

German Forces Driven From Belgian Soil; Reds Storm Last Oder River Strongholds MANILA HEARS SOUND OF AMERICAN GUNS

Reds Pound German Positions

London, Sunday—(AP)—The Red Army, closing swiftly on Frankfurt and Kustrin, last Oder River strongholds 38 and 40 miles from bomb-shattered Berlin, yesterday reached the marshes bordering that last natural barrier to the Axis capital, and killed or captured 17,454 wounded Germans, Moscow announced last night.

GERMAN RADIO STATION QUILTS AFTER REPEATING, "THE END"

The official DNB news agency mysteriously signaled the words "Schluss, Schluss (The end, the end)" tonight in the middle of one of its regular broadcasts after a smashing daylight raid by American bombers on Berlin. The words "schluss, schluss" were recorded on Hellschreiber machines in the Associated Press listening post where German news transmissions are picked up. The Hellschreiber machines are teleprinters operated by radio signals from German transmission stations, presumably located in Berlin. "Schluss" sometimes is used by German broadcasters to indicate the end of a transmission period, but never before. Associated Press listeners said, has it been intercepted during a transmission. One possible explanation was that the broadcast operators were showing the effects of today's heavy bombing of Berlin. The exclamations of "schluss" came from the transmitting station DLX. "Schluss" repeated many times, was recorded on Hellschreiber machines—automatic transcribers—in the Associated Press listening post.

Patrols Nearing Manila

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Central Luzon—Sunday—(AP)—Yank columns are fast approaching Manila, far outdistancing the official reports Saturday which put them less than 15 miles away on the north at 6 p.m. Friday. "American big guns are close enough this (Friday) evening for Manila residents to hear them," reported Associated Press Correspondent Russell Brines with the 37th Division which is in a neck and neck drive with the motorized First Cavalry Division for the honor of being the first to enter the city. (Broadcast reports from Luzon Saturday referred to patrols reaching the "outskirts" without specifying places.) Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler's 37th was running into just enough harassing resistance along Highway Three skirting Manila Bay to permit the First Cavalry of Maj. Gen. Vern Mudge, driving on the east down Highway 5 to pull abreast. The First virtually was unopposed in a truck, jeep and tank march. Air observers reported no sign of enemy defenses at Manila itself but Maj. Gen. Oscar W. Griswold, commanding the 14th Army Corps, emphasized he would not risk sending the 37th and First Cavalry into a trap but would pace their advance with that of supporting heavy guns. Dean Schedler, Associated Press war correspondent with the First Cavalry spearheads, said "this flying squadron has done virtually no fighting, leaving bypassed Japanese pockets to the main columns following." Gen. Douglas MacArthur moved his headquarters into Central Luzon to be closer to the climax punch poised at the city where he had his headquarters when the war broke Dec. 8, 1941 (Dec. 7, U. S. date). Saturday's communique made no mention of any enemy resistance as it spotlighted a heavy movement of the First Cavalry down to the Angat River where its patrols were reported Friday. First Cavalry elements then crossed the river at Bustos to make the closer approach.

DeGaulle May Sit In On Second Half Of "Big Three" Conference

By JOSEPH DYNAN Paris—(AP)—French official circles predicted Saturday that Gen. Charles DeGaulle would be invited to sit in on the second half, or political portion, of the "Big Three" conference which would "most probably" be followed by a visit of President Roosevelt to the French capital.

Although DeGaulle was known to feel that such a "last minute" invitation would not benefit France's right to a voice in high Allied councils, persons close to the French leader said they thought he would make the trip nonetheless, if and when the call came. (Jean Calvet, a domestic radio commentator in Paris, declared Saturday that the "Big Three" meeting had begun, and added that "it is difficult not to feel a certain bitterness" over the fact that "France should be absent from this meeting, which is so important for the future of Europe and the world." His broadcast was recorded by the OWI.) Several officials here asserted that the Allies could not decide the fate of Germany in which France is so vitally interested, or pick France as one of the Reich's post-war guards, without first obtaining French consent. They conceded that the French would not need to be included in the military phase of the conference dealing with high command strategy for the defeat of the Nazis. Meanwhile, French officials said Presidential Aide Harry Hopkins brought no news on the possibility that President Roosevelt would visit Paris, but officials pointed out that the President already has accepted DeGaulle's invitation "in principle," with only the date and circumstances left open. If DeGaulle attends part of the "Big Three" conference he will bring the President back with him for Franco-American talks, some officials predicted.

Soldier Hides Beneath Building For 15 Months

Atlanta—(AP)—The Army's Fourth Service Command told last night the story of a Pennsylvania private who went A. W. O. L. in the late summer of 1943 and spent 15 months hiding underneath a service club at his camp until fire destroyed the building and brought about his capture. The Command announcement identified the soldier as Henry Bembovski of Beaver Falls, Pa., who was assigned to an anti-aircraft battalion at Camp Stewart, Ga., when he disappeared about Aug. 13, 1943. The Army said he was now under treatment at an unnamed regional hospital while a military board determines his "mental and physical fitness."

Coal Miners Work Extra Day

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—(AP)—An estimated 150,000 tons of anthracite were added to the nation's diminishing coal stocks Saturday as 65,000 Pennsylvania miners responded to the Solid Fuel Administration's request for an extra day's work. Although some 7,200 miners remained idle in protest against working on Saturday without time and a half pay, regional SFA representative Owen E. Williams said "most miners answered the government's plea."

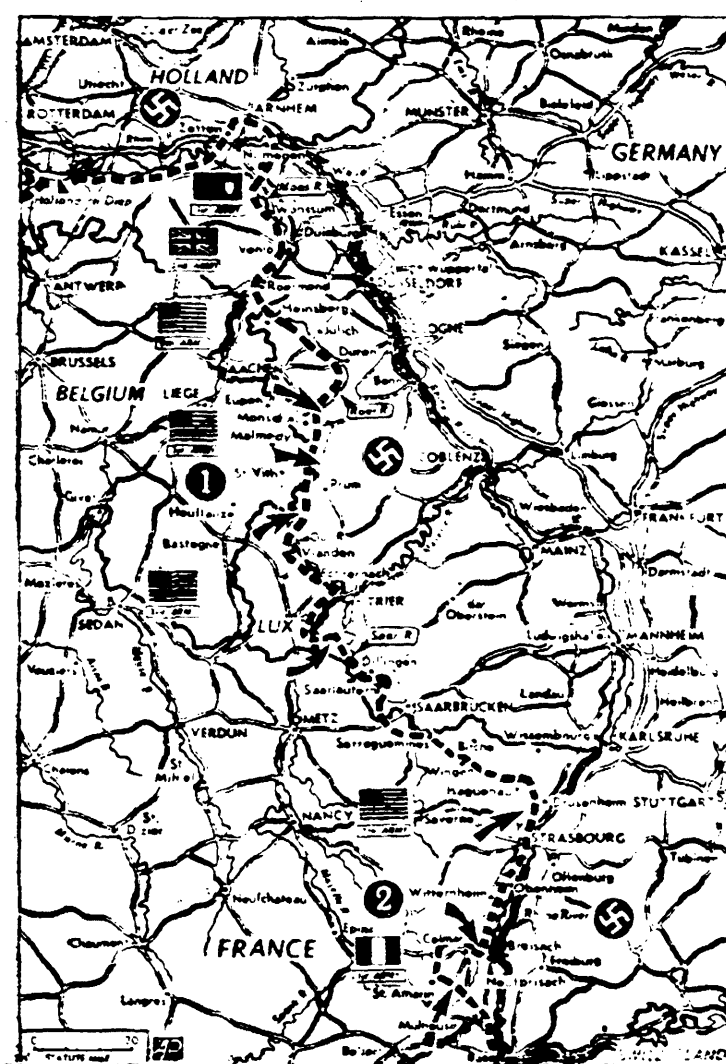
Errol Flynn Married To 20 Year Old Cigar Counter Girl

Hollywood—(AP)—Errol Flynn's studio issued a statement today on his behalf saying: "Sure, I'm married." The statement, received by Warner Brothers by telephone from the actor, said: "What's all the commotion about? Sure, I'm married, and I like it, and it's nobody's business but ours." Flynn, who arrived in New York yesterday from Mexico, was noncommittal about his reported marriage to Nora Eddington, 20-year-old former cigar counter girl in the Los Angeles County Hall of Justice, who reported the birth of a child in Mexico City Jan. 19 to herself and Flynn. The actor's statement, as made public today did not name his

Americans Crash Through Siegfried Line Fortifications

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR Paris—(AP)—American troops thrust three miles deeper into Germany Saturday to within a mile of a break through the permanent fortifications of the Siegfried Line and pushed the last Germans off Belgian soil.

U. S. First Army spearheads were 11 miles inside the western border of the Reich and 31 miles from the Rhine, while the French First Army and its American reinforcements in Alsace liberated the city of Colmar and carved a five-mile slice off the German salient in that province. Total penetration of the west-wall's double belt of defenses would not open the way completely for the continuing First Army advance, as the Germans feverishly have been throwing up temporary fortifications farther back. During the day, however, more than 1,000 U. S. heavy bombers spread flaming ruin on refugee-packed Berlin only 40 miles or so from the Russian forces hammering at the embattled Nazis' last eastern line of defenses. First Army doughboys liberated Krewinkel, last German-held town in the eastern tip of Belgium, a late front dispatch reported. In clearing the Germans from the three-mile by three-mile area held by the Germans east and northeast of St. Vith, the Americans seized three other towns earlier in the day. The American attacks to clear the Rhine north of Strasbourg were running into stiffer resistance. A counterattack was beaten off at Rohrviller, 13 miles northeast of Strasbourg, and the Allies were forced to make a retreatment near Herrlisheim, a mile and a half farther south. Tactical warplanes in moon flying weather concentrated on the escape hatch at Neuf-Bressach, which was bombed and strafed by two waves of Thunderbolts. Pilots reported half the buildings in the ancient town were destroyed or damaged. Lt. Norman Waspe, Cincinnati, Ohio, said he was forced to bomb from less than 1,000 feet because of bad weather. East of the Rhine, north-bound trains on the Freidburg-Offenburg line were shot up and railway yards feeding the Colmar pocket were bombed.



ALLIES MOVE ON WESTERN FRONT. Arrows indicated Allied activity on the western European front (broken line). In the Aachen-Trier area (1) the U. S. First and Third Armies edged forward into thinly-manned Siegfried line defenses. In the south (2) the Germans had been driven for the most part from the area between Strasbourg and Colmar.

Allied Bombers Hit Berlin

By WILLIAM F. FREE London, Sunday—(AP)—More than 1,000 American Flying Fortresses poured a torrent of fire and explosives into the center of refugee-packed Berlin yesterday in the most concentrated attack ever delivered against the Nazi capital. Actually in sight of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's massive assault against the Oder River line 30 to 40 miles to the east, the bombers, escorted by more than 200 fighters and unopposed by German aircraft over the target, dumped approximately 3,000 tons of explosives and fire bombs in a 45-minute attack. The raid on Berlin, and an auxiliary stab by 400 Liberators at the oil center of Magdeburg, cost the Americans 35 bombers and five fighters missing, said a communique issued early today. Twenty-one German planes were shot down and 14 others destroyed on the ground. "The first wave of bombers over the Reich capital attacked in good visibility," said the bulletin. "Large fires were started in the target areas and smoke and flames which followed caused some of the last formations over the city to bomb by instruments." Allied air raiders were over Germany continuously from 11 a. m. to about 3:30 p. m. yesterday, and German radio warnings were renewed last night, indicating that Allied bombers were out for a follow-up blow against the Reich.

Canadian Election Monday Seen As A Test Case

Owen Sound, Ont.—(AP)—The key to troubled Canada's immediate political future reposed Saturday with the 23,000 registered voters in this relatively remote Parliamentary constituency of Grey North, on Georgian Bay 125 miles north of Toronto. These taciturn British-stock townsmen and farmers, although exposed to weeks of campaigning, prepared calmly to vote in Monday's test case by-election centering around the compromise conscription policy of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King. Seeking clues to Canada's future manpower policy, the probable date of a forthcoming general election and the strength of the Socialist Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, the Dominion watched the tiny electorate attentively. Canada's three major parties made these pleas: 1. Prime Minister King's Liberal party asked election of Defense Minister Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton to a seat in Parliament so that he could better execute the duties of his office, to which he was appointed in November's conscription crisis. 2. The official opposition party, the Progressive Conservatives, asked election of Garfield Case, former mayor of Owen Sound, on the charge that the government's manpower policy had failed to supply needed infantry reinforcements overseas and that it had been the cause of violence and "desertions" among draftee troops. More than 7,000 of these troops went absent without leave as they were about to be sent overseas, but so far as is known have not yet been formally discharged with desertion. 3. The OCF asked election of Air Vice Marshal A. Earl Godfrey, a well-to-do industrialist who recently became a supporter of the party's long-range social and economic aims. All three parties regard it as a close race. The consensus of 18 visiting newspapermen representing all parts of the Dominion gave McNaughton a slight edge, seven predicting he would win against six for Godfrey and five for Case.

Red Cross Month Is Designated

Washington—(AP)—President Roosevelt Saturday designated March as "Red Cross Month" in a proclamation calling for contributions to the organization's 1945 appeal for a minimum war fund of \$200,000,000. In the proclamation made public by the White House, the President said he was "confident in the readiness of the people to respond to the utmost of their ability in support of this organization, x x x dedicated to their services in this hour of increasing need." "By the very nature of its services and the principles for which it stands," the proclamation said, "the American National Red Cross is helping to build a world of unity, and peace and brotherhood, recognizing no barriers of creed and race."

Birth Rate In World War II Shows Increase

Washington—(AP)—The story has been much busier in this war than in World War I. One reason, says Census Bureau expert John D. Durand, is that various European nations have deliberately granted more furloughs for married men to visit their homes. Another reason is that both European countries and the United States have paid allotments to servicemen's dependents in this war. In the United States the birth rate has stayed as high for three years that the population effect of the war has been a large net gain. For every soldier or sailor killed in the war, six "war babies" has been born—an addition to the number of babies that would normally have been expected under the prewar birth rate. In the first world war the principal belligerent countries, after a short initial boom in births, had very low birth rates. Even in the United States the birth rate showed a "tendency to drop in the latter part of 1918 and in early 1919."

Air Ratio Of 5 To 1 Established Over Japanese

Washington—(AP)—In three years of war, Navy and Marine Corps fliers have established a superiority ratio of more than 5 to 1 over the Japanese. To January 1, the Navy disclosed yesterday, Japanese planes shot down in combat or destroyed on the ground by its fighters totaled 9,919 against 1,822 planes lost. The figures do not include losses to antiaircraft fire by either side. The score in 1942 was 1,124 to 204, for a ratio of 5 to 1; in 1943, 2,273 to 351, or 6.5 to 1; and last year, 6,473 to 1,147, or 5.7 to 1. "Although the Jap is steadily and rapidly improving the fighting performance of his aircraft," said some of his latest models are excellent—during the last year most of his planes could not be regarded as the equal of comparable types employed by the Navy," said Vice Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch, deputy chief of Naval Operations for Air. "But a more important factor was the superior quality of our Navy and Marine pilots." The Navy said at least 65 percent of the Navy and Marine fliers served down are Japanese. The greatest toll of Japanese planes the Navy said, was exacted by fighters—B-24s based on carriers of the Egret or Independence class, smaller Wildcat based on escort carriers, and Corsairs operated from land bases as well as from carriers.

ALL VERY CONFUSING

Elmira, N. Y.—(AP)—Arriving at Elmira, N. Y., from where he was divorced in 1942 after nearly seven years of marriage, Mrs. Susan Leslie Flynn, then 2, was awarded the custody of his mother.