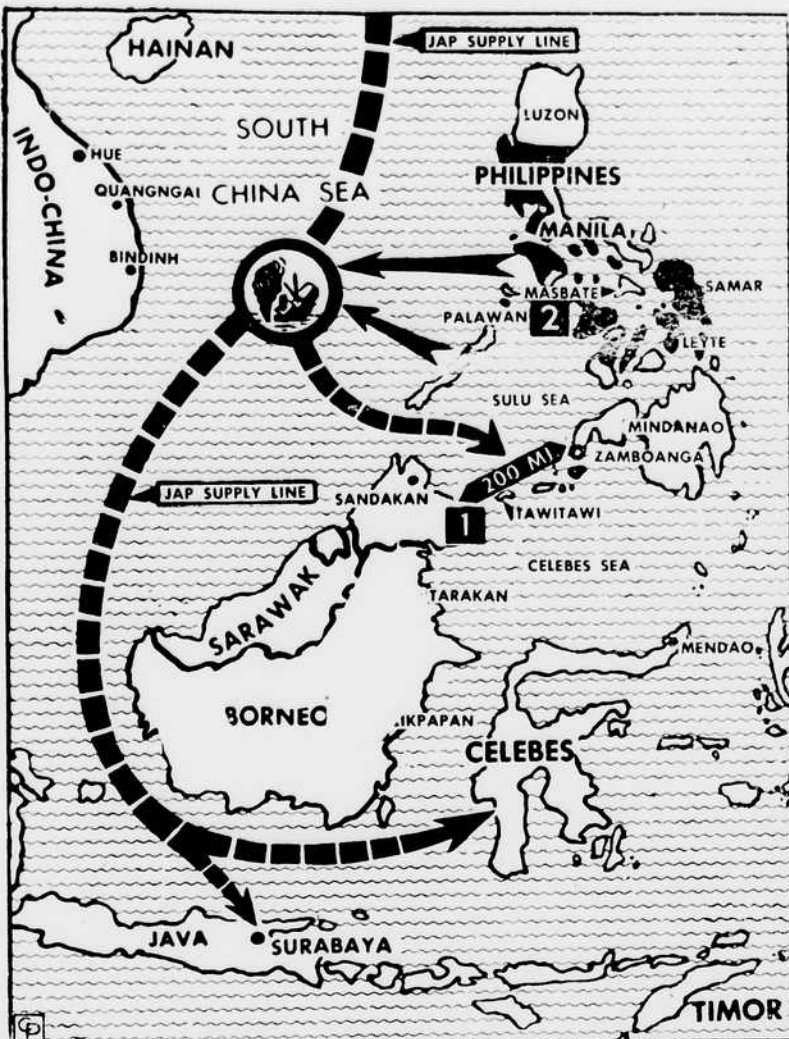


## JAPAN'S LARGEST BATTLESHIP IS SUNK

### NEW INVASIONS ADD TO JAP CRISIS



JUST AS THE JAP CABINET staged its sensational mass resignation, seizure by American troops of the Tawitawi Islands (1) and landings on Masbate (2) were declared by Gen. Douglas MacArthur to "isolate the entire Dutch East Indies." The Tawitawi Islands lie just off the coast of Borneo and become a vitally strategic point from which to hamper all movements of troops and supplies in the southern area. Black arrows show how the one-time Jap shipping lanes are now blocked. (International)

### 5 Warships, 391 Planes Destroyed

Battle Fought Only 50 Miles From Japan; U. S. Loss Moderate

Guam, April 7.—(AP)—Six Japanese warships, including their largest remaining battleship, the 45,000-ton Yamato, and 391 enemy planes were destroyed in a two-day battle between planes and service units of the two fleets yesterday and today, only fifty miles from Japan, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced.

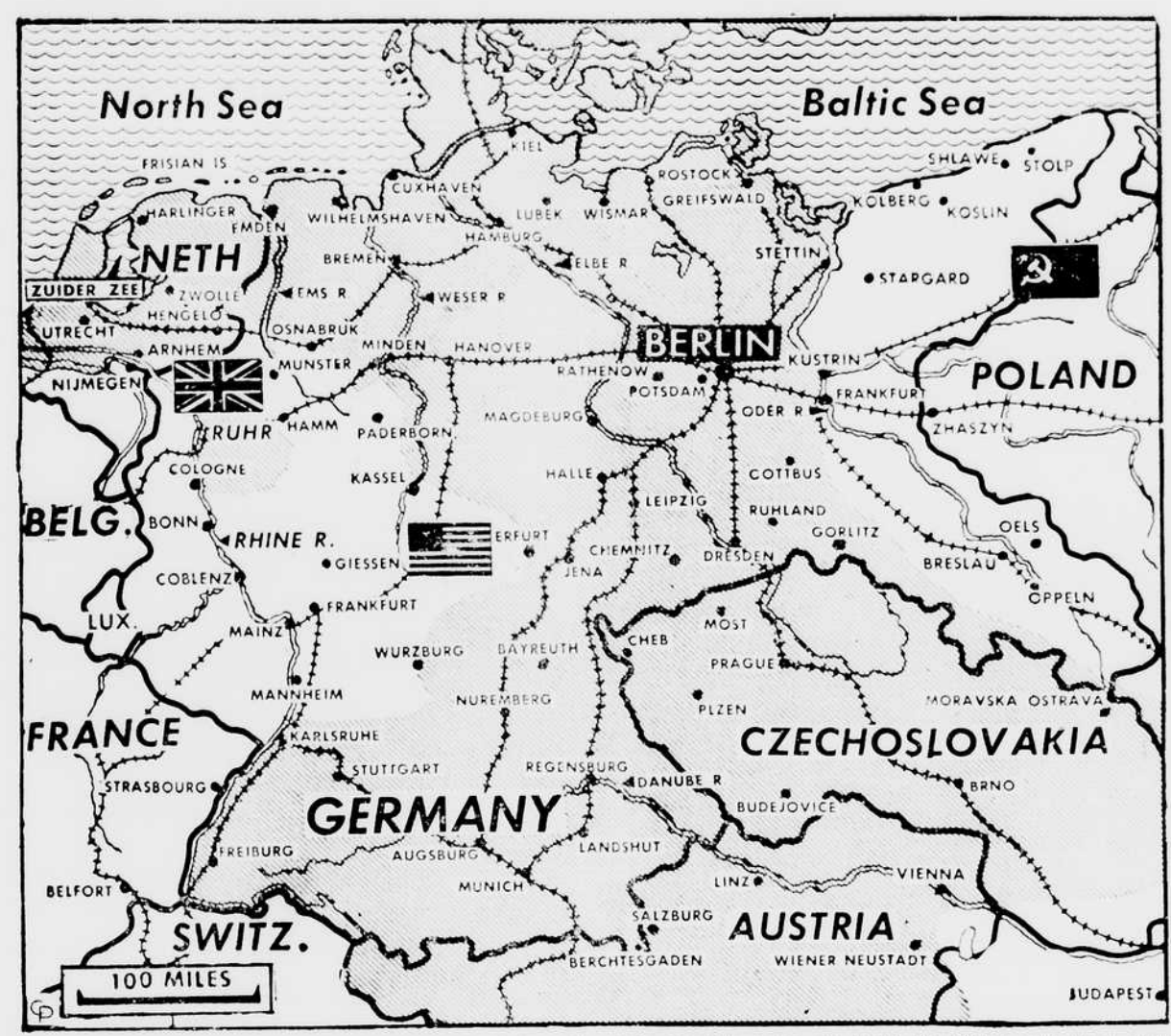
Three United States destroyers were sunk, and several others and some smaller craft damaged. Seven planes were lost. Japanese fleet losses in addition to the battleship were an Agano class light cruiser, one other light cruiser and three destroyers.

The battle opened Friday afternoon when heavy forces of Japanese planes attacked United States ships and shore installations in the vicinity of Okinawa. Three destroyers were sunk or damaged, and 116 of the attacking planes were shot down. No larger fleet units were hit.

Early today navy search aircraft sighted an enemy surface force at a point about fifty miles southwest of Kyushu, southernmost Japanese island. Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's vast carrier force steamed toward the enemy and during the middle of the day brought the enemy under aerial attack. No opposition was met, but heavy anti-aircraft fire greeted Mitscher's airmen as they bored into the attack.

## Allied Armor Near Suburbs Both Bremen And Hannover

ALLIES DRIVE TO SEVER REICH AS KNOCKOUT NEARS



Here is a comprehensive, all-purpose map giving the latest battle lines on both the West and East fronts. As the terrific drives to deliver the knockout blow bring the war ever nearer to a close, you can keep up with the changing news by following this map.

### Early Fall Of Northern Cities Seen

Eight To 35 Miles Gained By American And British Forces

Paris, April 7.—(AP)—American tanks struck to within ten miles of Hannover today in a breakout from their Weser bridgehead, and British armor fought less than 12 miles from the great port of Bremen.

Both Allied advances bearing down on the great northern German cities were going strong this afternoon.

The United States army lashed out from Hameln on the Weser river and crested eight miles toward Hannover. The British plume carried 35 miles, flanking Bremen and hitting to within 60 miles of Hamburg, Germany's third city.

The German high command declared a fierce battle was raging in the United States third army territory east of Muehlhausen and within 130 miles of Berlin.

This is near the Escheben area in which the Germans yesterday had announced airborne operations within 90 miles of Berlin. Correspondents with the third army said they were unable to confirm or deny the Escheben area operations.

The British tanks flanked the great Weser river port of Bremen and struck to within 60 miles of Hamburg, on the Elbe. A spectacular 35-mile drive by the British seventh corps led to less than a dozen miles southeast of Bremen, a front dispatch said, and also toppled the crossroads town of Schwarzenorden, 22 miles due south of the city of 342,000.

Canadian armor, shooting through Holland, surged to within nine miles of the last rail escape line for Germans in the great western Dutch cities, and within 19 miles of the Zuider Zee.

British tanks in twin drives charged Diepholz, 55 miles southwest of Bremen, in a belated toward Hamburg, Germany's third city of 1,682,000. Armor reached an unidentified point a scant dozen miles from Bremen, and also Bueren, 22 miles northwest of the trans-Atlantic port. Bueren is a mile and a half from the Weser river and sixty from Hamburg, at the mouth of the Elbe.

Still farther south, American first army troops pushed another seven miles to a point twelve miles east of Kassel, and other first and ninth army forces slowly compressed the 120,000 to 150,000 Germans trapped in the Ruhr.

Hitler Tells Party Chiefs To Quit Post

London, April 7.—(AP)—The German radio announced today a Hitler decree ordering Nazi party district leaders to give up their jobs in local governments.

"All personal union between the officers of state and the Nazi party has to be split up," the decree said. "The reason for the decree is that the tasks of the party are mainly to care for the population, and in these difficult times when quick decisions, and sometimes moves, have to be carried out in a moment's notice, it is not thought suitable that a party official should be burdened with the tasks of local administration and vice versa.

"It will no longer be possible to combine the office of kreisleiter (district or county leader) and county councillor or lord mayor, and no district leader can hold the same office in two or more districts at the same time.

"In the future, no village or town party leader can combine this office with that of mayor."

The order added that "close co-operation between the party and state will, however, still be safeguarded."

### Operators Appeal For WLB's Help

Talks With Miners Collapse As Strikes Show Critical Turn

Washington, April 7.—(AP)—Bituminous operators appealed to the War Labor Board today for help in writing a new contract as talks with the union collapsed, and wildcat strikes in "captive mines" became critical.

Producers, who said yesterday they would not attend this morning's scheduled meeting with John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers Committee, decided to be present, but added "it doesn't mean anything."

Lewis called in his 250-member policy committee meeting Monday, when he will report on the various proposals offered today.

The presence of the policy committee usually presages a major development.

The WLB will hear the operators' report at 3:30 p. m. today that a stalemate exists after five weeks of fruitless negotiations. Presumably Lewis will make a different report to the board.

### Stock Leaders Some Higher

New York, April 7.—(AP)—Leading stocks, with scattered exceptions, made further recovery headway in today's market.

Best prices were recorded at a moderately active opening. While dealings slowed near the final hour, selected rails, steels, utilities and assorted industrials retained fractional advances.

Amidst a moderately active opening were American Can and U. S. Steel.

### Western Carolina Has Heavy Frost Damage Uncertain

Charlotte, April 7.—(AP)—Temperatures ranging to as low as 20 degrees spread a heavy frost over parts of Western North Carolina last night. Asheville reported a killing frost, but information on the crop situation in the surrounding mountains was not immediately available. The temperature dropped to 28 in Asheville and 20 in some places in the vicinity. Prospects were for warmer today.

### New Jap Premier



Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki (above) is reported summoned by Emperor Hirohito to form a new cabinet in succession to that of former Premier Koiso, who resigned with all ministers as Japan faced a war crisis. Aged 77 and regarded as moderate in politics, Suzuki has been serving since last August as president of the Imperial Privy Council. (International)

### New Phase In Air War Upon Japan Begun

Guam, April 7.—(AP)—A new phase in the aerial war against the Japanese homeland opened today as the war's greatest B-29 force attacked Tokyo and Nagoya, protected for the first time by land-based fighter planes.

Two of the P-51 Mustang fighters from newly-captured Iwo Jima were lost as they shepherded the more than 300 Superforts delivering demolition bombs on two large aircraft factories. The fighter pilots were credited with shooting down 21 enemy interceptors, probably downing six others and damaging two.

A flight of 1,500 miles was made by the Mustangs in the round trip from Iwo to Tokyo.

### Vinson Takes Over Duties

Washington, April 7.—(AP)—Fred M. Vinson was sworn in today as director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, succeeding James F. Byrnes.

The oath was administered by Chief Justice D. Lawrence Groner, of the U. S. Court of Appeals, in Vinson's new office in the east wing of the White House. Vinson, former economic stabilization director, announced his head attorney in that office, Edward Pritchard, would become his general counsel in the new post. Pritchard succeeds Benjamin V. Cohen, who resigned with Byrnes.

### Three Men As Highway Head Are Gossiped

BY LYNN NISBET Daily Dispatch Bureau

Raleigh, April 7.—Denizens of Capitol Square live by politics—and it isn't an easy way to make a living—so they are always eager to outguess the governor on appointments. With the boards of education and hospital control out of the way, major attention is being given to the highway commission. Terms of present members expire at midnight April 30, and Governor Cherry has indicated he will announce new appointments by that time—but there is small chance it will be much ahead of the last day. Here's the way the gossip runs as of this week-end:

CHAIRMAN—Chairmanship will go to W. P. Horton, James H. Clark or Charles Ross. Horton can have it if he wants it; chances are he doesn't and Clark is best bet. Ross doesn't want it, but is a good soldier and a good highwayman, having been with the outfit since beginning of the good roads program, and will stand by an acting chairman if the governor desires.

DIVISIONS—Originally the State was divided into districts that were subdivided into divisions. Some years ago that was changed and the ten commissioners now represent a division each, and the divisions are subdivided into districts. Capitol Square gossipers (without benefit of a word from the board as basis

(Continued on Page Three.)

YUGOSLAVIA ACCEPTS.—Washington, April 7.—(AP)—The State Department today announced that Yugoslavia has accepted an invitation to the United Nations conference at San Francisco opening April 25.

### Air Raids Greet Jap Cabinet

### Russians Push Near To Heart Of Vienna

London, April 7.—(AP)—Russian veterans from Stalingrad and Budapest, including ahead against the hastily reinforced defenders of Vienna, battered their way today to within four miles of St. Stephen's church in the middle of the city.

Moscow announced that the Germans not only were fighting for every factory and stone building but also had thrown in a number of counter attacks, which were repelled by Russian snipe troops in bitter fighting. Soviet forces captured four suburbs along the city lying clear to the south of the bank of the Danube river east of Vienna in a 10-mile advance and reached the Moerava river barrier protecting the Austrian capital's northeastern approaches on a 37-mile front.

The one aircraft assembly and testing center of aerial and the three aviation communities adjacent to Vienna's southern boundary were taken by Marshal Tito's third Ukrainian army. Advancing swiftly

### Air Operations Stealing Show In The Philippines

Manila, April 7.—(AP)—Air operations are stealing the show in the Philippines theatre.

This latest one-day record for planes was reported in General Douglas MacArthur's communique today.

Heavily attacked Hong Kong a third consecutive day, wrecking three merchant ships with direct hits and starting tremendous fires along the waterfront.

Lost 72 tons of fragmentation bombs on Toyohara airfield, Formosa, firing many parked planes. Sank or damaged three sizable tankers in the Pescadore, west of Formosa.

Sank 17 small Japanese cargo ships south of Hong Kong. Started large fires in Tarakan, oil storage area on northern Borneo. And, most sensational because of its bearing, troops of the eleventh

### Bombers Hit Tokyo As Suzuki Ministry Takes Over Control

San Francisco, April 7.—(AP)—Japan's third war cabinet was formed today amid the roar of demolition bombs bursting in Tokyo from the greatest land-based air raids ever mounted against Japan.

The Japanese Domei news agency announced that Premier Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki appointed himself foreign minister and Great East Asia minister, two of the most important posts in the cabinet.

Admiral Mitsuanao Yonai was retained as navy minister, although under his administration the imperial navy suffered two disastrous defeats in Philippine waters and lost more than ten admirals.

General Korechika Anami, recently appointed director general of army aviation headquarters, was appointed war minister. Both Yonai and Anami had the blessing of the controlling military clique of their services.

Baron Suzuki's retention of the key non-military posts recalled speculation that with his lifetime reputation as a moderate he may have been selected to lead efforts to arrive at a negotiated peace. The cabinet positions he kept for himself are the ones that would be involved in any peace offensive.

### 44 Nazi Planes Are Shot Down In American Attack

London, April 7.—(AP)—At least 44 German planes were shot down today as the Nazis pressed frantic attacks against 1,300 American heavy bombers and 850 fighters making a sweep of air fields, ammunition dumps and rail yards ahead of Allied armies rolling across northern Germany.

The number of German planes destroyed was expected to mount considerably, as the 44 reported planes from only a small part of the fighter group and none from the bombers, a U. S. air force staff officer said.

Heavy combat occurred within 50 miles of Hamburg, in the district where several of today's targets were located.

At the same time, Italian-based planes of the 15th air force attacked rail lines and other communications in northern Italy for the third straight day.

**WEATHER**  
FOR NORTH CAROLINA:  
Fair and a little warmer today, tonight and Sunday.