

Great Powers Ready For Nazi Collapse, Churchill Declares

May Win New Post



Polish Decision Not Basis Of War, Commons Is Told

London, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill declared today the great powers were completely prepared for the collapse of Germany, asserted the proposed Polish frontier would "not sow the seeds of future wars," and gave his personal assurance of Russia's good faith in plans for peace.

The British leader demanded a vote of confidence from Commons on "Crisis" plans for a peaceful world, challenging particularly those who had criticized the Polish decision.

He promised drastic and effective steps to "the defense action by Germany utterly impossible for generations to come," and called on Germany again to surrender.

Churchill said the United States would play a "vitally important part in a new, far stronger world security league," which will not shrink from establishing its will against the "evil doer" by force of arms.

Giving the first public account by one of the principals at the momentous conference, he termed the proposed Polish boundary "the fairest division which can be made between two countries."

Dr. Meadows' Audit Still Before Court

Greenville, Feb. 27.—(AP)—District Auditor Frank P. Wall, of Raleigh, covered today about all of the items in one of two memoranda he has introduced in the trial of Dr. Leonard R. Meadows, former president of East Carolina University, College of Arts and Sciences, charged with embezzlement and false pretense.

He did not disclose a single item in memo book one, but said that one 550 item had been entered through error. Included in his allowed items were three totaling \$1,333, which he said Meadows claimed had been paid in cash to the late E. G. Flannigan for four cars of cement, allegedly used at the college. Eleven other items totaling \$2,260, which allegedly had been paid to J. W. Clark for paying at the college.

Local interest in the trial had dimmed considerably, and attendance—other than court attaches, lawyers and newspaper men—varied today from six to 24.

Attack Enemy Convoy London, Feb. 27.—(AP)—RAF Coastal Command aircraft, continuing their vigil against enemy shipping in the Skagerrak, attacked a convoy of nine cargo vessels Sunday night and probably destroyed at least three.

20 Die In Blast Paris, Feb. 26.—(AP)—The French news agency reported tonight that a munitions dump explosion "in Western France" had killed 20 persons and injured 30. It said sparks from a truck caused the blast.

Gen. MacArthur Returns Philippines To Natives

Manila, Feb. 27.—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur solemnly proclaimed Manila today the capital of the restored civil government in the Philippines, even as rifle fire echoed over the war-torn city.

While he spoke at a moving ceremony at a shell-searred Malacanang palace, his soldiers, in a new island invasion 70 miles south of Manila, pried open the shortest sea route through which to rush supplies from the United States and revive the stricken city.

More than 12,000 of the enemy have been killed within Manila, and today MacArthur reported an incomplete count of 3,056 dead on Corregidor at the entrance of the bay.

The Verdi island invasion, effect-

Watches Landing



Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, his eyes glued to the binoculars, watches Marine assault troops hit the beach at Iwo Jima. The Navy Secretary accompanied the flagship of the amphibious force for the strike at the principal island of the volcano group less than 700 miles from Tokyo, Marine Corps photo. (International Sound photo).

Soviets Are Near Baltic In Pomerania

Danzig And Gdynia Will Be Isolated By Russian Drives

London, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Russian troops, in a breakthrough in Pomerania, have reached Eublitz, only 28 miles from the Baltic coast between Danzig and Stettin, the German high command said today.

This push, aimed at cutting off Gdynia and Danzig, also thrust to Rumkowice, further east, 36 miles from the Baltic, the broadcast bulletin added.

German broadcast reports of heavy tank battles all along the Oder-Neisse rivers, facing Berlin, suggested that the veteran first White Russian and first Ukrainian armies, meanwhile, were jumping off in a final offensive for the Reich.

The German high command said the Russian crossed the Neisse at several points south of Berlin, but declared that they were repelled. Moscow gave no hint, however, of what was happening on this vital sector. Last night's Soviet communique, one of the shortest in weeks, reported only minor action in East Prussia, and besieged Breslau.

Coupled with reports of fighting at Berlin's approaches was a German announcement that the Russians had driven to within 23 miles of Stettin in the north, Pomerania's capital and Baltic port, at the mouth of the Oder.

By German accounts, large Russian and armored forces were fighting on a 100-mile line extending from Kaestrin, 67 miles east of Berlin, to the Oder, 39 miles northeast of Berlin, southward to the approaches to Goerlitz, Silesia's second city, 48 miles east of Dresden.

One-mile gains in East Prussia and capture of five localities there were announced in the Soviet communique, which said that heavy fighting on both sides of Koenigsberg brought death during the day to more than 2,000 Germans.

George Unchanged London, Feb. 26.—(AP)—The condition of Earl Lloyd George was described by physicians tonight as unchanged.

Americans In Outer Defenses Of Cologne; Fall Of Iwo Jima Near, Marine General Asserts

Half Of Iwo Is Now Held By Our Units

Southern Airrome Already In Use By Small Yank Planes

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Capture of Iwo Jima "in a few more days" was predicted today by Lt. Gen. Holland M. (Howling Mad) Smith after his Marines won a critically important hill in the central plateau during a 400-yard advance through the heaviest fire of the bitter campaign.

As American planes flew from Iwo's main airfield for the first time, the top Marine commander in the Pacific told newsmen that heavy fighting was ahead of the devil dogs on northern Iwo, but "we expect to take this island in a few more days."

The general estimated that almost half of the five-mile-long island was in American hands at the start of the second week of the fiercest battle of the Pacific war.

"I consider that progress is satisfactory," General Smith said. The Marine commander reported the Yanks were "becoming more battle-wise and casualties are relatively smaller each day."

Motoyama airrome No. 1 on southern Iwo was put to use for the first time yesterday as Marine artillery spotters planes, little two-seaters came down on runways being put into shape for fighters and bombers. The field is 750 miles south of Tokyo.

Major General Graves B. Erskine's third Marines, in the center of the American battle line, captured Hill 302, just east of the central airfield, for a military triumph as significant as the earlier seizure of Mt. Suribachi at the south tip of the little island.

Legislature May Stay To Greet Spring

By LYNN NISBET Daily Dispatch Bureau Raleigh, Feb. 27.—As the 1945 General Assembly moves well into its ninth week, with major finance and regulatory bills yet to be considered, all hopes of adjournment before March 15 have been abandoned by most of the leaders. A few pessimistic observers think since the adjournment may not come before the last day of March.

One Raleigh newspaper man, not assigned to legislative coverage but familiar with procedure, has posted a ten dollar bet that the General Assembly will be in session to greet arrival of Spring on the 22nd.

The finance committee completed its work on the major revenue act last Thursday, but the bill cannot be reported to the House until it is printed. Although it was given AA-1 priority at the print shop, Tuesday or Wednesday were fixed as earliest possible dates for delivery. House leaders hope to avoid necessity of adoption without serious contest on any provisions. Even so it will take six days, three in each branch, to enact it.

The insurance tax bill will follow and that also will require six days. Most optimistic members fix Wednesday of next week as earliest possible date for final passage of that measure, and the pessimists think it will be Friday or Saturday.

The joint education committee is working hard to report out the bill setting up eight education districts as required by the 1944 constitutional amendment, and committee chairman hope it will not be torn to pieces and passed back and forth between the house and senate by amendments transferring counties. However, recalling experiences with congressional and senatorial districts, some members do not share the optimism of the education committee. Controversy on that bill with probable necessity for conference committee may prolong the session two or three days.

Other very important matters, such as election of trustees of the

YANKS TAKE JAPS TO OWN LINES



COVERED BY YANK SOLDIERS' rifles, 65 Japanese officers and men march through American lines to safety from the Santo Tomas internment camp in Manila. The Japs held 200 Americans as hostages in the camp, and made a deal for a safe conduct in exchange for these American lives. The negotiations were carried out by Ernest Stanley, a missionary, who is shown in white shirt at right. (International Soundphoto)

Japs Heavy Losers From Attacks Made By Carrier Planes

233 Enemy Planes Destroyed, Damaged Near Hachijo Jima

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Carrier aircraft of Vice Admiral Mark A. Mitscher's forces heavily damaged two Japanese aircraft factories, destroyed or damaged 233 planes and sank five small enemy vessels in strikes at the Japanese capital in Hachijo Jima 175 miles to the south, Sunday and Monday.

Faced by only light opposition, although flying under "extremely adverse" weather conditions, the 27-tanker force lost nine planes and suffered slight damage to two of the fleet's light carrier units while withdrawing from the action. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced. Five pilots from the downed planes were saved.

Nimitz gave no indication of the size of the air force making Sunday's raid, although Japanese reports estimated more than 1,000.

Primary targets of the Tokyo strike were the Nakajima aircraft plants at Ota, 50 miles northwest of Tokyo, and Kazumi, three miles away. The Ota plant has been 75 percent destroyed as a result of this attack. In the B-29 raids, Nimitz reported, fifteen percent of the remainder was damaged.

A total of 153 enemy planes were destroyed, 37 shot from the air and 75 damaged on the ground, as pilots hit at ground installations, hangars and air fields in the two-day strike. In addition, five small enemy vessels were reported as sunk, and 19 others sunk or damaged. Two trains were destroyed in the Tokyo area.

The two aircraft factories constitute an extremely important part of Japan's airplane industry. And the damage suffered should be a severe blow to Nipponese productive capacity.

Work-Fight Bill Plods Toward Vote

Washington, Feb. 27.—(AP)—A manpower bill almost nobody wants introduced in rough waters today as the Senate steered an erratic course toward the first of a series of votes on its provisions.

Criticized by Senator George, Democrat, Georgia, as a "weak, feeble gesture" toward war job controls, the measure is up for a second day of debate that may extend into next week.

George told a reporter he doesn't think the bill—put together by the military affairs committee as a substitute for the House bill—amounts to much.

Ninth Army In 4 Miles Ruhr Basin

Thin German Lines Splitting At Seam; Breakthrough Made

Paris, Feb. 27.—(AP)—American tanks and truck-riding infantry broke through German defenses in the Rhine valley completely today in a racing eight-mile advance into Konigschoven, 15 miles southwest of Dusseldorf and a bare mile from the East river.

Paris, Feb. 27.—(AP)—First army tanks burst into the outlying defenses of Cologne today as heavy artillery shelled the great cathedral city, while just to the north, the ninth army advanced nearly four miles to within five of the factory-packed Ruhr basin.

Canadians to the north advanced five miles, capturing the strategic road center of Udem, and reached outer defenses of the Hochwald defense lines guarding the northwest corner of the Ruhr, less than fifteen miles away.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's mighty third army captured high ground overlooking the Kyll river, moved to within a mile of strategic Eitelberg, and swept six miles toward the Eifel along a 20-mile front, and passed two miles deeper toward the middle Rhine and Coblenz.

All along the 200 mile assault front from Emmerich, on the lower Rhine, to the now solid bridgehead across the Saar river, six miles east of Saarburg, the thinly spread German defenses were splitting at the seams. Spokesmen for both the ninth and third armies expressed the belief that "clever breakthroughs had been achieved."

The ninth army, in February alone passed 90,000. The total since D-Day approached 930,000, and yet only a fraction of General Eisenhower's 79 known divisions had been identified in the great battle of annihilation to clear all Germany west to the Rhine.

Reports hours behind the fast pace of the first army said Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' men were looking at Cologne chimneys and spires ten and a half miles ahead.

The ninth army captured six towns, including Venrath, five miles from Menden Gladbach, westernmost city of the Ruhr. The western 15 miles from Dusseldorf, administrative center of the Ruhr, and only 15 miles from Neuss, which lies across the Rhine from Dusseldorf.

The Canadian advance carried to within 22 miles of Duisburg, world's greatest inland port, and chert outlet for the Ruhr, which in 1942 cradled three-fourths of all German war plants.

27 Prisoners Are At Large in Area Of West Carolina

Whittier, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Fourteen long term prisoners escaped last night from a State prison camp near here near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The 11 who drilled their way to freedom through the brick wall of their cell block made a total of 27 State prisoners being sought in an extensive manhunt in the mountain area of the State.

Sunday night 11 escaped from a camp at Craggy, near Asheville, but one was recaptured yesterday.

Some Stocks Range Higher

New York, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Assorted stocks reached for recoveries in today's market, although many leaders still lacked rising color. Favored were General Motors, Sears Roebuck and American Distilling. Occasional losers included U. S. Steel and Great Northern. Numerous issues were unchanged.

Cherry Asks For Passage Hospital Act

Cautions, However, Against Menace To Teacher Pay Plan

Raleigh, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Recommending favorable action on the "general principles" of the big hospital and medical care bill which hit the legislature here today, Gov. Cherry today, in a message to a joint session of the General Assembly, cautioned that "nothing should be done that might in any way jeopardize the payment of emergency salary increases to teachers and State employees."

"The General Assembly has been efficient and business-like with respect to most all matters that have come before you, but you have given particular consideration to financial matters, to the end that our State should have and maintain a balanced budget," said the governor. "That is to say, you have not carelessly endeavored to keep current expenditures for the ensuing year within the expected current revenues for a like period. This is sound business, and I heartily commend you for your efforts to maintain such a principle," he added.

The governor said the State budget is substantially balanced at this time.

In approaching his recommendations for favorable action on the hospital care bill, he called attention to the contingent appropriation for emergencies, teachers' salaries and for State employees.

"In arriving at my conclusion, it has been uppermost in my mind that we shall do nothing to break faith with these faithful public servants, or materially increase the contingencies affecting this appropriation, made for their benefit," he said.

Trend Lower For Cotton

New York, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to 25 cents a bale higher. Noon prices were 10 cents a bale lower to 25 cents higher. March 22.11, May 22.04, July 21.73.

Table with columns: Month, Pw. Close, Opeth. Rows: March, May, July, October, December.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Rain and colder north and west; showers and mild southeast portion today, followed by rain and colder tonight. Wednesday continued cold, with rain over south and west portions.