

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final
Edition

THE BACK AT THE FRONT TROOPS LAY SIEGE TO MAAS TOWN

Defenders Fall Back Into City

Fugitives Hurry Toward Vienna

By EDDY GILMORE
MOSCOW (AP)—Russian troops laid siege today to Budapest and front dispatches said the German and Hungarian defenders had fallen back into the Hungarian capital itself.

Red Army tanks were said to be battling at the outskirts of the city, the part of the capital on the eastern bank of the Danube. Fighting was raging well within the city's outer defenses.

A Reuters dispatch said the Russians had hurled an armored column around north of the city in an encircling move. This column was said to be storming the approaches of Ujpest on the east bank of the Danube two miles north of the capital.

The capital itself was reported unofficially to be enveloped in wild disorders as the Nazi remnants poured through the streets.

Hundreds of fugitives were said to be jamming the railways and highways toward Vienna, 140 miles to the north.

Red Star reported that the "field army" formed by the Hungarian puppet Government had been routed outside the capital and that a captured captain said that out of one division only 100 men remained after three days of intensive battle.

The newspaper describes German and Hungarian losses in manpower as immense, particularly near the triumph of the Red troops just south of Budapest where Red troops wiped out twenty tanks in a great "bushwhacker" battle.

The capture of Pest appeared imminent but the fall of Buda on the west side of the Danube was another matter. The Danube River is broad and there was no word on whether the Russians had been able to seize any bridges.

The Soviet communists last night reported the capture of Abony, seven miles south of Budapest, as the nearest point to the capital reached by the Red forces sweeping across the boggy plains between the Danube and Tisza. It was one of 100 communities enveloped in the fast-moving offensive.

Front dispatches reported troops fighting just outside the perimeter of the besieged capital but for practical military purposes appeared lost. The reportedly dire condition of the city's defenders presaged an early capitulation.



BUDAPEST BESIEGED—Russians fought in the outer defenses of Budapest today while the capital itself was reported in wild disorders. The Reds pushed into the city from the east bank of the Danube, fighting was raging well within the city's outer defenses.

Leyte Japs Fight Well

By CHARLES H. MCMURTRY
ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Pacific Ocean Areas—The Japanese on Leyte in the Philippines are well-trained, well-trained troops who make only a few small-scale tactical shooting attacks and then with good objectives.

That is the report made today at a press conference by Capt. Robert W. Webster, 25, of Columbia, Tenn., Army observer.

The Japanese on Leyte appeared most to fear American artillery which was made the chief objective of the Bataan campaign, Webster said.

The Japanese attempted to blow up the artillery with magnetic mines.

Webster told of one such Banzai charge which reached the 24th Corps Service Area and "was unheeding to the men there" but the tanks killed 25 out of the 50 attacking Japanese.

The next night the Japanese returned but the Americans repulsed them with more ease, while losing three men.

Webster said the Japanese shined their spotlights on the American positions in the Pacific to date. Some snipers killed Americans at 500 yards.

The Japanese used both dynamite and wooden bullets, Webster said, but neither bullet generally were considered ineffective. "Very few men ever saw the Japanese," Webster said. "They are masters of camouflage and concealment."

Japs Elect To Fight For West Leyte

Defy Superior U. S. Forces

By MURIEL SPENCER
GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINES (AP)—The aroused Japanese, defying superior forces of American men and guns on the move north and south of Ormoc, marshalled reinforcements today under a hail of aerial bombs for a final fight on Western Leyte.

Reports for the past 24 hours told of the enemy on the beach, low-level attacks on Eastern Leyte airfields and docks, blew up an ammunition dump and set a merchant ship afire. The fire was extinguished.

THIRD FLEET ATTACKED—At Pearl Harbor, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced, Japanese planes attacked an aircraft carrier group of the Third Fleet, which has been supporting the Philippine invasion, and damaged several ships.

Enemy tanks, troops and artillery have been landed at Ormoc from a cargo ship which lost two transports and 23 covering planes in a fierce battle with the 4th Fighter Group, record-breaking squadron of the Far Eastern Army Air Force.

The 4th, which has shot down 50 Japanese planes during the battle, has been ordered to stay in Maj. Richard J. Bong, of Poplar, Wis., with a bag of 33 planes, a 10-mile-long column, enemy rolling north from Ormoc.

The planes swept down to the beach level over the mechanical reinforcements, blasting 30 trucks, at least two tanks, equipment and supplies.

"We could see the bodies blown into the air," Maj. Thomas B. Mauney, of San Antonio, Tex., told Richard Bercholz, Associated Press War Correspondent, at the front.

The badly cut up Japanese column was trying to reach Cagayan de Oro, a port on the coast, by way of a 20-mile road from Ormoc and bulwark Japanese reinforcements before the entrance of Maj. Gen. Franklin C. Robert.

WHITHERING FIRE—At the north end of that road where it emerged from Ormoc Valley, 15th and right-wing howitzers were sited in position to fire down the road. Withering fire as the 18-hour barrage which crashed the bloody retreat of the Japanese campaign before Cagayan town.

Capt. Robert W. Webster of Columbia, Tenn., returning from an Army observation mission on Leyte, told Charles H. McMurtry, Associated Press War Correspondent at Honolulu, that the Japanese particularly feared American heavy artillery.

Sheriff's 24th Infantry Division and First Cavalry Division approached the road, 10 miles from Cagayan, after rolling five miles east of mauling Cagayan.

The Japanese, however, refused to be intimidated by the reinforcements up the Ormoc Valley despite the possibility of their being bottled up by the Seventh Infantry Division of Maj. Gen. Archibald V. Arnold driving in behind them.

Battle-Wear Hero Is Home

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Pfc. John H. Zarwack was home from battle today.

The 30-year-old Pfc., Pa., soldier's unimpaired pants were stuffed into stuffed boots when he stepped off an air transport command plane here yesterday.

Hours of quivering for Nazi snipers had etched crow's feet under his eyes. He was unshaven and admitted he "done nothing" in this last, unbroken eastern Leyte valley is just a continuous, miserable mud of work and sleep. "Japan is a place," he said, "where you can't see the trees."

It is difficult to imagine a form of discomfort that Leyte does not have. The G. I. Japs and Navy beach party sailors will talk long and loud about what a hellhole Leyte was. When it rains here the wind and lashing rain of water through the trees and tents with the force of a hose.



MILK-EATING TIGER ON THE LOOSE—This tiger kitten, born on the road to the Hamid-Morton circus, is living the life of Riley in a hotel suite in Atlanta, Ga., with its trainer, Capt. Roman Proske, because tigers are so hard to raise while on tour.

Upper left: Kitty figures its time to eat, and calls room service on the phone; but look, the line is busy (upper right); so kitty waits. Lower left: Now the baby tiger gets the line. Lower right: In the arms of Proske, kitty dines generously on a bottle of milk. (AP Photo.)

Germany Caught In Army Will 3-Way Air Attack

By HENRY D. JAMESON
LONDON (AP)—Germany was caught in a three-way attack today by 3,100 American planes and a force of RAF bombers and fighters that smashed the important industrial cities in the Reich.

The U. S. Eighth Air Force staged a mass raid on German synthetic oil industries and railways with more than 1,100 bombers and 600 fighters fanning out over targets from Hamburg to Saarbrücken.

One force attacked oil plants and refineries in the twin cities of Hamburg-Harburg.

Another hit an oil plant at Gelsenkirchen in the Ruhr. A third formation blasted military objectives in the Hanover region and a fourth flew southeast of Luxembourg, near the railroad yards at Saarbrücken.

The day's lightest operation followed the sixth Mosquito raid on Berlin in nine nights.

15th Air Force Hits At Austria, South Germany—ROME.—Flying through a heavy overcast which obscured the targets, U. S. 15th Air Force heavy bombers attacked military targets in Austria and Southern Germany today.

At the same time RAF Mosquitoes took part in raids on Czechoslovakian capital and the Munich area of Yugoslavia, while U. S. Thunderbolts took a heavy toll of Nazi rolling stock in Italy's Po Valley.

And Not For Joe Either: Leyte Is No Place For A Lady

By LEIF ERICKSON
DULAG, ILE DE BORD, Philippines, Oct. 31—(Delaware)—Life for a "Joe" in this last, unbroken eastern Leyte valley is just a continuous, miserable mud of work and sleep. "Japan is a place," he said, "where you can't see the trees."

It is difficult to imagine a form of discomfort that Leyte does not have. The G. I. Japs and Navy beach party sailors will talk long and loud about what a hellhole Leyte was. When it rains here the wind and lashing rain of water through the trees and tents with the force of a hose.

Town Lost By Americans In Bitter Battle

Allies Push Closer To Maas River In Southwest Holland Sector

LONDON (AP)—German counter-attacks supported by tanks recaptured the village of Schmidt, fifteen miles southeast of Aachen, today and forced American troops to fall back a half mile to the west.

The town was lost during a day of bitter but local enemy counter-attacks all through the day when the Germans had pushed through forest lands toward the Cologne plain.

Americans seized Schmidt yesterday. They knocked back one German infantry assault, but gave way before a second one spearheaded by tanks.

Later today a third German attack behind ten tanks hit the First Army line northwest of Schmidt. At least seven enemy tanks were wrecked in the Schmidt sector.

YANKS HELD POSITIONS—Despite the Nazi comeback, the Americans maintained and strengthened their positions at Vossenack and a light German attack near Burscheid was broken.

In the Schmidt area, the First Army had thrust within 1,000 yards of the Roer River, the next and hardest enemy barrier on the way to the Rhine, 25 miles to the east.

Local gains were scored elsewhere along the 50-mile front. The enemy's heaviest armor, the 1st and 2nd SS Panzer Divs., pushed closer toward the Maas River, and formed within three miles of the Meerdijk bridge, main escape span for enemy reinforcements.

Polish troops threw two more bridges across the Mark Canal, captured Terheyden, and pushed on two miles. Farther west near the coast, Canadians captured Stenbreen, six miles above Bergen. On Zoom, and parties were said to have advanced farther to within two miles of the Lower Rhine.

German broadcast predicted that the Allies would launch a three-way assault, hitting into Holland, in the Aachen area and in Lorraine. Declaring that Allied operations were four weeks behind schedule since the defeat at Aachen, the enemy broadcast said.

The greatest battle of this war will flare up very shortly. It will not be easy for us, but we will win. Eisenhower does not face a single German Army on a wide front. He faces a single German Army.

In the Maas-Meuse River bulge of eastern Holland, American troops were said to have reached the canal and were pushing the South Western Canal above Nederweert and drove the enemy back 4,000 yards, capturing Corbeil and reaching the vicinity of Greenwood, in thrusts toward the German border at Roermond.

In western Holland, American, Polish and British troops drove into the heart of the enemy's bridgehead between the Maas and its sea arm, the Hollandsche Diep. Resistance south of the Maas slackened yesterday and a spokesman for the Allied 21st Army Group said the enemy was pulling back, his transport jamming the roads.

The Allies entered the town of Pijnacker across the canal which forms a continuation of the Mark River and were four miles south of Willemstad, a ferry terminal on the canal. The Allies entered the town of Pijnacker across the canal which forms a continuation of the Mark River and were four miles south of Willemstad, a ferry terminal on the canal.

A few miles to the west the battle has moved on to the Meerdijk bridge north of Breda.

Ask New Gas Coupons To Facilitate Voting

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—The National League of Women Voters asked today that new gasoline coupons in the form of a "gas card" be made good quickly to facilitate voting in the presidential election.

Miss Strass, league president, pointed out in a telegram to President Roosevelt that "gas coupons are due to become scarce in the coming days. They are already valid evidence in the nation."

Miss Strass asked that their effective date in the two areas be advanced to Nov. 7, because this would give voters a "margin of safety" in the event of a shortage of gas to reach polling places in many areas.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and warm this afternoon. Tonight, weather: "Aly" cloudy and light showers. Clear tonight. Sunday partly cloudy.

Temperature at 5:30 P.M.: High 64, Low 54. Forecast: High 64, Low 54. Wind: S.W. 10-15. Rain: 0.00.