

BERLIN BATTLE IN 'FULL FURY'

Nazis Report Russians Break Into Kustrin; Hitler Visits Front.

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The Oder river behind Kustrin, 38 miles east of Berlin, was storming the burning fortress city from "all sides"—an indication that Kustrin has been encircled.

The forces which attacked from the rear broke into the west-bank portion of Kustrin, Berlin said, but the main assault came from the northwest on the opposite side of the big bend of the Oder.

The German defenders repulsed 17 Soviet-thrusts from the northwest, the German DNB agency's Ernst von Hammer said. On their 18th try, powerful Russian infantry and tank forces broke into the streets of the city, he said.

Tells of Nazi Reserves

Fresh German reserves rushed up and forced the Soviet "remnants" back into the "interior of the town," Von Hammer said.

The wording of the broadcast indicated that the Russians at one time may have held almost all of Kustrin and even at present were in the center of the city.

Other Soviet forces were in northeastern Kustrin, Von Hammer said. Numerous planes were said to be supporting the Red army attacks.

Though Nazi broadcasts remained silent on developments elsewhere along the Berlin front, Moscow's report that the whole Oder-Neisse line was "flame" pointed to attacks all the way from Stettin to the Sudenten foothills.

Aimed Squarely at Berlin

The main thrust obviously was being aimed at Berlin from the Kustrin and Frankfurt areas areas lie east of the capital. But the flanking drives toward Stettin in the north and Dresden in the south may prove equally decisive in the final accounting.

Nazi reports yesterday said the Russians had driven west to Seelow, 10 miles beyond the Oder and only 26 miles east of Berlin, only to be thrown back seven miles to Rathstock, three miles west of the Oder.

Moscow dispatches said the 1st and 2d White Russian armies have seized roughly, two-thirds of Germany's Baltic coast east of Stettin and mopped up nine-tenths of German Pomerania.

Soviet bombers were reported pulverizing river crossings in the Stettin area in conjunction with Red army artillery on an around-the-clock basis.

(A Paris broadcast said Soviet troops had "occupied the airfield of Stettin and have reached the edge of the city." The broadcast was reported by the FCC.)

THEY THREW AWAY THE BOOK OF RULES'

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beyond, and expand the bridgehead.

This, at least, is the way the amazing "story is pieced" together from those stirring front line dispatches.

That the enemy is now wheeling into position for counter-attack as soon as possible must be taken for granted.

That he will fight as he never has fought before must be expected. For the heart of Germany can be pierced from that bridgehead east of the Rhine, and it is now or never for Hitler's crack legions.

But at the beginning of this mighty battle, American daring has won the initial advantage—a momentous advantage, which might have cost months of bloody sacrifice.

And thanks to the heroism of our Canadian and British allies in the north, Patton's break-through around Coblenz, and the Americans and French in the French in the south—all covered by a victorious air force—Eisenhower's whole line moves.

A proud and grateful America salutes the gallant allied armies.

CAPITAL BANS MAGAZINE

WASHINGTON, March 9 (U.P.)—The March 20 issue of Look magazine has been banned from all newsstands in Washington because of three pictures of almost nude women.

Anything Could Happen in War's New, Dramatic Turn

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presence of large numbers of inexperienced replacements among the Nazi prisoners now falling into allied hands.

Since the current offensive across the Roer started in the west, the Germans have lost close to 75,000 prisoners of war alone. The take-on Wednesday was between 8000 and 9000 prisoners. Since the first of February the Germans have lost about 150,000 prisoners of war on the Western front.

And it is doubted here that the Nazis have enough men to make a prolonged stand along the Rhine against the pile driver that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has prepared.

Whittle Enemy Reserves

The heavy fighting on both Eastern and Western fronts, plus steady bombardment of German communications and resources from the air is believed to have eaten away virtually all of Germany's trained reserves.

This has been evidenced by the

Defense Lawyers Object to Jury Visiting Murder Scene

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would carry the case into next week. Whether Attorneys Lewis and Bege will call the defendant to the stand to testify in his own defense still was a closely-guarded secret.

Detective Krauss told of his interviews with Mrs. Wiedenhoff, who was seriously beaten. He said she selected the photograph of DeGraffenreid from a number of "rogue's gallery" pictures.

The defense has fought unsuccessfully to prevent introduction of circumstantial evidence such as a lug wrench and a 32-caliber revolver admitted yesterday by Judge Bain.

The detective also testified that the defendant's left ankle was swollen at the time of questioning at police headquarters. Sgt. Davis said he first talked to DeGraffenreid last July 29, shortly after his arrest on a vagrancy charge. Later he was placed in a police lineup and identified by Mrs. Wiedenhoff, the detective said.

The defense dwelt upon the fact that DeGraffenreid was the only Negro in the lineup. Deputy Prosecutor Frank X. Haupt countered by establishing that several white men in the lineup were as dark as the defendant.

Defense attorneys have indicated several days may be needed to prepare evidence of their witnesses. It

GAS CO. TO BUILD NEW COKE OVENS

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supply low B. T. U. gas for underfiring the new battery and the 1941 battery, both of which are built to utilize low B. T. U. gas. A producer plant utilizes the small sizes of coke and produces a low-heat value gas, suitable for coke oven underfiring by a constant circulation of air and steam through a burning fuel bed.

The improvements are the latest in the utility's long-range plan developed after the privately-owned gas company was taken over by the city in 1935. In March, 1941, the 12 million cubic feet holder was built at the Langsdale plant on Northwestern Ave in the northwest section of the city, and in October of that year a new battery of ovens was built at Prospect.

As a result, the utility has been able to meet war demands. Compared with 1935, the 1944 figures show industrial gas consumption is up 600 per cent, the number of domestic consumers (reaching 108,621 meters in service) is up 40 per cent and domestic gas consumption has increased 82 per cent. Total gas consumption in 1944 was 140 per cent higher than in 1935.

In School Play

John Soucie Max Moore

Pat Bauder will play the title role in "Janie," to be given by the dramatic club of Ben Davis high school tonight in the school auditorium.

Others cast in the three-act comedy are John Soucie, Mary Ann Hittle, Phyllis Sockley, Bob Kellens, Bill Merrick, Mary Ann Risley, Betty Jane Scott, Max Moore, June Thorpe, Ernest Grossdider, Jane Bauder, Ralph Swift, David Grossdider, Melvin Cook, Donna Lunt, Delbert Binkley, Bill Kellens, Bob Risley and Roy Matlock.

Managers are Myrna Lewis, Marilyn Grimes and Dale Haley. The production will be directed by Mrs. Elsie Ball.

During intermissions, the high school band, led by Mrs. Omar Rybolt, will play "Rose-Marie," "One Kiss," "Body and Soul," and "The Mounties."

STOLEN SAFE DROPS FROM FLEEING AUTO

Burglars "fumbled the ball" last night in an attempt to steal a safe from the office of the Stark-Wetzel Meat Packing Co., 725 Gardner Ave. As night watchman Theodore Lewis, 712 N. Alabama, approached a parked car at the firm's loading dock, it was driven away at high speed, an 800-pound safe dropping from the rear of the car.

Further investigation revealed that the company's office had been entered and ransacked, but nothing other than the recovered safe taken.

FLOOD DANGER SIGNS LOWERED

Southern Indiana Cheered By Clearing Skies at Critical Hour.

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ocket city were inundated last night, with the Ohio river crest expected Sunday barring more heavy rains.

State board of health workers supervised water treatment along the swollen Ohio. Water was shipped into Aurora, Canfield and Leavenworth. Joseph L. Quinn, state sanitary engineer, said 300 typhoid vaccines were on hand if the disease sprung up.

War Prisoners Aiding

Meanwhile, six state guard companies were mobilized and on active duty in threatened areas. German war prisoners were working on levees at Jeffersonville. Camp Atterbury sent extensive shipments of gots and bedding to stricken areas.

Cities along the lower Ohio worked furiously to combat crests that were expected to reach their peak today.

Only Cincinnati and Covington, Ky., across the river, were considered immune. The river flattened

where the water climbed to 64.93, only .07 feet short of the level at which army engineers said they could hold back the waters straining against the sandbagged floodwall.

Cargo planes from Indianapolis' Stout field dropped 25,000 empty sandbags into the city with bombing precision for erection of a temporary dike, and Mayor John Salter said the next few hours would be the crucial ones in determining the city's fate.

War production was resumed today in the upper Ohio river valley as floodwaters receded to near-normal stages.

Mines began operations in the eastern Ohio area after a two-day shutdown and at Pittsburgh workers returned to their jobs in the city's factories and steel mills.

Late reports indicated that the waters were rising slowly along some 600 miles of the river's length in Kentucky from the "elbow" at Cattlettsburg, to Paducah, at the other end of the state.

Ten Listed as Dead

At least 10 known dead were counted in a six-state area.

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On to Berlin

By UNITED PRESS

The nearest distance to Berlin from advanced allied lines today:

EASTERN FRONT—27 miles (from Seelow, by German report).

WESTERN FRONT—328 miles (from Linz, by German report).

ITALY—530 miles (from north of Ravenna).

out as it hit the broader channel in that area, and weather officials reported a one-half-foot fall from yesterday's 69.2-foot peak.

At Louisville, the river rose slowly toward a 48-foot level. During the night the water hit the 47.1 foot mark, only 10 feet below the high mark in the 1937 disaster.

Mayor Wilson Wyatt told Louisville residents last night that the situation was well in hand, however.

He said some 1200 persons had been evacuated to the city's five refugee centers and were being fed and cared for.

Across the river at Jeffersonville, Ind., police reported progress in their efforts to hold back the river.

Some 350 war workers and soldiers reinforce the weak spots in the city's floodwall, but stood ready to

evacuate at any time.

The Mystery Solved—Reason Rabbits Run Faster Uphill

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through 13 in the saddle horse barns of the state fairgrounds.

Hundreds of blueblood rabbits and thousands of people will be there, he said. And it's all free.

Mr. Dodd said he would gladly demonstrate his theory on rabbits and hills at the show if asked to do so.

THE ARMY QUIZ question touched off a round of cogitation echoing from hither to yon. Zoo experts and outdoor fans voiced their opinions on the news wires.

G. I. Dodd scoffed at the idea of anything going faster uphill than down. Yesterday State Entomologist Frank Wallace said he did not know about it either.

BELIEVE BAD SNOWS TURN ANIMALS WHITE

PENINSULA, O. (U.P.)—Northern Ohio's worst winter in 20 years has folks believing that weather conditions are turning animals white. Anyway, a white possum with pink eyes was discovered eating bread and milk placed in a farmer's yard for the family cat.