

Colder with rain today. Yesterday's Temperatures: High, 78—Low, 63.

Wilmington Morning Star

Served By Leased Wires of the ASSOCIATED PRESS and the UNITED PRESS With Complete Coverage of State and National News

VOL. 78.—NO. 104.

WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1945.

FINAL EDITION

American Offensive Plunges To Erft River; Soviets Smash 44 Miles Through Pomerania; Marines Gain Slightly Against Foe On Iwo

New Red Push Sets Trap For Danzig Forces

100 German Communities Captured In Russian Baltic Sweep

LONDON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—A 4 mile smash through the German lines in Pomerania carried the Second White Russian Army today within 22 miles of pocketing the enemy forces in Danzig, the north Polish Corridor and East Pomerania, Moscow announced tonight.

The breakthrough, which began four days ago, was disclosed by Premier Stalin in an order of the day, and the subsequent regular Soviet communique broadcast from Moscow credited Marshal Rokossovsky's troops with capturing more than 100 German communities in their continuing northward sweep towards the Baltic.

Except for the capture of 12 additional blocks inside besieged Breslau in Silesia and the seizure of seven villages in Czechoslovakia, the brief Russian communique dealt entirely with Marshal Rokossovsky's significant offensive.

The German High Command acknowledged the gains, and German broadcasters said the Russians already were fighting on the approaches to Koeslin, through which run the last highway and railroad along which the Nazis in the northeast could retreat.

By both German and Russian official accounts, however, the farthest point of Rokossovsky's advance came with the capture of Bublitz, 22 miles southeast of Koeslin and 28 miles from the Baltic Sea.

The Germans stated that the drive was aimed at slicing off the Danzig and Gdynia territories. Their defense forces confronted imminent entrapment identical to that in which the Nazis in southwest Latvia and East Prussia long have writhe.

German Commentator Ernst von Hammer said the great Soviet offensive was aimed at taking Koeslin, Kolberg, Stolp and Neustettin and that the Russians carried orders to cut all communications between Danzig and the great Baltic port of Stettin.

Neustettin, stubborn German defensive center, was in danger of being surrounded, with the Russians already holding a great arc around it from Goss Eorn, 11 miles southwest, to Bublitz, 15 miles northwest.

Besides Bublitz, Stalin's order announced capture of the strong points of Baldenburg, Schlochau, Stegers and Hammerstein. All on the routes leading northwest toward the Baltic.

Marshal Rokossovsky's forces thus were moving rapidly up close on the right flank of Marshal Zhukov's First White Russian Army which has been prosecuting the most direct drive on Berlin.

Moscow news dispatches said that Zhukov's right flank also was on the move toward the Baltic and that the Germans were hurrying in their reserves in desperate attempts to keep open the route to Danzig. The Germans said Zhukov was fighting toward Stettin to secure his flank for an ultimate frontal drive on Berlin.

German broadcasters said that the Second White Russians, besides the advance in Pomerania, had broken into the fortress of Grudziadz, behind the lines in the Polish Corridor and 56 miles south of Danzig, and that street fighting was in progress.

Suburban fighting continued for Breslau, another surrounded German fortress, on the First Ukraine Army front in Silesia.

That army, under Marshal Konev, also had crossed the Neisse river barrier at several points, the Germans said, but claimed the defense later had repulsed the Russians.

A German military spokesman said, however, that "no fighting worth mentioning took place" anywhere except on the Pomeranian front.

Churchill Says Allies Ready For Nazis' Fall

Commons Promised That Germany Will Be Rendered Impotent to Wage War for 'Generations'; Poland Gains Land

LONDON, Feb. 27.—(UP)—Prime Minister Churchill told a cheering House of Commons today that Allied plans were complete and ready for the collapse or surrender of Germany, and he promised that that country would be rendered impotent to wage war "for generations to come."

He named rich areas of eastern Germany which will be given to Poland and asserted that after the Crimea Conference the Big Three were more closely united than ever before in both political and military spheres.

"Let Germany recognize that it is futile to hope for divisions among the Allies and that nothing can avert her utter defeat," the Prime Minister said. "Further resistance will only be the cause of needless suffering."

"The Allies are resolved that Germany shall be totally disarmed, that Nazism and militarism in Germany shall be destroyed, that war criminals will all be tried justly and quickly punished and that all German industries capable of military production shall be eliminated or controlled and that Germany shall make compensation in kind to the utmost of her ability for the damage done to Allied nations. . . there will be a place one day for the Germans in the community of nations, but only when all traces of Nazism and militarism have been effectively and finally extirpated. On the general plan there is complete agreement."

Churchill defended the utmost vigor of the settlement of the Polish question agreed upon at the Crimea Conference.

"In supporting the Russian claim for the Curzon Line, I repudiate and repulse any suggestion that we are making a questionable compromise or yielding to force or fear, and I assert with the utmost conviction the broad justice of the policy upon which for the first time all the three great Allies have now taken their stand," he said.

"Moreover, the three powers have now agreed that Poland (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

Cherry Backs Principles Of Medical Care Program

RALEIGH, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Governor Cherry went personally before the Legislature today and supported the general principles of the hospital and medical care bill, but reminded that teachers had a priority on any surplus. Too, he said, many of the incorporated purposes "must be postponed until some future date."

Pursuing his oft-voiced advocacy of conservative spending and a balanced budget, the Governor said that "we cannot safely and securely build and expand our State services on a war-time prosperity."

The bill, introduced last night after weeks of discussion outside the Legislature chambers, would appropriate \$100,000 for expenses of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission; \$1,000,000, if available after payment of the contingency-emergency salary to teachers and low-salaried State employees, for assistance of local hospitals caring for indigent patients; and \$50,000 for loans to medical students who agree to practice in rural areas for at least four years. Trustees of the University of North Carolina would be empowered to expand the universities two-year (Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

GEN. WATSON, AIDE TO FDR, IS DEAD

White House Secretary Stricken After Crimea Conference

AT SEA WITH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, Feb. 20.—(Correct)—(UP)—Maj. Gen. Edwin M. Watson, military aide and secretary to President Roosevelt, died at sea today aboard an American cruiser bearing the Presidential party home from the Crimea Conference.

Watson, 61, became ill just as the President and his staff were leaving Russia by air to rejoin the cruiser in the Mediterranean. He died early today of a cerebral hemorrhage.

The general, who had been on the President's staff since 1933, was one of the Chief Executive's closest friends. His sudden death greatly saddened Mr. Roosevelt.

"I shall miss him almost more than I can express," the President said. "There was never a cloud between us in all these years. He helped me greatly."

It was expected that Watson would be buried in Arlington National cemetery.

Aboard ship, Watson was given every possible medical attention under the direction of Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntyre, surgeon general of the Navy and Mr. Roosevelt's personal physician.

The President said in a statement that Watson "fortunately, suffered little, if at all."

"He deserves every tribute that can be given, both as a close friend and as an officer of the United States Army."

"He had been on almost every previous trip with me during the last 12 years and, though he had been ill for a short period about a year ago, it was his sense of duty and determination to see the war through that made him insist on taking this trip with me."

Watson was ill briefly during the Tehran Conference in 1943. Shortly afterward, because of his physical condition, he went on the Army retired list in order as he explained to friends at the time, not to retard the promotion of men behind him in seniority.

Watson's principal White House task was supervising the President's appointments. As appointment secretary for the past five years, he arranged Mr. Roosevelt's entire White House schedule. In the dual role of aide and secretary, he accompanied the President on (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

Yanks Finish Conquest Of Verde Island

Mt. Mataba Captured As U. S. Clears Japs From Manila Area

MANILA, Wednesday, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Twenty-fourth Division Yanks have completed the destruction of the Japanese garrison on little Verde Island, invaded Sunday, Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today. The island, between Luzon and Mindoro, is astride the shortest supply route from the United States to Manila.

Fourteenth corps troops clearing the Japanese from the Manila watershed east of the liberated capital captured Mt. Mataba, east of the town of San Miguel. They also secured the south and west slopes of Mt. Pacawuan.

South of there, the First Cavalry Division pressed its attack on Antipolo, just north of Laguna de Bay, in the face of heavy mortar, artillery and machinegun fire. This opposition reflected reports of gathering enemy power in the sector.

Mopping up of Japanese remnants continued in the hills flanking the central Luzon plain and on blasted Corregidor fortress at the mouth of Manila Bay.

Borneo was pounded with 100 tons of bombs concentrated on air-dromes and port facilities. Many hits on the target areas were reported, and smoke covered the area.

Formosa took a 60-ton bombing. Fires were started in barracks areas. Three coastal ships were damaged in the nearby Pescadore Islands. Two American planes were lost.

Heavy damage resulted from a destructive bombing of Camranh Bay on the French Indo-China coast. Fighters escorting the attacking Liberators shot down two enemy interceptors and wiped out three on the ground.

The Melbourne radio reported, meanwhile, that Australian troops now hold a 150-mile area south of the Genga river on the west coast of Bougainville in the Solomons, and "complete occupation of Bougainville's west coast is in sight."

Known Japanese casualties on Bougainville since the Americans left were reported at 1,200.

Democracy was reborn in the Far East Tuesday as Gen. Douglas MacArthur solemnly and tearfully reestablished the Philippine commonwealth government while his forces of liberation expanded their hold on vital territory within the archipelago.

Ten miles east of Manila, on the Wawa-Antipolo battle line, the (Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)

Taft Seeks To Block Cut In Newspaper Employment

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Senator Taft (R-Ohio) introduced an amendment to the manpower control bill today to prevent any sharp slash in the number of workers employed by newspapers.

Taft proposed to modify the authority of the War Manpower Commission chairman to set employment ceilings by forbidding him to establish any which would reduce the number of employees of any regular daily, weekly or monthly publication or newsgathering organization below the level prevailing in such establishments in any month of last year.

The employment ceiling clause, together with a parallel provision giving the WMC chairman power to forbid employers to hire new workers, is the key section of the bill worked out by the Senate Military Affairs Committee as a substitute for the work-or-jail measure approved by the house February 1.

To back up the grant of power, the Senate bill provides stiff jail and fine penalties for employers who disregard the ceiling and hiring restrictions, and for deferred farm workers who leave the farm without their draft board's permission.

Senator Burton (R-Ohio) hardly had resumed discussion of the manpower bill after a three-hour delay occasioned by an insurance measure when Senator McKellar (D-Tenn) took issue with his pre- (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

Japanese Resistance High Despite Losses

Enemy Still Clings To One Tip Of Central Airfield; Yank Artillery Breaks Up Tank-Led Counterattack During Night

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GUAM, Wednesday, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Two of the three Marine divisions battling side by side toward the high north part of Iwo gnawed out small gains Tuesday through thickly-studded Japanese defenses but enemy resistance remains high and still includes tanks after nine days of ceaseless hammering.

The Nipponese grimly clung to one tip of the central airfield after a week of flaming action concentrated on and around that two-way fighter base.

Adm. Chester Nimitz announced in a communique today that the Marines resumed a power-packed push from the south half of Iwo Tuesday morning after artillery broke up a tank-led counterattack Monday night. Enemy infiltration attempts were repulsed.

The gains were registered in the center by Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's Third Division, which holds virtually all of the central airfield, and on the east shore by Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' Fourth Division.

No mention was made of any gain on the west by Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey's Fifth Division.

The fiercely resisted advance was supported by Marine artillery, carrier-based planes and warships of the Fifth Fleet.

Mortar units blew up two Japanese ammunition dumps to further lessen the fighting power of a garrison which is receiving no reinforcements, no naval support and little support from the air.

The Third Division has counted 800 enemy pillboxes in its zone of action, indicating the tough type of battle which must be waged.

Land-based Army Liberators, (Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

233 Jap Planes, 31 Ships Destroyed By Navy Fliers

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Airmen of a mighty U. S. carrier task force smashed vital Japanese aircraft plants and chased the enemy air force to cover in Sunday and Monday raids on Tokyo and Hachijo island, 175 miles south of the capital, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz reported today.

In their second attack on Tokyo and vicinity in 10 days, the Yank fliers from warcraft skirting Japan's coast battled wind-driven snow and sleet, and pierced heavy anti-aircraft fire. Incomplete reports indicated they destroyed or damaged 233 enemy planes and sank or damaged 31 small vessels, Nimitz said.

Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, commander of the daring task force, said his fliers left the Ota aircraft assembly plant, 47 miles northwest of Tokyo, a smoldering ruin.

The Keisumi plant, where a substantial portion of Japanese combat planes were assembled, was virtually in ruins, Mitscher told Bob Geiger, Associated Press correspondent with the fleet.

The Ota plant, only three miles from the Keisumi factory and 12 from the Japanese emperor's palace, was blasted further Sunday when Superfortresses from Marianas bases pounded the Tokyo area in the biggest B-29 attack of the war, staged by more than 200 of the huge aircraft.

The number of American carrier planes making the bold strikes was not mentioned by either Nimitz or Mitscher, but Tokyo radio during the raid days made frantic estimates of from 600 to 1,200.

Nimitz said nine Navy fighter planes were lost in combat, with five pilots saved. Task force ships received no enemy-dealt damage while the American fliers were blasting their targets, but two Fleet units suffered minor damage during retirement, the communique said.

This allows credit for length of Army service, overseas duty, combat awards and parenthood. The value of the various point credits is to be announced only after the war in Europe is over.

More than two-thirds of the money in the catch-all bill is for the still building Navy. It is allocated \$1,914,120,488, which, with contractual authority for \$114,300,000, raises Navy funds for the current fiscal year to approximately \$30,000,000,000.

Testimony on the measure was released today. Among the items covered:

A prediction by Chairman Cannon (D-Mo) that the end of the war will "drop on the American farmer the greatest surplus of food and fibers ever known."

A proposal (not acted upon) by Rep. Johnson (D-Okla) that Japanese aliens in U. S. segregation camps should be sterilized and thus be made unable to breed.

An estimate by Price Administrator Bowles that 13 per cent of food sold at retail is sold above ceiling prices.

Back from Iwo Jima



Lieutenant Commander John W. McClain of Marion, O., a former reporter, is the first man back from the invasion of Iwo Jima. He described the island as "the most impregnable objective that could be built." (International Soundphoto).

LIEPZIG BLASTED IN AERIAL DRIVE

Huge Allied Assault Continues; Berlin Swept By Fires

LONDON, Feb. 27.—(UP)—Allied bombers carried the greatest non-stop aerial offensive of the war into its third week today, striking a powerful blow at Leipzig, fifth city of Germany, while neutral sources reported that Berlin was still swept by great fires from yesterday's history-making American assault.

American and British warplanes from English bases and heavies of the 15th Air Force in Italy—an estimated 3,500 planes in all—ranged over southern, western and central Germany to strike new blows at enemy communications and at the Reich's dwindling oil reserves.

More than 1,100 Fortresses and Liberators of the U. S. Eighth Air Force, escorted by more than 700 fighters, blasted railyards at the eight-way junction of Leipzig and the city of Halle, 23 miles to the northwest.

Some 750 Fortresses attacked Leipzig, dropping their explosives through clouds on the city, chief industrial center of Saxony and second only to Berlin and Hamburg in commercial importance. Rail lines from Leipzig, which had a pre-war population of more than 700,000, fan out to all parts of the Reich. They had not been bombed in the past two weeks' unprecedented assault on German communications.

The attack on Halle, a six-way rail hub, also was aimed at crowded freight yards.

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To the south, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American Third Army troops stormed into Bihburg, the German "Bastogne," after throwing armored claws about the town. The town was lightly held, but its Nazi garrison put up determined resistance as Patton's foot soldiers and tanks moved in for the final assault.

The suddenness of Patton's breakthrough in this area yesterday forced the Germans to withdraw most of their forces from Bihburg, despite its great strategic importance as a main highway center between the Third Army and the Rhine at Coblenz.

With three great American armies ripping through the vitals of the enemy's Rhineland defenses, Field Marshal Montgomery's British and Canadian forces on the north pierced the Nazis' last defenses in the Hochwald Forest and smashed on through crumbling enemy resistance.

Field dispatches said hundreds of tanks had broken the backbone of the Germans in that sector and that the Allied advance was assuming the proportions of a breakthrough.

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Ruhr Valley Menaced By Yank Drive

Prisoners And Towns Scooped Up By Racing Doughboys

PARIS, Feb. 27.—(AP)—American infantry and armor smashed across the flatlands of western Germany today in advances of ten miles or more, plunging all the way to the Erft river and within 8 1/2 miles of Cologne in a great drive that threatened the whole industrial Ruhr.

German prisoners were scooped up by the hundreds and town after town fell to the waves of troops racing forward by truck and foot.

German resistance was so feeble and apparently demoralized that a complete news blackout tonight was clamped on all operations of Ninth Army divisions which have broken through in this area. It was thought the Germans themselves might not know the full extent of the American breakthrough.

With the Ninth Army already at the Erft, last natural barrier before the Rhine river, 13 miles away, the U. S. First Army surged toward Cologne, capturing the cross-roads village of Sinzdorf, 8 1/2 miles southwest.

At the same time the Canadian First Army lashed out in an intensified attack against the Germans' northern flank, rolling back the weakened Nazi defenses two to four miles between the Maas and the Rhine, and driving within 30 miles of a wing of the Ninth Army probing northward beyond Muenchen-Gladbach.

U. S. Third Army troops to the south fought into the important road hub of Bihburg and streamed across the Bihburg-Trier highway in several places in a general two-mile advance all along their sector of the sprawling battle front.

Gen. Eisenhower's whole mighty offensive swept irresistibly toward the Rhine through German forces officially described as being in "extreme confusion." Several German divisions were counted as completely destroyed since the First and Ninth U. S. Armies slammed across the Roer river last Friday.

At the center of the assault, the 30th Division powered up to the Erft river midway between Duesseldorf and Cologne, capturing the river village of Morken on that last natural barrier before the Rhine. East of Dueren armored spearheads of the First Army blasted to within nine miles of blackened Cologne and almost to the banks of the Erft, beating down desperate Nazi counterattacks on the day.

The Germans brought tanks across the Erft and met the on-rushing American Sherman tanks in tank-in-tank slugging matches, but failed to check Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' powerful drive across the Cologne plain.

Today's flanking drive past Muenchen-Gladbach revealed what previously had been a military secret, AP Correspondent Wes Gallagher asserted—"that Gen. Eisenhower's winter drive is aimed at bigger stakes than just reaching the Rhine. It is part of the blow at the heart of the Nazis—the Ruhr."

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

U. S. Postpones Decision On Armed Peace Proposal

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 27.—(AP)—The United States managed to postpone for 24 hours today a surprise move to commit all the American nations to guarantee the frontiers and political independence of the countries in this hemisphere with their armed might.

Senator Warren Austin (R-Vt), member of the Foreign Relations Committee, intervened just as a commission of the inter-American conference here was about to pass the plan by acclamation.

Entitled "The Declaration of Chapultepec" the resolution combines proposals put forward by Uruguay, Colombia and Brazil.

The surprise came in the determination of the other countries here to forge links of steel among the American republics immediately, without waiting for estab- (Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)