

BIG ALLIED PUSH IN WEST OPENS

CANADIAN FIRST BREAK NORTHERN SIEGFRIED LINE

Battle of Germany Under
Way; Nazi Resistance Is
Spotty; Towns Taken.

Paris, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The big push has begun.
From Holland to the Alps, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower is hurling American, British and French troops into the climactic battle of Germany.
The aim is to destroy Germany's fighting forces before summer in conjunction with the red army's offensives in the east.
Best guesses place German strength in the west at 80 divisions. But even these are under strength and probably total fewer than a half million men.

Paris, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Armored and infantry divisions of the Canadian first army broke into the northern flank of the Siegfried line today in a full-scale offensive that carried forward almost five miles on a six-mile front aimed squarely at the German Ruhr and Rhineland.
Advancing steadily behind a screen of flame-throwing tanks, veteran British and Canadian infantrymen spilled over the German border southeast of Nijmegen and drove several spearheads deep into the Reichswald forest.

Vanguards of the attacking force were reported half-way through the forest early today, impelling the twin strongholds of Cleve and Goch that form the northern anchor of Germany's west wall.

First army paratroops, fighting as infantrymen, were reported to have pushed almost five miles into the forest from the west to within about four miles southwest of Cleve and 5½ miles northwest of Goch.
German resistance, softened and in some places paralyzed by a thundering allied aerial and artillery bombardment, showed few signs of stiffening this morning, 24 hours after the start of the offensive that promised to set the whole western front ablaze.

Aerial reconnaissance indicated, however, that the Germans were recovering from their initial surprise and were beginning to rush reserves into the threatened area.
At least seven towns, two of them German, were captured in the first 12 hours of the advance and one allied column on the northern flank of the assault line was reported less than three miles from the Rhine crossing town of Millingen.

Seven towns were captured before nightfall yesterday, two of them on German soil, and more than 1,000 dazed Nazi prisoners were rounded up.

Heavily-censored field dispatches indicated the allies were moving forward unchecked this morning against spotty resistance, well beyond the officially-announced gains.

Headquarters spokesmen made it clear that the big push was on to break open Germany's western front in co-ordination with the red army march on Berlin.

NAME NEW HEADS WATER DISTRICTS

J. M. Spencer, Ashland, has been named secretary-manager of the Medford Irrigation District and W. D. Steadman, Phoenix, has been named to the same position in the Rogue River district, both appointments to become effective March 1. Both succeed Ed N. Judd, for 15 years manager of both districts.
Since 1929 Spencer has been manager of the Hermiston district and prior to that was manager of the Eagle Point district. He has been employed as inspector of Reeder dam at Ashland and has been engaged in railroad and highway construction.
Steadman for 15 years has been superintendent of the Rogue River district and is well acquainted with its needs and system and is well-known in the valley.
Judd plans to retire to the construction business and will continue to make his home here.

CHECK PRISON RUMORS
Calgary, Alta., Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Officials today checked reports that Nazi agents in German prisoner of war camps killed several fellow inmates to prove that Nazi faith was sacred wherever Germans gather.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire
Thirty-ninth Year
MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1945
NO. 272.

First Allied Prisoners Freed In Philippines



Gaunt young men who had been strapping soldiers when the war started, officers with deep lines carved in their emaciated faces, men hobbling with canes and men too ill to walk, enter the grounds of an evacuation hospital after their daring rescue by American Rangers and Filipino guerrillas from Cabanatuan prison camp, Luzon.

15 NEW ENGLAND DEAD IN WORST STORM IN YEARS

Boston, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—One of its worst blizzards in recent times dropped 12 to 14 inches of snow on New England today, paralyzed virtually all transportation, and cost at least 15 lives.
Thousands of persons were marooned. Work stopped at many shipyards and war plants. Enormous snowdrifts, piled up by a raging northeasterly wind, prevented night shift workers from reaching their homes and day-shift workers from reaching their jobs.
The Boston and Maine railroad appealed to the army for troops to clear its tracks.
Power and light wires were down over a wide area. The Providence, R. I., weather station had been able to communicate only occasionally during the night with Boston headquarters. It was reported that traffic in Providence was severely hampered.
Portsmouth, N. H., had no transportation. Workers were unable to reach the navy yard. Even the main highways were snow-clogged.
There was neither bus nor taxi service in Portland, Me., and few hardy workers dared the 10-foot drifts in the streets to reach the vast New England Shipbuilding Corp. plant in South Portland.
Boston had an official snowfall of 14 inches—two inches more than in the St. Valentine's day blizzard of 1940 that crippled the area for nearly a week. The total snow now on the ground in Boston proper was 19 inches.

WEDNESDAY RAID DAMAGES SAIGON

By United Press
The Saigon radio acknowledged today that "important material damage" was caused in the city and nearby Phnompenh Wednesday when an estimated 70 B-29 Superfortresses raided the French Indo-China naval base.
The disclosure was contained in an "official" communiqué broadcast by the Saigon radio and recorded by FCC.
The broadcast said 170 persons were killed and 490 wounded in the two cities.
Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—West Virginia's legislature was on record today as the first state law-making body to recommend that freedom of the press around the world be guaranteed at the International peace conference.

BIG THREE MEET ENDS NEXT WEEK, MOSCOW REPORTS

Moscow, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The Big Three Conference, it was believed today, is "amphibious"—partly on land and partly aboard ship.
The exact site of the conference was still secret beyond its location in the Black Sea area and was expected to be kept secret until the meeting is over.
Announcement that the conference has concluded was expected next week.
Speculation on the site varied among dozens of Black Sea coastal towns stretching from Odessa to Batumi, all far removed from possible outside interference.
Either from shipboard or from shore Marshal Stalin is able to maintain close contact with Supreme Headquarters on the progress of the Red army offensive. Since a ship could not accommodate all the foreign ministers, chiefs of staff and their staffs it was believed that the conference is "amphibious" with meetings both on land and aboard ship.
The American and British ambassadors to Moscow and the chiefs of the Anglo-American military missions here are at the meeting.
They are not communicating with Moscow during the conference.
U. S. Ambassador W. Averill Harriman, accompanied by his daughter, Kathleen, and his staff, went south by rail some time before the opening of the meeting. Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, the British ambassador, followed about a week later.

Two More Wives of Conductor Located

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The box score on the multiple marriages of sad-eyed trolley Conductor Francis Harrison Van Wie rose to 14 today, with disclosure of two more weddings without benefit of divorce, in addition to his admitted 12 wives.
California bureau of vital statistics records show the "Casanova of the car lines" married Edna Ruth Eastman, then 31, on December 12, 1917, in Oakland, Cal.—the same year he wed admitted wife number three, Adelaide, in the same city.
BACKS BIG THREE
Chungking, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The influential liberal Chinese newspaper Ta Kung Pao today editorially urged strengthening of Sino-Soviet relations in view of the "Big Three" conference and Russia's future role in the defeat of Japan.
New York, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Stocks were narrowly irregular at the opening today.

CONWAY EXPLAINS LIQUOR PURCHASE, STATES REASONS

Salem, Ore., Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The Oregon joint legislative committee, appointed to investigate the 1943 purchase of two Kentucky distilleries by the Oregon and Washington liquor control commissions for nearly \$7,500,000, today considered evidence presented at its first meeting.
Ray Conway, secretary and administrator of the Oregon commission, told the committee, headed by Sen. Paul Patterson, that the commission had felt that the law under which it operated made it mandatory for it to obtain the liquor demanded by the public.
The idea of the purchase was first originated late in September of 1943, Conway said. He reported that liquor stocks were at an all-time low in June of that year, when only 12,000 cases of whiskey were on hand, and the monthly rate of consumption ran around 50,000 cases.
He gave three chief reasons why the deal had been made:
1. Partly to satisfy the large and increasing demand for domestic whiskeys which were getting scarcer after the federal government had ordered manufacturing stopped.
2. For financial profit.
3. To lessen growing black market operations.
The purchase had the approval of the attorney general of Oregon and Washington, the Oregon board of control and the office of price administration.

DR. KRESSE HURT IN SHOP MISHAP

Dr. W. W. F. Kresse, sentenced from Medford last October to four years and nine months at McNeill Island for illegal narcotics sales, was critically injured recently when hit in the stomach by a flying board, causing an intestinal rupture, according to word received from Mrs. Kresse, who is now making her home at The Dalles.
Kresse's condition is such that his wife cannot see him, according to the message received by friends here. He was employed in the carpenter shop at the prison at the time of his injury.
Rome, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Patrols advanced several hundred yards to strengthen fifth army positions in the Serchio valley in the west coastal sector, headquarters said today. Minor clashes were reported along other fronts.

YANKEES LAUNCH FINAL MOP-UP OF JAPS IN MANILA

Enemy Herded by Buckeye Division—Tokyo Reports New Landing Made.

Manila, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The Battle of Manila entered its last and bloodiest phase today as American infantrymen swarmed across the Pasig river to root out and destroy the Japanese trapped in the southern half of the city.
Doughboys of the 37th (Buckeye) division crossed the Pasig in amphibious tanks and on pontoon bridges late Wednesday and quickly established a wide bridgehead on the south bank opposite the Malacanang Palace.
The Japanese put up only weak resistance along the river bank, but they stiffened later Wednesday night and fought back savagely with mortars, artillery and rifle fire.
Their position was rapidly disintegrating, however, and it was believed that all organized opposition would be crushed within a very few days at most. The advancing 37th was deep into the southern half of the capital early today and herding the Japanese survivors back slowly into the waiting guns of the U. S. 11th airborne division moving up from the south.
The main body of the 11th airborne was reported slightly north of Nichols field Wednesday night.
Radio Tokyo Friday indicated that a second column of American troops are on the verge of entering Manila from the south, but the broadcast failed specifically to acknowledge that Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces have crossed the Pasig river from the north.

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Broadcast Glum
"It is a hard, cold fact that the city of Manila has not fallen," Arthur Feldman, Blue Network correspondent, reported in a broadcast from the Philippines Friday.
"The Japs are fighting hard for Manila. The Jap defenders, while in the death throes of their defense, are nevertheless conducting a reign of terror, death and destruction which still continues."
"It should be pointed out that the enemy's program of pillage and destruction is so wanton that it has passed beyond the stage of destroying Military objectives."
"I believe it will be some days before any victory parade swings down the Avenida Rizal."

LONE SUPER-FORT IN KOBE ATTACK

Washington, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—A lone B-29 Superfortress bombed Japan's main seaport of Kobe early today, the sixth straight day that one or more of the big bombers has attacked the city, radio Tokyo said.
Tokyo also reported that another B-29 made an hour-long reconnaissance flight over the Kanto district, which includes Tokyo and Yokohama, without dropping bombs. The broadcast was recorded by the FCC.
From advanced Pacific headquarters came an announcement that army Liberators had bombed Iwo, 570 miles south of Tokyo, for the 62nd and 63rd consecutive days Tuesday and Wednesday. Results of the raid were not disclosed.
Other bombers attacked Haha island in the Bonins Wednesday and left three large fires burning. Tokyo said both Iwo and Haha also were hit again yesterday.

CIRCULATION GAINS

New York, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Daily newspaper circulation in the United States reached 45,954,838 in 1944, a 3.4 per cent increase over 1943 and a new high, according to the 1945 Editor & Publisher yearbook.

DEWEY TALK HELD WORD TO F.R. TO BE FIRM WITH JOSEF

Or Risk Foreign Policy Dispute in Congress; Sees Totalitarian Trend at Home.

By Lyle C. Wilson
United Press Correspondent
Washington, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's Lincoln day speech looked today like a warning to President Roosevelt to drive a firm political bargain with Premier Josef V. Stalin. The alternative would be to risk a major foreign policy dispute with well organized Republicans.
Dewey spoke here last night at the Statler hotel before about 1200 party leaders. He made a double-barrelled attack on Mr. Roosevelt's home and foreign policies. He endorsed the foreign policy program of Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, R., Mich., which is under such bitter attack in the domestic communist press as to suggest that Stalin would balk at it.
The reaction of congressional leaders in the audience generally was enthusiastic. For example, Sen. Kenneth S. Wherry of Nebraska, Republican whip, thought Dewey put the Roosevelt administration on notice "to do a better job in foreign relations."
Dewey didn't get a 100 per cent endorsement, however. Sen. Raymond Willis, R., Ind., was lukewarm on the foreign policy section of Dewey's speech but agreed with his discussion on domestic affairs.
Mr. Roosevelt doubtless is aware now of Stalin's ideas on the Vandenberg plan. He and the Soviet Union leader are in conference in the Black Sea area with Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Vandenberg proposal was in two parts:
1. An immediate Anglo-American-Chinese treaty to keep Germany and Japan permanently disarmed.
2. Agreement now that political settlements in Europe made or being made in various liberated countries be subject to general review after the war.
The communist press interprets this latter provision as sabotage of the Teheran agreements reached in 1943 by Mr. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin in their first conference. Some others interpret it as a precaution against communization of a large part of Europe. The communist press says that is nonsense. If Dewey can make the Vandenberg plan stick as formal Republican doctrine, it may be up to the president to obtain Stalin's agreement to postwar re-examination of European political questions. The alternative could be a bitter and bruising political contest in this country over the shape and scope of post-war security machinery.

2 YRS. EXTENSION BIG TRUCK LAWS VOTED BY SENATE

New Barber Price Law To Replace Invalid One Introduced.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—A two-year extension of the "big truck" laws in Oregon passed the senate today after a move failed to make the extension for four years.
The two year vote was unanimous but the Upper House split 18 to 10 against a minority committee report that war-time experience with the larger trucks justified a permanent extension. The majority report was accepted and the rules suspended to permit immediate passage of the bill (SB42) to the house.
Sen. Frank Hilton, Portland, vainly argued the truck and trailer limit of 60 feet in length and 71,550 pounds in weight provided in bill had worked out to advantage in the three war years and should be permanent because highway officials agreed no excessive highway damage has been caused.
Salem, Ore., Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The recent Oregon Supreme Court decision that invalidated the minimum Barber price law brought a new bill (SB185) into the senate today to remedy defects and reinstate minimum price scales.
The court held the Board of Barber Examiners was deprived of its powers when 70 per cent of the barbers could petition for minimum prices in a county. The new bill, submitted by the Senate Labor and Industries Board, permits the Board to accept petitions and then accept, alter, reduce, or reject the suggested price scale, or make changes anytime thereafter from investigation of possible inequities.
Another new senate bill (SB186) would remove graduated scales for Circuit Court Judges salaries to a flat \$6,000 per year in all counties. Previously, judges in counties over 30,000 population received \$6,000 between 15,000 and 30,000, \$5,500, and less than 15,000 \$5,000.
London, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The British radio reported today that W. H. Donald, famous adviser to Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek, had been released from internment in Manila.

Catching Up



George W. Weedon, Lagrange, Ore., special policeman for contracting firm when he was taken by Japs on Corregidor, spends the first minutes of his freedom after rescue from Cabanatuan prison camp catching up on his reading.

RUSSIANS STORM FRANKFURT, VITAL BERLIN BASTION

Frontal Attack on Capital Objective; After Collapse Oder Defenses.
London, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—The Soviet high command reported tonight that the red army had surrounded Arnswalde, big rail junction 40 miles southeast of Stettin, and the Baltic coastal town of Elbing in East Prussia.
London, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Moscow and Berlin reported today that Russian assault forces were storming Frankfurt from bridgeheads on the west bank of the Oder on both sides of the key stone base 33 miles east of Berlin.
The fall of Frankfurt would collapse the Oder river defense line before Berlin and bare the capital itself to frontal assault.
Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's spearheads across the Oder were probing westward behind an earth-shaking bombardment of Russian artillery massed on the east bank of the river, Moscow dispatches reported.
The German high command's only reference to the sector before Berlin said that the Germans "succeeded in narrowing down or eliminating by counter-attack several enemy bridgeheads."
A supplementary Berlin broadcast reported violent battles both north and south of Frankfurt, and Moscow dispatches said the Nazis were throwing all available strength into an effort to wipe out the Soviet footholds which clamped a pincers on the strategic city.
On either side of the Oder-Berlin front, Soviet armies were swinging westward to protect Zhukov's flanks, threaten the Baltic port of Stettin, and hew out expanding pockets west of the Oder in Silesia.
Swedish refugees who fled Berlin to their homeland reported that inhabitants expect the red army to reach it "within a week or two." More than 300,000 Berliners have left the city since the Russians arrived at the Oder, they said.
The Nazis not only admitted that fierce street fighting was under way in Kuestrin, but said that the Soviets had encircled the fortress town by linking up two bridgeheads on the west bank of the Oder. Kuestrin lies on the east bank 38 miles east of Berlin.

SENATE PASSAGE OF GEORGE BILL CALLED 'TRADING'

Washington, Feb. 9.—(U.P.)—Rep. Eugene E. Cox (D., Ga.), said today that senate passage of the George bill resulted from "horse-trading with the president" on the nomination of Henry A. Wallace to be secretary of commerce.
The bill would divorce the Reconstruction Finance Corp. and other federal lending units from the commerce department. It has been passed by the senate and approved by the house banking committee. Cox's statement was made during a house rules committee hearing on how and when it should be considered in the house.
The administration forces desire enactment of the bill in belief that it would clear the way for confirmation of Wallace.
The hearing was featured by several verbal clashes between Cox, a rules committee member, and Banking Committee Chairman Brent Spence (D., Ky.). Spence insisted that senate passage of the bill had nothing to do with Wallace's nomination although he conceded the nomination might have prompted introduction of the bill.
The committee finally adjourned after deciding to resume the hearing next Wednesday.