

Berlin In Panic As Reds Near Major Allied Drive In West Imminent, Germans Say

As Yank Paratroopers Shut Manila Trap



AS YANK PARATROOPERS SHUT MANILA TRAP COL 18 ... B shrill from their transport planes that paratroopers of the 11th U. S. Airborne Division to wrest strategic points from the Japs on Luzon, miles ahead of Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger's ground forces advancing toward Manila from the south.

Ruhr Dams Almost In Yank Grasp

Third Army Troops Pour Through Gaps Near Town of Prum

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 Ruhr river dams and reservoirs which had been a major factor in checkmating the western front offensive last November.

Where Big Three Are Meeting



According to news dispatches from London, the Foreign Telegraph Agency has stated that Sochi, a Russian Black Sea port, has been the meeting place of the big three. German radio reports have located the historic meeting at Constanta. The accompanying two-column map shows both places and their general geographic position.

Last Capital Defense Line Is Crumbling

Roads From Berlin Choked By Traffic Of Fleeing People

London, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The Moscow radio said tonight the Oder line has been pierced and Berlin in panic is witnessing the crumbling of the last obstacle in its foreground.

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 northwest of the capital and a dozen others along 135 miles of the river from Aachen, in Silesia, to Gumburg, fifty 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 confessed the crossing of the Oder line on the Berlin front, Soviet advisers said Marshal Gregory Zhukov's massed artillery was pounding at the weakest link of the capital's defense, the low western bank of the Oder between Kustrin and Stettin, where it runs southeast of Berlin.

Officially Moscow backed out the progress of the fierce battle on the west side of the stream and told only of the liquidation of additional German pockets on the east side of the river.

But Moscow dispatches said Kustrin, 40 miles east of Berlin and one of the chief fortified areas guarding the capital, was about to fall with Soviet Tommy gunners fighting in the streets under cover from artillery batteries stationed only two miles from the northern outskirts.

The Soviet communiques, telling of 5,000 more Nazis killed in a single day on the eastern Oder front, said the battle had moved into the "fortified" foreground of Berlin.

German military commentators said Kustrin was under concentrated attack by strong Russian formations.

The Russian communiques, announcing victories northwest of Kustrin, said the low western bank of the Oder offers the last obstacle to the storming of Germany's last natural defense line in the east, said Al Dresden, northern suburb of Kustrin, had been captured.

It was reported his north wing threat to Berlin against the Oder. Zhukov seized Zieritz, 21 miles northwest of Kustrin on the east bank, and only five miles from where the river bends north toward Stettin.

Germans Say Allied Drive In West Near

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

One bombing formation was reported swinging east over Holland today and the enemy radio said scores of Allied single motor planes were roaming the skies behind the Nazi lines.

A force of 700 British heavies last night in full moonlight swooped over Nazi troops and equipment concentrations at Cleve and Goch, between the Maas and Rhine rivers, while a large force of Mosquitoes attacked seven key industrial and communications centers.

The attack was staggered over a two-and-a-half-hour period and kept half of Germany on the alert until after midnight.

Battle For Manila Rages Across River Which Divides City

Jap Suicide Units Resume Demolition In South of Manila

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 squalid 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 Japanese 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 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 Escolta 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 United States airborne division below them. These Yanks, five and a half miles south of the Pasig, were held up, however, by a stiff snarl around Little's airfield at suburban Pasay, near Manila Bay.

Out in the bay, the guardian fortress of Corregidor, which the Japanese are holding to deny American naval entry into the great harbor, was pounded anew by 200 tons of explosives dropped by four-engine Liberator. It was the "heaviest blow so far dealt the rock." Across the bay at Bataan, a grim jungle fight at the peninsula base between U. S. 33rd division Yanks and well concealed Japanese was reported by Associated Press Correspondent James Hutcheson.

WEATHER For North Carolina

Cloudy and cool, showers over east portion and in mountains today, followed by clearing and slightly cooler tonight. Lowest temperatures 23 to 32 in the interior and 32 to 38 on the coast. Friday fair and warmer.

Washington Expects Big Three Program Coming Week-End

Death Knell Sounded For Divorce Bill

Raleigh, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Virtually sounded the death knell to two bills before the General Assembly to ease the restrictions on obtaining divorce in North Carolina, if a committee on Judiciary today voted unanimously to report the two measures unfavorably.

Under the House rules a two-thirds vote is required to remove a bill from the unfavorable calendar.

One of the measures introduced by Representative Kearney of Franklin relating to a divorce bill covering men in the armed forces residing on military reservations was discussed at length.

There was no discussion on the other measure, sponsored by Representative Harbison, of Craven, providing for the reduction of from two to one year the period of separation for a complete divorce.

Voluntary Work Isn't Enough Now, WPB Head Claims

Washington, Feb. 8.—(AP)—WPB Chairman J. A. Krug said today voluntary manpower placements worked "amazingly well" in the early stages of the war, but is not sufficient now.

"Under existing conditions war production already is suffering badly for lack of labor, the WPB head told the Senate committee considering the work or jail bill.

Without legislation we can be certain that as week after week passes more and more work will be lost, Krug said.

Selling Halts Stock Market

New York, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The stock market today suffered from what brokers like to call "congestion," and sufficient selling cropped up to offset isolated spots of strength. Fractional irregularity ruled near the fourth hour. Commodities slipped and bonds were uneven.

Bum, "was started by Mr. John Chalk, who months ago began to agitate for this separation. Mr. Chalk drew or assisted in drawing the present game law. Now he is taking back all the good things he ever said about it and is making this department a political football."

Active American Participation Now Taken for Granted

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 an historic conference, now believed to be at least half finished somewhere in the Black Sea area.

Presumably 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 record and confirmed the fact that political problems of Europe are a prime concern of the meeting.

Actually, the discussions have fallen into two parts, the military and diplomatic, developing along these lines:

1. The military talks led off the meeting and resulted in "complete agreement" for joint Anglo-Soviet-American army operations in the final phase of the war against Nazi Germany. The large military staff which accompanied the three leaders to the Black Sea are now working out detailed plans.

2. As soon as the talk on fighting was completed, Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill took up "problems involved in establishing a secure peace." Under these they listed plans for the occupation and control of Germany, the political and economic problems of liberated Europe and proposals for the earliest possible establishment of a world organization to "maintain world peace."

Meadows Lawyers Question Ability Of State Witness

Greenville, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Attorneys for Dr. Leon R. Meadows, former president of East Carolina Teachers College, on trial charged with embezzlement and false pretense, sought today by implication to discredit the ability as an auditor of the State's chief witness, M. L. Widenhouse, of the State auditor's department.

A grueling cross-examination was leveled at the witness by Clay Carter, of defense counsel. The State is seeking to show that Meadows did not properly account for items of special funds handled by him amounting to more than \$18,000.

Bills Would Set Liability In Accidents

Affects Automobile Drivers; New Plan To Fix Teacher Pay

Raleigh, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Bills to amend the motor vehicles laws and to provide a financial responsibility law covering accidents were introduced in the legislature today by Representative Lindner, 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, it is to blame for the mishap, or face revocation of car and driver's licenses 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 10 to 60 days.

A joint resolution by Senator Lupton of Franklin and Representative Mosley of Guilford would declare it a State policy that the fixing of teacher and principal salaries should be left to the State Board of Education. The present appropriations bill now fixes the pay schedule.

The resolution also would provide a starting salary of \$1,125 a year for Class A teachers and \$1,400 a year for Class A teachers with nine years experience. Salaries in other classes would correspond.

Senator O'Leary of Wayne introduced a bill to establish an institution to be known as the Negro school for feeble-minded children. It would be placed under direction of the hospital board of control and be supervised by a board of directors which could acquire property but make no financial commitments for permanent improvements until provision is made by the State. The board would have authority to select the site for the school.

Game Bill Is Described As Plain Politics

Raleigh, Feb. 8.—(AP)—J. Wilbur Bunn, of Raleigh, member of the Board of Conservation and Development, said today a proposal to remove the division of game and inland fisheries from the department is "the smoothest political move ever started in North Carolina."

He added that it was started by John Chalk, former commissioner of game and inland fisheries, who, he said, "drew or assisted in drawing the present game law."

Bunn's statement was made before a five-man commission named at the request of Governor Cherry to consider the separation plan. The commission is now conducting hearings to determine merits of the proposal. "This political maneuver," said