

ALLIES POISED TO TRAP MILLION

Yankee Armored Wedge Behind Germans Drives For Russian Juncture

Paris, Sunday, April 15.—(U.P.)—A huge fleet of RAF bombers blasted Berlin and its suburban defenses last night in support of American 9th army troops approaching from the west, while the American 1st and 3rd armies, quickly by-passing Leipzig, swung out below the capital to within 80-odd miles of a juncture with the Russians, thus threatening the bulk of the remnants of the once all-powerful German army with entrapment.

An armored wedge of the 1st and 3rd, 75 miles wide, was being pushed steadily across the supply and communication area behind the German armies facing the Russians, threatening imminent disaster to the tottering Nazi Reich. When the wedge reaches the Russian lines, the main German forces—perhaps 1,000,000 men—will be cut off in a 25,000 square mile pocket, including Berlin and extending to the Baltic.

IN BERLIN SUBURBS

The Paris radio said American 9th army men to the north already were in Berlin's outskirts. The Luxembourg radio said they were 13 miles away. The Germans themselves said they were only 21 miles away as of Friday. In London, newspapers expected their triumphal entry into the rubble capital to be announced at any hour.

These developments came as the Germans admitted that powerful red armies massed along the Oder only 30 miles east of Berlin, had at last opened an offensive, as though bent on beating the Americans to the supreme goal of the allies.

ELBE FORCED

The 9th army's 2nd "Hell on Wheels" armored division was battering across the Berlin plains, still under a security blackout clamped on its movements ever since it leaped the Elbe river at Magdeburg on Thursday. A second 9th army armored task force forced the Elbe at an undisclosed point yesterday and joined the Berlin sweepstakes. German reports spoke vaguely of stiff opposition and bitter fighting—reports so vague they seemed to have little substance.

Clearing the way for the onrushing Yanks, the RAF sent a giant fleet of Lancaster four-motored bombers against both Berlin and the garrison town and rail center of Potsdam, on the southwestern edge of the city.

As the hour of victory in Europe neared, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower returned to supreme headquarters Saturday after a tour of the front during which he found all his allied troops eager to deliver the final stroke to crush German militarism.

RED OFFENSIVE

London, Sunday, April 15.—(U.P.)—Germany reported last night that the red army had opened attacks on a 35-mile front west of the Oder and penetrated German lines only 26 miles from Berlin in the first phase of a general offensive aimed at reaching the capital before the Americans.

Far in the north, the Soviets opened an all-out assault on German expeditious on the Samland peninsula west of Koenigsberg and capturing 80 towns, carved down the enemy holdings in East Prussia to 120 square miles. The roadstead of the Germans' only escape port, Pillau, and surrounding waters were a graveyard of German shipping.

RUHR BATTLE EBBS

Far behind the spearheads, the battle of the Ruhr neared an end as the 1st and 9th armies, taking another 19,904 prisoners for a Ruhr total of 110,000, reached within two and a half miles of cutting the pocket in two near Hagen. One report said those forces had met, splitting the die-hard Nazis.

Resistance in the Holland pocket weakened suddenly as Canadian 1st army troops captured or fought into four major German anchor towns—Arnhem, Deventer, Zwolle and Broningen—and reached within seven miles of the North Sea near the Ems river estuary.

The plight of the Nazis was emphasized by the fact that they have now lost 31 of their first 60 cities, with a total population of some 8,000,000 to the eastern and western allies. The Americans were threatening or fighting in six others—Dresden, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Chemnitz, Halle and Dessau.

Prisoners were pouring into the rear areas so rapidly it was almost impossible to take care of them. The 1st army bagged 34,847 alone on Friday—believed to be a one-day record for the western front.

LISBON REPORTS SURRENDER DEAL

London, April 14.—(U.P.)—Private advices from Lisbon said today that the Papal Nunciature there recently received a confidential note that Adolf Hitler had met with his high command and decided to ask Pope Pius XII to arrange details for the surrender of Germany.

This dispatch said that Hitler discussed German capitulation with his generals and decided in favor of it and in favor of requesting the Pope's intervention to arrange details. There was no confirmation of this report.

WAR BULLETINS

On the Outskirts of Erfurt, Germany, April 14.—(U.P.)—Col. Robert S. Allen, partner of columnist Drew Pearson, taken prisoner by the Germans near Eisenach, has been liberated in Erfurt by soldiers of the U. S. 80th infantry division. Allen, former co-author of the column "Washington Merry-Go-Round," was captured by Nazi troops when his jeep was ambushed a half a mile beyond American lines.

With the U. S. Seventh Army, Germany, April 14.—(U.P.)—Maj. William C. Bullitt, former American ambassador to France, has been named military governor of Baden Eaden, captured Thursday by the French 1st army, it was announced today. Bullitt, who is 53, joined the French army as a major after being rejected by the U. S. army because of age.

EISENHOWER ENDS TOUR OF FRONTS

Paris, April 14.—(U.P.)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower returned to supreme headquarters today after an extended tour of the 1st army corps' fronts in central Germany.

Accompanied by Generals Omar N. Bradley and Courtney Hodges, Eisenhower yesterday rode through thick dust clouds over shell-pocked German roads along the southern and eastern fringe of the Ruhr pocket which now is 25 miles wide and 40 miles deep. Latest reports disclosed that Nazis had ordered civilians in the area to put on uniforms and fight with regular troops.

DAY OF GRACE IS GIVEN TAXPAYERS

Salem, Ore., April 14.—(U.P.)—A "day of grace" for payment of state income taxes was announced today by tax commissioners. Salem and Portland offices will remain open Monday, and returns mailed and postmarked before midnight Monday will be accepted without penalty.

The added day is granted because payment deadline—April 15—falls on Sunday.

THE WEATHER

Fair and clear Sunday with little change in temperature. High 71, low 32 degrees, Saturday.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

Fortieth Year MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 1945 NO. 20.

VON PAPEN, NAZI 'BIG WIG' CAUGHT BY GLIDER CREW

Political Fixer for Hitler Nabbed in Ruhr—Flown to Paris.

Washington, April 14.—(U.P.)—The War Department said tonight it had no information substantiating the report that Franz von Papen had been flown to this country.

Paris, April 14.—(U.P.)—Baron Franz von Papen, former chancellor of Germany, was seized in the Ruhr pocket by American troops this week and is believed to have been flown to the United States.

"I wish this war were over," von Papen told his captors, one of whom answered: "So do eleven million other guys."

The shrewd political fixer for Adolf Hitler in World War II and saboteur extraordinary for the Kaiser in World War I, was taken by troops of the U. S. 17th airborne division at the town of Stockhausen along with his son and son-in-law on Wednesday.

London reported there was no indication whether Papen was on the Allied war criminal list. The list being drawn by the Allied War Crimes Commission is shrouded in secrecy and among all the Nazi criminals on it only Adolf Hitler thus far has been identified by name.

The tall, monocled Papen, an overbearing Prussian of 66 years, was seized in a small hunting lodge in the hills near Stockhausen, 30 miles southeast of Hamm, by a first lieutenant and seven glider infantrymen.

He was flown to Paris from a small airfield 20 miles behind the front lines. It is believed he later was flown to the United States, according to the custom of special treatment of high ranking generals and leading civilian prisoners taken by allied forces.

The Americans first captured his son, Franz, Jr., a captain in the German army. His American accent betrayed him—he was educated at Georgetown University—and the Yanks became suspicious and upon questioning, learned his identity.

Papen was taken 30 days after American 1st and 9th army troops snapped shut the trap around the Ruhr pocket by making a junction along its eastern edge.

Papen was the most prominent Nazi official bagged to date by the Allied armies. He was the first Nazi "big wig" to fall into Allied hands since Rudolf Hess, former No. 2 Nazi, parachuted into Scotland shortly before Germany attacked Russia in the summer of 1941.

DEGAULLE HONORS FRENCH HEROINES

Paris, April 14.—(U.P.)—A ragged parade of 20 pitifully thin women tottered or were carried through the streets of Paris today—the first women political prisoners freed from Ravensbrück prison camp in Germany.

Gen. Charles DeGaulle led weeping and laughing throngs to meet the heroic women, many of whom were arrested for aiding allied flyers. Lillies of the valley and lilacs fluttered through the air and landed at the feet of the women.

A guard of honor stood at attention as DeGaulle, his eyes filled with tears, embraced each woman.

HUGE EXPLOSION SHAKES HASTING

Hasting, England, Sunday, April 15.—(U.P.)—An explosion, which was believed to be the biggest in the British coast throughout the war, shook the area around Hasting early today. The cause was not known.

Roosevelt's Funeral Train on Way to Capital



The hearse bearing the body of President Roosevelt reaches the little railroad station at Warm Springs, Ga., as hundreds of residents of the President's other home stand in silence and bare their heads as the cortege passes. Troops from Ft. Benning that marched in the procession deploy in company front and present their arms at the salute. Their Colors flew black streamers to signify the mourning of the nation.

VICTORY NEAR IN EUROPE VIEW OF BRITISH PAPERS

London, Sunday, April 15.—(U.P.)—The London Sunday Express said today that "new being the scenes developments" had reached London which indicated the complete collapse of Germany was at hand.

London, April 14.—(U.P.)—Victory in Europe was near tonight. The British press believed the news of an allied entry into Berlin and a junction with the Russian armies would come at any hour. It reported an air of "high expectancy" in all government offices.

Sunday morning newspaper headlines were in the same vein. "This is victory weekend," said the Sunday Dispatch, with a sub-headline saying that "Berlin calls in reinforcements." The Sunday Times in a three-column tophead said "Germans Unable to Save Berlin." The Sunday Observer said "News of first-class importance reached ministers in Downing street yesterday and high officials who rarely are to be found in their offices on Saturday were on duty all day."

The London News of the World, quoting an American broadcast, said that "entry into Berlin is imminent." The London Evening Standard said that "we are on the eve of tidings of really sensational events. News of the greatest importance is expected hourly in London. Some of these events may even already have happened, for published war news is behind the private dispatches which reach Whitehall from the generals in Germany."

"The expectation in London today was that there will be news of: "One, entry of allied troops into Berlin, or, "Two, the capitulation of the German army."

The Evening Standard added that there was "no confirmation" that big events already had been reported to the government and were being withheld pending still more important information.

BULLETIN

Washington, Sunday, April 15.—(U.P.)—Pennsylvania Central Airlines officials said early today that 17 passengers were aboard a Birmingham-bound plane which has been missing since yesterday afternoon on a flight from Pittsburgh.

The officials, releasing a partial list of passengers, said that five persons on the plane were military personnel.

The airliner left Pittsburgh shortly after 4:30 P. M. EWT and was last reported over Brownsville, Pa., at 4:55 P. M. It still had not been heard from at midnight, officials said, although a wide-spread search has begun.

IMPERIAL PALACE AND SHRINE HIT; SUZUKI, SO SORRY

Tokyo Arsenal Area Blazes After Super-Forts Raid—Marines Gain.

Guam, April 14.—(U.P.)—Fires burned throughout a five-square-mile "arsenal area" of Tokyo tonight, hours after hundreds of American superfortresses, one of the largest forces yet employed, dropped bombs on the city, and Tokyo broadcasts said Premier Kantaro Suzuki had apologized to the emperor for damage done to imperial palace buildings.

(20th air force communique at Washington said that six bombers were missing from a "very large task force" which attacked Tokyo. It said that attack was directed at a "concentrated industrial area in the center of Tokyo which includes the important Tokyo arsenal complex," and that the Japanese imperial palace.)

Tokyo said in a communique that buildings within the imperial palace, the adjoining Onmya palace, residence of the empress dowager, and the Akasaka detached palace were set afire and that the main building and sanctuary of the Meiji Shrine, one of the greatest Shinto shrines in Japan, had been razed.

Guam, Sunday, April 15.—(U.P.)—U. S. Infantrymen on southern Okinawa beat off another small Japanese counter-attack Saturday and marines in the north pushed ahead against negligible resistance to bring almost half of the important island under American control.

TRIBUTE DISPUTE CAUSES WALKOUT

Portland, Ore., April 14.—(U.P.)—A walkout started by a few employees of the American Can company today at 1 p. m. spread to about half the plant's workers, stopping production for a time.

The walkout was said to have resulted from a misunderstanding over taking time out to pay tribute to the memory of the late president, which John R. Spence, plant superintendent, said had been decided against because of war orders for cans.

CIO President Philip Murray had urged all members of the union to stay on the job, and United Steel Workers' Representative James Menzie said the walkout was completely unauthorized.

TORNADOES, FLOOD LEAVE TRAIL OF DEATH AND RUIN

By United Press

Three terrifying days of freakish weather conditions left a ghastly trail of death, misery and destruction in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Texas Saturday night.

The counted dead numbered 133, most of them victims of hop-skipping tornadoes. Others were flood victims.

Oklahoma suffered heaviest. Even before it could obtain a clear count of its tornado deaths—tentatively numbered at 95 Saturday night—heavy rains and floods hit the state touching off a new series of life and property losses.

A survey of the situation in the four states showed: Oklahoma, 102 dead—95 from tornadoes, four from related accidents, three from floods—and five missing; Arkansas, 24 dead from tornadoes; Missouri, six dead from tornadoes; and Texas, one dead from a tornado.

Injured from all causes in the four-state area approached the 1,000 mark.

It was impossible to derive a clear cut estimate of the property damage. Eventually it might be fixed as high as \$10,000,000.

YUGOSLAVS TAKE ISLAND GARRISON

London, April 14.—(U.P.)—Yugoslav patriots, in a daring land and sea assault, have seized Rab Island in the Dalmatians, Marshal Tito announced today. Other units crushed the Germans' Vauter Srem front in northeastern Yugoslavia and captured Osijek, 25 miles from the Hungarian border.

The communique, released by the Yugoslav home service, said the entire Nazi garrison in the town of Rab had been wiped out after bitter fighting. Much booty was taken, it was reported.

FINAL RITES FOR MR. ROOSEVELT IN CAPITOL SPOKEN

Millions Pay Silent Tribute To Late Executive—Services Brief.

Washington, April 14.—(U.P.)—Franklin D. Roosevelt, through the lips of another, told the nation again today that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

The dead president's first message to the nation thus became his last.

It was a message of great faith in America, first voiced at Mr. Roosevelt's first inaugural in the depression days of 1933.

It was given utterance again in his name at a 24-minute funeral service in the White House on this showery April afternoon.

In the presence of 200 persons—a handful of the millions who loved Franklin D. Roosevelt—the Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, Episcopal bishop of Washington, recalled the stirring example of confidence set by the president on that dark day 12 years ago.

Departing from the text of the moving Episcopal service for the dead, the bishop quoted: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself..."

Then, standing over the flag-covered casket, in the gilt and crystal room, the bishop added: "As those were his first words to us, I am sure he would wish them to be his last. He will go forward in his faith in this, as we also go forward."

The service started at 4 p. m. EWT as millions of Americans the world over, fighting men as well as civilians, paid silent tribute to the leader and friend who led them to the threshold of victory in war and peace.

They were the last rites for Mr. Roosevelt in the capital. Tomorrow at 10 a. m. EWT he will be buried in a rose-bowered garden on his beloved Hudson river estate at Hyde Park, N. Y.

Outside the White House, as Bishop Dun spoke, a throng of other mourners milled. They were a part of the vast crowd, estimated at between 300,000 and 500,000, that watched the military funeral procession pass earlier in Union Station to the White House.

Clouds which loosed showers on the crowd several minutes before the funeral lifted at 4 p. m. and the sun shone through.

President Truman and Mrs. Roosevelt were the chief mourners. The woman who had been first lady for 12 years never gave way to her grief. When the bishop asked everyone to join in singing hymns for the service "because they were favorites of the president," her lips moved almost imperceptibly.

Funeral Delayed

The special train bearing the president's body northward left Union Station here at 10:42 p. m. EWT. Aboard it were nearly 140 persons, the family, Mr. and Mrs. Truman and their daughter, Margaret, many of Mr. Roosevelt's closest friends, and scores of top government officials. Fala, the president's Scottie, made the last trip home with his master.

The train's departure was delayed nearly 45 minutes by difficulty with a coupling. It is scheduled to arrive at Hyde Park at 8:40 a. m. EWT tomorrow.

WIDOW BEARS HER ORDEAL BRAVELY

Washington, April 14.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt bore the ordeal of her husband's last ride to the White House like a soldier.

MEDFORD GIVEN GREEN LIGHT ON NEW RESERVOIR

WPB Grants Priority for \$185,000 Project—Call for Bids in Few Weeks.

Award of priorities for construction of additional Medford city water storage to cost approximately \$185,000, was made Friday in Portland by WPB, according to Robert A. Duff, superintendent of the Medford Water Commission, who returned Saturday from the metropolis.

The commission had hoped to construct a ten million gallon reservoir but tentative plans for the maximum size project were changed to 8,200,000 gallons when priorities could not be secured. The original plans had also called for a concrete slab cover for this feature but priority for this feature was also refused. Duff said the plans as approved call for abutments and other facilities which will make installation of the cover easy after the war.

The superintendent pointed out that covering of reservoirs, besides keeping out possible contamination also prevents algae, a serious problem in water storage.

On Capital Hill

It is the intention of the commission to build the reservoir this spring just east of the present south reservoir on Capital Hill. Removal of approximately 17,000 cubic yards of rock and 5,000 yards of earth will be necessary, and 720 feet of 16-inch and 870 feet of 24-inch pipe will be required.

Duff, while in Portland, conferred with John W. Cunningham and Associates, consulting engineers, and was informed complete plans for the reservoir could probably be made available within two weeks. Upon receipt of the plans, the water superintendent said, he expected the commission would formally authorize construction and would issue a call for bids for the work under general contract.

Money to cover the entire cost of the project has been accumulated by the commission in a construction fund. Much of the money came from supplying Camp White with water.

Costs Lower Now

Superintendent Duff was particularly enthused over the prospect of getting the work under way at once as he said it was generally believed that construction costs now are lower than may be expected after the war when a flood of long-needed public work gets under way.

Construction of the new reservoir will help to lift the ever-present threat of water shortage which would follow a possible major break in the 30-mile-long supply line from the Big Butte springs at the foot of Mount Pitt. A break in the line at the peak of summer consumption would leave only a half day's supply, under present limited conditions, Duff pointed out.

Peak consumption for a single day in 1944 was 8,500,000 gallons, exclusive of water furnished the camp, and in 1943, the highest single day's consumption was 9,500,000. The superintendent pointed out that with this terrific drain on the mains, additional storage is seen imperative, especially in view of the increased population.

MOSCOW PAYS FDR SPECIAL HONORS

Moscow, April 14.—(U.P.)—Black bordered red flags fluttered from all official buildings today in accordance with an official Soviet decree ordering two days of mourning for President Roosevelt.

It was the first time in Soviet history that black-bordered flags have flown for a foreign statesman. Hitherto such an act was reserved for only the highest national leaders, such as Lenin.