

ALLIES BAG 110,000 GERMANS IN RUHR

Byrnes Resigns Office And Vinson Takes Over

Reconversion Director Is To Take Rest

Byrnes Just Filed Report on Program; Will Await Vinson

Washington, April 2.—(AP)—President Roosevelt accepted today the resignation of James F. Byrnes as director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, and picked Fred M. Vinson to succeed him.

Byrnes will stay on the job until Vinson's nomination is approved by the Senate. Then he will break Vinson into his new duties.

It was the second change of jobs for Vinson in less than a month. On March 6 he was nominated Federal loan administrator and prior to that date he was director of economic stabilization.

Byrnes had submitted his resignation on March 24 while preparing a report to President Roosevelt and Congress which outlined the plans he has developed for reconversion after Germany's collapse.

The report was dated yesterday and Byrnes had hoped to leave his office today. Vinson worked closely with Byrnes while serving as stabilization director.

Mr. Roosevelt said it was with "heartfelt regret" that he had received Byrnes' resignation.

He said he had no alternative other than to accept but requested the former Supreme Court justice and senator from South Carolina to make the resignation effective when Vinson qualifies for the job.

After talking over the reins to Vinson, Byrnes plans to take a rest at his home at Spartanburg, S. C. An aide said he had "absolutely no plans" made after that.

Mrs. Higham Found Dead In Raleigh Home

Raleigh, April 2.—(AP)—The charred body of Mrs. John V. Higham, about 65, wealthy and prominent club woman and civic leader, was found early today in her home in an exclusive residential area here under circumstances which coroner Roy M. Banks said were "very mysterious."

The house had been badly damaged by fire. Banks said that firemen had been unable to find a large jewelry box which Mrs. Higham kept in her bedroom, and that two large diamond rings were missing from her fingers. Her wedding band was intact.

Her body was found half way between the steps leading from the living room to the upstairs and the front door. Her clothing had been burned off. Banks said that part of her corset was found under her, leading him to the belief she had been fully clothed at the time of the fire, the origin of which was not immediately established.

Banks said that Mrs. Higham, who apparently was alone in the burning, had been accustomed to entertaining service men in her home over the week-end. This week-end, he said, she had not entertained anybody as far as he could learn. He said that a neighbor talked with her at about ten o'clock last night. The fire broke out about two hours later.

Banks said that "some things don't look exactly right" about Mrs. Higham's death, and that he had ordered an autopsy. Her husband died about ten years ago. They had no children.

HEADQUARTERS IS SILENT ON PANAMA CANAL CLAIM

Balboa, C. Z., April 2.—(AP)—Headquarters of the Panama Canal Zone today declined to comment on a report from Santiago, Chile, that a Nazi sabotage ring had planned to blow up the Panama Canal.

NO POINT TO ALL THIS—IN CANADA



PARK YOUR RED STAMPS at the border, brother, the meat you see in this picture (and there's plenty more of it) is pointless and the scene of the photograph is Montreal, Canada. Not all cuts are available, but steaks and roasts and bacon and ham are usually to be had without reaching under the counter or knowing the butcher's lawyer. (International)

Eight Killed In Storms That Strike Deep South

Hundreds Homeless And Property Loss Is Reported Heavy

(By The Associated Press.)

Floods, tornadoes and tidal waves left a toll of at least eight dead, hundreds homeless and uncounted property damage in the deep South today.

Week-end deluges, which accompanied the sporadic storms, increased the flood danger along the Mississippi's tributaries, where engineers have battled to save levees for weeks.

A three-foot tidal wave from the Gulf of Mexico swept up Alabama's river into Morgan City, La., flooding thirty blocks and driving 70 families from their homes.

At Mobile, Ala., high winds and tides capsized a boat in Mobile bay and a man was drowned.

In several water front areas residents had to be evacuated from their homes.

Three persons were killed, three others injured and several homes destroyed by a tornado which hit Caney, La. Another twister demolished eleven homes and damaged many others at another Louisiana town.

The U. S. Weather Bureau at Shreveport, La., said that the worst floods on record seemed to be developing in that area, drained by the Little, Red, Sulphur and Cypress rivers.

STATE LEADS NATION IN FARM VALUATION

Raleigh, April 2.—(AP)—North Carolina leads the nation in its increase in farm real estate values during the past 30 years, according to estimates released by the Federal and State Departments of Agriculture.

An average acre of a North Carolina farm real estate worth \$100 30 years ago is now valued at \$224. California, in second place, shows an increase of 93 per cent.

Curtis Tarleton, Agriculture Department statistician, said, "Although exceptionally profitable crops of tobacco and cotton have been a major factor in the sharp increase in land prices in North Carolina, the broader significance of these increases must be appraised in the light of impending postwar adjustments in the agricultural production of the area." He said that there has been a rise of 11 per cent in the value of farm real estate in the United States during the past year, and five percent during the past four months.

Reports show that prices of farm commodities and farm incomes reached new record levels in 1944 and prospects for 1945 appear bright in most agricultural areas.

Going Easy For Yanks On Okinawa

Heavy Fighting Is Expected on Island Near Jap Homeland

New York, April 2.—(AP)—American invasion forces have started landings on Kume island, about 84½ miles west of Okinawa and west of the Kerama group, a Tokyo broadcast reported by the blue network said today.

Guam, April 2.—(AP)—Thousands of United States tenth army infantrymen and Marines invaded strategic Okinawa, 325 miles from Japan proper, Easter morning at little cost and found the going still surprisingly easy as they pushed eastward today toward the important Nakagusuku bay fleet anchorage.

Yanks went ashore on the west coast at 8:30 a. m. (6:30 p. m. Saturday, EDT), quickly captured two airfields and a dozen virtually deserted villages and towns. By midnight they had carved out a beachhead three miles deep at points on an isthmus eight miles wide. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

Front reports said a third air strike—unidentified—was seized. The Yank invaders walked inland from the beaches 200 yards or more without once having to seek shelter.

Tough fighting is expected, however, as the Japanese reorganized for defense. The invasion followed a ten-day bombing and bombardment of his eastern shore defenses, and the enemy was expected to fight fanatically from prepared positions probably in the low hills in the center of the island. Estimates of Japanese strength on Okinawa ranged from 60,000 to 100,000 troops.

"Final, decisive victory is assured," Nimitz declared as he personally read his Sunday communique naming the invasion. But he warned that Japan itself still must be conquered. Capture of Okinawa will afford airfields for neutralization of the enemy's home airfields and continued devastation of its vital centers.

Cotton Gains In Forenoon

New York, April 2.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened five to 45 cents a bale higher. Noon prices were 25 to 45 cents a bale higher. May 22.98, July 21.81, October 21.31.

	Pr.	Close	Open
May	22.02	22.05	
July	21.75	21.78	
October	21.23	21.32	
January	21.12	21.19	
March	21.01	21.10	

HITLER'S NAME AT HEAD OF CRIMINALS

London, April 2.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler leads the roster of war criminals. Chiefs of state will have no immunity from prosecution, the U. S. War Crimes Commission disclosed in announcing the drafting of five lists of Axis leaders who will be brought to trial.

RUSH HOUR CROWDS JAM ABOARD SPEEDING TANKS



KEEPING UP THE PACE THAT KILLS GERMANS, U. S. 9th Army troops are shown jammed aboard tank destroyers like commuters on a rush hour train. So rapid have been the advances that troops hop rides wherever possible to keep up with the action. The photo was taken as the tanks went rolling through the Duisburg area, cutting across the northwestern corner of the Ruhr. Signal Corps Radio-telephoto. (International Soundphoto)

VICTORY SMILES IN GERMANY



A WINNING TEAM displays confident, happy smiles in this photo taken somewhere in Germany. Lt. Gen. George S. Patton irrepressibly demonstrates with gestures how his men are tearing through the Reich as Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower listens. Looking on are Gen. Omar N. Bradley, commander of the 12th Army Group, and Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges (extreme right), commander of the U. S. First Army. This is a U. S. Army Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International)

Red Armies In 20 Miles Of Great City Of Vienna

London's V-Bomb Raids May Be Over As Nazis Retreat

London, April 2.—(AP)—Hope that Great Britain's long months of V-bomb terror raids have ended sprang up in London today.

An official announcement said that not a single vengeance weapon had landed anywhere in England since last Thursday night, and additional reports poured in of Nazi withdrawals from northern Holland, location of the V-bomb launching sites.

AIRPLANE STRIKE IN DETROIT ENDS

Detroit, April 2.—(AP)—A four-day strike protesting discharge of a union steward ended this morning as 13,000 employees restored production of airplane parts in plants of the Hudson Motor Car Company.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Considerable cloudiness and warm with showers and thunder showers in west portion this morning, and in east portion this afternoon. Partly cloudy and mild tonight and Tuesday, preceded by a few showers in extreme east portion early tonight.

Holland Army Threatened By British

Drive To Interior Is Not Checked By Mopping Up Action

Paris, April 2.—(AP)—The American first and ninth armies have trapped 21 divisions of 110,000 first line enemy troops in the Ruhr and the British second army, driving swiftly northeast, threatened today to throw a noose around another whole army group in Holland, reducing German strength in the west by two-thirds.

Paris, April 2.—(AP)—The American third army drove today into Fulda and Kassel, 165 miles from Berlin, and within 198 miles of the Russian lines, while other Allied armies grimly mopped up 10,000 to 100,000 of Germany's best troops, trapped in the encircled Ruhr.

General Omar N. Bradley sent tank columns far beyond both Kassel and Fulda, one armored column reaching within 155 miles of Berlin at a point three miles northwest of Eisenbach at the northwest edge of the famous Harzian forest.

There Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's army was 96 miles from Leipzig and closest to the Russian front in its power drive to bisect the Reich and bar access of troops in the north from the Bavarian Alps, where Hitler may be preparing for his last stand.

Supreme headquarters said all of Field Marshal Walther Von Model's army group B, strongest left on the western front and containing the last tank army opposing General Eisenhower's nine armies charging east of the Rhine, had been caught in the Ruhr trap, closed yesterday by the first and ninth armies.

Even as the fate of this whole fighting force was sealed, General Eisenhower's communique, in an unusual revelation of the course of the developing campaign, declared that the clean-up will not preclude the advance of Allied armored columns farther into Germany.

That swift advance was well under way.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army had armor less than 160 miles from the battered capital of Germany. Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch had seventh army tanks within 45 miles of the Nazi congress city of Nuremberg, population 431,000, where he could cut one of the two main trunk lines from Berlin through Magdeburg to the Bremer Pass.

Third army tanks raced to within three miles of Eisenach, and 96 of Leipzig in their eastward drive across the waist of Germany. A security blackout still veiled the surging advances of the British second army toward the north German ports, but Berlin said the Germans had advanced more than 35 miles past the Westphalian capital of Munster to a point south of Bielefeld, 128,700 population.

Hesitancy In Stock Market

New York, April 2.—(AP)—A few specialties got out in front in today's stock market, but most leaders exhibited rising reluctance.

Among favorites, Dunhill International made a new 1945 top. Occasional gainers included Bethlehem and Goodyear. Hesitancy was shown by Southern Railway and Chrysler.

Jap Dead In Philippines Total 307,000

Manila, April 2.—(AP)—American troops, clearing the Japanese out of the Philippines on a dozen fronts, counted 10,791 additional enemy dead in the last five days.

This brought Japanese dead for the entire Philippines campaign to some 307,000—against an announced American toll of dead, wounded and missing of around 30,000.

General Douglas MacArthur's Monday communique, reporting the five-day count, said 185 Japanese were captured. American losses for the period were given as 340 killed, 48 missing and 919 wounded.

American gains on all fronts were announced. Japanese counter-attack elements of the 25th division in stubborn fighting on northern Luzon but were beaten off. The 25th continued mopping up by-passed positions along the Villa Verde trail.

Thirty-third division troops, pushing toward the Philippines summer capital of Baguio, in the Benguet mountains, advanced two miles from

Naguilian to the outskirts of Burgos. The 113th infantry was led in this push by Lt. Col. Arthur Collins, of Boston, Mass.

First cavalry troopers, tightening a vise on Japanese-held San Pablo, south of Laguna de Bay in southern Luzon, used loud speakers and scattered leaflets in efforts to get the trapped enemy to surrender.

On Negros island, invaded Thursday, 40th division doughboys approached the outskirts of Talisay and the Talisay airstrip. On Cebu, the American divisions advanced five miles on the coastal road from Lahog to Consolacion against moderate resistance. Other units reached the foothills of the central mountains, northeast of Parao and Guadalupe. Japanese artillery fire from the hills was heavy.