

U. S. Marines Take Mt. Suribachi, Highest Peak on Iwo; Greatest Allied Offensive Opened in West, Say Nazis

28TH REGIMENT HOISTS BANNER ON PROMONTORY

Furious Fighting Taking Heavy Toll; Yanks Seize Island Off Luzon Coast.

By United Press
U. S. marines captured fortified Mt. Suribachi to win gun emplacements commanding all of Iwo Island today. Army forces seized another island in the Philippines and gained control of strategic San Bernardino strait.

The stars and stripes was hoisted over Mt. Suribachi, an extinct volcano and highest peak on Iwo, by the 28th regiment. It was the biggest American success of the five-day-old campaign.

Losses Heavy
Other marines continued to slug it out with bayonets and grenades with desperate Japanese on the approaches of Iwo's second airfield, nearly three miles north of Mt. Suribachi.

The furious hand-to-hand encounters were taking a heavy toll on both sides. In the first 58 hours of the invasion, 644 marines were killed, 4,168 wounded, and 560 missing. The count of Japanese dead was 1,222.

The Dome news agency reported that Japanese forces had sunk 17 American warships and damaged 11 others off Iwo. A Tokyo broadcast said that 100 American warships and 80 transports were standing by off the embattled Volcano Island.

In the Philippines, American troops seized Capul Island off southeastern Luzon and gained control of San Bernardino strait, the direct shipping passageway from the United States to Manila bay.

Manila Fight Rages
Fierce fighting continued in southern Manila. The battles raged from building to building around the besieged Intramuros section. American troops occupied the first floor of the Manila hotel, but the Japanese still were holding out in the upper floors.

Southeast of Manila, airborne units advanced seven miles along the west coast of Laguna bay and surprised 500 Japanese at Mabata Point. The Japanese attempted to flee in barges, but a number of the craft was sunk in the crossfire of American artillery.

American bombers continued widespread attacks throughout the Pacific. Heavy bombers and fighters again hit Formosa, destroying 13 grounded enemy planes and wrecking or damaging 10 coastal vessels.

Warships and Liberator bombers hit Paramushiro in the northern Kurile Islands for two days. Other American planes also attacked enemy positions in the Bonins, north of Iwo; Marcus; the Palaus, Carolines, and Marianas.

MORE NAMES OF FREED PRISONERS

Additional Oregonians are named on the lists of liberated prisoners-of-war and internees released by the war department yesterday and today.

Listed among the liberated military personnel were Pfc. Alvin L. Fry, Portland; Sgt. Thomas W. Houston, Oregon City; Pvt. Raymond C. Reeves, Salem, and Pvt. Zoeth Skinner, Portland.

On the lists of liberated civilians were the names of Cecile Elizabeth Barnett, formerly of Medford and now of Berkeley, Calif.; Gerald L. Dunton, Woodburn, Ore.; the Rev. Alfred L. Griffiths, Elizabeth E. Griffiths and Katherine Griffiths, all of Portland; Kenneth Grimes, Monmouth; Jack Cook, Oswego; Frank Eugene Long and Norman and Evelyn Whitfield, Portland.

SIDE GLANCES

By
TRIBUNE REPORTERS
Victor Sether putting out card calendars and a funny story among business acquaintances.

Ralph McCarty storing up a cartwheel-sized pie against the day when he must get his own lunch.

Seaman Barney Riggs roaming around the scene of his former athletic triumphs.

MEDFORD

United Press—Full Leased Wire

Thirty ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1945

NO. 283.



TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

Tardiest Baby in Medical History



(Acme Telephoto)
Mrs. Buelah Hunter, 25, holds her new-born daughter, Penny Diana, the little girl whose tardy birth set medical history. The child, weighing six pounds 15 ounces, was born more than three months after she was normally due, according to the calculations of Dr. Daniel Belts, who attended Mrs. Hunter, wife of Sydney Hunter, Los Angeles aircraft worker.

Systematic Starvation Suffered By American Prisoners In Reich

By Henry Shapiro
United Press Correspondent
Moscow, Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — American war prisoners liberated by the red army had been subjected to systematic undernourishment by the Germans in a deliberate attempt to weaken their resistance to questioning and deaden their desire to escape.

This and other instances of mistreatment were reported today by a new group of American officers who hitch-hiked to Moscow from the German frontier.

The newly arrived officers said the German technique in the early stages of imprisonment was something like this:

The prisoners were stripped of their personal effects, including cigarettes, fountain pens, blankets, and overcoats. They were left hungry to weaken their resistance. Finally the Nazis sought to trap the prisoners into giving military information.

Capt. Frank Olevisky, Camden, N. J., of the 284th engineers, was captured in the Siegfried line on November 2 while reconnoitering with a five-man patrol. He was wounded by a booby trap.

He said the wounded among the prisoners were obliged to march several miles before receiving medical aid. After a stop at a hospital Olevisky was taken to the Dietz castle near Limburg and thrown into a solitary cell.

Olevisky said the guards taunted the Americans with such jibes as "The Americans are more barbaric than the British and Russians. They insist on bombing only hospitals and churches, ignoring military objectives."

Second Lt. Alvin McCormick, of Livonia, N. Y., who was captured at Portvall, in Normandy, on June 19, said immediately after his capture an SS officer shouted to McCormick: "Americans, what the blank are you doing in Europe?"

McCormick shouted back: "What the blank are you doing in France?"

Three bills, introduced by Reps. Baldere, Van Dyke and Bengtson, and Sens. Newbury and Moser, which would affect judicial procedure in Jackson and Josephine counties, passed the house today.

One of them (H. B. 158) provides for an additional judge for the first judicial district.

Another (H. B. 380) a substitute for house bill 292, transfers judicial authority of the county court to the circuit courts in Jackson and Josephine counties, except during the absence of the circuit judge.

The other bill, (H. B. 298) merely changes the method of payment of the salaries of the court reporters of the first district, and does not change the salaries.

House bill 161, by the committee on utilities, passed the house with little opposition. It is "only a shadow of its former self" after committee amendment, Rep. Frank Van Dyke said.

In its present form it is "acceptable to all parties concerned," Van Dyke said. It would make the Oregon laws concerning utilities conform more closely to the federal code. One of the principal new provisions is the requirement of a two-year notice by the state when it intends to take over a utility project.

Van Dyke said that it would aid projected utility expansion in southern Oregon after the war.

JOBLESS BENEFIT LIBERALIZATION OFFERED SENATE

Compromise Bill Favored by Labor, Industries Committee — Ups Benefits.

By John W. Dunlap
United Press Correspondent
Salem, Ore., Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — Compromise legislation to liberalize Oregon's jobless benefits laws went to the floor of the senate today with approval of the labor and industries committee.

Main points in the compromise (S. B. 78) were raising the maximum benefits from \$15 to \$18 weekly, extending the benefit period from 16 to 20 weeks, raising the percentage of the base period to be paid weekly from 6 to 7 per cent, and increasing the total to be paid from one-sixth the base period earnings (13 weeks) to one-fifth.

Labor groups sought even greater benefits, including \$25 weekly, 26 weeks duration, 10 per cent per week, and one-third the total base period.

The \$10 weekly minimum remains unchanged and committeemen felt employment was not expected to sag enough in the next two years to have much effect on Oregon's \$67,000,000 reserve.

The committee also tabled indefinitely a proposed little Wagner act for Oregon (S. B. 179) approved was a bill guaranteeing equal rights for women workers (S. B. 239) for performing an equal amount and quality of labor under like circumstances for a private employer.

The senate was expected to confirm minor amendments to the fish commission bill passed yesterday in the house. The commission would be placed on an appropriation basis under the bill (S. B. 89).

FEAR ALL ABOARD CRASHED AIRLINER KILLED IN MISHAP

Bristol, Va., Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — American Airlines announced today that a missing New York-to-Los Angeles plane carrying 19 passengers and a crew of three had been found four miles southwest of Rural Retreat, Va., about 50 miles northeast of here.

It was feared the 19 passengers and three crew members had been killed.

State troopers were scaling the wooded mountainside toward the wreckage. The plane was sighted about noon, some 10 hours after it had last reported by radio over Pulaski, Va., 30 miles to the northeast.

The entire area is rugged and mountainous with White Top towering upward nearly to 6,000 feet.

The liner left New York at 9:30 last night and departed from Washington at 12:15 a. m.

MANY OREGONIANS REJECTED AS 4F

Salem, Ore., Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — Forty-one per cent of all men ordered examined for the armed forces in Oregon have been rejected for physical reasons, Col. Elmer V. Wootton, state director of selective service had said today.

Appearing as a witness at a joint ways and means subcommittee considering a bill (H. B. 53) which calls for a program of physical fitness for high school students of the state, Wootton said Thursday that there are 25,000 men, most of them in the 18 to 29 age group, who have been rejected in Oregon.

RELUCTANT TURKS DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY, JAPAN

Big Three Ultimatum Brings Action; Egypt on Verge of Joining Declaration.

London, Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — Turkey declared war on Germany and Japan today as a result of a note from the Big Three serving notice on nine "Associated Nations" to take such a step by March 1 or forfeit seats at the San Francisco conference.

The Ankara radio reported that the Turkish national assembly had voted unanimous approval of the government decision to declare war after hearing of the Big Three decision reached at the Crimea conference.

Note Clearcut
The note, couched in clearcut terms, told the Associated Nations that a declaration of war was essential to any voice in the peace conference.

As if in protest to the blunt tone of the ultimatum, the Turkish parliament ostentatiously dated its declaration of war for March 1—the deadline.

Bracketed with Turkey as the Associated Nations were Egypt, Iceland, Chile, Paraguay, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Egypt appeared to be about to follow Turkey in the declaration, Iceland has been without diplomatic relations with Germany since the occupation of Denmark in 1940.

All six of the Latin American nations listed by the Turks have declared war on Germany within the last two weeks, apparently as a result of the notice.

Official quarters in London confirmed the Turkish list of nine nations to which the notes were handed.

The Turks broadcast a lengthy explanation of their action, tinged with irony. It indicated their reluctance to give way under a big stick and declare war.

LEGISLATORS NUGGED ON FLIGHT OF TIME

Salem, Ore., Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — A resolution to adjourn sine die on Monday evening, the 50th day of the 43rd legislature, was introduced to the house of representatives today.

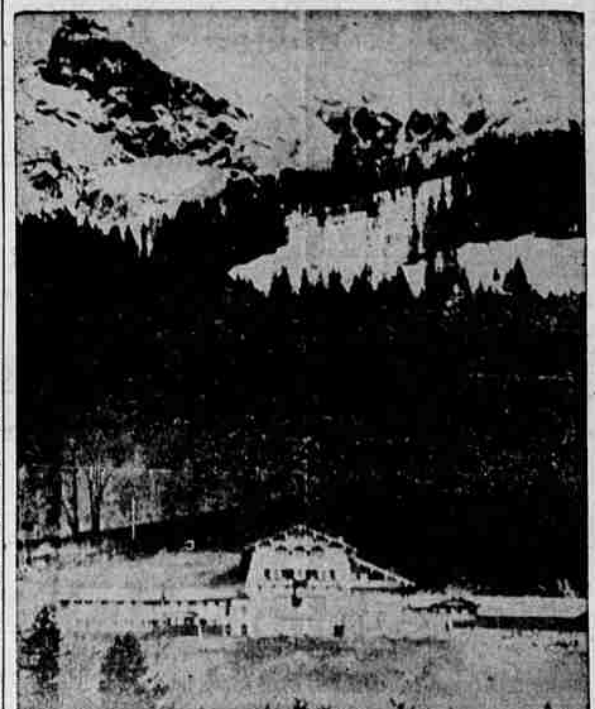
The resolution was laid on the table "to be read at 10 p. m. Monday night," (when the house will not be in session.)

The 50th day of the session is the last for which members of the legislature are paid for their services, and the measure was to "jog the memory" of the members and speed up the work on bills.



UNWELCOME—When Masako Takayoshi resumed duties as nurse training supervisor of Seattle, Wash., hospital, some fellow workers filed petition in protest. The Japanese-American University of Washington graduate laid aside her white uniform when she was evacuated from the Pacific Coast in 1942.

Hitler's Hideout Bombed



(Acme Telephoto)
This is Adolf Hitler's mountain fortress at Berchtesgaden, bombed by Italian-based force of American bombers. The attack apparently was directed mainly against the railway yards in Berchtesgaden village, but first reports said rocket-firing Thunderbolts roared across the fortress itself at low level.

Japanese Roll Hand Grenades Down Suribachi in Effort to Halt Foe

By Mac R. Johnson
United Press War Correspondent
Aboard Admiral Turner's Flagship off Iwo Jima, Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — (Via Navy Radio) — A fantastic fight developed for Mt. Suribachi, Japanese stronghold on Iwo Jima's southern tip when the Japanese rolled grenades down the steep slopes of the extinct volcano on marines stubbornly preparing to scale the exposed walls of the cone.

The spectacular and perilous battle, although on a comparatively small scale was on Suribachi's barren sides.

The marines have the enemy in a cul de sac, and patrols completely encircle the cone.

So desperate is the enemy that officers reported eight Nips destroyed themselves by jumping off cliffs on the east side of the volcano.

The Japanese defenders of Iwo Jima are breaking their own backs with counterattacks, it was disclosed today.

In no other island campaign in the Central Pacific has there been so many counterattacks by Japanese garrison forces against American lines.

The enemy onslaughts serve to slow and sometimes stall marine advance, but the resultant death toll for the Japs is unprofitably high.

Japs in groups of 50 to 200 or more smash against the leatherneck lines.

When Jap counterattacks are seen forming, our artillery and naval shellfire is concentrated on the area. If the enemy troops still are able to attack or make an assault without prior detection, the marines meet them with heavy machine gun and rifle fire and hand grenades.

Such charges are costly to the Japs every time, with entire units sometimes being wiped out.

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Rankin and Hook pawed at each other yesterday after an exchange of name-calling. Rankin said Hook was associated with Communists. Hook said Rankin was a liar.

Their statements to the House closed an incident which for a time threatened to turn into a floor battle over which, if either, congressmen should be censured or expelled.

Three court-appointed alienists will report their findings to Superior Judge Herbert C. Kaufman prior to Van Wie's trial March 5.

TRANSPORT READY
Alameda, Cal., Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — The U. S. S. Admiral Hugh Rodman, a 22,380-ton troop transport, will be launched Sunday at the Bethlehem-Alameda shipyard, it was announced today.

The ship is the seventh of a type to be converted to luxury liners after the war.

SOLONS APOLOGIZE IN HOUSE FRACAS

Washington, Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — The House closed its books today on the bloodless battle between Reps. John E. Rankin, D., Miss., and Frank E. Hook, D., Mich.

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ARMOR, INFANTRY BATTLES RAGE ON 40-MILE FRONT

Attack Follows 3-Hour Barrage by Massed Artillery; Dueren Yankees' Goal.

By United Press
The big Allied push has started in the west, Berlin reported today. The German High Command said the American Ninth army and part of the First opened a major offensive against the Cologne plain west of Aachen before dawn today.

Other Nazi spokesmen referred to an Anglo-American offensive, suggesting that the British Second army had joined in. Enemy accounts said armored and infantry battles were in progress on a 40-mile front from Roermond to the headwaters of the Roer river.

Three-Hour Barrage
The Transocean News Agency reported that the Ninth army's attack began after a three-hour barrage by massed artillery. It said the Americans were striking for strategic Dueren and were across the Roer at four or more points in the Linnich-Dueren area.

North and south of the Dueren sector three Allied armies pounded at the defenses of the Ruhr and the Saar basin. Allied war planes again roared over Germany in the wake of yesterday's paralyzing assault on the enemy's transport system leading to the fronts.

Nearly 2,000 American heavy bombers and fighters struck deep into Germany, bombing railway yards and other targets from Nuernberg to Leipzig.

On the eastern front, Nazi broadcasts said powerful Russian armored forces have driven into Forst and Guben, two of the main anchors of the Neisse river line southeast of Berlin.

The Russians were clearing a 601 mile stretch of the Neisse, spurred on by Marshal Josef Stalin's declaration that final victory is near.

Attack Follows Talk
The co-ordinated attack on Germany from west and east which was agreed upon by the United States, British, and Russian military staffs at the Crimea conference apparently is about to get under way.

German accounts indicate that almost the entire western front is in action from the Goch-Calc area in the north to the lower Saar basin. The blow in the center had been expected momentarily as the Allied armies pounded at either German flank, creating an urgent need for reserves which could scarcely be spared if the Cologne plain is threatened.

Roer Crossed
Transocean said four crossings of the Roer were made in the opening hours of the offensive. Two columns forced the river above and below Linnich, 27 miles west of Cologne, while two others broke into the Cologne plain opposite Niederau and Krefeld, three and four miles south of Dueren.

Twin Allied drives were in progress at the same time on the northern and southern flanks of the Cologne plain. The Canadian First army in the north was within a mile northwest of the German anchor town of Calcar, threatening a break-through to the Rhine crossings barely 20 miles from the Ruhr.

Six Towns Taken
The American Third army in the south fought to close a pinchers around a 17-mile stretch of the Siegfried line between Pruem and Echtenach. The Americans took six German towns and villages in that sector in the last 24 hours and gained as much as 2 1/2 miles at some points.

Beach Walker Is Swept Out to Sea
Toledo, Ore., Feb. 23 — (U.P.) — Searchers today were seeking the body of Mrs. Ada Baumgardner, 47, Canby, Ore., one of two persons drowned when a wave swept out to sea five persons walking along the beach near Newport.

Also drowned was E. W. Batleson, 55, Scooby, Mont., whose body was found Thursday a few hours after the five persons were engulfed by the wave. The three survivors said all were knocked down by the heavy surf and that when they arose the other two persons were missing.