

YANK VANGUARD NEAR COLOGNE

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Half of Iwo in Marines' Grip

YANKS' SITUATION BRIGHTER DAILY IN GRIM BATTLE

Invaders Now Hold Most of Central Air Field—Japs To Fight To Last Man

Guam, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—American marines have a "firm grip" on nearly half of Iwo and their situation in the bloody battle for the island springboard 750 miles south of Tokyo "grows brighter every day," a ranking officer said today.

The marines held the east-west runway and two-thirds of the north-south runway of Iwo's central air field. They were battling tirelessly to complete the conquest of the base and win more high ground overlooking the northern half of the island.

Japs Claim Peak
(Tokyo claimed that Japanese defenders on Mt. Suribachi counterattacked the marines there, recaptured the summit and hauled down the American flag flying at the peak.)

("The Rising Sun has been planted over this mountain," Tokyo said in a broadcast recorded by United Press, San Francisco. Tacitly acknowledging the prospect of eventual defeat, Tokyo said the Japanese "will fight to the very last man.")

The most optimistic official pronouncement of the week-long invasion came today from aboard Admiral Richmond Turner's flagship off Iwo. The marine officer's assertion that the situation was becoming brighter by the day reflected confidence that the marines were over the hump in the hardest fight of their 168-year history.

The officer said the marines had won some of the high ground around the central air field, and now were concentrating on seizing more elevated positions for use in the drive northward on the island.

When the marines win peaks farther north, they will have excellent observation of the entire northern part of the island, the officer said, and spotters can direct artillery and naval gunfire. (A Tokyo broadcast heard by the United Press in San Francisco said American casualties on Iwo had reached 22,000—"three marines a minute." Tokyo also claimed that Japanese planes had sunk an American submarine off Iwo.)

MORE WALK OUT AT WAR PLANT

Detroit, Feb. 27.—(U.P.)—Maintenance and power-house employees today joined the strikers at the Chrysler Corporation's Dodge main plant, completely halting production of guns, tanks, B-29 engine parts, and rockets.

The War Labor Board ordered officers of the United Auto Workers (CIO) and company representatives to appear today for a show-cause hearing. Union spokesmen said they might call a mass meeting of the 13,000 strikers to report the WLB hearing. The walkout began Friday as protest against the firing of seven men whom the company accused of loafing.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS
Earl Wallace, sergeant in World War I, engaging World War II boys in strenuous chess conflicts at USO many nights of late.

Proud Papa Clarence Schmidt tugging two cunks on the weight of his new son.

Bill Hansen, ex-hardware tycoon, all fouled up with paper attempting to wrap up a package.

Stars and Stripes Over Iwo



Fighting Marines of the Fifth Division's 28th Regiment hoist the Stars and Stripes on the highest point of Suribachi volcano, overlooking the bloody, rugged soil of Iwo Jima. Photo radioed from Guam to San Francisco by U. S. Navy radio-telephoto.

Center of Tokyo in Ruins After Double Bomber Raid

Guam, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—Much of the center of Tokyo was believed in flames today following yesterday's record one-two air assault by more than 200 Superfortresses and 1,000 carrier planes.

Some fires may be smoldering on Emperor Hirohito's palace grounds. Bombs fell near the stables bureau of the imperial household ministry on the palace grounds, as well as near Omiya palace, residence of the emperor's mother, a mile and a half away, Tokyo said.

Hit Near Palace
(The American broadcasting station in Europe said about 25,000 square yards in the heart of Tokyo was in flames following the double raid. NBC monitors reported, BBC, heard by Blue network, said part of the Imperial Guards barracks was demolished by a bomb which fell in the palace precincts.)

Radio Tokyo said "enemy night bombers" following up the daylight raids crossed the Japanese coast in the direction of the capital at 9 p. m. yesterday (Tokyo time), but did not say whether they had dropped any bombs.

It was expected that planes from Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's task force 58, the world's greatest concentration of aircraft carriers, would send the attack into a second day today.

1,000 Tons Dropped
However, there was no word to this effect from either Pacific fleet headquarters or radio Tokyo up to mid-morning.

At least 1,000—and probably more—tons of demolition and fire bombs were cascaded on Tokyo in the twin raids yesterday. Together, they constituted the heaviest assault ever made on Tokyo, one twice as heavy as the heaviest German raid ever made on London during the height of the 1940-41 blitz and approaching in weight those now being made on Germany by the allies.

Washington, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—Rep. Clair Engle, (D., Calif.) introduced a bill today to permit currency expansion by an upward revaluation of gold instead of a reduction of gold reserves.

Mrs. Roosevelt Denies Advocating Regulation of Size of Families

Washington, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt today encountered a barrage of press conference questions about whether she had advocated birth control, as charged by various Catholic spokesmen.

She insisted, however, that when she discussed family sizes during her news conference a week ago "I did not mention birth control." Instead, she added, she said then that if there were 12 children in a family, it was important for the family to have enough to feed the children properly and to give them decent living conditions.

The first lady also pointed out today that her church — she is an episcopalian — had "never taken a stand against people us-

ing common sense in determining the size of their families." Mrs. Roosevelt also said it is "important that the mother of the family be healthy."

"I think that the Catholic church agrees on that," she added.

Asked about a tendency of rich families to have few children, she said:

"Rich people have a tendency because of their material comforts to become selfish and selfish people don't want to have children. There is a little difficulty involved in having children — after all, they just don't drop from heaven."

"Outrageous" was her word for the practice of apartment houses and hotels to refuse to take children.

LABOR FOR PAY ENDS TODAY FOR OREGON SOLONS

Balance of Session Will Be On Own Expense—664 Bills Introduced; Few Pass

Salem, Ore., Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—Oregon's legislators get the last pay for them of the 1945 session today, the 50th of the 43rd legislature, and from now on are on their own financially.

As one legislator put it, "now we let our secretaries feed us." No controversial bills are up for final passage in either the house or senate today, with perhaps the biggest potential fireworks of the day scheduled in a hearing this afternoon on house joint memorial 7, which asks the deportation of all alien Japanese and those American-born who have demonstrated disloyalty or announced dual citizenship.

Hot Debate Looms

In the house, hot debate is forecast on a divided committee report over house joint resolution 5, which asks that a 25 percent limit be placed on federal income taxes, and the repeal of the 16th (income tax) amendment to the national constitution. A majority of the house taxation and revenue recommended "do not pass" while a minority supported the resolution.

Seven salary increase bills were due for senate action, with more expected to come to the floor this week.

Action on house bill 306, providing for the office of registrar of elections in Multnomah county, was postponed in the senate late Saturday when it was laid on the table. The bill, one of the most bitterly contested of the session, caused a Democratic minority to start "lowdown" tactics in the house last week in an attempted filibuster to prevent the bill's final passage.

664 Bills In

A total of 664 bills have been introduced to the session so far. The house has passed 230 of its own bills, the senate 112.

Seventeen new laws are on the Oregon statute books today after their signature by Gov. Earl Snell Saturday. Most of them are corrective and administrative in nature.

Among them are bills (H. B. 340 and 341) which give veterans a preferential rating in civil service examinations, and automatically extend leaves of absence for state officers in military service when they are re-elected. The latter bill also qualifies them for re-election.

RUSSIANS DRIVE CLOSE TO BALTIC

London, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—Soviet armored forces pushed to within 60 miles or less of the Baltic today in a powerful drive to split Germany's northern defenses.

Tanks and infantry struck out through Pomerania for the Baltic after breaching the Nazi line based on the Danzig-Stettin railway at a point midway between those two big seaports.

A thrust to the sea in this area would slice off the northeastern tip of Germany, along with the Polish corridor and the free state of Danzig. Tens of thousands of German troops in the area would be cut off from all escape, except by sea.

On the Berlin front, the Germans appeared to have thrown in their aerial reserves in an attempt to break up Soviet preparations for a frontal assault on the capital from their bridgeheads on the Oder, 30-odd miles to the east.



The weariness of three years of war vanishes instantly for Lt. Mina A. Aason of Minot, N. D., as she steps from huge army air transport plane, part of fleet that carried her and 67 other "Angels of Bataan" back to the United States, and is greeted by an old friend, Maj. C. M. Braden (right) of Army Nurses Corps, at Hamilton Field, Calif.

"Angels of Bataan" Say Japs Deliberately Starved Them

San Francisco, Feb. 26.—The "Angels of Bataan," 68 radiant, happy army nurses returned to this country after 3 years of horror in the Philippines where they suffered under a brutal Japanese starvation policy, today set about regaining their health.

7 NAMES DRAWN FOR NEW TERM OF GRAND JURY

Victor Bursell, Central Point; Mayne C. Henselman, Medford; Ruby Nelson, Eagle Point; Mildred Haines, Ashland; Vern Matthews, Eagle Point; Letta Kyle, and Cyrus Scott Hamilton, Central Point, were drawn as members of the new grand jury at the opening of the February term of the circuit court this morning with Circuit Judge James W. Crawford, Portland, presiding.

District Attorney George W. Nelson informed the court he anticipated a short session for the deliberations of the grand jury that opened following instructions of the court.

The case of Fred A. Wolf, 63, charged with the slaying of Percy Harold James, as the climax of a sidewalk altercation in Gold Hill, early this month, will not be called until later. The preliminary hearing for Wolf was postponed in justice court last Friday, until March 10. One of the main witnesses is absent from the court. Almost a score of Gold Hill residents saw the fatal affair, and are scheduled to be called, authorities said.

G. I. Wolf Howl At Nazi Howl Costs Him \$60

With the 80th Division in Mettendorf, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—The good old American line "How about a date, Blondie?" turned out to be a \$60 question for a GI wolf today.

As MPs marched a line of German civilians through this captured town today a soldier, whose name is unrelatable, spotted a cute young blonde German girl.

Before thinking, he popped the automatic Yank question for the situation.

The only answer he got was from a lieutenant who slapped a \$60 fine on him for fraternizing with the enemy.

In the army's Letterman General hospital.

They arrived at Hamilton Field, Calif., Saturday, aboard four giant Skyliners just three weeks after their liberation in Manila. A band played as they walked down the ramp, smiling and excited. A crowd of 1,500 persons gathered around the great ships burst into loud applause.

After jubilant reunions with relatives who had learned of their arrival in time to greet them, the nurses climbed into army trucks to be taken to the hospital.

All Emaciated
None was seriously ill. Their major trouble was lack of food. All were thin and a few were emaciated. There was not a mental case among them.

Lt. Gwendolyn Henshaw, an attractive brunette from Los Angeles, said she was "absolutely convinced" the Japanese deliberately were starving the nurses. "They confiscated our warehouse, although they had plenty of stores of their own," she said. "No one could bring food in. Our weight plummeted down. I lost 40 pounds and some of the others lost even more."

Every U. S. military success brought a reduction in food rations for the nurses. Lt. Hattie Brantley, of Jefferson, Tex., said that from 300 grams — about three-quarters of a pound — in the fall, the ration dropped to 250 and then in December to 180 grams — 24 of which were salt.

On January 31, the nurses felt they had the final evidence of the Japanese campaign. The enemy jailed Dr. T. D. Steven son of their hospital staff because he refused to eliminate the words "starvation and malnutrition" from Santo Tomas death reports.

Not Molested
They said the Japanese never physically molested the army nurses. They did not pick them with bayonets nor did they strike them.

Fifty-four of the 68 women arrived at Hickam Field in Honolulu, Wednesday, for a three-day preview of paradise. Still dazed by their overwhelming reception, they slept most of the way on the last lap of the journey to California.

Among those whose health was more seriously affected was Maj. Maude C. Davison, Can nington, near Toronto, Ont., her weight dropped from 135 to 80 pounds. Lt. Vivian Weissblatt, Portland, Ore., wife of United Press War Correspondent Franz Weissblatt, suffered shrapnel wounds in the last Santo Tomas shelling.

Armored Columns of Timberwolf Division Within Sight of City

Paris, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges plunged an American First army spearhead through the Rhineland town of Blatzheim today to within 11 1/2 miles—Long Tom artillery range—of Cologne.

"Germans are surrendering on all sides," a First army dispatch said. It added that Hodges' men had counted upward of 4,000 prisoners today, and the Germans were complaining of their lack of support by artillery, air forces, and armor.

Paris, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—American armored columns plunged to within 13 miles of Cologne and 17 miles of Duesseldorf today at the center of a 150-mile allied offensive are closing in on the German Ruhr and Rhineland.

Vanguards of the American 1st army's 104th Timberwolf division already were in sight of Cologne's bomb-scarred spires on the broad military highway leading northeast from Dueren to the Rhine.

YANKS CLOSE IN ON BLATZHEIM

Field dispatches said the tank-led doughboys of the 104th captured Golzheim, five miles northeast of Dueren and 15 miles west-southwest of Cologne. Pushing beyond the town, against still patchy enemy resistance, the Yanks were closing in swiftly on Blatzheim, 12 miles from Cologne and only four miles short of the Erft river—the last natural barrier before Cologne.

To the north, vanguards of the U. S. Ninth army outflanked the Nazi stronghold of Erkelenz from the east and west and thrust on beyond the town of the outskirts of Venrath, seven miles from the industrial center of Muenchen-Gladbach and barely 17 miles from the Rhine bend at Duesseldorf.

NINTH ARMY TAKES MANY TOWNS

Golkraath, 2 1/2 miles west of Erkelenz, fell to the Ninth army, along with Kuckhoven, Hasselweiler, Kauthause, Wockerath and Billingen, one to three miles east and northeast of the town.

American armor was across the river in force on both the Ninth and First army fronts and the advance on the Rhine was expected to pick up speed from here in.

More than 1,700 Germans were captured by the Ninth army and well over 1,000 by the First army yesterday, and another 750 captives were bagged in the drive on Erkelenz today.

Field dispatches reported increasing signs of German demoralization, particularly on the southern wing of the offensive front where Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American Third army was beginning to roll in a wide end run toward the Moselle valley and Coblenz, on the Rhine.

CANUCKS THREATEN NAZI FLANKS

Patton's advance and a renewed drive on the Ruhr by Gen. H. D. G. Crerar's Canadian First army in the north poised a deadly threat to the flanks of the hard-pressed Nazi divisions falling back across the Rhineland on the Cologne.

Four days after the start of the big push for the Rhine the Germans still had been unable to launch a single major counter-attack and had lost the key heights overlooking the Roer from which their big guns might have been able to halt the flow of American tanks and supplies into the Rhineland.

RAY CASEBEER ON LIST OF MISSING

Sgt. Ray Casebeer, former president of the Medford senior high school student body and Tiger gridiron star, has been declared missing in action in Germany according to a war department message to his mother, Mrs. Elsie Casebeer, Central Point. Sgt. Casebeer is missing as of Feb. 9, the message stated.

Sgt. Casebeer, infantryman with the Fourth Division, had been overseas since early in November and had been in Luxembourg and Germany since then. He entered the service in February of 1944 after having completed high school the month before.

Only other local relative of the well-known sergeant is Mrs. Don Ross, Ross Lane, a sister.

BERLIN BASHED BY 2,000 PLANES IN RECORD RAID

London, Feb. 26.—(U.P.)—Almost 2,000 American planes dropped more than 1,250 tons of high explosive bombs and at least 300,000 incendiaries on Berlin today in the greatest daylight raid of the war on the German capital.

Upwards of 1,200 Flying Fortresses and Liberators shepherded by 700 or more straining fighters cascaded a great weight of explosives and fire bombs onto three big railway stations near the heart of Berlin.

This was the 14th straight day of a record aerial offensive against Germany. The Berlin blow was struck in support of the Red army. It was designed to disrupt communications vital to the German troops in the front lines 30-odd miles from Berlin.

RAP Joins In

The great air fleet pounded Berlin for an hour in what Nazi propagandists called a terror attack.

The Royal Air Force joined in the daylight offensive against the reich. A big force of Lancaster bombers escorted by Mustangs smashed at a synthetic oil plant in the Ruhr industrial center of Dortmund.

The American onslaught was aimed primarily at Berlin's rail yards, the core of all German transport.

The attack was directly in support of the Red army forces massed along the Oder river line 30-odd miles east of Berlin.

MORE OREGONIANS ON LIST OF LIBERATED

The names of two Oregon residents are included on the last list of the war department giving names of civilians liberated in the Philippines. The list, released this morning, includes the name of Chester S. Magnuson, Roseburg, Ore., and Mrs. V. Weissblatt, North Bend.

A list released late Friday afternoon included the names of Harriet L. Richard, Mrs. Wynne T. Judge and Claire Fuentes, all of Portland.

Marriage rates in San Francisco rose from 9 per cent in 1943 to 15 per cent in 1944.

