

Essen, Great Nazi Arsenal City Captured by 9th Army; Yanks Race Eastward Less Than 63 Miles From Berlin; Juncture With Russians Expected Within 24 to 72 Hours

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Americans Million Strong Break Loose for Last Push Toward Germany's Capital

BULLETIN

PARIS, April 11.—(U.P.)—THE NINTH ARMY'S HELL-ON-WHEELS SECOND ARMORED DIVISION IN ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR DRIVES OF THE WAR TONIGHT RACED TO THE BANKS OF THE ELBE RIVER AT MAGDEBURG, 63 MILES WEST OF BERLIN.

THE ELBE IS THE LAST WATER LINE BARRING THE AMERICAN ADVANCE UPON THE REICH CAPITAL.

THE SECOND ARMORED'S ADVANCE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DASHING IN A CAMPAIGN THAT RAPIDLY WAS DEVELOPING INTO SPEED RACE ALONG THE SUPER-HIGHWAYS THAT ADOLF HITLER ONCE BUILT FOR THE USE OF THE WEHRMACHT.

Paris, April 11.—(U.P.)—The great German arsenal city of Essen fell today in the wake of three American armies racing over the last 100 miles to Berlin at a clip that was expected to bring a juncture with the Red Army in the next 24 to 72 hours.

In a day of spreading Nazi military disaster that brought the final collapse of the Wehrmacht measurably closer, the American First, Third and Ninth Armies, more than 1,000,000 strong, broke loose on what appeared to be the final drive for Berlin.

INVADERS FIND RESISTANCE DISORGANIZED
Vanguards of the Ninth Army in the north were 99 miles or less from the capital early today and all three armies were pounding ahead against disorganized resistance.

Essen, Germany's greatest manufacturing city and the core of the Ruhr valley industries, was captured by the Ninth Army's 17th Airborne Division in an advance into the northern wall of the Ruhr trap.

Home of the sprawling Krupp Works and the sixth largest city in Germany, it was the richest industrial prize to fall into Allied hands. The German garrison, already more than 100 miles behind the Berlin-bound American armies, offered only weak resistance.

ESSEN FALLS SOON AFTER HANNOVER
Essen fell barely 24 hours after the Ninth Army's 84th Division had captured the big railway and factory city of Hannover.

Cologne and Frankfurt-on-Main also in American hands and seven more of Germany's 20 largest cities—Hamburg, Bremen, Dortmund, Duisburg, Disseldorf, Leipzig and Magdeburg—were bypassed, under direct attack or imminently threatened by the Allied sweep.

The swift capitulation of the Essen garrison was expected to speed up the liquidation of the Ruhr trap, still holding possibly 120,000 Germans, and release powerful American forces to join the march toward Berlin and a link-up with the Red Army.

American Ninth Army troops on the northern wing raced five miles beyond Brunswick to within 99 miles of the dying Nazi capital. The First Army was 114 miles from Berlin and the Third Army 126 to 130 miles away, on the basis of front reports lagging hours behind the speeding American tanks.

BEYOND ELBE BEFORE SATURDAY
A dispatch from United Press War Correspondent John McDermott reported that leaders of the First Army tank forces expected to be far beyond the Elbe and linked up with the west-bound Russians before Saturday.

German resistance before the Elbe was shattered completely and nothing but undefended road blocks lay in the path of the charging First Army.

The link-up with the Red Army would split Germany in two, seal the fate of Berlin and probably end all organized enemy resistance except perhaps in the "islands of resistance" in the Bavarian redoubt, along the North Sea coast and in the Ruhr.

SOUTHERN END OF LINE RESISTS
Only at the southern end of the western battle lines were the Germans offering any coherent resistance. There crack Elite Guards Divisions fought tooth and nail to slow the American Seventh Army's drive across Bavaria toward the Nazis' boasted "last redoubt" in the southern mountains.

In the north, Canadian troops plowed ahead through the Ems river valley within 20 miles or less of the North Sea and British Second Army forces rolled up for Hamburg in a weakly-opposed drive aimed at turning the Elbe line and lopping off all of north-western Germany and Denmark.

EISENHOWER IN DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT
The British advance on the coast prompted Gen. Eisenhower's dramatic announcement on the German collapse. In a special message broadcast to German North Sea port officials and workers, Eisenhower called upon them to prevent sabotage of the great harbors and naval bases by fanatical Nazi demolition squads.

"In these last weeks of the war the future of your towns is in the gravest danger from fanatics who may make a last-minute attempt to make the ports unusable," he said.

"The power of the men behind these fanatics is crumbling. It will be broken with the arrival of the Allied armies. Then your ports will be used at once. It depends on what you do now which will be the first port reopened."



Resuming its slashing drive toward Berlin, U. S. First Army pushes almost to Nordhausen, 118 miles from the capital and 55 miles from Elbe River. The Third and Ninth Armies likewise thrust toward the Elbe while, in north, American and British forces strike for Hamburg. On southern end of front, Nazis battle fiercely for Heilbronn, other bastions on road to Bavaria.

SAVAGE DEFENSE IN SOUTH OKINAWA STALLS INVADERS

Marines Take Sub Base On Unten Bay; Crush Last Resistance in Philippines.

By United Press

The American drive on Naha in southern Okinawa stalled against savage Japanese resistance today but invasion forces continued gains in other sectors with practically no opposition.

To the north the marines captured a submarine base on Unten bay in a mile and a half advance. Torpedoes and mines were seized but the Japanese had removed all submarines and other craft.

Gain Fine Harbor

Army troops opened the entrance to Nakagusuku bay, one of the best naval anchorages south of Japan, by an amphibious landing Tuesday on Tsugen (Tsukata) island, about 10 miles off the southeast Okinawa coast.

Only moderate resistance was encountered and officers expected the island soon to be cleared from the island enemy.

Other troops had captured almost two-thirds of the bay's shoreline and Tokyo said American warships already were operating in the bay.

Troops of the 24th army corps battled to crack the Japanese defense lines four miles above the island capital, Naha.

In the Philippines, American troops crushed the last organized Japanese resistance on southern Luzon and seized control of the Sulu archipelago in the south by occupying Jolo island.

Other troops landed on Busuanga island, north of American controlled Palawan across the Sulu sea from Mindanao and ended Japanese control of 3,000 lepers in the Culin colony.

American bombers from the Philippines continued neutralization attacks on Formosa and sank or damaged three more Japanese cargo vessels in maintaining the aerial blockade of China sea shipping.

Radio Tokyo today identified three American carriers, which it claimed were sunk off Okinawa Friday, as the Essex, the converted carrier Langley and the auxiliary carrier Hipper.

2 CONDEMNATION CASES SETTLED

Two land condemnation cases scheduled for federal court in Klamath Falls this week failed to reach the jury, attorneys for both parties reaching an agreement which is now before Judge James Alger Fee for consideration according to Otto Frohn mayer, Medford attorney acting for the defendant. Both were the United States versus Carence C. Hard, the cases involving two tracts of land used for the marine barracks at Klamath Falls and for a pipeline for the barracks.

But one jury was chosen, and this contained the name of but one resident of Klamath Falls majority of the jurors being from Medford and other parts of Jackson county. Court was recessed to open in Medford in June.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Jeanette Wimer tactfully pointing out to a reporter an embarrassing error in a news story.

Commander Harry Young, forced to relinquish his Legion commander chair to a guest speaker, finding the rank and file's bench a hard seat.

Larry Nygaard popping vest buttons as a result of the advent of an 8-pound grandson.

Back on Stand



(Acme Telephoto) Blinking from glare of cameramen's flashbulbs, Joan Barry takes the stand in Los Angeles court as star witness for her infant daughter, Carol Ann, in second trial of baby's paternity suit against comedian Charlie Chaplin.

CITIZENS URGED TO TURN IN OLD DUDS THIS WEEK

Reginald A. Stagg, general chairman for the United National clothing drive in Jackson county, today urged everyone to turn in their old clothes this week in order that the drive may be concluded by the first of next week.

Stagg reported that the drive is progressing nicely and final reports are expected to put Jackson county "over the top." Clothes dropped in street receptacles on streets of Medford will be picked up each evening with the final pickup from the boxes to be made Monday morning.

Anyone who has not turned in their clothing donations is asked to deposit them in the boxes or take them to one of the two receiving depots. Humphrey's Motors, 33 South Riverside, or Fichtner's Garage, Sixth and Fir streets.

Stagg emphasized that it is not necessary to clean wearing apparel except underwear, shirts and linen, which should be washed but not necessarily ironed.

The Rotary club turned in a fine collection of suits at their Tuesday meeting and threatened to disrobe other members who do not produce suits at their next meeting, according to E. C. Corn, chairman of special events.

All have not reached their quota on the clothing drive until evening and schools will accept the clothing until that time. E. H. Hedrick, superintendent of city schools, stated today.

SWEDISH HAVEN BARRED TO NAZIS

London, April 11.—(U.P.)—Sweden shut her doors to fleeing Germans today in a move obviously designed to prevent Nazi war criminals from slipping into the country in the guise of refugees.

German refugees who have arrived in the past few days will be reported unless they are found to be genuine deserters from the German armed forces or in poor health, the Swedish government's decree said.

The action left Switzerland the only neutral haven adjoining Germany or German-occupied countries for German refugees. A Bern broadcast last night said Switzerland would continue to welcome "the unfortunate and innocent victims of this war."

DREADED HIMMLER HITLER SUCCESSOR IS LONDON RUMOR

Serious Split Among Nazi Leaders, Report; Millions Evacuated From Berlin.

By United Press

London, April 11.—(U.P.)—Evidence has reached official quarters in London that the nazis are showing aside Adolf Hitler, possibly in favor of Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler, the Press Association said today.

"A serious split among Nazi leaders appears to be going on," the lobby correspondent of the Press Association said. "Foreign observers state Hitler now looks to be a 'dying man.'"

By United Press
April 20, Adolf Hitler's birth, will be like any other day in Germany, according to radio reports.

BBC reported today that there will be no holiday on Hitler's 56th birthday. The German minister of the interior has ordered work to go on as usual because of "war necessity," the broadcast said.

The correspondent said the nazis appeared to be "throwing over" Hitler as the German disaster in the west grew almost hourly. The dispatch did not elaborate on the reports.

Heads Gestapo
Himmler, mentioned in the dispatch as possible successor to Hitler as supreme ruler in Germany, is interior minister and commander of the German home army in addition to head of the dreaded Gestapo.

Himmler once before was rumored to have become acting fuhrer of Germany. That was immediately following the abortive attempt on Hitler's life last summer, but all evidence indicated that Hitler again had taken over the reins following his recovery from wounds.

Diplomatic sources gave serious attention to the Press Association dispatch, since that agency frequently is used to circulate information from official circles.

Aerial reconnaissance and neutral reports, meantime, indicated that the Germans have evacuated millions of civilians from Berlin, once the world's fourth largest city.

City Stripped
The city apparently has been stripped for an impending siege from the east and west.

Night reconnaissance fliers said trains were leaving Berlin under cover of darkness, presumably moving out the last of the civilian refugees or possibly shifting troops south to the Alps for a last stand.

A Berlin dispatch to the Zurich newspaper Diezeit said several hundred thousand inhabitants had left the capital in the past fortnight alone because of the worsening food situation.

Only a bare trickle of food has slipped through the allied air blockade of Berlin, the dispatch said. Even army rations were said to have been cut severely. Milk was almost unobtainable, even for babies.

Colombia in its colonial days was known as the Vice-Royalty of New Granada.

"Ball of Fire" Fighting Spirit Needed Now By Japs, Togo Warns

By United Press

Japanese Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo, in his first speech since he resumed cabinet office under Premier Kantaro Suzuki, said Wednesday that Japan's foreign policy "will now dovetail perfectly into military considerations."

Togo, regarded in Japan as an expert of soviet relations, asserted that Japan was "fighting only a war of self defense," and aimed only at "universal peace and concord of nations based on equality."

Tokyo radio reported in a broadcast recorded by United Press, San Francisco.

"All Japanese must tackle the war in the manner of the body, crashing special attack corps," Togo said. "Besides fighting for the independence of greater east Asia, we are striving for our empire."

Togo said Japan's fighting spirit "will be turned into a huge ball of fire to bring about the strength for the outcome, no matter what difficulties lie ahead."

Would-Be Glamor Girl Sentenced On Check Charge

Hollywood, April 11.—(U.P.)—The desire of Jane Reinhart Fletcher, 24, of Topeka, Kansas, to be a "Hollywood glamor girl" resulted today in her being jailed for 90 days on her plea of guilty to cashing a worthless check for \$100 to buy an expensive gown.

Superior Judge Clement D. Nye originally suspended a one-year term and placed the comely blonde on probation for three years. When she failed to make restitution, she was ordered to serve 90 days of her sentence.

Daughter of Charles Edwin Reinhart, chief clerk of the Kansas State Corporation Commission, Mrs. Fletcher admitted she got in with a "fast movie crowd" and was living beyond her means.

FRENCH OFFICERS LONG IMPRISONED FREED BY YANKS

Paris, April 11.—(U.P.)—More than 4,000 French officers, perhaps a fifth or a sixth of France's pre-war personnel, were liberated on the night of April 6 when American ninth army forces overran a prison camp on the southwest edge of Soest.

Maj. Forrest W. Creamer of Jeffersonville (state not listed) told about it today. He was the first American officer to enter the compound after the troops captured it.

Many of the officers had been prisoners for five years. At least 800 of them made a forced march from Arnswald, northeast of Berlin, to Soest, southeast of Hamm, when the Russians overran Pomerania. The distance is more than 300 miles.

The prisoners told Creamer they had had no medical attention lately, not even during the march from Arnswald which was made in subfreezing weather. They were on the road from Jan. 29 to March 20. They slept in the open on the way, and the feet of many were frozen.

OLD C-C BUILDING DUE FOR DISCARD

The 40-year old former Chamber of Commerce building on Main street near the railroad tracks, having out-lived its usefulness, has been sold by the Southern Pacific Co. to a local contractor and is being completely removed.

Exact construction date of the building is not on record but it was built by the Commercial Club of Medford about 40 years ago on property owned by the Southern Pacific.

The building, having been used for civic purposes throughout the years, was vacated by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce last year.

According to Southern Pacific officials no plans have been made for future occupancy of the lot on which the building stood.

VIENNA CLEARED OF NAZI FORCES, AUSTRIANS SAY

Russians Complete Occupation of Remaining Districts—Door Open to Germany.

By United Press

London, April 11.—(U.P.)—An Austrian broadcast said today that the last three Nazi-held districts of Vienna have been cleared, presumably completing the liberation of the Austrian capital.

Radio Sender Austria said the Leopoldstadt (second) and Brigittenau (20th) districts, both between the Danube river canal and the river itself, and the Floridsdorf (21st) district east of the river finally had been liberated.

Occupation of the remainder of Vienna's 21 districts—all those west of the river and canal—was completed yesterday by Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Russian 3d Ukrainian army.

Escape Narrowed
A soviet front dispatch said Tolbukhin had captured a crossing over the Danube canal into the Leopoldstadt and Brigittenau districts.

Russian forces at last reports were driving along the east bank of the Danube less than eight miles northeast of Floridsdorf. They had narrowed the German escape gap from Vienna to less than 10 miles, already spanned by artillery fire.

The liberation of Vienna would topple the strongest bastion athwart the back door to Germany and the Nazi last-ditch defense zone in the Austrian and Bavarian Alps.

ACTOR LOOKING FOR LAND HERE

Regis Toney, Hollywood movie actor, and Bradley Page, retired actor, left Medford this morning for southern California after a brief visit in the city.

Toney is in the cast of "Dough Girls," which played at the Craterian theater last night.

Toney and Page came here from Curry county, the former having been a guest at the Page ranch there for the past several days. Both expressed themselves as delighted with southern Oregon and Toney is hoping to purchase land in this area.

Page retired from the screen about four years ago and since has spent most of his time on the Curry county ranch.

The men were registered at the Holland hotel while in the city.

AUTO ROLLS OVER ON CRATER LAKE HIGHWAY

A Pontiac sedan operated by Mrs. Erna D. Perry, Shady Cove, upset late yesterday afternoon on the Crater Lake highway a short distance from Medford when a rear tire blew out, according to a report from state police.

The vehicle rolled over one and one-half times.

Neither Mrs. Perry or her mother-in-law, Mrs. Minnie Perry and five-year-old daughter, Carrie, passengers in the auto, were injured, police said, although the car was badly wrecked.

CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27

April 27 is the date of the concert of choral music to be presented by music students of Medford senior high school Miss Mabel Nansen, music supervisor, stated today. The a cappella choir and girls' chorus will be featured in the program.

Chungking, April 11.—(U.P.)—More than 5,000 Japanese, including a divisional and regimental commander, were killed in the battle of the Neisiang district of southwest Honan, a communique announced today.

235 COAL MINES SEIZED IN EFFORT TO HALT STRIKES

Producers, Unionists Prepare to Ratify New Wage Contract After Seizure.

By United Press

Washington, April 11.—(U.P.)—Soft Coal Producers and the United Mine Workers prepared today to ratify a new wage contract estimated by operators to mean an average daily raise of \$1.30 for miners and a \$150,000,000 a year expense for the industry.

Negotiations for the two parties reached agreement last night shortly after the government seized 235 coal mines that had been beset by wildcat strikes traceable in part to the uncertainty of the nearly six weeks of wage discussions.

In Seven States
The seized mines were located in seven states—Pennsylvania, Ohio, Alabama, Virginia, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky—and for the most part were the so-called captive mines operated by steel companies.

Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes was directed to operate the 235 mines seized by the government. He appointed the mine owners as federal managers, ordered the American flag run up over the pits and the miners to report for work tomorrow morning.

NAZIS GIVE WAY BEFORE ALLIES IN ITALY DRIVE

Rome, April 11.—(U.P.)—Both coastal wings of the German defenses in Italy swayed back today before concerted allied drives which captured the La Spezia naval base's outpost of Massa and gained two and a half miles through three Po valley towns.

The American 8th army stormed through Massa, Germany stronghold 18 miles southeast of La Spezia, and on the other side of Italy the British 8th army's new offensive across the Senio river toppled Lugo, 23 miles southeast of Bologna, Fusignano, four miles northeast of Lugo, and Cotignola, four and a half miles east of Lugo.

Gen. Mark W. Clark's 15th army group was striking all along the line in a bid to whittle down the German might in Italy before it could fall back to join the homeland defenders in a last hopeless stand.

Throughout the day yesterday allied planes carried on their greatest attack since the invasion of southern France last August. They flew 1,650 sorties.

LOUISIANA FLOOD VICTIMS REACH 4

New Orleans, La., April 11.—(U.P.)—Helicopters carried food, clothing and medicine to thousands of homeless flood victims in central Louisiana today as the death toll from swollen streams mounted to four.

Clarence F. Rowland, head of the National Red Cross disaster committee headquarters at Alexandria said nearly 70,000 families presently were affected by the floods. Over 40,000, he said had been evacuated already.

Thousands of refugees were living in tent cities throughout the stricken area and were being fed from field kitchens.

Approximately 1,500,000 acres of land were under water and thousands of head of cattle had drowned.