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ALLIES 4 MILES BEYOND ROER

DESTROY ALL GERMANS, AIM OF EISENHOWER

One Way to Defeat Hitler —Commander Holds No Hope of Imminent Nazi Collapse—No Cessation.

Paris, Feb. 24—(AP)—Gen. Eisenhower today declared the Germans might fight on—even with small arms after their war plants are lost—until the western allies and Russians meet "in the center of Germany."

The new Allied offensive is aimed at reaching the Rhine and destroying all Germans before that river, he said, and it is progressing satisfactorily.

But the Allied supreme commander made it clear he had no hope of any imminent German collapse, declaring:

Only One Way

"If the German continues to show the spirit he has now, there is only one way he can be beaten—the Allied armies must meet the Russian armies in the center of Germany."

The enemy's loss of Silesia, the Ruhr and the Saar would deprive if of means to carry on organized modern war, Eisenhower added, but even then the Germans might still obtain small arms.

"I expect to destroy every German west of the Rhine and in the area in which we are attacking," he told correspondents.

"There is going to be no cessation of aggressive action anywhere on the western front.

"Given a continuation of conditions as we see them now and a reasonable break in the weather—and I am not asking for July Kansas weather—the attacks we are seeing now should mark the beginning of the destruction of German forces west of the Rhine.")

Progress Satisfactory

Answering a question on coordination of the eastern and western fronts, the Allied supreme commander declared "our liaison always has been as close and intimate as was necessary to meet the situation at any particular moment.

"The Russians have always furnished me all the information I needed to have, and have done it willingly and cheerfully," he added.

Eisenhower declared progress of the new American First and Ninth armies offensive was "certainly satisfactory," and that he did not expect U. S. casualties to be as high as in the late fall and winter battles on the same front.

Lt.-Gen. William H. Simpson's U. S. Ninth army is under command of Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery for the present for reasons of purely operational coordination, he added.

LARGEST B-29 FORCE IN RAID

Iwo Jima 'Worse Than The Worst'

Somewhere in the Marianas, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—(Via Navy Radio)—A shipload of more than 600 battle-worn marines arrived today for hospitalization. They were the first battle casualties to be evacuated from Iwo Jima.

Unloading of the wounded was delayed several hours when a hospital ship rammed an obstruction while nearing a dock. About two thirds of the men were on stretchers.

Veterans of the Bougainville, Guadalcanal, and Saipan invasions among the wounded said the Iwo battlefield was "worse than the worst of them."

CLEAR LAST OF JAP GARRISON IN INTRAMUROS

Manila, Feb. 24—(AP)—Three regiments of 37th division infantrymen fought from building to building inside the ancient Intramuros today, clearing the last Japanese from Manila amid tragic scenes of Nipponese brutality.

Fierce fighting in this closing phase of the three-weeks battle for the Philippine capital was announced by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who also disclosed American troops had invaded a second small island, Biri, to complete control of San Bernardino straits between Luzon and Samar.

Many Dead

Half-starved, bayoneted, beaten and raped civilians, held by the doomed Japanese garrison inside the centuries-old Intramuros during the two-week American siege, were treated at field hospitals, but many non-combatant dead remained among the rubble.

The Japanese commander of the old walled city had not replied to an American offer that he and his men would be permitted honorable surrender if the civilians, held as virtual hostages, were released.

The enemy appeared determined to fight and die there.

Three days of shelling the 20-foot-thick northeast wall came to a thundering climax early yesterday. In one hour 7,000 shells thudded into the medieval masonry.

Small Cost

The Intramuros was successfully stormed, and at small cost to the Yanks, Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, the 37th division commander, figured it would take two or three days more to clean out the estimated 1,500 Japanese.

Invasion Thursday of little Biri island, at the eastern end of San Bernardino strait, came just a day after other Yanks landed on Capul island, at the western end. Only light opposition was encountered on both.

MacArthur said the latest seizure completed American control of the straits through which supplies may flow to Manila from the United

REDS ATTEMPT CROSSINGS AT RIVER LINES

Fierce Tank Battle Rages Near Goerlitz—Germans Say Konev Repulsed—Poznan Captured.

London, Feb. 24—(AP)—Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army engaged the Germans in a large-scale tank battle today in the no man's land region of Goerlitz southeast of Berlin as the Russians assaulted in force the enemy's Neisse and Spree river lines.

Russian attempts to establish bridgeheads on the west bank of the Neisse were beaten back, the German communique said. A Moscow dispatch declared that Konev's troops were bucking a defense system some eight to 12 miles deep in trenches and anti-tank ditches.

While Soviet dispatches did not put Konev's troops far beyond the Neisse it seemed they might be holding several salients well on the Berlin side.

Say Reds Repulsed

The German war bulletin said the Russians were thrown back to the north at Goldberg, 13 miles southwest of Liegnitz and 36 miles due west of the by-passed and surrounded Nazi stronghold of Breslau. Konev's assault troops have broken into the southern defenses of Breslau, and have rolled the Germans back in the direction of Hirschberg in the Katzbach mountains on the road to Prague.

To the north Konev's tanks and tommygunners surged into the streets of Guben and Forst, 51 and 57 miles southeast of Berlin, against German veterans and volkssturm units. Associated Press correspondent Eddy Gilmore said in a Moscow dispatch that both cities "seemed in immediate danger of being cut off from communications.

Capture Poznan

Reported heavy fighting in East Prussia, the Germans said a Soviet attack failed north of Mehlsack and Zinten, both south of encircled Koenigsberg.

Clearing their supply lines along the direct-line route to Berlin, Russian troops wiped out the last German resistance in long-encircled Poznan and Arnswalde.

The capture of Poznan shortened by some 50 miles the First White Russian army's communications with the rear.

(The Paris radio, which sometimes is unreliable, said today that the Germans had evacuated the besieged East Prussian capital of Koenigsberg, abandoning the civilian population "to its fate," and that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian troops had crossed the Oder river in force. Last German reports insisted Koenigsberg still was in their hand despite a Russian breach just south of the city.)

Take 23,000 Nazis

Poznan, Posen), Nazi stronghold in western Poland which was by-

HITLER ASKS FOR SUICIDE FIGHT IN MUNICH SPEECH

London, Feb. 24—(AP)—Adolf Hitler called on Germany today for a suicide fight and warned that "whoever is weak falls and must perish."

Hitler sent this message to a Munich celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the formation of his national socialist program, the Berlin radio said. He made no personal appearance, pleading pressure of affairs.

He told the party old guard:

"The very last ounce of strength must be thrown into the battle with utmost fanaticism and stubborn steadfastness. The message said this was the "only answer" to the mighty Allied blows from the east and west.

Hitler described Germany as an "unshakable community of people" and predicted an "historical turning point" in the war would come this year. He was vague on this subject and offered no prospect of any immediate change in Germany's fortunes.

News Flashes

Aboard Admiral Turner's Flagships off Iwo Jima, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—The Japanese on Iwo are using half-ton rocket-mortar shells for the first time in the Pacific war. Marines believed they were launched by rocket-mortar propulsion from platforms on northern Iwo.

Chicago, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—The state senate committee to investigate black market practices in Pullman reservations voted today to include all major railroad lines operating out of Chicago in its probe.

Perry, Ia., Feb. 24—(AP)—C. E. Whitehead, editor and publisher of the Perry Daily Chief and president of the Iowa Press association, has accepted an invitation to visit England and the western front and said today he planned to leave in April for six to eight weeks overseas.

Des Moines, Feb. 24—(AP)—Iowa law enforcement officers will be given an opportunity to take a course of instruction in fingerprinting during March, E. E. Kuhnel, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Iowa, announced today.

Dallas, Tex., Feb. 24—(U.P.)—A "crusade" against the CIO and its political action committee was promised today by the American veterans of World War II, newest organization of servicemen.

Detroit, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—Production of B-29 parts, rockets, guns, tanks and trucks was paralyzed today at the Chrysler corporation's Dodge main plant as 8,900 of 9,400 first-shift workers continued a strike started yesterday.

Mexico City, Feb. 24—(AP)—Cuba

MARINES OPEN UP ATTACK ON IWO AIRFIELD

Hold Southern Tip of Runway—Resistance Is Terrific—Beach Supplies Growing.

Guam, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—Tank-led U. S. marines renewed the assault on Iwo's air field from a springboard on its lower edge today and at noon were hammering out slow gains against violent resistance.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced that the marines charged Japanese positions on the Iwo's airfield from a line on the southwestern rim of the base and south of its center.

With tank support the marines struck this morning after American planes, artillery, and warships had plastered the field with a great weight of explosives.

Enter Crater

"By noon our forces were reported to be gaining ground slowly," Nimitz said in a communique. "Enemy resistance is heavy."

On the southern tip of Iwo, patrols entered the crater of the extinct Suribachi volcano, atop which the Stars and Stripes flew, and were mopping up remnants of the Japanese forces defending the natural fortress.

"Conditions on the beaches are generally improved, and the unloading of general cargo is proceeding," the communique reported.

Casualties mounted steadily on both sides in the bloodiest fighting of the Pacific war. While American losses have not been announced beyond 5,372 casualties for the first 58 hours of the six-day battle, the finding of another 717 Japanese bodies jumped the number of enemy dead to at least 1,939.

Say Ships Sunk

(A Japanese broadcast claimed that American losses on Iwo were "well over 17,000" up to Friday night. Eight more American warships, including two battleships, have been sunk or damaged off the island, Tokyo said.)

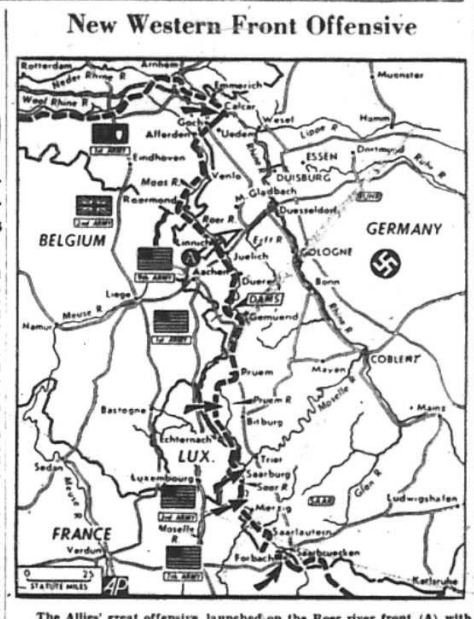
Elements of the Third marine division fought onto the 300-foot-high central plateau yesterday and has advanced 50 yards along the southern tip of the southwest-northeast runway of Motoyama airfield No. 2 by dusk.

The Fourth and Fifth marine divisions still were attempting to clamber up the slopes of the plateau from the east and west under almost pointblank artillery, machine-gun and rocket fire from an intricate system of pillboxes, blockhouses and fortified caves.

717 Enemy Dead

The Fifth marine division on the western slopes had made virtually no progress for 66 hours through noon Friday, but the Fourth marine division on the east pushed ahead 300 yards to within 350 yards of the east-west runway of the central airfield.

New Western Front Offensive



The Allies' great offensive, launched on the Roer river front (A) with crossings of the river on both sides of Linnich rolled forward as deep as 4 miles beyond the Roer to within 19 miles of Cologne on the Rhine. White arrow indicates main push of Gen. Eisenhower's grand-scale offensive to wipe out the Germans in the north. Black arrows show assaults of other armies on the western front in the big push. (AP Wirephoto)

Daring Rescue Made Of 2,146 Civilian Prisoners On Luzon

Manila, Feb. 24—(AP)—Striking with quick precision from the sky, by land and over water deep into enemy territory at dawn yesterday, American troops and Filipino guerrillas brought relief and freedom to 2,146 Allied and co-belligerent captives in the civilian internment camp at Los Banos, 30 miles south of Manila.

In writing the fourth heroic act in the drama of liberation in the Philippines, 1,500 men of the 11th airborne division and American-led Filipinos slew the Japanese camp guard to the last man and within a matter of hours carried to safety 1,589 Americans, 329 Britons, 56 Canadians, 33 Australians, 89 Dutch, 22 Poles, 10 Norwegians, 16 Italians, 1 Frenchman and 1 Nicaraguan.

Only two of the captives were wounded in the brief battle at the camp and in the running fight with snipers which followed. Two of the rescuing force were killed and two wounded.

The attack was opened when the paratroopers under the command of Col. Robert H. Soule dropped directly on the camp, surprising the Japanese garrison at its morning calisthenics. At the same time, the guerrilla forces which had quietly infiltrated the area surrounding the camp for several days, attacked by land.

By the time the Japanese commander, his staff and 243 guards had been killed, amphibious troops reached the nearby beaches of Laguna De Bay and began evacuating the internees in Amtracks.

Stronger Condition

OVER 1,600 YANK WARPLANES BLAST GERMAN TARGETS

London, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—More than 1,600 American warplanes bombed oil, rail, and shipping targets across a wide area of northwestern Germany today.

The big fleet, numbering more than 1,100 Flying Fortresses and Liberators and about 500 escorting

BATTERED FOE UNABLE TO PUT UP OPPOSITION

Yanks Within 19 Miles of Cologne—Big Test Lies Ahead—Say 300,000 Men On Attack Front.

Paris, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—American tanks and doughboys advanced two to five miles through a 22-mile breach in the Roer river line today in an unchecked offensive.

Paris, Feb. 24—(U.P.)—American armored and infantry divisions hammered the Germans back four miles or more from their broken Roer river line and drove forward unchecked today in an attempt to destroy the remaining Nazi military power west of the Rhine.

Vanguards of the American First and Ninth armies were reported less than 19 miles from the Rhineland and industrial city of Cologne at mid-day today and still meeting only moderate to light opposition from shell-shocked Nazi front line troops.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a soberly confident statement at his headquarters revealing that the battle was going as well as could be expected.

Through First Crust

The Yanks already were through the first hard crust of German resistance along the Roer and were moving ahead on a 22-mile front at a steady, unsuspecting pace.

More than a dozen German towns and villages already were in American hands, along with 1,200-odd Nazi captives, and Yank casualties thus far were described as unexpectedly light.

But just ahead of the Rhine-bound Americans lay a formidable ridge along which the Germans were expected to make their first real stand. And behind it lay hundreds of tiny crossroad villages and larger towns that by all odds had been converted into a bristling network of fortifications.

Major Test

The first major test of the American offensive was expected to come at the ridge a few miles east of the First and Ninth army spearheads, although there was some doubt whether the Nazis could move their reserves in over the shattered Rhineland railway system in time to make a determined fight there.

Eisenhower held out the prospect that the powerful German forces west of the Rhine could be isolated and destroyed there, opening the way for an Allied sweep across the river into Germany.

Once in the heart of the Reich, the Anglo-American-French armies could link up th Red army for the final destruction of the rest of Hitler's armed forces.

Birkesdorf, a mile northwest of embattled Dueren, was the latest Nazi strongpoint along the Roer line to fall to the Americans today.

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PATTON STORMS BY FRANKFURT

TOKYO REPORTS YANK LANDING IN OKINAWAS

Says Americans Storming Two or Three Islands 380 Miles From Japan—Terrific Bombardment.

Guam, March 26—(U.P.)—Tokyo said today that 2,000 American invasion troops were storming two and perhaps three tiny islands in the Okinawa group in a major amphibious leap toward Japan proper, only 380 miles to the northeast.

Thirteen aircraft carriers, 11 battleships, 10 cruisers, 32 destroyers and other smaller craft were supporting the invasion with a terrific air and naval bombardment that began Friday, Japanese broadcasts said.

"Stiff Resistance"

The troops "attempted" to land from 100 invasion barges on Tokoshika and Aka, four and five miles respectively west of the southern end of the air-naval base island of Okinawa itself at 7:30 a. m. (Tokyo time) Sunday, Tokyo said.

One broadcast said invasion barges also approached Zamami, just northwest of Tokoshika.

Though not saying specifically that the Americans had succeeded in landing on Tokoshika and Aka, Tokyo reported that "our garrison units are now intercepting enemy forces . . . which attempted a landing."

Another broadcast said the garrisons were offering "stiff resistance."

There was no official confirmation of the landings available at Pacific fleet headquarters, but one and possibly two task forces of the Pacific fleet were known to be in the Okinawa area.

Confirm Bombardment

Headquarters did confirm that battleships, other warships and carrier planes Friday and Saturday had bombarded Kerama Retto—which includes Tokoshika, Aka and Zamami—along with Okinawa and other islands in the Ryukyu chain stretching down from the southern tip of Japan to Formosa.

A landing in the Okinawa group would put American ground forces nearly twice as close to the Japanese homeland as the marines on newly-captured Iwo, 695 miles south of Japan. However, Iwo lies only 750 miles south of Tokyo, whereas Tokoshika is nearly 1,000 miles south of Tokyo, whereas Tokoshika is nearly 1,000 miles away.

The Okinawa group is less than 400 miles from the China coast at a point south of Shanghai.

Japanese reports of landing operations in the Okinawa group followed announcements at Guam of the sinking of eight Japanese ships in the northern Ryukyus Saturday and the wrecking of six industries in a Superfortress raid on Nagoya in

Russians Launch Fourth Offensive At South Germany

Berlin Announces New Drive—Moscow Reports German Divisions Shifted From Italy and Western Front to Bolster Vienna Defenses—Red Forces Advance to Within 36 Miles of Austria Border.

London, March 26—(AP)—A fourth Russian offensive has been launched toward Germany's southern mountain redoubt, Berlin announced today, and Moscow dispatches said the enemy had shifted divisions from Italy and the sagging western front to defend Vienna against a not distant attack.

The two Russia narmies already had overrun four-fifths of Hungary below the Danube and their spearhead was within 36 miles of the Austrian border and 77 miles southeast of Vienna.

Berlin broadcasts said a new assault had been sprung north of the Danube in Slovakia, while Marshal Ivan Konev's First Ukrainian army group continued to grind through the Moravian mountains north of Vienna.

The newest attack, described in Berlin as an "all-out offensive" was started on the lower reaches of the Hron river in Slovakia at 4 a. m. yesterday, a German broadcast said, and a bridgehead over the Hron was gained at Leva, 50 miles northwest of Budapest and 37 miles northeast of Komarom, the Danube river key to Bratislava.

Marshal Feodor Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army and Marshal Rodion Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian army, pushing up the Danube on the south side of that gateway, had left the Vertes mountains and Bakony forest behind them, and were rapidly outflanking Komarom.

Geramans Fall Back

Severely mauled, the Germans fell back into a well-fortified triangle formed by the cities of Gyor (Raab), Sopron (Odenburg) and Szombathely (Steinamanger), the last big cities of western Hungary.

This area is crisscrossed by the already swollen Marcal, Raba, Csorna and Guens rivers, however, and Moscow dispatches said all signs pointed to the most stubborn opposition despite German losses of 1,000 tanks and 83,000 prisoners in the last few days. Vienna probably will be defended as stoutly as Berlin, Moscow said.

In this area between Lake Balaton and Lake Neusiedler, just inside Austria, the Russians were battering ahead only six miles south of Komarom, 20 miles northeast of Gyor.

They were fighting further west about 15 miles from Gyor.

To the southwest they were four miles outside Papa, 25 miles south of Gyor and 40 miles east of Szombathely.

No Confirmation

Sopron, in a tip of Hungary southwest of Lake Neusiedler, is the westernmost point of the German triangle and it was about 50 miles from the Russian columns.

Tolbukhin and Malinovsky had effected a junction in the neigh-

HIGHER PRICES SOLUTION FOR BLACK MARKET

Washington, March 26—(AP)—Higher meat prices for consumers were projected at a senate food investigation today as a means of breaking the black market and providing distribution of available supplies.

Wilbur La Roe, Jr., counsel for the National Independent Meat Packers association told of losses he said packers have suffered for months on their operations. Senator Ellender (D-La) commented:

"The only solution as I understand your argument would be to raise the price to the consuming public."

"No, you can increase the subsidy," interjected Senator Aiken (R-Vt).

Doesn't Know

"Is there any way to break the black market except by getting a fair price for producers, processors and dealers?" asked Senator Shipstead (R-Minn).

"I don't know of any," La Roe replied.

Senator Lucas (D-Ill) pressed for a suggestion as to what congress should do in the present meat situation after La Roe testified that packers, under OPA regulations, have lost money for two years on beef operations, have avoided bankruptcy only by profits on hogs, and since Auugst have been losing on hogs.

He hoped, La Roe replied, that

THIRD ARMY LEADS IN PRISONER TOLL

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army took first place today among all the nine allied armies on the western front in the capture of prisoners, building its total to 301,478.

The Third went to the head of Gen. Eisenhower's class over the First army, in combat two months longer, which seized 299,916 Germans on the western front. All armies on the western front have announced the capture of at least 1,169,947 prisoners, more than 40,000 of them yesterday.

Latest figures announced showed the Ninth army with 94,645 and the Seventh army with 113,096—counting only 15,000 of the Germans captured in the Palatinate and Saarland.

The French First army has taken 85,941, the Canadian First army 143,614, the British Second 107,847, the Allied First airborne 3,500 and the FFI 20,010. The American 15th army has not yet reported.

NEW MANPOWER BILL AGAINST OPPOSITION

Washington, March 26—(AP)—The compromise manpower bill under which war mobilizer Byrnes could freeze workers to essential jobs headed into further senate opposition today.

Senator O'Mahoney (D-Wyo) declined as a senate conferee to sign the measure agreed upon by a senate and house group and said he could not support the compromise when it reaches the senate floor. Little opposition was expected in the house, where it will come up tomorrow.

Two Fail to Sign

Chairman Thomas (D-Utah) of the senate military committee said he did not know whether the senate and house group and said he said all of the conferees signed the conference report except O'Mahoney and Rep. Short (D-Mo).

O'Mahoney told reporters:

"This is a tremendously dangerous bill. It's worse than either the house (work or jail) or the senate (voluntary) bill.

Very Strong Bill

"It's true that it does not contemplate the labor draft of men 18 to 45 as provided in the house, but it gives the broadest possible powers to the director of war mobilization to control men, women and children in war plants who have been patriotically turning out war production that has been amazing."

Under questioning by newsmen, Thomas said it was "a very strong bill" which delegated tremendous powers to Byrnes.

The only appeal, he said, is "through the courts" and "that it

GERMANS ARE PLUNGED INTO DEEP DESPAIR

Allied Drive Stirs Wave of Defeatism—Too Early for Collapse—Food May Be Key to Uprising.

London, March 26—(AP)—Gen Eisenhower's great Rhine offensive has plunged the German people into the deepest gloom, dispatches from neutral European capitals said today, but there seemed general agreement that it still is too early for a complete collapse of the German home front.

Advices from Bern said the comparative ease with which the Allied armies swept across the Rhine started the greatest wave of defeatism and despair yet recorded in Germany.

These dispatches emphasized, however, that even though the German people apparently have lost all hope, their fear of the gestapo still is so great that any immediate uprising to oust the Nazis and bring a quick peace seems unlikely.

Revolution Improbable

Similar views were expressed by Christer Jaederlung, veteran Swedish newspaper correspondent who has just returned to Stockholm from Berlin.

Jaederlund indicated the German people were dispirited and heartily sick of the war, but added:

"Revolution from below still looks highly improbable in Germany unless starvation drives the people into the streets or a beaten army flocks back in a state of disintegration.

"The first signs of a real collapse of the Nazi food system will cause more panic in the Reich than the worst military defeat. . . The Germans now associate the duration of the war with the food supply."

There were some hints that the first real break on the German home front—when it comes—may develop in Austria. Swiss frontier reports said opposition to the Nazis appeared to be increasing in Austria and that leaflets had been secretly circulated in Vienna anti-Nazi demonstrations.

Predict Northern Drive

These reports asserted that 90,000 Austrians had fled into the hills to avoid conscription for the volkssturm (people's army).

The Nazi press, meanwhile, apparently was trying to prepare the German people for further reverses. German broadcasts last night quoted the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung as saying that Eisenhower's offensive had shifted the "center of gravity of the war to the west."

The paper warned that "it would be senseless to shut one's eyes to the significance of the successes achieved by the Americans in the last few days," but tried to bolster home morale by asserting that the

Allied Armies Move Forward

Solid arrows locate Allied drives on the east bank of the Rhine river in three main sectors. Already across the Rhine at seven different places the U. S. Third army threw another bridgehead over the river at an undisclosed point, reported by Germans to be near Boppard below Coblenz (broken arrow). Leading the dash of Allied armies into the heart of Germany is the Third army at last reports besieging Frankfurt. (AP Wirephoto)

News Flashes

Athens, March 26—(AP)—A British staff officer said today that British and Greek forces had occupied all sections of Greece and installed Greek civil authority throughout the country.

Washington, March 26—(AP)—The State department said today it had learned that 27 American citizens, who were deported by the Germans from occupied areas of Europe, had disappeared.

Washington, March 26—(AP)—A $237,392,550 appropriation bill, most of it for veterans' pensions, won unanimous house approval today and was sent to the senate.

Washington, March 26—(U.P.)—The Supreme court agreed today to consider a complaint by Gov. Ellis Arnall of Georgia charging 20 railroads with a conspiracy to maintain freight rates "discriminatory" to the south.

Washington, March 26—(AP)—The ODT reported today that 50 passenger trains have been discontinued

THIRD ARMY TANKS OVER MAIN RIVER

Allies Push Ahead On All Points East of Rhine—U. S. First Army Gains 19 Miles in Drive.

London, March 26—(U.P.)—Unconfirmed reports reaching London today said the American Third army was approaching Wuerzburg, 60 miles southeast of Frankfurt and 228 miles southwest of Berlin.

Paris, March 26—(AP)—The Third army besiege Frankfurt on the Main today and sent its tanks crashing across the Main at Aschaffenburg into the plains of central Germany, a bare 250 miles from Russian lines.

One unconfirmed report said Frankfort had been entered. The last "dimmed out" battle accounts hours before had placed Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's mighty shock troops six miles away. The city's radio went dead last night.

The Fourth armored division again had burst loose 40 miles beyond the Rhine in a sweep so swift that the Germans were caught without time to blow the Aschaffenburg bridge, 22 miles southeast of Frankfurt. The "breakthrough" division's coup was so complete that Frankfurt was hopelessly outflanked. Frankfurt, a city of 547,000, is the ninth largest in Germany and one of the Reich's greatest railroad centers.

Pushes 19 Miles

The First army also broke from its original Rhine bridgehead at Remagen and pushed 19 miles east of the shattered river line.

The U. S. Ninth and British Second armies in the north of the Ruhr were ten miles past the river on a solid 31-mile front and battle dispatches said a general breakout there was expected momentarily.

"The decisive fighting of the whole war is now unequivocally under way in the west," a German military spokesman said by radio from Berlin, 235 miles from vanguards of Patton's army.

The Ninth army fought in the northeast suburbs of Duisburg, vast inland port of 431,00, and within ten miles of rubble-piled Essen, where the sprawling Krupp works have been rebuilt seven times after bombers' calls.

Another Crossing

The Germans reported fighting outside the Baden capital of Karlsruhe, suggesting yet another crossing by the Seventh army, which had cleared the Palatinate and routed the last Germans west of the Rhine between Switzerland and Holland.

The whole western front was becoming fluid as Gen. Eisenhower's offensive turned into powerful floodtide. The humblest infantryman sensed complete victory over Germany, because the Russians also were pushing in from the east in massive power.

UNDERGROUND SAYS NAZI COMMANDER WOUNDED BY BOMB

London, March 26—(AP)—A German underground report today said Field Marshal Walther von Model, commander of the northern group of armies on the western front, had been wounded by a bomb.

The report said von Model's injury necessitated the quick switch of Marshal Albert Kesselring from Italy to take charge of the western front when von Rundstedt was removed.

Coupled with this report was another which said sharp differences between various air force chiefs and the Nazi high command had culminated in the removal of an air force marshal and two generals. These were reported to be Field Marshal Baron Wolfram von Richthofen, cousin of the famous world war ace, who had been in charge of German air force armament; Maj. Gen. Deichmann, air force chief in Italy, and Lt. Gen. Fiellig, air force chief in the Balkans and Hungary.

A similar report concerning von

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