

SOVIET TRAP CLOSING ON BALTIC

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Weather
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday with little change in temperature. Temp. Highest yesterday 46. Lowest this morning 22. Precipitation last 24 hrs., none.

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Thirty ninth Year

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VANGUARD WITHIN SIGHT OF COAST, MOSCOW REPORTS

White Russian Army Captures Neustettin, Anchor Base; Thaw Causes Floods

London, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's 2nd White Russian army today captured the central Pomeranian anchor base of Neustettin in a Baltic-bound drive that threatened to trap hundreds of thousands of German troops.

Marshal Stalin issued a special order of the day announcing the capture of Neustettin and Prechlau, 24 miles to the northeast, which he described as "important communications centers and powerful strongholds in the German defense of Pomerania." The Berlin radio reported earlier that the German army had evacuated Neustettin, which had been outflanked by the Soviet drive into central Pomerania.

In Sight of Sea
(The British radio quoted an unofficial report from Moscow as saying that Russians leading the drive across Pomerania now were in sight of the Baltic.)

A thrust to the sea would seal off eastern Pomerania, the Danzig free state, and the northern part of the old Polish corridor.

Moscow dispatches said Rokossovsky's tanks, tank-borne infantry and self-propelled guns were pushing across the flooded plains of Pomerania toward the Baltic and rapidly narrowing the German coastal corridor. Soviet front dispatches said a spring thaw in Pomerania had broken up the ice on many rivers and lakes. Great patches of the German provinces were flooded or marshy.

In Full Retreat
The Germans were in full retreat, a Soviet communique said. More than 2,000 of the enemy were killed in the early phases of the advance, while 22 German tanks, 46 guns and seven armored troop carriers were destroyed.

The wide-sweeping Soviet sweep was similar to those which cut off Latvia last October and east Prussia earlier in the winter offensive.

German broadcasts reported that another Soviet column farther west had reached the Pyritz area 23 miles below Stettin.

Moscow remained silent on the progress of fighting on the front east and southeast of Berlin for the fifth straight day, but said the 1st Ukrainian army had cleared 12 more city blocks in the southern part of encircled Breslau, capital of Silesia. Breslau station also was captured.

SCHOOL MEASURE FAILS IN HOUSE
Salem, Ore., Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—One of the first of the long series of school bills to come to the house floor suffered defeat today, with possibility it may be reconsidered in the next three days.

The bill (H. B. 80)—taxation and revenue committee—provides for creation of a governing board for rural school districts to handle finances. It provides for local "equalization" according to Rep. Giles French, chairman of the committee.

Rep. John Steelhammer's bill to strengthen the law relative to the enforcement of the coin-in-the-slot amusement devices regulations passed the house today.

The bill (H. B. 354) provides for license fees on such machines to be paid on a quarterly rather than a yearly basis, and would allow the posting of licenses which cover several machines, rather than one license on each machine.

TWO SUBMARINES LOST IN PACIFIC
Washington, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—The navy today announced the loss of the American submarines Shark and Escobar. They have failed to return from war patrols, presumably in the Pacific.

A total of 39 U. S. submarines have been lost and a grand total of 287 naval vessels of all types.

Yankees Ram Across Erft River; Furious Conflict Near Cologne

ASSAULT FORCES WITHIN 6 MILES OF KEY BASTION

Swift Attack Captures Highway Bridge Intact; Nazis Move Up Armored Units.

Paris, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—American tanks and troops rammed across the Erft river line at three points within sight of the Rhine today and were locked in a furious battle for Modrath, 6½ miles from Cologne.

The Erft river, last water barrier before the Rhine, was breached at three points directly west and west-southwest of Cologne by armored task forces of two and perhaps three American 1st army divisions.

Bridge Captured
One assault column hurdled the Erft on the main Dueren-Cologne highway, while two others swept across the river on either side of the road.

So swiftly was the attack that one highway bridge across the Erft was captured intact by Yank infantrymen. A second bridge nearby was blown up by the retreating enemy.

The Germans rallied swiftly, however, and at last reports were fighting desperately from house to house for the east bank town of Modrath. German armored units moved up from the Rhine to meet the attack and American staff officers predicted that the battle now joined would settle the fate of Cologne.

The 104th "Timberwolf" and 8th division already were across the Erft in force, and field dispatches indicated that units of the 1st infantry division also were moving in on the 8th's southern flank below Modrath.

Gladbach Taken
Elements of the 1st division spearheaded seven miles southeast of Dueren to capture Gladbach.

To the north, the American 9th army, operating under a security blackout, was rolling up the German defenses on the western fringe of the Ruhr valley against slightly stiffened enemy resistance, and Duesseidorf was reported under direct artillery fire.

At the southern end of the allied offensive front, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American 3rd army forces captured the pivotal road center of Bitburg in a drive apparently aimed at the Moselle valley and the central reaches of the Rhine.

In the U. S. 1st army's advance across the Erft river American flying columns liberated more than 5,000 slave workers held by the nazis in Blatzheim and Kerpen, on the west side of the river.

Most of the workers were Poles and Ukrainians, and it was believed the sudden American attack had caught the Germans before they could evacuate them.

Pfc. Lucius Lull On Wounded List

Pfc. Lucius Lull of Medford has been wounded in the European war theater according to a wire release from Washington. D. C. Pfc. Lull is listed with selective service board No. 2 and next of kin is given as Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lull, route 2, box 228.

Three Oregonians Among Released

Three navy men from this state were among those listed by the navy yesterday as having been released from Japanese prison camps in the Philippine islands. Listed were Jack Black F 1/c, McKenzie Bridge; Richard C. Busch, Coxswain, La Grande; Lee G. Mills, gunner, Portland.

Former Old Ranger Of Radio Sued By Restaurant Buyers

Hollywood, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—Sampson MacDonald, 60, original "Old Ranger" of the radio show "Death Valley Days," today went on trial for \$6,125 damages claimed by two girls who said he sold them a Hollywood restaurant he did not own.

Mary Mugerichian and Debs Sharoian, both 21, of Davenport, Ia., said they paid the actor \$800 for what they thought was title to the restaurant, and learned later they had signed a two-year lease instead.

The place wasn't worth \$800 anyway, the girls added, because it was so infested with rats that the health department closed it after they had operated it seven weeks.

STORE WINDOWS TO CARRY WORD OF FUND DRIVE

In the interest of the 1945 Red Cross war fund drive, a committee from the Junior Chamber of Commerce will stencil drive slogans on the windows of business establishments tonight and tomorrow morning it was announced by Red Cross officials today.

The slogans will read "Keep Red Cross at his side" and "Give Now—Give More—Red Cross." It is stated that the stencil material will be washable and that anyone objecting to the signs may request that they not be used or remove them at once. Drive workers are hopeful that the majority of the city's business places will leave the slogans on until the drive closes.

In charge of the project are Lester Higenbotham, chairman of the Junior chamber war service activities committee and Carey Thompson, who will supervise the window marking.

AERIAL FLEETS TEAM IN ATTACK

London, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—Two great fleets of American and British bombers teamed in heavy attacks on rail and industrial targets in northwest Germany today, the 16th straight day of a record air offensive against the Reich.

More than 1,100 Flying Fortresses and Liberators escorted by about 350 Mustang fighters attacked rail yards and factories at Kassel, Soest, Schwerte, Hagen, Siegen, and other German towns.

British Lancaster heavy bombers carried out a concentrated attack on the Nordstern Benzol plant near Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr.

Romanian Premier Resigns, Red Envoy Surveys Turmoil

By United Press
Gen. Nicolae Radescu was resigned as premier of Romania by the Bucharest radio said today. Moscow announced, meanwhile that Soviet Vice Foreign Commissar Andrei Vishinsky is in Bucharest, the scene of a purge of pro-Nazi elements.

MOUNTING LOSSES CAUSE UNREST IN JAP GOVERNMENT

German Reports Say Deputies Demand Session to Consider War Situation.

London, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—German reports from Tokyo said today that members of the Japanese lower house met Tuesday to demand a parliamentary session to consider the "present serious war situation."

"The lower house expects a statement by the government, in particular with regard to war measures which have been decided upon recently," a broadcast Transocean dispatch dated Tuesday Tokyo said.

"In addition it was learned that the lower house will ask for immediate concrete measures for the protection of Japanese war industry and the population in view of the recent large scale allied air attacks."

Churchill Wins Confidence Vote
London, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Churchill in effect won a 395 to 25 vote of confidence in commons today when the house voted down an amendment by rebellious conservatives denouncing the Crimea conference decision on Poland.

Today's vote on the Polish amendment compared with the 340 to 7 vote of confidence the house gave the government after the last war debate.

The balloting was a preliminary to the technical vote of confidence which Churchill has demanded on his government's part in the Crimea meeting of the Big Three. That will come late tomorrow at the end of a three-day debate of foreign affairs.

Churchill will take his case back to the house tomorrow in a second speech expected to begin about 3 p. m. PWT. Commons then will vote on a specific motion approving the Crimea decisions.

Yesterdays House passed a revised edition of Gov. Earl Smell's requested tax study commission measure (SJR-2) which creates a 13-member group to investigate Oregon's tax structure with the aid of "assistants with recognized knowledge of taxes." No appropriation is provided in the measure as passed, and three tax commission members are included on the committee.

Find Woman's Head In Clump Of Brush; Husband Questioned
Washington, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—Police today identified a brown-haired head found in bushes near Dranesville, Va., as that of Pearl Correns, 30-year-old war department employee.

Mrs. Correns had been missing from her Bethesda, Md., home since February 12. Virginia police are questioning her 43-year-old husband, Henry H. Correns, a Washington automobile painter.

Police said Mrs. Correns and her husband had quarreled frequently before her disappearance.

Sixty per cent of the population of Guatemala is of pure Indian descent.

OPENING SKIRMISH IN MILK CONTROL SLATED IN HOUSE

Food, Dairy Committee Reports Favorably on First of Two Controversial Bills

Salem, Ore., Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—Opening skirmishes in the battle of milk control were due in the Oregon House of Representatives this week as the House Food and Dairy Committee reported favorably yesterday on the first two of a series of four milk control bills.

Meanwhile the House Alcoholic Control Committee dragged a series of Senate liquor bills off its table and will consider amendments to the bills which may make them acceptable to those who oppose them in their present form.

Drink Bill Held
The Senate Alcoholic Traffic Committee still held a bill calling for scrip purchase of liquor in private clubs.

The milk control bills (HB-370 and 371) provide for a strengthening of the law regarding grading of milk and the setting up of standards of quality for both pasteurized and unpasteurized milk. HB-371 says that the grades of milk shall be based upon the health of the milk-giving animals, the physical facilities of the dairies and processing plants, the sanitation of dairies and plants and the quality and condition of the milk as shown by inspection.

Another bill, which is expected to come to the floor of the House soon, is the one over which most controversy is expected. The measure (HB-234) provides for the compulsory pasteurization of all milk and milk products (except cheese) which comes from herds certified disease-free.

Testing Prescribed
Periodic testing of cattle is also prescribed in the bill, and the Department of Agriculture is given additional regulatory powers. A companion bill (HB-369) supplementing the other measure, is also expected soon.

The House Insurance Committee passed out a bill (HB-390) which would place domestic insurance companies in the same class as foreign ones as far as paying an insurance premium tax is concerned. All such taxes are reduced from 2 1/2 to 2 per cent, and annual license fees are raised from \$10 to \$50.

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Two Devildogs Straighten Lines
Guam, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—U. S. marines straightened their lines across Iwo's central plateau in no-quarter battles today preparatory to a general assault toward the mountainous north coast.

(A Tokyo broadcast heard by the Australian information department listening post said the Americans "at last are showing signs of victory on Iwo.")

(The Tokyo Dome Agency, in a broadcast recorded by the FCC, claimed that the Japanese were "holding their own at their respective positions" against an American general offensive that began Monday. It said the garrison had inflicted 1,500 casualties between Monday noon and Tuesday night and estimated total American casualties in the Iwo campaign at 20,000.)

LEND-LEASE SIGNED
Washington, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—The United States and France have signed lend-lease agreements, including one under which the French will receive goods and materials for postwar use, the State Department announced today.

American Troops Drive on Cologne



Ducking low as German artillery shells whistle overhead, a patrol of the American First Army advances through rubble in street of Duren, Germany, less than 10 miles from Cologne. Their objective is a building sheltering some German snipers. Signal Corps radio-telephone photo.

Roosevelt Home From Conference Foresees Ultimate Reduction of Armament by Main Allied Powers

Washington, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt returned today from his historic Crimea conference so inspired by the Big Three's progress toward a durable peace that he could foresee ultimate armament reduction by the major allied fighting powers.

But he feels that Germany and Japan must be on trial for perhaps 50 years or more before being re-admitted as equals to the society of nations. Meanwhile, they must be restrained by force if necessary. His full report will be made to congress tomorrow at 9:30 a. m.

Tea Day Voyage
The president returned to American soil last night, landing at an east coast port after a 10-day voyage from Algiers aboard a heavy American cruiser which went within a few miles of enemy submarines striking at allied shipping off Gibraltar. He then proceeded to Washington by overnight train, arriving back in the White House early this morning.

In his message to congress which will be broadcast simultaneously to the nation, Mr. Roosevelt will tell how he, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Premier Josef Stalin and their top advisers met in the old Livadia Palace of Czar Nicolas II on the Black sea and developed plans for a three-way operation to squeeze the last life out of the German military machine.

He will tell also how they also built the foundation of an international organization which can quell future wars before they start.

President Hopeful
In news conferences aboard his ship while coming back across the Atlantic, the president was openly buoyant about the achievements of the meeting at Yalta. He looked to the United Nations conference at San Francisco in April to produce a permanent international organization which will have unprecedented success in keeping the world at peace.

The president plans to attend the San Francisco conference in person, either at the start or the close of the meeting to make what he described as a speech of greetings in the role of host. And he expects another meeting with Churchill sometime after the United Nations conference.

Mr. Roosevelt left Washington on the night of January 22. During his 36 days away from the nation's capital, he covered about 14,000 miles which included stops at Malta, in Russia, Egypt and Algiers. In addition to his eight-day meeting with Churchill and Stalin, he also conferred with King Farouk of Egypt, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia. He made most of the trip by cruiser, but flew from Malta to Yalta, and from Yalta to Great Bitter Lake, in the Suez canal.

Arms Cut Seen
As his ship approached the American coast, he spent an hour with three press association correspondents who joined his party at Algiers, going over the accomplishments of the Yalta conference. He made these specific points:

1. He looks forward to a time after the war when armament of all nations, including the United States, England, Russia, China and France, will be decreased.

2. Germany and Japan should at some time be added to the assembly of United Nations members, but only after they have shown a definite trend away from militarism. This possibly will require more than 50 years of concrete proof.

3. Until Germany and Japan have made considerable, unmistakable progress toward peace-keeping forms of government, the United Nations should, by force if necessary, see that they are utterly incapable of arming or preparing for war in any manner.

4. A plan of American Russian-English occupation of Germany has been worked out, and will have to be changed according to the degree of French participation in the occupation.

5. The Big Three meeting and the later conference between the president and Churchill at Alexandria, Egypt, were concerned with Europe and not the Pacific. In fact, the president said the Pacific situation just did not come up in his later talk with Churchill. It did not arise in the tripartite conversations because Russia is neutral toward Japan and this country is respecting that neutrality.

6. The people of the United States, particularly in face of European successes, too often blow hot and cold about the war in the Pacific. The actual situation is that even once Germany is defeated, we face a long, hard war in the Pacific. This fact, the president said, needs particular industrial emphasis in this country.

Mr. Roosevelt's forward view toward a time when the five major allied powers can cut down the size of their war machines was not meant as any prospect for the near future. He stressed repeatedly the fact that we have yet to win the war and that there is much work and fighting to be done before final victory.

B-29'S KNOCK OUT TOKYO RAIL HUB
Guam, Feb. 28.—(U.P.)—Superfortresses apparently knocked out Tokyo's big Ueno railway station and freight marshaling yards in raids which left 240 blocks of the industrial heart of the city destroyed by fire reconnaissance photographs showed today.

Fire started in last Sunday's B-29 raid swept across the station. It was believed the yards were rendered inoperable, at least temporarily when the flames had died.

The Ueno station handles approximately 300 elevated trains daily. It is one of the three largest in Tokyo.

The photographs showed that 240 blocks—29,074,000 square feet—were burned over after the Sunday strike. It was the biggest raid of the war on the Japanese capital.

Grants Pass C-C Manager Resigns
Grants Pass, Feb. 28.—E. H. Elliott, secretary-manager of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce for the past year, resigned his position, effective today. E. S. Heydenburk, president announced. No one has been named to succeed Elliott, he said.