

Fair and cooler today with moderate winds. Yesterday's temperatures: High, 75—Low, 55.

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ESTABLISHED 1867

Marines Inch Forward On Iwo; Lose 5,372; Patton Crosse Saar River At Two Points; 7,000 Allied Planes Hammer Nazi Railheads

Third Ripping Across Reich; 30 Towns Fall

Moselle-Saar Triangle Conquered in Whirlwind Offensive

PARIS, Feb. 22.—(AP)—The rampaging U. S. Third Army broke across the Saar river at two points 65 miles from the Rhine today and completed a whirlwind conquest of Germany's 80-square-mile Moselle Saar triangle as 7,000 Allied warplanes struck simultaneously at enemy rail lifelines.

A field dispatch said Third Army officers and men were in high spirits as they ripped across Western Germany's ramparts with a speed reminiscent of their historic dash in France, seizing the fortress city of Saarburg and 29 other Reich towns on a 55-mile front.

Saarburg, once a thriving city of 10,000, was deserted save for 100 aged civilians.

This powerful thrust 18 miles deep into the Reich collapsed all enemy resistance in the triangle and rammed a steel spearhead to a point five miles from Trier, fortified city of 88,000 population on the mountainous route to the Rhine.

While Trier's battlements came under Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's guns, artillery to the south tore at the fortified hills into which the Germans had been chased east of the Saar river. The attackers were confident the enemy soon would be driven from these new positions.

To the fury of the Allied air attack—a new technique under which swarms of battle planes unload their cargoes of destruction on communications centers—was added the shock of two other Allied armies hammering at Germany's first line of defense.

Forty miles southeast of the Third Army, the U. S. Seventh Army captured two-thirds of the French gateway city of Forbach, two miles from the Saar basin's steel city of Saarbrücken.

The Canadian First Army on the north end of the front captured Moyland and fought tiearly to the edge of Calcar, bitterly-defended highway center two miles southeast and 15 miles from Wesel in the western Ruhr industrial basin.

Scottish infantry severed the Goch-Uedem railway and were locked in a furious milling struggle two miles west of the latter town, which is a vital feeder point for the enemy on that sector of the front.

On this spring-like day, the best flying day in months, five Allied forces pooled their planes in a unique operation designed to paralyze all rail traffic in Germany and set the stage for the final big push from the east and west to crush Hitler's Reich.

Enemy territory between the Eastern and Western fronts was divided into five sectors. Against 150 targets there the great air fleets unleashed their bombs as flying artillery. Many targets were small, hitherto un bombed rail centers, whose importance have grown since many major rail points were struck.

It took Lt. Gen. Patton's hard-hitting veterans just three days to mop-up the triangle with a total of 38 towns after breaking through formidable Siegfried Line fortifications at the southern base. In all approximately 70 towns have been captured all along the front since the big attack began Tuesday.

Representatives Rankin And Hook Clash In Fist Fight On Congress Floor

Mississippi Lawmaker Strides to Opponent in Exception to Being Called a 'Dirty Liar'; Hair Pulling But Few Punches; a Draw

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(AP)—Shouts of "Communist" and "liar" exploded into a fist fight between two Democratic Congressmen on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

The contestants: small, white, thatched John Rankin of Mississippi, who shouted "Communist" and strapping Frank E. Hook, a new Dealer from Michigan, who retorted "liar."

The official reporter got Hook's remark as "God damned liar" but in the press gallery above the fight most reporters heard it as "dirty liar."

In any event, the ugly word was stricken from the record.

There wasn't one good, solid blow landed but Rankin managed to get in several short jabs at the Michigan man but that they would advise against it.

Cox predicted a resolution of censure aimed at Hook would be (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Hook's flushed face before other startled members separated them. As soon as the fight was over, talk of disciplinary action started. Although leaders hurried the House into adjournment to ward off further flare-ups, some Democrats spoke of introducing a resolution to expel Hook when the House meets tomorrow.

Reps. Cox (D-Ga.) and Smith (D-Va.) told reporters, however, that the resolution would simply ask that Hook be censured for his remark. They said there was much Democratic sentiment to expel the Michigan man but that they would advise against it.

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Aerial Attack Held Greatest In War History

Blows Designed To Completely Knock Out Enemy Transport

LONDON, Friday, Feb. 23.—(AP)—Allied air chiefs hurled an estimated 7,000 bombers and fighters at approximately 100 Nazi communications hubs yesterday in the greatest simultaneous air assault in history—a supreme coordinated blow to knock out Germany's railway system—and the attack continued into the night.

The Berlin radio said 2,000 Russian planes also had battered targets along the Eastern Front, principally in East Prussia.

Altogether nearly 10,000 sorties were flown from the west and south before dark, but the peak was reached at around noon when through careful planning and timing explosives cascaded down at an estimated average of 100 tons a minute.

On D-Day 13,000 sorties were flown, but these were spread over a period of 24 hours while in this historic new assault almost the maximum power of all Allied air forces in Europe was concentrated against the enemy within a few hours.

Some 30,000 airmen from seven Allied air commands participated in the great obliteration raids, the intent of which was to break up the entire network of enemy rail transportation at one blow.

The "buckshot blitz"—an entirely new idea which Allied air chiefs had mapped and held in readiness for a break in the weather—was spearheaded by more than 1,400 Flying Fortresses and Liberators and 800 fighters of the U. S. Eighth Air Force.

Two divisions of this gigantic fleet poured into Germany from the north and a third attacked from the south. Over the Reich they broke up into wolf packs of up to 100 bombers each and hammered at least 24 freight yards and other rail targets in the heart of Germany during the noon hour.

Eight bombers and 19 fighters were missing from this phase of the operation.

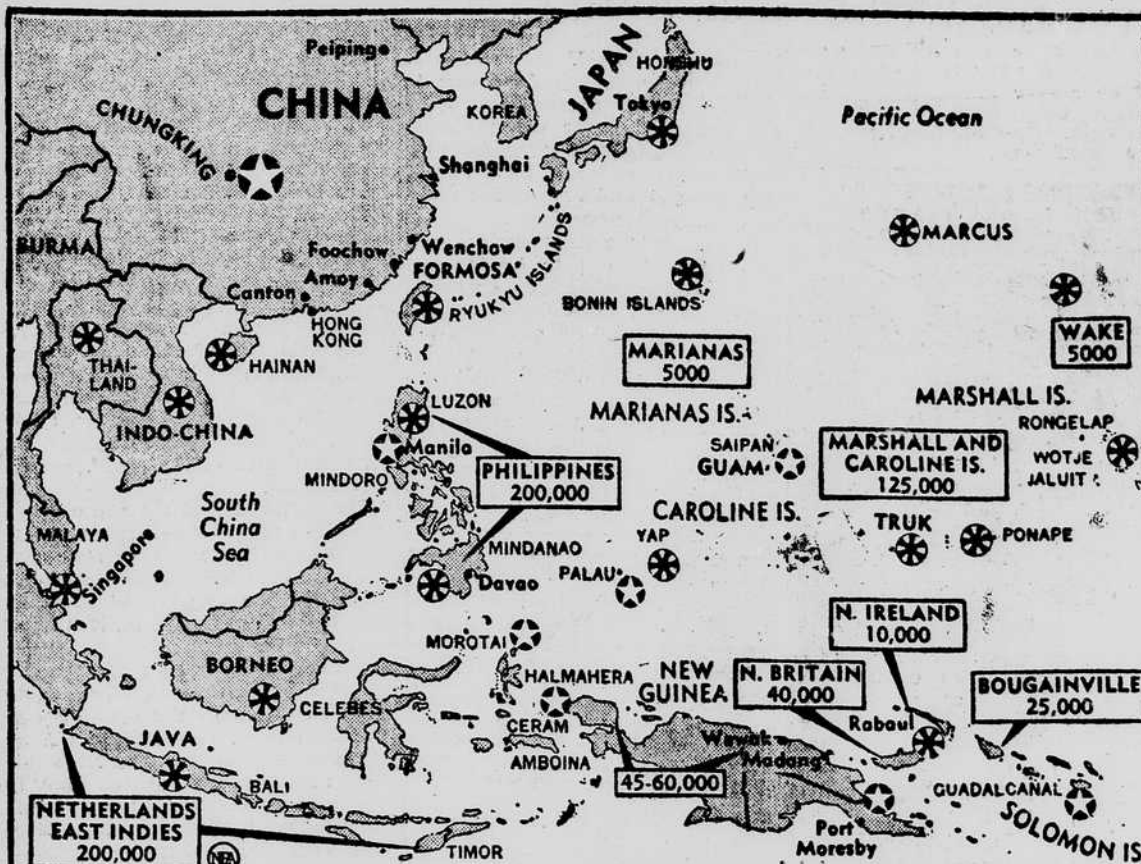
In addition the RAF and U. S. 15th Air Forces sent out heavy bombers and the attack was swelled by four Tactical Air Forces based on the Continent, including the U. S. 12th in Italy. More than 4,500 sorties were flown by these (Continued on Page 5, Col. 2)

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Where Over 600,000 Japs 'Wither on the Vine'



Map above shows areas in the Pacific war theater where more than 600,000 Jap troops have been by-passed by island-hopping Americans and left to "wither on the vine." In some places, the Japs are well-equipped, in others they are badly off physically and get no supplies. Most of the enemy forces in the Philippines are in the big southern island of Mindanao.

STALIN SEES END OF REICH NEARING

Russians Claim 1,500,000 German Casualties In Winter Push

LONDON, Friday, Feb. 23.—(AP) Marshal Joseph Stalin, declaring that "full victory over the Germans is near," announced last night while Soviet forces were ripping into the Cottbus-Guben-Forst defense triangle southeast of Berlin that the Red Army's winter offensive already had cost the Germans more than 1,500,000 men.

"Full victory over the Germans is near," he said, but warned that "victory never comes of itself; it has to be won in hard battles."

As Stalin issued an order of the day marking the 27th anniversary of the Red Army, his troops reached the Neisse river, the last natural barrier before Berlin, and laid siege to the capital's outer fortress towns of Guben and Forst.

Closing in on industrial Guben, 51 miles southeast of Berlin, Marshal Konev's First Ukrainian Army drove to within two miles of it (Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)

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Yanks Invade Capul Isle; Secure Manila-U. S. Route

U. S. CASUALTIES BEYOND 800,000

MANILA, Friday, Feb. 23.—(AP)—Veteran Yanks of the Americal Division invaded tiny Capul Island in the San Bernardino Straits just off Luzon's long southern tip Wednesday in a move to clear the Japanese from the main shipping route from the United States to Manila.

The small oval island, five miles long and two wide at the middle, commands the strait through which the Japanese sent a war fleet to harass the American invasion of Leyte last October.

It lies directly between the extensive southeastern tip of Luzon and the northern end of Samar Island, which is practically in American hands. It is 260 airline miles southeast of Manila and about 325 by sea.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, announcing the invasion in a communique today, said "this island is the key to the straits, through which passes the main navigation route to Manila Bay from the United States."

The landing was made by the veteran Americal Division of the Tenth Corps of the Eighth Army. MacArthur announced also that steady reduction of the remaining Japanese pocket in south Manila was continuing and said 11th Airborne Division Yanks advancing along the west coast of Laguna de Bay, southeast of Manila, reached the town of Muntinlupa.

MacArthur announced that in the 14th Corps sector of Luzon—in the northern and central part of the great central Luzon plain—the Americans had captured vast quantities of enemy materiel and supplies.

He said 712 artillery pieces of all calibers and 705 machineguns had been seized or destroyed there. In the southern Caraballo mountains north of Manila, Yanks of the First Corps secured high (Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

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HOUSE APPROVES HARBOR MEASURE

\$500,000,000 Bill Would Provide Work On Local Port

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(AP)—A \$500,000,000 postwar Rivers and Harbors bill sailed through the House today in the wake of a fist fight that smothered an interest in controversial projects.

Already passed by the Senate, the measure goes now to President Roosevelt who is expected to approve it promptly. He signed a \$1,000,000,000 postwar flood control bill last year.

House passage of the rivers bill came on an apathetic voice vote that followed a physical encounter between Reps. Hook (D-Mich) and Rankin (D-Miss).

The fight, exciting climax of an argument over a subject other than the legislation, caused Rankin to change his mind about offering a controversial amendment.

Previously, he had an amendment to add the \$66,000,000 Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway and perhaps other projects that held up passage of similar legislation last year.

These projects probably will be put in a second bill to be considered by committees later in the year. Among them are the Tennessee-Tombigbee, the \$38,500,000 Beaver-Mahoning waterway, and the (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

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CHURCHILL TO ASK CONFIDENCE VOTE

Commons Members Believe Debate To Be Most Vital Of War

LONDON, Feb. 22.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill's government announced today that it will seek a direct vote of confidence endorsing the decisions of the Crimea Conference at the conclusion of next week's Commons debate— which members said will be the most important of the war.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, government leader of the House, said the debate will be on this government motion: "This house approves the declaration of joint policy agreed to by the three great powers at the Crimea Conference and in particular welcomes the determination to maintain unity of action not only in achieving final defeat of the common enemy but thereafter in peace as in war."

The War Cabinet approved the motion, which is certain of receiving overwhelming approval though there will be sharp exchanges over Poland. After hearing the motion, several members suggested that the debate, scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, should be extended an extra day.

Eden said he would make a statement on that question tomorrow. Aneurin Bevan, Laborite and most vocal of the government's critics, said the government "obviously is entitled to seek a vote (Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)

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Stettinius Says America Aims At Freedom For All

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 22.—(AP)—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., said tonight that American foreign policy aims at an Atlantic Charter peace of "freedom from fear and want" for all men.

That, he told the Inter-American Conference here, is an essential facet in a five-point United States program which he asserted had been "greatly advanced" by the results of the Crimea Conference.

In probably the most important speech he has yet made as Secretary of State, Stettinius reported that three days after the Crimea Conference he had reviewed the work done there with President Roosevelt and "it is the President's firm conviction that the results of the Crimea Conference have greatly advanced the basic (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Japanese Hurl Counterattack And Hit Fleet

Nimitz Says Navy Guns Appear To Have Broken Enemy Drive

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Friday, Feb. 23.—(AP)—The bloody cost of the battle for Iwo mounted to 5,372 Marines killed, wounded and missing by 6 p. m. Wednesday, the Navy announced today while reporting only minor advances through Thursday against fierce Japanese opposition.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz disclosed that 644 Marines had been killed, 4,168 wounded and 560 were missing at the end of the first 58 hours of the operation.

In the same period of time 1,222 dead Japanese had been counted. No invasion of the Pacific war for a comparative period has cost so many American casualties. At Tarawa, previously considered the bloodiest fight of the war, Marine casualties for its entire 72 hours slightly exceeded 3,000.

Nimitz in his last previous communique covering the casualty count up to 5:45 p. m. Wednesday reported 385 killed and 4,168 wounded. The later count left the wounded at the same figure, increased the dead by 276 and added the 500 missing.

Today's communique reported more of the same type of bitter fighting which has built up the casualty totals.

It reported gains Thursday afternoon too slight to affect the virtual stalemate which developed Wednesday.

The three Marine divisions, the Third, Fourth and Fifth, inched forward slightly on the north toward the enemy fighter base in the center of the island and constricted their lines around volcanic Mt. Suribachi on the south tip.

The Japanese launched two powerful counterattacks on the flanks of the forces attacking the airfield. Significantly, Nimitz did not specifically claim either had been completely blunted.

Nimitz said that artillery and the supporting guns of U. S. Fifth Fleet warships "appeared to have repulsed the assault on the left."

He added, however: "No reports were available on the action on the right."

On the extreme south tip of the island, other Marines surrounded Mt. Suribachi "and strong patrols were moving up the cliffs under attack by the enemy, who was using hand grenades and demolition charges," the communique said.

Heavy rains hampered the fighting. Japanese planes, earlier acknowledged to have inflicted some damage on units of the Fifth Fleet, continued their attacks Thursday. The raids were unsuccessful, the Navy said.

Admiral Says Yanks' Hold On Iwo Once Seemed Gone

ADMIRAL NIMITZ' HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Feb. 22.—(AP)—Terminating Iwo Jima the "toughest beachhead we've encountered in the Pacific," Vice Adm. John H. Hoover revealed today that the American position there appeared doomed at one fateful hour on D-Day.

Hoover, who is commander of forward areas in the Central Pacific, has just returned from witnessing the Tokyo carrier raids and the Iwo invasion. He reported in a broadcast that the Marines encountered little fire going ashore because the Japanese thought the landing on the southeast beach was a feint.

Three hours later, however, they swung mortars and howitzers into place and shells began knocking (Continued on Page 5, Col. 8)

U. S. tanks and causing casualties among the troops.

"It was a serious moment and for a while our position on the invasion beach appeared doomed," the admiral said. "But later that same day we discovered an area far to the south where we could penetrate through to the southern airfield out of range of their heaviest gunfire."

"We kept feeding our men through this region and it saved the day. But I can testify it was touch and go for awhile."

Calling Saipan "easy" by comparison, Hoover declared that Iwo, besides being the "heaviest fortified island we have yet encountered in the Pacific, possesses tre-