

Mild and partly cloudy today with probable showers.
Yesterday's temperatures:
High, 66—Low, 46.

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First Opens Large Scale Assault From Rhine, Two Towns Seized, Bridgehead Is Expanded; Kuestrin Falls In Russian Drive On Berlin

Nazis Place Soviets West Of Oder Line

Six Divisions Reported To Be Plunging Toward Reich Capital

LONDON, March 12.—(AP)—Kuestrin, principal stronghold in the Oder river defenses 38 miles north-east of Berlin, fell today to Marshal Zhukov's First White Russian Army and German broadcasts said six Soviet divisions were thrusting toward the capital from bridgeheads west of the river.

Announcement of the capture of Kuestrin after a week of bitter street fighting was made by Premier Stalin in an order of the day which was the first Russian confirmation of a smash toward Berlin.

The regular Soviet communiqué from Moscow repeated announcements of advances within nine miles northwest of Danzig, which left only small isolated pockets of Nazis to be mopped up in north-eastern Pomerania.

The Germans, usually well in advance of the Russians in announcement of developments on the eastern front, lagged behind Moscow in reporting capture of Kuestrin.

The Nazi defenders had to be blasted out of the Citadel city on the Oder's east bank where the Oder and Warthe rivers meet. Much of Kuestrin was destroyed, block by block, by Soviet dive-bombers, artillery, mortars and flamethrowers.

Berlin commentators insisted that the Russian attacks south of Kuestrin and west of Berlin itself but were aimed at "extension of the Russian bridgeheads and getting the Oder crossings out of range of German artillery."

They said separate Soviet thrusts from the bridgeheads had been merged "into a single attack on a broad front," and were supported by strong formations.

"Our troops," said War Reporter Hugo Morero in a broadcast, "have to face a hurricane of fire from 70 batteries and incessant bombing. The enemy attacked 25 times in regiment strength with tank support and, although he breached our lines here and there, he did not succeed in breaking through."

Moscow did not confirm westward attacks from the Oder bridgeheads.

With the fall of Kuestrin, which had a pre-war population of 22,000, Zhukov's forces were arrayed along 120 miles of the Oder's east bank from Crossen, 65 miles east of Berlin, to the Stettiner Haff, the lagoon into which the river empties north of the besieged port of Stettin.

Meanwhile the Russians pressed their heavy attacks on Snettin, Danzig and Gdynia.

Stalin announced the capture of "Trenz (Dirschau), 19 miles southeast of Danzig on the west bank of the Vistula river; Neustadt (Wejherowo), 13 miles northeast of Gdynia, and Putzig (Puck), a coast town 12 miles northwest of Gdynia and 10 northeast of Neustadt."

The communiqué from Moscow disclosed that Marshal Rokossovsky's forces northwest of Danzig actually had sliced that territory into small sectors and had pushed within eight miles of Gdynia with the capture of Kollatschau, southwest of the port, and Reschke, directly west of Gdynia.

These forces also speared northward to topple Karwen on the Baltic coast 16 miles north of Neustadt, and captured Quaschin, nine miles northwest of Danzig.

Also taken was Sellstrau, three miles south of Putzig and two from the bay of Danzig coast. This left the Nazis only a strip along the coast eight to nine miles wide and extending 22 miles southeastward from Sellstrau through Gdynia to the edge of Danzig.

Thus Rokossovsky's Army and Red Army units moving north down both banks of the Vistula loomed the noose still tighter around Danzig.

Berlin's Baltic port of Stettin remained under its battering siege today, but there was no fresh news of fighting there from Moscow.

Enemy reports said the Red Army was attacking Stettin from two directions with at least four infantry armies and supporting ar-

Nazi Nabbed



Rich prize to fall to Maj.-Gen. Hugh J. Gaffey's rampaging 4th Armored Division of the Third Army in its drive north of Coblenz was Lt.-Gen. Edwin Graf von Rohden, commander of the German 33rd Corps, and his whole staff. Rohden was in command of the Nazi force that encircled Bastogne during the December Belgian bulge.

ARGENTINE BACK IN PAN-AMERICAN

Move Interpreted As Indication of Improved Relations

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(AP)—Argentina today resumed the seat at the Pan American Union which she vacated two months ago when her relations with other American republics were at low ebb.

The apparent change in Argentine policy took place when the Argentine delegate, Rodolfo Garcia Arias, minister-counselor of Embassy, attended a special session of the governing board in honor of Pedro Leao Velloso, acting foreign minister of Brazil. Leao Velloso is an official guest of the United States and today conferred with President Roosevelt.

Garcia Arias' presence generally was interpreted as in line with efforts to improve relations between Argentina and the other American republics — one of the important developments of the recent Mexico City Inter-American Conference.

Argentina's boycott of the governing board started in mid January when the board declined to meet her request for a special meeting of foreign ministers to study the "Argentine case." The Buenos Aires government last October had protested that a "diplomatic quarantine" was being set up and insisted the board should call the meeting.

Gen. Usher, Hero And Flier, Takes Command Of Davis

Command of the Army Air Forces Personnel Distribution command's new installation at Camp Davis, which was designated recently as a Redistribution station and a Convalescent hospital for AAF returnees, was assumed yesterday by Brig. Gen. George L. Usher, command pilot and veteran of two world wars.

The general succeeded Maj. Donald S. Joyce, who has held the position of commanding officer since the Army Air Corps took possession February 1 of the former Antiaircraft Artillery base.

Before taking over his new assignment at Camp Davis, General Usher, for a short time, was commanding general of the Personnel Distribution Command with headquarters in Atlantic City, N. J. Prior to that duty he served in the South Pacific theater and was commanding general of the 13th Air Force.

Entering the Army 28 years ago, George L. Usher started his military career as a private in the New York National Guard, Field Artillery. He worked his way up through the ranks and in 1917, one year later, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. That same year,

Yanks Begin Mopping Up Japs On Iwo

Foe Pinned In North Tip Of Isle; Progress Becomes Slower

GUAM, Tuesday, March 13.—(AP)—Fifth Division Marines, with final victory in sight after three weeks of the toughest fighting of the Pacific war, drove steadily yesterday against the remnants of the Japanese main forces penned in the northern tip of Iwo Island.

It now was a mopping up job and the Marines were ordered to slow their pace in order to save lives.

Throughout yesterday, they made slow gains against desperate resistance from Japanese who faced death either by a last man stand or by a plunge into the sea.

To the right, the Third and Fourth Divisions had only one small enemy pocket to dispose of aside from the numerous isolated strong points held by handfuls of enemy troops.

Naval gunfire and Army fighter planes continued to give the Marines support despite the exceedingly small areas now left the Japanese.

Army fighter planes maintained the steady aerial attack on Chichi Island in the Volcanos north of Iwo.

U. S. Spokesman Named For Reparations Group

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(AP)—Dr. Isador Lubin, economist and statistician, was appointed today as American member of the reparations commission.

Created by the Big Three at Yalta, the commission will meet in Moscow in about a month to decide how Germany should pay for the devastation caused by her armies throughout Europe.

The appointment immediately raised the question of what other countries would be represented on the commission, other than Britain, Russia and the United States. To this question the State Department has no immediate answer.

The United States expects little or nothing from Germany in the way of reparations but every other country which has been actively engaged in the war with the Nazis and, particularly Russia, is looking to the Reich for assistance in rebuilding. It will be up to the commission to decide how much can be taken out of Germany in the way of supplies and industrial equipment and how much factories which may remain can produce for shipment to the devastated lands.

There is no question of payment of money, apparently. The Big Three agreement at Yalta was that Germany should be "obliged to make compensation for this damage in kind to the greatest extent possible."

Lubin expects to leave for the Russian capital in about three weeks. The 48-year-old economist is a member of the White House staff on assignment as chief of the Statistical Analysis Division of the Munitions Assignment Board, working under the combined chiefs of staff. He returned only last week from the liberated areas of Western Europe where he surveyed immediate relief and primary

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COURT DEFERS WARD HEARING

Move Will Postpone Case Until Fall; Refuses WLB Litigation

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(AP) Two cases springing from disputed orders of the War Labor Board failed to get into Supreme Court today.

The row over Government seizure of Montgomery Ward and Co. properties was, in effect, handed over to the Circuit Court of Appeals when the Supreme Court declined a review at this time. This meant the case cannot reach the high court again before next fall.

Both sides sought to appeal directly to the Supreme Court from a Chicago Federal District court decision that Army seizure of plants in seven cities was illegal. It was carried out by presidential decree to back up WLB orders.

In the second case, the United States Gypsum Co. asked an injunction and a broad judgment to define requirements of an WLB directive of 1943 concerning its Warren, Ohio, plant.

The court's simple order gave no reason for denying review, but the government had contended the case fell within principles of two others in which the court had declined action. In those cases it had been held that the law does not provide for review of such WLB orders, and that sufficient grounds for injunction were lacking, the government said.

Prominent in each set of WLB orders was maintenance of union membership which requires the company to discharge an employee who leaves this union.

The Supreme Court split 5-4 in ruling against the northwestern bands of Shoshone Indians who wanted \$15,000,000 from the Government for taking their ancestral lands in Idaho, Utah and Nevada.

The majority opinion of Justice Reed said the Congressional act authorizing the suit narrowed the issue to the question whether the Government had recognized Indian title to the lands in the 1863 treaty of Box Elder, Utah Territory.

Dortmund Blasted By 3,000 Planes

Swinemunde, Berlin Sea Outlet, Rocked Under American Bombs In Close Support Of Red Drive On Reich Capital

LONDON, March 12.—(AP)—The RAF, in the heaviest single obliteration attack of the war, dropped more than 5,600 tons of bombs on the Ruhr city of Dortmund today while a huge fleet of U. S. heavy bombers blasted the Baltic port of Swinemunde, one of Berlin's outlets to the sea.

More than 3,000 RAF bombers escorted by hundreds of fighters made the daylight assault on the Ruhr's second city dropping the enormous weight of bombs in only 29 minutes, and thus eclipsing yesterday's record when 5,000 tons were dropped in 30 minutes on Essen.

The U. S. Eighth Air Force sent out a total of 1,300 heavy bombers and 750 fighters, of which 650 Fortresses and Liberators hit Swinemunde in the closest support yet given the Red Army. The other 750 heavies struck the important railroads keyed to the area of the Remagen bridgehead, around Frankfurt-on-Main.

Targets of the British Lancasters and Halifaxes included steel works, engineering shops, freight yards and railroads leading to the Western Front.

The raid brought to over 22,500 tons the bombs loosed on Dortmund since the RAF Bomber Command began its attacks on the Ruhr. About 920 acres of the built-up area, or about 40 per cent of the city, had been destroyed in earlier attacks.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a letter to Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, chief of the RAF Bomber Command, reported that advancing Allied troops had found city after city systematically shattered by RAF and American bombers "with a tremendous effect on German war economy."

"Tonight the German raid reported bomber formations over northwest Germany and it appeared that Berlin was due for its 21st consecutive nightly raid."

U. S. Captures Zamboanga In Speedy Drive

Vital Airfield Also Taken In Push To Conquer Mindanao

MANILA, Tuesday, March 13.—(AP)—Veteran Yanks of Maj. Gen. Jens A. Doe's 41st Infantry division overran strong Japanese positions on southwestern Mindanao as they captured the civic center of Zamboanga and a strategic airfield only 200 miles northeast of Borneo.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur said in his communique today the Doughboys, who invaded the second largest island in the Philippines Saturday, 24 hours later were "over-running strong steel and concrete pillbox and artillery positions with only minor losses."

MacArthur said the Japanese at Zamboanga, caught off guard by the amphibious landing, had not yet been able to organize their defenses.

The airfield captured was near San Roque, about four miles west of the Zamboanga governmental seat. The village of San Roque was seized along with four others shortly after the invasion.

The Yanks previously overran a smaller airstrip, Wolfe Field, in their lightning sweep from the invasion beaches. The San Roque airfield, considerably larger, is one of the best in Mindanao.

There was no mention of fighting for the San Roque airfield, which has an airstrip 4,000 feet long, or enough to accommodate medium bombers.

Associated Press Correspondent Russell Brines reported the Japanese were using mortars from hill positions with good effect, however. A headquarter's spokesman said the Yanks faced moderate machinegun and mortar fire as they entered the city center.

The ground forces were supported by both air and naval units, which also attacked enemy installations on Basilan island, 12 miles south of Zamboanga.

American heavy bombers swept the airfield at Jolo, main city of the Sulu archipelago, southwest of Mindanao.

On Luzon, troops of the First Cavalry Division and Sixth Infantry Division continued to advance on the front east of Manila. The dismounted troops captured high ground beyond the town of Antipolo.

Doughboys of the Sixth Division repulsed several counterattacks and smashed into the hills south-east of Montalban.

On the southwest Luzon front, elements of the 11th Airborne Division approached the shore of Lake Tal.

The 32nd Infantry Division, pushing through the mountains of northeast Luzon, reached a point within four miles of Balete Pass.

Fighters and light bombers attacked communication routes on the Balete Pass road. Others supported ground operations in all sectors, which included the 11th Corps area where the 38th Division continued mopping up of the Zambales foothills.

Cologne Mayor



Following capture of Cologne, Germany, by U. S. First Army, Lieut.-Col. John K. Patterson, above, of Riverside, Calif., was named to head military government ruling that city of 800,000.

SINGAPORE HIT BY SUPERFORTS

Fires Still Rage In Nagoya After 300-Plane Assault

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(AP)—India-based Superfortresses attacked the Singapore naval base at the tip of the Malay peninsula today while fires still raged in the Japanese aircraft center of Nagoya at the other end of Japan's empire it was announced today.

A medium sized force of the B-29s, drawn from Brig. Gen. Roger M. Ramey's 20th (Superfortress) Bomber Command, made the attack on Singapore and every plane returned to base, though the Japanese claimed that two were shot down and another was damaged.

Crews reported good results but some bombardiers had to bomb through heavy clouds.

The Japanese offered only moderate opposition with anti-aircraft and fighter planes.

A Japanese broadcast heard by the Federal Communications Commission estimated the attacking fleet at about 40 planes—an indication that 60 to 80 or more probably were engaged. Only "extremely light" damage was done, Tokyo said, and it was asserted that most bombs fell into the water.

It was the sixth raid on Singapore which the Japanese captured early in 1942 after their sweep down the Malay peninsula. In previous attacks heavy damage had been done to naval and harbor installations.

The Singapore attack came two days after a raid on Kuala Lumpur, on the west coast of the peninsula, and was part of the record-breaking two-way attack on Japanese targets that included record fire bomb raids on Tokyo and Nagoya.

Ruhr Factory Area Menaced By Offensive

Holding On River Bank Increased To Five by 11 Mile Area

PARIS, March 12.—(AP)—The U. S. First Army jumped off early today in the first big Allied assault east of the Rhine, scored gains up to two and a half miles, and expanded its bridgehead to nearly five miles deep and 11 miles wide.

At least two more towns were seized, bringing to 23 the number captured on the east bank since the Americans charged across the Ludendorff bridge from Remagen Wednesday.

The Germans said Lt. Gen. Hodges had thrown 40,000 troops, including two armored and two infantry divisions, into the push which placed the Ruhr's factory cities in their gravest peril of the war.

The greatest American advance was eastward. More than four miles almost due east of Remagen bridge, tanks and infantry seized Ginsterhahn and Hargarten, slashed across a German lateral supply line, and pressed to within three miles of a super highway to the Ruhr.

Previously, the Americans had driven five miles north into Honnet on one main highway to the Ruhr, and were less than 25 miles from the southern region of the 60-square mile basin teeming with war factories. One counterattack was beaten back at Honnet today.

Eleven miles south of Honnet, forces driving south fought into Hoenningen, six miles southeast of the Ludendorff bridge.

Associated Press Correspondent Don Whitehead said the attack rolled over the steep, wooded hills of the Westervald in the blackness of 5 a.m.

At first the Americans were met by small arms, self-propelled guns and a few tanks, but later the Germans threw crack units into the line and began striking back with small counterthrusts.

The Germans were hurled from heights east of the Rhine and to the south. This robbed them of direct observation of their artillery fire, which was cratering the bridgehead and had scored a number of ineffectual hits on the Ludendorff bridge, the Remagen lifeline.

Boats shuttled men and supplies across the Rhine to lift some of the load from the bridge, and the Germans said Hodges had established "many Rhine crossings" north of the bridge.

Whitehead said that Hodges had so much power massed across the river that only a major counter-assault could budge it.

German broadcasts said the Americans also were attacking northeast of Honnet, which lies astride one of the main roads to the Ruhr, and said the furious fighting around was "fluid" and was not known which side now held the town.

Honnet is five miles north of Remagen, and is the closest approach to the southern end of the Ruhr.

Enemy broadcasts predicted that soon Field Marshal Montgomery would lash out across the Rhine north of Wesel in a grand scale offensive to clamp a giant pincer on the Ruhr.

A news dimout settled over most of the Western Front, where for 150 miles along the Rhine, Gen. Eisenhower holds the initiative and has armies in position to cross at any number of points.

One enemy account said the British Second Army was making "frantic preparations" for a crossing between the Dutch border and Emmerich, nine miles to the east.

Artillery duels raged across the river, the enemy said, as German batteries tried to knock off balance what the Nazis apparently believed would be a large-scale Allied offensive.

There was little news seeping through from the U. S. Third Army front, where Lt. Gen. Patton's forces drew up assault lines a mile from Coblenz and to the west had broken the once huge Eifel moun-

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LeGrand Offers Junior College Bill; Mrs. Roosevelt Urges Veterans' Aid

Rep. J. Q. LeGrand yesterday introduced in the House of Representatives a bill enabling New Hanover county to establish and maintain a junior college, which was referred to the House Judiciary Committee Number One, and watched the Wilmington-sponsored State Ports Authority bill pass the House without a dissenting vote on its second reading. The day's session of the Legislature was highlighted by the appearance of Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt who urged the State lawmakers to look forward to the day when the mass of World War II veterans come home in search of livelihoods.

From Raleigh, Mr. LeGrand explained that he had launched the junior college bill without waiting

for discussion in its home county because it was merely an enabling act and, in his opinion, sufficiently valuable to the community to make its passage in this session desirable. Stating that he would be glad to hear from any opponents of the measure, he added that this was the last local legislation he would proffer. It is his 22nd of the session.

Written by Cyrus D. Hogue, the college bill enables the Board of County Commissioners to call upon the Board of Elections for a popular vote. Subject to a single election would be the question of establishing a junior college and a property tax of five cents per \$100 to defray part of its expenses. The rest of the operational cost would be taken care of by tuition

charges. Mr. LeGrand expects the House committee to report it favorably.

The Ports Authority bill, embracing State Planning Board recommendations for State aid to Wilmington Port development, requires a roll-call at each reading. If yesterday's unanimous support in the House is repeated today, it will go to the Senate at once.

Mr. LeGrand's bill prohibiting the transfer of vehicles seized in liquor arrests from local to Federal officers was withdrawn yesterday in favor of a similar bill introduced and passed in the Senate.

Mrs. Roosevelt, spending a busy day in the State capitol, spoke at

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