

AMERICANS ON LUZON DRIVE TO SEAL OFF BATAAN

First Army In New Crossings Into Germany

PARIS (AP)—Whiteclad infantry of the American First Army stormed across the snowdrifted German border at two new places today and Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' artillery started pouring shells into the main concrete works of the thickly held Siegfried Line.

All along a 35-mile assault front below St. Vith to the Roer River northeast of Monschau, the First and Third Armies had a full scale assault underway with gains which carried the First to the ramparts of the West Wall and broadened the Third Army's foothold inside Germany.

The next few hours it is expected that the First Army will lead at Supreme Headquarters might begin to show whether even with additional cold and delving drifts, the Germans would be able to hold their fortifications with the force they left behind in their drain out to bolster the swaying Eastern Front.

TROOPS SHIFTED

The Germans said Gen. Elsenhower was shifting his troops in preparation for an all-out offensive and had moved 60 divisions, nearly half of them armored, to the attack. They called the Meuse drive "Aided preparation to attack offensive bases."

The Fighting First Division crossed the border a half mile west of Unterbreich, which is in the Siegfried Line, in the longest First Army gain. The village is fifteen miles northwest of St. Vith.

The Second Airborne Division moved into Germany east of Lutzerath and got within a mile of the Siegfried Line, encountering stiff resistance, including tanks.

The Second was the seventh division the First Army had thrown into the fight.

Mecklenburg Casualties
(Stories Inside)

KILLED
First Lt. Ferdinand H. Marx Jr., Pvt. Paul G. Warburton.

MISSING
Pfc. Howard Albert Linker.

WOUNDED
Pvt. Crawford Lassiter, Sgt. Kenneth Miller, Pfc. Robert Ballard, Pvt. Sterling Long.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian Front
Official word from Marshal Stalin reveals a new forward plunge by the Red Army driving along the shortest route to Berlin. Soviet troops have captured the rail city of Landsberg, no more than 68 miles due east of the Reich capital. Landsberg is a great communications hub on the railway running from Berlin to Danzig. Three other important strongpoints—Immeritz, Schwiebus and Zullichau—south of Landsberg have fallen to the Russians.

Earlier, German broadcasts, which have given 50 towns 58 and 62 miles from the river city of the Reich, Stalin's order of the day, the Soviet Union, are celebrating the latest triumph. Stalin has ordered twenty victory salutes from 22 Moscow guns.

Western Front
The Russian drive is coordinated with a series of blows against the Germans on the Western Front. American First Army fighting men in white snow are hammering across the German border at two new places. The Yanks have driven in the concrete works of the Siegfried Line.

To the south, the Third Army's foothold inside Germany has been broadened to five miles. The First and Third Armies are pressing forward on an assault consisting of 35 miles in the center of the Western front. The Germans say General Eisenhower is giving his forces an all-out effort to push the enemy's gains that present

Strong U.S. Eighth Army Forces Make New Landing

By C. YATES MCDANIEL
GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, LAYON (AP)—Landing unopposed from 150 ships 60 miles northwest of Manila, strong U. S. Eighth Army forces landed today toward a junction with the Sixth Army which would seal off the historic Philippines.

The second invasion of Luzon, which was held for a month within 30 miles of Manila, was disclosed in today's communiqué of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The 34th Division and a combat team of the 24th, which fought so heroically on Leyte in the central Philippines, were put ashore Monday on Zamboanga Province in the ten miles between the Santa Tomas River mouth and San Antonio. Subsequent gains of a man, place or ship.

WILD GREETING
These American survivors of the "death march" from Bataan—Capt. George Crane, Topka, Capt. George Crane, Kadel, Pfc. Knox, Kynd, Capt. Winston Jones, an Oklahoma—mounded with Filipino guerrillas wildly greeting the invaders.

The Yanks of Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger posed an immediate menace in a period. Olongapo naval base was snuffed by racing eleven miles inland the first day past flag-waving Filipinos, occupying such towns as San Felipe, San Rafael, San Antonio, San Marcos and Cagayan and setting an airfield—the 23rd air base was on Luzon.

Successful landings on the sector is to American conquest. Philippine told Associated Press. The 24th Division, which had no enemy forces have been stationed in the area since 1942. Although 200 passed through two weeks ago, killing a Filipino woman in one town without provocation.

The beachhead extended along the Santa Tomas River, giving the Yanks control of a long bridge. Butcherson disclosed that the invasion convoy was not attacked by a single enemy plane although it followed the same inland route from Leyte taken by the ship-ship convoy which was routed continuously en route to the Luzon.

See NEW LUZON on page 9

Seldom Smooth

Fala Learns About Course Of True Love

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fala's housewife, the first lady, today, Walter Reed Hospital for treatment of a hip fracture by "blue-blooded lady love."

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, public relations officer at the Army Medical Center, confirmed that Fala had been treated very recently for "external injuries" by an "accident" in the veterinarian hospital. But he added, "not in a hospital bed and the Army medical center was pushed out to allow him to be treated for 'never'."

Mrs. Roosevelt recently told a group of wounded war veterans leaving the White House that the President's pet was in the country and we hope he's having a wedding.

In its current today, the dog "Fala" and his blue-blooded lady love were rather intimate. Actually, the lady bit him."

Firemen Stand Helpless

16 Die As Fire Razes Home For War Workers' Babies

AUBURN, Me.—(AP)—Sixteen young children trapped after an exploding stove sent flames racing through a wooden boarding home for war workers' babies, were suffocated or burned to death today.

Most of the victims ranged in age from three months to three years. They died in their cribs, their heads thrust through the spaces between the slats in their futile struggle to escape.

Only eight of the 24 occupants of the converted farmhouse were able to flee the fast-spreading flames that swept the interior of the converted farmhouse.

One of them was Mrs. Eva Laroche, operator of the home, who sobbed "we don't have any more babies" as she fled, trying to flee from the burning building with two cribs, of falling, and losing the babies in the fire.

"I had them in my arms, I lost them when I fell down," Mrs. Laroche cried after telling Dr. Frederick W. Caron, her physician how a stove had exploded.

Mrs. Laroche related that she fell at the front door of the home and stumbled into the snow-filled yard.

She was badly burned on both arms.

Firemen later found the remains of the two cribs and the bodies of the babies at the door entrance.

Word spread through Auburn of the fire and hysterical women factory workers rushed to the New Auburn community where the home was located.

"One mother had placed her child upon the stove in the home only last night," Fire Chief Ralph Harnden, with firemen, stood helpless as sheets of flame barred them from the building.

A heart-rending spectacle awaited them when they finally were able to enter the quarters.

Sixteen bodies were found and one by one identified.

He said it was "a terrible sight" when he and his men finally battled their way to where the children had been quartered.

"We found many of them with their heads through the slats of their cribs, where they apparently had tried to escape," he added. "I carried out six of them myself, in blankets."

Many of the babies, the fire chief added, were burned badly. Others apparently died of suffocation.

The sheets of flames prevented firemen from reaching the trapped children for some time.

On Western Front

47 U. S. Combat Divisions Listed

By Associated Press

Allied authorities and front dispatches have identified 47 American combat divisions on the Western Front.

In addition, dispatches have identified three Canadian, 14 British, eight French and one Polish Divisions—a total of 73—in combat. Opposing these are an estimated 70 to 80 German divisions, nearly all under normal strength.

It is possible that many divisions besides those identified are in France. The Germans, for instance, have asserted that the famous 42nd Rainbow Division has been in action in northern Alsace, but the Allies never have confirmed it.

Eleven of the divisions identified are armored, three are airborne and 33 are infantry.

Identified divisions follow: (All commanders are major generals, unless otherwise specified. In some cases, commanders have not been identified.)

ARMORED:
2nd—Ernest N. Harmon
3rd—Maurice Rose
4th—Hugh Gaffner
12th—Friedrich Alton
16th—Robert W. Grow
21st—Robert W. Housbrook
30th—John W. Leonard
10th—Willard H. Morris Jr.
11th—Brig. Gen. Charles Kilburn
12th—Friedrich Alton
14th—Brig. Gen. Albert Cowper Smith.

AIRBORNE:
13th—William M. Miller
52nd—James N. Gavin
101st—Maxwell D. Taylor.

INFANTRY:
1st—Brig. Gen. Chit R. Andrus
2nd—Brig. Gen. C. P. Foster
3rd—John W. O'Daniel
4th—Brig. Gen. Harold W. Blyden
5th—LeRoy A. Irwin
6th—Donald A. Streh
7th—John A. Craig
18th—
19th—
20th—William S. Paul
21st—Norman D. Cota
22nd—Charles Hunter Gerhardt
23rd—Leifert C. Hobbs
24th—John W. Baze
25th—John E. Dalquist
26th—Robert L. Sprague
27th—Robert F. Frederick
28th—Paul B. Pritchett
29th—Eugene C. Parker
30th—Ira T. Weyche
31st—Horace L. McBride
32nd—Robert C. Macdon
33rd—Alexander R. Collins
34th—Brig. Gen. Frank L. Bitt
35th—James A. Van Fleet
36th—Harry J. Malcom
37th—HARRY L. Treadwell
38th—
39th—
40th—Victors A. Butters
41st—Fala A. Keating
42nd—Anthony C. McNeill
43rd—Terry De La Mesa Allen
108th—Alan W. Jones.

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See PARTY SPLIT on page 9

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Weather

Fair and colder today and tonight with heavy showers around 10. Thursday partly cloudy and warmer.

Temperature at 8:30 today: High 44, Low 34. 24 hours: High 44, Low 34. 48 hours: High 44, Low 34.