

### LAST ODER LINE BROKEN BY REDS

(Continued from Page One)

of Swinemuende, citadel guarding the main ship pass into Stettin bay through the Kaiser canal between Wollin and Usedom islands.

The simultaneous drives to Guelzow, Cammin and Pribbernow invested on three sides the only German bridge across the bay, that which runs onto Wollin island at Wollin town 10 miles southwest of Cammin. Wollin has rail and highway connections to Swinemuende.

The Soviet communique reported the capture of more than 60 towns southwest and west of Danzig as Russian armies redoubled their efforts to clean up the Baltic pockets, which stretch as far east as Latvia. More than 1,000 were killed on Tuesday alone southwest of Koeshlin, where Rokossovsky's troops had reached the sea.

Indicating the continued desperate resistance of the isolated Germans, the Soviets called on bombers of the Red Air Force last night to soften up positions in the Koensberg area.

Other bomber formations blasted Stettin, only 14 miles from Soviet spearheads on Znuvok's western flank. Many fires and explosions resulted.

Moscow dispatches said Soviet field guns were now within range of Stettin from points both north and south of the city and presumably were hurling their explosives into Berlin's big Baltic outlet.

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### Americans Take Cologne; Third Racing To Rhine

(Continued from Page One)

head, "was not the last-stand, do-or-die defense that had been expected. Cologne is no Aachen manured by a garrison prepared to fight house to house and street to street."

There was no escape for the surviving Nazis across any of the five bridges over the Rhine at Cologne. All had been destroyed by Allied bombings. Bonn, toward which the remnants were retreating, is some 13 miles up the winding river from Cologne.

North of the stricken city, American forces cleared the Rhine all the way to Neuss, opposite Duesseldorf, except for a small pocket near Zons, virtually ending the fighting in that sector.

The only other enemy bridgehead on the westbank of the Rhine between Cologne and the Dutch frontier was at Wesel, and it had shrunk down to an area less than eight miles wide by six deep. A dispatch from Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's headquarters said it had lost all but its nuisance value.

British and Canadian big guns were shelling some 10,000 Nazi troops in the constricted pocket and trying to knock out their escape bridges across the Rhine. British troops pushed a mile and a half up the Issum-Wesel road today and approached the rail town of Alpen, only six miles from Wesel. Canadians gained two miles southeast of Sonsbeck and cleared the western fringe of Bonninghardt forest.

American troops, after clearing Rheinberg, mopped up the region west of a railroad from Rheinberg to Moeres.

South of Cologne, the Germans fought hard to hold open their corridor to Bonn, bringing up tanks to hold the flank of the escape route.

The veteran U. S. First Infantry Division drove through Trippesdorf and Cardorf, within four and a half miles of the Rhine and within five miles of Bonn at the nearest point. The Ninth Armored Division cleared six villages in an eastward push from Euskirchen and reached the edge of Oberdere nine miles southwest of Bonn.

Farther south, Whitehead said, the Germans simply were retreating, with Doughboys marching after them.

American troops captured a large Ford factory just north of Cologne. There was no immediate report whether the plant had been damaged by Allied bombings, but a prisoner said it still was in operation a few months ago.

Cologne itself was estimated to

be 85 per cent destroyed from the 42,000 tons of bombs dropped on it since May, 1942. More than 95 per cent of the old city, which embraces the cathedral, is a rubble heap.

"Cologne looks like Stalingrad," an RAF officer told Whitehead. "There are some 2,000 acres of damage in the city. Cologne industry was spread through the city much like industries in Detroit. The only way to attack the industry was to destroy the city."

### CHURCHILL WALKS ON GERMAN SOIL

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Gen. William Simpson, Ninth Army Commander, how Juelich was captured.

Simpson had trouble convincing Churchill that it would be unsafe for him to visit the banks of the Rhine itself at Duesseldorf.

"If they are shooting, you can put me in a tank and I'll be all right," the Prime Minister urged.

But Simpson was adamant in his refusal to risk the life of Britain's No. 1 statesman.

The tour included inspection of the Siegfried Line defense installations in the Aachen area and the points from which the Ninth Army jumped off across the Roer river in its great offensive.

At the Roer, the Prime Minister left the car and walked across the military bridge American engineers had thrown up, listening as he walked to an account by Simpson and Montgomery on the February 23 attack.

When he reached the British-Canadian sector, his progress was slowed considerably by throngs of soldiers who lined the roads shouting, "How are we doing?" and "Over the Rhine next!"

Seated beside Montgomery in the staff car, Churchill beamed and nodded in response and gave the "V" sign again and again.

When his party stopped south of Goch, where the Prime Minister got another view of the devastation visited on German towns in the path of Allied advance, he entered a gun-pit, wrote "to Hitler-personal" on a shell with chalk and fired it at the Rhine ferry crossing at Xanten, miles away.

He grinned as the 360-pound shell roared from the 240-mm. howitzer.

"I'm not responsible if it doesn't get Hitler," he joked. "The artillery boys set the sights. I just shot it off."

To the correspondents who trailed him through his tour, Churchill said:

"I am deeply impressed with the brave fighting of our boys, especially as I see what they fought through. The enemy had a tremendous defense advantage in the Reichswald."

And he gazed about him at the formidable forest, the mire of the roads and the mud and water of the fields.

**1,000 PRISONERS FREED BY YANKS**

(Continued from Page One)

all directions," said Capt. Bernard Nurre, Oakland, Calif. "Some ran into the woods. Most came up the road toward us. They tried to form a column and march in like soldiers but they were too weak."

"Some had only one leg. Some collapsed when they tried to march. But when they walked past me they tried to salute. A Russian saluted with the stump of an arm. Both arms were gone. He grinned at me as he saluted."

Nurre had been detailed to take care of the prisoners, by the time they reached a temporary shelter he had prepared for them, their line stretched out for two miles. Nurre collected all the jeeps he could take in the weakest. Medical corps men did what they could and the prisoners helped each other.

"They were the most miserable lot I've ever seen," Nurre said. "But they were the happiest. They smiled, laughed and cried, and babbled thanks in five languages."

The prisoners crowded into the enclosure. American infantrymen crowded round them, handing them cigarettes and candy.

"Then the same idea seemed to hit all our guys at once — those other Joes were starving," Nurre said.

The infantrymen got out their rations. They dumped them into a pile. A French medical captain, named camp commandant, appointed a commandant for each national group, and the food was distributed equally.

"Not one man wolfed his food," Nurre said. "The waited until each man had his share to eat; their first real meal in months."

The commandant stood up on a box and gave them the latest news, including the Russian approach to Berlin. Then the prisoners did something such as I had never seen. The Yugoslavs, Italians, Frenchmen and Poles collected all the cigarettes the Americans had given them and handed them to the Russian camp commandant in appreciation of the Red Army's victories. The Russians thanked them and handed back the cigarettes.

"I'm glad my men had a chance to see these men, and their misery," Col. Only said. "It will give them a better picture of the Germans."

### LEGISLATURE GETS LAST LOCAL BILLS

The main measure of local import still to be presented to the waning State legislature by Rep. J. Q. LeGrand is the North Carolina Ports Authority bill, framed by the State Planning Board and forwarded to Mr. LeGrand yesterday by Wilmington Port Commission officials for introduction on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Five other bills were introduced yesterday by Mr. LeGrand. They related to the adjustment of certain county salaries and of City police and firemen's pensions, to the disposition of automobiles seized by beverage-control officers and to the regulations governing chattel-mortgages.

The Ports Authority bill was reviewed last Friday by City and County officials and Port Commission members, who decided to endorse it for passage by the legislature despite the fact that it carried no provision for operating funds. Since it embodies the findings of State Planning Board members who came to Wilmington to survey port conditions at Governor R. Gregg Cherry's suggestion, copies of the bill were sent to the governor and to Felix A. Grisette, managing director of the planning board, as well as to Pat Taylor, legislative liaison man.

Yesterday's submittals to the House by Mr. LeGrand included a bill to ratify overpayments made to elective officials of New Hanover county during 1944.

Also introduced was an amendment to the police pension act which makes the act conform with the firemen's pension act, giving the police officers, on retirement, one-half of their salaries, after 20 years service, and an increase of one dollar per month for each year's service thereafter. It also carries a provision that any police officer who has served more than 25 years may retire on his own volition. This also applies to policemen.

A companion bill amends the firemen's pension act so that instead of a fireman receiving five dollars per month for each five years' service after 20 years, he will receive one dollar per month for each year's service in excess of 20.

Rep. LeGrand submitted an amendment to the General Statutes prohibiting any highway patrolman, sheriff, policeman or other officer of the law from turning over to a Federal officer any confiscated automobile that would in any way defeat the General Statutes requiring that all vehicles seized for transportation of intoxicating beverages should be sold under condemnation proceedings by the state court. It carries a penalty of not less than \$200 or

### WAC Speaker Acclaimed At Rotarian's Meeting

Introduced as a preliminary speaker at yesterday's luncheon meeting of the Wilmington Rotary club, Lt. Helen L. Madden, local Women's Army Corps representative, put forth an appeal for Army nurses and WAC medical corpswomen which induced the scheduled main speaker, Chaplain (Col.) Frank M. Thompson, of Brunswick, Ga., to defer his own talk as "antichismatic and irrelevant."

He explained to Gardner D. Greer, in charge of arrangements, that he had intended to talk in a lighter, semi-humorous vein, and did not want to weaken the force of Lt. Madden's address.

Presented to the club members by Mrs. Hargrave Bellamy, one of six North Carolina women chosen by Gov. R. Gregg Cherry to serve as an advisory committee on recruitment, Lt. Madden began her plea for WAC-Medics by summarizing the cause for it in one sentence.

"Our wounded" she said, "are coming home to us faster than we can take care of them."

Noting that it was public opinion which had kept women out of the armed services thus far, Lt. Madden told the Rotarians, "Gentlemen, you are public opinion," and asked them to spearhead the drive to bring qualified women into the service. WAC-Medics, she explained, are servicewomen specially selected by pre-induction testing and trained in four months' intensive schooling, for hospital work as nurses' assistants.

Three of the sixteen women required from the Wilmington area to meet the Army's call for 8,000 WAC-Medics by March 20 already

### WAC Speaker Acclaimed At Rotarian's Meeting

more than \$1,000 for any violation by any state law officer.

Also introduced was an amendment to General Statutes 45-1, relating to chattel mortgages and setting up in detail the form to be used. It states that the clerk of superior court and the register of deeds shall receive for probating and registering the conditional sales agreement or retention of title contract, the same legal fees that are now applicable to chattel mortgages.

The Rev. Mortimer Glover was in charge of the program.

### Cherry Urges Citizens To Aid Paper Campaign

RALEIGH, March 6.—(P)—Governor Cherry today called on North Carolinians to assist in the General Eisenhower-Boy Scout waste paper campaign during March and April.

His statement was made this afternoon when uniformed Raleigh Scouts were received at his office and presented with a token bundle of waste paper from the executive mansion.

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