

MARINES GAIN IN IWO INVASION

Herald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1944

Number 10393

Weather News

February 19, 1944
Max. (Feb. 18)..... 34. Min..... 32
Precipitation last 24 hours..... .00
Stream year to date..... 6.88
Normal..... 7.58. Last year..... 4.63
Forecast: Clear and cold.

Japs Fight Savagely on Island Base

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GUAM, Feb. 19 (AP)—United States marines invaded Tokyo's "lookout" island of Iwo today and pushed 800 yards up rugged slopes from the beachhead to penetrate the important bomber air strip.

The Japanese resisted furiously from heavily fortified positions, despite the continuing bombardment by warships of America's fifth fleet.

First eyewitness accounts from the flagship of Vice Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner, commanding the amphibious operation, said casualties among the marines were "considerable."

The tiny, porkchop-shaped island, invaded at 9 a. m. Monday (Guam time), was a prize the Japanese defended with all their fanatical fury.

Invading marines of the fifth corps, America's oldest amphibious outfit, advanced from the south and east beaches. They reached the bomber strip, most important of Iwo's three airfields (one still under construction) in the first day's struggle.

Japanese artillery, mortar, machinegun and rifle fire raked the ranks of the veteran fourth marine division and the new fifth division, making up the invading force, throughout the day.

Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, commanding the fifth corps, said from his command post aboard Turner's flagship: "Our men are spread all over hell's acre out there. And they're going after those hidden Jap guns, which are mighty hard to locate."

"Satisfactory" Turner said the "overall progress is satisfactory." He declared that the pre-invasion bombardment by warships of the United States fifth fleet had cleaned out some heavier Japanese guns but "by no means all of them."

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' communique announcing the invasion said "the operation is proceeding satisfactorily." He said casualties were "moderate," by early reports. The beachhead extends for nearly two and a half miles northward from the volcano at the southern tip of the air-base island.

Pave the Way Nimitz credited B-29s and submarines with helping pave the way for the morning's invasion of the island whose seizure will step up the air offensive against Tokyo where the fifth fleet air arm destroyed or damaged 36 ships and 759 planes in two days before withdrawing.

Thousands of rockets raked the southern Iwo beaches climaxing the heavy naval bombardment which included batteries of such ancient battleships as the Nevada, sunk at Pearl Harbor and resurrected to help pave the way for the invasion of Normandy and now a stepping stone island to Tokyo.

Two "light units" of the heavy supporting fleet of more than 800 ships which prepared (Continued on Page Three)

Hitler Orders Evacuation of Northern Italy BERN, Switzerland, Feb. 19 (AP)—The newspaper Der Bund reported from Chiasso today that Adolf Hitler has ordered Marshal Albert Kesselring to evacuate northern Italy and the withdrawal is in progress.

The newspaper said Italian fascists, whom it quoted, were in panic and were seeking to mediate for their own safety. Der Bund said four divisions already were leaving by way of the Brenner pass. Some are motorized and others are leaving by horse and foot. Heavy material is being sent by train to Graz, Austria, it was said.

Cherniakhovsky Dies of Wounds LONDON, Feb. 19 (AP)—Gen. Ivan D. Cherniakhovsky, Russia's youngest general and the man who was first to invade German soil, died on Sunday of wounds suffered on the battlefield of East Prussia, Moscow announced today.

The brilliant 37-year-old tank commander of the third White Russian army was the conqueror of Minsk, Wilno, Kaunas and most of East Prussia. A broadcast from Moscow said he would be given a hero's funeral at Wilno. The general was a student and protégé of the late Gen. Nikolai Vatutin. He was born in the Ukraine, son of a railway worker.

Former Nazi Air Chief Kills Self LONDON, Feb. 19 (AP)—A neutral source reported today that Col. Gen. Hubert Weiser, former commander in chief of Germany's air defense, shot and killed himself in his Berlin apartment a few days ago. Weiser was made the scapegoat for the collapse of the reich's air defenses and was ousted from his post a year ago.

Scots Attack Goch, Find Nazi CO in Bed

PARIS, Feb. 19 (AP)—Scottish infantry and tanks mopped up two-thirds of the strategic Siegfried line defense hub of Goch tonight after a surprise attack which caught the German commander and his staff in bed.

At bayonet point, the Scots routed out savagely fighting Germans firing from cellars and rubble ruins of the stronghold where eight military highways meet. Casualties were heavy on both sides.

To the east on the churning 17 mile Kleve-Goch front, British empire troops were fighting within 25 miles of the great Ruhr valley inland port of Duisburg and within 16 miles of Wesel, nearest Ruhr railroad.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. third army advanced up to a half mile on the 32-mile front in western Germany between Echnach and north of Pruem, clearing the Germans from the Sure and Our rivers which form the boundary of northern Luxembourg. His infantry had knocked a hole clear through the Siegfried line for seven miles between Irzenen and Cruchten.

Further south, the U. S. seventh army drove two miles into the German Saarland from Alsace in the area within cannon shot of Saarbruecken. Scotch reports slipped into Goch "by the back door" after breaching difficult defenses to the north of the ruined old city of 13,500.

The southern part of Goch was almost completely cleared. The enemy clung to about a fourth of the north portion in which margarine and other factories are located. The German commander, Col. Paul Matussek, was found wounded in the leg. Scotch commanders expressed belief that he inflicted the wound himself, so that reprisals would not be visited upon his family for his "disgraceful" capture in bed. Caught with him in the same building were a scholarly appearing major and two lieutenants.

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"Good results" were reported from the strike of about 60 India-based B-29s against rail yards and repair shops at Kaula Lumpur.

The attack on Kaula Lumpur, the first by the sky dreadnaughts, was one of a series aimed at cracking enemy communications between Indo-China and Burma. Rail and communications facilities elsewhere along the route have been hammered previously.

Four enemy fighter planes were destroyed or damaged by the Kaula Lumpur raiders, who reported that enemy fighter opposition was weak and that they encountered no anti-aircraft fire. All of the Superfortresses returned from the Kaula Lumpur mission.

Tokyo broadcasts placed the number of raiders at approximately 100 and claimed 10 were shot down. The enemy broadcasts insisted, as usual, that damage was light.

Rail Centers in Germany Bombed LONDON, Feb. 19 (AP)—A dozen rail centers and industrial targets in western Germany, including the big freight yards at Muenster, Osnabrueck, Rheine and Siegen were bombed by 1100 American heavy bombers from Italy. Liberators and Fortresses of the 15th air force bombed rail yards at Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck in Austria and naval installations along the Adriatic coast.

CHUNGKING, Feb. 19 (AP)—The Central News agency quoted Gen. Ho Yin Chinan, China's chief of staff, as saying today that the Japanese were employing up to 50 divisions on the Chinese mainland in a bid to stem a possible American landing on the coast.

"We are making a new disposition of troops and planning an effective offensive to collaborate with allied movements toward victory" said Ho, who commands the new Chinese field headquarters at Kunming.

The Chinese high command said that in the border region of Hunan and Kwangtung provinces the Japanese continued their efforts to seal the gap recently punched in the Canton-Hankow railway by the Chinese.

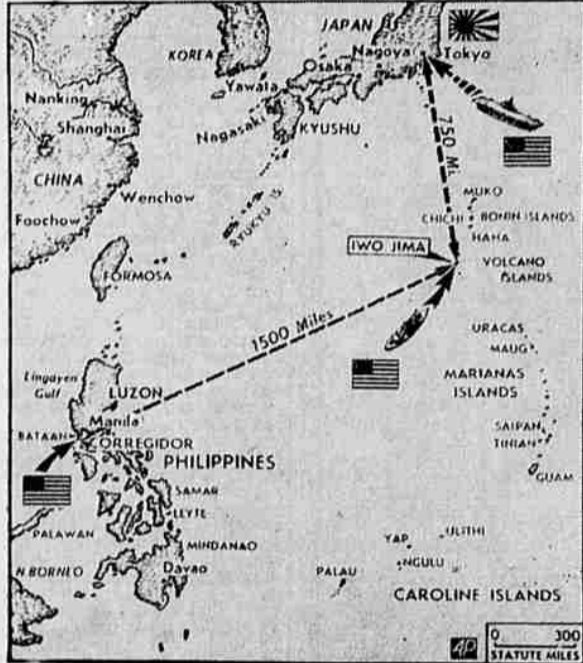
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (AP) Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., paying a surprise visit to Washington, predicted today that the remnants of the Japanese fleet will not come out and fight in the current Pacific operations.

"We are going to have to dig them out," the commander of the third fleet told a news conference. "They have got very little left to fight with and what they have is in none too good shape."

Halsey said he has not yet received all the facts of the Tokyo and Iwo Jima operations but that all indications are that it was "another magnificent show against the deteriorating and deteriorating ex-Japanese navy."

Unpredictable Rats Asked what in his opinion would be necessary to force the Japanese navy to a showdown, Halsey, in typical fashion, replied: "I can't get myself in a rat's

Action in the Pacific



Triple blows added to Japan's growing fear of defeat when the American carrier-based planes struck at the Tokyo area. United States army troops landed on Corregidor, and marines invaded Iwo Jima, important Japanese island air base.

Argentina Plans to Issue Declaration of War on Axis

By NORMAN CARIGNAN MEXICO CITY, Feb. 19 (AP)—Reports that Argentina is planning to declare war on Germany in an attempt to repair relations with other western hemisphere nations stirred preliminary skirmishes today on a political issue that may develop into a full-scale, open debate when the Inter-American conference opens here Wednesday.

The reports stemmed from a weekend announcement that the Buenos Aires government had sent a sharply worded note to Berlin protesting a German "threat to deny safe conduct to certain Argentine diplomats en route home from Germany."

Until now a declaration of war has been a passport of admission into the United Nations family, but whether it would prove so in the case of Argentina is open to question in view of the attitude taken toward her militant government by the more influential American government.

There is an unmistakable trend among the Latin American delegations here to do something about the Argentine situation, however, and her entry into the war might well bring matters to a head.

Other strong issues awaiting settlement include a demand by some Latin American countries that all of the Americas break with the Franco regime in Spain and Guatemala's insistence that she will not come to the conference if El Salvador is invited before the latter's newly-elected president takes office March 1.

Attempt Made To Snatch Purse A sneak thief attempted to strike again last night when it was reported to city police by Dolores Harris, 1345 Martin, that a young boy tried to snatch her purse while she was walking up N. 9th.

SEATTLE, Feb. 19 (AP)—Striking welders established picket lines for two Harbor Island shipyards early today and turned back some workers but failed to halt entirely a back-to-work trend among the unionists.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (AP) frame of mind. I don't know what it would take." Asked about his presence in Washington, Halsey said with a laugh "I am here under orders of Admiral King," chief of naval operations.

"It is evident," Halsey said, "that even the stupid, bestial Jap sees that he is losing control of the sea everywhere."

Plans Shifted The veteran of many Pacific actions disclosed that information brought out of the Philippines by a downed American flier furnished him the information that led to the decision to make a sudden change in plans for the invasion of the Philippines.

Halsey said his forces were steaming off the coast of the Philippines with practically no opposition.

Strategic Value "We were knocking down Japanese planes right and left. One American pilot was shot down. The guerrillas took care of him, and the next day we

REDS BATTLE FIERCE NAZI COUNTERBLOWS

Soviets Continue Push On Dresden, Flank of Berlin

By The Associated Press LONDON, Feb. 19—The red army battled sharp German counterattacks in some sectors up and down the ice-covered eastern front today, but continued to forge ahead toward Dresden and on Berlin's southeastern flank.

While Moscow dispatches said the German counterblows were not in the proportions of a counteroffensive, they were mounted by veterans of the German regular army and Heinrich Himmler's home army units in the greatest numbers yet and were particularly strong from places in Pomerania and Silesia where the Germans had entrenched artillery positions dug into the frozen earth.

Nazis Reinforce Despite the fierce hammering of their crowded communication lines by allied planes last week the Germans had been able to rush reserves up to the front.

The German communique said Marshal Ivan Konev's first Ukrainian army was forging ahead, however, and compelling the Germans to engage in "violent defensive fighting" all the way from the Czech border to the Oder bend southeast of Berlin.

Near Lauban Konev's tanks have reached the area southeast of Lauban on (Continued on Page Three)

FIREMEN'S PENSION BILL NOW IN SENATE

By PAUL W. HARVEY Jr. SALEM, Feb. 19 (AP)—The house voted 37 to 21 today to send the firemen's pension bill to the senate, after a vigorous hour's debate in which opponents charged the bill was poorly drawn and that the state couldn't afford it.

The bill provides accident and death compensation and retirement benefits for paid and volunteer firemen. It does not set up a schedule of benefits, and would be financed by a tax on insurance premiums and contributions by the firemen and municipalities.

Its reception in the senate, which recalled a similar bill last session, is doubtful. Similar bills have been killed at the last five or six sessions.

Sponsors said the state has a duty toward the firemen, but the opponents contended that it would cost the state \$312,000 a biennium, which the state cannot afford to spend.

Game and commercial fishermen started their biennial dispute today, with the game fishermen losing their first test 34 to 23 on a motion to table a senate-approved bill to put the state fish commission on an appropriation basis. The commission now depends on poundage fees.

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 19 (AP)—Last night a man "pushed a gun in my ribs," George Lawson told police.

"I reached for my wallet and offered it to him," Lawson said, "muttering 'let's have the cigarettes.'"

"He took a pack and walked off."

Hold-up Man Wants Smokes

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Invasion Commander



Lt. Gen. Holland "Mad" Smith is commanding man of the marine fifth amphibious corps, whose men are "spread all over hell's acre out there" on Iwo Jima, latest Jap island to be invaded in the Pacific.

Liberated The 7000, including 100 Americans, were liberated under gun fire as American troops stormed into the ruins of the Philippine hospital, a few blocks south of the Intramuros walls.

MANILA, Feb. 19 (AP)—Manila bay was all but back in American hands today but in the city itself, where some 7000 civilians were released in a new dramatic rescue, the Japanese still clung grimly to the walled Intramuros section.

Mopping up continued on Corregidor, where Yanks control the topside.

Discover Bodies Troops of the same regiment which liberated the hospital came upon the bodies of 60 Catholic priests and women and children to whom they had given shelter in the ruins of a De La Salle college in the nearby Malate district.

The 60 were shot and bayoneted to death a week ago today by a frenzied Japanese officer and 20 enlisted men.

Rev. Francis J. Cosgrave of Sydney, Australia, one of 10 survivors, said the Japanese broke in upon the helpless group during noon lunch and, at a shriek from the officer, started shooting and slashing.

The navy's seventh fleet war (Continued on Page Three)

Greatest Crime "If we allow a negotiated peace now and do not demand absolute and unconditional surrender it would be the greatest crime in the history of the country."

The press can do more to help than anyone, to persuade the mothers and fathers of America that such a move would be sentencing their grandsons to death."

Asked whether the Japanese would plan another war even though unconditional surrender were exacted, Halsey replied: "Not if we are smart."

"It behooves us to make plans for the future and enforce them to be sure they will not start another."

The admiral cautioned that we "better keep our fleet regardless of what happens in a world league."

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FIVE CENTS

Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS IWO JIMA holds our breathless interest today. Our marines staging another island battle today—possibly the toughest yet—possibly the toughest yet.

RE abore, with a beachhead about 2 1/2 miles long and 600 yards wide, and have penetrated the defenses of one of our landing bombardment coming out of their holes and back with artillery, tanks, machine guns and

Manila, we're mopping up the bay. We control the top of Corregidor, but still have the Japs out of its tunnels. The bay is far enough cleared of our landing bombardment coming out of their holes and back with artillery, tanks, machine guns and

REELING TOKYO HIT BY FLEET OF B-29S WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (AP) Tokyo, still reeling from a two-day carrier plane assault, was pounded again today by a big fleet of Superfortresses while other B-29s hit Japanese installations at Kaula Lumpur, Malay.

PRELIMINARY information, 20th air force headquarters, reports, indicates that upwards of 150 Superforts, winging from the Marianas, plastered industrial plants in the enemy capital with the use of precision instruments. Full results of the hammering have not been tabulated. It was the eighth strike at Tokyo by the big bombers.

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