

MARINES STORM SECOND DROME

Weather
Forecast: Cloudy tonight. Partly cloudy Thursday. Slightly warmer Thursday afternoon.
Temp. Highest yesterday 51. Lowest this morning 33. Precipitation past 24 hrs., none.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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Thirty ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1945

NO. 282.

3,650 CASUALTIES LISTED SO FAR IN IWO JIMA BATTLE

Two Divisions Slug Forward Yard by Yard; U. S. Warships Bomb Implacements

Wholesale Nazi Surrenders Reported Along Patton Front as Line Collapses

THIRD ARMY MEN ADVANCE 5 MILES ON BROAD FRONT

Armor, Infantry Swinging Out in Quickenning Tempo; 7,000 Prisoners Taken.

Paris, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—Reports of wholesale German surrenders poured in from Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. Third army front today as the Americans collapsed another big section of the Siegfried line and advanced as much as 5 1/2 miles on a broad front.

Patton's armored and infantry columns were swinging out in front of the Allied western offensive at a quickening pace along a 50-mile attack line extending down from the Pruem sector to the Moselle-Saar triangle.

Resistance spotty. German resistance was strangely spotty all across the Third army front. At some points the Nazis fought savagely and skillfully for every yard of ground. At others, sullen enemy troops were surrendering by the hundreds, quitting strong defense positions without a fight.

Field dispatches said the Third army had rounded up almost 7,000 prisoners in the past four days, equivalent to more than the full combat strength of one of the Wehrmacht's thinned divisions.

The mass surrenders were made more puzzling by the fact that mud and slush were hindering Patton's advance sufficiently to permit most of the Germans to escape eastward if they wished.

Far to the north, tough German paratroopers were getting up a different kind of battle against the Canadian First army in the 17-mile wide Maas-Rhine corridor leading to the Ruhr valley.

Boostered by fresh reinforcements that put elements of nine German divisions across the path of the attacking Canadian army, the Nazis were throwing strong tank and infantry forces into a series of counterattacks that slowed and at some points reversed the Allied advance.

Hardest fighting raged along the left flank of the Canadian drive in the Calcar area, where the Nazis were holding fast to Calcar and the road network leading down the Rhine to the Ruhr, 24 miles away.

House In Favor Vets Department

Salem, Ore., Feb. 21—(U.P.)—The Oregon house of representatives passed house bill 271 to set up a veterans department and sped through the nine bill calendar in high gear today as Democratic slowdown tactics crumpled under astute Republican maneuvering.

The senate narrowly defeated the Pearson bill (Sub) to establish a temporary psychiatric hospital in Multnomah county.

SIDE GLANCES

The Weatherman wanting all and sundry to know that he's not "Weatherman" but "nine Weathermen" and they're on the job with those forecasts 24 hours a day.

Jerry Jerome wending his way through city hall with those country fresh eggs for his usual Wednesday customers, who are virtually all-out egg eaters, according to the size of the deliveries.

City Milk Inspector Charlie Austin cocking a critical eye at a flagon of gift milk being toted up Sixth street by a citizen.

FDR Grooms Haile Selassie



Aboard a warship anchored in Great Bitter Lake near Cairo, President Roosevelt (right) meets Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. Converting to French, the President expressed hope that with improvement of communications, particularly by air, the United States and Ethiopia would come to know each other better. The Emperor "enthusiastically endorsed the President's hope." Signal Corps photo.

ARMY ENGINEERS DENY EARLY PLAN TO DIVERT RIVER

Yreka, Calif., Feb. 21—(U.P.)—The army engineers have no plans for immediate dam construction which would divert the Klamath or Trinity rivers into the Sacramento, Col. K. M. Moore of the San Francisco office told a packed public hearing here today.

Moore told protesting citizens of the Klamath river region who jammed the superior courtroom that the army engineers are merely making a study of how the Klamath, which he called an important waterway, can be put to its best use.

He added that the army is not considering a any construction which would destroy fish and wild life in any area.

Another Engineer, Otto von Sappern, explained by use of maps three suggested division schemes under consideration by the engineers, which have aroused heavy opposition in the area.

One would divert the Klamath to the Sacramento by way of the Pit river, while a second would divert the Klamath at Keno, Ore., by a route skirting the Shasta valley. A third would divert the Trinity river into the Sacramento.

Vets Educational Aid Bill Favored

Salem, Ore., Feb. 21—(U.P.)—The bill to provide state educational aid for veterans of World War II (HB347) was reported out "do pass" by the House Military Affairs Committee today.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Harvey Wells and Sen. Lee Patterson, is a result of the November election when the voters approved a similar measure. Main changes in the bill include a provision for a straight \$35 monthly benefit, instead of a sliding scale.

Mrs. Moser Stricken. Salem, Ore., Feb. 21—(U.P.)—Mrs. Walter Moser, wife of the state senator from Josephine county, suffered a partial stroke in Salem last night and was taken to Grants Pass by her husband today.

YANKEES, CHINESE MASS TO DRIVE ON CHINA EAST COAST

30,000 Americans and 90 Chinese Divisions Ready According to Axis Source

London, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—Axis broadcasts said today that an army of 30,000 American troops and 90 Chinese divisions has been massed in southwestern China to support an American landing on the east coast of China.

The German Transoceanic News agency, quoting dispatches from Tokyo, said the allied expeditionary force awaited a signal to start an overland offensive in coordination with the amphibious assault on the coast.

The Chinese were said to be concentrated in Yunnan province, including troops transferred from the Burma front.

The location of the reported American army was not specified, but Transoceanic said the Yanks were equipped with tanks and heavy artillery.

In western military terms, the 90 Chinese divisions would represent well over 1,000,000 men but Transoceanic indicated the divisions were believed to be considerably smaller than those used in European or American armies.

(Japanese spokesmen repeatedly have speculated on the possibility of an early American attack on the China coast, which Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, U. S. commander-in-chief in the central Pacific, has named as one of his major objectives.)

AMERICAN SUBS SINK 25 MORE

Washington, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—American submarines have sent a Japanese escort carrier, a large converted cruiser, a destroyer, and 22 merchant vessels to the bottom in new operations the navy announced today.

The cruiser was believed to be an 18,000-ton converted merchant ship.

This latest submarine haul included two transports, three cargo transports, and 17 cargo vessels, the communicate said.

URUGUAYAN HOUSE FOR DECLARATION OF WAR

Montevideo, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—The Uruguayan House today approved, 62-19, a declaration of war against the Axis.

They were shooting for the Berchtesgaden railway yards. But there was a strong possibility that the fuhrer's towering palace overlooking the town also came under attack.

The raiders reported meeting a terrific storm of gunfire from the palace itself and the surrounding areas, suggesting they had turned their fire on that Nazi citadel.

Hundreds of antiaircraft batteries opened up on the Yank fliers as they dived in for the attack and Nazi death's head elite guards blazed away with rifles and machine guns in a futile effort to turn the bombers away from Hitler's palace.

ADDED POWER FOR LIQUOR CONTROL IS FROWNED UPON

Committee Indefinitely Postpones Series of Bills—Mutual Insurance Tabled.

Salem, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—A series of bills to give the State Liquor Control commission greater power was on the Oregon house of representatives alcoholic control committee table today, indefinitely postponed.

The bills (SB's 116, 117, 118, 144, 145) were put aside after the committee had heard commission representatives argue that additional laws were necessary for adequate enforcement.

Opponents contend that the commission has plenty of authority at present, and that the bills would grant unconstitutional powers.

Insurance Tabled. After debating until a late hour yesterday, the senate voted to postpone indefinitely a bill to permit mutual benefit insurance companies to operate in Oregon.

The showdown vote was 16 to 13 for a minority committee report against the bill.

Charges were made that the old life insurance companies opposed the bill because it threatened cheap competition but opponents of the measure answered that such mutual companies lacked legal reserves and were unsound, particularly after 25 or 30 years of operation when the bulk of policyholders would reach higher age brackets.

GRIPSHOLM DOCKS AT EASTERN PIER

Jersey City, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—The exchange ship Gripsholm arrived today from Marseilles, France, carrying 1,206 soldiers and civilians, among whom were a large number of seriously ill and wounded American and Canadian prisoners of war.

The passengers included 463 American soldiers, 78 Canadian soldiers and 685 civilians—Americans and Nationals of Mexico, Venezuela, and Peru.

The white ship, flying the neutral Swedish flag, pulled in at pier after a 13-day voyage.

SPECIAL VENIRE FOR COURT TERM

The names of nine additional jurors were drawn on a special venire in the office of the county clerk this morning to serve on the next term of circuit court. Court opens next Monday at 10 a. m.

Listed were A. Z. Dean, Winifred B. Carpenter and Henry Ellsworth Conger, Medford; Victor Bursell, Glenn Darby and Cyrus Scott Hamilton, Central Point; Robert E. Dodge, Mildred L. Haines and Anna G. Delsman, Ashland.



The vital Motoyama airfield on Iwo Jima has been captured by the U. S. Marines, who have pushed to the west coast of the island, only 750 miles from Tokyo. The Japs report a new American landing far up the east coast of the island.

Japanese Hard to Root Out; Steel Shields Iwo Foxholes

By Mac R. Johnson. United Press War Correspondent. Aboard Adm. Turner's Flagship Off Iwo Jima, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—(Via Navy Radio)—Waging a relentless war on two fronts, marines of the 5th amphibious corps bloodily hammered out new gains measured in a few hundred yards during their third day on the Jap stronghold of Iwo Jima.

Hostile fire from machine guns, rifles and mortars, the natural obstacles of the brushy outcroppings and soft lava and sand plus the well-planned, well-placed enemy fortifications are slowing our advance but are not checking it.

The Japs are fighting from reinforced foxholes camouflaged with foliage. The enemy can duck behind a steel shield to avoid marine bullets but is still able to see through a narrow slit.

Our troops are killing more Japanese, and a larger number of bodies are being found as the marines advance, although no figures are yet available on enemy casualties.

REDS OVERRUN BIG RAIL CENTER ON BERLIN ROUTE

London, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's northward sweep in the old Polish corridor today overran Czersk, big rail junction on the Berlin trunk line 47 miles southwest of Danzig.

Marshal Stalin issued a special order of the day announcing the capture of Czersk, in the center of the corridor 46 miles north of Bydgoszcz.

CIRCUS OFFICIALS GET PRISON JOLTS

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 21—(U.P.)—Six men charged with responsibility for the circus fire which claimed 168 lives, last July were sentenced to prison and jail terms today by Superior Court Judge William J. Shea.

Jap War Lords Embarrassed By Question Posed in Diet

By United Press. Japan's war lords must have been embarrassed today by a question posed in the Imperial Diet.

A legislator, who once served in the Iwo garrison, asked why "since Guadalcanal, our strongholds have fallen into the hands of the enemy one after another, and the enemy has finally advanced to Saipan and Luzon islands."

The legislator, a representative Hamada, was quoted by a Tokyo broadcast recorded by the FCC.

Only last week Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, commander in chief of Japanese forces in the Philippines, said he "chased Gen. Douglas MacArthur all over the South Pacific and now had the Americans where he wanted them."

Equipment which the Japanese left behind them before yielding the No. 1 airfield to the Americans was discovered to be thoroughly booby-trapped. Booby-traps were placed in foxholes, shells and other locations where the Americans might pick them up.

MANPOWER BILL AMENDED TO BAN FARMER DRAFTING

Washington, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—The Senate Military Affairs Committee, reversing itself, today adopted a stringent "work-or-jail" amendment to the substitute "voluntary" Manpower Bill.

The senate military affairs committee today wrote into its new manpower bill a provision designed to stop the drafting of essential farm workers.

The committee approved a new Tydings farm labor deferment amendment. Offered by Sen. Millard E. Tydings, (D. Md.) it would forbid local draft boards to consider the armed forces' manpower needs in gauging the essentiality of a farm worker.

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Berchtesgaden Blasted By U. S. Fliers For First Time

Rome, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—American fliers raked Adolf Hitler's fortress town of Berchtesgaden with a barrage of bombs and rocket shells for the first time yesterday and they may have blasted the fuhrer's secret mountain retreat, a communicate revealed today.

In a daring attack on one of the most heavily-defended targets in all Europe, a group of eight American Thunderbolt pilots roared in over Hitler's rock fortress, almost at eye level, to bomb and strafe the entire area.

First official reports on the incident indicated the Yanks were shooting for the Berchtesgaden railway yards. But there was a strong possibility that the fuhrer's towering palace overlooking the town also came under attack.

The raiders reported meeting a terrific storm of gunfire from the palace itself and the surrounding areas, suggesting they had turned their fire on that Nazi citadel.

Admiral Nimitz's Hqs., Guam, Feb. 21—(U.P.)—American marines stormed Iwo's second airfield today, by-passing the southern tip and driving towards its heart from the south in a general advance averaging half a mile along the blazing island front.

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced on the third day of the invasion of the island springboard to Japan that the two marine divisions had suffered 3,650 casualties—killed, wounded, or missing—up to 8 a. m. today. One hundred fifty of the casualties were officers.

Yard By Yard. A communique on the Iwo battle, the toughest in the long history of the marine corps, said the two divisions were slugging forward yard by yard against heavy machine gun, mortar, small arms, and rocket fire.

Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey's Fifth division hammered up the west coast of Iwo beyond the lower end of the runways of the last airfield remaining in Japanese hands. The first and main base was firmly in American hands.

At the same time Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' Fourth division launched a frontal assault against the field from the south and by noon was "pushing toward the center of the field," Nimitz's communique said.

The Fifth amphibious corps, having secured the southern Iwo air field, made a general advance toward the island's central airfield today," the communique said.

Gains All Along Line. "Gains were made along the whole line, and generally were about 500 to 1,000 yards in extent."

At the south end of Iwo, where part of the Japanese garrison was cut off by the marine drive across the island, American forces were driving slowly up the slopes of Mt. Suribachi, from which the enemy was plastering the marines.

This morning the forces pushing up Mt. Suribachi gained more than 100 yards in the face of a murderous fire sweeping the slopes.

Nimitz said that of the 3,650 casualties by 8 a. m. today, 3,063 of the wounded had been evacuated.

In the dry language of the communique, "the numerous strong points which confront our forces in all areas thus far penetrated are being reduced by individual troop action."

That meant that the marines were charging the Japanese strong points and dugouts with flame throwers, small arms, and bayonets, in bloody hand-to-hand struggles.

The Japanese were relatively quiet last night. A local counterattack on the American left flank, supported by several tanks and artillery fire, was beaten off, and attempts at infiltration were thwarted.

U. S. warships and guns supported the marines throughout the night, rocking the Japanese-held part of Iwo with a ceaseless barrage which continued this morning.

Carrier-borne planes swarmed back into the battle of Iwo today, carrying out heavy bombing and strafing attacks.

Making it plain that the marines had come to stay, the unloading of supplies and rations on the beaches went on all last night.

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Only last week Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, commander in chief of Japanese forces in the Philippines, said he "chased Gen. Douglas MacArthur all over the South Pacific and now had the Americans where he wanted them."

Hamada told the Imperial Diet that if Iwo was lost "our homeland will be covered by enemy fighter planes."