

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 Tangermünde, 45 miles from the capital.

Berlin spokesmen said retreating German troops had blown up the Tangermünde 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."

Max Krull, German D. N. B. agency commentator, admitted that the Western front had been split in two. In the "accepted sense of the word," he said, the Western front no longer exists. It has given way to two fronts, one in northern

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 Hesselberg, 15 miles northeast of Brunswick, but the German radio said it had advanced another 26 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.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d army, which crossed the Rhine

mile front just south of the 1st army.

One of Patton's tank columns drove six miles beyond the Saale river into Runthal, 17 miles southwest of Leipzig, 70 miles west of Dresden and 98 miles southwest of Berlin.

Another pushed three miles beyond the Saale and entered Droytsig, six miles south of Runthal. 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 south of Karlsruhe captured Rastatt, 45 miles west of Stuttgart, and Baden Baden, 41 miles west, taking 1000 prisoners.

Far behind the Berlin-bound American spearheads, U. S. 1st and 9th army troops were cutting in 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 spokesmen 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 Schwarzwald 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 Isel 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 Isel bridgehead westward to within six miles of the key railway center of Apeldoorn.

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 Elbesbrunn, six miles north of the city.

The thrust severed the Vienna-Brno 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

Esling, one mile east of Vienna's main airport, 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 entered Moravia, sometimes called the key to central Europe, and captured Radejov, one mile across the border and 40 miles southeast of Brno.

South of Vienna, the 3d 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 Eitendorf, 35 miles east of Graz, and Mark Althau, 33 miles northeast.

NAZIS AIR HATE OF FDR'S NAME

German's 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—even in death.

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 with 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 Goebbels, said that the miracle which had saved Adolf Hitler had killed the "inventor of this war."

The commentator was written Vonofen. But expert listeners said his remarks did not follow his usual tone and that they were termed much after the way Goebbels writes.

All Rules Broken

The broadcast was unusual in that Vonofen spoke in the first person. It broke all rules and it appeared obvious that Goebbels was directing the "hate" program against Roosevelt's name.

"It is for me, who believes in justice of fate, a deep satisfaction to witness the fact that this man, himself chiefly responsible for this second world war, does not himself survive it," Vonofen 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 attempt 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 affairs 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 passing of this great man."

A Japanese commentator later described Mr. Roosevelt as "the symbol of American imperialism, a mixed phenomenon of the contemporary type."

"America handed him its greatest expression of its cause of imperialism—if it is a cause," he said. "Let us not question here if what President Roosevelt stood for and worked 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 questions as to the course on which he directed his deeds, but there is no doubt that it was what entrusted him to the American people."

TRUMAN APPEARANCE HERE NOW UNLIKELY

President Truman had been scheduled to make a radio address in Indianapolis for a war bond rally May 11, according to an announcement made yesterday.

Because of the death of President Roosevelt, however, the state war finance committee will announce revised plans for the rally soon.

The new President's address was to be the highlight of the opening of the general sales phase of the 7th war loan drive.

LOCAL MAN KILLED BY HIT-RUN DRIVER

Lewis A. O'Brien, R. R. 3, Box 450, was injured fatally last night when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver in the 6400 block of W. Washington st.

His death brings the county's traffic fatalities this year to 25.

Mr. O'Brien, who was 66, was walking west on Washington st. when struck by an east-bound car. His body was hurled 50 feet.

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.

Truman Practical, Has Long Background as a Senator

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Outstanding among President Truman's political assets is the fact that he has a decade of senate background.

Both as senator and vice president he made many friends—Republicans and Democrats.

A party man, he has not been partisan.

Republicans and Democrats agree that as president of the senate he was completely fair.

A practical person in down-to-earth politics, he is unlikely to send up post-war treaties which cannot muster a two-thirds senate vote.

"Once a senator, always a senator" is a sort of unwritten rule in the upper house. A modest man, with Mr. Truman's standing, is given all the consideration of the old-school tie. For the senate long has been noted for its exclusive club atmosphere. And the new President can be rated as still carrying his membership.

McKellar to Preside

In the senate, Mr. Truman was rated pro-administration. But he never fell out with the southern conservatives, nor carried the 100 per cent New Deal label.

Senator McKellar (D. Tenn.), who has been president pro-tem, takes over as president of the senate. He is 76, but active. Although he didn't take the Tennessee delegation into the Truman camp at Chicago (nor the Henry Wallace camp either) he and the President are friends and likely to get along well. They understand the same kind of politics.

It is the C. I. O. Political Action Committee and the American Labor party people whose continued Democratic allegiance may be doubtful. They wanted Mr. Wallace renominated for vice president.

Political Picture Uncertain

So when President Truman wants political advice he probably will consult Robert E. Hannegan, national Democratic chairman, and not Sidney Hillman of the Political Action Committee.

Without the magic name of President Roosevelt, P. A. C.-backed labor candidates lost the election on the Democratic ticket in Detroit last week. But in New York City, where the American Labor party will back Mayor LaGuardia, the reverse may be true. A coalition may be made there with Governor Dewey. So P. A. C. may be backing Republicans.

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.

Regulars in Saddle

With President Truman being a regular Democratic organization man, however, labor may no longer be so solidly on that side. The same is true for minority groups. Many of them have been voting Democratic because of President Roosevelt.

One of Mr. Truman's staunchest supporters has been Rep. John

Hannegan may follow the customary course for party chairmen and succeed Frank Walker as postmaster general. Whether he does or not, he is in the political saddle, so far as the party is concerned.

GREENFIELD LAWYER NEW TAX APPRAISER

Governor Gates today appointed George F. Dickman, Greenfield, as state inheritance tax appraiser. Mr. Dickman, a resident and practicing attorney in Greenfield for the past 25 years, succeeds Sanford Parks on May 1.

—We are grieved at the passing of our great President, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

—His leadership will be sadly missed by our nation and her allies.

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