

STETTIN CAPTURED BY RUSSIANS

MEDFORD

MAIL TRIBUNE

Largest Baltic Port Taken In New Drive; Baltic Wing Buckled

United Press—Full Leased Wire
Fortieth Year MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1945. NO. 30.

Early Showdown Seen In Conference

BRITISH WORRIED VE-DAY MAY BEAT END OF MEETING

Molotov Banquet Is Surprise Gesture; Vodka Flows Freely; Support Pledged.

San Francisco, April 26.—(U.P.) Moving in an environment of anxiety that V-E Day may overtake this United Nations conference before it completes its labors, the British delegation was understood to have decided today to urge an immediate speed-up of proceedings.

The British were expected to make their hurry-up proposal at once, perhaps before there can be a showdown on Russia's request for three votes in the organization assembly and her demand for admission of Poland to this conference.

The state department has been estimating upward of six weeks for conference work. It was reported that the British want the delegates out of the conference trenches within four weeks. The British were expected to suggest that this conference simply outline the general structure of the proposed international organization to maintain peace. Details—perhaps including the number of assembly votes to be enjoyed by Russia—might be filled in later.

Russia, it appeared, may submit to the initial meeting of the conference steering committee her request that the Ukraine and White Russian republics be granted seats in the conference. Whether Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov will also submit for a third time a demand that the Warsaw provisional Polish regime be represented was not yet known.

However, it appeared that there had been no actual developments on the Polish matter since the big three discussions were suspended in Washington because of the imminent opening of the San Francisco gathering. Some quarters said the Polish issue would not be brought to a showdown today but would await further consultations between Molotov, W. Averell Harriman, U. S. ambassador to Moscow, and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, British ambassador to Moscow. These three comprise the commission set up at Yalta to deal with Poland and there has been no change in their authority to handle the issue.

The possibility of quick and amicable settlement of the Russian three vote request and the Argentine representation issue emerged sharply.

Molotov Host
Molotov made a surprise gesture which raised diplomatic hopes that these hurdles to conference agreement might be cleared more easily than expected.



A smiling V. M. Molotov (center), Soviet Foreign Commissar, is met at San Francisco Airport by W. Averell Harriman (left), U. S. Ambassador to Moscow, and Gerald Drew of the U. S. State Department.

TRUMAN PLEADS FOR MACHINERY TO PREVENT WAR

Washington, April 26.—(U.P.) President Truman in a radio address to the opening session of the United Nations conference last night called for world peace machinery which would prevent "any nation or group of nations" from settling "their arguments with bombs and bayonets."

Speaking from the White House, he told the conference delegates they had a choice between two alternatives—"the continuation of international chaos—or the establishment of a world organization for the enforcement of peace."

"It is not the purpose of this conference," he continued, "to draft a treaty of peace in the old sense of that term. It is our assignment to settle specific questions of territories, boundaries, citizenship and reparations."

Instead, he said, the task before the conference is "the single problem of setting up the essential organization to keep the peace."

"Our sole objective, at this decisive gathering, is to create the structure," he said. "We must provide the machinery, which will make future peace, not only possible, but certain."

Mr. Truman apparently was mindful of international differences which have flared before the meeting.

"PW" FAD BANNED
St. Louis, Mo., April 26.—(U.P.) School officials today announced a ban on high school students lettering the backs of their denim jumpers with the letters "PW," a fad going the rounds here. Authorities announced "serious consequences might result" from wearing the prisoner of war markings.

Britain are committed to support the Russian request that the conference consider the admission of Ukraine and White Russia delegates. Britain will support the proposal down the line. Whether the American delegates will vote for it, as well as voting that it be considered, was not certain.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

San Francisco, April 26.—(U.P.)—Here is today's schedule for the United Nations conference:
3:30 p.m.—Second plenary session of the conference to hear report of the steering committee.
4:00 p.m. (approximately)—After receiving the report of the steering committee, the plenary session will hear addresses by Chinese Foreign Minister T. V. Soong, Russian Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov, and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

GOERING OUT AS AIR COMMANDER

London, April 26.—(U.P.)—The Hamburg radio reported tonight that Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering had been relieved of the command of the German air force.

Gen. Ritter von Grein was reported to have succeeded Goering and to have been raised to the rank of Field Marshal after his appointment.

The Nazi radio said Goering was suffering from acute heart disease, asked to be relieved of the Luftwaffe command, and Adolf Hitler granted his request.

Goering, the No. 2 Nazi whom Adolf Hitler once designated as his eventual successor, was the first of the party hierarchy to fade out of the picture in the hour of Germany's supreme crisis, so far as enemy reports had revealed.

Packers Declare Detectives Can't Halt Black Mart

Washington, April 26.—(U.P.)—A spokesman for the "big four" meat packers told senate food investigators today that "all the detectives in the world" couldn't stop the black market in meat now.

Judge James D. Cooney of Wilson and Co., Chicago, said he "was not surprised at all" that a subcommittee headed by Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, D., Mont., found that 80 per cent of meat sold in Pittsburgh is black market.

He added that the Washington black market is "only slightly less," and that in New York and Boston it "might be a little bit worse than here."

ITALIAN UPRISING BREAKS NAZI GRIP IN NORTHERN AREA

Rome, April 26.—(U.P.)—A general uprising of Italian patriots was reported unofficially today to have broken the German grip on north Italy and liberated Milan, Genoa, Turin, Verona and scores of other towns.

Allied military authorities, whose armies were sweeping deep into northern Italy on the heels of routed German forces, withheld immediate confirmation of reports from the north of the rebellion against the Nazis and Fascists.

But accounts of the uprisings were supported by every evidence that the patriots had seized and were operating the radios in Milan and Genoa. Supplementary reports circulated freely in the Swiss border areas.

Swiss advices quoted an Italian press dispatch as hinting that Benito Mussolini was trying to make a deal with the patriots in an effort to save his life. He was reported to have been set up as a Nazi figurehead in north Italy after he was "rescued" by the Germans when his Fascist regime cracked up.

DUCE REPORTED TAKEN CAPTIVE

By United Press
A Swiss telegraph agency dispatch reported by the FCC said today that according to reports from reliable sources Benito Mussolini was captured by Italian patriots in Pallanza on the west shore of Lake Maggiore.

Mussolini was described as reaching Pallanza after flight from Milan, where an Italian patriot uprising was said unofficially to have liberated the city.

Disintegration of Nazi Army Reminiscent of 1918 Scenes

By W. R. Higginbotham
United Press Staff Correspondent
London, April 26.—(U.P.)—The German army was disintegrating today amid scenes reminiscent of 1918.

OKINAWA FORCES SMASH JAPANESE LINE OF DEFENSE

Huge Fleet of Superbombers Rain T.N.T. on Jap Homeland; Troops Near Naha.

By United Press
American forces pressed the Okinawa campaign today with new land, air and sea blows against the Japanese.

At the southern end of the island, ground troops smashed through the first major Japanese defense line in a half mile advance that carried to within less than three and a half miles of Naha, the capital.

Two hundred to 250 Superfortresses ranged over the Japanese homeland again, attacking airfields on Kyushu and Shikoku.

Casualties Revealed
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced that up to yesterday American forces had killed 21,289 Japanese on Okinawa and surrounding islands. American casualties in the campaign as of April 22 were: Army: 889 dead, 4,879 wounded and 289 missing; marines: 257 dead, 1,103 wounded and seven missing.

The advance on southern Okinawa followed almost continuous bombardment of Japanese positions since last Thursday by naval guns and the greatest artillery concentration of the Pacific war.

Japs Withdraw
Thousands of Japanese were reported killed and wounded in the shelling. The enemy began withdrawing surviving units from the first defense line Sunday. The withdrawal was completed Monday night.

American encountered bitter opposition as the enemy fell back to deeper defenses and were forced to burn and blast the Japanese from pillboxes, blockhouses and caves.

Toungoo Captured
In the Philippines, American troops pushed into the central hills of Mindanao in an advance that carried within 45 miles of Davao.

On northern Luzon, the Americans encountered strong opposition after driving within a little more than a mile northwest of Baguio.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced that Filipino guerrillas had cleared the Japanese from the province of Ilocos Sur in northwestern Luzon.

NEARLY ALL MEAT IS PLACED UNDER RATIONING ORDER

All Meats Except Mutton to Require Red Points Beginning Next Sunday.

Washington, April 26.—(U.P.)—Price Chief Chester Bowles today brought 99½ per cent of all meat under rationing in order to spread more evenly civilian supplies expected to drop another six million pounds in May.

Beginning Sunday and continuing until the start of the rationing period June 2, all meats except mutton will require red points, including cull and utility grades of veal and lamb and all grades of less popular cuts of veal and lamb such as breasts, shanks, necks and flanks.

Other changes in the meat and fat rationing program for May will be increases of one to two points per pound for most cuts of lamb and veal and one point for most beef steaks; decreases of one to two points on beef roasts and other cuts of beef; increases of four points for margarine; and two points for grade one cheese.

Butter and hamburger remain unchanged at 24 and 6 points per pound. So do ration values of lard, shortening, cooking and salad oils.

The expanded program for May puts meat rationing back where it was a year ago before most meats were made point free. Since then point values have been gradually restored until in April 94½ per cent was back on the ration list. Today's action makes it 99½ per cent.

The only meat that remains unrationed is some five million pounds of mutton.

Bowles said the adjustments were necessary to distribute the available meat supply as evenly as possible "during the period of very short civilian supplies."

He estimated civilians would have six million pounds less meat in May than they did in April, but said there should be improved distribution of what there is as a result of OPA's newly announced meat control program.

The plan calls for expenditures of \$34,000,000 to insure most producers against loss, increase the amount of federally inspected meat available for civilians and stamp out the black market.

In another move yesterday aimed at increasing the supply of lard the War Food Administration extended hog support prices to include good and choice grade animals weighing up to 300 pounds. Heavy hogs provide more lard.

London, April 26.—(U.P.)—The Brussels radio said tonight that American and Russian troops had joined forces on a 12½-mile front.

London, April 26.—(U.P.)—Russian storm troops today captured Stettin, Germany's biggest Baltic port, and 80 miles to the southwest they burst into the heart of Berlin within 400 yards of where Adolf Hitler was reported directing the defense of the gutted capital.

Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's army forced the lower Oder and loosed a victorious blow at Stettin, unhinging the Baltic wing of the German defenses in the north and crippling any Nazi bid to make a stand on the Mecklenburg plain.

FORCES FREED FOR BOHEMIA PUSH
At the other end of the eastern front the Moravian capital of Bruenn (Brno) fell to Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's second Ukrainian army. The fall of the big industrial and transportation center freed strong Soviet forces for the push into Bohemia and completion of the Czechoslovak campaign.

Stettin, on the west bank of the Oder estuary, fell to a new Soviet offensive synchronized with Marshal Stalin's end-of-war push against Berlin and toward a junction with the Anglo-American allies in the west.

Even as his troops drove into the Potsdamer Platz and Tiergarten in the middle of Berlin, threatening to overrun the purported headquarters of Hitler nearby, Stalin broadcast a special order of the day announcing that Rokossovsky's second White Russian army had gone into action.

WHITE RUSSIANS SWING KAYO
Smashing across the Oder south of Stettin, the White Russians swung a knockout punch against the city of 268,000—Berlin's outlet to the sea—from the south. In advances of more than 18 miles, the new drive also overran Schwedt, 45 miles northeast of Berlin; Kasekow, 31 southwest of Stettin; Penkun, 15 southwest of Stettin; and Gartz, 16 southwest of Stettin.

Stettin, the capital of Pomerania, was under assault from the south, a German communique said even before Stalin's order was broadcast from Moscow.

HITLER'S TIME SHORT

If Hitler was in Berlin—as the Nazis have insisted for four days—time was running short for him. Berlin was surrounded by red army troops and rescue by land was all but impossible. The Berlin garrison was being pressed into a tight pocket in the center of the city.

Moscow dispatches said Russian troops had overrun the Tempelhof airfield and captured a number of planes with warmed-up motors, apparently preventing a last-minute escape flight by Nazi leaders.

The Hamburg radio reported the fighting in the Potsdamer Platz area and in the middle of Berlin's Tiergarten.

ALLIES CAPTURE BREMEN; DRIVE TOWARD MUNICH

Paris, April 26.—(U.P.)—Allied armies bending back both wings of Germany's western front captured the wrecked North Sea Port of Bremen today and drove within 8½ miles of the Austro-German-Czechoslovak border triangle.

Gen. George S. Patton's free-wheeling Third army spurred in over the approaches of Passau, Bavarian fortress 67 miles from Berchtesgaden, and broadened its drive against the Nazis "national redoubt" in thrusts toward Munich, Salzburg and Linz.

Circle Regensburg
Regensburg, beleaguered Danube stronghold, was almost encircled by troops tumbling across the Danube on a broad front. Advanced spearheads were within about 40 miles of Munich.

Delayed front dispatches, lagging 12 hours and more behind Patton's racing tanks, said the Americans were only 11 miles from Passau last night and rolling unchecked through disorganized German opposition.

ROCKET DANGER OVER—CHURCHILL

London, April 26.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill told Commons today that German V-2 attacks on England ended March 27 and revealed that the giant rockets killed 2,754 persons and injured 6,523.

Churchill said London bore the brunt of the attacks, which began last Sept. 8 and ended when British soldiers over-ran the launching sites.

Asked whether he now was able to make a statement on the V-2 bomb raids, Churchill said: "Yes, sir, they have ceased."

The attacks reached their highest point during February. Approximately 1,200 bombs fell on England during the entire campaign.

Lt. Aida Ingraham Goes To Portland for Further Duty

Lt. Aida Ingraham, recruiter for the air corps division of the Women's Army corps, left this morning for Portland where she will report for further assignment. Lt. Ingraham stated yesterday that the Medford WAC recruiting office is now closed and that anyone interested in enlisting in the women's corps should call at the Chamber of Commerce for information.

Lt. Ingraham expressed her appreciation to all the firms and individuals who had aided with the recruiting program in recent months.

"Just Seen Hell," Says Visitor To Buchenwald Camp

London, April 26.—(U.P.)—Sir Henry Morris Jones told the liberal national party conference today that "I have just seen hell in this world."

"I was brought up to believe in heaven and hell," he said. "As I grew older and more mature I abolished the belief in hell. But I have just seen one in this world."

He was one of the parliamentary delegates who visited the Buchenwald camp.

NEW FREIGHT HIGH

Washington, April 26.—(U.P.)—Loadings of railroad revenue freight in the week ended April 21 rose 17,672 cars to a new high of 1,181,000, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

ARGENTINES ARRESTED IN EXTREMIST PLOT

Buenos Aires, April 26.—(U.P.)—A number of persons were held in custody today following discovery of an extremist plot which the government said was designed to nullify Argentina's recent action on international policy.

BASEBALL

National
New York 2 7 0
Philadelphia 0 5 2
Schanz and Mancuso; Feldman and Lombardi.