

Reds Drive Across Oder On 50-Mile Front; West Wall Crumbling Under Allied Attacks; Manila Business District Burned By Japanese

First, Third Armies Gain Against Foe

Patton Slugs To Within Three And A Half Miles Of Prum

PARIS, Feb. 6.—(UP)—The U. S. First and Third Armies smashed out two-mile gains at three main points of attack along a 40-mile front today as the Germans' fixed West Wall defenses buckled and crumbled under the steadily increasing Allied offensive into Germany.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army Doughboys clamped a stranglehold on the entire Eifel mountain range with gains of nearly two miles along a front extending from Schlauesbach, five miles northwest of Prum, southwest to Lutzkampen, nine miles southeast of St. Vith.

Patton's men at one point have slugged to within 3 1/2 miles of Prum, a United Press dispatch from the Third Army front reported, and only a few pillboxes were left before them in the rear defenses of a Siegfried Line belt which was two miles deep at that point.

In this area Patton's men stormed and captured the German Siegfried fortress towns of Schlauesbach, Habscheid, Lutzkampen and fought off enemy attacks to regain the vital road hub of Brandscheid, five miles east of Prum, which commands an important network of Siegfried supply roads.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' First Army tanks and infantry to the north also plunged deeper into crumbling West Wall defenses with a two-mile gain northwest of Steckenborg. All along the perimeter of the Monschau sector, Hodges' forces were reported breaking through the enemy's fixed concrete and steel fortifications.

In the eastern tip of the Monschau salient, the Americans captured Seneuren, one mile north of Schielden, and came within a half mile of penetrating the West Wall pillbox belt on the Oef river guarding both the main fortress towns of Schielden and Gemund.

Allied Supreme Headquarters announced that 6,912 prisoners were taken in the First and Third Army drives during the four days ending February 3, and the crumbling Colmar pocket in the south has yielded another 3,500 prisoners in the past 48 hours alone.

House Group Passes City-Extension Bill

Action Follows Debate By Delegations From Wilmington; Passage In Senate Committee Sighted During Week

By JOHN CONLY Star-News Staff Writer RALEIGH, Feb. 6.—Representative J. Q. LeGrand's City-extension bill today was started on its way to likely passage in the State House of Representatives with the double approval of the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

War Department Official Pleads For Labor Draft

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—(AP)—Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson pleaded urgently today for passage of a manpower control bill, telling senators "no one is entitled to a free ride in this war."

WALLACE'S CHANCES BETTER AFTER OKAY ON GEORGE MEASURE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—(AP)—Henry Wallace's prospect of becoming Secretary of Commerce was brightened today by the House Banking Committee's unanimous approval of the Senate-passed George bill.

The measure, which divorces the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and subsidiary sending agencies from the Commerce Department, received favorable action after Democrats beat down a Republican attempt to repeal part of the President's war powers.

The banking committee's action transferred to the House floor the battle on the Republican proposal to fence in the former Vice President further by repealing President Roosevelt's wartime authority to reshuffle Federal agencies. This probably will begin next week.

AFL Council Begins Work To Defeat Manpower Draft

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 6.—(UP)—The American Federation of Labor executive council, charging that manpower difficulties were caused by poor planning by military leaders, marshalled its forces today to defeat the May "work or jail" bill in the Senate.

A statement re dby Green declared that the Army ordered cutbacks and conversion of factories making munitions and other war goods a year ago, then doubled or tripled production schedules without advance warning, when the war situation worsened.

Battle Rages In Houses Of Burning City

Water Mains Empty As Huge Explosions Rip At Capital

MANILA, WEDNESDAY, Feb. 7.—(AP)—Liberated Manila's business district was ablaze Monday from Japanese torches, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today, but three American columns still were liquidating the desperate enemy in a tightening three-way trap.

British Union Head Says Big Three Now In Session

LONDON, Feb. 6.—(AP)—It was disclosed definitely today that the Big Three actually are in conference, and the expectation was expressed in informed quarters in London that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin already might have tackled the thorny problem of halting future aggression.

AMERICAS URGED TO BLOCK NAZISM IN WESTERN WORLD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—(UP)—The forthcoming inter-American conference on war and postwar problems should "clearly and bravely" investigate the danger that the Nazis, defeated in Europe, may try to establish bases in the Western Hemisphere for a future aggression, Jose Antonio Arze, exiled leftist Bolivian leader, said tonight.

GERMAN SUPPLY LINES BLASTED

LONDON, Feb. 6.—(UP)—Heavy bombers of the U. S. Eighth Air Force, hitting Germany after RAF Mosquitos attacked Berlin, dropped more than 3,000 tons of bombs today on rail and industrial targets in the areas of Chemnitz and Leipzig, through which enemy supplies move toward the flaming Eastern Front, and on Magdeburg, transport center behind the Western Front.

More than 2,150 American warplanes—over 1,300 Fortresses and Liberators and 850 Mustang and Thunderbolt fighters—braved cloud, rain, and headwinds of up to 100 miles an hour to carry out their first strategic missions since Saturday's great blow at Berlin. Chemnitz, farther east of the targets, represents a round trip of nearly 1,000 miles from bases in Britain.

Hitler Reported Planning Last-Ditch War At Munich

BERN, Feb. 6.—(AP)—New arrivals from Germany reported today that tremendous new stocks of supplies were being poured into mountain strongholds in the Munich area, where Adolf Hitler is preparing a last-ditch defense when Berlin and northern Germany are conquered.

One story is that last week women formed a line across a highway at Munich, stopped an Army truck and seized the food it contained. The mountain defense ring is being prepared both for a final stand against Allied troops and for the possibility that food riots, already reported in Berlin, should there erupt into chaos, it was said.

Women Wash Hair In Santo Tomas Internment Camp



Using an old fashioned tub as a sink, three women wash their hair on the grounds of the Santo Tomas internment camp in Manila, P. I. This photo, taken by a Japanese wirephoto, was found in a Japanese barracks after the seizure of Tacloban, Leyte, by American forces. (AP Wirephoto from U. S. Navy.)

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Nazis Report Other Breaks In River Line

Berlin Places Soviets Less Than 30 Miles Away

LONDON, Wednesday, Feb. 7.—(AP)—The Red Army has stormed across the Oder southeast of Breslau and penetrated 12 1/2 miles beyond its west bank on a 50-mile front, Moscow announced last night, while German reports said the water barrier protecting Berlin and the heart of the Reich had been crossed by the Russians in two other sectors as well.

Broadcasts from Berlin, again reporting Soviet successes long before their confirmation by Moscow, placed Red Army units west of the Oder northeast of Berlin, perhaps less than 30 miles from the battered capital, and northwest of Breslau in the area of Steinau, a Silesian city which the Germans said they had evacuated.

The announcement of the Silesian crossing, made first in an order of the day by Marshal Stalin and repeated in the nightly communique broadcast from Moscow, broke the silence that had blanketed operations of Marshal Konev's First Ukrainian Army for several days.

But as the spotlight returned to Konev's forces, Moscow fell silent regarding Marshal Zhukov's First White Russian Army deployed along the river farther north.

The communique's only reference to this army was a statement that it had captured a Lt. Gen. Luebbe, commander of the 433rd German Infantry.

Aside from reporting minor gains in East Prussia and Budapest, the Moscow bulletin ignored all the Eastern Front except the Silesian sector.

Konev's drive across the Oder, it said, captured Brieg, 24 miles southeast of Breslau; Ohlau, nine miles northwest of Brieg and on the Oder's west bank; Grottkau south of Brieg and 10 miles west of the Oder, and Thomaskirch, southwest of Ohlau and seven and one-half miles southwest of the river.

The announcement described all these points as "important communications junctions and powerful strongpoints of German defenses on the west bank of the Oder."

Also taken were Loewen and Schurgast, both approximately nine miles southeast of Brieg.

Konev's front west of the Oder thus extended from captured Oppeln, capital of Upper (southern) Silesia, northwest to Breslau.

His offensive had been reported earlier by Berlin commentators, who said it might indicate a drive on Dresden, 160 miles to the west, as well as a move to outflank Breslau.

But German accounts stated this was not the only sect in which the Red army had crossed the Oder.

Broadcasts from Berlin said the river had been forced at six or more places in the Kustrin-Frankfurt sector, northeast and directly east of Berlin. Moscow yet has not announced any bridgeheads in that sector, but a Soviet broadcast declared:

"Kustrin and Frankfurt are being outflanked. No miracle can save Berlin. Its fall can be delayed only for a few weeks at the most."

Furious struggles on the west bank of the Oder northwest of Kustrin, reported from Berlin, probably have brought the Soviet forces within 30 miles, perhaps less, of the Nazi capital. Official announcements from Moscow place Marshal Zhukov's army 32 miles from Berlin at Zelin, on the Oder's east bank.

The German Transoceanic agency said the newest Russian bridgeheads were at Fursenberg, 14 miles south of Frankfurt and at a point a little more than three miles south of that city. It said another "temporary" crossing was made north of Frankfurt.

Zhukov's broken into the outer defenses of Frankfurt itself, said Lt. Col. Alfred von Oberg, German military commentator, but he claimed that Russian efforts to establish a bridgehead in the city had been repulsed.

"The Oder has become a stream (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)