

REDS REACH ODER NEAR BERLIN

Weather

Forecast: Variable cloudiness, but light to moderate rain showers tonight and Friday. Little change in temperature. Temp. Highest yesterday 36. Lowest this morning 39. Precipitation past 24 hrs., trace.

MEDFORD



TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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Thirty-ninth Year

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Germans Abandon Siegfried Sections

ADVANCING YANKS FIND PILLBOXES DESERTED BY FOE

Unmarked Snow Evidence Foe Gone for Days; Fighting Bitter Near Monschau

Paris, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—American First army headquarters today reported signs that the Germans were withdrawing from some sections of the Siegfried line, against which United States divisions were closing on a 40-mile attack front in Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Units of the First and 82nd airborne divisions entered the Sigfried pillboxes east of the Malmedy area of the frontier, and found them empty and surrounded by unmarked snow—evidence that they had been abandoned for some days at least.

May Abandon Portion
(A high military source in Washington interpreted lack of German resistance on the U. S. First army front as a "suggestion" that the Germans had decided to abandon a large section of the Siegfried line.)

Front dispatches, however, reported bitter fighting on the approaches to the Siegfried line in the general area of Monschau.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' forces scored gains of half a mile to more than two miles today. The heaviest fighting was in the area of Wahlerscheid, a cross-road southwest of Monschau, where the Germans were resisting in heavily fortified pillboxes.

Springlike temperatures around 50 degrees thawed out the First army front, and turned the roads into rivers of mud.

Patton Takes Towns
To the right of the First army, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army forces overran four German towns and broadened their front inside Germany to four and a half miles.

Capt. Ludwig Sertorius, Nazi military commentator, said allied preparations for a major offensive on the broad arc east of Aachen were "nearing a conclusion" and "it cannot yet be seen whether the enemy intends to include central Holland in his great new offensive."

CHINESE PREDICT JAPS WILL MOVE

Shungking, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—Chinese sources predicted today that the mounting American air offensive against Japan may force the Japanese to move their capital from Tokyo to a more remote part of Honshu or even to the island of Hokkaido, to the north.

They pointed out that additional heavy bombers will be within range of Honshu when new bases on Luzon are put in operation.

Tokyo is the worst situated of any world capital for construction of air raid shelters, the Chinese said. Located in a low lying coastal basin, large areas of the city are subject to minor floods. The water level is only a few feet under ground. As a result, air raid shelters sufficiently deep to offer protection against bombings must be constructed at a heavy cost of reinforced concrete and even then they are subject to heavy water seepage. The same situation forced Tokyo to build its subway system barely beneath the surface.

TO BERLIN
By United Press
The shortest roads to Berlin from advanced allied lines: Eastern front—40 miles (from Oder at Frankfurt). (Western front—296 miles (from point southeast of Nijmegen). Italy—530 miles (from point north of Ravenna).

London Escaped Destruction By Narrow Margin

New York, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—London escaped "total destruction," only by a hair's breadth during the robot bomb attacks last summer, S. N. Behrman disclosed in an article about a recent visit to the British capital which appeared in the current issue of the New Yorker magazine.

Only the invasion of the continent in June saved London from "total extinction," Behrman said.

"Had the invasion not taken place when it did the enemy installations in France would have sent across twenty-five hundred robots a day," the article said.

"This they were equipped to do. Even allowing for the admitted imprecision of aim, this would have meant the total extinction of the capital."

'CIVIL RIGHTS' BILL DUE TO HIT FLOOR TOMORROW

Salem, Ore., Feb. 1—(U.P.)—The "Civil Rights" bill, which has created a stir in the capitol this week, was due to be reported out of committee today, probably without recommendation, and will be debated by the Oregon senate tomorrow.

The House decided to act today on the senate bill appropriating \$25,000 for the joint legislative liquor commission investigating committee, which passed the senate yesterday by a 19 to 10 vote. Some members of the senate had charged the money, which would be taken from liquor revenues, would be denied the old-age pensioners of the state.

Sen. Frederick S. Lampert of Salem said the money would "just go down the rathole." He predicted prohibition would come again "within four years" if "the liquor commission is not removed from political suspicion."

Proponents of the bill asked its passage to clear the name of the liquor commission, which has been charged with illegality in the purchase in 1943 of two distilleries with the Washington State Liquor Board.

Jap Ambassador Departs Berlin

New York, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—An NBC report from Switzerland today said that the Japanese ambassador to Germany and the staff of the Japanese embassy have left Berlin for an unknown destination, presumably to the new seat of the Nazi government. The report said the whole Berlin diplomatic corps was leaving the capital.

Bataan Heroes Fight Under Regimental Banner 3 Years

With American Forces on Luzon, Jan. 31—(U.P.)—Maj. Gen. Oscar W. Griswold, with tears in his eyes, today accepted from a small group of bedraggled American guerrilla survivors of Bataan the regimental flag of the gallant 26th cavalry.

This American flag, piped in gold, had never touched ground in three years of Japanese occupation.

Bearer Killed
Its first bearer was killed as he rode into battle. Later the flag was sewed inside a pillow provided by a Filipino housewife and flown at the head of a guerrilla band of 3,000 hill-dwelling Negritos, commanded by Lt. Henry Clay Conner, Jr., East Orange, N. J.

Six barefoot Americans—bearded, tired but happy—marched up the Luzon plain with

SENATE VOTES TO DIVORCE LENDING FROM COMMERCE

George Bill Passes 74 to 12; Ultimate Confirmation of Wallace Seen Assured.

Washington, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—With administration forces largely cooperating, the senate today passed by 74 to 12 the George bill to remove the multi-billion federal lending agencies from jurisdiction of the Secretary of Commerce.

President Roosevelt sent word to the senate that he would sign the bill after the House also passes it.

Wallace Assured
The president's promise, and the administration votes in going along with the George bill, were designated to assure ultimate confirmation of former Vice President Henry A. Wallace for the commerce post—although with far less power than Jesse H. Jones possessed.

Following passage of the George bill, the senate by voice vote adopted a motion to defer consideration of Wallace's nomination until March 1.

This delay also was in line with the administration strategy. They believed it would clinch ultimate approval of Wallace for the cabinet job, because it leaves ample time for final congressional passage of the George bill and Mr. Roosevelt's actual signature of it before the nomination will come up.

The administration victories, however, were won only after the narrowest squeak at the outset of the day's proceedings.

The anti-Wallace forces wanted to consider his nomination first—and they came within one vote of winning adoption of a motion to do just that. The count on this motion was 42 to 42 tie, and under senate rules a motion is defeated on a tie.

When he saw that the motion was lost, Sen. Robert A. Taft, R. O., for strictly parliamentary reasons switched his vote so that as finally-recorded it was 43 to 41 against consideration of the Wallace nomination.

CIVILIAN FREIGHT UNDER EMBARGO OF FOUR DAYS

Washington, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—The office of defense transportation today ordered railroads to place civilian freight in eight states and the District of Columbia under another four-day embargo beginning Saturday, because of continuing severe weather conditions.

NOVELIST ILL

Hollywood, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—Novelist Vicki Baum was confined to her home today under doctor's care after suffering a relapse from an attack of influenza and fatigue.

WORK OR ELSE PASSAGE SEEN BY END OF DAY

Two Substitute Proposals Voted Down; Way Seen Smoothed for Legislation

Washington, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—The house today eliminated two major obstacles to passage of the May work-or-else bill, expected before tonight, by voting down two substitute proposals.

The defeated substitutes were: 1. By Reps. Forest Harness, (R., Ind.) and Frank A. Barrett, (R., Wyo.), to keep manpower controls on a voluntary basis and direct the war manpower commission to investigate labor hoarding and waste.

2. By Rep. Jerry Voorhis, (D., Calif.) to give legislative backing to WMC directives, which the sponsor said would keep the system under the program developed voluntarily by labor, management and government.

The Harness-Barrett proposal lost by only 187 to 177, but the Voorhis amendment was overwhelmed 205 to 71.

The Harness-Barrett measure would have merely asked deferred men 18 to 45 in non-essential jobs to agree in writing to accept war work.

WINTER SNARLS EAST RAILYARDS

Key rail yards in Buffalo and Syracuse were gripped today by a new onslaught of winter that again threatened to snarl transportation.

Gale winds piled snow across New York state's Genesee and Mohawk valleys, hampering freight switching.

Railroad spokesmen feared the consequences of worsening weather, but said freight movements were encouraging under existing circumstances. They said a large dent had been made in stalled rolling stock but they admitted the possibility of a second embargo on civilian commodities if winter takes another bad turn.

All government agencies responsible for food and fuel supplies said the fuel crisis had been met generally, but that a few spot shortages continued.

NAVY ANNOUNCES LOSS OF 3 SHIPS

Washington, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—The navy today announced the loss of the fast destroyer-minesweepers Hovey and Palmer and a landing ship as a result of Japanese action in the Philippine area.

These losses raised to 258 the total of U. S. naval vessels lost from all causes in this war.

The Palmer and Hovey, built as destroyers in the last war, were converted into minesweepers in 1940. Each carried a normal complement of about 120 men. The lost landing ship, the LST 759, normally carried about 50 men.

There was no disclosure of the extent of casualties but the skippers of all three vessels were saved.

THE VOICE TO DRAFT
Hollywood, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—Frank "The Voice" Sinatra, idol of the bobby-sox set, leaves today by train for New York to appear before his draft board for possible reclassification. The crooner has been classified 4-F because of a punctured eardrum.

510 Allied Prisoners Rescued From Luzon Japanese Camp In Daring Foray By Yankees

By Frank Hewlett
United Press War Correspondent

Allied Headquarters, Luzon, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—A picket force of American commandos has slipped behind the Japanese lines and brought back to safety 510 allied war prisoners, many of them men of Bataan and Corregidor, Gen. Douglas MacArthur revealed today.

The men were brought back to freedom by a daring foray last night in which 121 members of the 6th ranger battalion and 288 trained guerrillas penetrated 25 miles inside the Jap lines to storm the prisoner of war camp at Cabanatuan, 70 miles north of Manila in Nueva Ecija province.

"No incident of the campaign has given me such personal satisfaction," said MacArthur.

27 Americans Lost
The rescue attack was accomplished with such precision that only 27 Americans were lost and three wounded while the Jap garrison was annihilated. In the fight at the camp and in a running escape battle with Japanese columns supported by tanks, the Americans killed 523 Japs and knocked out 12 tanks.

(A CBS broadcast from Luzon reported the American commandos killed 73 Japs guarding the camp and 150 Jap soldiers in a fierce five-minute attack. A special squad broke the main gate, hacked away the barbed wire and shouted: "You're free. You're free." Yanks, head for the main gate where the guides will pick you up.)

One prisoner died of a heart attack in the excitement as he reached the gate. Within 27 minutes the expedition was heading back, the weak and sick being carried to excarts three miles away.)

Almost all the rescued prisoners were Americans but there was a sprinkling of British, Dutch and others.

In Fair Condition
"The condition of the rescued men is fair," MacArthur said, "they are receiving every care and attention, and their rehabilitation will be rapid."

The prisoners brought with them the first eyewitness accounts of the last days on Corregidor before the fortress finally surrendered at 10 a. m. May 6, 1942.

They revealed that Gen. Jonathan N. Wainwright forced the Japanese to pay a frightful price before going down before the Japanese tide. The Japanese lost almost 5,000 men in their landing on the rock walls of the island fortress.

The story was told by Lt. Col. John K. Borneman, Niagara Falls, N. Y., one of three chaplains rescued at the camp.

The other two chaplains were Lt. Col. Alfred Oliver, Washington, D. C., a Methodist, and Capt. John J. Dugan, Boston, a Catholic.

Ack-Ack Knocked Out
Borneman, a Presbyterian and chaplain of the 60th coast artillery, said that most of the anti-aircraft batteries on Corregidor had been knocked out by Japanese artillery firing from Bataan on the night of May 5-6.

That was the night the direct Japanese assault on the fortress was launched.

The Japanese, attacking with a force of about 10,000 men, lost

FIVE OREGONIANS

A United Press list of prisoners rescued from Japanese prisoners-of-war camps on Luzon, Philippine Islands, announced today contains the name of five Oregon men. They were Sgt. Charles C. McKewen, Portland; Capt. Denton J. Reese, Milwaukee; Capt. Robert E. Slyn, Eugene; Capt. Floyd I. Floyd, Enterprise, and Pvt. John Braunberger, Portland.

(The full list as received by United Press wire has been posted in the Mail Tribune window.)

ning escape battle with Japanese columns supported by tanks, the Americans killed 523 Japs and knocked out 12 tanks.

During the long months of captivity the morale of the American prisoners was kept up by listening to a radio which was built and operated secretly by Lt. William B. Gibson who had been a radio concern representative in Manila when the Japanese attack came. He went to Corregidor as a civilian technician to aid in the operation of the Voice of Freedom transmitter.

On the morning of Corregidor's surrender he was commissioned a second lieutenant.

Over this radio the Americans were able to follow the progress of the war. They heard of the steady progress of MacArthur's drive northward; of the landing on Leyte and finally of the landing on Luzon. They eagerly checked the progress of the Luzon drive but their rescue came as a surprise. According to their calculations they had not expected their deliverers for several days more.

"For many months," Borneman said, "the Japs wouldn't let us bury our own dead but we could have services inside the camp. The Japs often put 20 prisoners in a common grave, dropping them in like cordwood."

"The angle of the river northward from Kustrin in relation to the distance from Berlin made it uncertain exactly how near the Russians were to the richest single prize of the war in Europe, but it appeared to be less than 40 miles and possibly only a little more than 30."

Air Force Aids
The Nazi command said reserves also had been engaged against Soviet tank spearheads that had advanced as far as the Sternberg-Zielentz area 60 to 70 miles east-southeast of Berlin.

Moscow dispatches said scores of Soviet air squadrons were defying snowstorms and generally bad weather to hammer the enemy day and night on the eastern front.

COFFEE ADDICTS ARE REASSURED

Washington, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—Government food officials, alarmed at an increase in "scare" buying of coffee, declared emphatically today that "coffee rationing is not in sight."

The office of price administration said buying in excess of normal needs had increased during the past week due to rumors that coffee would be returned to the ration list. It assured the public that no preparations for rationing are being made.

More Diphtheria And Scarlet Fever In Week's Report

Additional cases of both diphtheria and scarlet fever continue to be reported in the county, with three of diphtheria and six cases of the fever listed with the county health department for the week ending January 26.

All three diphtheria cases and two of the scarlet fever cases are in Medford while the four remaining fever cases were reported from Oak Grove, Jacksonville, Applegate and Prospect. Other communicable diseases listed were one case of measles, Oak Grove; one case of pneumonia, Central Point; one case of chicken pox in Medford and one in Central Point; three cases of recurrent malaria, Camp White and three cases of trench mouth, Camp White.

POWERFUL FORCE MASSING ON BANK OF FINAL BARRIER

Invaders Believed Only Little More Than 30 Miles from Berlin Near Kustrin.

London, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—Russian forces drove to the Oder river less than 40 miles from Berlin today, and 175 miles to the east captured the long-encircled Polish city of Torun, killing or capturing the German garrison by-passed in the lightning sweep westward.

Russian and German reports agreed that powerful Soviet forces were massing on the east bank of the Oder in evident preparation for storming the last natural defense line athwart the approaches of Berlin.

Torun Taken
The fall of Torun, Polish fortress city on the lower Vistula 80 miles northwest of Posen and 25 miles southeast of Bydgoszcz, was announced in a special order of the day by Marshal Stalin, broadcast from Moscow.

The German High Command admitted that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's forces had swept to the east bank of the Oder northwest of Kustrin, 42 miles east of Berlin. From Kustrin the river angles northward to its right-angle elbow an even 30 miles from the capital.

Both Moscow and Berlin broadcasts reported that the Soviet vanguard had crashed to the gates of Kustrin, at the confluence of the Oder and Warthe rivers, where the trunk line from Danzig crosses the Oder and runs straight to Berlin.

Moscow dispatches also said the Russians were believed to have reached the east bank of the Oder opposite Frankfurt, 39 miles east and slightly south of Berlin.

A German communique reporting that Zhukov's forces "have advanced as far as the Oder northwest of Kustrin" said fresh German reserves had been thrown into battle in that sector, indicating the defenders of Berlin might make their supreme effort at the Oder, the city's last outlying defense line.

The angle of the river northward from Kustrin in relation to the distance from Berlin made it uncertain exactly how near the Russians were to the richest single prize of the war in Europe, but it appeared to be less than 40 miles and possibly only a little more than 30."

MEXICAN RAIL CRASH

Mexico City, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—The National Railways announced 96 persons were killed and 63 injured today when a freight train collided with a special passenger train crowded with Mexicans making the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of San Juan de Los Lagos in the state of Jalisco.

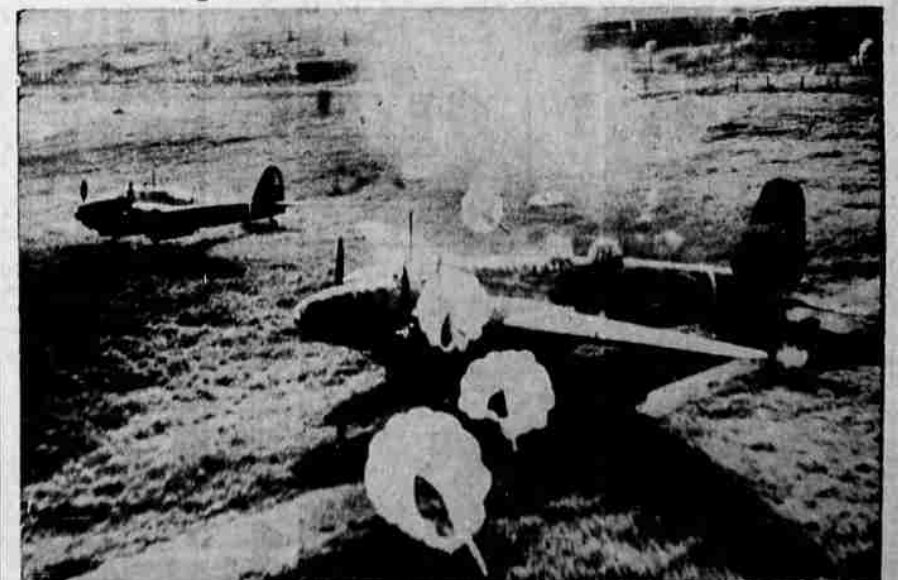
MORE VENEREAL DISEASE

Los Angeles, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—Declaring the venereal disease rate for troops in continental United States has risen to 36 per 1,000 men, Lt. Col. Thomas H. Sterberg, army services forces venereal disease control officer, has announced that all infected servicemen will be treated before discharge.

COAST ACADEMY AIM

Washington, Feb. 1—(U.P.)—Rep. Hugh De Lacy, D., Wash., member of the House Naval Affairs committee, said today he was preparing a bill calling for postwar establishment of a second naval academy to be situated in the Puget Sound area of Washington.

Parafags Make One Less Bomber for Hirohito



One less bomber will fly with the Jap Air Force as parafragmentation bombs are strewn across it in sweep over Aparri airfield in northern Luzon by B-26's of the Fifth Air Force. The new lighter-reconnaissance plane will be riddled by bomb fragments and will need repairs before taking to the air again. 5th AAF photo.