

Partly cloudy and slightly cooler today with moderate southerly winds. Yesterday's temperatures: High, 81—Low, 60.

Wilmington Morning Star

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1945

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ESTABLISHED 1867

Third Army Takes Kassel, Gotha And Suhl; Close On Erfurt 130 Miles From Berlin; Yanks Gain On Okinawa; Resistance Light

U. S. Tightens Grip On East Shore Of Isle

15-Mile Line Projects Into Enemy Positions near Capital

GUAM, Thursday, April 5.—(AP)—Still finding only scattered resistance, Marines and infantrymen scored gains on all fronts on strategic Okinawa in the Ryukyus yesterday, fourth day of the thus far surprisingly easy campaign, the Navy announced today.

Seventh Division Doughboys consolidated their positions along the coast of Nakagusuku Bay, one-time Japanese fleet anchorage on the eastern shore, while the Third Marines at the north established a line on a narrow isthmus just north of Yontan Hill.

Front observers have predicted the 60,000 to 80,000 Japanese on the island, only 325 miles south of Japan proper, might make a stand on this easy-defensible two-mile isthmus.

The American line now measures about 15 miles from north to south. The southern end projects into Japanese pillbox positions only four miles from the capital city of Naha, largest in the Ryukyus, and its large airfield adjacent.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz said in his communique today the Japanese still "offered scattered resistance."

The first indications of opposition were found along a west coastal road above Naha. Japanese artillery fire and land mines slowed the 7th Infantry advance, but the enemy withdrew under answering Yank field guns.

A small force of enemy planes raided American positions yesterday. Four were shot down.

An American carrier task force attacked aircraft and installations in the Anmri group of the southern Ryukyus on Tuesday, destroying or damaging 56 enemy planes and sinking or damaging 28 small ships. Fuel dumps and buildings were left ablaze.

Aerial reconnaissance warned the 7th Infantry Division moving down the west coast and the Seventh on the east coast of a line of enemy trenches and pillboxes protecting Naha and the Machinato and Yonabaru airfields.

But the scattered and ineffectual Japanese defense since the U. S. 10th Army of Doughboy and Marine divisions landed on Okinawa Sunday has enabled the Americans to exceed their invasion schedule and pile up supplies and ammunition ashore to meet expected stiffening enemy resistance.

"The critical period of landing men and supplies is over," said Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., commanding general of the 10th Army. "Army, Navy and Marine elements all functioned like clockwork."

While the 24th Army Corps units push southward toward Naha, elements of the Third Marine Amphibious Corps on the northern edge of the widening American corridor across the island are thrusting north.

"We are out of the woods now," said Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, commander of the Marine force. His Leathernecks captured 700-foot high Yontan Hill from Japanese who employed only a small arms fire defense.

The Marines cleaned minor groups of Japanese from caves as they progressed to the east coast near Ketchin peninsula.

The only important Japanese resistance early in the invasion of Okinawa, 225 miles from southern Japan, was staged in the interior by a force of about battalion strength, said Vern Haugland, Associated Press correspondent. Troops of the 24th Army Corps cleared up this pocket.

Warships of the U. S. Fifth Fleet are giving continuing support to ground operations with surface craft gunfire, while carrier planes hammer land targets.

Only three miles separated the American Army units yesterday from the Machinato and Yonabaru airfields which form part of Naha's defenses. Machinato is on the west coast, five miles north of Naha, and Yonabaru is six miles east of the city on the coast.

Tokyo radio admitted the Yank bisected Okinawa but reported only the loss of the village of Awashi, on the east coast.

Command Team On Okinawa



Geiger Deyo



Lt. Gen. Buckner



Hodge Blandy



Durgin Bruce

Leaders of the Okinawa-Kerama invasion shown above are: Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, commander of American ground forces; Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, 3rd Marine Amphibious Corps; Rear Adm. M. L. Deyo, supporting battalions; Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge, 24th Corps; Rear Adm. W. H. P. Blandy, amphibious support; Rear Adm. T. C. Durgin, escort carrier, and Maj. Gen. Andrew D. Bruce, 7th Division.

SUPPLY OF SUGAR TO DROP IN 1945

Quota For Americans Slightly Under That Of Great Britain

WASHINGTON, April 4.—(AP)—Civilians in the United States, famous for their sweet tooth, will find 1945 "the most difficult of the war" from the sugar standpoint.

This sour report came today from Lt. Col. R. W. Olmstead of the War Food Administration, who said the comparative supply figures are: 7 per cent less than in 1944 and 14 per cent less than the 1935-39 average.

The American estimate figures out at 83 pounds per civilian, even a little less than civilians in Great Britain are due to get.

Olmstead, who is chairman of WFA's allocations committee, said that in the United Kingdom, the 1945 sugar estimate is due to go up 23 per cent over 1944 to 96 pounds per capita. This, however, is 17 per cent less than the 1934-38 average.

For Canada, the estimate is 83 pounds, 4 per cent below 1944 and 12 per cent below 1935-39.

Olmstead supplied the figures in testimony before senators investigating food shortages.

Other highlights on the continuing big food topic: (1) The War Food Administration allotted 323,000,000 pounds of butter for civilian consumption in the next three months. This compares with estimated consumption of 325,000,000 to 328,000,000 in the last three months.

(2) It said civilians face a 30 per cent reduction in the amount of butter available.

Navy Draft Reduction May Aid Older Group

June Quota May Be Reduced By 50 Per Cent, High Officials Declare; Cut Will Affect 30-33 Age Bracket First

WASHINGTON, April 4.—(AP)—Some reduction in Selective Service calls for older men was forecast today as a result of a deep slash in the Navy's draft requirements.

High officials who requested anonymously disclosed that the Navy will need only about 16,000 draft registrants in May instead of twice that number as had been planned. They said the June quota, originally about the same as May, might be reduced by more than 50 per cent, and when the Navy reaches peak strength in July there probably will be a further substantial cut.

The reductions for May and June amount to about a 12 per cent cut in the overall draft calls for the Army and Navy. They had been scheduled at approximately 132,000 men each month.

The Navy paring results principally, it was stated, from an upward trend in the enlistment of 17-year-olds. It also indicates that Navy casualties may be fewer than had been anticipated, thus accelerating the pace toward top strength of 3,600,000 men.

While it gave no details, the Navy officially confirmed the cut in its Selective Service call. It said in a statement that monthly requests "have been and are being gradually reduced to conform to authorized strength."

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Reds Finish Last Germans In Hungary

Bratislava Falls; Reds Drive Into Vienna's Southern Suburbs

LONDON, Thursday, April 5.—(AP)—The Russians captured Bratislava, cleared the last Germans out of Hungary and fought into Vienna's southern suburbs yesterday in a day of sensational successes all along the southeastern front.

The combined blow of the Second, Third and Fourth Ukrainian Army groups also hurled the Nazis back in northwest Yugoslavia in the Mura river valley and overcame the enemy foothold in the little Carpathian mountains north of Bratislava, pressaging the early clearance of all Slovakia.

Premier Stalin announced the storming of Bratislava, capital of the Nazi puppet state of Slovakia and a key Danubian stronghold of 160,000 population, less than 24 hours after Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Group had laid siege to the city.

The subsequent Moscow broadcast communique announced that Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian forces seized more than 30 communities south and southwest of Vienna, one of them—Zwoelfzing—only a mile and a half from the southern city limits and seven and a half from the very center of the Austrian capital.

Almost due south of Vienna, the Russians announced they had hurled the last of the Germans off Hungarian territory and were pressing their liberating invasion of Yugoslavia.

This drive, which took ten Yugoslav towns during the day, was aided by Bulgarian troops.

Similarly, Czechoslovak army forces aided in the southwestward thrust of the Fourth Ukrainian Army in northwest Slovakia, which captured more than 60 populated places.

The resumed offensive by Col. Gen. Ivan Petrov's Fourth Ukrainians was apparently the long-expected push to team up with Malinovsky's northern units and put the squeeze on the German-held remainder of Slovakia.

Another more significant linkup was indicated in Malinovsky's capture of Bratislava. This laid open the traditional invasion gate to Austria and promised early union with the Tolbukhin forces that already were in Vienna's southern suburbs.

The stage was set for another Malinovsky-Tolbukhin joint operation, similar to that which captured Budapest.

Berlin, taking cognizance of the imminent consolidation of Red forces, said that advances by the Soviets made it necessary to move back the German front in Slovakia to a shortened line.

The victory was celebrated in Moscow with 20 salvos from 224 guns.

The swift capture upset German plans to hold the stronghold as a shield against encirclement of Vienna. Moscow reported ships and units of the Red Banner Danube flotilla participated in the victory.

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1,000 Forts Hit Kiel, Hamburg Sub Pens

3,000 Planes Hurlled Against Northwestern Reich; Stiff Opposition Offered By Nazi Jet Planes

LONDON, April 4.—(AP)—The Allies hurled 3,000 planes against the dwindling targets of shrunken Germany today, including 1,000 Flying Fortresses and Liberators which blasted submarine building yards at Kiel and Hamburg and airfields throughout the northwestern Reich.

The American attacks were driven home despite stiff opposition from formations of jet propelled ME-262. Nine bombers and four fighters were missing, but the Swedish radio said one of the bombers landed safely at Malmo airport in Sweden.

Returning crewmen reported good results at Kiel.

At least 11 of the twin-jet interceptors and four other enemy fighters were shot down by Mustangs which made up part of the 860-planes escort. But the ME-262, closing to short range in formations of four and eight planes, knocked down several American bombers in attacks concentrated chiefly on a force of Liberators assigned to targets at Hamburg.

Many of the American fighters carried out widespread strafing raids against German airfields which are becoming more congested daily as the enemy is forced to evacuate his fields in the west, 70 of which already have been lost.

In these sweeps at least eight planes were destroyed on the ground. One group of about 45 Mustangs encountered 12 jet planes. One was shot down; the other 11 were damaged.

Fighter-bombers of the U. S. Ninth Air Force, some operating from former enemy airfields east of the Rhine, boosted the day's total of German aircraft destroyed by American pilots to at least 42. They brought down 16 in combat and caught three bombers on the ground.

Some 3,000 Allied planes in all assaulted German targets from the west. While the American heavies were continuing their port-busting campaign—it was the second straight raid on Kiel, and the third on naval installations and U-boat yards in six days—the RAF sent some 750 Lancasters with Mustangs and Spitfires to attack troop concentrations at Nordhausen, 60 miles northeast of Kassel.

The existence of America's "droop-nose" bomber, a P-38 (Continued on Page Seven; Col. 2)

YANKS INVADE MASBATE ISLE

Blockade of Jap Shipping Declared To Be In Complete Operation

MANILA, Thursday, April 5.—(AP)—Masbate island in the central Philippines was invaded by Maj. Gen. Rapp Brush's veterans 40th Infantry Division Tuesday, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today in a communique which proclaimed the American blockade of Japanese shipping "in complete operation."

MacArthur also reported that escorted heavy bombers scored their first concerted strike on the great shipping base at Hong Kong, hitting the Kowloon and Taikoo dock areas with 126 tons of bombs, innumerable fires and explosions dotted the target. Not a plane was lost.

Twenty-eight Japanese vessels, including a destroyer-escort, were sunk or damaged in the China Sea and waters to the south.

MacArthur said the Eighth Army Yanks invading Masbate, fairly large sugar island just west of Samar, on the main shipping lane through the central Philippines, were aided by guerrilla forces, and added:

"We are rapidly securing the entire island."

Masbate is the 36th Philippine island invaded.

MacArthur, in a lengthy summary of operations in his theater, said that Monday's seizure of Tawitawi harbor at the southern end of the Sulu archipelago "severs (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

British Race Across Weser And Ems Line

French Seize Karlsruhe; Allies Threatening Stuttgart In South

PARIS, Thursday, April 5.—(AP)—U. S. Third Army tank forces, breaking into the open Thuringian plain, captured Kassel, Gotha and Suhl yesterday and closed in on Erfurt, 130 miles southwest of Berlin, in their swift race to split the dying Reich.

In the north, British armored forces hurled two major river barriers, the lower Weser and Ems rivers, and plunged on toward the great German North Sea ports of Bremen and Emden.

One force pushing into Lingen, 55 miles south of Emden, and sweeping onward, was only 45 miles from cutting the last Nazi escape route out of all Holland, and Canadian troops on the western flank were overrunning V-bomb sites.

Karlsruhe, capital of Baden on the upper Rhine, fell to the French First Army at the extreme southern end of the front, a French communique announced. The adjoining U. S. Seventh Army pushed to Uffenheim, 34 miles northwest of Nuernberg, Nazi convention city and key road city controlling the Berlin-Brenner Pass routes into Italy. The Americans and French also were threatening Stuttgart, big south German city.

All Allied armies were pounding ahead in a swelling tide that overran underground Nazi factories, vital airfields, and other war plants. The Nazis were losing more than two divisions daily in prisoners alone.

Field Marshal Montgomery's British 11th Armored Division swept around Osnabrueck where the last bitter German resistors were being slain, and crossed the Weser river, one of the last two water barriers before Berlin, in an apparent double strike aimed at Hannover and Bremen.

Although the exact point of the crossing was not divulged in a late front dispatch, it apparently occurred above Minden, which is 53 miles south of Bremen and 32 miles west of Hannover.

The British "plunged beyond against light opposition," said a dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent William Frye.

The American Third Army, paving the Allied drive in the center, ran through surrendered Gotha and moved on toward Erfurt, 11 miles beyond, astride the Frankfurt-Dresden military superhighway. The Germans said 40 Allied gliders set down troops, fuel, and munitions to aid the capture of ancient Gotha.

The American Ninth Army charged up to the 240-foot Weser river, next to last barrier on the high road to Berlin, 170 miles away. Reaching the river at Bad Oeynhausen, the Americans menaced the large Prussian communications center of Hannover, 38 miles from the Ninth Army tank the naval base of Bremen lay 57 miles to the north.

The Ninth pressed down from the north on the shrinking Ruhr trap where up to 50,000 Germans faced surrender or annihilation. Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, supreme Nazi commander in the west, was in the doomed pocket, a dispatch from the Ninth Army said. Advancing infantry moved within five miles of Dortmund on two sides.

Street fighting erupted through the rubble streets of Wuerzburg, Heilbronn, Hamm and Zutphen, all of which were falling on a curving 400-mile front as the Allies ripped through hastily erected resistance nests.

The Canadians moved up to Arnhem and were less than 20 miles from the Zulkder Zee in Holland. Once they reach that great body of water they will have cut off part of the 90,000 Germans originally anchored in western Holland.

Gotha fell without a shot being fired. Germans broke out white flags a half-hour before the U. S. Third Army's Fourth Armored Division commander, Brig. Gen. (Continued on Page Three; Col. 2)

MID-U. S. SHIVERS UNDER SNOWSTORM

Fruit Crops Threatened By Unseasonable Winter Weather

By The Associated Press
Heavy snow, bitter cold, high winds and flood waters harassed the mid-continent yesterday.

Winty intrusions on the spring season, well advanced by abnormally warm March weather, threatened fruit crops, blocked highways, closed rural schools and disrupted travel.

Snowfall ranged up to 17 inches in Minnesota, the worst April storm since 1928. Northern and western Iowa had as much as 16 inches. There was a 14 inch cover in Nebraska. Northwestern Wisconsin and upper Michigan had at least 8 inches. A Rocky Mountain storm left up to 14 inches in Colorado and Wyoming, accompanied by 17 below zero weather at Laramie, Wyo., and 14 below at Leadville, Colo.

There also was some snow in New Mexico, Texas Missouri and Kansas. Freezing weather extended as far south as Texas, where a low of 12 was reported from Pampa. Guymon, Okla., had a low of 17.

Chicago Weather Bureau forecasters said the snow was cleaning out for the most part but freezing weather would continue today in the Midwest, the Plains and the Southwest.

Fruit apparently was the most endangered of the crops. E. H. Hoppert, Nebraska Agricultural (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

HARD COAL MINE MEN SEEK RAISE

John L. Lewis Asks 25 Per Cent Increase For 72,000 Workers

NEW YORK, April 4.—(AP)—The United Mine Workers today asked a 25 per cent salary increase for 72,000 workers in the hard coal field.

The miners also demanded a royalty of 10 cents per ton, as they did in the bituminous negotiations, and asked severance pay for suspensions, dismissals and layoffs.

A set of 30 demands was presented by President John L. Lewis to the representatives of 190 hard coal producers in eastern Pennsylvania as negotiations opened for a new contract to replace the one expiring April 30.

Lewis said before the negotiations began that the miners had received "only a 15 per cent increase since 1923" and that they now deserved "a considerable increase" because "we know industry is prosperous."

At a press conference following the first negotiations session, UMW Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Kennedy said "we believe there is enough leeway in our demands to keep within the Little Steel Formula."

Kennedy also said there was no way at present to estimate the over-all cost of the demanded increases to the operators because of varying pay rates among miners.

Ralph E. Taggart, president of (Continued on Page Seven; Col. 2)

Baruch Assures Veterans Of Ample Peacetime Jobs

LONDON, Thursday, April 5.—(AP)—Looking confidently into the future, Bernard Baruch, adviser to President Roosevelt, asserted in an interview published today that American servicemen would not have anything to worry about when they got home, that "there will be more work in the United States than there will be hands with which to do it."

This wave of prosperity, he told a reporter for the Army newspaper Stars and Stripes, would carry over for five to seven years after the war "no matter what is done or not done."

The 75-year-old financier, who has held several conferences with Prime Minister Churchill, was reluctant to talk about the exact nature of his mission to London. But he spoke freely in expressing confidence in the immediate future, and added:

"What happens after those five or seven years depends on the peace the big boys are preparing for us now."

Baruch's interview was given to A. Victor Lasky, Stars and Stripes staff writer. As originally prepared for publication it quoted Baruch as saying at this point:

"And one reason I am over here is to hold the big stick over the big boys to make damn sure they're not going to foul up the peace."

"We've got to so de-industrialize Germany and Japan—at least for a generation—so they won't go to war again. Also we've got to see that those subsidized slave labor countries do not again flood the world with their cheap products, lowering the standards of living of the United Nations."

Stettinius Seeks Trade Conference Of World Powers To Further Peace

CHICAGO, April 4.—(AP)—Secretary of State Stettinius said tonight "we shall do all in our power" to convene a conference of the world's principal trading nations within the next year to consider commerce problems.

Stettinius emphasized Government plans for the "removal of the political, economic and social causes of war" in a speech before the Council on Foreign Relations.

The proposed trade conference, he said, "would also prepare the way for establishment of a permanent trade organization within the framework of the world organization, to deal with these problems on a continuing basis."

The Secretary expressed "full confidence that we shall be able to resolve" the "temporary difficulties of a political nature that have arisen in connection with the San Francisco Conference" on world organization opening April 25.

Saying he was unable to discuss the subject in detail "because the United States Government is at this moment engaged in very active efforts to resolve these difficulties," he added:

"We are going right ahead with our plans for the San Francisco Conference and we are resolved to make it the success that it must be. I ask you to remember: first that the United Nations have repeatedly overcome other difficulties far more serious in the past three years; second that the vital national interests of the (Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)