

The Allied Task:

German Rivers Form Maze Of Natural Defense Lines

By The National Geographic Society

Between the Allied forces on the Western and Eastern Fronts, Germany's large and small rivers spread a formidable network of natural fortresses.

Germany is one of the best-watered of the world's big countries. In peacetime its long rivers, together with innumerable branches and extensive canal systems, carried one-fifth of the country's traffic.

When the war came, the Nazi government ordered still more water-borne transport to relieve railroads, especially in the shipping of quantities of army materials.

Today, resembling on the map a giant cowweb, serve to hold up and entangle, at least temporarily, the Allied advancing forces.

In the rewinning of Europe, an important part already has been played by even minor rivers, whose names are found only on large-scale maps.

Deeper penetration of the Rhineland, for example, which had been slowed up under the threat of Nazi-controlled waters of the Roer, finally was made possible when the Yanks captured the Roer river dam southeast of Aachen.

It was not achieved, however, before the Germans had loosed a flood downstream by blowing up the dam gates.

On the Eastern Front lately, such sub-defense lines as the Bober and Neisse rivers have been prominent in the news.

In yet uninvaded territory, the Allies sometimes have turned Germany's own rivers against her. This happened dramatically in 1943 and '44, when R.A.F. flyers bombed the Eder, Mohne, and Rur river tributaries, causing floods that devastated vital industrial and farming areas.

The major rivers of Germany are the Rhine, Elbe, Oder, Weser, and Ems, flowing northward to the North and Baltic Seas; and the Main, Danube, Isar, and Inn rivers crossing inland central and southern regions.

The Rhine extends for more than 800 miles from Switzerland to Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The Elbe is more than 720 miles long from its source inside Bohemia.

The Oder is about 550 miles; the Weser 280, and the Ems 200. In southern Germany, the German part of the Danube is about 790 miles long; its tributaries, the Isar and Inn, about 220 and 320 miles, respectively. The Main is 302 miles.

Many more rivers now separate Berlin from the Western than from the Eastern Front. Reading the map from west to east, the Rhine, Ems, Weser, and Elbe are roughly parallel obstacles facing American, British and Canadian forces.

In the east, the Oder was the only major river inside Germany proper that barred movement toward the Nazi capital. Newcleared in many places by the Russians, it is only a little more than 30 miles northeast of Berlin, at its nearest point.

advances, they offer possible cross-country corridors. The broad valley of the Danube, for instance, is an old invasion route from the southeast. The Isar and Inn valleys are side roads leading from the Danube to important centers of Nazi life.

Munich, birthplace of the Nazi movement, is situated on the Isar. The Inn river valley is a natural path southward through the mountains to the Brenner Pass, and Italy. In central Germany, the Main winds generally westward to meet the middle Rhine at Mainz.

So far, Allied drives inside Germany have been directed against the rivers of the north, where the German capital and chief productive centers are found.

Germany's leading industrial areas lie along or near the Rhine and Oder rivers. The Ruhr concentration of mines and factories, turning out iron and steel, chemicals and synthetic oil, covers a broad region straddling the Ruhr river, a tributary of the lower Rhine.

The Saar district is west of central sections of the big river, but connected with it by several streams. The Silesian area, in the southeast corner of Germany lies on both sides of the upper Oder. During the war, it was developed as an arsenal ranking after the Ruhr in essential production.

With this convenient location and length, the Rhine and Oder were especially valuable as traffic lanes for Nazi shipping. Set along the Rhine are such important river ports and industrial centers as Karlsruhe, Mainz, Cologne and Duisburg.

In the adjacent Ruhr valley, Dortmund, Bochum, and Essen are among leading heavy-industry names.

Along the Oder, similarly important cities—Oppeln, Breslau, Frankfurt and Kustrin—were aids to Nazi power before the recent Russian offensives in this region.

The flat and rolling North German Plain, largely open country, affords little in the way of natural defense, except the Ems, Weser, and Elbe rivers, all flowing into the North Sea, west of the Danish peninsula.

Only the Oder has Baltic Sea outlet, at Stettin. On the North Sea coast of Germany are the nation's leading seaports, Hamburg on the Elbe, and Bremen on the Weser.

Less-significant Emden lies near the estuary of the Ems, with the big naval base of Wilhelmshaven not far away. The Kiel Canal cuts across the Danish-German peninsula to the northeast, with the Kiel base at its terminus.

All of these seaports, like the chief river ports of Germany, long have been under heavy bombing attacks. Berlin itself is both an over-load and water-transport center. One hundred miles from the Baltic, it is on the Spree river, near the stream's junction with the Havel, which in turn flows into the Elbe.

Reaching Berlin, as well as many other leading industrial cities, the Midland Canal, opened in 1938, unites a vast network of German rivers by a cross-country channel. This and other canals link the Rhine and the Oder.

MRS. MORTON GETS RED CROSS POST

Rapidly nearing completion of preliminary work in its effort to raise \$88,000, the Wilmington Red Cross War Fund campaign headquarters announced yesterday that Mrs. Julian W. Morton will act as chairman of the New Hanover county division.

Assisting Mrs. Morton are Mrs. E. A. Shands, Audubon; Mrs. D. C. North, Brookwood; Mrs. George A. Applewhite, Carolina and Kures Beaches; Mrs. A. Ludeke, Castle Hayne; Mrs. Leo Sykes, Chestnut Heights; Mrs. G. B. Phillips, Colonial Heights; Mrs. Winder Hughes, Country Club Pines; Mrs. C. F. Jones, East Wilmington road; Mrs. Harry Solomon, Forest Hills; Mrs. William Head, Greenville Sound; Mrs. Rufus LeGrand, Masonboro Sound; Mrs. G. Colucci, Harbor Island, assisted by Mrs. E. M. Shepherd; Mrs. Ralph W. Smith, Kenwood avenue; Mrs. P. R. Mason, Middle Sound; Mrs. M. S. Emmart, Myrtle Grove; Mrs. Harry Stovall, Oleander; Mrs. J. M. Johnson and Mrs. G. D. Moore, Oleander Court apartments; Mrs. W. H. Land, Princess Place; Mrs. Cecil T. Lewis, Sunset Park; Mrs. W. F. King, Winter Park; Pine Woods and Pine Grove; Mrs. B. M. Washburn, Wood Crest and Glen Arden; Miss Madeline Trask, Wrightsboro; Mrs. J. E. Canady, north end of Wrightsville Beach; Mrs. J. R. Robinson and Mrs. Ennis Robinson, south end of Wrightsville Beach; and Mrs. Haskell Rhett, Wrightsville Sound, Seagate and Bradleys Creek.

LONE SUPERFORT BOMBARDS TOKYO

WASHINGTON, March 6.—(UP)—Single American Superfortresses last night bombed Tokyo and Wakayama, the Osaka-Kobe region and the "vicinity" of Nagoya, all on the home island of Honshu, the Tokyo radio reported today. The broadcast, reported by the Federal Communications Commission, said a lone B-29 came over Tokyo about 7 p. m. and dropped a "few bombs" which caused no losses. The other areas were hit for about 40 minutes but only slight damage was said to have been caused.

The last major raid on Tokyo was on March 4 when a large force of the 21st Air Force Superforts, flying from Mariana bases, hit industrial targets.

Officials said that the above named women are to organize their own committees as soon as possible and report to Mrs. Morton when they are ready to begin solicitation.

lected great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States of America.

This young Bluenthal airman was an apprentice machinist before joining the Army Air Corps, and lived with his mother, Mrs. Anna Easterday, in Cherryville, Pa.

Canadian War Production May Depend On British, U. S. Plans, Officer Says

OTTAWA, March 6.—(P)—A munitions department spokesman said today reduction in Canada's war production after the collapse of Germany might vary from cuts in United States and United Kingdom programs.

Reconstruction Minister Howe said at a press conference yesterday that Canada's production would be cut back 35 per cent in the interval between the defeat of Germany and the end of the war with Japan. This reduction was in line with what was expected in United States and the United Kingdom, he added.

Do You Know

irritation of pimples, externally caused, can be quickly relieved and healing aided by daily use of RESINOL OINTMENT

St. John's Tavern 114 Orange St. Dial 2-8085 DELICIOUS FOOD Chicken In The Rough - Friday

CIGARET MARKET CASE BOUND OVER

Three Negroes, who allegedly took six cases of cigarettes from an Overnite Transportation Co. van parked at the foot of Parsley street in the Brooklyn section, waived examination yesterday in Recorder's court on charges of breaking and entering and larceny and receiving, and were bound over to Superior court in default of \$1,000 bond each.

The men, Edward Brown Sampson, 31, of 410 Nixon street, Tom Simpson, 24, of 705 Harnett street, and Joe Bozier, 28, of 913 Murphy alley, reportedly sold the cigarettes by the carton to passerby Bozier also waived examination on a burglary charge, on which no bond was set. He was specifically charged with burglarizing the home of Anna Walker, 911 Murphy alley.

Edward J. Dozier, Negro, 20, arrested by Sheriff's deputies for allegedly taking a suit of clothes and two shirts from 211-H Worth drive, Maffitt Village, was found not guilty on a charge of larceny, but was sentenced to 60 days on the county farm, for receiving stolen goods.



Blended Whiskey 86.8 Proof - 65% Grain Neutral Spirits GLENMORE DISTILLERIES COMPANY Incorporated LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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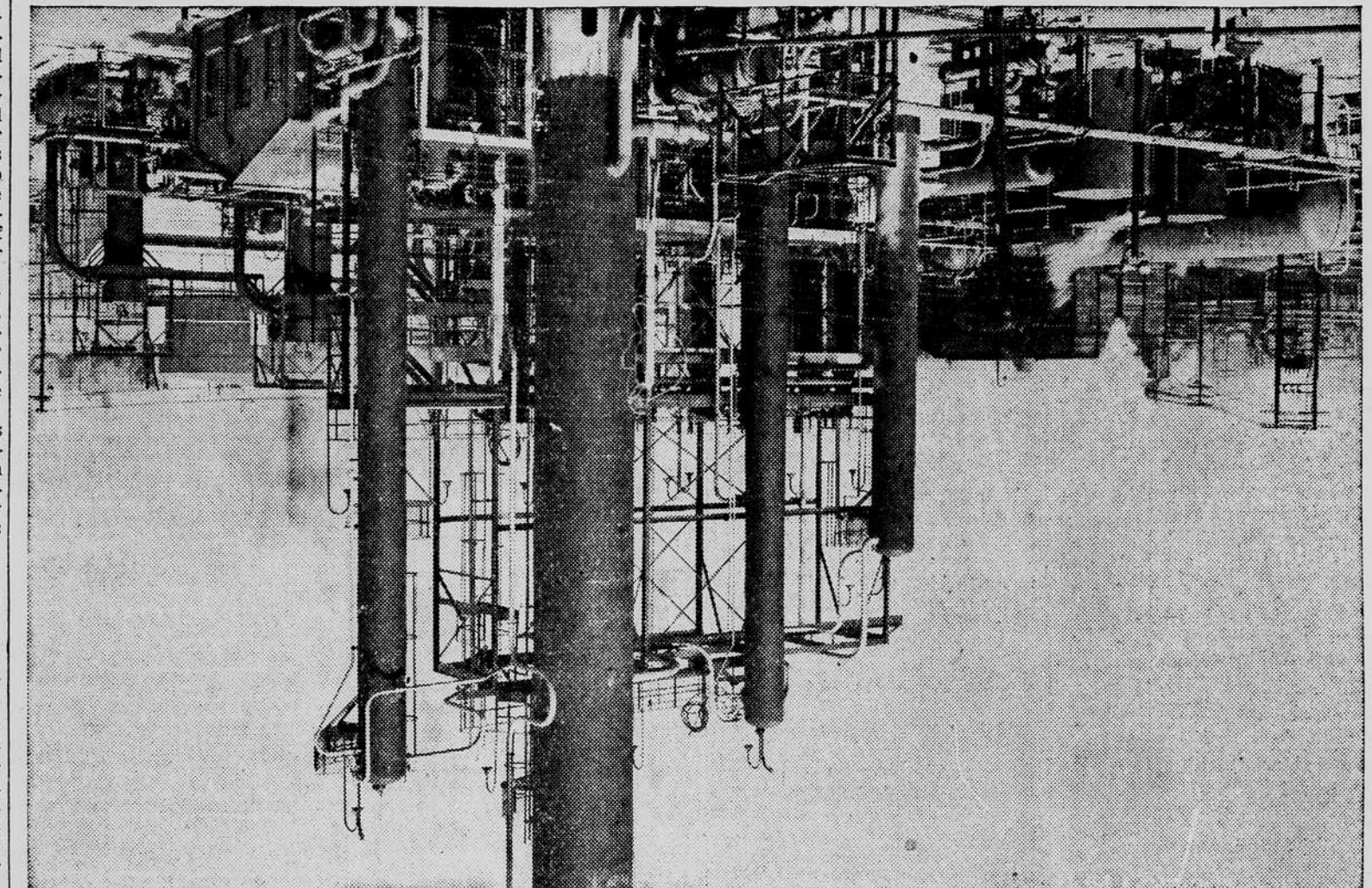
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Advertisement for RUMFORD BAKING POWDER. Includes recipe for 'Smooth and Sugarless' bread and a list of ingredients like quick loaf bread, sifted flour, Rumford baking powder, salt, whole wheat flour, corn syrup, and milk.

Advertisement for 'Investment Opportunity' offering a 'MONTHLY INCOME \$255.00' and 'Earnings Over 20 Per Cent'. Describes two large buildings with 18 rooms, furnished with private baths, gas stoves, refrigerators, and silverware.



Large advertisement for ATLANTIC petroleum products. Features the slogan 'WE TURNED THIS PLANT UPSIDE DOWN!' and '25 YEARS' PETROLEUM PROGRESS SINCE PEARL HARBOR'. Lists products like Polonium Spark Plugs, Oil Filter Cartridges, and Twin Trumpet Horns.

Advertisement for Firestone tires. Features the slogan 'DANGER AHEAD... Recap Now!' and 'Before It's Too Late Firestone RECAPPING Can Save Your Tires!!'. Includes a list of benefits like 'Prompt Service' and 'Free Inspection'.

Advertisement for Firestone Standard Battery. Shows a battery unit and lists features like 'Packed With Extra Power for Quick Starting' and '7.95 Up Exchange'.

Advertisement for Polonium Spark Plugs. Shows a spark plug and lists 'Smoother Performance!' and '59c Ea. In Sets of 4 or More'.

Advertisement for Oil Filter Cartridges. Shows a filter cartridge and lists 'Keep Your Motor Oil Clean!' and '69c up'.

Advertisement for Twin Trumpet Horn. Shows a car horn and lists 'Commands the Road!' and '5.45'.

Advertisement for Firestone Stores. Shows a car and lists 'Keep It Shining!' and 'Paste Auto Wax or Cleaner 39c Ea.'.