

7th Army Takes Bitche



The 7th Army captured Bitche yesterday in the northward-pushing arm of pincers on the Saarland and Palatinate. Third Army armor, spear-

heading the southward-pushing arm, moved 15 miles through the Mosel bridgehead to take Simmern.

BIGGEST B-29 FIRE-RAID HITS KOBE

Japan to Link Army Iwo Battle Won, Navy Declares

3d Spans Mosel Twice In Link-Up Push South

Troops of the 7th Army, punching east and north through the outer Siegfried Line positions on a 50-mile front between Saarbrücken and Haguenau, yesterday captured the fortress town of Bitche, 20 miles southeast of Saarbrücken.

Bitche, pivot point of the Germans' drive against the 7th Army, in January, fell to the 100th Div. on the second day of the co-ordinated 3d-7th Army drive into the Saarland and Rhenish Palatinate.

As the 3d and 7th tightened their 200-mile vise around two German armies, tanks of the 4th Armored Div. sliced 15 miles through the 3d Army's Mosel River bridgehead.

Jumping off at noon Thursday, the 4th Armored drove through the main bridgehead in the wooded Hunsrück plateau, now nine miles wide and ten miles deep, to enter Simmern 25 miles due south of Coblenz. The Yanks captured intact a vehicular bridge across the river.

The main bridgehead is held by the 3d Army's 5th and 90th Divs.

Meanwhile two new crossings of the Mosel were forced. On the main bridgehead, 3d Army forces crossed six miles south of Remagen on the Rhine's east bank. At the same time, the 78th Inf. Div. cut the superhighway in two places near Hovel, a village four miles northeast of Honnef.

In the northern sector of the bridgehead, the 78th Div. captured Königswinter on the Rhine. The Yanks pushed to the east to make the first crossing of the six-lane superhighway at 11:14 a.m. near the town of Brüggen, which is on the highway.

This afternoon the highway was again cut by the 78th near Hovel and Agidienberg. There was a house-to-house fighting in both towns.

1st Army Troops Cut Super Road Twice Near Hovel

By DAN REGAN
Staff Correspondent

WITH 1ST ARMY, MARCH 16—First Army troops today captured Honnef, five miles south of Remagen on the Rhine's east bank. At the same time, the 78th Inf. Div. cut the superhighway in two places near Hovel, a village four miles northeast of Honnef.

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heading the southward-pushing arm, moved 15 miles through the Mosel bridgehead to take Simmern.

Biggest B-29 Fire-Raid Hits Kobe

Japan to Link Army
And State to
Meet Crisis

BULLETIN

GUAM, March 17 (Saturday) (Reuter) — American Superfortresses dropped almost 2,500 tons of incendiary bombs on Kobe before dawn today in the heaviest bombing assault yet made on any Japanese city. A very large number of B-29s — probably more than 300 — hit Kobe, which is the principal port of Japan and the chief center of Japanese shipbuilding and marine engine production. The target area totaled about five square miles.

Japs Change Set-Up

Radio Tokyo reports indicated yesterday that Japan, in the midst of serious reverses at home and abroad, had made a major change in her method of conducting the war.

As Japanese refugees sought to evacuate Tokyo in the aftermath of the great fires set by American Superfortresses, Radio Tokyo broadcast an official announcement that the Imperial government and Japanese Imperial

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Two Battle Won, Navy Declares; Japs Pay 5-1 for U. S. Death Toll

GUAM, March 16 (ANS) — Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' headquarters announced tonight that "the battle of Iwo has been won."

Casualties of the three Marine divisions which conquered the small but tough island included 4,189 men killed. Most of the original Jap garrison of 20,000 has been wiped out.

The three divisions—the 3d, 4th

and 5th—invaded the island Feb. 19 and found it even more bitterly defended than Tarawa.

Conquest of Iwo gives American forces an air base from which they can now bomb Japan, including the enemy homeland, and from which bombers smaller than Superfortresses can attack Japan. The announcement of the vic-

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Turning On the Heat



Figures show tonnage of new-type incendiaries dropped by B-29s on Japan's three greatest cities in five days.

1st Army Troops Cut Super Road Twice Near Hovel

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Staff Correspondent

WITH 1ST ARMY, March 16—First Army troops today captured Honningen, five miles south of Remagen on the Rhine's east bank. At the same time, the 78th Inf. Div. cut the superhighway in two places near Hovel, about four miles northeast of Honningen.

In the northern sector of the bridgehead, the 78th Div. captured Konigswinter on the Rhine. The Yanks shovled to the east to make the first crossing of the six-lane superhighway at 11:14 a.m. near the town of Brungsberg, which is on the highway.

This second crossing the highway was again cut by the 78th near Hovel and Agidienberg. There was a house-to-house fighting in both towns.

The 9th Inf. Div. was meeting stiff opposition in the towns of Kalenborn and Strode, the latter a key point in the German defense. Yesterday the 9th Div. was attacked at several points by a total of 24 tanks, five of which were destroyed.

through the main bridgehead in the wooded Hunsbrück plateau, now nine miles wide and ten miles deep, to enter Simmern, 25 miles due south of Coblenz. The Yanks captured intact a vehicular bridge across the Simmer River.

The main bridgehead is the 3d Army's 8th and 7th Divs.

Meanwhile two new crossings of the Mosel were forced. North of the main bridgehead, 3d Army forces crossed six miles south of Coblenz to increase the threat to that Rhine city. South of the main bridgehead, a third crossing was made at Bullay and Neff, approximately 25 miles southwest of Coblenz.

In the central bridgehead, 5th Div. doughs gained four miles southeast along a seven-mile front and cleared six towns in an area from 10 to 20 miles south of Coblenz. They found roadblocks unmannned.

Infantry of the 90th Div., on the 5th Div.'s northern flank, repelled four stiff counterattacks and pushed ahead three miles to take five towns in an area ten miles south of Coblenz.

Along with the capture of Bitche, other 7th Army troops drove to (Continued on page 8)

2 Air Commands Blast Saarland

Medium bombers of the 1st TAF and 19th TAC yesterday plowed ahead of the co-ordinated 7th and 3d Army drive, leaving a swath of flame between Saarbrücken and the Rhine River.

Three hundred medium and light bombers of the 19th smashed at communications from Saarbrücken to Siegen and plastered strongpoints and enemy troop concentrations ahead of advancing 3d Army forces south of Coblenz and east of the Trier-Saarburg sector.

First TAF planes flew more than 1,300 sorties over the 7th Army front. Flames spouted from the city of Saarbrücken itself, industrial capital of the Saarland, while pilots reported Homberg, Bitche, Zweibrücken, Sürburg and other centers burning.

First TAF planes destroyed 20 locomotives and damaged 21. Nineteenth TAC pilots reported wide confusion in the entire Mosel-Rhine triangle, with highways jammed with refugees, ambulances, convoys and scattered vehicles.

7th Army Captures Bitche, 3d Adds 2 Mosel Bridgeheads

Patchmen Seize Town Nazis Used In January Drive

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within 1,000 yards of Saarbrücken, principal city in Germany's rich industrial Saar Basin.

They also crossed the Blies River in the Sarreguemines sector.

Three thousand prisoners were taken in the first 21 hours of the offensive on the 7th Army front, and 1,500 German casualties were reported in the first 24 hours.

Opposing the 7th Army, it was disclosed, are elements of the German 1st Army. The German 7th Army, once destroyed at Falaise and again battered two months ago in the Ardennes, faces the 3d Army's 5th, 29th and 4th Armored Divs.

The 7th Army continued to run into stiff resistance. Both the 70th Inf. Div. and the 101st Cav. Group in the Volklingen-Sarreguemines area advanced slowly, meeting strong opposition from strong enemy forces on the northern banks of the Saar.

Tough Job for 3d

The 63d Inf. Div. was battling through tough, well-defended Siegfried terrain east of Sarreguemines. After taking Bitche, the 100th Div. ran into strong resistance clearing the town of Saarburg. The 26th Inf. Div. reached high ground overlooking the village of Bartenbach, nine miles southeast of Bitche.

Between the Hards mountains and Maguenau, 103d and 36th Inf. Div. men advanced more than a mile, rolling into fortified villages. Death in the 3d Army's Mosel sector clearly indicated that twin armored spearheads followed closely by infantry, had outflanked the Nazis' Mosel Line. Capitalizing on the enemy's perilous strategic position, the 94th Inf. Div. rolled up from the south, the western sector of that line in the woodlands southeast of Trier while the 26th Div. made similar gains in the Schwarzwald Forest.

Marines' Handiwork on Iwo



A sandy hole littered with dead Japs is all that remains of a Japanese pillbox and its tenants after Marines fought their way onto the beaches of Iwo Jima against such tough positions as this one had been. A Leatherneck of the 3d Marine Div. surveys the situation.

Two Battle Won, Navy Declares; Japs Pay 5-1 for U. S. Death Toll

(Continued from Page 1)

torn said that in addition to the Marines killed, 15,303 were wounded and 44 listed as missing. A considerable number of the wounded were returned to action. Earlier today, Vice-Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner, commander of U. S. amphibious forces, has announced that the "major fighting is finished" on Iwo Jima.

Kobe Bombed

Yanks Refuse Casualty Swap And Wind Up by Gaining 45

By JAMES CANNON, Staff Correspondent

WITH THE 94TH INF. DIV., Germany, March 16—They stopped the counterattack, and when it was over the aid station at Lampaden was crowded with the wounded. There were 20 of ours and 14 of theirs. They loaded them into an ambulance and a two and one-half ton truck with the Red Cross flag and started back for Irrel.

But some of the enemy had broken through, and the convoy of the wounded was taken at a road block outside of Lampaden.

About noon of that day Sgt. Woodrow J. Boyett, of Wetumpka, Ala., and a German noncom came into the aid station with news from the enemy at the road. The Nazis wanted to wound Americans for wounded Germans. If there weren't enough wounded Germans, the road block message stated, the Americans could send back whole prisoners.

Lt. Otto B. Cloudt told Boyett, who was slightly injured after two bazooka shells had made direct hits on the jeep he was driving, that it was an impossible deal because the German prisoners had seen our defenses. But Lt. Cloudt stalled until dusk, when Boyett and the German sergeant started back.

The German sergeant didn't want to go. He said he had an aunt and uncle in Baltimore, and being a prisoner was closer to Baltimore than being a soldier at a road block behind our lines. But they made him go.

The next morning Lt. Carmen M. Ramirez, who headed the two-vehicle convoy of the wounded, came into Lampaden with the same deal.

"By this time the road block was cut off," said Capt. John N. Smith, of Bowling Green, Ky. "We had to do something but the possibility of their deciding to kill our wounded. But next day Ramirez came in with our seriously wounded and said the Germans had pulled out. There were 45 wounded Americans all told at the road block, collected at various times by the Germans."

Things Are Tough On the Home Front

FIRST DIV. HQ., March 16—When the cigarette shortage got bad in the 26th Inf. Regt., T-5 James Pennington wrote to his wife in Oneida, Tenn.

Taint So, Says Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP)—President Roosevelt said today that the U. S. government had re-

ported the capture of Greifswald, nine miles east of the river. During the time he was captured, Boyett, who returned with the wounded, managed to break the switch of a captured German radio. The Germans tried to force him to use it. He had also kicked and smashed the telescopic sights of an American tank gun the Germans attempted to use.

Even Nazis Quiet On Berlin Front

German sources reported last night that the Red Army was carrying out five offensives in widely scattered areas from the Baltic front directly east of Berlin was not listed.

The most powerful of the Russian drives, according to the Nazis, was expected to end at Stettin, Marshal Gregory Zhukov's forces in that sector were reported to have broken into the port's inner defense line.

The other Soviet drives were reportedly directed against the German pockets in East Prussia and around Danzig and against the Oder River valley of Czechoslovakia. In Hungary, Soviet troops were counter-attacking German forces still trying to break through to the Danube.

In the Stettin area, Zhukov's troops, after a heavy artillery bombardment, attacked Germans still holding out on the east side of the Oder River, Berlin reported.

The Germans said that a big tank battle was fought on the highway southeast of the Stettin bridge and that house-to-house fighting raged in the towns of Kleinenbow and Brinken, a latter only three miles east of the port.

Last night's Soviet communiqué announced the capture of Greifswald.

The 63d Inf. Div. was battling through tough, well-defended Siegfried terrain east of Sarreguemines. After taking Bitche, the 100th Div. ran into strong resistance clearing the town of Schobbach, a mile north. The 42d Inf. Div. reached high ground overlooking the village of Bitche, nine miles southeast of Bitche.

Between the Hardt mountains and Haguenau, 103d and 36th Inf. Div. men advanced more than a mile, rolling into four villages.

Details from the 3d Marine M-41 sector clearly indicated that the Germans, who had outflanked the Americans, followed closely by infantry, had outflanked the Nazis' Mosel Line. Capitalizing on the enemy's perilous strategic position, the 94th Inf. Div. rolled up five miles on the western portion of that line in the woodlands southeast of Trier while the 26th Div. made similar gains in the Schwarzwald Forest.

Kobe Bombed

(Continued from Page 1)

headquarters had been "fused into one body."

Henceforth, it was said, Premier Kuniaki Koiso will sit in an imperial headquarters, dependent as a member of the supreme staff, with the same status as the top army and navy commanders.

This new policy was adopted, the Japanese news agency said, "in view of the current military situation and with the approval of the Emperor."

An Associated Press dispatch suggested that Japan might be discarding her system of military superiority over civil authority. In the past, the AP pointed out, the Japanese military had been so powerful that it even could ignore Japanese treaties with other countries.

This development in Japan came soon after three great American Superfortress raids which fired three of Japan's congested industrial cities—Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka.

The Tokyo correspondent of the South China Morning Post reported that last Saturday's Superfortress attack against the Japanese capital had thrown the populace into a panic which the authorities could not control.

On Thursday, six days after the assault, thousands of Japanese were crowding around railway stations and trying to leave the capital, the correspondent said.

"Everywhere," he wrote, "there are various kinds of vehicles from trucks to rickshaws, loaded with belongings of people evacuating the city."

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tory said that in addition to the Marines killed, 15,300 were wounded and 44 listed as missing. A considerable number of the wounded were returned to action.

Earlier today, Vice-Adm. Richard Kelly Turner, commander of U. S. fleet amphibious forces, had announced that "major fighting is finished" on Iwo.

This morning's communiqué said that Marines still were fighting on Iwo, closing in to Kitano Point and mopping up isolated groups of Japanese elsewhere.

Adm. Turner said that the American forces at Iwo had "suffered considerable losses on the ground, in the air and on the sea," but he said also that "the cost of doubt has been weighed carefully against the importance of having the island as an operating base and spending ultimate defeat of Japan."

Two Fields are B-29 Haven

GUAM, March 16 (ANS)—Iwo Jima's military value was demonstrated yesterday in an announcement by the 21st Air Force Command that an approximately 30 Superfortresses has escaped probable destruction because Americans hold the island's airfields.

An AF spokesman said that in the last week, 30 Superforts returning from three great incendiary raids on major Japanese cities had landed at Iwo to refuel or for emergency repairs. If the Iwo base had not been available—most of them had not yet have reached their home bases in the Marianas, the spokesman said.

Since Iwo had been eliminated as an enemy base to spot Superforts in flight and relay warnings to Japan,

80 Pct. of Mandalay Taken

MANDALAY, March 16 (UPI)—British and Indian troops concentrating four-fifths of Mandalay, and Japanese-held Fort Dufferin is virtually surrounded.

Things Are Tough On the Home Front

FIRST DIV. HQ., March 16—When the cigarette shortage got bad in the 36th Inf. Regt., Lt. James Pennington wrote to his wife in Oneida, Tenn., asking if she would mail some to him.

"Please send me beaupour cigarettes," Pennington said in his letter.

"Dear Jim, I have tried in every store in Middle Tennessee to get Cimarrons, Old Golds, Luckies, Chesterfields and even Cheezles. Won't some other brand do? They have no Beaupours."

Drive Wedge Into Jap Shimbu Line

MANILA, March 16 (ANS)—U. S. troops have driven a wedge two miles deep into the crumbling Shimbu Line on Luzon, perhaps trapping several thousand Japanese.

The Shimbu Line, roughly 13 miles east of Manila, was cracked when infantrymen seized a network of roads, cutting off an escape route for large Japanese forces.

Destruction of the Shimbu Line was being speeded by a new skip-bombing technique. U. S. fighter-bombers sent bombs skidding into the mouth of tunnels and caves held by the Japanese.

U. S. troops clearing the shores of Batangas Bay, on the southern coast of Luzon, wiped out an enemy barge concentration and dispersed a small enemy force attempting to land at Bolo.

On Mindanao, Japanese forces seized 15 more villages and have enlarged their headcount to a width of more than 28 miles.

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Taint So, Says Roosevelt

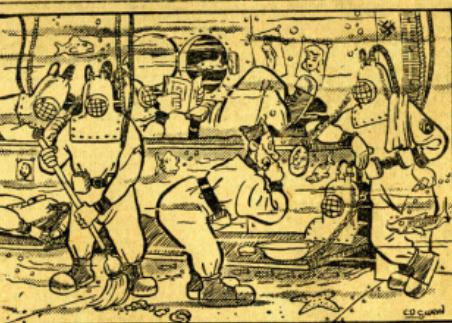
WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP)—President Roosevelt said today that the U. S. government had received nothing at all here in the way of German peace feelers.

In the Stettin area, Zhukov's troops, after a heavy artillery bombardment, attacked Germans still holding out on the east side of the Oder River, Berlin reported.

The Germans said that a big tank battle was fought on the highway southeast of the Stettin bridge and that house-to-house fighting raged in the towns of Kadow and Brueken, the latter only three miles west of the river.

Last night's Soviet communiqué announced the capture of Greifenhagen on the Oder 12 miles south of Stettin.

Crab's Eye View of Europe



WITH U. S. SUPPLY FORCES, Belgium—"Submarine soldiers," they call these GIs who go beneath the sea in shifts.

The 12 divers and six divers' tenders of the 1053d Eng. Port and Const. Gp. have spent more than 1,000 hours under the waters of European harbors since they arrived on the Continent July 13.

They started out reconstructing the Cherbourg docks and have since been repairing other harbor facilities. Their work is in an underground "battlefield" strewn with such hazards as unexploded mines, booby traps, twisted and wrecked cranes and other debris.

The divers' tenders have been pressed into service many times on rush jobs. One of them, Cpl. Woodrow F. Collett, of Steele, Ala., has spent 54 hours in the ETO section of Davy Jones' locker.