

WEATHER

North Carolina—Clear, cooler on coast and continued cool in interior today and tonight. Saturday fair, becoming a little warmer.

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TELEMAT PICTURES

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RED-U.S. JUNCTURE ANNOUNCED

REGENSBURG FALLS TO PATTON'S THIRD ARMY

Berlin's Inner Defense Cracking Under Pressure

By Richard Kasishke

LONDON, April 27.—(AP)—Berlin's inner defense core appeared cracking today under a massive Soviet squeeze operation.

Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's forces in the northwest sector surged forward three miles during the night, breaking into the workers' district of Boabit and the fringes of the famed Tiergarten in the center of the flaming capital.

The first Russian army's advance from industrial Sienstadt, captured yesterday, was disclosed in front dispatches broadcast by the Moscow radio.

It was complemented by gains in the south by Marshal Ivan S. Konev's first Ukrainian army, which was believed to have completed the occupation of Berlin's main airport at Tempelhof.

A moabit the Russians were in the area of the biggest prison in Berlin. The district adjoins the tiergarten on the northwest and German reports indicated that battles already were swirling over that

great park. The Germans now hold only a third of Berlin.

While the most spectacular overnight gains were scored by the north-south nutcracker on the Reich capital the Germans reported that terrific pressure also was being exerted by the Russians in the southwest, notably at Gruenvalde.

Soviet dispatches described Berlin as a wilderness of crumbling stone swept by hot winds from the flames of burning buildings and, heavily charged with brick and cement

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Fifth Army Within 35 Miles Of Milan

Entire Front In Upheaval As Allied Armies Attempt To Cut Nazis Off From Redoubt

By Maurice Moran W

ROME, April 27.—(AP)—Troops of the U. S. Fifth Army smashed to within 35 miles or less of Milan today as the entire Italian front surged toward a sealoft of the Nazis' Alpine redoubt on the south.

(On the Ligurian coast in the west, said a "Free Milan" radio reported recorded in London, a swift Allied advance penetrated Genoa, a big north Italian port where partisans previously had been reported unofficially in control after driving out the German garrison.)

PETAINE REACHES PRISON CELL

Wife Chooses To Remain With Him; Marshal In Good Spirits

PARIS, April 27.—(AP)—A severely furnished room in the port of Montreux received Marshal Petain at dawn today when he was returned to Paris to stand trial on a charge of treason.

His wife and two nurses accompanied the 89-year-old former Vichy chief of state.

Petaine's first request when he entered the room, virtually a cell, was for a picture of Gen. de Gaulle to hang on the wall. Police assigned to guard him gaped with surprise, but obtained the photograph from a young lieutenant.

The grim gray fort is a police establishment on the outskirts of Paris. It has both a barracks for gendarmes and a school where recruits are trained. The marshal will be held there until after the trial.

ARMED GUARDS

His wife chose to remain with him. They were placed in a chamber about the size of an ordinary hotel room, furnished with two beds, two chairs and a desk.

Petaine entered France after crossing Switzerland from Germany.

Fifteen armed guards were stationed in the corridor outside of Marshal Petain's room and on the staircase leading up from the ground floor. The grounds of the fort were heavily guarded and patrolled. More than 20 gendarmes flanked the giant wooden gates at the medieval outer wall of the port.

Petaine appeared to be in excellent health despite his years and

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Lt. Virgil Weathers Served As Beachmaster At Okinawa

ON THE BEACHHEAD OF RED BEACH TWO, Okinawa.—(Delayed)—A Navy beachmaster's job is hard to describe—not for security reasons but because it involves so much. Lieutenant Virgil S. Weathers, USNR, of Shelby, N. C., can testify to that, after serving as a beachmaster both at Normandy and Okinawa.

"Our beach here was relatively easy to take over," Lieutenant Weathers said. "We had no opposition coming in on the initial landing, and there were no obstacles like the land mines, rough surf and barbed wire we had to cope with in Normandy. I figure the terrific shore bombardment must have taken care of most of our opposition. All the shore defense had been demolished and the Japs had been driven back into the hills."

Lieutenant Weathers was grateful for that boon, which somewhat eased his complicated task. The beachmaster and his crew came ashore almost immediately

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CZECH SECTOR IS VIRTUALLY SEALED OFF

Troops Establish Radio Contact With Russians West Of Vienna

AUGSBURG ASKS TRUCE

WITH U. S. THIRD ARMY, April 27.—(AP)—Regensburg fell to Gen. Patton's troops today.

PARIS, April 27.—(AP)—Gen. Patton's Third Army invaded Austria and established radio contact with the Russians west of Vienna today in a swift advance nearly sealing off Czechoslovakia and shutting the front door to Hitler's Alpine redoubt.

The French closed to within 31 miles of Munich and 78 of the Brenner Pass, toward which the rampaging American Fifth army in Italy was striking from the south. The Seventh army approached Munich from 35 miles northwest of that cradle of the Nazi party.

At last reports, many hours behind the action, the Third army and the Russians west of Vienna were 85 miles apart, but (AP) Correspondent Edward D. Ball

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TO COMBAT ABSENTEEISM

In an effort to combat absenteeism in industry a group of business and civic leaders of Shelby, meeting yesterday afternoon under the sponsorship of the U. S. employment service and the war manpower commission at the war manpower office, formed a permanent organization which will begin functioning immediately.

Doris Bolt was named chairman of the new unit which has as yet not been named. Dick LeGrand was named co-chairman. Howard Rollins was named finance chairman. Lindsay Dall was named publicity chairman. Dale Stentz was named chairman of exhibits and John Gaston, manager of the local employment and war manpower office was appointed general adviser.

This organization will attempt to impress upon employees the end to which the products they help make will be put in the war effort. Absenteeism is no longer an individual problem but a community problem, it was emphasized.

The meeting was presided over by John Gaston.



LT. WEATHERS



EDEN TALKS TO U. S. DELEGATES AT CONFERENCE.—Great Britain's Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden (right) turns to talk to U. S. delegates at the United Nations Security conference in San Francisco. Left to right: Rep. Sol Bloom (D-N.Y.), Rep. C. A. Eaton (R-N.J.), Commander Harold Stassen, Dean Virginia Gildersleeve. At far right beside Eden is Clement Attlee, British delegate.—(AP Wirephoto).

Security Conference Threatened With Series Of Big Power Crises

Steering committee meets at 10:30 A. M. Pacific War Time (1:30 P. M., E.W.T.) to try to break deadlock over conference organization.

Full conference session meets at 3:30 P. M. Pacific War Time (6:30 P. M., E.W.T.) to hear further addresses by chairmen of delegations.

By John M. Hightower

Associated Press Diplomatic News Editor

SAN FRANCISCO, April 27.—(AP)—Russian determination to wield decisive, perhaps dominant influence in the creation of world peace machinery today threatened the United Nations conference with a series of big-power crises.

Hot tempers and hurt feelings, as well as lingering hopes of a compromise went into today's second round of the battle over selection of a conference chairman. But even if this could be settled without more dispute, delegates generally took a pessimistic view.

The fight broke out in a closed meeting of the steering committee yesterday, when Foreign Commissar Molotov blocked the election of Secretary of State Stettinius as chairman.

The whole conference of 46 nations has been thrown off its timetable by the chairman's outbreak.

Today's 10:30 a. m. (Pacific war time) session was originally scheduled for another round of speech-making. Instead, the steering committee was called into a second extraordinary—and secret—session to try to break the deadlock over the chairmanship and organize the conference for work.

Stettinius had a two-hour session last night with the American delegation on the chairmanship dispute.

Talk spread, among delegates that neither the United States nor Britain would yield further to Russian demands for setting up a rotating system for all important chairmanships.

The British and Americans wanted to make Stettinius president of the conference and chairman of the key steering and executive committees. Molotov balked and Eden proposed that Stettinius be given the committee chairmanships. But he proposed also that the presidency—the job of presiding over the full conference—be rotated among the Big Four, Stettinius, Molotov, Eden and Foreign Minister Soong of China. Molotov's rejection of this deadlocked the conference.

Shortly before midnight last night Stettinius met with several members of the Russian delegation, trying to reach an agreement assuring success of today's efforts to organize the conference.

In an earlier talk with military and naval advisers, a formula was worked out for setting up international trusteeships for ex-enemy dependent territories. This provided that strategic base

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ALLIES PIERCE OKINAWA LINE

High Ground Taken Yesterday Gives Invaders Good Position

By AL DOPKINS

GUAM, April 27.—(AP)—Closely supported by relentless warship shelling, Maj. Gen. James L. Bradley's 96th division infantrymen were through the first line of Japanese defenses on southern Okinawa today and hammering a wedge deeper into tough secondary positions.

New high ground in the center of the line, captured by the 96th yesterday, gave the doughboys command of all dominating terrain on the outer rim of the thick belt of fortifications defending Naha, Okinawa's capital.

The 400-foot height was stormed after the Japanese made a general withdrawal under heavy artillery shelling. Resistance was surprisingly light.

On the east coast, meantime, Maj. Gen. Archibald V. Arnold's seventh division sent patrols to the northern approaches of the Yonabaru airstrip. On the west coast Maj. Gen. George W. Griner's 27th division, moving toward the Machinato airstrip, was reducing a pocket around Gukuma village.

Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge, commander of the 24th army corps, termed yesterday's progress "a good day's work all along the line."

The elevation captured by the 96th division furnished the Yanks an excellent observation site.

The sizable town of Shuri is about one mile south of this point of deepest penetration.

Enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire still was heavy.

Cutbacks In War Production Have Already Been Begun

WASHINGTON, April 27.—(AP)—V-E day is at hand, so far as cutbacks in war production are concerned.

The long-awaited day may prove to be a "V-E month" or longer, however, depending on the stubbornness of the Nazis' continued resistance.

But the end is so certain, the War Production board revealed in its monthly munitions report, that the army and air forces already have started curbing some armament programs to the output needed for Japan alone. And more cuts are coming.

If Hitler's Reich dies in the lingering death now indicated, WPB said last night, the shift

Armies Met At Torgau On Elbe, Thursday 2 P. M.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—(AP)—The juncture of Anglo-American and Soviet armies in the heart of Hitler's reich, cutting Germany in two, was triumphantly announced at the White House today.

President Truman gave out the news in a statement released simultaneously in Washington, Moscow and London at a pre-arranged hour, 12 noon, Eastern War Time.

The juncture of the armed might of the big three occurred at 2 P. M. Eastern War Time yesterday at Torgau, a town on the Elbe river 75 miles south of Berlin. Patrols had made contact a day earlier.

From military sources, it was learned that the American unit involved in the meeting was the 69th division, under command of Maj. Gen. Emil F. Reinhardt.

The operation, said the joint statement of the great powers, "means, first, that the last faint, desperate hope of Hitler and his gangster government has been extinguished."

The President emphasized that the juncture does not mean "the hour of final victory in Europe," but with bristling optimism he asserted that the hour for which the United Nations "have toiled and prayed so long," now "draws near."

With a thought to the efforts of his delegation at San Francisco to work out a postwar international security organization from the United Nations nucleus, the President asserted:

"The juncture of our forces at this moment signals to ourselves and to the world that the collaboration of our nations in the cause of peace and freedom is an effective collaboration which can surmount the greatest difficulties of the most extensive campaign in military history and succeed.

"Nations which can plan and fight together shoulder to shoulder in the face of language and to distance and of communications as we have overcome, can live together and can work together in the common labor of the organization of the world for peace."

The President said that as a result of the meeting, "the enemy

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HAWKINS NAMED DRAFT LEADER

Robert Lawson Hawkins was named leader of a group of 44 selectees who left here this morning for Fort Bragg for final induction into the armed services. Every draftee who was summoned reported, one of the few times there has been a unanimous response.

Those who left were: Forest Elmer Hunt, Leon Boyce Blackwell, sr., Alton Nanney, jr., Carver Rea Rippy, Billie Joun Wilson, Lawrence Elrod Grigg, Carrol Lattimore Spurling, Clarence Reid Tolleson, Odell Thrift, Jack Odell Curry, Grady Burgess Whitener, John Samuel Blanton, jr., Cecil Ross Jenkins, Bob Leonidus Blanton, Howard Lee Greene, Thomas Foster, jr., Charles Odell Pendleton, Julius Banks Cashion, Clay Paris Tessner, J. C. Hastings, William Dewey Foster, Robert Gene Blanton, William Franklin Shull, J. Z. Ledford, William Ralph Dixon, Bill Justice, James Sanders LeGette, jr., John Carl Smith, Hal Manuel Swezey, Veneta Young Buford Davis, William Columbus Thrift, Roy Lee Bradshaw, Charles Coolidge Bingham, Marvin Turner, Willie Gordon Mosteller, James Elbert Maloney, David Lester Poston, jr., Robert Lawson Hawkins, William Howard Jones, Daniel Borders Allen, Billy Hamrick Davis, Johnie Leonard Deaver, Ben Everette Weathers.

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Bulletin

WASHINGTON, April 27.—(AP)—Legislation extending the draft law went to the White House today after the house approved by unanimous voice a senate restriction on combat use of 18-year-old inductees.

The restriction, written into the legislation Tuesday by the senate, prohibits the use of draftees under 19 in combat until they have had at least six months of training.

WHAT'S DOING

8:00 p.m.—Regular meeting of Cleveland Lodge 202 A. F. & A. M. at Masonic Temple.