

U. S. THIRD ARMY NEAR BERCHTESGADEN

Peace Delegates Assemble For Start

Everlasting Peace Goal Of Meeting

Polish Issue Only Cloud On Horizon; Truman Will Speak

(By The Associated Press) Opening session of United Nations conference on international organization...

San Francisco, April 25.—(AP)—With one chair for Poland dramatically empty, 46 nations of World War II assembled in their first historic political conference today to try to blueprint machinery for preventing World War III.

This is the day that millions of people over the earth have waited and worked for through the years of fighting to the verge of victory.

It dawned bright with expressions of hope for everlasting peace, yet darkened by one cloud—the Anglo-American dispute with Russia over Poland.

Having some dramatic move by Premier Marshal Stalin of Russia, that dispute on Polish representation at the conference is decided today as ever, splitting the ranks of allied powers in the moment they came for unity.

Otherwise, there is evidence of close big-power cooperation, which means that the American group in respect to mean that Russia is determined to help the conference succeed, and is already making concessions for that purpose.

This conference city is abuzz with activity. American delegation scheduled a pre-conference caucus at 9:30 a. m., Pacific war time, with Secretary of State Stettinius, Russian members met with Foreign Commissioner Molotov, who arrived Tuesday afternoon, and British delegates had a conference with Foreign Minister Anthony Eden.

There was some expectation that the big three foreign ministers themselves would get together with Chiang T. V. S. Song for a 15-minute review of arrangements prior to the brief conference opening at 1:30 p. m.

Stettinius holds the temporary chairmanship of the meeting in San Francisco's high vaulted red and gold opera house auditorium. He is slated later to be elected permanent chairman, the position which he held at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, when the United States, China, Russia and Britain drafted the plan of world organization here placed before all the United Nations.

Prospects are that this plan may be considerably changed, although not in its main provisions.

War Industry Cutback Will Be Very Fast

Washington, April 25.—(AP)—War Production Chief J. A. Krug told a House committee today—as his own "speculation"—that nearly a third of WPB's war industry contracts will be released in the next four months.

All controls should be dropped as soon as possible after the defeat of Japan, he added.

Krug, appearing before a postwar economic committee, said war procurement contracts will be cut back fifteen percent in the next three or four months, and estimated war production will be down to sixty percent of its present level within a year or 15 months. WPB is ready to wipe out control as soon as possible, and at the same time aid industry through its reconversion period with the allotment of essential supplies and materials, he said.

First job, he said, will be to grant priority assistance on so-called bottleneck items to help the 72 industries which went into war production to convert to the minimum peace-time production essential to the country.

BIG THREE DELEGATES MEET IN WASHINGTON



Soon after the arrival in Washington of Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, he and other representatives of the Big Three met at the State Department. Pictured are (left to right): British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, and Molotov. This meeting followed the conference between Molotov and President Truman at the White House.

Army Releases To Begin Soon

GI Voice at Frisco



Alfred M. Lilienthal, of New York, will be the only enlisted man in uniform to serve as an official consultant to the American delegation at the San Francisco conference, Lilienthal, who is fifty-one years old, received special authorization to remain in uniform during the conference, returned recently from ten months overseas in the Mediterranean theatre, where he was attached to the Civil Affairs division of the Army. (International)

Hitler House On Mountain Is Blasted

London, April 25.—(AP)—RAF Lancasters today bombed Hitler's chalet at Berchtesgaden in a possible attempt on the fuhrer's life.

The attacks were carried out between 9 a. m. and 10 a. m. by two separate forces of heavy Lancasters with 12,000-pound earthquake bombs and assorted types of explosives.

Both the chalet and heavily-guarded installations on the grounds of the mountain retreat were bombed.

Storm trooper barracks and Hitler's Alpine refuge at the top of Kehlstein mountain, five miles from the chalet, or cottage, were among the targets.

There was no official suggestion that the attack was planned to catch Hitler in his fortress home, but unofficially it was pointed out that "there is always a possibility."

Several German broadcasts have insisted Hitler is staying in Berlin as a martyr to his lost cause, but such reports are discounted in Allied quarters as propaganda.

The use of the six-ton earthquake bombs indicates air chiefs sought to destroy underground installations at Berchtesgaden.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Cloudy and warm, with scattered thunderstorms today and tonight. Thursday partly cloudy and cooler in west.

Men In The Service Longest Will Have First Consideration

Washington, April 25.—(AP)—The army plans to start this summer releasing some men who will have been in service some four to five years.

The release policy, which may preclude any release at all until after June 30, was disclosed in official but publicly-by-ways today. The army yesterday formally announced plans to honor discharge requests of enlisted men 42 and over.

By next month a considerable number of these men's "emergency soldiers" will have spent five years in service. A vigorous recruiting began in May, 1940, and selective service began drafting in November of that year.

The policy of discharging veterans of four and five years service is expected to be extended to include six-year men should German resistance persist.

However, military sources for this forecast added a cautionary note: "Well try to discharge four and five-year-olds out, but some are bound to be re-assigned. Even a unit as small as a battery may have men who will be entitled to release but could not be spared. Some of these veterans are almost certain to be held in excess."

Army draft orders are running at about 100,000 men per month, and are planned at that rate through June. The Navy's call this month is around 32,000, but this will be cut fifty per cent in May and possibly still more in June and thereafter.

In addition to his plan to release enlisted men over 42, the army last night joined with the navy in announcing a joint policy to assign to non-hazardous duty uniformed survivors of families who have lost two or more members in the war."

Cotton Rises Near Close

New York, April 25.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened ten to twenty-five cents a bale higher. Noon prices were five to 20 cents a bale higher.

May 22.66, July 22.63, October 22.04

Pe. Close Open

May 22.85 22.89

July 22.59 22.63

October 22.00 22.04

December 21.91 21.93

March 21.64 21.67

Germans Got His Number!

Kinston, April 25.—Lt. C. W. (Bill) McDewett, of Kinston, attached to an armored division of the Seventh army in Germany, today had written of an incident in which an American soldier barely escaped death from a piece of shrapnel with his number on it.

Lieutenant McDewett said this particularly artilleryman was digging a foxhole when the Germans began shelling the area, and he remarked that he holed none of those shells had his number on it. When the shelling ended the soldier looked around and near his foxhole was a large piece of shrapnel with some figures on it. He picked it up wiped the dust off, and read the number—2741577—which was the artilleryman's army serial number.

Hitler Rail Line Near Hideout Is Bombed From Air

London, April 25.—(AP)—More than 1,000 British-based American bombers bombed one of Hitler's private rail lines only ten miles from Berchtesgaden, and attacked the mammoth Skoda armament works at Tilsen in Czechoslovakia, today.

In addition, the bombers hit the other rail lines in a 25-mile radius of the fuhrer's fortress headquarters.

The attack on the Skoda plant came two hours after slave workers had been warned by an Allied broadcast over the Luxembourg radio to flee to safety in the country.

Jap Flank On Okinawa Now Threatened

Guam, April 25.—(AP)—U. S. seventh division infantrymen, seizing high ground near the village of Iba, today threatened the eastern flank of the strongly fortified Japanese wall on southern Okinawa.

Captures of the elevation was the first marked change in the fiery front since the beginning of the all-out attack on Iba, Friday, when three divisions of Major General John Hodge's 24th army corps gained up to 200 yards.

Since then the fighting has been a slow, bloody and methodical job of gaining the Japanese from caves, blockhouses and pillboxes in their elaborate defense belt, which extends four miles south of the capital city of Naha.

Marines of Major General Roy Geiger's third amphibious corps, who occupy the northern third of Okinawa, with little opposition, landed yesterday on three more off-shore islands, virtually completing the American clean-up of islands around Okinawa.

Unlike the larger islands of Ie and the Keramas, these small islands are worthless as such, but must be occupied to prevent Japanese Okinawa fugitives from reaching them.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz' communique today reported continued heavy landing along the entire front.

Big guns of battleships, cruisers and destroyers poured hundreds of tons of shells into the enemy defenses, sealing off caves and destroyed employment.

Nimitz, after a personal inspection of the island, said the enemy's defenses on southern Okinawa, where the bulk of the Nipponese garrison of 60,000 or more has concentrated, appeared to be "as strong, perhaps stronger than any we have tackled before."

Encircling Of Munich Under Way

Bremen Is Stormed By British; Yanks Reach The Danube

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—The American third army reached the Danube and moved within 82 miles of Berchtesgaden today, while two other armies assailing Hitler's final Alpine redoubt, pressed forward in a great maneuver to encircle Munich, greatest of south German cities.

The British in the north stormed Bremen, while armies in the center awaited a junction with the Russians.

The American seventh and French first armies are exploiting their Danube breakthrough in drives to the Soviet-German borders, with encirclement of Munich shaping up. AP Correspondent Gokary reported from General Jacob Dovers' sixth army group headquarters.

The eagerly expected redoubt in the south perhaps has been invaded already by Dovers' troops, which have outflanked Lake Constance, its western limit.

Encircling Of Munich Under Way

Bremen Is Stormed By British; Yanks Reach The Danube

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—The American third army reached the Danube and moved within 82 miles of Berchtesgaden today, while two other armies assailing Hitler's final Alpine redoubt, pressed forward in a great maneuver to encircle Munich, greatest of south German cities.

The British in the north stormed Bremen, while armies in the center awaited a junction with the Russians.

The American seventh and French first armies are exploiting their Danube breakthrough in drives to the Soviet-German borders, with encirclement of Munich shaping up. AP Correspondent Gokary reported from General Jacob Dovers' sixth army group headquarters.

The eagerly expected redoubt in the south perhaps has been invaded already by Dovers' troops, which have outflanked Lake Constance, its western limit.

The Tiger division of the seventh army captured Oberpfaffenhofen, 67 miles southwest of Munich and 97 from the Bremer Pass into Italy. Other seventh army troops were but 46 miles from Munich—capital of the Nazi party and third largest city in Germany—on the north.

All three armies were rolling with unchecked power through foothills of the Alps through terrain 2,000 or more feet high.

Draft Extension Requires 6 Months Training For Boys

Washington, April 25.—The senate last night passed the selective-service extension act which provides a two-year extension of the draft for boys aged 18 to 21.

The amendment also provides for a two-year extension of the draft for boys aged 18 to 21.

The amendment also provides for a two-year extension of the draft for boys aged 18 to 21.

Earlier, the war department announced that army enlisted men may be discharged upon application. It estimated that about 50,000 are eligible.

Independence Of Philippines Will Be Granted Soon

Washington, April 25.—(AP)—The question of expediting Philippine independence was explored today at a conference between President Truman and Senator Tydings.

"The President already has been studying the problems in quite a bit of detail," Tydings, chairman of the Senate territorial and insular affairs committee, told reporters after a 45-minute conference with Mr. Truman.

"We are working on some matters which ought to improve economic matters in the Philippines as fast as the military situation will permit. I found the President anxious to carry out the law already enacted calling for independence not later than July 4, 1946, and sooner than that if conditions warrant, which I am sure will be the case before that date."

German Vessels Attack Coast Of France's Riviera

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—East German patrol craft attacked the French Riviera last night, launching several torpedoes against the shore. French warships sank two of the craft, the navy ministry said.

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—East German patrol craft attacked the French Riviera last night, launching several torpedoes against the shore. French warships sank two of the craft, the navy ministry said.

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—East German patrol craft attacked the French Riviera last night, launching several torpedoes against the shore. French warships sank two of the craft, the navy ministry said.

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—East German patrol craft attacked the French Riviera last night, launching several torpedoes against the shore. French warships sank two of the craft, the navy ministry said.

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—East German patrol craft attacked the French Riviera last night, launching several torpedoes against the shore. French warships sank two of the craft, the navy ministry said.

Berlin Now Almost Surrounded By Fast Russian Maneuvers

Conference Badge



HERE is the United Nations Conference badge intended for the identification of all connected with the sessions that begin April 25 in San Francisco. Pictured on authority of the U. S. State Department, the badge will be colored in grey and gold on white. Note the cancellation line on the photo. (International)

Reds At The Elbe North Of Dresden; Squeezing Berlin

London, April 25.—(AP)—Soviet troops have reached the Elbe river on a 22-mile front northwest of Dresden, and all but completed encirclement of Berlin, slicing the last escape rail line to the west, the German high command announced today.

Moscow announced Monday that Russians had reached the Elbe Monday northwest of Dresden. At last reports, Americans stood on the Mitte river, east of Leipzig, and 29 miles from the Elbe there.

The heaviest German (communist) and the Russians reached the Elbe Monday northwest of Dresden. At last reports, Americans stood on the Mitte river, east of Leipzig, and 29 miles from the Elbe there.

The first White Russian army cut nine miles southward west of Berlin in Koenig, 14 miles due west of the capital, all but encircling the city, the German communique said.

Complete isolation of the capital was near. The German defenders, young and old, fought stubbornly, and the city, once one of the world's greatest, was reduced to a heap of blasted masonry and ashes.

The first White Russian army, driving from the north, and the first Ukrainian army advancing from the south joined forces yesterday in southeastern Berlin, cutting off large forces of Germans to the southeast, and east of it were captured. This brought the Russians within a mile of the center of the city and the Tiergarten.

The Silesian (Silesian) railway station and all districts north of the city were captured.

French Nation Is Divided On Fate Of Nazi Collaborator

Paris, April 25.—(AP)—A rift in an untroubled nation near Paris was revealed today as Marshal Petain, former head of France, as a proponent of the Vichy government, was accused of treason by the French government.

The semi-official press agency reported Petain and his party crossed the French frontier near Geneva this morning, but a dispatch from Zurich indicated he was still in Switzerland. The Swiss dispatch said he had gone out at 11:30 a. m. for a one-hour stroll on the terrace of the hotel where he was quartered upon his arrival from Germany yesterday.

But almost everyone here, including the police, has been talking over the marshal's return in staid circles.

Petain will be held under heavy guard at the fortress in the Paris suburb. Like any other man accused of a major crime in France, he will be denied any visitors except counsel.

There was every indication that France already had been torn apart by the dramatic arrival at the Swiss frontier yesterday of the aged marshal and his announced intention of returning to France to stand trial.

In the provinces there are countless thousands of persons who still idolize Petain, and for whom even today his vast prestige remains undimmed by the events of the German occupation of France.

With almost unanimous voice, Paris newspapers today demanded death for Petain. The announcement of his arrival in Switzerland and his impending return dominated even the war news. Hardly a phrase was written in his defense, or even in extenuation of his acts. Newspapers bristled with such appellations as "traitor," "monster," "Hitler's valet," and "head of fifth column."

The opinion that the Germans engineered his return in order to create confusion in France and with the hope of placing him at the head of their underground organization was widely expressed.

Le Populaire asserted "his judgment can only be pitiful."

"Combat" declared, "If Petain is acquitted, all those who were executed, tortured and suffered died in vain."

General Douglas MacArthur reported in today's communique that "the enemy has as yet been unable to concentrate his forces in effective resistance." Some 50,000 Japanese troops and thousands of pre-war Japanese settlers are believed to be on Mindanao.

New Philippines-based plane raids hit Japanese shipping and shore installations at Furusao, the Saigon naval base in French Indo-China, Swatow and Hainan, in China, and the Dutch East Indies. Nine Japanese raiders and a number of smaller craft were sunk or damaged.

In the central Philippines, an American division unit under Lt. Col. Louis Franco, of Chicago, cut off Japanese remnants fleeing north from Cebu city by a landing near Danao, nine miles north of Cebu city.

Stocks Lower After Opening

New York, April 25.—(AP)—Stocks opened higher today, but profit-selling, encouraged by the recent sharp advance of many leaders, fell sharply under the previous final. Among leaders which slipped into lower ground were U. S. Steel, Montgomery Ward and New York Central. Continental Banking moved ahead a major fraction. A few utilities were steady.

Stocks Lower After Opening

Stocks Lower After Opening

Stocks Lower After Opening