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FINAL EDITION

Carrier Planes Attack Tokyo

Marines Seize Half Of Iwo In General Drive; Americans Battle Within 16 Miles Of Cologne

Reds Within 33 Miles Of Danzig Goal

Others Drive To Within Three Miles Of The Heart Of Breslau

By RICHARD KASISCHKE LONDON, Sunday, Feb. 25. (P)—Russian shock troops, driving to within three miles of burning Breslau, yesterday hurled the enemy out of 15 more blocks in the Silesian capital, while other Soviet forces pushed to within 33 miles south of Danzig.

A front dispatch said that Red Army troops also had smashed in growing strength across the Neisse river and were threatening Cottbus, big rail center 47 miles from Berlin, but Moscow officially has not confirmed this important development which threatens to turn the Reich capital's eastern defenses along the stalemated Oder river sector.

The raging battle in Breslau's streets was the main event mentioned by Moscow, and in their smash into the southern part of the bombarded city the Russians captured the suburb of Oltaschin, three and a half miles from the heart of Breslau.

Brief Communique In one of the briefest communiqués issued since the Russians opened their winter offensive Jan. 12, Moscow announced slight gains in German Pomerania near the Polish frontier and the capture of nine more localities in the shrinking Nazi pocket southwest of Kos.

HEARINGS PLANNED ON ELECTION BILLS

Will Be Conducted Before House Judicial Committee Tuesday

A hearing for opponents and proponents of two bills affecting the election laws of Carolina Beach has been set for 10 a. m. Tuesday before the lower chamber's Judiciary committee No. 1. Rep. J. LeGrand announced yesterday. The amendments, which "represent conflicting views as to the 1943 act" were introduced in the House Friday by Representative LeGrand without prejudice or recommendation on his part.

One of them would amend the charter of the resort and provide that it be governed by general municipal laws of the state, while the second would authorize the election of a mayor and a board of aldermen in May of this year and every year thereafter.

The New Hanover legislator said the bills were the result of discussions with the state engineer. The bill, which has been approved by the Senate already and which now goes to President Roosevelt for approval, contains a provision for the widening and deepening of the Cape Fear river from Wilmington to the ocean to 32 feet depth at mean low water and 400 feet wide, at an estimated cost of \$1,465,000. The present dimensions

'Guerrilla Padre'



"Sixty per cent of the Philippines' population never saw a Jap soldier," says Rev. J. Edward Haggerty, pictured above on his recent arrival in New York. Attached to the Cagayan Jesuit College, he served for three years as liaison officer between the U. S. Army and the Filipino guerrillas on Mindanao Island.

HITLER APPEALS FOR FINAL STAND

Threatens Shirkers With Death In Speech To Old Nazi Guard

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(P)—Adolf Hitler told the old guard of the Nazi party today that Germany had taken such a "terrible" beating that now "there is no greater terror in store for us," and he called upon every man, woman and child in the Reich to fight until the last breath, threatening shirkers with death.

Hitler's speech to his old party comrades on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the announcement of the national socialist program, read for him by an aide and transmitted to the press by the German DNE news agency, contained hints of fear of an uprising inside Germany.

Anyone who showed himself a coward, refusing to join the Volkstrum (home guard) or attempted to sabotage the fanatical defense of the country would be annihilated, Hitler warned. Threats against slackers and unbelievers in the Nazi regime was sprinkled throughout the speech.

Predicting that a turning point in the war would come this year but without saying in whose favor the turn would be, the Fuehrer-liked Nazi Germany's role to that of the central European nations who centuries ago held off the invasions of Huns and Turks "who threatened to turn our continent into a desert."

"We shall be weighed in this century, and particularly in our own decade, according to whether we are steadfast enough to encounter an invasion from central Asia such as 30 feet deep and 300 feet wide. The improvement of the river is covered in two Congressional documents, viz. House Document No. 131, 76th Congress, first session and Senate Document No. 83, 76th Congress. The former provides for an increased width of the presently authorized 30 foot channel from 300 to 400 feet, with increased widths at bends; increased width of the authorized turning basin from 600 to 800 feet with suitably lengthened approaches; and for a channel 12 feet deep and 100 feet wide from the inland waterway. Snows Cut, entrance (Continued on Page Four; Col. 1)

Take Several Towns In Push Across Plain

Eisenhower Demands Annihilation Of German Forces Defending Rhine

By JACK FLEISCHER United Press War Correspondent PARIS, Sunday, Feb. 25.—(UP)—The American Ninth and First armies seized 13 more fortified towns and battled to within 16 miles of Cologne last night as they drove nearly five miles across the Cologne plain in their two-day-old offensive.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower spurred his armies forward with a demand for complete annihilation of Nazi forces defending the Rhine, and his men responded gallantly by bringing their two-day total of captured towns to 23.

One anchor of the formidable Roer river line toppled when the last Germans were driven from Juelich, leaving the city a ruined shambles comparable to St. Lo, and the second wavered as infantry battled halfway through Dueren.

Pinned Against Roer Only at Dueren was the 22-mile wide American bridgehead pinned against the Roer. Elsewhere the plunging tank and infantry teams were two to five miles inside the river line and rolling on for the Rhine.

The offensive front was widened to 31 miles during the day when the Ninth army's northern wing swept up against the west bank of the Roer on a nine-mile stretch to cover the flank of the assault. The (Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

INGALLS SHIPYARD EMPLOYEES STRIKE

WLB Declares Action Is 'Direct Interference With The War'

PASCAGOULA, Miss., Feb. 24.—(P)—Approximately 10,000 shipyard workers of the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation were on strike today and from Washington the War Labor Board termed their action "a direct interference with the war."

E. L. Mancil, president of the local metal trades council (AFL), said the strike was voted at the regular meeting of the union last night. Company officials said approximately 6,000 day-shift workers fled away from their jobs and night shift workers failed to show up.

At Washington the War Labor Board ordered the workers back to their jobs and said processing of their labor disputes scheduled (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Sunday increasing cloudiness and mild. (Eastern Standard Time) (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m., 2-25-45: Temperature: 1:30 am, 46; 7:30 am, 44; 1:30 pm, 58.5; 7:30 pm, 52. Maximum 64.1; Minimum 40.0; Mean 49; Normal 49. Humidity: 1:30 am, 81; 7:30 am, 63; 1:30 pm, 25; 7:30 pm, 26. Precipitation: Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 pm, 0.00 inches. Total since the first of the month, 0.00 inches. Tides For Today (From The Tide Table published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey) Wilmington High 8:52a 2:21a Low 9:12p 3:55p Masonboro Inlet 7:12p 1:03p Sunrise, 6:46 a. m.; Sunset, 6:05 p. m.; Moonrise, 4:31 p. m.; Moonset, 6:11 a. m.

Manila's Liberation Completed As Last Jap Force Destroyed

By C. YATES McDANIEL MANILA, Sunday, Feb. 25.—(P)—Manila, strewn with the bodies of more than 12,000 Japanese, was completely liberated Saturday — three weeks to a day after Yanks first entered it. The death gasp of the enemy's fanatical garrison was emitted within the centuries-old walls of the Intramuros where 3,000 frightened and tortured civilians were rescued a day after the dramatic behind-the-lines liberation of 2,146 civilians southeast of the city at Los Banos. The triumph was reported in a communique which pointed out that Japanese losses on Luzon and Leyte far exceeded 200,000 were so disproportionate that early liberation of all the Philippines is in prospect. The communique also listed more than 2,000 on Corregidor in Manila Bay with other thousands dead underground. Grim-faced Yanks of Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler's 37th (Buckeye) and Maj. Gen. Verne D. Mudge's First Cavalry Divisions, the first to enter Manila, slaughtered the last remnants of an enemy garrison once estimated at 20,000. Many more enemy dead re- (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

Egyptian Premier Killed After Nation Enters War

READS DECLARATION

Assassin Shoots Ahmed Maher As He Leaves Deputies Chamber

By RELMAN MORIN CAIRO, Feb. 24.—(P)—Prime Minister Ahmed Maher of Egypt was shot and killed in the Chamber of Deputies tonight shortly after he had read a royal decree declaring war on the Axis. The premier minister had just completed his reading of the decree by King Farouk and was leaving the chamber when three shots were fired at him from close range. Witnesses said the assailant was a 22-year-old member of the extremist party and some identified him as a young lawyer. His name was not announced, although he was arrested immediately. All three bullets struck Ahmed Maher in his stomach and he died an hour later. The king, notified of the attack on the prime minister, hurried to the parliamentary building at once. Expected To Enter Egypt and other nations of the Middle East had been expected to enter the war against Germany and Japan since Turkey's declaration yesterday. Government sources said the decision to join the Allies was the consequence of recent conferences conducted with Middle Eastern leaders near here by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill. It was after these meetings that Ahmed Maher began emergency councils with other officials of the government, culminating in the decision to enter the war. The chamber of deputies was convened in secret session tonight to hear the royal decree declaring war. Ahmed Maher was head of the Suddist party which swept the polls in the Egyptian elections last month. He subsequently formed a coalition government. (Continued on Page Four; Col. 3)

Penalties Drawn For Curfew Code

Strong Enough To Put The Night Spot Violators Out Of Business

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(P)—The government decided today on a series of penalties that can put a night spot out of business if it violates the midnight curfew which goes into effect Monday. The policy was announced by the War Manpower Commission as the prime enforcer of the curfew ordered by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes to conserve electricity, fuel, manpower and transportation facilities. The announcement listed these stern measures: 1—Placing of a "zero" employment ceiling on an establishment, which means the proprietor may not hire anyone except maintenance employees such as a janitor. 2—Withdrawal of power and fuel by the War Production board. 3—Withholding of rationed food and other commodities by the Office of Price Administration. 4—A ban on deliveries by the Office of Defense Transportation. The midnight shutdown order supplies to all public and private places providing entertainment, serving liquor, wine and beer. The only exceptions are entertainment "sponsored by responsible agencies" for military personnel (that would include the USO, for instance), and restaurants customarily open all night. These restaurants, however, may serve only food and must not dispense drinks. Coming within the curfew regulations are night clubs, sports arenas, theaters, dance halls, road houses, saloons, bars, shooting galleries, bowling, billiard and pool parlors, amusement parks, carnivals, circuses, coin-operated amusement device parlors, skating rinks, etc. (Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

Eisenhower Sees Bitter Struggle

Says Will Not End Until Americans Meet Russians In Germany

By EDWARD KENNEDY SUPREME HEADQUARTERS A L L I E D EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Paris, Feb. 24.—(P)—Gen. Eisenhower declared today that the new Allied offensive was aimed at reaching the Rhine and that it was progressing satisfactorily in coordination with Red Army operations on the eastern front. The Allied leader made it clear, however, that he had no hopes of an imminent German collapse and anticipated a hard fight which would end only when Allied arms meet the Russians "in the center of Germany." Even after organized resistance is crushed guerrilla fighting from the mountains may be looked for. Gen. Eisenhower said, and even after that is ended the Germans may persist in underground battles and continue the struggle by assassination and plotting. Gen. Eisenhower addressed war correspondents on arrival from the front area and came with information of the progress of battle up to 20 minutes before his speech. (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

Greater Drafting Of Men 30-33 Years Old Ordered

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(P)—Selective service tonight ordered increased drafting of men 30 through 33 years old, by permitting their deferment only if they are "necessary to an essential industry." Heretofore men of that age only had to be "engaged in" such an industry. The new instructions to draft boards mean that a larger number of the approximately 1,500,000 men in that age bracket holding occupational deferments will enter military service this year, a selective service spokesman said. While unable to estimate how many of the 30-33's will be needed to fill the Army's mounting manpower demand, the spokesman called attention to testimony of Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, draft director, last week that men over 30 would make up 30 per cent of the entire draft call by the end of this year. "If all other factors are equal, a father should be given greater consideration for occupational deferment than a non-father in this age group," Hershey's memorandum to draft boards directed. The local boards were instructed that the 30-33 registrants, to be eligible for deferment, must be "necessary to and regularly engaged in an activity in war production." (Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

Reach Heart Of Island's Main Airport

Tank-led Troops Advance As Much As 600 Yards; Casualties Heavy

By FRANK TREMAINE United Press War Correspondent U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GUAM, Sunday, Feb. 25.—(UP)—Tank-led shock troops of three Marine divisions, advancing as much as 600 yards in a general offensive, have swept to the heart of Iwo's central airfield and captured approximately half of the embattled doorstep island to Japan, it was disclosed today. Driving forward on a 2 1-2 mile front extending across the center of the island under cover of a land, air and sea bombardment, the Marines expanded their east coast beachhead about 600 yards, drove 300 to 500 yards through the center of the strong Japanese defense lines and expanded their grip on the east coast by several hundred yards. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' war bulletin covering fighting through 6 p. m. Saturday, sixth day of the fierce struggle, reported that Japanese dead has now risen to 2,799. The last report on American casualties listed 5,372 as of 6 p. m., Wednesday, of whom 644 were dead. "Substantial" Advances The latest advances which Nimitz called "substantial" increased the American grip on Iwo's coast to five miles—three on the east and two on the west—and left the Japanese in about seven miles of the coast. They also gave the Americans possession of about four of Iwo's eight square miles and placed them well atop the 340-foot central plateau from which the Japanese had been pouring withering fire into the ranks of the advancing Devil Dogs. Although the Marines, of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Divisions were slashing forward and scoring their greatest gains of a campaign that had been marked by yard by yard advances, Nimitz said: "In every zone of fighting, the (Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

Held Captive



Veteran skipper of the Grace Line Santa Rita when it was sunk by Nazi U-Boat, Capt. Henry Stephenson of New Rochelle, N. Y., was the first officer of a torpedoed U. S. vessel to be held captive by the Germans. Here he is being greeted by his wife when he arrived on the Exchange Liner Gripsholm with some 1,209 repatriates from German prison camps. (International).

MORE PRISONERS OF JAPS FREED

2,000 Liberated During Daring Raid On Camp In Philippines

By C. YATES McDANIEL AND DEAN SCHEIDLER LOS BANOS, Philippines, Feb. 24.—(P)—More than 2,000 civilian prisoners of the Japanese—most of them Americans—were freed today, liberated by Yank soldiers and Filipino guerrillas in another of the Pacific war's daring and dramatic rescues. The liberating force struck yesterday from the sky, over land and across water, far behind the Japanese lines, to free 2,146 men, women and children—and wipe out the entire Japanese garrison at the Los Banos internment camp, about 45 miles southeast of war-battered Manila. The internees, pinched by hunger and showing signs of more than three years in internment, quickly were carried to safety. Some of them, including the aged, were brought out on litters. American casualties in the sensational operation totaled six—two soldiers killed, two wounded and two internees slightly injured. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who ordered the rescue, said providence was certainly with the doughboys and the guerrillas. He declared: "Nothing could be more satisfying to a soldier's heart than this rescue. I am deeply grateful." Among the rescued were 11 United States Navy nurses. They were captured at the Canacao Naval hospital, near Cate, in January. (Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

Force Strikes For 3rd Time Within Week

Naval, Military And Air Installations Raked By Heavy Fire

By FRANK TREMAINE United Press War Correspondent U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GUAM, Sunday, Feb. 25.—(UP)—A great force of American carrier-based aircraft are again attacking Tokyo and its surrounding military and naval installations for the third time within a week, it was announced today. Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz disclosed in a brief special communique at 7:15 p. m. (PWT) that the Fifth Fleet carrier task force commanded by Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher had returned to strike again at the heart of the Japanese homeland. There were no details of the action. The strike followed two days of punishing blows dealt by Mitscher's Navy and Marine airmen last Friday and Saturday when 809 Japanese planes were destroyed or damaged. Accomplish "Impossible" The Fifth Fleet, under the overall command of Adm. R. A. Spruance, had again accomplished the "impossible." After steaming to within 300 miles of the Japanese main island, of Honshu last weekend without meeting any enemy surface or air attack, they turned southward to support the Iwo Jima landing two days later. Now, in less than a week, they had returned to scourge Tokyo again. More than 1,200 American war planes roared over Tokyo for two consecutive days in the first great Naval-air strike against the enemy's capital and it was believed that a force equally as large was again battering the important installations ringing the city. Naval, military and air installations were being raked by the avenging carrier airmen. Radio Silence The brief communique released by Nimitz merely said that the attack was going on. As in the previous raid, Mitscher's task force was maintaining radio silence while in enemy waters. Text of the communique: "Carrier aircraft of the Fifth Fleet are attacking military, naval and air installations in and around Tokyo. "Adm. R. A. Spruance is in command of the Fifth Fleet. Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher is in tactical command of the fast carrier task force making the attacks." Tokyo radio reported the attacks before Nimitz' special announcement was made. Japanese broadcasts said that U. S. carrier-based planes had raided the Tokyo-Yokohama area Sunday morning. The broadcast, recorded by FCC, said the planes "are now carrying (Continued on Page Two; Col. 3)

Bombers Blast Nazi Oil Factories And Sub Yards

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(UP)—Heavy bombers from Britain blasted oil refineries and U-Boat yards in northwest Germany today as tactical planes lashed railroads and front objectives as Allied airmen flew more than 6,500 sorties in the 12th consecutive day of the non-stop aerial offensive. The British second and American Ninth tactical airforces put almost 4,000 medium and fighter-bombers into the area, pounding German rail communications from the front lines deep into the Reich. They also blasted enemy troops and supplies moving up to reinforce the fronts in the face of the Allied ground offensive, striking with particular fury at enemy ob- (Continued on Page Four; Col. 2)