

AMERICANS ACROSS RHINE

YANK ROUND-UP NEAR COLOGNE



ON THE TIDE of the American drive toward the city of Cologne, these German civilians of varied ages were picked up by U. S. Ninth Army troops. They sit outside a small home with a few meager possessions while waiting to learn what the future holds for them. (International)

Red Army Is 29 Miles From Berlin

Fighting Is Flaming On Wide Front

Keustrin Flanked By Zhukov's Push; Stettin Neutralized

London, March 8.—(AP)—Marshal Gregory Zhukov's massive new assault along the Oder river, timed with the Allied drive to the Rhine in the west, has reached to within 29 miles of Berlin, a German military commentator said today.

Heavy attacks are taking place at Niedererwutzen, four miles southwest of Zhenen, in a loop of the Oder river, Colonel Ernest Von Hammer said in a Berlin broadcast, and the Russians have made two breaches in the defenses of the fortress of Keustrin.

Fighting was reported flaming along a 125-mile front along the Oder from Stettin to the Crossen, following a terrific artillery barrage that began 48 hours ago. The enemy said the focal point of the attack was on both sides of Keustrin, 35 miles east of Berlin, with the Russians battering at the northwestern, eastern and southern sides of the fortress.

Berlin said the all-out drive toward the heart of the Reich was launched after a terrific, sustained barrage by the heavy guns of Marshal Gregory Zhukov's artillery.

The Germans indicated the Red army was striking at Keustrin from the north, east and south and estimated that units of the first White Russian army had even driven beyond the city of Ostro Hanf. The Russians had already removed the last threat to Zhukov's southern flank by power house strikes that sliced up Pennsylvania and virtually neutralized the great port of Stettin at the mouth of the Oder.

British Units In Suburbs Of Mandalay

Calcutta, India, March 8.—(AP)—Spears of the British 19th division plunged into the northern suburbs of Mandalay today, and official estimates at Allied headquarters left the impression that the fall of Burma's second city is imminent.

In their 14-mile dash southward from Madaya to Mandalay, Indian troops of the British division bypassed a considerable number of Japanese. These enemy groups appeared dazed and bewildered and are scheduled for later elimination.

Chinese troops 130 miles northeast of Mandalay smashed two miles through Japanese defenses and occupied new Lashio and its railway station, establishing Allied control of the entire Burma road from Lashio to Kunning. The Chinese had captured old Lashio yesterday.

Insurance, Oysters And Injuries Would Be Inquired Into

Raleigh, March 8.—(AP)—Bills to authorize appointment of three more commissions which would report their findings to the 1947 General Assembly were introduced in the legislature today as the Senate prepared to consider on second reading amendments to the continuing revenue act of 1939.

Representative Shuford of Bismarck sent up a joint resolution for appointment of a five-man commission to inquire into the problem of financial responsibility, compulsory insurance or any other feasible method of compensating for injuries or damages to persons or property caused by operation of motor vehicles on State highways. It would be composed of three representatives and two senators.

Senator Tate of Scotland asked for appointment of a commission to study a survey of, and Representative Askey of Pamlico sent up a resolution asking for a commission to study the cultivation and marketing of oysters and oyster in Eastern North Carolina. He said that there were approximately 1,000,000 acres of marine lands which could be used for such cultivation.

Representatives Crisman and Caversess of Guilford and Stony of Vance sent up a bill to allow the State Board of Elections to delegate authority to members of county boards of elections to receive applications for and issue absentee ballots. Stony said it was intended to correct the present situation where by only the chairman may issue the ballots.

Representative Sellers of Alamance sent up a bill to allow the political and educational subdivisions of the State to cooperate in recreational facilities, such as parks and Representative Stone of Rockingham introduced a bill to allow the issuance of birth certificates only to legitimate children. A recently enacted law directed them to be issued to children within 90 days of their birth.

Nurses Draft Bill Laid On Doorsteps Of Senate

Washington, March 8.—(AP)—A fresh legislative hot potato, a nurses draft bill, plummeted today into the hands of senators who for three weeks have been juggling manpower legislation.

Passed by a 347 to 42 roll call vote late yesterday after three days of argument, the first woman draft bill ever approved by either branch of Congress was the House's answer to army-navy pleas for an estimated 18,000 more nurses.

It requires every nurse, man or woman, married or unmarried, who is not over 44 or under 20 years of age, to register at a date to be determined.

Those in that age span who were not married before March 15, 1945, or, if widowed or divorced, have no

children under 18 and no dependent children, would be liable for induction if their draft boards decide their services are not more necessary on the home front.

They would be offered commissions either as second lieutenants or ensigns. Refusal to accept a commission, however, would not avert induction.

Any inducted nurse would be eligible for all customary veterans benefits. In addition, any nurse requesting assignment to any particular area or theatre of operations, regardless of whether her husband is in service there, would be entitled to such an assignment subject to army or navy decision that it was militarily practicable.

U. S. ARMOR AWAITS ORDERS INSIDE COLOGNE



Blocking the sidewalks of a street within Cologne, troopers and vehicles of the third armored division await U. S. First Army orders sending them into the heart of the Rhine, the largest city of all Germany. Cologne was momentarily expected to fall as the sweeping Allied drive surged up to the Rhine along many miles of its western bank. U. S. Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International Soundphoto.)

Firm Footing Established By 1st Army

Germans Startled By General Hodges By Daring Strike

Paris, March 8.—(AP)—The American first army crossed the Rhine south of Cologne last night and secured a firm footing today on the east bank of the great German barrier stream.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges seized the opportunity of establishing a Rhine bridgehead, and with no delay threw in troops quickly. The Germans were found disorganized after the severe mauling they took in their rout across the Cologne plain.

News of the Rhine crossing swept through the army from division to division and down through the ranks to privates in the front lines.

It brought grins to bewildered and grimed faces and cheered every one in the army.

Lt. Gen. Hodges poured more and more infantrymen across the river after his sudden and sensational crossing in the darkness. The exact location of the bridgehead over the quarter-mile-wide river was shrouded by military censorship because the Germans obviously did not know the exact situation.

STARTLED GERMANS OFFER ONLY SLIGHT RESISTANCE

Paris, March 8.—(AP)—The American fifth army crossed the Rhine to the east bank last night, launching from the west the climactic battle for Germany. A dispatch from Cologne announced the crossing.

First army infantrymen spanned the quarter-mile-wide river against rather light opposition before the startled Germans could grasp what had happened.

The surprise announcement was passed by censors at 5:55 p. m. this afternoon after 24 hours of military blackout, used while events of great importance are shaping.

Other units of the first army encircled half of the Rhine university city of Bonn, 17,000, and half of nearby Bad Godesberg, where Hitler six years ago founded the late Neville Chamberlain before Munich.

The Germans said the first army was within 17 miles of forming with the third army near Coblenz a train of perhaps 50,000 Germans caught west of the middle Rhine.

Paris, March 8.—(AP)—The American first army was reported in the German communiqué today to have charged 12

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Fireworks Act Only For Mecklenburg

Raleigh, March 8.—(AP)—The House Judiciary II Committee amended today a proposed statewide law to allow county commissioners to prohibit the sale or manufacture of fireworks to apply to Mecklenburg county alone, and the bill, as amended, was given a favorable vote.

Representative Vogler of Mecklenburg said that an anti-fireworks bill popped up at every assembly session, and it was his belief that if county commissioners were given authority to regulate their manufacture or sale, the problem would not arise every two years.

Goodman of Mecklenburg, apparently sensing that the statewide bill was disapproved by the committee, moved that it apply only to Mecklenburg. That was adopted.

The opponents also said that municipalities have authority now to control the sale of fireworks, and that many had ordinances against them.

The House Judiciary I Committee approved bills to create a State ports authority and to provide for an arbitration service in the State Labor Department.

Three More Commissions Asked From Legislature

Car Barn Moither



RESTING COMFORTABLY in a San Francisco hospital is Alice Swank, 22-year-old street car conductor, who brought her trolley to a halt, made her way to a car barn and gave birth to a baby girl. Doctors who attended the infant say it will live. (International Soundphoto)

Flood Menace Grows While River Rises

Portsmouth, Ohio, March 8.—(AP)—The Ohio river continued to rise today while Portsmouth watched to see if sandbags atop its obsolete 62-foot flood wall would hold back both the Ohio and the tributary Scioto rivers.

Welling at the rate of one tenth foot an hour, the big river passed the 622 foot stage, more than 15 feet above the flood stage, at midnight. This was more than a foot higher than the wall, but the sandbags laid in a night and day struggle by 350 Ohio State Guardsmen and civilian volunteers, had held the two rivers out except at one short section.

Already low-lying districts of the manufacturing city of 40,000 population were taking shelter on higher ground. Five hundred evacuees were taken by train to Chillicothe, 40 miles up the Scioto, where they were cared for by the Red Cross.

No damage comparable with that left by the 1936 and 1937 floods was expected because of advanced warning.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Fair and moderately cool tonight. Friday increasing cloudiness with little increase in temperature.

Dents On Jap Lines On Two Exploited By Marine Units

Nips, However, Show No Signs as Yet Of Weakening in Stand

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, March 8.—(AP)—Dents in the last-line line of the Japanese on northern Luzon, driven up to 500 yards in hard-to-hold combat Wednesday, were exploited today by three Marine divisions striving for a breakthrough.

In a maze of pillboxes and black-houses, with their backs to the cliff, the Nipponese still showed no signs of a collapse as they met the all-out leathern drive with intense small arms and machine gun fire.

The nightfall that day netted only local gains. Yesterday one 500-yard trench was won on the west side by Major General Rokey's 11th division. Another was pushed into the center of the line by Major General Graves' 3rd division. A dent of 200 yards was punched into the east side by Major General Clifton Cates' 10th division.

They were, by no means, general advances. Every step was contested by a foe who had lost two-thirds of an original garrison of 20,000 and is battling to the last man.

Four More State Witnesses Heard In Meadows Case

Greenville, March 8.—(AP)—The State sent four more witnesses to the stand today to testify to the chemical analysis of cement seized at East Carolina Teachers College while Dr. Leon Meadows was president. Meadows is charged with embezzlement and false pretense in handling of special college and student funds while he was president.

British Bombers Hit German Lines In Night Attack

London, March 8.—(AP)—More than 1,250 British war planes, the largest force sent out by the RAF this year, last night blasted the German eastern front based at Essau, struck at vital oil refineries and gave Berlin its sixteenth successive night raid.

Leaders Slip Among Stocks

New York, March 8.—(AP)—Scattered spots of strength remained in today's stock market, although leaders generally continued to slip. On offside fractions to a point most of the time were U. S. Steel and Southern Railway. Resistant were DuPont and Chesapeake & Ohio.

U. S. Troops Reach South Luzon Shore

Manila, March 8.—(AP)—United States troops were on the southern shores of Luzon for the first time today as other Yanks east of Manila pushed forward against Japanese positions softened by the heaviest air strike thus far used in advance of ground action to the southwest Pacific.

While American bombers, sweeping China Sea shipping, sank or damaged two warships and 19 freighters, eleven airborne divisions and 158th infantry regiment units penetrated to the south coast of Luzon today.

Balayon bay, in Batangas province is one of the important Verde island passage between Luzon and American-held Mindanao island. It is about fifty miles south of

Manila. In the bitterly contested Marikina watershed area east of Manila, navy bombers, attack planes and six bombers dropped more than 100 tons of explosives on the Luzon Japanese encampments which have held the Yanks virtually stationary for weeks.

In destructive air sweeps, American heavy bombers sank or severely damaged five freight transports, three freighters and a corvet in Farososa Strait and sank another small freighter and still left another afloat in nearby waters.

A destroyer was sunk southwest of Hong Kong, where three freighters and three freighter transports were sunk or badly damaged.

Churchill and Generals At Front



Pictured in Julich, Germany, is Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain with some of the commanders of western front fighting forces. Against the background of a captured German fort, they are (left to right) Maj. Gen. Raymond McClain, commander, 19th Corps; Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, commander, 21st Army Group; Mr. Churchill; Maj. Gen. Alvin Gille, commander, 13th Corps; Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, chief of the British Imperial General Staff; Lt. Gen. W. H. Simpson, commander, U. S. 9th Army. U. S. Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International Soundphoto.)