

WEATHER

Cloudy and cool, showers over east and in mountains today followed by clearing and cooler tonight. Low-est temperatures 28-32 in interior. Friday, fair and warmer.

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TELEMAT PICTURES

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STATE THEATRE TODAY "One Body Too Many"

Starring Jack HALEY — Jean PARKER Also COMEDY — CARTOON

SOVIETS SAY DEFENSES BEFORE BERLIN CRUMBLING 'Big Three' Meet On Russian Soil; Plan Joint Action In Europe FIRST ARMY CRASHES LAST WESTWALL BARRIERS

YANKS CAPTURE SCHMIDT, NEAR ROER DAMS

Germans Think Eisenhower Preparing For Big New Offensive

7-MILE BREACH

PARIS, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The American First Army drove clear through the last barriers of the double Siegfried line 15 miles southeast of Aachen today, captured bloody Schmidt and neared the Roer river dams and reservoirs which had been a major factor in checkmating the western front offensive last November.

(The German communique said "preparations for the big Allied attack continue along the Roer." The enemy said a major offensive was imminent with Cologne, the Rhine and industrial Ruhr as objectives. American troops outside Duren are 20 miles from Cologne. Capture of the dams might prove the starting signal for the onslaught.)

The largest of the dams, the 985-foot thick Schwammenauel, is just over two miles from Schmidt. A combat team of the 78th division reached the northern bank of its vast reservoir.

The dam system is capable of sending an 18-foot wall of water down the 36 miles of the Roer to Roemond. Any troops which had crossed the Roer to the Cologne plain last fall could have been trapped by German-made floods within four hours.

Farther south in the 70-mile active front, the Third Army poured through a seven mile breach in the Siegfried line to within a mile and a quarter of the fortress and communications hub of Pruem, 53 miles southwest of the large Rhine city of Coblenz.

In Southern Alsace, American and French troops stamped out all but a few square miles of the German pocket below Strasbourg, Blodelsheim, nine miles south of Neufbreisach, was reached and six more miles of the left bank of the Rhine was cleared. Some 12,500 Germans have been taken in the pocket.

The hard hit westwall appeared to be leaking badly. It has been run through at three places this week by the First and Third armies; a 35 mile gap around Aachen was captured last fall.

Although the Siegfried line was backed up a depth of recently dug earthworks and hastily fortified villages, it seemed highly questionable whether these improvised defenses could be held after the stronger concrete permanent works gave away.

Gen. Eisenhower was turning his offensive on full steam—aimed at least to the Rhine and likely beyond. See YANKS Page 2

AIR BLOWS MAY BE PRELUDE TO GROUND ATTACK

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—German radio warnings to cities all along the western front this morning indicated Allied planes were continuing the mass onslaught launched last night by the RAF, perhaps as a prelude to a big new ground offensive.

One bomber formation was reported swinging east over Holland today and the enemy radio said scores of single Allied planes were roaming the sky behind Nazi lines. A force of 700 British heavies last night in full moonlight swooped over Nazi troops and equipment concentrations at Kleve and Goch, between the Maas and Rhine rivers, while a large force of Mosquitos attacked seven key industrial and communications centers. The attacks were staggered over a two and one-half hour period and kept half of Germany on the alert until after midnight.



IN CONFERENCE—The "Big Three"—Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt, are meeting somewhere on Russian soil in the Black Sea area. They have reached "complete agreement" on military prosecution of the war, and are now said to be discussing joint political action in Europe.

Airborne Units May Be Used To Leapfrog Rhine

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Speculation that Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton's Allied Airborne Army may soon be called upon again to leap-frog the Rhine developed today as Allied ground forces drove closer to the river in the Cologne sector.

The task of establishing bridgeheads across this mighty barrier, preparatory to a sweep into the heart of Germany, will be one of the greatest confronting Allied commanders once their troops have crashed through the Siegfried line on a broad front. A logical solution to the problem, in the opinion of military observers, would be to throw the American-British-Polish air fighters over the river to seize crossings for infantry and armored forces.

JUNCTION It is considered unlikely, however, that the signal for the take-off of the paratroopers will be given until powerful ground forces reach a position from which they can advance quickly to a junction with them.

Once before, at Arnhem in Holland, the airborne soldiers hurled the Rhine only to be forced back when supporting troops were unable to come up quickly enough to anchor the bridgehead they had won. This mistake in timing probably will not be repeated. The Germans, of course, are aware of the threat of Allied aerial landings and probably have taken measures to thwart them. In fact, one of the greatest problems in such an operation will be the location of an area suitable for the landings. Most of the logical areas behind the Rhine, military experts say, probably are studded with stakes, wires and other obstacles.

WHAT'S DOING

TODAY 7:00 p.m.—Regular meeting of Kiwanis club. 7:00 p.m.—C.A.P. members meet at armory. FRIDAY 12:30 p.m.—Rotary club meets at Hotel Charles. 7:30 p.m.—Called meeting of Cleveland Lodge 202 A.F. & A.M. at Masonic Temple for work in third degree.

Only The Heroic Survive Horrors Of Battlefield

TEMPLE, Tex., Feb. 8.—(AP)—Pvt. William H. Edwards' foot was blown off and he was crying for water, but the three Germans ignored his pleas. They wired explosives to his body, and left him—a human booby trap. Edwards told his strange story today at McCloskey General Hospital here. How his right foot had been blown off by a mine. How the Germans fastened the explosives to him. How he knew that if he moved he was doomed. Or if help came when he was unconscious, he and his

Fighting Rages Across Pasig River

Great Fires, Set By Japanese Suicide Squads, Still Burn In Heart Of City

MANILA, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The broad Pasig river, its bridges blown up by a desperate foe, was the front line today in the heart of Manila—a heart torn by sporadic house-to-house fighting, exploding shells and great fires set by Japanese suicide squads.

The sprawled and blackened bodies of slain Japanese, among 48,000 enemy casualties so far accounted for on Luzon, dotted scenes of Wanton destruction in the liberated sector north of the river. South of it, demolition groups started more fires. The liberating Yanks, whose Luzon casualties total 7,076, are superior in armored might and have a monopoly in air and naval support but desire to save as much as possible of this pearl of the Orient.

Artillery duelled across the Pasig, a river varying from 200 to 300 yards in width. The screaming shells of the Nipponese tore holes in buildings at Santo Tomas University. They wounded soldiers there and also some of the more than 3,000 internees who had undergone three years of imprisonment prior to being reached Saturday night by the first Yanks to enter the city.

The first cavalry and 37th infantry divisions have won all the city north of the Pasig, including the Escalota business district where the enemy devastated a square mile area of office buildings and other non-military structures by firing gasoline drums and touching off explosives.

Japanese still operated in strength south of the river. Some American troops also were on the south bank but the destruction of four big bridges delayed a crossing in strength. The fate of these Japanese was sealed by the presence of the U. S. 11th airborne division below them.

See FIGHTING Page 2

4,500 Rescued From Nazi Death Camp

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The Red Army has rescued 4,500 persons held in a Nazi death camp at Brzeszcze, 35 miles southwest of Krakow, the Moscow radio said today. The broadcast said the camp had four gas chambers and 12 incinerators.

German Prisoners Hanged Another For Disloyalty

LETHBRIDGE, Alta., Feb. 8.—(AP)—German prisoners of war erected a crude scaffold in a Medicine Hat camp in July, 1943, and hanged a fellow prisoner they accused of making derogatory remarks about Hitler, the Lethbridge Herald said today. The inmates used planks and timber found at their barracks and improvised the noose from electric wire, the newspaper reported, saying the death could only now be disclosed with Canadian censorship approval. Another prisoner found dead at the camp last year evidently had been strangled, the Herald said.

FINAL BLOWS AGAINST REICH ARE OUTLINED

Plan Calls For Active U. S. Participation In European Affairs

MILITARY TALKS FIRST

MOSCOW, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The "Big Three" are meeting on Russian soil, press and radio announced today. The news was a prime topic of conversation in Moscow, but the official announcement came too late for comment by the Morning Press.

(Announcements in Washington and London said the meeting was being held in the Black Sea area. The Black Sea touches Russian soil over a wide area circling from the Prut estuary to eastern Turkey. One of the principal Russian cities in the Black Sea area is Odessa.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Big Three plans for joint political action in Europe are expected here within the week.

Calling for active American participation in European settlements, they will mark the beginning of a new period in United States foreign policy.

The plans are being worked out by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin at a historic conference now believed to be at least half-finished somewhere in the Black Sea area.

The meeting is on Russian soil, possibly in the Crimea in order to allow Stalin to continue his close supervision of the Red Army invasion of Germany.

A joint announcement late yesterday, evidently direct from the conference, was released in London and Moscow as well as at the White House. This finally put the open secret of the meeting officially on the records and confirmed the fact that political problems of Europe are a prime concern of the meeting.

Actually the discussions have See FINAL Page 2

OFFENSIVE IN ITALY STALLED

Doughboys Up Against Heavily Defended Enemy Positions

By NOLAND NORGAARD ROME, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The limited offensive of American Fifth army troops in the mountains southeast of Bologna was stalled today against strongly fortified and heavily defended enemy positions, the Allied high command announced.

The doughboys were halted after forcing their way forward up to 600 yards in two days of bitter fighting in weather conditions made difficult by a sudden thaw in the Apennines mountains.

Attacking troops gained the crest of one ridge but were forced to dig in and were engaged against counter attacking Nazi troops yesterday.

German resistance to the attack, which opened Monday, was prompt and vigorous and included artillery support.

Enemy resistance stiffened also in the Serchio valley, where the village of Colle was taken. Fifth army units lost some ground a mile north of Castel Vecchio but regained it in a new thrust and beat off several enemy counterattacks.

A report from headquarters of Lt. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., commander of the Fifth army, said the American attack reached the base of Orbeiga ridge nine miles south.

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HOW RUSSIANS THREATEN BERLIN—The shaded arrows on this map indicate major Russian drives threatening Berlin—one, an assault on Oder river defenses east of the city; the other, a thrust through Silesia where Red Army troops have crossed the Oder on a wide front. The black arrows and heavy line indicate action and the battle front location officially reported by Moscow.

Bills Would Amend Motor Vehicles Law

Drivers Involved In Accidents Would Be Required To Make Financial Settlement

RALEIGH, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Bills to amend the motor vehicles law and to provide a financial responsibility law covering accidents were introduced today by Rep. Bridger of Bladen, chairman of the house roads committee.

Drivers involved in accidents resulting in damages of at least \$25 would be required to make proper and acceptable financial settlement, if to blame for the mishap, or face revocation of car and driver's license until such payment is made. Such accidents would have to be reported within 24 hours. Violation of the law also would be punishable with fines of from \$25 to \$500, or imprisonment of from two to 60 days.

Other bills would allow transfer of for hire plates; impose a \$10 license fee on motorcycles with any type of body; allow transfer of farm truck license plates; provide application of the laws governing revenue collections to the motor vehicles department; provide for the printing of empty and gross license weights on the side of trucks; provide for the cancellation of titles erroneously issued; prevent willful display of expired license plates; provide for empty maximum weights of 22,500 pounds for buses. SIGN PAPERS

Another measure would allow the assistant commissioner of motor See BILLS Page 2

England Again Under Buzz Bomb Attack

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—German V-weapon attacks on southern England caused additional casualties and damage during the 24 hours ending at dawn this morning, the air ministry announced today.

Meeting Of Government Heads Was War's Worst Kept Secret

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The capital classed the Big Three meeting today as one of the war's most poorly guarded secrets—and wondered when all the facts will be out.

Legislators, however, generally applauded the fact that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin were conferring. They hinted that they expected a report on the meeting when the chief executive returns.

Chairman Connally (D-Tex.) of the foreign relations committee said he will make a statement himself on "the entire foreign situation" then.

As for the secrecy—or rather lack of it—six weeks before the president and his staff left people who weren't supposed to know did know the departure date and the approximate area in which the conference would be held.

Yet tight restrictions were clamped on the American press. Censorship on grounds of security forbade factual or speculative reports.

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BERLIN REPORTS SEVEN RUSSIAN BRIDGEHEADS

Defense Troops Massed In German Capital; Refugees Jam Roads

GOEBBELS HAS FLED

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The Moscow radio said today the "Oder line had been pierced and Berlin in panic is witnessing the crumbling of the last obstacle in its forehead."

A prior broadcast by an American chain commentator said Marshal Stalin's capital was hourly expecting an official announcement that the first white Russian army had smashed across the river in force, "signifying the complete breakdown of the Oder line."

Berlin accounts said the Russians had hammered out seven bridgeheads on the Berlin front, one of them 30 miles northeast of the capital, and a dozen others along 185 miles of the river from Ratibor in Silesia to Gruenberg, 50 miles southeast of Frankfurt.

The Moscow radio said Heinrich Himmler had massed SS troops in the capital. Roads south and west of Berlin were reported jammed with the traffic of refugees in flight.

While Marshal Stalin had not confirmed the breaking of the Oder line on the Berlin front, Soviet advisers said Marshal Gregory Zhukov's massed artillery was pointing at the weakest link of the capital's defense, the low western bank of the Oder between Kues-trin and Stettin, where it runs northeast of Berlin.

Berlin said one bridgehead was at Goeritz, 5 1-2 miles south of Kues-trin and 41 miles east of Berlin.

The broadcast from Moscow said Himmler had been entrusted with the defense of Berlin and a de-

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Enemy Expects Invasion Of China Coast

CHUNGKING, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer said today that the American success on Luzon Island came more swiftly than Japanese expected and had caused the enemy to accelerate preparations to meet an American landing in China.

The Japanese hope to establish a deep belt in Asia to meet this contingency, the commander of U. S. army forces in China told correspondents.

"Everything they do in China is based in strategic defensive considerations," he declared, "but this does not preclude the possibility of limited offensives."

SHUTTLE BOMBING Asked if he envisaged shuttle bombing between the Philippines and China Wedemeyer countered, "the Japanese do."

Chinese forces have checked a Japanese drive on Tayu, important Wolfram mining center in southern Kiangsi province, but heavy fighting continues six miles to the south. The Chinese high command announced today.

Another enemy column was striking southward in Kiangsi from the town of Kahnshien and by Monday had forced a crossing of the Kan river, two and one-half miles from the city.

The high command also made belated announcement of a Japanese drive eastward from Lokchong, in Kwantung 150 miles north of Canton. Advancing from Lok-chung on Jan. 28, the enemy occupied Yanfa, 25 miles distant, on Feb. 1, but the Chinese recaptured it the next day. Fighting was said to be continuing in that area.

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