is Now Ringed By Steel as Russians Lash to West

London, April 24 (UP)—Russian siege forces were reported late today to have driven into the Charlottenburg area of west-central Berlin, apparently after knifing clear through the heart of the devastated and tottering city.

"The imminent fall of Berlin," a Moscow radio commentator said this evening, "will break the last vestiges of resistance, the last convulsive throes of the wounded monster."

Unofficial advices reported that the siege ring had been closed around Berlin in a grand scale encirclement maneuver by two red armies, trapping any Nazi leaders who stayed to see the death of their capital.

In what Moscow called Berlin's last hours, a United Press dispatch from the Soviet capital reported that the red army and the U. S. First army had made the long-awaited junction from east and west some 60 miles south of the German capital. The report lacked official confirmation by an expected joint statement in Moscow, London and Washington on the subject.

The BBC reported that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian army had broken into Charlottenburg, the sprawling area of Berlin lying directly west of the business area. Zhukov's forces had been beating straight across the core of Berlin on a sledge line between the northwest and southeast parts of the city.

The report tallied with an earlier hint from Nazi sources that the hard pressed defenders were falling back into the northwestern quarter of Berlin for their last stand.

One third to one half of Berlin already had been captured. The usually reliable Luxembourg radio said red banners were flying over the ruins of the reichstag.

Also in Soviet hands, it said, were Datschew, Palitz, geographical center of the capital, Anhalter station and the famed Tiergarten.

The United Press Bureau in Moscow cabled flatly that Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army has linked up with the American First army some 60 miles south of Berlin. The First White Russian army northwest of Berlin was rolling toward an imminent junction with the American Ninth army at Stendal, Moscow said.

Radio Luxembourg, regarded as the voice of allied supreme headquarters, said the Americans and Russians had joined hands along a broad front near Torgau on the Elbe. The Russians reached the Elbe along a 39-mile front yesterday.

Residents are urged to have paper, magazines and pasteboard cartons properly tied and placed on the curb to facilitate their moving. Clothing should be arranged in cartons or neatly and firmly in bundles and placed with the scrap paper.

Redmond, April 24 (Special)—Nine tons of scrap paper collected was the result of the Boy Scouts' work Saturday in Redmond and the adjoining countryside. The drive was directed by Gordon Stromberg, scoutmaster, who has announced that the work will be continued next Saturday, April 28. There will also be a pickup of clothing for the allied war relief on the same day.

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