

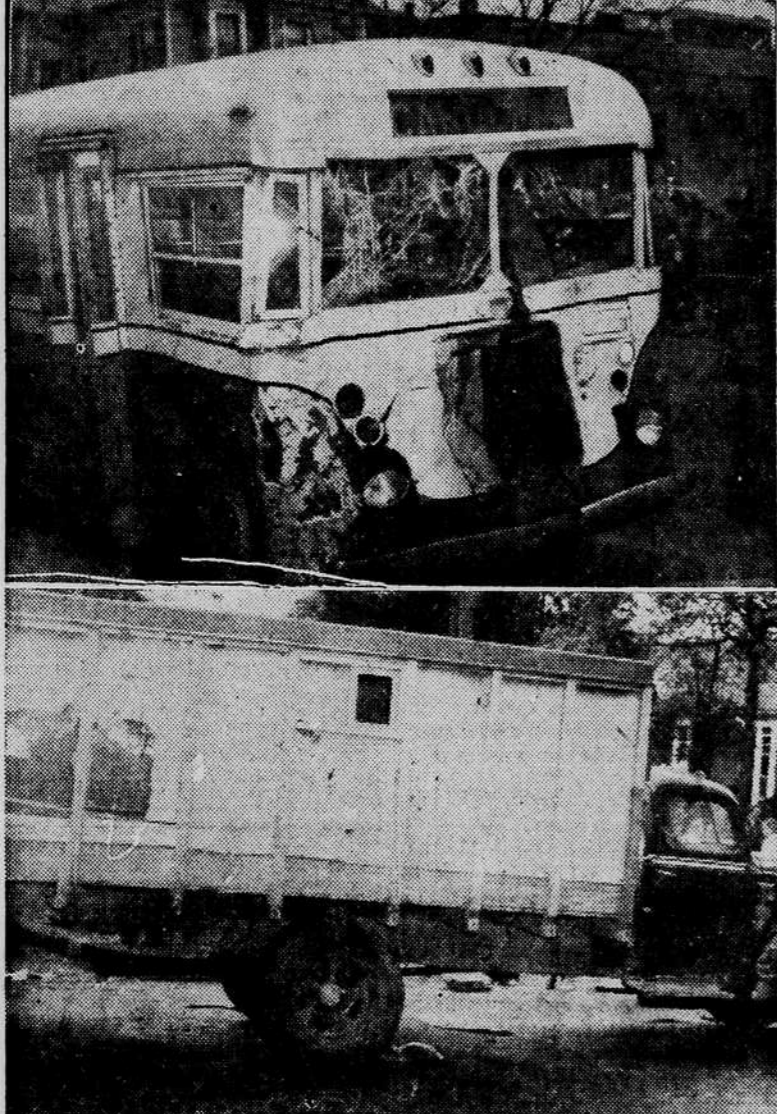
60 German Planes Strike At Rhine Bridge; Yanks Gain Slightly, Menace Superhighway; 100,000 Russians Across Oder, Nazis Claim

Berlin Says Reds Are 33 Miles Away

Three Soviet Armies Expected To Make Final Drive On City

LONDON, Wednesday, March 14.—(AP)—Marshal Zhukov, achieving a breakthrough in a frontal assault toward Berlin, has pushed nearly 100,000 Russian troops across the Oder river between Frankfurt and newly-captured Kuestrin and has sent spearheads within 33 miles of the Reich capital, the Germans said last night.

Double Bus Collision Injures 25 Persons



The top photo shows the Tide Water Power Co. bus which struck a heavily-loaded converted bus carrying shipyard workers at the intersection of Fourth and Princess streets.

Twenty-five people were injured yesterday afternoon when a truck, converted for use as a bus to transport shipyard workers, traveling north on Fourth street, and a Tide Water Power Co. bus, going west on Princess street, collided at the intersection.

HOUSE APPROVES PORT AUTHORITY

Junior College And Boxing Rules Bills Also Before Assembly

The Wilmington-sponsored North Carolina State Ports Authority bill, embodying State Planning Board recommendations for State aid in the development of the ports of Wilmington, Southport and Morehead City, passed the House of Representatives yesterday on its third reading and went to the Senate.

Meat Export Situation May Need FDR's Advice

WASHINGTON, March 13.—(AP)—A War Food Administration move to halt shipments of meats to Great Britain and liberated areas and to trim military demands has precipitated a bitter inter-agency controversy.

President Roosevelt may be called upon to settle the issue because of its possible impact upon international relations and upon home-front psychology. Fundamentally, the issue is whether civilian food supplies should be reduced further to meet international commitments and obligations. With food production now on the downgrade, total demands being made upon this country are considerably greater than the supply, particularly in the case of meats, fats and vegetable oils, sugar, and some kinds of dairy products.

Yanks Seize Batangas In South Luzon

Resistance Stiffens On Mindanao But Four Villages Fall

MANILA, Wednesday, March 14.—(AP)—American troops driving through southwestern Luzon seized the provincial capital of Batangas, 56 miles south of Manila, while 41st Division forces driving into Mindanao captured four villages against stiffening opposition, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

Men of the 158th Regiment combat team of Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Swing's 11th Airborne Division captured Batangas after an advance of 15 miles from their last reported positions. They also captured the airdrome adjacent to Batangas, capital of the province of the same name.

Marines Land On Rocks West Of Iwo; Other Units Mopping Up Foe In Caves

IWO AIRDROMES PAY DIVIDENDS

Superforts Already Using Fields As Emergency Repair Stations

WASHINGTON, March 13.—(AP)—The first of the captured Japanese airdromes on Iwo Jima is paying big dividends.

An official naval spokesman revealed tonight "quite a number" of B-29 Superfortresses, damaged in raids on Japan or otherwise crippled, have made emergency landings on the field. The planes might otherwise have been lost.

Allied Leaders See Defeat Of Germany In Summer After General Destruction

BY WES GALLAGHER

WITH THE U. S. NINTH ARMY IN GERMANY, March 13.—(AP)—Many Allied military men now believe the European war will end early next summer, rather than next fall, after a gradual destruction of the enemy's remaining forces.

This opinion appears to be shared by German civilians interviewed behind the Allied lines. The idea of a sudden wholesale collapse, as a result of recent Nazi disasters, is generally discounted. However, military men do not expect a repetition of the violent warfare and stubborn defenses that characterized West Front fighting in November, December and January.

Allies Preparing To Cross Rhine In Force, British War Head Says

Nation Cautioned Against Optimism As To Early End Of War; Many Britons Will Be Released From Army And New Men Called For Drive Against Japan, Commons Is Told

LONDON, March 13.—(AP)—War Secretary Sir James Grigg told the House of Commons today that Allied armies were preparing to cross the Rhine in force, then cautioned the cheering members against counting on a quick end of the war.

"The position now is that the north bank of the Moselle is rapidly being cleared of the enemy and our forces are preparing for the task of crossing the Rhine in force," he said. "In spite of this marvellous betterment in our fortunes it would be unwise to act as if all were over, bar the shouting. In recent months we have had one false dawn and I am sufficient of a pagan not to want to provoke a nemesis."

Third Lashes Out In Drive At Saarburg

Ninth Air Force Battles To Keep Vital Span Intact

OSAKA ROCKED BY SUPERFORTS

2,000 Tons of Incendiaries Strike Japan's Second City

OSAKA, Wednesday, March 14.—(AP)—Marines landed unopposed on the Kama and Kangoku rocks west of Iwo as three Marine divisions continued the tedious task of liquidating the remnants of a garrison of 20,000 men on the main island, a Pacific Fleet communique announced today.

The islets, uninhabited but necessary to consolidate the Marine hold on Iwo, lie just off the bulge of the west coast. Kangoku is about 500 yards long and is 1 1/2 miles off the coast. Tiny Kama, only 135 yards long, is a little less than a mile south of Kangoku and a little less than 3 1/4 miles offshore.

The Fifth Marines, closing in slowly on the main enemy force at the north tip of Iwo, made little progress yesterday but had slowed up on orders to reduce casualties.

Japanese troops continued fierce resistance with small arms, machine guns and mortars. In the area of the Third and Fourth Marine Divisions to the right, the job was now one of mopping up. There was one small enemy pocket in their area but it was being steadily reduced.

The communiqué, illustrating the difficult job of eliminating isolated enemy groups, said 115 caves were sealed in mopping up yesterday in the Third-Fourth Marine area.

Army fighter bomber planes continued attacks on Chichi island in the Bonin Islands north of Iwo, hitting airfield and harbor installations, and Army Liberator heavy bombers attacked airdrome installations.

There has been a definite change in the mental attitude of German troops, consistently demonstrated by the character of their resistance during the Allied drive to — and across — the Rhine, German morale has deteriorated, but seemingly not to the point where Nazi soldiers are ready to give up the fight entirely.

Rather, as one American who was in the thick of the recent offensive put it, they appear to be quite willing to fight as long as there is not too much danger of getting killed.

"They aren't ready to give up without a fight, but once we bypass or reach their positions they are perfectly willing to give up," he said. "They are quite happy to surrender with 'honor'. They shoot like hell until you reach them, then they appear content to be taken prisoner."

Paris, Wednesday, March 14.—(AP)—The Germans attacked the American Remagen-Erpel bridgehead with at least 60 planes yesterday and fought stubbornly in the hills east of the Rhine river, but U. S. First Army troops pushed relentlessly deeper and reached within two miles of the great six-lane superhighway linking Frankfurt-on-Main and the industrial Ruhr.

Gains made by American infantry were measured in yards, but it was pointed out that the advances gave the Doughboys control of important heights controlling the bridgehead, which now was being speedily built up with the help of a newly-erected pontoon bridge.

Throughout the day the skies were filled with dogfights as the enemy made frequent raids and fighters of the Ninth Air Force labored to keep them away from the bridgehead area.

Half a dozen or more lightning-fast jet-propelled planes were among the enemy attackers in the Germans' strongest air effort since the Rhine crossing March 7.

American planes shot down ten, claimed five probables and damaged six while losing four of their own. Anti-aircraft gunners destroyed others, but no tabulation of their score was yet available. Monday, when the German raids were lighter, ack-ack batteries shot down 19 enemy planes.

While fighting flared over and around the bridgehead, the U. S. Third Army last night in a new attack on nine-mile front in the Saarburg area and advanced up to 2 1/2 miles.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's new thrust spearheaded by the 94th Division, was made on the Third Army's right flank against the only sizeable salient still held by the Germans west of the Rhine. This drive extended from a point eight miles northeast of Saarburg to about six southeast. Resistance was said to be light to moderate.

On Patton's left flank Third Army troops north of the Moselle river cleared eight more towns as they compressed the enemy there to a pocket four miles square.

The Third Army processed a record number of 6,446 Germans captured during the day, exceeding its previous high of 4,992 set August 11, 1944. Together the First and Third Armies have taken approximately 40,000 prisoners in eight days.

From the headquarters of Field Marshal Montgomery came an announcement that the final pressure count for the Rhine operations of the U. S. Ninth and Canadian First Armies was 50,477 and that American forces in the 21st Army Group have taken 46,303 prisoners since the Germans' Ardennes breakthrough.

Weather improved during the day and tactical air forces flew 2,750 sorties, downing 22 German planes at a loss of four medium bombers and 13 fighters.

More than 150 Marauders and Havocs of the Ninth Air Force bombed an airfield near Frankfurt from which German planes were believed to be operating against the Remagen bridgehead.

A field dispatch tonight from Don Whitehead of the Associated Press disclosed for the first time that Lt. Gen. Hodges' First Army Engineers had succeeded in throwing a temporary bridge across the middle, swift river to share the burden with the shell-scattered rail structure captured in dramatic fashion last Wednesday.

Today's bridgehead advances, while not great in yardage, drove the Nazis from high ground east of the Rhine from which their artillery observers had direct observation of both traffic-laden spans. The Germans made numerous small counterattacks, all of which were repelled.

Berlin broadcasts declared that 70,000 American troops had been jammed into the bridgehead and were waging a "ferocious" battle with tremendous air support in an effort to break out of the

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