

Cloudy and mild today.
Yesterday's temperatures
High, 66—Low, 33.

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

Yanks Drive T... Within 6 Miles Of Cologne;
Russians Seize Neustettin Railroad Hub;
Marines Overrun Town Of Motoyama On Iwo

Other Forces Gain In Push Toward Baltic

Reds Consolidating Positions In North; 50 Towns Captured

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(AP)—The Russians seized the five-way railroad hub of Neustettin in Pomerania today and gained five to six miles in their drive aimed at cutting off the Germans in the Baltic coastal area of Danzig, the Polish Corridor and northeast Pomerania.

Unofficial dispatches from Moscow said the northward-racing tank spearheads of the Second White Russian Army had reached the coastal highway and railroad which are the last escape routes of the Germans, but the nightly Soviet communique disclosed officially no advances narrowing the 22-mile gap which remained after Tuesday's capture of Bublitz and Drawehn.

Instead, the communique announced capture of more than 50 towns in a general line-straightening and solidifying operation along the 40-mile-wide front of the advance from Schneornitz, 11 miles north of Chohnow westward to Bublitz.

Premier Stalin announced the capture of Neustettin, 88 miles northeast of Stettin, in an order of the day following a German broadcast that the outflanked strongpoint had been evacuated. The Soviet communique added the capture of Streitzitz, two and one-half miles west of Neustettin, putting the Russians into the open past Neustettin's difficult position between the Vilm and Streitzitz lakes.

The east-front spot light continued to beat strongly on the Soviet offensive in Pomerania, the Moscow communique saying only that on other fronts the Russians had captured half a dozen villages in East Prussia and took another 10 blocks and the suburb of Kleinischank in surrounded Breslau, capital of Lower Silesia.

The Germans also placed greatest stress on the Pomeranian struggle, broadcasting that the Soviet vanguards had reached Pohl now, 12 miles north of Bublitz and 16 miles from the Baltic coastal railway, and making no secret of the peril posed for the defense by Marshal Rokossovsky's rampage toward the sea.

The German communique said that Rokossovsky had "advanced far to the north" of Bublitz, his most northerly point of Tuesday, and said that Soviet tank forces were "strongly backed by infantry."

Apparently the Germans had given up trying to stop the speeding tanks, their communique saying their efforts were concentrated on trying to check "part of the infantry following up the tanks."

Moscow news dispatches, however, said the German resistance was stiffening at some places against Soviet forces "fighting fiercely to complete encirclement of the German forces to the east."

Russian accounts emphasized that the slushy terrain of forests dotted with lakes made it necessary for tanks to stick to the roads, somewhat handicapping operations.

The Red Air Force was busy over the coastal gap, supporting the tanks and hampering German reserve movements. One strategic aim of the Second White Russian drive was to cover the flank of the First White Russian Army on the central front for a direct drive towards Berlin. The Germans broadcast that the day had witnessed their brideheads on the sides of Kuestrin on the line, 38 miles east of Ber-

Forrestal on Iwo Iima



Secretary of Navy James Forrestal stands ankle deep in the black volcanic sand of Iwo Jima, while Marines were waging their hardest fight in 168 years on this strategic Japanese island 750 miles from Tokyo. (AP Wirephoto from U. S. Navy via Navy Radio).

Half Of Isle Now Held By Leathernecks

Gains Range Up To 800 Yards; Foe Gradually Compressed

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Thursday, March 1.—(AP)—Snapping the back of Japanese resistance on Iwo Jima three Marine divisions gained several hundred yards all along the line Wednesday and overran the island's main town of Motoyama.

Winning a hold on more than one half of the island on the 10th day of invasion, the Leathernecks rolled backward still fiercely resisting Nipponese whose counted dead already totals 4,784.

Gains ranged up to 800 yards. On the west shore, Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey's Fifth Division, which had been stalled while the other two divisions inched ahead Tuesday, drove northward, paced by tanks.

In the center, Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's Third Division, finally capturing the Japanese fighter airfield, plunged past Motoyama town and reached the edge of a third airfield which still was under construction when the island was invaded February 19.

On the east side, Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates' Fourth Division hurled back bitterly resisting enemy forces.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced the progress in a communique this morning which pointed up the stiff type of fight still raging by reporting enemy prisoners in 9 days total 10—an average of one a day.

Warships of the Fifth Fleet, Marine artillery and carrier based planes poured it on the foe but the Japanese still were sending back heavy mortar fire.

The Wednesday big push, one of the most impressive in more than a week, followed enemy infiltration attempts Tuesday night which were foiled by the fleet illuminating the scene with star shells.

Supporting carrier planes flew north of Iwo and touched off explosions at the enemy seaplane base at Chichi in the Bonin Islands.

The Iwo Japanese, fighting from a maze of pillbox and blockhouse defenses and having the advantage of higher ground, limited the Marines Tuesday to small gains.

Field dispatches indicated the aerial and big gun barrages had done their utmost to tear apart the hundreds of enemy pillboxes and it would take troop assaults to break through the core of enemy resistance.

The bitter fight centered round the northern end of the central airfield. Marines holding high ground battled to loose the enemy's last grip there. They were

Local Veterans' Agency Praised For Initiative

Thirteen members of the Wilmington Veterans' Service Committee heard their group praised for its initiative yesterday afternoon by Lt. Col. Thomas H. Upton, State assistant director of Selective Service and key official of the North Carolina Veterans' Assistance Program.

He went on to outline for them the place of local agencies in State and national planning for returned servicemen and to warn them to forewarn against "the quick transition from hero to bum", in the eyes of the public, of veterans returning after the novelty has worn off.

Representing the State agency authorized in November by Gov. J. Melville Broughton and headed by Brig. Gen. J. Van B. Metts, State adjutant general and director of Selective Service, Lt. Col. Upton was introduced to the committee membership by Henry R. Emory, chairman and representative of the City Planning Board. He was accompanied to the meeting in the Tidewater building by Lt. Col. Hugh L. Caveness, also of the State Selective Service office.

Pointing out that the committee had followed "Wilmington's usual procedure of stepping out ahead of anyone else", he said it had afforded him pleasure to recognize it in December as the official local veterans' agency, despite the fact that authorization for definite action had been dubious at that time.

As a preliminary to outlining the functions of local veterans' agencies, he noted that the consolidated Wilmington group took in the responsibilities of the two committees usually planned for cities, one centering its activity around an information center and service clearing house to be operated by local selective service boards, the other focusing its "pressure group" efforts on shaping public opinion and civic organization sympathies toward service to veterans.

This latter function, he explained, must be carried out with the realization that as the current "dribble" of returning veterans grows to a torrent, spontaneous public inclination to help would vanish, dropping ex-servicemen in the fickle estimate of their fellow citizens from "hero to bum." Organization must forestall this development, which he called "a natural human

Yanks On Daylight Patrol in Enemy Country



Wary as huntsmen stalking dangerous game, infantrymen of a U. S. Ninth Army patrol move cautiously past the railroad station in Rurich, Germany, their eyes and ears alert and four of them with rifles ready for any sign of the enemy. The fifth man (right) balances a "bazooka", with which the patrol can throw heavy stuff at some chance tank or maybe a machine-gun. Signal Corps Radiophoto.

U. S. Ships Steam Into Manila Bay; Corregidor Campaign Is Completed

COMMONS FAVORS POLISH DECISION

Churchill Virtually Upheld Although Final Debate Is To Come

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(UP)—The House of Commons today defeated 396 to 25, an amendment by rebel conservatives attacking the Crimea Conference decision on Poland as a violation of the Atlantic Charter and a betrayal of British principles.

The ballot was in effect a vote of confidence in Prime Minister Churchill's coalition government. A similar test after the last war debate resulted in a vote of 340 to 7.

It is doubtful now whether a vote will be taken tomorrow on the government's formal motion for approval of all the Crimea decisions. The feeling of the House was clearly shown on the Polish issue, the only strongly controversial subject to stem from the Crimea Conference.

The revolt within his own party, however, caused Churchill to change the order of the three-day debate on the Crimea Conference, which he opened yesterday with a 10,000-word speech. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who was to have closed the debate tomorrow, spoke today instead. The Prime Minister himself will give the concluding argument to the government.

Churchill devoted much of his speech yesterday to justifying the Big Three decision on Poland, and today Eden, the Prime Minister's closest collaborator and principal

4,215 Japanese Bodies Are Counted On Once-Foamidable 'Rock'

MANILA, Thursday, March 1.—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur today announced the entrance of American shipping into Manila Bay and the end of the Corregidor campaign just 14 days after paratroopers and infantrymen landed on the fortress island to engage a well-armed enemy double the size of the Yank force.

The Americans took "The Rock" at the entrance to Manila Bay in just half the time the Japanese required to defeat the gallant defenders under Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright in early 1942.

A force of 3,038 Americans, landing under fire February 16, avenged that surrender by smashing approximately 6,000 Japanese.

MacArthur termed Corregidor "a strongly-fortified island fortress defended to the point of annihilation by a well-equipped, fanatical enemy practically double the size of our force."

The Japanese on Corregidor, he said, were reduced in a period of 12 days by a combination of surprise, strategy and fighting technique and skill, perfectly coordinated with supporting naval and air forces.

American shipping was using Manila harbor today, sailing past the once-foamidable "Rock" at the bay's entrance.

MacArthur said 4,215 Japanese bodies had been counted on Corregidor and many hundred have been sealed in tunnels and caves where they were buried alive or blown to bits as they touched off underground ammunition dumps.

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BERLIN POUNDED FOR NINTH NIGHT

6,000 Allied Planes Sweep Germany In 16th Day Of Air Drive

LONDON, Feb. 28.—(UP)—Some 6,000 Allied bombers and fighters blasted Germany today through the 16th day of the Allied day-and-night victory blitz and tonight RAF Mosquitos dropped 4,000-pound bombs on Berlin for the ninth consecutive night.

Eleven hundred American Fortresses and Liberators escorted by 600 fighters smashed five Ruhr railway centers and other targets. A "heavy force" of RAF Lancasters struck a benzol plant near Gelsenkirchen to add to the more than 100,000 tons of bombs cascaded into Germany during February by Britain-based planes.

The RAF's Second Tactical Air Force flying from bases in Belgium and Holland flew 1,100 sorties, and the U. S. Ninth Air Force flew 1,500 sorties in close support of advancing Allied armies on the Western Front. The Ninth struck the village of Rheydt near Muenchen-Gladbach where some Germans were holding out and the Second TAF destroyed barges the Germans had assembled to withdraw across the Rhine.

The Eighth Air Force's 1,700 planes struck the freight yards at Kassel and Soest, 15 miles southeast of Hamm; Schwerte and Hagen, in the southeast corner of the Ruhr near Dortmund, and Siegen.

The famous First Infantry Division was among units participating in the drive on Cologne, now clearly within sight of the advancing forces and under heavy fire of American artillery.

The Nazis threw three counterattacks against the bridgeheads during the day, but all were repulsed by First Army infantry, tanks and tank destroyers. Veteran American officers declared German artillery fire against the bridgeheads was the heaviest encountered since the present offensive began.

Thousands of German civilian refugees were reported streaming into Duesseldorf ahead of the Ninth Army's avalanche. More than 30,000 prisoners had been captured by the American First and Ninth and the Canadian First Armies in their sweeps toward the Rhine.

The seven recommendations and conclusions given in the report are as follows: "1—Adequate port facilities constitute a first requirement for the

Immediate local reaction to the report was that, as a whole, it was sound but there were one or two possibly unfavorable points. Among the most significant proposals in the seven-point program was that "development is sufficiently important and far reaching to become a State undertaking rather than a Wilmington project."

The Governor and three members of the Planning Board—Acting Chairman Capus M. Waynick,

First Crosses Erft River At Three Points

Enemy Resistance Stiffens Against Canadians In The North

PARIS, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Gen. Eisenhower's rampart Western Front offensive smashed to within 6.1-2 miles of the great industrial city of Cologne today with the U. S. First Army making three crossings of the shallow Erft river near Modrath.

There were indications that the Germans were being forced to withdraw from their positions west of the Rhine as tanks and infantry of Lt. Gen. Hodges' First Army went crashing through the main defenses guarding Cologne and other Allied forces pressed their assault all along the front.

The U. S. Ninth Army continued to close around the big railway center of Muenchen-Gladbach, but the exact movements of these troops remained masked behind a security news blackout. Front dispatches said Simpson's doughboys were advancing with great speed in some places and slowly at others. The Germans threw in King Tiger tanks, their latest and most powerful armor, in an attempt to halt the Americans.

Enemy resistance stiffened against the Canadian First Army, which was held to an advance of about a mile in the north. Even so it was reported Field Marshal von Rundstedt had withdrawn some of the German defenders from this end of the front with the obvious intent of trying to bolster the enemy line in the center, where the industrial metropolis of Duesseldorf was being imminently threatened as well as Cologne.

"Task Force Church," the lightning column of infantry and armor which drove 10 miles yesterday in a flanking thrust past Muenchen-Gladbach and which threatened to plunge into the heart of the Ruhr industrial region, was reported to have met stiffening resistance today. The extent of its progress beyond Waldnie, which it reached last night, was not revealed.

Fighting was reported in progress in the outskirts of Muenchen-Gladbach, nine miles from Duesseldorf and probably the biggest German rail hub west of the Rhine. As doughboys and armor deepened the bridgeheads across the Erft and additional forces poured up to the stream on a wide front, indications mounted that the Nazis were making only a rearguard fight before the Rhine and were totally incapable of halting the powerful American drive.

Pilots reported columns of enemy transport streaming toward the Rhine and an American officer declared the enemy was withdrawing his artillery toward the broad stream which guards the heart of Germany.

Thousands of German prisoners were being taken all the fight knocked out of them by six days of ceaseless battering. It was the greatest rout since Normandy.

There now was nothing between the First Army and fire-blackened Cologne expect open plain. Engineers worked under fire during the day strengthening bridges across the Erft to carry hundreds of tanks into the fight.

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The State Planning Board yesterday recommended the creation of a North Carolina State Ports authority with power to issue revenue bonds, not to exceed \$1,000,000, for the development of the ports of Wilmington, Morehead City and Southport.

Establishment of such an authority, it added, should be effected at the current session of the General Assembly.

The recommendations, contained in a lengthy report, were given to Governor R. Gregg Cherry yesterday.

The Governor and three members of the Planning Board—Acting Chairman Capus M. Waynick,