

CHANGES IN COAST GUARD UNDER WAY

The future of the United States Coast Guard in Wilmington and other Atlantic ports was discussed yesterday in an announcement from district headquarters, Sixth Naval District, Charleston, the "home stretch" is being reached in the transferring of Coast Guard officers and men to combat units at sea and to shore bases under the theatres of combat.

A series of changes in personnel, policy and operational routines are in the making in the district as a result of the shifting of Coast Guard officers and regular Coast Guardsmen to the war zone, it was said.

Captain M. J. Ryan, district Coast Guard officer, announced "These transfers of men certainly do not mean the lessening of the war effort, but a change in emphasis. For instance, the changing war situation has made necessary certain adjustments in the use of manpower and equipment in the Coast Guard port security program. This reduction of men assigned to port security duty on the Atlantic coast, along the Gulf, and on the inland rivers and lakes is being made with the view of using these men for the more urgent duty of manning additional vessels recently constructed for overseas service as well as for port security work beyond the continental United States and to increase port security activities in west coast ports."

"This means that even a greater responsibility for port security and other vital functions in assisting the Coast Guard to guard and protect the important ports of this region will pass to the Coast Guard Volunteer Port Security Force battalions and to the Coast Guard Auxiliary."

"These fine organizations in Wilmington, Charleston, Jacksonville and Savannah have been functioning splendidly," he said, "and I am confident that with the added responsibility which will now become clear to them and to their fellow citizens in these cities, additional forces will be forthcoming to handle any task asked of them by the Coast Guard to assist in their home communities and to take the places of the men who have gone and are going to the fighting fronts."

AMERICANS BUT 16 MILES FROM COLOGNE

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advance captured Porselen, Oberbruch, Kempen and Schan.

Eisenhower announced that the Ninth army was under operational command of Field Marshal Sir B. L. Montgomery in the new offensive and that its movements were linked to those of the Canadian First and British Second armies.

The British Second army remained quite along the Roer and Maas (Meuse) rivers. But the Canadian First added new fury to the Allied assault by jumping off a dawn under a five-hour artillery barrage in a new drive for the Rhine. The attack gained a mile in the first few hours and there were signs that the Germans were withdrawing to high ground to meet it.

Greatest Gains

The greatest gains were scored by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army as it smashed five miles deeper into disordered German defenses east of the Luxembourg border, seizing 21 more towns.

Jedidiah and fighter bombers harassed the Germans for the second straight day, flying more than 4,000 sorties in the immediate battle area and attacking German traffic in the rear.

Pilots said the Germans were fleeing in disorder before Patton's drive in the Luxembourg area, seeking the temporary safety of the Pruem river as its 6th Armored division swept up the key road center of Nuerenberg.

The Third Army took 1,359 prisoners Friday and additional hundreds were pouring into prisoner cages yesterday.

North of Duren, Maj. Gen. Terry Allen's famed 104th "Timber Wolf" division led the drive for Cologne and captured Birkesdorf, Oberzier and Neiderzier. South of Duren, the 8th division was identified as the captors of Niederau.

There were indications that the swift American advance soon would bring Eisenhower's armies up against the main German force defending the Rhine, and the Allied supreme commander indicated that one of the decisive battles of the war would be fought on the Cologne plain.

The purpose of the offensive is to destroy all German power west of the Rhine, Eisenhower declared, and then cross the river and march to a meeting with Russian armies in the center of Germany.

Forty And Eight Holds Monthly Meeting Here

The Wilmington Voiture No. 245 of the Forty and Eight Society of the American Legion held its monthly promenade last week at the Famous Grill, with 21 members present.

The promenade was called to order by Chief de Gare W. J. Riley, and the committee reported on Scouting. A motion was made by J. B. Edwards that the Voiture meet with the Sea Scout Ship, and present a motion picture on Sea Scouting in order to learn something of that organization. Charles Trout of Southport said that they too had formed a Sea Scout Ship, and had obtained a building at Long Beach for both Sea and Boy Scouts.

MARINES CAPTURE HALF OF IWO ISLE

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enemy resisted our advance to the full extent of his armament. Weapons of the "bazooka" type were employed against our tanks and the use of rocket bombs weighing about 500 kilograms (approximately 1,000 pounds) continued."

Many Caves

Testifying to the powerful defenses the remaining men of the Japanese garrison of 20,000 were fighting from, Nimitz said that in a single area of approximately 200,000 square yards along the east coast, the Marines neutralized about 100 caves ranging from 30 to 40 feet deep.

The Marines, rooting the Japanese out of their defenses with bayonets, tommy guns and hand grenades, were encountering reinforced blockhouses and pillboxes having four-foot bulkheads.

One immediate result of the general advance was a "marked decrease of enemy artillery fire" into the rear areas of southern Iwo won by the Americans in the opening days of the invasion which started last Monday morning, Nimitz said.

The bulletin issued early this morning gave this picture of the flaming front from the east to west coasts:

4th Marine Division commanded by Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Gates opened a drive along the east coast which carried northward about 600 yards to extend the original invasion beachhead to a stretch of approximately three miles. Struck up the central plateau on the right flank of the 3rd Division hitting the center of the Jap lines.

3rd Marine Division commanded by Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine: hammered 300 to 500 yards through a maze of interlocking pillboxes, blockhouses, fortified caves and thick minefields to burst across the center of the central Iwo airfield atop the central plains. This put the Yanks in the center of the island in an area where Japanese military headquarters and governmental centers were located.

5th Marine Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Kellar E. Rockey; resumed its advance up the west coast after being pinned down by terrific Japanese fire for 90 hours. It drove ahead several hundred yards to win a two-mile grip on the west coast.

PENALTIES DRAWN FOR CURFEW CODE

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ing rinks, activities of clubs, dance studios and gambling establishments.

The WMC sent a 550-word list of instructions to its 300 field offices which will do the enforcing. But the WMC offices are to act only on complaints from local officials—city, county and such—and refer private complaints to such officers for investigation. Enlistment of local enforcement cooperations is recommended.

WILL FEEL PINCH

RALEIGH, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Night spots and other places of amusement in North Carolina will feel the pinch of war time restrictions effective at midnight Monday, February 26, Dr. J. S. Dorton, state director of the War Manpower Commission, said tonight.

He said steps to require compliance with a recent directive of War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes to blackout places of amusement to conserve fuel and electricity, transportation facilities and manpower which may be diverted to war activities, are being taken by his department.

Greater Drafting Of Men 30-33 Years Old Ordered

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duction or in support of the national health, safety or interest." Being "regularly engaged in" such activity continues to be the deferment rule for men aged 34 through 37.

"Physically fit men in the 30-through-37 year old group—especially those under the age of 34—are confronted with the prospect of induction to the extent necessary to fill the calls," the Selective Service announcement said.

What Is Wrong When Prayer Fails?

Thirty years ago, in Forbidden Tibet, behind the highest mountains in the world, a young Englishman named Edwin J. Dingle found the answer to this question. A great mystic opened his eyes. He realized the strange Power that Knowledge gives.

That Power, he says, can transform the life of anyone. Questions, whatever they are, can be answered. The problems of health, death, poverty and wrong, can be solved.

In his own case, he was brought back to splendid health. He acquired wealth, too, as well as worldwide professional recognition. Thirty years ago, he was sick as a man could be and live. Once his coffin was bought. Years of almost continuous tropical fevers, broken bones, near blindness, privation and danger had made a human wreck of him, physically and mentally.

He was about to be sent back to England to die, when a strange message came — "They are waiting for you in Tibet." He wants to tell the whole world what he learned there, under the guidance of the greatest mystic he ever en-

MORE PRISONERS OF JAPS FREED

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1942. First interned at Santo Tomas camp, they volunteered to take over duties at the Los Banos hospital when the Japanese opened the latter camp in May, 1943.

The rescue was engineered by Col. Robert H. Soule with 1,500 soldiers of the 11th airborne division and the guerrillas.

The guerrillas filtered into the area through volcanic country for several nights before the actual strike. These jungle-wise fighters were not detected by the Japanese.

Before dawn Friday units of the 11th division moved across Laguna De Bay in amphibious craft.

As the guerrillas and amphibious forces closed in, big transport planes loaded with paratroops roared away from Nichols Field, on the outskirts of Manila. These troops, a selected detachment of the 511th parachute regiment, jumped directly over the prison camp.

All three forces attacked simultaneously. The Japanese camp commander, members of his staff and 243 guards were at morning exercise. The Nipponese, taken completely by surprise, were killed to the last man in a brief battle.

Force Strikes For 3rd Time Within Week

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out an echelon attack." Tokyo radio, as usual, claimed that Japanese air units were intercepting the raiders.

Tokyo said the attack occurred at 7 a. m. Japanese time. Mitscher, master of carrier warfare, had undoubtedly brought his great carrier task force just as close to Honshu as before. Standing 300 miles off the main island last week, he directed incessant aerial assaults against Tokyo and the surrounding area which spread fires throughout the capital.

Superfortresses had joined in all-out air assault against Tokyo last week. They appeared over the burning city while more than 1200 carrier planes still roared over the area.

There was no hint of the amount of damage being caused to Japan's vital naval and military installations.

But it appeared that Japan's major docks and anchorages were being singled out for special attention in the latest carrier-bombing strike.

Nimitz termed the first carrier attacks on Tokyo an historic victory and disclosed that 509 Japanese planes were destroyed and over 36 ships destroyed or damaged in the raids, which caught the enemy air force napping and were carried out through weather that hampered the Japanese defenders. An additional 200 to 300 planes were damaged.

The first two attacks were carried out at a loss of only 49 planes, with a loss of from 30 to 40 pilots, some of whom may have been picked up by U. S. submarines which helped scout the Jap home waters for the fleet's daring operation.

The attacks marked the first time Tokyo had been hit by planes other than B-29s since Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle led a small group of carrier-based B-25 Mitchells against Japan in 1942.

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