

American Forces Reported 15 to 16 Miles From Nazi Capital

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several points extending from Barby, 10 miles southeast of Magdeburg, to Wittenberge, 56 airline miles to the north.

All three divisions were massing for a crossing of the Elbe, if they had not already done so, with an unidentified armored division closest to Berlin at Tangermuende, 45 miles from the capital.

Berlin spokesman said retreating German troops had blown up the Tangermuende bridge and another at Wittenberge.

Scorched Earth Policy

Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the British 21st army group, told his troops that the Nazis were engaged in destroying all Germany as they fell back for a fight to the death in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps.

"The German military machine, which is in the hands of the Nazis, will never surrender," he said. "They will go on fighting to the last and will bring Germany down with them."

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and the other in southern Germany, he said.

The 9th army's 5th armored division also was rolling across the flat plains west of Berlin. It last was reported at Hesselingen, 15 miles northeast of Brunswick, but the German radio said it had advanced another 20 miles to Gardelegen, 24 miles west of the Elbe and 69 miles from Berlin.

Token Defense Seen

Latest front dispatches from the 9th army front did not mention any opposition on the approaches to Berlin and the ease with which its tanks forced the Elbe river some 60 miles away indicated the Nazi capital might fall after only a token defense.

Ninety German divisions, probably the last sizable operational force left in Central Germany, were arrayed along the Oder river east of Berlin; but the Nazi command obviously hesitated to turn them west for fear of unleashing a mighty Russian tide.

The next 24 or 48 hours should prove decisive. An American breakthrough to Berlin probably would be followed quickly by a junction with the Red army that would split Germany in two and clinch victory in Europe for the allies.

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mile front just south of the 1st army.

One of Patton's tank columns drove six miles beyond the Saale river into Ruhland, 17 miles southwest of Leipzig, 70 miles west of Dresden and 99 miles southwest of Berlin.

Another pushed three miles beyond the Saale and entered Droyssig, six miles south of Ruhland. Altogether, the 3d army had reached or crossed the Saale along a 40-mile front.

Some forces entered Jena, industrial city astride the Saale and midway in Patton's front.

At the southern end of the 3d army's sector, the 11th armored division cleared Kronach in a seven-mile advance to within 34 miles of the Czechoslovak border. A. B. B. C. broadcast said this column was only 17 miles from the border.

Some 42 miles behind the advance spearheads, the 3d army's 80th infantry division cleared Erfurt last evening.

The 3d army captured an estimated 10,600 prisoners yesterday.

The French 1st army's south of Karlsruhe captured Rastatt, 45 miles west of Stuttgart, and Baden-Baden, 41 miles west, taking 1000 prisoners.

Far behind the Berlin-bound 1st army, American spearheads, U. S. 1st and 9th army troops were cutting up the

Ruhr pocket. Field dispatches said the pocket now measured less than two-fifths of its original size.

Only 17 miles separated the 1st army troops battling along the Rhine side of the pocket from the 9th army on the northeastern corner. More than 80,000 of the 150,000 Germans originally in the trap already had been captured and the prisoner bag was mounting hourly.

Berlin spokesman described the collapsing pocket as an "ear-splitting hell" of bursting bombs and shells with savage hand-to-hand fighting raging through a dozen towns and cities.

German marines pushed down from Hamburg battled fiercely to check the British 2d army drive through the Bremen-Hannover corridor toward Hamburg, but late dispatches said the Tommies had won three solid bridgeheads across the Aller river within 50 miles or less from the port.

Celle Captured

Celle, 19 miles northeast of Hannover and 63 miles south of Hamburg, was captured by Scottish troops on the 2d army's eastern flank along with a highway bridge over the Aller.

Other British units stabbed toward Hamburg beyond the Aller in the Schwalmstadt and Rethen sectors farther west, while heavy fighting continued on the southern outskirts of Bremen.

Canadian 1st army forces on the British left flank rolled up as much as 12 miles to within 16 miles of the Emden naval base. They closed fast on the highway center of Groningen. Assen, 10 miles south of Groningen and 26 miles from the North sea coast, was captured early today.

Far to the west, Canadian shock troops crossed the Dutch IJssel river in assault boats shortly before midnight last night and broke into historic Arnhem, 25 miles south of the Zuider Zee.

North of Arnhem, other Dominion forces extended their second IJssel bridgehead westward to within six miles of the key railway center of Appeldoorn.

Zero Hour Is Near

On Eastern Front

LONDON, April 13 (U. P.)—Fighting mounted in intensity on the eastern approaches to Berlin today and it appeared that the zero hour for the Red army's march on the capital was close at hand.

Radio Moscow said Soviet troops were waging "fierce battles" from their bridgeheads across the Oder river 30-odd miles east of Berlin but gave no details. Cossack cavalry moved up to the Berlin front earlier this week, Soviet field dispatches said.

Commentators on the Berlin radio said vast Soviet troop movements were under way all the way from Stettin bay north of the capital to the confluence of the Oder and the Neisse in the south, a front of at least 110 miles.

Military observers in London expected Premier Marshal Stalin to give the order any hour now for Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's 1st White Russian army to break through to Berlin and a junction with American armies moving in from the west.

Vienna Battle Near End

A dispatch to the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia said the battle for Vienna was in "its last hours." Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's 3d Ukrainian army mopped up 60 more square blocks between the Danube river and canal in the northeast portion of the capital yesterday.

Berlin broadcasts said the Soviets' Danube river flotilla landed troops behind the Nazi lines in Vienna.

The 2d Ukrainian army, east of the Danube, cut the Germans' last serviceable communications out of Vienna and narrowed their escape gap to eight miles yesterday with the capture of Eibesbrunn, six miles north of the city.

The thrust severed the Vienna-Bronn railway and highway and left the Germans only a railway and highway paralleling the northeast bank of the Danube. Both these routes were under almost point-blank gunfire from 3d army troops on the southwest bank.

2d Army in Moravia

Essing, one mile east of Vienna's main airfield, also was captured by the 2d army. Berlin said the army was attacking with 300,000 men and two motorized corps.

Northeast of Vienna, the 2d army crossed the Pinka river on a 25-mile front and opened a pincer drive on the Austrian industrial center of Graz. Among the 40 towns and villages captured were Eltendorf, 35 miles east of Graz, and Mark Althau, 33 miles northeast.

South of Vienna, the 3d army crossed the Danube river at a 25-mile front and opened a pincer drive on the Austrian industrial center of Graz. Among the 40 towns and villages captured were Eltendorf, 35 miles east of Graz, and Mark Althau, 33 miles northeast.

FORUM WILL HEAR MAURICE COBURN

Maurice Coburn, a retired employee of the Pennsylvania railroad, will speak on "America in Jeopardy" at the dinner meeting of the Professional Men's Forum at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Columbia club.

A member of the forum, Mr. Coburn worked for 34 years in the engineering department of the railroad and is now retired on railroad pension.

PLANS CARD PARTY

Naomi auxiliary 131, O. E. S., will sponsor a card party at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Sahara Grotto.

NAZIS AIR HATE OF FDR'S NAME

Germans Burst Last Bounds

Of Decency.

By W. R. HIGGINBOTHAM

United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, April 13.—The Nazis

burst the last bounds of decency today and continued a vilification of President Roosevelt—ever in death.

Berlin spokesman described the

collapsing pocket as an "ear-splitting hell" of bursting bombs and shells with savage hand-to-hand

fighting raging through a dozen

towns and cities.

German propagandists gloated

openly over the President's death.

They poured out an abusive tirade

that shocked the rest of the world

perhaps even Japan.

While the Japanese joined in

the Germans in accusing Mr.

Roosevelt of causing the present

war, Tokyo conceded at least the

President was a "great man."

But Berlin's commentators heaped

abuse upon the President's memory.

One commentator, in a speech

which apparently was written by

Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbel

said that the miracle which

had saved Adolf Hitler had killed

the "inventor of this war."

The commentator was Wilfred

Vononen. But expert listeners said

his remarks did not follow his usual

tone and that they were termed

early after the way Goebbel writes.

All Rules Broken

The broadcast was unusual in

that Vononen spoke in the first per-

son. It broke all rules and it ap-

peared obvious that Goebbel was

directing the "hate" program against

Roosevelt's name.

It is for me, who believes in jus-

tice, a deep satisfaction to

witness the fact that this man, him-

self chiefly responsible for this sec-

ond world war, does not himself

survive it," Vononen said. "I have

never more firmly than at this

moment believed in divine justice."

He added that a divine miracle

saved Hitler during the July 20 at-

tempt on his life "but it struck down

the other mercilessly and justly by

sudden unexpected death."

The Japanese paid tribute to Mr.

Roosevelt's position in world af-

fairs and his place in history.

Interrupts Program

When news of his death reached

the Japanese capital, Tokyo radio

interrupted a program of prisoner

of war messages and announced:

"We now introduce a few minutes

of special music to honor the pass-

ing of this great man."

A Japanese commentator later

described Mr. Roosevelt as "the

symbol of American imperialism, a

mixed phenomenon of the contem-

porary type."

"America handed him its greatest

expression of its cause of imperial-

ism if it is a cause," he said. "Let

us not question here if what Presi-

dent Roosevelt stood for and work-

ed for has been for good or evil.

"There is at least no question but

that he was a man of a type of

which the world has not seen many

in history.

"There may be room for ques-

tions as to the course on which he

directed his deeds, but there is no

doubt that it was what entrusts

him to the American people."

What that will do to the national

picture remains problematical. A

Republican program to entice votes

of war veterans to offset labor has

been discussed on Capitol Hill.

Regular in Saddle

With President Truman being a

regular Democratic organization