

Three Armies Near Hannover in Drive Through Weakening Defense

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Breakthrough by 9th Army Sparks Powerful Surge of Allied Forces Over Weser

Paris, April 6.—(U.P.)—Two American and one British army rammed through wily Nazi defense lines today to plunge within 17 miles of Hannover, 136 miles west of Berlin, and the great North Sea port of Bremen in a drive across the open north German plain.

The American 1st army joined the British second and the American 9th in a new offensive that rolled up the Weser river line, last German river line before the Elbe which lies just beyond the city's western suburbs.

9TH ONLY 17 MILES FROM HANNOVER

The 9th army was within 17 miles of Hannover and the 1st army swung forward as much as 25 miles to reach the Weser about 160 miles southwest of Berlin.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd army, which has paced the attack across Germany, drove forward seven miles southeast of Gotha to a point less than 60 miles from Leipzig.

Reports from returning fighter pilots said that heavy German military movement had been noted on the highways leading to Leipzig.

That might indicate extensive Nazi preparations in an attempt to halt Patton's rampaging columns before they can reach Leipzig, which is a likely junction point with the soviet forces of Marshal Ivan S. Konev. At the closest point Patton was little more than 160 miles from achieving this juncture.

AMERICAN GLIDERS LAND LIGHT TANKS

A German report said that American gliders had landed light tanks at Langensalza, 17 miles north of Gotha, where heavy fighting was reported. Langensalza is 79 miles southwest of Magdeburg.

The report, if correct, might indicate that Patton's advanced spearheads now are placing more reliance upon air transport due to the rapidity of their advance.

Third army registers showed a total of 54,614 prisoners captured this week 42,649 last week. There have been 71,670 processed in the last 15 days and an estimated 92,500 captured in that period to bring the total to 200,000 since March 7 and 400,000 since August 1.

Late field dispatches said the Americans were 57 miles or less from the northwestern corner of Czechoslovakia, 60 miles from Leipzig and 166 miles away from the westbound red army.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd army tanks officially were 126 miles southwest of Berlin, but still-unconfirmed reports placed them inside the Harz mountain range 120 miles or less from Hitler's dying citadel.

7TH ADVANCES SLOWLY EAST

On Patton's right flank, the U. S. 7th army advanced slowly but steadily east and southeast toward Nuernberg against fanatical opposition from German Volksturm and regular army units defending the approaches to the nazis' "last redoubt" in the Bavarian mountains.

French 1st army forces in the extreme south were reported 25 miles or less from Stuttgart, 112 miles northeast of Munich and less than 40 miles from the headquarters of the Danube.

North of the 3rd army, the American 1st army broke through the hilly Harz mountains in a 22-mile eastward surge that carried almost to the Weser river at a point 161 miles due west of Berlin.

Simultaneously, the 1st army wheeled strong tank and infantry forces into the southeastern corner of the Ruhr basin, teaming up with American 9th army doughboys in a drive to wipe out an estimated 150,000 Germans trapped in the Ruhr.

Massive assault teams of the 9th army's 30th infantry and 2nd armored divisions sparked the drive on the Weser river and Hannover.

The doughboys crossed the 240-foot Weser in assault boats early Thursday at a point two miles south of Hamelin, 22 miles southwest of Hannover, and advanced more than a half-mile to capture the village of Tuendern, 153 miles west of Berlin.

Armored units followed the infantrymen across on hastily-erected pontoon bridges, and struck up for Hannover against feeble resistance.

WATER PROSPECT NEAR AVERAGE IN SOUTHERN OREGON

Annual Forecast Shows Tal-ent Irrigation District Facing Restricted Supply.

Irrigation water prospects in southern Oregon both east and west of the Cascades are about average, it was reported at the annual water forecast committee meeting here today.

Snow cover in southern Oregon mountains has been remarkably improved by March storms. It was reported by R. A. Work, snow survey supervisor for the soil conservation service and Oregon agricultural experiment station.

Water supplies in prospect for 1945 are now listed as slightly better than last season and are nearly average.

This year's crop production on most irrigated lands in Jackson and Josephine counties is not expected to suffer materially because of water shortage.

Ample water supplies are in prospect for Klamath county.

Reservoir storage in the Medford-Rogue river irrigation districts was pronounced generally good, Superintendent J. M. Spencer of Medford Irrigation district reported that reservoirs of that district are now about one-half filled with prospects of run-off to come which assures some holdover in the reservoirs at conclusion of this irrigation season.

Concern over shortages of prospective water supply was expressed for lands served by the Talent Irrigation district.

Hyatt Prairie reservoir is expected this year to fill to less than one-half capacity. Although Emigrant reservoir is full Talent Irrigation district is sure of not more than 80 days of irrigation supply. The only other areas of prospective water shortage is the Applegate river where late water rights are likely to be out of water by Aug. 15. Applegate river flow is not expected to exceed 75 per cent normal.

Canal alteration is not likely to be required this year in the Grants Pass Irrigation district.

Seventh in Series

This was seventh in a series of meetings being held throughout the state under the leadership of R. A. Work and W. T. Frost in charge of snow surveys and water forecasts for soil conservation service and O. S. C. experiment station.

Other participants in today's meeting included representatives of Klamath basin irrigation and power interests, county water masters and agricultural representatives.

The forecaster's conclusions were based on April 1 snow survey measurements, watershed soil moisture tests, reservoir storage records and stream flow readings.

Japanese Defenders of Okinawa Stage First Heavy Counterblow



The showdown battle of southern Okinawa and the Japanese island's bastion of Naha appears to be shaping up or already mounting to full fury. The 10th Army has driven to within four miles of Naha as Maj. Gen. Geiger's Third Marine Amphibious Corps continues advance across Ishikawa Isthmus which has completely sealed off northern part of island. Black portions of map indicate the eighty square miles of choice territory now solidly controlled by Americans.

BLOODY FIGHTING SEEN AHEAD FOR INVASION FORCE

Guam, April 6.—(U.P.)—Japanese defenders of Okinawa opened their biggest counterattack of the campaign today, bringing the American invasion forces to a virtual standstill in the west and central sectors of the island battlefront.

A United Press correspondent reported the Japanese counterblow in a dispatch from Okinawa. It coincided with numerous signs that the walkover phase of the invasion was finished and bloody fighting lay ahead.

10th Storms Hills

Resistance was reported stiffening all along the Okinawa front. The stalemate in the west and central parts came as 10th army forces stormed the slopes of three hills anchoring the defenses of Naha, smoldering and deserted capital city some four miles to the south.

The hills before Naha blocked the United States passage down the isthmus to the southern part of the island.

Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner's forces were pushing down the east coast toward the town of Tsuwa, three miles north of Yonabaru, the island's principal east coast port.

Near Air Strip

The American vanguard was within two miles of Yonabaru air strip, which the Japanese had partly constructed when the invasion began. Front reports said it probably could be made usable in a short time.

On the west coast, the Americans were bogged down about a mile north of Nakama, atop a high ridge running inland. Japanese artillery on the ridge was pounding our forces. A curtain of smoke hung over the ridge as naval guns and land-based artillery teamed with bombers in a concerted assault on it.

DUMBARTON PLAN OPEN TO CHANGE SAYS STETTINIUS

Sec. of State Disputes Russian Claim Big 4 Agreed Against Amendments.

Washington, April 6.—(U.P.)—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., said today that the Big Four powers who drafted the Dumbarton Oaks proposals for world organization would be free to sponsor any amendments to that plan at San Francisco.

A soviet publication had suggested that the Dumbarton Oaks proposals "virtually amount to an agreement" among the Big Four not only to refrain from repudiating or amending them but to defend them against possible attempts of others to amend or weaken them. The article appeared in the soviet embassy's information bulletin earlier this week.

Stettinius' press conference came shortly after President Roosevelt named him temporary chairman of the San Francisco conference. The appointment followed regular procedure for the chief executive of the host government. The conference itself will elect Stettinius permanent chairman.

Stettinius also announced that the preliminary meeting of United Nations jurists will convene here next Monday to begin drafting the legal structure for a new world court.

RUSSIAN CIRCLE AROUND VIENNA NEAR COMPLETE

2 Armies Storming Capital After Cutting Supply Line; Eastern Edge Penetrated.

London, April 6.—(U.P.)—A Moscow dispatch said today that Soviet forces had three-quarters encircled Vienna and were battling in the eastern outskirts.

Two soviet armies were storming the Austrian capital from the east, west and south, after cutting the main German supply lines southwest of the city.

Moscow said assault units of Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin's 3rd Ukrainian army had penetrated an industrial settlement on the eastern edge of the city.

Resistance at Vienna apparently was considerably stiffer than that at Bratislava, which fell two days ago after one-day battle. Front reports said, however, the Russians were driving with all possible force in an attempt to capture the city before it suffered the disastrous fate that befell Budapest.

Japan Prepared For Change In Relations With Soviets

London, April 6.—(U.P.)—Tokyo said today that Japan would make the "greatest possible effort" to remain at peace with Russia, but was fully prepared for any "abrupt change" in their relations.

London newspapers predicted Russia would follow up her denunciation of the soviet-Japanese neutrality pact with a grant of Siberian bases to the allies or even a declaration of war against Japan.

Japanese hopes that a new cabinet would be completed today to succeed the resigned Koiso government in meeting the country's gravest military and political crisis were thwarted.

Adm. Baron Kantaro Suzuki, premier-designate, ended his first day of conferences without submitting a list of ministers to Emperor Hirohito for approval as expected, Radio Tokyo admitted.

Suzuki did succeed in obtaining the co-operation of the army and navy, Tokyo said, and expects to take up the naming of candidates for those and other portfolios at 8 a. m. tomorrow (Tokyo time).

Tokyo Tried Hard To Keep Russian Agreement Alive

Moscow, April 6.—(U.P.)—Japan, it was rumored in diplomatic circles today, attempted to make far-reaching concessions to Russia including nullification of the treaty of Portsmouth, in an effort to keep the Soviet Union from denouncing the Russo-Japanese neutrality pact.

These rumors could not be confirmed but it was reported the Japanese were willing to pay almost any price to maintain the status quo with Russia.

(Under the treaty of Portsmouth Russia was forced to give up Port Arthur, surrender her lease of the Kwantung Peninsula, evacuate Manchuria, recognize Japan's sphere of influence in Korea and surrender the southern half of Sakhalin island. The treaty ended the Russo-Japanese war and was negotiated at Portsmouth, N. H.)

The Russians, it should be noted, have long memories. The Russo-Japanese war was launched by the Japanese with an attack which preceded a declaration of war.

The Russians forget nothing and the treachery of Pearl Harbor did not fail to make a profound impression in Moscow.

SCHOOLS TO AID CLOTHING DRIVE

C. R. Bowman, county school superintendent, has issued a bulletin to all rural schools, seeking their participation in the United National clothing drive, sponsored in the county by Medford Junior chamber of commerce. The schools are to bring their collections to either collection depot—Humphrey Motors, 33 South Riverside or Fiecher garage, 104 West Sixth street.

Joe Early, representing the Kiwanis club, is contacting all granges in the county requesting their aid in the drive.

Jimmie Stewart Becomes Colonel

U. S. Eighth Air Force Headquarters, England, April 6.—(U.P.)—Former Film Star Jimmie Stewart of Indiana, Pa., has been promoted to the rank of colonel, it was disclosed today.

Stewart, who has flown 20 combat missions as a bomber pilot, rose from captain to lieutenant colonel during his 18 months in the European theater. He is now serving as chief of staff of a liberated combat wing in Maj. Gen. William Kepner's second air division.

German Cruiser Is Sunk, Photos Show

London, April 6.—(U.P.)—Air reconnaissance photos today disclosed that the German light cruiser Koeln, was sunk during the American air attack on the Wilhelmshaven naval base Mar. 30.

The Koeln is a 6,000-ton light cruiser, built by the Germans in 1928.

The photos showed the Koeln apparently resting on the bottom with damage amidship and aft and one hole on the port side.

CENTRAL POINT PLANTER TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

Preliminary steps for reconstruction of the Southern Oregon Planing mill near Central Point which burned last Monday with a partially insured loss of \$15,000, are now under way and work is due to start soon, Harry G. Dowson and A. W. Lingas, operators of the mill, have made arrangements for new planters. The old ones were ruined by the flames.

MORMONS WARNED TO PREPARE FOR SLUMP

Salt Lake City, April 6.—(U.P.)—The first presidency of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) church today warned nearly one million church followers to prepare for the days ahead by becoming as nearly self-sustaining as possible.

At that time, I had copies of

THREE FIRE ALARMS THURSDAY EVENING

Firemen were summoned three times last night. First call was from the home of Ed Forest, 511 East Main street, to extinguish a trash fire. Another run was made to the West Main apartments to put out a flue fire which caused no damage. The third call was to the home of Charles Reider, 306 Williams avenue to extinguish a fire which caused considerable damage to a children's play house.

LUXURY TAX

Mexico City, April 6.—(U.P.)—A three per cent luxury tax was decreed on a large number of articles today, to become effective May 1. The articles included antiques, carpets, radios, cameras, glass and chinaware, jewelry, toilet and beauty products, automobiles, pianos and furs.

Worried Woman Makes Torch of Children, Self

Marengo, Ia., April 6.—(U.P.)—Worry that her husband might be called for military service caused Mrs. Elsie Krakow to pour gasoline on herself and three children and set a match to it, police said today.

Carol Krakow told police that his five-year-old daughter, Mary, rushed out of the house yesterday, her clothing in flames, shrieking, "Mama poured gasoline on us and set us on fire."

Inside, Krakow found his wife, a two-month-old son, Michael, and another daughter, Carlene, 2, burned to death on the kitchen floor. Mary died later in a Marengo hospital.

German Archbishop Complains Because Freed Slaves Plundering Nazi Homes

By Jack Fleischer
United Press Correspondent

Sendenhorst, Germany, April 6.—(U.P.)—Archbishop Count Von Galen of Muenster, outspoken critic of the Hitler regime, still is against the nazis but he still is "loyal to the Fatherland."

"I am and I remain a German and I will not discuss politics," the 67-year-old Catholic archbishop said in an informal interview in the reception room at the Catholic hospital here.

He has lived in two rooms in the hospital since he was forced to leave Muenster, 11 miles to the northwest, by heavy air raids last October.

I had hoped he would talk about what had happened inside Germany and of possible conflicts he had had with the nazis since I left the Berlin Bureau of the United Press after Pearl Harbor.

At that time, I had copies of

BABY-KILLING DOG GIVEN MORE TIME

Los Angeles, April 6.—(U.P.)—Wool, five-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier, today won another week's reprieve from a death sentence imposed for killing 21 months' old Marguerite Derdenger.

Superior Judge William McKay said he would need another week to determine all legal facts in the entangled case and decide whether to grant a permanent injunction against the dog's execution sought by cafe owner Grady C. Terry, self-styled "friend of all dogs."

Peteron Becomes S.P. Passenger Head

Portland, April 6.—Appointment of Claude E. Peteron as vice-president in charge of system passenger traffic for Southern Pacific was announced today by A. T. Mercier, president of the railroad. Peteron succeeds the late Felix S. McGinnis. The appointment is effective immediately. Peteron moves up from assistant vice president in the passenger traffic department, a post he has held since June of 1942.

DELEGATE

Berkeley, Cal., April 6.—(U.P.)—Ernesto Quiroga-Ocampo, 23-year-old sophomore student at the University of California, has been designated a delegate of Bolivia to the United Nations conference on international organization at San Francisco, it was disclosed today.

FEDERAL COURT IN ONE-DAY HEARING ON CONDEMNATION

Federal court reopened here today for a brief session to handle one land condemnation case. Judge James Alger Fee is presiding.

The action, that of the United States versus Liona Creason Koff, Kenneth W. and Hallie Ford, the city of Roseburg and Douglas county, concerns a tract of land on which a railroad spur connecting with a sawmill has been constructed by the Defense Plant corporation of the Reconstruction Finance corporation. Jurors drawn to hear the case were Elmer C. Bellef, Ashland; Harold A. Frye, Robert B. Hammond, Medford; Chester Wendt, Jacksonville; Lowell Ager, Beatty; Leo T. Sauer, Grants Pass; Donald C. Reames, Cottage Grove; Dom Provost, Ashland; Douglass Talbot, Rogue River; R. C. Hartley, Ashland; Frank Klinge, Brownboro and Elwyn Hamacher, Klamath Falls.

Attorneys for the plaintiff are Bert C. Boylan and Linus M. Fuller.

Court will open in Klamath Falls next Monday to try a number of condemnation cases.

RODEO PERFORMER IS HELD ON RAPE CHARGE

Burns, Ore., April 6.—(U.P.)—A long-time rodeo performer Thomas Dunn, Sr., known as Shaneko Red, was held in Burns today for California authorities.

The 43-year-old cowboy was arrested by federal bureau of investigation agents and Harney county officers at Wagontire. A federal warrant charges him with unlawful flight from Stockton, Cal., Oct. 6, 1944, to Burns to avoid prosecution on an attempted rape charge. A California warrant charges him with attempted rape.

JOEL HUNTSMAN DIES OF WOUNDS

Joel Huntsman, 32, chief aviation machinist's mate in the navy, died recently as the result of wounds suffered during action in the Pacific, according to a wire from the war department received Wednesday by Mrs. Huntsman, who resides at 613 South Ivy street. Huntsman had been in the navy 18 years, having enlisted at the age of 14, and was a crew member of an aircraft carrier.

Survivors are Mrs. Huntsman and four children. The family came here the first of January from Portsmouth, Va., in order to be near Mrs. Huntsman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Harris, route 4, and Mr. Huntsman left Jan. 20 for overseas duty.

Pravda Attacks Hoover Proposal To Limit Power

Moscow, April 6.—(U.P.)—The communist party newspaper Pravda today bitterly attacked former President Herbert Hoover's proposal to limit the powers of the American delegate to the United States inter-war against an aggressor.

Pravda said Hoover desired that this power be reserved to the President of the United States, acting only upon the consent of the senate and House Foreign Relations committees.

It charged that this proposal was "the most suspicious of many schemes in circulation."

It really aimed, Pravda charged, at sabotaging the peace. The newspaper claimed that Hoover "feared" a long peace.

BILLY L. JACKSON KILLED IN ACTION

Mrs. Lucy Lyman, 45 Ross Court, received information yesterday that her grandson, Billy Lyman Jackson, was recently killed in action aboard an aircraft carrier. The young man, in the navy 10 years, was a chief pharmacist's mate.

Young Jackson had made his home with his grandmother since infancy and was well known here. He attended Medford schools and after graduating from high school attended the Southern Oregon College of Education in Ashland.

TO BERLIN

The nearest distances to Berlin from advanced allied lines today:

Eastern front—31 miles (from Zaackerick).

Western front—126 miles (from Schlotheim; 120 miles, by German report, from Harz mountains).

Italian front—318 miles (from near Comacchiti).

ANNOUNCE CEILING ON STRAWBERRIES

Washington, April 6.—(U.P.)—Ceiling prices for Oregon fresh strawberries this year have been announced by office of price administration as follows:

County shippers' ceiling, 13 cents a pint, 27 cents a quart, 18 cents a pound, F. O. B. country shipping point for entire season.

Highest wholesale ceilings, 16.3 cents a pint, 32 cents a quart, 21.3 cents a pound.

Highest retail ceilings, 20.8 cents a pint, 44.8 cents a quart, 28.5 cents a pound.

FIFTH ARMY ADVANCES 2 MILES IN MOUNTAINS

Rome, April 6.—(U.P.)—American fifth army troops advanced nearly two miles in a new drive in the mountains dominating the Ligurian coastal plain southeast of La Spezia, it was announced today.

The surprise attack south of Massa in northwestern Italy apparently was the onslaught which the German radio described as a major offensive along the Ligurian coast.

The only commercial airport in the world that has dual runways in all directions is the Chicago Municipal Airport.