

Fair and slightly warmer today with moderate northwest winds. Yesterday's temperature: High, 60—Low, 45.

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All Major Resistance West Of Rhine Ended; New Rhine Crossings Near, Germans Report; Reds Wipe Out 45,000 Nazis On Czech Front

Foe Reports New Advance Down Danube

Pincers Against South-eastern Sector Appears Likely

LONDON, March 22.—(U.P.)—Russian troops in twin advances of 25 miles have encircled and wiped out 45,000 Germans on the edge of the Czechoslovak arsenal area, Moscow reported tonight.

Berlin said four Soviet armies had opened an offensive down the Danube toward Vienna and as the southern half of the front burst into flames, it appeared that a vast Soviet pincer movement against Germany's "last ditch" fortresses of Czechoslovakia and Austria might be under way.

Marshal Josef Stalin announced that two Russian columns had met at the foot of the Sudeten mountains after each swept 25 miles across upper Silesia, catching 15,000 prisoners in the trap. A subsequent communique reported that 30,000 other Germans were killed in the drive.

The brilliant maneuver by Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian Army overran 400 Silesian towns including the large centers of Neustadt, Cosel, Falkenberg, Zuckow, Ober Glogau, Steinau and Krappitz. Stalin revealed in an order of the day, Neustadt lies only three miles from the Czech border, 84 miles northwest of industrial Brno and 135 miles from Prague.

Stalin's order ended a 33-day silence on activities along Konev's Upper Silesian flank. German broadcasts began reporting the present drive six days ago. Berlin admitted today that the Germans had withdrawn to a new front west of Neustadt.

Perhaps signifying the opening of a great pincer movement to forestall a final German stand in Czechoslovakia and Austria, the Germans reported that four Russian armies were hammering down the Danube from Budapest, striking for the Bratislava Gap and Vienna.

Under mounting pressure, the Germans abandoned Esztergom, 22 miles northwest of Budapest; Felsogalla, 24 miles due west of the Hungarian capital, and Tata; 29 miles northwest of Budapest and 12 miles southeast of Komaron, the key to Bratislava. Tata is 64 miles southeast of Bratislava and only 94 miles from Vienna.

The new gain retrieved most of the territory lost by Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian counter-attacks following the fall of Budapest two months ago.

The German commentator, Ernest von Hammer, reported that Russian troops had battered into the key junction of Szekesfehervar, 34 miles southwest of Budapest where a German garrison was imperiled by the Russian advances across its communications northwest and west of Vienna.

Draft Call May Drop 31 Per Cent In July

Average Will Be Reduced To About 93,000 Men Monthly; Selective Service Act Extended

WASHINGTON, March 22.—(U.P.)—Draft calls may drop an average of 31 per cent after July 1, the White House disclosed today coincident with a House Military Committee vote to extend the draft law without change.

President Roosevelt, sending up a request to Congress for \$54,500,000 to finance Selective Service another fiscal year, said this contemplated an average draft call of 93,000 a month.

This compares with a figure of 135,000 which Maj. Gen. Stephen Henry told the House Committee is the expected average from now until June.

The White House spoke of the after-July need as being merely one of replacements. It said that by then "mobilization of the largest armed force by far in the nation's history" will be complete.

Without the legislation, the Selective Service Act, under which millions of men have been inducted, would become inoperative May 15. The bill approved extends it for another year, or until the end of hostilities, whichever is first.

The committee heeded, though reluctantly, the Army's request that no restriction be placed on the present policy of putting inductees into combat five months after their induction.

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Yanks Invade 8,000 Allied Planes Batter Nazi Targets In Eastern Rhine Sector

Extensive Attacks Believed Prelude To New Crossings; Berlin Pounded For 31st Consecutive Night By RAF

LONDON, March 22.—(U.P.)—The Allies unleashed terrific air assaults on German ground defenses east of the Rhine today, sending some 8,000 planes against the Reich in the second day of all-out attacks precluding mass crossings of the historic river barrier.

Every type of aircraft, from fighters to four-engine bombers, lashed German army camps, command posts, supply centers, airfields and railroads in the Ruhr Valley, dropping an estimated 10,000 tons of bombs.

It was one of the greatest aerial slaughters of the war. Some 7,300 sorties were flown by heavy bombers and fighters from British bases and tactical planes over the front lines. Italy-based warplanes joined the massive assaults, penetrating southern Germany to within 75 miles of Berlin.

Tonight British Mosquitos hit the German capital for the 31st consecutive night.

Skies were clear and crew members saw their bombs strike directly on enemy barracks, headquarters posts, bridges and other objectives across the river from where Allied armies stood poised behind a smokescreen for the big push.

Lieut. Gen. James H. Doolittle's Eighth Air Force sent more than 1,300 Fortresses and Liberators against nine German army posts in the Ruhr Valley and five airfields, including jet-plane bases, in northwestern and southern Germany. The more than 700 escorting Mustangs ranged far to the east, past Berlin, engaging the Luftwaffe and hitting ground objectives in the center of the Reich.

The American four-motored bombers scored direct hits and left

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Liberation of Philippines Becomes Mopping-Up Operation

MANILA, Friday, March 23.—(U.P.)—Guimaras island, just a mile and a half southeast of captured Iloilo on Panay, was invaded by American Doughboys Wednesday as heavy bombers on three successive days poured 214 tons of bombs on Cebu island to the east.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported this 27th island invasion of the Philippines in his communique today, announcing only that "in a shore-to-shore operation our troops seized Guimaras island, southeast of Panay."

The heavy bombing of Cebu island, across the Camotes Sea from Leyte, was concentrated on Japanese bivouac and supply areas in the vicinity of Cebu City, midway along the island's east coast.

"Many explosions and fires were observed," the communique said. Meanwhile naval PT boats patrolling the Cebu coast by night sank several enemy small craft and navy rocket-firing planes sank a midgeet submarine off Cebu City.

Patrol bombers ranging the blockaded China Sea sank or damaged 12 small freight vessels and four landing craft.

General advances on all ground fronts on Luzon were reported. Forward elements of the 33rd Division, probing closer to Baguio from the west, reached the Naguilan river and an airfield at the outskirts of the Philippine summer capital.

In southern Luzon, the 158th regimental combat team drove into the environs of Cuenca, south-east of Lake Taal, and cut the main road east of the town.

Liberation of the Philippines became generally a big mopping up job as American troops and Filipino guerrillas pursued broken Japanese forces on Panay, Mindanao, Leyte and most of Luzon today.

Only in northern Luzon, where Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita is supposed to have established headquarters at Baguio, were there reports of extensive, organized resistance.

Gen. MacArthur announced Thursday the collapse of the Japanese Antipolo-Wawa line in the Sierra Madre east of Manila. He reported the capture of much equipment by 33rd and Sixth Division troops and said enemy losses in men were "extraordinarily heavy."

Thursday's communique also announced that south of Manila, Luzon's Cavite province had been "cleared of the enemy except for scattered remnants now in flight."

It added that "all organized enemy resistance on Panay has been crushed" except for minor pockets. Fortieth Division Doughboys mauling given Japanese warships Monday in Japan's inland sea.

There has been no official word on the whereabouts of the force, a part of the Fifth Fleet, since it moved close to Japan to permit its planes to search out enemy fleet units at their bases.

In the nine days that have elapsed since that strike, Admiral Mitscher has had time to move his ships into the Formosa area about 900 miles from the scene of Monday in Japan's inland sea.

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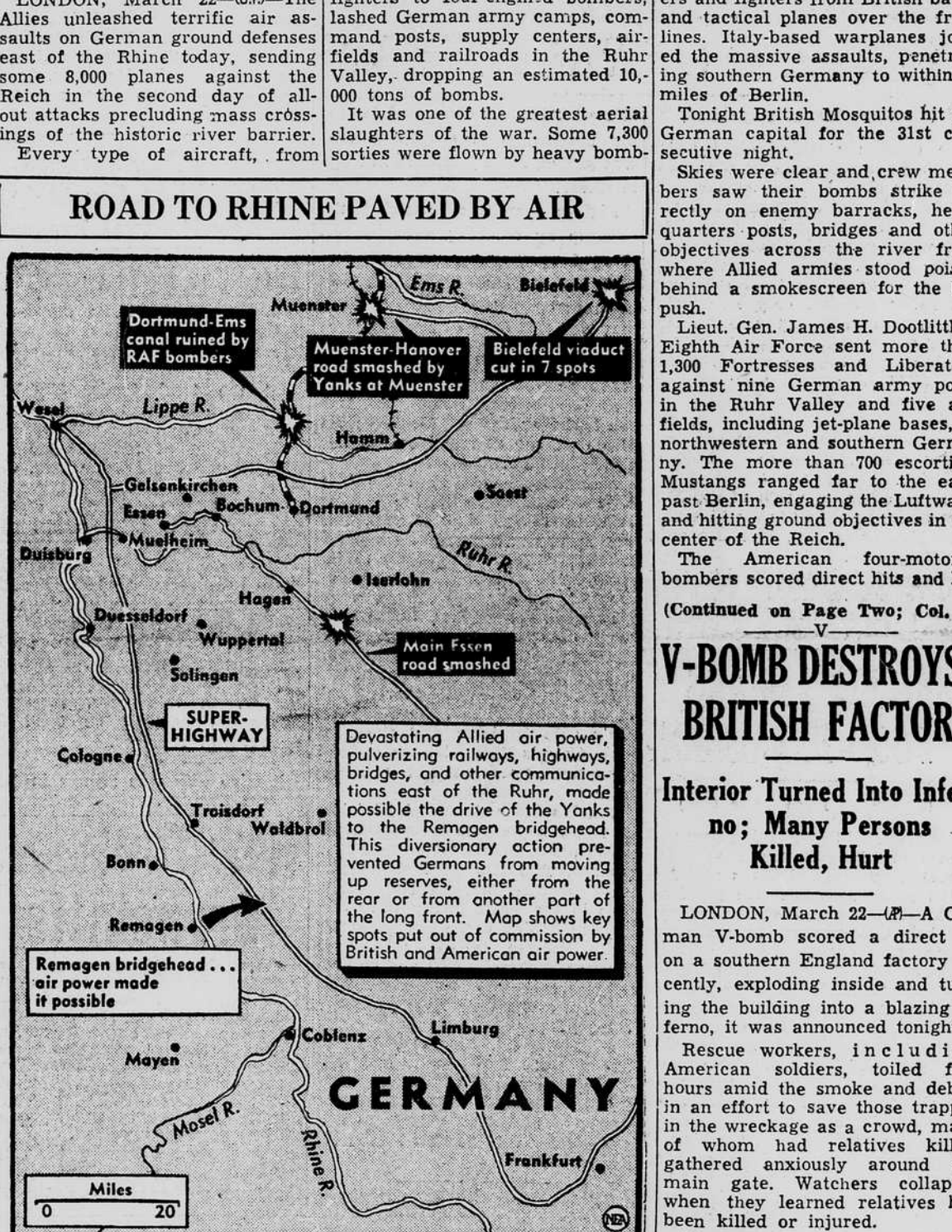
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ROAD TO RHINE PAVED BY AIR

Devastating Allied air power, pulverizing railways, highways, bridges, and other communications east of the Ruhr, made possible the drive of the Yanks to the Remagen bridgehead. This diversionary action prevented Germans from moving up reserves, either from the rear or from another part of the long front. Map shows key spots put out of commission by British and American air power.



Japs Claim Fifth Fleet Still Prowling Pacific

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, GUAM, Friday, March 23.—(U.P.)—Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's potent carrier task force presumably still was on the prowl today, with Tokyo radio hinting it might scourge the Rukyus or Formosa while withdrawing from the

MASS EVACUATION OF TOKYO HINTED

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22.—(U.P.)—The evacuation of nearly 3,000,000 air raid victims from Tokyo—one of the greatest mass civilian evacuations of the war—is in progress in the bomb-torn Nipponese capital, the Japanese radio indicated Thursday.

Diet Hears of Plans To Combat American Invasion Believed Near

A Domei, Japanese news agency, broadcast recorded by the FCC, said Home Minister Shigeo Odachi told a Diet committee that Tokyo probably had less than 4,000,000 inhabitants now, with more to leave. The city's prewar population before the war was around 7,000,000, making it the third largest in the world.

Recalcitrant Nazis Find Wilmington Wind Too Cool

More than 100 German prisoners of war in the Wilmington confinement center who displayed recalcitrance yesterday over the setting of a "work task" for fertilizer-plant details among them by Lt. R. H. Hazel, camp commander, changed their minds after two hours' segregation in a chilly corner of the stockade, it was announced last night.

The war-prisoners will be back at work today, Lt. Hazel said, adding that he plans to have the group at fault work Sunday to make up for the hours they missed last night. All labor contingents of the 504 Germans in the camp except the fertilizer-plant group

Ludwigshafen And Mainz Are Cleared Of Foe

Imminent Drive On Ruhr Valley Preceded By Air Assault

PARIS, March 22.—(U.P.)—Two U. S. armies crushed all major resistance west of the Rhine today in the last phase of a battle that cost the Germans 100,000 captives alone and the enemy said the river barrier was about to be stormed both from the Palatinate and opposite the Ruhr, which was blasted by thousands of warplanes.

One German report said Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army had massed 300 regular and amphibious tanks and strong engineering and motorized units for a smash into the mountainous inner core of the Reich.

Another declared that Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery had opened a thunderous artillery barrage to screen a Rhine crossing west of Wesel, adding to destruction wrought by the thousands of warplanes which throughout the day sowed ruin through the Ruhr Valley.

Third Army strategists now were free to plan the crossing of the Rhine, for possibly no more than 4,000 German effectives remained in action west of the stream after one of the worst disasters ever visited on German armies.

Written off were the great Rhine cities of Mainz and Ludwigshafen, where resistance folded during the day and the few defenders were chased into corners from which Rhine bridges blown.

Third Army banners floated over 100 miles of the Rhine's west bank from Ludwigshafen to Coblenz, and airmen scored a direct hit on a southern England factory recently, exploding inside and turning the building into a blazing inferno, it was announced tonight.

Rescue workers, including four American soldiers, toiled four hours amid the smoke and debris in an effort to save those trapped in the wreckage as a crowd, many of whom had relatives killed, gathered anxiously around the main gate. Watchers collapsed when they learned relatives had been killed or injured.

The first sent huge smoke clouds rolling through an adjoining street and the U. S. troops and firemen were handicapped by a gas main that blazed for six hours in one dog was used to help locate those buried in the debris.

Another V-bomb exploded in the gardens behind a row of cottages in a southern England community, killing six persons, demolishing three houses and strewn wreckage over a wide area. Dazed survivors were pulled from those ruins too.

Thirteen other persons were killed and six injured when two V-bombs struck other localities, including the grounds of a hospital. Part of the hospital was so badly damaged that 120 patients had to be evacuated.

Two children escaped virtually unhurt when a V-bomb explosion sent th roofs of their homes crashing down. Roof beams shunted heavy pieces of concrete that fell toward six-year-old Peter Mosely, and Mrs. Dorothy Weber's 10-month-old daughter was tossed across a room but uninjured.

The 94th Division to the south battled to the great last snipers from the great chemical center of Ludwigshafen.

The battle west of the Rhine, which will carry out Gen. Eisenhower's orders to destroy every German short of the big river barrier, was being carried to a swift conclusion by the U. S. Third and Seventh Armies.

The Tenth Armored Division of the Third Army was fanning out, one column spearing six miles southeast to near Gommersheim, seven miles west of Speyer and only 19 miles northwest of Karlsruhe.

The pincers was being clamped on Speyer. The Tenth, after capturing the steel city of Neustadt, pushed on into Bohl, six miles northwest of Speyer, whose bridge the German radio was calling to the beaten troops to escape before it was too late.

Patton's mysterious tank division which first penetrated Ludwigshafen left the mop-up of that city to the 94th Infantry Division and speared on south to within five miles of Speyer on the north.

Simultaneously, the Tenth sent

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Congress, Probing Food, Hears Of Army Shortage

WASHINGTON, March 22.—(U.P.)—The Government today announced plans to do something about the meat shortage after Congress was told that the largest cattle population in history is roaming the range, that the Army's food supply is too low for safety, and that civilians' oft-hitched belts must be pulled tighter.

With the hope of bringing more meat to consumers, the Office of Price Administration increased subsidy payments to cattle slaughterers by 50 cents per hundred pounds. The increase was announced before the Senate Banking Committee by Price Administrator Chester Bowles who was answering charges that OPA price policy is to blame for the shortage crisis.

Bowles said the new subsidy should put meat packers in "a reasonably good position." But Arthur L. Winn of the National Independent Meat Packers Association, another witness, disagreed. He said the packers would continue to lose money.

With President Roosevelt planning to give the Nation the facts on the food problem at his press conference tomorrow, there were these other food developments: The price of chickens is going up. The Government soon will raise price ceilings on poultry to encourage production.

"Meat-easies" are springing up in New Jersey. Joseph Vian, president of the Independent Retail Butchers of New Jersey, told a House committee investigating the food shortage that meat dealers are beginning to operate behind drawn Venetian blinds.

Acting Secretary of War Robert Patterson said the Army's food supply is "below the minimum safety factor."

War Food Administration officials said the shortage crisis is

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Treasury To Investigate Free Spending At Resorts

WASHINGTON, March 22.—(U.P.)—The Treasury disclosed today that its famous "T Men" are checking up on freewheeling spenders in big-time pleasure resorts to determine whether they have paid their income taxes.

Officials said that Elmer Irey, chief coordinator of Treasury enforcement activities (that's the T-men), picked up \$50,000 of delinquent taxes in a few days in Miami, Fla.

His contributors, they said, were persons who hastened to pay "forgotten taxes."

Irey is the man whose sleuthing brought Scarface Al Capone to grief back in the roaring days of gangsterism.—for getting his taxes.

Now he and his agents are after other people suspected of having income they haven't bothered to report—some of them, perhaps, because it came from such frowned-upon practices as black marketeering.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau told a news conference today the department is not after

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EDEN SELECTION BRINGS PROTEST

Labor Members Attack Churchill Choice For Peace Parley

LONDON, March 22.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill today named Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden chairman of a nine-member delegation to the San Francisco Security Conference over the angry protests—

which he called "churlish"—of two Labor party members.

Emanuel Shinwell and Aneurin Bevan, tireless critics of the government, charged that in making Maj. Clement Attlee, Laborite deputy prime minister, an ordinary member of the delegation under Eden, Churchill was trying to grab power for his Conservative party with a view to the election to be held after the European war.

Churchill made history by naming two women to the delegation—Ellen Wilkinson, veteran Labor party member of the House of Commons and parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Home Security, and Florence Horsbrugh, parliamentary secretary to the Health Ministry.

The Earl of Halifax, British ambassador to the United States, who also is a War Cabinet member, will be on the delegation.

Other members are: Lord Cranborne, dominions secretary; George Tomlinson, joint parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Labor; Dingle Foot, Parliamentary secretary to the Ministry for Economic Warfare, and William Mabane, parliamentary secretary to the Food Ministry.

As soon as Churchill had announced the makeup of the delegation to Commons, Shinwell and Bevan objected. Shinwell asked Churchill:

"Is it not all quite consistent with his (Churchill's) declaration at the conservative conference that the conservative party, having got all they wanted in the way of assistance and guidance in the war, are now going to get everything which is useful in their own hands?"

This was a reference to the Labor membership in the war time coalition government.

"I never said that," answered Churchill. "There could hardly be anything more unfair, or a more characteristic utterance than that."

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