

Germany Tottering on Brink of Collapse

TWO MORE U. S. ARMIES LINK WITH SOVIETS

Nazi Redoubt Under Attack As Gap Closes

Corridor Now Separates Foe's Two Fronts; Has Width of Fifty Miles

Paris, April 30 (AP)—American First and Ninth army troops linked up with the red army at two new points on the Elbe river below Berlin today, widening to 50 miles the allied corridor separating Germany's northern and southern fronts.

Another and more important fusion of the allied western and eastern battle lines appeared imminent in the south, where the nazis' boasted Bavarian redoubt was breaking up under converging blows from five and possibly six allied armies.

There the American Third and Russian Third Ukrainian armies were closing up a gap of perhaps 30 miles or less between their vanguards in the Danube valley northeast of Berchtesgaden.

Link With Reds Doughboys of the American Ninth army drove 22 miles eastward along the northeastern bank of the Elbe to join up with the Russians for the first time in the Wittenberg area, 40 miles southwest of the enemy capital.

At the same time, U. S. First army patrols stabbed up from the southwest to meet the Soviets in the same general area. The First army already was linked up with the Soviets farther south of Torgau and Riesa.

The junctures gave the Americans and Russians a solid corridor through the heart of the Reich along a 50-mile stretch on the Elbe between Wittenberg in the north and Riesa in the south.

Redoubt Flank Opened South of that wedge, the bulk of Germany's surviving armies were primed for the kill after a tremendous allied victory in northern Italy that Gen. Mark Clark announced had "torn to pieces" 25 Nazi divisions and ended all effective German resistance there.

The victory laid the southern flank of the Bavarian redoubt open to invasion by the American Fifth and British Eighth armies, both of which were driving up within 80-odd miles of the Brenner pass.

Simultaneously, the American Seventh drove through the Alpine passes from the north to take the Olympic resort town of Patenkirchen, only 20 miles northwest of Innsbruck, northern exit of the Brenner pass.

Other Seventh army troops battled savage resistance from a small but fanatical German rear guard in the streets of Munich, birthplace of the Nazi party and the fall of that city appeared imminent.

Patton on Move Northeast of Munich, Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. Third army burst across the Isar river at three points on a 60-mile front and streamed southward through the rolling Alpine foothills barely 30 miles from the Inn river valley and Adolf Hitler's birthplace at Braunau.

Unconfirmed reports said Third army troops already had linked up with the red army in the Danube valley 80-odd miles northeast of Berchtesgaden.

More Disputes Slow Peace Conference at Golden Gate

Invitations to Argentine, White Russia and Ukraine Cause Dissention; New Action Taken

San Francisco, April 30 (AP)—Bids to the Argentine, White Russia and the Ukraine to attend the United Nations security conference were approved today by the executive committee, it was understood, but dispute over the matter was so bitter that the entire question was referred back to the steering committee.

The steering committee was expected to take final action on the matter at a meeting which still was under way at noon PWT.

However, the steering committee immediately was confronted by another dispute, brought on by a Russian proposal that the world labor congress now in session at Oakland be accredited as the official labor affiliate of the new security organization and be invited to send advisory delegates to the meeting.

The labor proposal was viewed gingerly by the American delegates since the American Federation of Labor is boycotting the meeting due to participation of soviet trade unionists.

The labor proposal was viewed gingerly by the American delegates since the American Federation of Labor is boycotting the meeting due to participation of soviet trade unionists.

Not Unanimous Action of the executive committee on Argentina, White Russia and the Ukraine was not unanimous, it was understood. However, issuance of invitations to each of the countries was approved by a two-thirds vote. Some of the delegates refrained from voting.

The Russians, it was said, continued to oppose bringing Argentina in, again raising the Polish question.

Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov was said to have advanced the argument that if Poland was being kept out because her government was not representative why should Argentina be invited with a government which he regarded as equally unrepresentative.

The conference was working under pressure in an effort to speed up its work in fear that the military collapse of Germany will cause delegates to start a rush back to their home countries in Europe.

United Press war correspondent Edward L. Thomas reported from Admiral Turner's flagship that the enemy plane which hit the Comfort made several "runs" over the white hospital ship in the moonlight before going into its suicide dive.

At the time the Comfort was about 60 miles south of Okinawa, steaming unescorted toward the Marianas with several hundred American troops seriously wounded in the Okinawa campaign.

Sgt. Hugh Bean Hurt in Action

S/Sgt. Hugh A. Bean, son of Mrs. Edgar Bean, 725 West 12th street, was injured on April 5 on Luzon, according to a letter received today by his mother. Sgt. Bean reported that he is in a hospital in the Netherlands East Indies, and that the worst part of his injury is a ruptured eardrum.

Sgt. Bean, a graduate of the Bend high school with the class of 1940, is a member of the 25th division.

Seven Firms Bid On Canal Work

Seven bids were opened at the Bend headquarters of the U. S. Bureau of reclamation today, for the construction of approximately five miles of laterals and sub-laterals for the North Unit irrigation project in Jefferson county. Presenting an estimate of \$35,698.50, the United Construction company of Seattle was lowest bidder.

Other bidders were Leonard and Slate, Portland, \$41,540; Blikle and Caton, Portland, \$46,001; J. M. Conlay, Portland, \$47,795; E. B. Bishop, Oriand, Calif., \$49,720; Henry L. Hamilton, Eugene, \$53,219, and O. J. Montag and sons, Portland, \$65,315.

The laterals are to be situated near Opal City, and south of Juniper butte.

By James E. Roper (United Press War Correspondent) Milan, April 30 (AP)—The broken body of Benito Mussolini lay unclaimed beside his slain mistress in the Milan morgue today, dishonored in death by the people he led to empire and ruin.

The fallen duce died badly in the sight of the partisan executioners who killed him and his paramour, Clara Petacci, in their hideout on Lake Como last Saturday.

25 German Divisions in Italy 'Torn to Pieces,' Says Clark

In Announcing Great Victory

Foe Resistance in North Nearing Collapse; Venice Captured By British; Rout of Nazi Armies Continues; Graziani Also Captured

Rome, April 30 (AP)—Allied victory in Italy was announced today by Gen. Mark W. Clark in a triumphant proclamation that 25 German divisions had been "torn to pieces" and no longer could resist effectively the U. S. Fifth and British Eighth armies.

"The military power of Germany in Italy has practically ceased," Clark said. His statement put the official seal on clearcut evidence that Nazi resistance in North Italy was collapsing.

The allied commander in Italy issued his victory announcement as his Fifth and Eighth armies were stampeding through north Italy. The British captured Venice. Yugoslavian forces were reported fighting in the streets of Trieste toward which the British Eighth army was driving only 58 miles away. The Americans took Alessandria in northwest Italy and the British took Chioggi in the northeast on the Adriatic sea.

Reach Piave River As New Zealanders of the polyglot Eighth reached the Piave river, 17 miles northeast of Venice, radio Belgrade reported Marshal Tito's forces had entered Trieste.

In northwest Italy, American Fifth army forces raced northward 40 miles from Genoa to capture Alessandria, halfway along the highway from Genoa to Turin. That put them within 78 miles of the French frontier where French forces had crossed into Italy.

The only sign of German resistance was at the northern end of Lake Garda, where the nazis were battling to keep open the Brenner pass, 80 miles to the north. A communique described the resistance as "fairly heavy."

Rout Continues But elsewhere the rout of the beaten Nazi armies in north Italy continued. One entire German division—the 148th infantry division—surrendered to the Brazilian troops fighting with the Fifth army.

Negotiations continued for the surrender of the Italian Ligurian army of captured Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, and estimated five divisions numbering perhaps 50,000 troops.

In historic, canal-laced Venice the Eighth army joined hands with Italian partisans and completed the mopping-up of the city. Eighth army units already were 17 miles beyond Venice at points within 70 miles of both the Yugoslav and Austrian borders.

Nothing to Worry About, So Nippons Don't Worry (By United Press) Tokyo radio said today that fires caused by American air raids would contribute to public morale by destroying private property.

Treats Won In Reid school the ice cream and cake was won by grade 4, room 5. (Continued on Page 5)

International Harmony



Secretary of State Edward Stettinius, Jr. (left) and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Anthony Eden, (right) chat with smiling Communist Molotov during a lull in a plenary session of the San Francisco Conference.

Oregon State Police Officer Killed in Weiser Gun Battle

Dick O'Brien, Former Bend Resident and for A Number of Years Burns Police Chief, Hurt

Weiser, Ida., April 30 (AP)—Two men were killed and three wounded in a gun battle Sunday in a Weiser school basement as law enforcement officers attempted to capture two Portland men allegedly caught stealing gasoline Saturday in Nampa, Idaho.

The dead were Sgt. Ted Chambers, Oregon state policeman of Ontario, Ore., formerly of Prairie City in Grant county, and William Ronald Duffey, 22, one of the fugitives.

The wounded were Richard N. O'Brien, Ontario state police officer formerly of Bend, Ore., Chief of Police Clarence Saunders of Weiser and the second fugitive, Kenneth Bailey, 26.

Deputy Sheriff Al Wanger of Washington county said he, O'Brien, Saunders and Chambers traced the men to the school and were fired upon as they entered the basement, where the two hid in a coal bin.

Killed Instantly Sergeant Chambers was killed instantly, Officer O'Brien was shot in the shoulder, and Chief Saunders in the arm. Saunders was then captured by the bandits and used as protection when the fugitives broke from the cellar.

Fierce gunplay continued as the two ran through a nearby field, using Saunders as guard. Rifle fire from officers finally dropped (Continued on Page 2)

Envoy Believed Ready to Yield Nazi Empire

Himmler Is Reported In Role of Emissary, To Give Up Country

London, April 30 (AP)—A neutral intermediary was reported en route back to Stockholm today with Heinrich Himmler's reply to allied demands that Germany surrender to Russia as well as to the United States and Britain.

Most sources believed that if Himmler actually has sent a reply, it will be a decision to surrender Germany unconditionally to all three countries.

They contended that he would not have made the surrender offer to the United States and Britain alone in the first place if he had not been convinced of the utter hopelessness of Germany's position.

The Evening News political correspondent said Prime Minister Churchill was understood to have returned to London from the country early today. The war cabinet will consider Himmler's reply as soon as it is received, the dispatch said.

Rumors Heard Stockholm dispatches said the intermediary, Count Folke Bernadotte, director of the Swedish Red Cross, met Himmler Sunday morning somewhere in Denmark. He was expected to leave Copenhagen for Stockholm sometime today, the dispatches said.

With Germany tottering on the brink of total collapse, rumors of developments within the shaken country and her still-occupied neighbors came thick and fast from continental sources.

All unconfirmed and many of them conflicting, they included: 1. Adolf Hitler is mad, dying or already dead.

2. German anti-Nazi partisans kidnaped Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

3. German sailors mutinied at the Baltic port of Rostock and are engaged in fierce fighting with SS troops.

Meeting Held 4. A representative of Dr. Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Himmler's deputy for Bavaria and Austria, is meeting with Swiss officials at Vaduz, capital of neutral Liechtenstein. The subject of the negotiations was not disclosed, but may involve the surrender of further portions of Germany or Austria.

5. German army and Nazi leaders in Denmark are ready to capitulate and withdraw their troops.

6. The Quisling government in Norway resigned.

London newspapers predicted the end of the European war was only days away. The London Daily Mail said it may end at any hour.

Much of the situation was expected to be clarified by Churchill in commons this week, perhaps Tuesday. He met with his cabinet as usual yesterday.

Count Bernadotte presumably gave Himmler, gestapo chief, interior minister and possibly acting Fuehrer of Germany, the Anglo-American refusal to make a separate peace with Germany at their purported meeting in Denmark Sunday.

Offered Hitler A Stockholm dispatch to the London Daily Express said Himmler's original offer, made last Tuesday, called for the surrender of Hitler—dead or alive—along with himself and other high Nazis to the western allies.

BULLETINS

Paris, April 30 (AP)—American Seventh army forces today captured Munich, birthplace of Nazism, Germany's third city, and the most formidable outpost of the nazis' "national redoubt" in the Alps.

Mussolini Dies Begging for His Life



Benito Mussolini

"Mussolini died badly," said Edouardo, leader of the 10-man firing squad which sent the dictator to his death.

When he was sentenced to death, the man who had ruined his career through illusions of empire ironically cried, "Let me save my life, and I will give you an empire."

"No, no," were the last words from Il Duce, who had said "yes, yes" so many times to his axis partner, Adolf Hitler. He cried his "no's" as the men of the firing squad raised their rifles to their shoulders.

The execution took place at 4:20 p.m. Saturday near the town of Dongo, on Lake Como. Mussolini was killed at the villa where he had been living since his arrest last Friday night with Clara Petacci, the Roman doctor's daughter who wanted to be a movie star.

Mussolini, the "jackal" to the last, was caught as he attempted to flee to Switzerland in a 30-car convoy, his bulky frame cloaked in a German military overcoat to escape detection.

"I heard Mussolini was arrested and taken to a villa near Dongo," said Edouardo, who commands all the partisan forces south of the Po. "None of us wanted Mussolini to be freed or escape to Switzerland so I sent 10 men with an officer to Dongo."

"Mussolini was in the cottage on the hill with Signorina Petacci. When he saw Italian officers coming to him, he thought they had come to free him and he embraced his sweetheart.

"When he understood he was going to be tried he was shocked. But our men gave them both a trial and condemned them to death."

Then it was that Mussolini, who had dealt death to so many others, offered the empire he didn't have in exchange for his life. But the firing squad—men from the 52nd Garibaldi brigade—went ahead with the execution, there at the villa on the hill.

Mussolini did not wear a blindfold. As the squad raised their rifles, he cried "No, no." A second later he fell from a bullet that entered his left forehead.

Orders Given "We request the population to submit to the established regime of order and unflinchingly to execute all orders of authorities," the notices said.

Pravda said thousands of civilians emerged from underground hideouts and caves in the rubble of the capital to read the notices. Later, they lined up at the commandants' offices to inquire how to establish themselves.

Japs to Fight On, Asserts Paper Tokyo, April 30 (AP)—The Tokyo newspaper, Nippon Sangyo Keizai, said editorially today that Japan will fight on regardless of changes in Europe "if it means 10,000,000 (10 million) lives."

Fuehrer Hitler and other Nazi leaders appear determined to make their death stand in Berlin," the editorial said. "Such being the case, we need not wait for the enemy to tell us the worst. We must make every preparation to meet the future."

The Domei news agency broadcast of the editorial was heard by the FCC.