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U.S. Wins Mile In Bridgehead East Of Rhine; Reds Shell Stettin, Drive Closer To Danzig; End Of Bloody Iwo Campaign Appears Near

Jap Garrison Slashed Into Three Parts

Enemy's Power To Resist Superiority Of The Marines Crumbling

By VERN HAUGLAND U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, March 11. — (AP) — Overwhelming American superiority brought "the beginning of the end" on Iwo Saturday afternoon, with advancing Marines cutting the sharply reduced Japanese garrisons into three parts for the kill. The enemy's power to resist is crumbling.

The largest portion of the foe is in a half mile square area at the island.

A communique today reported that the Fourth Marine division which had been held back for days on the right flank, made big gains by 6 p.m. yesterday with patrols reaching the beach at Tachiva point, easternmost point of the eight square mile island. That point is almost due east of Motoyama town but well south of points where the Third Marine Division has spilled out onto the northeast beaches.

Overruns Village The Fourth apparently overran the village of Higashi just west of Tachiva point. Higashi is the Japanese word for east.

Below the Japanese half-mile pocket on Kitano point, the Third Marine Division holds or controls about 1,400 yards of the northeast shoreline.

Compressed by the fourth division and some Third division troops along the eastern shore is (Continued on Page Seven; Col. 8)

MEMORIAL RITES PLANNED TODAY

Burney To Speak At Services In Honor Of Deceased Veterans

Judge John J. Burney will be the principal speaker at the service to be held in memory of deceased New Hanover county veterans of World Wars I and II at 4 o'clock this afternoon at the First Baptist church.

Sponsored by Voiture No. 245, Forty and Eight Society of the American Legion, the exercises will pay tribute to the memory of departed service men, of which there have been 75 World War I and 13 of World War II reported during the past year. A special program of music, arranged by Organist Henri Emurian, will begin at 3:45 p. m.

Chief de Game W. J. Riley called attention to the fact that this service is a city-wide affair and (Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

Japanese Disarm French Soldiers In Indo-China

CHUNGKING, March 10. — (AP) — Japanese authorities have disarmed French and native forces in Indo-China and arrested the puppet government, general, Vice Admiral Jean Decoux, in fear they would collaborate with the Allies, a Chinese army spokesman said today. Chinese sources estimated the French garrison in Indo-China at about 10,000 officers and men, but said that, having eliminated its threat to aid any Allied invasion attempt, the Japanese still faced opposition from a well-organized underground army of natives. The OWI today quoted the Tokyo radio, which had announced seizure of Indo-China Friday night, as saying "some French troops" still were resisting the Japanese in Hanoi, where they were barricaded in the Citadel bar-

YANKS CROSS CAPTURED RHINE SPAN AT REMAGEN



Foot soldiers and equipment of the Ninth Armored division of the U. S. First Army move across the Ludendorff bridge at Remagen, Germany, on March 8 after the capture of the span intact the day before. (AP Wirephoto from Signal Corps Radio)

REUTHER CLAIMS UNFAIR TACTICS

Says Management Has Taken Advantage Of 'No Strike' Pledge

DETROIT, March 10. — (AP) — A spokesman for organized labor in the nation's automobile industry charged today that management has taken unfair advantage of the union's no-strike pledge and "in too many instances refused to bargain collectively for the elimination of grievances.

The statements were made by Walter P. Reuther, vice president of the United Automobile Workers (CIO) in testifying before a senate sub-committee investigating utilization of manpower in the production of war material in the Detroit area.

Reuther asserted there was much idle equipment in Detroit factories and said "the war labor board has blocked the efficient use of available labor by rigid rules which prevent the transfer of men to jobs requiring lower skill while maintaining the wage rate of the higher skilled jobs.

The committee also heard further testimony from George Romney, managing director of the automotive council for war production, who charged that unions were "thwarting efforts to get productive efficiency" in automotive plants.

Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.) disclosed in questioning Romney that he had made an unheralded visit to Detroit area war plants yesterday.

"I saw a man sleeping on an assembly line yesterday," he said, "what are industry and labor doing about this?"

"We have attempted to apply dis-

Tokyo Raid Sets New Mark In Destruction

300 PLANES STRIKE Lay Waste To 15 Square Miles Of Industrial Area, Waterfront

21ST BOMBER COMMAND Guam, Sunday, March 11. — (AP) — At a cost of two bombers, more than 300 Superfortresses laid waste to 15 square miles of Tokyo's industrial and waterfront Saturday in a raid described unofficially by some officers as the most devastating single air blow ever dealt any city in the world.

The raid "left nothing but twisted, tumbled-down rubble in its path," said Maj. Gen. Curtis LeMay, whose B-29s only recently wiped out 240 city blocks of Tokyo in another devastating attack.

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Takes Pictures The prepared statement by the 21st Bomber Command leader added that the devastating results were "incontrovertibly established by reconnaissance photographs taken on the afternoon of the strike."

As the full extent of the damage by the more than 300 B-29s, which struck the Japanese capital shortly after midnight Friday (8 a. m. Friday, Eastern War Time), was being assayed, other Superfortresses lashed out from India at the Japanese rail supply line in Malay Saturday.

LeMay said the photographs confirmed earlier reports from the returning pilots that the destruction had swept beyond the 10 square mile target area in the heart of the city.

(Continued on Page Five; Col. 7)

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Sunday partly cloudy and mild. (Eastern Standard Time) (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p.m., yesterday. Temperature 1:30 am, 44; 7:30 am, 45; 1:30 pm, 63; 7:30 pm, 61. Maximum 66; Minimum 43; Mean 54; Normal 52. Humidity 1:30 am, 100; 7:30 am, 98; 1:30 pm, 49; 7:30 pm, 51. Precipitation Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 pm, 0.00 inches. Total since the first of the month, 0.01 inches. Tides For Today (From the Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey) High Low Wilmington 7:40a 2:14a 7:57p 2:47p Masonboro Inlet 5:24a 11:48a 5:40p 2:16p Sunrise, 6:28 a.m.; Sunset, 6:16 p.m.; Moonrise, 4:55 a.m.; Moonset, 3:33 p.m.

BUTNER HOSPITAL TO BE IMPROVED

Army To Spend \$1,780,000 To Make It Largest Of Type In Country

DURHAM, March 10. — (AP) — The War Department today announced authorization of the expenditure of \$1,780,000 for numerous improvements at Camp Butner's General hospital which is destined to make the local institution the largest convalescent center and hospital in the entire country.

Construction work on the hospital conversion project, which already is underway, is being supervised by the Savannah, Ga., district of the Army Corps of Engineers. Maj. R. Preston Watts is Post Engineer at Camp Butner.

While the War Department announcement said the local work would provide 5,500 beds in the convalescent area, in addition to the 3,200 beds in the hospital, it was intimated tonight that the former figure probably would be nearer 7,500 and might reach 10,000.

Major Watts disclosed that plans call for improvements to approximately 200 buildings, principally barracks, and establishment of recreation center which will feature a swimming pool, football fields, baseball diamonds and other athletic layouts.

"Nothing will be left undone in providing the very best accommodations possible for the convalescents," officials said. The old division headquarters has been remodeled into a receiving station with snack bar, rugs, furniture etc., for receiving convalescent patients and 87 barracks for enlisted men and seven for officers are being converted into convalescent wards. Interior of the (Continued on Page Eight; Col. 3)

Strange Urges Support Of Red Cross Campaign

In an appeal to Wilmingtonians yesterday to wholeheartedly support the current Red Cross campaign, Robert Strange, local chairman, said "The Red Cross is our only direct contact with Americans in prisoner of war camps." Citing the work being done for prisoners of war as one of the outstanding services of Red Cross, Mr. Strange said "we know that all phases of the Red Cross program are important, but this particular activity is very close to thousands of families. The Red Cross not only supervises the delivery of food packages provided by the Government, but furnishes the only means of delivering books, games, musical instruments and other comforts financed through the National War Fund. "The work of Red Cross in behalf of our sons and daughters in service, our homes and our distressed neighbors," continued Mr. Strange, "provides a common interest. We regard the annual appeal for funds as an opportunity to support the cause of Americanism. Our people will again oversubscribe our goal. We have been asked for \$13,000 more than last year. Our objective of \$88,000 is a small price to pay for all Red Cross does for all of us," he added. Mr. Strange reported that nearly all teams and divisions of the campaign are organized. The larger firms and groups, according to Mr. Strange, will start their activity at intervals, as organization and instruction meetings are held during the week. The Business and Professional (Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

Soviets Also Capture Half Of Kuestrin

Within Few Miles Of Former Free City, Now Under Plane Attack

LONDON, Sunday, March 11. — (AP) — Russian troops began shelling the great shipping center of Stettin yesterday and drove four armored spearheads close to bombard Danzig, while the Germans announced that Red army shock forces had captured half of Kuestrin, key Oder river fortress 38 miles east of imperiled Berlin.

In a new invasion of Danzig territory across the Nogat river from East Prussia the Russians drove to within 17 miles of the former free city. Other columns were 12 miles from their goal on the south, within 10 miles on the southwest, and 15 on the west. Soviet planes began attacking the city and port installations.

A late German broadcast said the Russians had captured the northern half, or new city district, of Kuestrin, last big bridgehead held by the Germans on the east bank of the central Oder. Then the Russians fought their way across the Warthe river into the older section of the town on the south side.

"Murderous Battles" "Murderous battles are raging for every single house and every single floor of every house," the enemy broadcast said. The Germans said the Russians were striving for a quick clean-up of the Kuestrin area so that they could shift thousands of troops northward for the developing siege of Stettin, main port for Berlin 67 miles northeast of the Reich capital.

The Soviet high command ignored the flaming battle around Kuestrin, where by German account the Russians also have bridgeheads on the west bank of the Oder above and below Kuestrin, and are threatening to trap the Nazi garrison on the eastern shore.

But in the north the Russians said their troops had pressed within (Continued on Page Seven; Col. 4)

INDIANS CONTINUE MANDALAY ATTACK

Half Of Important City Reported In Hands Of Allied Troops

SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS, March 10. — (AP) — Half of the city of Mandalay, including its northern and eastern sectors, was in Allied hands today as the 19th Indian Division continued its attack on Japanese defenses in the center of the town.

Resistance increased as the enemy apparently recovered from the surprise achieved by the 19th in its southward plunge from Mandalay, but it was unclear whether the Japanese action was merely a rearguard fight to cover a retreat or whether the enemy intends to make a house-to-house fight for Mandalay.

Mandalay hill, dominating the city on the east, was completely cleared of Japanese after sharp and bitter fighting. Disorganized parties of Japanese north and east of the city were being annihilated. These groups have been operating as snipers on the flanks of supply columns, but have not been effective in retarding Allied operations.

Northeast of Mandalay, elements of the 36th British division closed in on Mongkhit, an important road junction south of the Schweli river, the closest column being five miles from the town. In the Mekhitha area south of Mandalay British troops were pushing out along all roads radiating from the city. Several Japanese roadblocks were smashed.

Big Nazi Captive



Lt. Gen. Edwin Graf von Rothenkirch (above) who commanded the German 53rd corps in the encirclement of Bastogne, Belgium, in the German breakthrough last December, is now a prisoner—caught by Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Caffey Jr.'s Fourth Armored division of the Third army. He's shown in this photo after his capture. (AP Wirephoto via Signal Corps Radio).

Yanks Drive Into Antipolo

Strike South Anchor Of Strong Shimbu Line East Of Manila

MANILA, Sunday, March 11. — (AP) — Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today that elements of the 1st cavalry divisions have driven into Antipolo, south anchor of the heavily defended Shimbu line east of Manila, but made no mention of American landings on Mindanao island where the Japanese said fierce fighting was in progress.

At the north end of the Shimbu line where there is a series of interlocking mountain caves that must be reduced individually, troops of the 8th infantry division advanced southwest of Montaban, some 10 miles from Wawa.

In North Central Luzon, the 32nd and 25th divisions made further advances in their twin drives through rugged mountain terrain toward Balete pass, one of the last escape roads for Japanese forces being driven into the mountainous northern parts of the capital island. The pass was hit with 247 tons of bombs.

The 158th regimental combat team, working with the 11th airborne division south of Manila to compress other Japanese troops into the southeastern tip of Luzon and further secure the road net between Lake Taal and Batangas Bay some 60 miles south of the capital.

The 43rd and 38th divisions which are annihilating Japanese remnants in the Zamales mountains north of Batavia discovered 900 enemy bodies in one locality in the foothills— (Continued on Page Two; Col. 1)

Berlin Reels Under Big Shower Of Blockbusters

By WILLIAM FRYE LONDON, March 10. — (AP) — Berlin reeled under a shower of blockbusters tonight in a swift followup of heavy day raids on the Reich and a spectacular air battle that put to flight German dive bombers trying to knock out the Remagen bridge and wreck the Americans' span across the Rhine. Swift Mosquitos of the RAF bombed command gave Berlin its 19th consecutive raid by night and the German radio reported another formation over western Germany as the Mosquitos started home. The aerial battle over the bridgehead at Remagen was the high spot in a day of close vigil the eighth and ninth airforces kept over that vital artery to the heart of Germany.

Gains Against Heavy Armor And Infantry

German West Bank Bridgehead Opposite Wesel Falls To Yank Forces

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Paris, Sunday, March 11. — (AP) — American troops gained almost a mile in the Remagen bridgehead east of the Rhine yesterday while collapse of the German west bank bridgehead opposite Wesel and the mop-up of trapped pockets in the Eifel region dealt new blows to the apparently fast-ebbing German defense which may foreshadow an early end of the war in Europe.

The Yanks across the Rhine at Remagen made their advances — deepening and lengthening their already powerful bridgehead — against the desperate opposition of enemy armor and infantry rushed there in a frantic effort to prevent the U. S. First Army forces from rolling up the entire German Rhine line from the rear.

On the basis of Associated Press front dispatches from Remagen early today, the Americans are punching inland and along the river. The Germans, beset by battered communications and lowered morale, have not yet brought sufficient strength into the bridgehead area to halt the attackers.

Cut Escape Route A dispatch from the U. S. Ninth Army front said that a spearhead regiment of the 35th Infantry Division had cut off the last remaining escape route from Wesel pocket late last night and had reached the approaches of a railroad bridge which reportedly was blown out.

From the Netherlands front came reports by reconnaissance pilots of extensive eastward movements of German troops north of the Waal Rhine. This may indicate that in the face of heavy reverses and possible naval attacks on the Dutch coast, the Germans have decided to abandon all of Holland south of the Zuider Zee in order to fall back on the IJssel river and a better defensive position.

Such a withdrawal would mean the abandonment by the enemy of Holland's main cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague and Utrecht.

The Americans were striking out for the commanding hills some six miles east of the Remagen crossing as both sides massed men and tanks for the crucial battle at German's inner threshold. Only seven miles north of the river (and apparently a mile or less from the Americans advance) runs one of Adolf Hitler's new superhighways to Cologne, an ideal avenue for a northward charge towards the Ruhr industrial basin.

Cross In Boats The Germans said American shock troops were storming across the Rhine in assault boats in a bid to broaden the bridgehead. (Continued on Page Five; Col. 3)