

Russia Injects Issue On Votes

Third Army Tanks Near Austrian Frontier

Senator Connally In Role Of Spokesman For U. S. Delegation

Becomes Member Of 11-Member Council To Determine Force

San Francisco, April 26.— (AP)—Senator Tom Connally, a Texan who believes in force against outlaws, emerged today as America's spokesman in shaping the powers of the proposed world security council.

On Way to France



France and head of the detente Vichy government, has departed Switzerland from Germany under a Swiss permit to cross that neutral country into France.

Pétain Will Defend His Vichy Acts

Letter Sent Hitler Explains His Plan; Leaves For France

Wessau, Switzerland, April 26.—(AP)—Marshal Pétain left this community in eastern Switzerland today on the last lap of his return trip to France to face charges of high treason, a crime punishable by death.

Tough Battle Is Raging At Baguio City

Manila, April 26.— (AP)—The toughest current battle of the Philippines raged today at Baguio in northern Luzon. Meanwhile, a 16-mile advance by Major General Woodruff's 24th division brought the American drive on Mindanao island nearer its decisive stage.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Considerable cloudiness with occasional showers or thunder-showers this afternoon or early tonight, followed by fair and much cooler late tonight and Friday.

Encircling Of Munich Under Way

British To North Fighting Through Streets Of Bremen

BREMEN FALLS

Paris, April 26.—(AP)—The British second army captured Bremen today, clearing all the great port except the dock area, and Burger park, north of the center of the city.

Arneburg, Germany, April 26.—(AP)—Red army shells are now falling occasionally a mile or two east of the Elbe river in the area of Arneburg, 18 miles northwest of Berlin, where the west bank is held by the U. S. ninth army troops awaiting a junction.

Paris, April 26.—(AP)—Third army tanks rolled down the Danube valley today on the fringe of Hitler's Alpine redoubt to within eleven miles of Austria, and 100 of the junction with Russians west of St. Polten, which would trisect German armies and encircle Czechoslovakia.

The massive third army assault in the south carried within 45 miles of Munich, threatened with wide encirclement, and 72 of the fuhrer's ruined roost at Berchtesgaden.

At Tittling, the eleventh armored division was within eleven miles of Passau, historic Danube gateway to Austria.

The third army, like the French first and American seventh, had crossed the Danube on a wide front.

Some of Lt. Gen. George Patton's struck east into Czechoslovakia, capturing Cheb, where Hitler made his post-Munich trade annexing the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. Cheb, a city of 31,000, is the fifteenth largest in Czechoslovakia.

The third army was in or on the border of that republic along a 60-mile front jutting within 35 of Pilsen and its newly-bombed Skoda munitions works.

The French closed on Munich from the west after destroying the German 19th army. Numerous traps still were being reduced.

In the north, the British second army fought savagely resisting Germans through the stone forests which were Bremen, second port of the Reich. The Canadians closed on the important center of Oldenburg, capital of the duchy of that name.

The threatened outtrapping of Bohemia and Moravia—last unconquered parts of Czechoslovakia—might prove a greater blow than even the German disasters in the Ruhr and in Stalingrad. The area is larger and it contains the last

First Photo of Russian Forces In Berlin



A Soviet tank grinds relentlessly forward through a rain-lined avenue of Berlin in this first picture received by radio from the crumbling Nazi citadel. With more than a third of the capital already in their hands, Red Army fighters were reported battling savagely toward the heart of the city and at the same time continuing their wide-sweeping drives to complete its encirclement. Soviet Radiophoto. (International)

Key Centers In Okinawa Are Seized

Suicidal Japs Are Losing 19 Times As Many Men As Yanks

Guam, April 26.—(AP)—Americans advancing on the southern Okinawa front have seized all immediate key-terrain positions, a tenth army spokesman announced today.

Bitter, sometimes suicidal, resistance cost Japan nearly 19 times as many troops killed as the Yankies lost in ground fighting. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander, said today.

American casualties were 1,146 killed in ground actions, 5,972 wounded, and 296 missing through Sunday. These totals included 439 soldiers killed, 4,789 wounded, and 229 missing; 257 Marines killed, 1,193 wounded and 836 missing.

Doonboys, supported by terrific aerial bombardment and low-level aerial attacks, lunged ahead at snail's pace, making gains on both the central and eastern sectors of the "Little Seagrass line."

heavy industries in German hands. All roads and rails from the Tilsen-Prague area to the Bavarian redoubt were cut except a circuitous route through Linz, as the third army was advancing down the last 52 miles to that Austrian frontier city of 131,000.

In the center there was still no official announcement of a link-up of the American first and ninth armies with the Russians.

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR BURNED HERO



SWATHED IN BANDAGES, S/Sgt. H. E. Erwin of Bessemer, Ala., is patted on the arm by Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, commanding general of the Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Area, after receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor in a hospital in Guam. Erwin was awarded the medal for picking up a burning phosphorus bomb over Tokyo and tossing it out of a B-29 Superfortress. Members of the crew, whose lives he saved, stand at the left. (International Soundphoto)

Red Troops Battle Germans In Center Of Flaming Berlin

City's Encirclement Is Completed; Search For Hitler Is Made

London, April 26.—(AP)—Russian troops have captured the port of Stettin on the Oder estuary. Premier Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

London, April 26.—(AP)—Victorious Red army troops, driving from all sides, battled Germans at the center of flaming Berlin today. Soviet front dispatches said.

"Most of the Red army today are fighting in the heart of the German capital," said a Tass story dated "Berlin."

The dispatches gave no details but probably referred to the vicinity of the Alexanderplatz, the center of the capital's business district. Early broadcasts said the Russians were storming the Alexanderplatz, police and Gestapo headquarters.

Twenty enemy Soviet armies had completed the encirclement of the city, and Russian elements were closing in from the west, to the rear of the hard-pressed defenders.

Continuing to promise reinforcements, Nazi propagandists had not admitted to Berliners that their city was completely ringed.

Pressing close to walls, some German civilians crawled toward the Russian lines, believing they would be safer there than in the cauldron of the encircled area.

Russian storm units were making the conquest of the capital the world's greatest assault, Moscow dispatches said. Fighting over and under the streets, the Russians had been ordered to take Adolf Hitler alive if he still is in the capital, as Nazi propagandists have declared.

The Russians were not too optimistic about finding the fuhrer in Berlin, however. The Moscow radio said German reports of Hitler's presence in Berlin "are lies and have been invented to stimulate a false sense of the capital."

Possibly 500,000 Germans were caught in the capital. The Hamburg radio asserted that Propaganda Minister Paul Josef Goebbels still was in Berlin, and that Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel also was in or near the city.

While the nose around Berlin was being tightened, other Soviet forces surged across the Elba river toward an imminent junction with the Americans.

In the hour glass waist of Hitler's dying Reich, Marshal Ivan Konev's first Ukrainian army swarmed over the historic Elba barrier in a momentous advance that toppled the west bank fortress city of Riesa, 76 miles south of the capital, and 22 miles from the Allied-reported American positions on the Molde river—only 13 miles from Yank bridgeheads as the Molde as reported by the Germans.

MRS. BERGDOLL GRANTED AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

Philadelphia, April 26.—(AP)—German-born Mrs. Grover Cleveland Bergdell, wife of World War I's most publicized draft dodger, was granted American citizenship today by United State District Judge George L.

Controversy Tossed Into Conference

Stalin Sends Word On Molotov Talks Had In Washington

San Francisco, April 26.— (AP)—Russian bids for a world assembly based on "sovereign equality" among nations today goes before the first business session of the United Nations conference.

Word of this plan ended hope of some United States delegates that Russia might not raise the troublesome three-vote issue. Foreign Commissar Molotov notified the chief delegates of the 47 other United Nations here, after yesterday's first meeting, that the proposal would be presented to the organization session of the steering committee, beginning at 10:30 a. m., Pacific war time.

The specific proposal is that the Ukrainian and White Russian republics should get conference seats, and become thereby charter members of the assembly of the proposed world organization.

Two other top developments ushered into the conference into its second day after delegates heard President Truman declare that the world's future is a choice between chaos and the organized enforcement of peace. They were:

1. It was reported that Molotov had received a reply from Marshal Stalin to his report on talks with Secretary of State Stettinius and British Foreign Minister Eden on the big three deadlock over Poland. The reply apparently had not been communicated to other Stettinius or Eden.

2. The sponsoring powers agreed on a conference executive committee of delegates of eleven nations, and that there was speculation that those eleven may form the membership of the organization's all-powerful security council.

Coupled with these developments the delegations of the war's 46 victorious nations faced a crowded schedule, beginning for the Americans with a 9:30 a. m. delegation caucus and running through another full dress meeting in the war memorial opera house during the late afternoon.

This last session of the day will receive the report of the steering committee on organization of the conference.

The program then calls for speaking by Foreign Minister T. V. Soong of China, Molotov and Eden. Afterward, at subsequent sessions, the chief delegate of other nations will speak in the alphabetical order of their countries.

Schwellenbach Is Being Gossiped As Choice In Cabinet

Washington, April 26.—(AP)—A report circulated on Capitol Hill today that former Senator Lewis D. Schwellenbach of Washington may be in line for a cabinet post.

Due here soon for a conference with President Truman, Schwellenbach was mentioned variously as a possible secretary of labor or attorney general.

Fifth Army In Lombardy, North Italy

Rome, April 26.—(AP)—The U. S. fifth army erupted into the Lombardy plain today, overwhelming Parma and Reggio, and threatening to battle up Nazi troops fleeing the industrial area of northwest Italy, where cities were reported falling to a general partisan uprising.

Near the east coast the British eighth army poured across the Po river to strike at the Azige river—30 miles from Venice, where the Germans are digging in for a last ditch fight before the Dolomite Alps.

The last reported positions of the Americans, which burst from the Apennines mountains, were 54 miles from Verona, in the foothill approaches to the Brenner Pass.



NERVOUSLY STROKING his mustache, Gen. Henri Dentz is shown as he listens to his attorney explain a legal point in his defense before a court in Paris, France. Dentz is on trial for treason for having led his troops against the Allied forces in Syria. (International)

ANOTHER REDOUBT CENTER IS BOMBED

London, April 26.—(AP)—Italy-based RAF Liberators struck the German redoubt city of Freilassing last night in an explosive follow-up to the historic bombardment of Hitler's eagle nest refuge at his chalet near Berchtesgaden.

Mussolini In Italy Seeking More Safety

Bern, Switzerland, April 26.—(AP)—Benito Mussolini and the former fascist secretary, Roberto Farinacci, arrived today at the north Italian town of Como, not far from the Swiss frontier.

Despite his disguise, Mussolini was identified by Como inhabitants. Both the fascists are staying in the bomb-wrecked Como monastery.

Mussolini carrier was reported to have fled Milan, which was said to have been taken over by Italian partisans.