

Battle Of Rhine Now Under Way

High Floods In Roanoke In Prospect

Near Record High Water at Richmond; Rainfall Is Heavy

Raleigh, Sept. 19 — (AP) — The Weather Bureau here said today that the Roanoke river at Weldon probably would be nine feet above flood stage by Thursday afternoon or night, and persons living along the river should take every precaution.

There is no reason now for people to evacuate, the bureau said, adding that the water level probably would rise to forty feet.

The flood is not expected to be as serious as the one in 1940, when there was loss of life and great property damage.

At Randolph, Va., two miles across the North Carolina line, the river today stood at 26.6 feet, which is six or seven feet above normal. Nine inches of rain had fallen there in the 24-hour period ending this morning.

Flood waters are not expected along the Neuse, Tar or Cape Fear rivers, in North Carolina.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY BLOKED BY FLOODS NEAR DANVILLE

Greensboro, Sept. 19 — (AP) — High waters on the Southern Railway line between Danville and Charlottesville, causing a stoppage of all passenger traffic on the main line above Danville, has converted the station here into a disorderly scene, suggestive of a road shelter, with weary passengers, laden with fatigue, sprawled where they have been waiting for a southbound train since 9 o'clock last night, and for a northbound train since 10 p. m. yesterday.

All traffic on the line from Greensboro to Washington is being routed at present through Richmond, with the exception of Train No. 35, which was dispatched through Winston-Salem. Passengers bound for Lynchburg and Charlottesville and the immediate vicinity of the high water are offered no schedules for getting into the section.

The same condition is reported for highway traffic, with flood waters cutting passage on highway 20 between Danville and Charlottesville. The State Highway and Public Works Commission announced this morning that this highway is to be closed, probably for several days. It is understood that traffic should be routed through Martinsville, on No. 229, or Clarksville on highway 15.

NEAR RECORD FLOOD FOR JAMES RIVER FORECAST

Richmond, Va., Sept. 19 — (AP) — Flood waters from rivers and creeks in western Virginia swept away several bridges and interrupted highway and rail traffic that carried the threat today of one of the worst floods in years in the lower James river at Richmond.

In Richmond a flood of above 20 feet was expected by tomorrow. Flood stage is eight feet, and the highest level on record was 26.3 feet in 1936.

The Dan river at Danville was at 17 feet above flood stage today, and still rising, while the reading at Columbia, on the James, was 27 feet at 8:30 a. m., with water rising at the rate of a foot an hour. Scottsville had three to five feet of flood waters from the James in some streets.

Weather officials said the rainfall during a 24-hour period averaged almost six inches over the upper watershed of the James river. Roanoke had a record-breaking fall of 6.13 inches in 17 hours.

Nazis Throw Men In Battle Recklessly

Nancy, France, Sept. 19 — (AP) — Armored and infantry battles were being fought north and east of Nancy today as the German army threw men and tanks away recklessly in an effort to halt the drive of the United States third army toward Germany.

Heavy guns around this city hurled shells into a forest four miles to the east, where a pocket of Germans, led by paratroopers, made a stand. Ten miles to the north the Germans sent armor against Lt. Gen. Patton's tanks and guns. Violent fighting raged over fifty square miles.

The Germans held no line but fought with fanatical zeal wherever they encountered third army spearheads.

IT TAKES SOME YANKS TO PULL 'DRAGON'S TEETH'



AMONG THE WIDELY ADVERTISED features of Germany's Siegfried line have been the steel and concrete tank obstacles in the Aachen area. These have become known as "Dragon's Teeth," but above is demonstrated how these "teeth" are being pulled. U. S. Engineers have been blasting many paths and through one of these passes a 1st Army tank hammering its way into Germany. Signal Corps photo. (International)

American Drives Picking Up Momentum In War In Pacific

Japs Weakening After Losses Of Over 5,500 Dead

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Sept. 19 — (AP) — American drives on Peleliu and Angaur islands in the northern Palau group gained momentum today as the Japanese showed signs of weakening under the terrific attack which cost them 5,543 dead in the first days of fighting.

The Peleliu airfield, one of the biggest and best of captured Japanese fields was being used by American planes. To the northward the first Marines pushed ahead across the tough coral ridges, after capturing the island's main town, two villages and an off-shore island.

An Associated Press war correspondent reported in a flagship dispatch that Japanese commanders had shifted their men in observation post and caves to insure their death stand, while officers' bodies had been converted into booby traps.

On Angaur island, six miles southward, the 1st Army division speeded up its lightly opposed advance. The attackers captured Sapan town, the principal settlement, with its wrecked phosphate refinery, once vital for Japan's explosives, and the largest railroad yard in Oceania.

Capture of the town meant the army spearhead had pushed southward more than half the length of Angaur. The Japanese apparently were withdrawing to the extreme tip for a final stand.

FDR Orders Plans For Demobilizing

Washington, Sept. 19 — (AP) — President Roosevelt today directed the government to prepare now for its own peacetime demobilization, indicating some of Washington's war agencies will begin to fold up with the defeat of Germany.

In a letter issued at the White House, Mr. Roosevelt ordered Budget Director Harold Smith to plan now "to liquidate war agencies and reconvert the government to peace."

"Some steps along these lines may be taken when the fighting ends in Europe," he said, although he avoided predicting any date for the war's end.

The President ordered immediate re-examination of the staffing and duties of all agencies, and said he wanted, "as soon as possible," plans for:

1. The liquidation of war agencies and the reassignment of such permanent or continuing functions as they possess.
2. The reduction of government personnel to a peacetime footing.
3. The simplification of administration of the administrative structure to peacetime requirements.

The Civil Service Commission yesterday reported Federal payrolls stood at 2,936,602 employees at the start of this month, 270,502 of them in Washington.

New Successes Achieved By Americans In Italy

Three Important Gothic Line Hill Positions Seized

Rome, Sept. 19 — (AP) — Breaking through formidable Nazi fortifications and scoring what was officially termed a "great success," American fifth army troops yesterday captured 3,300-foot Monte Tatone, Monte Altuzzo and Monte Celli in the Gothic line, 20 miles northeast of Florence.

The enemy was driven from these heights, after one of the fiercest days of fighting in the entire Italian campaign, official field dispatches said.

British and Indian troops, under fifth army command, contributed materially to the American success. The Germans opposed the attack with extreme concentrations of artillery fire.

Meanwhile, British troops of the eighth army, beating back heavy enemy opposition, drove into the little republic of San Marino, near the Adriatic coast.

A bridgehead over the Marecchio river was established here.

Describing the bitter action for the mountain position, an official report said:

"In addition to most determined resistance by veteran German troops, equipped with small arms and supporting weapons, the fifth army force had to negotiate rugged mountain passes. Even the crests were fortified with jagged positions and concrete pillboxes. The entire area was inter-laced with wire entanglements."

These successful attacks brought the Americans within 27 miles of Bologna, important communications and industrial center in the Po valley. Most of the intervening terrain, however, is rough and well fortified.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Mostly cloudy and slightly warmer with scattered showers in the west portion and along the coast today. Tonight, mostly cloudy and mild, followed by partly cloudy with moderate temperatures Wednesday.

At Long Last Finns Sign Armistice With Allies

London, Sept. 19 — (AP) — The Moscow radio announced today that Finland had signed an armistice with Russia and Britain.

The first brief announcement broadcast by the Soviet information office, and recorded here, did not give the terms. They will be disclosed later.

Hearings To Open On Pay Increases To Postal Staffs

Washington, Sept. 19 — (AP) — The Senate Post Office Committee announced today it would open hearings at once on a proposal to boost the pay of 350,000 postal workers. This aroused special interest, in view of current attempts to relax wartime wage controls.

The bill also would increase by 23 percent the permanent pay scale of parttime employees and those paid on an hourly or fee basis. This would be eight percent above present little steel formula limits.

Congressmen Are All Set for Tour Of Battle Areas

London, Sept. 19 — (AP) — A "congressional mission" of France was arranged today by General Eisenhower after nine members of the United States House told the supreme commander they believed they were being blocked from the trip by lesser military authorities.

Eight representatives probably will leave tomorrow on an inspection tour, which will include Cherbourg, possibly Brest, empty bases and adjoined hospitals, the Maginot line and perhaps the Siegfried line to study the equipment of the troops, how they are faring in the field and the operation of lend-lease and civil affairs.

NEW POLIO CASES INCREASE SHARPLY

Raleigh, Sept. 19 — (AP) — Nine new infantile paralysis cases were reported today to the State Health Department. Thus far this year there have been 737 cases, 715 since June 1.

New cases were Rutherford 3, and Bunnville, Cumberland, Durham, Forsyth, Mecklenburg and Polk one each.

Large Dutch City Taken In Assaults

More Troops Land From Planes And Gliders Third Day

London, Sept. 19 — (AP) — British troops, joining hands with a great skyborne army dropped in Holland in a thrust to break into northern Germany, has captured Eindhoven, seventh largest Dutch city, a front dispatch said today.

The British charged forward 14 miles in 24 hours. They linked with some of the parachute and glider forces who, by German account, already were across the Rhine in central Holland, threatening to roll up the Nazi flank just as in the Brittany breakthrough did in France.

The battle of the Rhine, meanwhile, began on a broad front to the south, as three American armies ripped deeper into enemy cross-river defenses shielding Cologne, Strasbourg and Mulhouse.

Eindhoven, a big communication center, and Geldrop, seven miles to the east, were swept up by the British second army plume from Belgium. They lie ten miles inside Holland from the Belgian border. The British already had struck on farther north, coming to the aid of Allied sky soldiers ousting the German from village after village, and seizing strategic bridges and cross roads.

Berlin, which yesterday declared the airborne troops had been wiped out, today detailed the areas where Lt. Gen. Breerton's plane-landed men were fighting.

Front reports said the German, pushed in heavy artillery in a desperate attempt to halt the forward shove of the airborne army.

Berlin declared more troops had landed from planes and gliders for the third successive day, and hinted some had descended.

(Continued on Page Two.)

DANES OPEN FIRE ON NAZI MARINES

New York, Sept. 19 — (AP) — The German radio in Denmark asserted that sentries outside the palace in Copenhagen opened fire on German invaders. Late today several hours after the Nazis occupied public buildings, and declared a police state of emergency throughout the little kingdom.

Allied Planes Sweep Again Over Germany

London, Sept. 19 — (AP) — Allied planes swept through continental skies today after a night in which British bombers dumped 120,000 fire bombs on the German port of Bremerhaven, and attacked Berlin for the 179th time.

The Federal Communications Commission said the Budapest broadcast an air raid warning this morning, suggesting the Mediterranean air force also was out.

The attack upon Bremerhaven, at the mouth of the Weber river, 35 miles northwest of Bremen, was made by a powerful force of heavy bombers.

"Visibility was good and the bombing was well concentrated," the air ministry declared.

Bremerhaven would be a logical debarkation point for German troops in the event of a withdrawal from Norway.

The attack upon Berlin, executed by swift Mosquitoes carrying two-ton blockbusters, was the sixth raid on the German capital in a week.

The air ministry listed total British losses in the overnight operations as four planes. It was the 179th Allied attack on Berlin, which Herman Goerring said would never feel a bomb.

Sweeping in from the sea shortly after dark, big Lancasters covered the entire Bremerhaven area with incendiaries and crews said the port was left blazing. The importance of Bremerhaven had doubled since former attacks had shut down the facilities of Emden, Germany's two great liners, the Europa and Bremen have sought shelter there. The port also is known to be harboring submarines, motor torpedo boats, E boats and mine sweepers.

Strangling Grip On Nazi Baltic Armies Drawn By Russians

Palau Sea Chief



REAR ADMIRAL W. H. P. Blandy, shown above, commander of an amphibious group in the Pacific, is in command of the ships now supporting the Marine and 31st Army landings on Palau. (International)

German Reserves Being Destroyed A Division a Day

Moscow, Sept. 19 — (AP) — Grinding down German armored reserves at the rate of one or two panzer divisions a day, the Red army has tightened a strangling grip on the enemy's mid-Baltic communications in Latvia in a huge nine-day battle which may be another fulfillment of Premier Stalin's strategy—surround and destroy!

Front reports today indicated there still is no pause in the ferocious engagements begun Friday east of Jelgava, where the main Baltic roads and railways meet.

The Russians claim to have knocked out 149 tanks and 365 planes on the eastern front in the past four days. Obviously, most of this punishment has been inflicted in the Baltic sector.

The fate of the German northern army group, still estimated at more than 20 divisions, may be decided in the next few hours or days if the Nazis fail to keep open the lifeline from East Prussia through the Jelgava area to their forces in eastern Latvia and Estonia.

A coastal corridor little more than 20 miles wide now connects the German army above Riga with those holding western Latvia and western Lithuania. The Russians once snatched this lifeline by plunging to the sea, but the Germans reestablished it in heavy fighting.

In the corridor's narrow point the enemy is throwing in continuous heavy infantry and tank attacks to drive a wedge into the line held by the first Baltic army, an attempt to nullify Red Army plans to cut off and annihilate the German army group piecemeal.

By German accounts, the Russians were making their greatest effort to split the German Baltic forces 87 miles north of Riga.

Berlin declared that three Soviet armies, totaling more than 500,000 men, had been hurled against the German Baltic positions and one commander predicted an imminent onslaught by a fourth in the Narva sector of Estonia's northeastern coast.

Official silence screened details of the Polish-Soviet operations in the Warsaw area, but German strong points in the capital continued under heavy Russian artillery fire.

ROBOT CASUALTIES AGAIN HIT ENGLAND

London, Sept. 19 — (AP) — Robot bombs, apparently launched from planes over the North Sea, crashed down on London and southern England early today, killing a number of women and children. Some of the victims had ignored government appeals to remain at evacuation centers.

The attack was brief but at least 13 were killed, War Office government officials repeated warnings that it was idiotic for women and children to return.

WHEN ALLIED ARMIES MET IN FRANCE



IT'S "HOW-YA PAL" as Jean Guignon, of the 7th Army's Frenen contingent grabs the hand of Corporal Carl Neuman, Brooklyn, New York, of Gen. Patton's 3rd Army. The two armies made their historic juncture near Dijon and, in the above picture, patrols of each, having met, exchange greetings. Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International Soundphoto)