

### ENGINEERS HELP DRIVE TO RHINE GAIN MOMENTUM

By WES GALLAGHER  
 JUELICH, Germany, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Thanks to engineers who bridged the Roer river under fire and took the heaviest casualties since D-Day, the U. S. Ninth Army drive to the Rhine gained momentum today, smashing forward through a maze of defenses four to four and a half miles beyond the jump-off points.

Although the Germans had been pushed from many observation posts, their gunners had carefully zeroed in the river and raked it with fire. For the second day, grim, mud-soaked engineers disregarded comrades wounded around them and kept the traffic flowing. One bridge was put in eight times before it finally stayed, and each time the cost was met in blood and courage by the engineers, who often have the dirty army jobs but seldom hit the headlines.

This time their casualties were higher in proportion than the attacking infantry. This mile of rubble that once was a thriving city dating back at least 800 years, fell yesterday to the 29th infantry division, which pushed on east nearly two miles today to the outskirts of Stettelnich.

On the northern edge of the city, the centuries-old citadel, with its 140-foot thick walls, fell quickly to infantry attacking with flame-throwers.

The task force that knocked out the handful of defenders was under a brigadier general, who rode around under a bulldozer, rounding up armored weapons and flame-throwers for the assault.

The 102nd infantry division, which made the deepest penetration at Linnich, reached Hottorf, four and a half miles from the jump-off. In this sector a series of small counterattacks were beaten off.

The 102nd and 29th divisions had been sitting along the Roer for weeks, planning crossings, and capitalized on their long study. Other divisions are taking part in the assault toward the Rhine, but their identity has not yet been disclosed by the Army.

"We have progressed very nicely, and casualties have not been as high as expected," a Ninth Army officer said.

The moderate German resistance in expected to stiffen, and there are indications the enemy high command is drawing reinforcements from other sectors of the weakened front to meet the offensive along the Roer.

The 29th division had one of the toughest tasks, fighting from rubble heap to rubble heap through this town, which is so flattened it is impossible to tell where streets begin and houses begin.

One vehicle trying to follow what looked like a road fell through into the cellar of what once was a house.

Bulldozers had to carve streets through great piles of debris as shells burst around them.

Back on the river, engineers still had a big job ahead, because the river was sowed with all types of mines.

### Uruguay Joins Ranks Of The United Nations

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Uruguay today joined the United Nations, having declared war against Germany and Japan last Thursday.

The Uruguayan ambassador, Juan Carlos Blanco, signed for his country. The list of signatures now includes all American nations except Argentina.

### Battling Yanks Take Cover On Iwo Jima Beach



Worn from the initial assault, Fourth division Marines take cover in an abandoned Japanese trench and craters made by our bombing on the Iwo Jima beachhead—waiting for the next move forward. At right is a battered Japanese ship and U. S. amphibian tanks. This graphic scene was made by Associated Press Photographer Joe Rosenthal on assignment with the wartime still picture pool.

### Major Allied Offensive And Invasion Of Tiny Iwo Marks Week's War News

(By United Press)

The big Allied offensive against Germany from the west started this week, and in the Pacific United States Marines landed on Iwo Island, at Japan's front doorstep.

The American offensive slackened off toward the end of the week but it was obviously a tactical pause. The Red armies were pledged at Yalta to even more powerful blows in co-ordination with the drive from the west. They were in position along the Oder and Neisse rivers for the final thrust into the heart of the Reich.

The American landing on Iwo resulted in the most ferocious fighting of the Pacific war and was still at its height. Casualties were large, but the Marines were pledged to take the island despite the cost. Other American forces in the Philippines cleaned up Bataan and were rapidly exterminating the remaining Japanese in Manila and on Corregidor.

The Allied offensive in the west saw the Canadian First army and the American Ninth, First, Third and Seventh in full action from the lower Rhine to the Saar basin. The Roer river line was breached and the Americans broke out onto the Cologne plain on the way to the Ruhr and Rhine.

The land action was accompanied by paralyzing aerial blows which wrecked communications from end to end of the Reich and badly tangled traffic leading to the two fronts.

There was stiff localized fighting along the Italian front.

Developments of the week included:

On Sunday, Canadian First army troops fought into the outskirts of Goch in their drive on the Ruhr. The American Third army invaded Germany at a new point north of Vianden, Luxembourg, and the Seventh army crossed the border in the Saar-

bruecken area. The Russians in Silesia drove to within 19 miles from the Saxon border and in the north reached the outskirts of Grudziadz in the Polish corridor. Admiral Nimitz announced that 509 Japanese planes were destroyed, 150 more probably destroyed, 36 ships sunk or damaged and considerable destruction done ashore in last week's carrier plant attacks on the Tokyo area. Forty-nine American planes were lost.

On Monday, two Marine divisions landed on Iwo Jima and in two hours of savage fighting established a beachhead 2 1/2 miles long and 500 yards deep. The landing was made from 800 ships. Tokyo was attacked by probably 150 Superfortresses, the largest force yet. The Canadian First army cleared most of the Germans from Goch. More than 1,600 American heavy bombers and fighters hit 12 railway and industrial centers in western Germany. The Russians captured Zawada, 45 miles from Danzig and in the south advanced to within 16 miles of Goerlitz, on the way to Dresden.

On Tuesday, the Marines captured the southern airfield on Iwo and occupied about one-third of the island. Gen. MacArthur reported good progress in cleaning out the Japanese in Manila. Corregidor and Bataan peninsula. German counter-attacks slowed the Canadian First army along the Rhine, but the American Third made gains of up to 2 1/2 miles on a 50-mile front. More than 1,600 American heavy bombers and fighters did tremendous damage in an attack on the big railway yards at Nuernberg, Germany. The Russians fought across a 20-mile stretch of the Bober river southeast of Berlin to within eight miles of Guben.

On Wednesday, the Marines drove toward Iwo Jima's central airfield in a general advance which gained as much as half a mile at some points. American casualties in the first two days were 3,950 killed, wounded or missing. The American Third army broke through another section of the Siegfried line and made gains of up to 5 1/2 miles on a broad front. The Canadian First army resumed its advance in the north. Some 1,850 American planes struck Nuernberg for the second straight day. Planes from Italy bombed the railway at Berchtesgaden, where Hitler has his mountain retreat. The Fifth army in Italy captured Mount Belvedere and made other gains in the Bologna area. The Russians drove nine miles through the German defenses to reach the junction of the Neisse and Oder rivers, 49 miles from Berlin.

On Thursday, about 9,000 Allied planes struck the greatest blow of the war at Germany, smashing vital transit lines leading to the front. The onslaught came as the American Third army cleared the Germans from the Saar-Moselle triangle and the Canadian First pushed closer to Calcar, capturing Moyland. As the Red armies crumbled German defenses along the Neisse river, Premier Stalin told his troops that "full victory" over Germany is near. The Marines captured the summit of Mount Suribachi volcano on Iwo. Admiral Nimitz announced that American casualties have risen to 385 killed and 4,168 wounded.

On Friday, the American Ninth and First armies smashed across the Roer after a terrific artillery and aerial bombardment of the enemy lines. The Germans were overwhelmed in the first rush of the offensive and lost most of the stronghold of Juelich, as well as other towns. Some 6,000 Allied planes struck again at the German communications system. The Russians completed the conquest of Poznan, Poland, after a long siege, during which 48,000 Germans were killed or captured. The grim battle for Iwo continued unabated and American gains were small. American troops in Manila broke into the old walled city, where the last of the Japanese were holding out.

On Saturday, the Americans fought their way onto the Rhine-land plain 19 miles from Cologne and were two to 3 1/2 miles beyond the shattered Roer line. All of Juelich was taken except the inner Citadel, and part of Dueren. The Russians were fighting in the streets of encircled Breslau and probing across a 60-mile stretch of the Neisse river. The Marines on Iwo got a foothold on the central airfield in bitter fighting. Another 2,146 Allied prisoners were rescued from a Japanese internment camp on Luzon in the Philippines. A force of probably more than 100 Superfortresses from India bombed Singapore.

Rankin Fights Plot To 'Overthrow Government'  
 WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Rep. John Rankin said today he is too busy fighting a plot to "overthrow this government" to worry any more about his Washington's birthday battle with Rep. Frank E. Hook.

The touse-haired Mississippi democrat issued a statement called the fight a closed incident. "I am too busy to waste my time," he said.

There was no new communique from his adversary hook, the Michigan democrat who shouted "liar" to Rankin and found himself in combat.

When barbed wire was first introduced in the British Isles and America, there was strong objection to it on humanitarian grounds.

### INSURANCE TAXES TO BE DISCUSSED

RALEIGH, Feb. 24.—(AP)—A tentative proposal seeking to provide for more equitable taxation of insurance companies operating in North Carolina will be discussed next Tuesday at a public hearing before a sub-committee of the joint finance committee.

Drawn by members of the sub-committee and insurance and tax experts, the measure would amend the continuing revenue act relating to taxes on insurance premiums and would result in an estimated annual loss of \$100,000 in revenue to the state.

A need for revising the state's existing laws on insurance premium taxes arose when the United States Supreme Court ruled that insurance is interstate commerce, thus placing North Carolina's premium tax laws in a "doubtful" category. Several large insurance companies have said they will

### Army Investigating Swiss Bomb Complaint

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Acting Secretary of State Grew said today that an Army investigation is under way into a Swiss complaint that U. S. planes attacked towns Thursday.

Grew said that if American planes were responsible reparation will be made "insofar as that is humanly possible."

He disclosed in a statement that the Swiss minister had declared U. S. aircraft had bombed and strafed causing deaths of 16 and injury to many more.

pay the insurance premium taxes in this state only under protest.

The bill, which will be presented to the finance committee after the public hearing, seeks to do away with differing tax schedules for foreign and domestic companies which might be termed "discriminatory" by placing both foreign and domestic companies on the same premium tax basis.

### LIONS MAY MEET IN DURHAM SOON

DURHAM, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Durham will be the host to the spring meeting of the Piedmont division of the North Carolina Lions club at the ODT and Lions international approve the session, it was announced today.

If approved it is understood that one representative from each club will be permitted to attend the local district convention. Local Lions pointed out the fact today that this regulation would bring the attendance within the 50-limitation ruling for public meetings.

Frances E. Walker of the local Lion club has been endorsed for district governor by Durham Lions, and his name will be offered at the convention in case it is held. In case the meeting is not held the current officers will be requested to serve another year, it was stated today.

### Under the Palms at the Plaza Hotel in New York



The Palm Court Lounge—Adding a very pleasant touch to business, committee members of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Mrs. Donald de Lissar, Mrs. Josette D. Lutz, and Edward Dowden, Jr. discuss future activities. The pleasant touch, of course, is Pepsi-Cola.



### RESCUE in the SUGAR CANE

\*Dear Bill:  
 "... When I was hit on Tinian (in the Marianas) Nips had us pinned down in a sugar cane field. They were in caves in some cliffs and really were giving us the business. A machine gun slug went through my hip early and I had visions of being in the field until dark when one of those Chrysler jobs rolled up.

"The driver told me what he was going to do and those treads looked plenty big as they straddled me. He pulled me through the escape hatch which is in the floor of the tank. If you should go to the Chrysler Tank Arsenal, find the head man and kiss him on the forehead for me. I love tanks and everyone connected with them."

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\*Actual letter from a marine to Stf. Sgt. Wm. Hendricks, Jr., U. S. Marine Corps Recruiting, Detroit.

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### Moscow Says Emergency Proclaimed At Bremen

(By The Associated Press)  
 The Moscow radio in a German-language broadcast yesterday said a state of emergency had been proclaimed in the Bremen port area following "disturbances" among German sailors. The broadcast was recorded by the Federal Communications Commission.

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