

THE BACKLASH

South Carolina's 'Cotton Ed' Smith Claimed By Death

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic Senator Ellison S. Oniz (Cotton Ed) Smith of South Carolina, died today in Lynchburg, S. C.

The 80-year-old veteran passed away from coronary thrombosis at his plantation home, Tanglewood.

A chunky, colorful figure with gray mustache, Smith by last August had served longer in the Senate than any other member in his 35 years.

He was defeated for re-election in a seventh term last Summer by Gov. Olin D. Johnston, who was elected Nov. 7.

Smith was a farm expert—particularly where cotton was concerned. Cotton was his king. Most of his Senate career was devoted to getting Federal aid for the Southern staple. His last years found him as head of the Senate's Agriculture Committee.

Shortly after his primary defeat a few months ago, Smith, together with other anti-Roosevelt Democrats, called a meeting in Washington to lay plans

Reds Crack Main Nazi Defense Line

Striking East
Of Budapest

LONDON (AP)—Russian troops have pierced the main German defense line east of Budapest, capturing the rail station of Gyomro, and in a pivot north-east of the besieged capital today threatened the key railway junctions of Godollo and Hatvan.

From the northeast other units of Marshal Rodion V. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army struck to within five miles of Miskolc, Hungary's 12th city, which is now exposed to Red Army artillery fire.

Battling along the roads leading around Budapest to Austria, the Russians, according to the Budapest-Miskolc railway at Vasmocky in a 12-mile advance from Jachert and were moving toward Hatvan.

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The capture of Vasmocky, where several trains and ammunition dumps were seized, also threatened the entrapment of German and Hungarian forces still clinging to the central section of the Budapest-Miskolc trunk line.

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MASSIVE OFFENSIVE FLAMES ALONG WESTERN FRONT—The Rhine and Moselle rivers, where the American First and Ninth Armies have launched a massive offensive into the Rhineland. Other arrows denote numerous smaller offensives along the Western Front. The British Second Army closed up to the Mass. bend at Roermond in Holland. The U. S. First and Ninth Armies advanced north and south of Aachen. The French First Army drove toward the Belfort Gap while U. S. Seventh Army forces continued to gain.

American 1st And 9th Armies Drive

LONDON (AP)—German lines sagged under twin offensives in the Rhineland today as the First U. S. Army drove forward two miles toward Duren and the Ninth Army bagged long lines of prisoners.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' First Army infantry and armor slashed to a point six miles west of Duren, important industrial town twenty miles west of Cologne, despite sleet and rain storms.

Germany's Western lines rocked to the thunder of hundreds of guns in the Aachen sector, the smash of new armored columns from the Moselle bridgeheads, the weight of increasing attacks in Holland as the Allies make a supreme bid for victory.

Perhaps 2,000,000 men were arrayed in battle on both sides in the critical test of German staying power.

Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth Army increased the pressure of the attack in its second day from Aachen, front line discharges, captured several more towns and turned back a Tiger tank counter-attack.

BREKERS MADE—A German military commentator late in the afternoon said a break had been made in the German lines near Stolberg, and a dispatch from the front said discharges appeared to have been made at several places.

Long streams of battle-shattered German prisoners lined the roads back to American prison cages. A night after flight of planes, light bomber streaked under cloud layers over the front.

To the north the British crossed the Zig Canal, after clearing out a single formed line that channel and the Noord and Western Canals and virtually closed up to the Mass River in the bridgeheads near Roermond in Holland.

Here, the German radio declared, a major attack likely to be launched "in a few days time."

PATTON ATTACKS—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. threw new armored forces into the Third Army's battle line, the bridgeheads near Thionville which were punched as far as eight miles east of Koenigs-mach.

Drawing their net tighter—about Germans possibly preparing for a last stand in the Metz area, Third Army troops completely surrounded the Verdun fort group just southeast of the city and across the Moselle from the stronghold of Fort Brabant, infantry captured the city.

The five-day offensive of the First and Ninth Armies had deepened the fifteen-mile wedge in the Siegfried Line by at least one to two miles, and the doughboys now fighting within seven miles of Aachen and 25 miles from Cologne.

Officers disclosed tonight that just before the attack yesterday, the Ninth Army had captured one of the biggest artillery batteries of the war on the Germans in the First Army sector, smashing enemy positions with 20 tons of bursting steel a minute for one hour.

On top of that satisfaction, Allied bombers laid down 10,000 tons of bombs in three-hour bursts in one narrow sector.

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Breath Of Revolt: Germans Resent Rule Of Nazis

BERN (AP)—Stories of resentment in Germany against Nazi rule reached Switzerland today, but they indicated the ruthless hand of the Gestapo was capable of snuffing out any efforts of popular movements.

Industry was at a standstill in some areas of the country, partly because of lack of coal and partly because the Nazi authorities were no longer able to compel workers to remain at their jobs during air alarms, these reports said.

The Basel Arbeiter Zeitung said this was especially true in smeltered Cologne, where iron people were publicly hanged on one day and eleven on another because they defied the Gestapo in question "why should millions of Germans die for Nazi leaders?"

Trouble is brewing elsewhere

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front—The new fighting line of the American First and Ninth Armies is crumpling German defense lines today in twin drives deeper into the German Rhineland.

Eastern Front—Soviet armies in Hungary are launching their move on Budapest. The Russians have cracked the main Nazi defense line ten miles east of the capital and now threaten two main rail junctions northwest of Budapest.

Italy—The British Eighth Army has taken a main road junction nine miles south of the highway town of Pavia. The Germans made an unexpected withdrawal from the road last night after a week of vicious resistance.

The Far East—On Luzon Island in the Philippines, Gen. MacArthur's men are within reach of the village of Limon, key to the supply road leading to the enemy base of Cebu.

A new deputy commander has been named to the Allied Southwest Asia Command. He is American Lt. Gen. Raymond Wheeler, who will take the post vacated by Gen. Joseph Stilwell.

Hong Kong—President Roosevelt told his news conference today that he already has chosen an Ambassador to China to replace Clarence Goss, who resigned when Gen. Stilwell was recalled. Maj. Gen. Patrick Hurley heads the list of candidates for the post.

The President's press conference today revealed other interesting news. For one thing, Mr. Roosevelt said that the French First Army drive farther south has gained three more miles toward Belfort.

Manila Raid Damage Rises

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS—Pearl Harbor (AP)—Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, revealed that Third Fleet's capture of Manila was a major victory.

The light cruiser previously reported as damaged was known to have sunk. Nimitz said in a complete victory yesterday. Returning ships also captured several enemy ships and a large amount of supplies.

Other American units on the scene were held up by Japanese aircraft. Another 24th Division force behind the Japanese on the Ormeau road, but has not been able to take it.

Gen. Wheeler Is
Given New Post

COLOMBO, Ceylon (AP)—Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler has been designated to succeed Gen. Joseph Stilwell as deputy commander of the Allied Southwest Asia Command and will continue as its chief administrative officer.

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Yanks Grab Ridge, Advance On Limon

By C. YATES McDANIEL
GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINES (AP)—Stalwartly defended, shell-blasted Limon, key to the Ormeau road, was within grasp of weather-beaten units of the 24th U. S. Division today as they took virtual control of dominating Breakneck Ridge.

Patterson Associated Press correspondent with the 24th Division reported American units coming down the slopes of Breakneck Ridge from the west had advanced to within 1,000 yards of the Ormeau Valley village.

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Massive Air Blow Aids Ground Drive

LONDON (AP)—More than 3,500 bombers, the greatest air fleet ever to go into a single action in direct support of an army, blasted the approaches to the Rhine for five hours yesterday in opening Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Winter offensive.

German Westwall troops and defenses in front of three Allied Armies were battered with more than 13,000 tons of explosives and field dispatches said that before midnight hundreds of stunned Nazi prisoners had been taken.

While the weather was not altogether favorable the attack was described as more effective and better concentrated in places than at either Caen or St. Lo, where similar carpet bombings touched off spectacular land offensives.

Approximately 2,400 American and British heavy bombers, in two separate mass attacks, laid more than 11,000 tons of fragmentation and anti-personnel bombs into an "L" shaped area fifteen miles long and ten miles deep northeast of Aachen.

Hundreds of medium bombers and fighter bombers which buzzed in and out over the battlelines like bees added to the totals.

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Bring That Empty If You Want Cigarettes

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minneapolis and St. Paul druggists were preparing today to imitate a "package for an empty package" method of cigarette distribution aimed at preventing hoarding.

Doris Strom, executive secretary of the Twin City Retail Druggists Association, said that letters explaining the plan have been mailed to druggists and other retailers.

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