

131 Years Ago Today
 Napoleon, another would-be world
 conqueror, abdicated

LIEGE POSITION
THE STARS AND STRIPES
 Daily News paper of U.S. Armed Forces
 Vol. I—No. 82

in the European Theater of Operations
 Wednesday, April 11, 1945

Conference Preview
 Background Discussions of San
 Francisco, Pages 2, 3

Ninth Army Takes Hanover

Reds Seize Heart, Half Of Vienna

LONDON, Apr. 10 (AP)—A Soviet communique announced today that the Russians had captured the center of Vienna and half the city, a few hours after Marshal Stalin in an order of the day reported the capture of Koenigsberg, the fortress capital of East Prussia, after a two-day assault resulting in the capitulation of the garrison of 27,000 men.

With all main administrative buildings in Vienna in their hands, the Russian forces of Marshal Feodor Tolbukhin, in crushing force, concentrically attacked the still wildly fighting German garrison. The communique indicated fanatical resistance, saying that only 1,700 prisoners had been taken in the capital.

Capture Town Hall
 Although the German forces were fighting back in an effort to escape being shut off in a narrow gap in the northeastern section of the city, the Soviet forces already are in possession of the Parliament buildings, the Town Hall, central police headquarters, the main telegraph office, the Opera House and the Central European Bank.

Meanwhile, Marshal Rodion Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army fought sharp battles northeast of the city on the eastern side of the Danube to close the narrow escape passage to Czechoslovakia and trap the many thousands of Germans still in the capital.

Reich's Key Ports Periled



Stars and Stripes Map by Baird

Ninth U.S. Army's 84th Inf. Div. entered Hanover yesterday as Fifth Arm. Div. cut Hanover-Brunswick super-highway. First Canadian Army troops were only 15 miles from North Sea at Ems River estuary, while British Second Army battled in outskirts of Bremen.

Yanks Dash Through Fog, German Fire at Hanover

Armor Cuts Road 125 Mi. From Berlin, Nears Brunswick

Hanover, German commercial center with a prewar population of 472,000 and located on the road to Brunswick and Berlin, fell yesterday to the Ninth U.S. Army's 84th Inf. Div., Reuter reported last night.

Simultaneously, the Fifth Arm. Div. shot a column south of Hanover in a 23-mile thrust to cut the Hanover-Brunswick super-highway midway between the two cities. The exact point at which the autobahn was cut was not disclosed, but the mid-point between Hanover and Brunswick would place the Fifth Arm. about 20 miles from Brunswick and 125 miles west of Berlin—the closest western approach to the German capital.

8th Destroys 245 Planes to Set a Record

Eighth AF fighter planes struck what may be a new record blow against the Luftwaffe yesterday when they claimed destruction of 248 aircraft, on the ground and in the air, during attacks on seven air bases.

More than 1,300 Eighth AF fighters and bombers participated in the attacks.

An indication of how close U.S. infantrymen were to Brunswick was contained in the news that American doughs called on Thunderbolts of the 20th TAC to bomb the city after an ultimatum to surrender had been turned down by the local Nazi leaders.

A flight of P47s, led by Maj. Gus Mehes, of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., struck the city a few minutes later. Mehes said his pilots noticed many white flags despite the town officials' avowed determination to fight.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed officially last night that the drive toward the North Sea by men of the First Canadian Army and paratroops had trapped more than 100,000 German soldiers in

A mile from the southeastern outskirts and swarmed across the battered Aspern airport, thus denying the Nazis any hope of escape by air. These columns then turned north and battered German tanks and self-propelled guns in the region of Flordiskorf and Jedlersee, northeast of the capital, through which the highway runs north to Brunn, in Czechoslovakia.

Red Flag Over Königsberg

Far to the other end of the long Russian front, long lines of prisoners streamed out of captured Königsberg. The Soviet flag flew over the city while Russian firefighters turned to putting out the many blazes which raged in the big Baltic city in its last days in German hands.

A dispatch to Lvov, told of fighting in medieval vestia as Red Army men scaled the walls of the fortresses with ladders to attack the Germans. In other places, particularly in the southern suburbs, the Russians discovered five-cornered, concrete pillboxes, built deep in the ground with a series of ditches around them. Far below ground were ammunition dumps, stores and weapons.

The seizure of Königsberg deeply impressed the Soviet people, for descriptions reveal it as one of the great fortresses of Europe.

V-Bomb Terror 'Ends' For U.K.

NEWCASTLE, Apr. 10 (AP)—The British breathed a sigh of relief last night when Miss Ellen Willinson, parliamentary secretary of the Ministry of Home Security told a press conference that "the German V2 campaign has been brought to a definite end."

Miss Willinson announced that 8,400 Britons were killed since Germany began V-bombing last June, but now the Germans would have to lengthen the range considerably to be able to send V2 weapons to England.

Brooklyn 'Runaway' Wounded in Germany

NEW YORK, Apr. 10 (ANS)—A two and a half year search for a young Brooklyn runaway ended today, when police learned that he now is in Germany recovering from wounds received while serving in the Third U.S. Army.

The boy, Melvin Rosen, 17, disappeared from his home in Nov., 1942. His mother told police that she had received a letter from him from an Army hospital in Germany. He had been inducted under an assumed name.

By George Dorsey
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 84th INF. DIV., Hanover, Apr. 10—Able Co. of the 335th Regt., moving fast through heavy morning mists, fought its way to Hanover today without losing a man.

U.S. Ready In Coal Rift

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10 (ANS)—The government stood by today to seize struck soft coal mines if a tentative understanding between operators and miners failed to produce a new contract and half costly walkouts.

While John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers president, and producers seemed hopeful that agreement could be reached on all major issues, government agencies were taking no chances on continuation of the work stoppages which had reduced steel production in western Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Alabama.

The War Labor Board sent memoranda to Economic Stabilizer William H. Davis and the White House as a preliminary to possible seizure of nearly 200 mines which were idle yesterday.

Tentative understanding on all but one major issue was reported yesterday by Ezra Van Horn, the wage conference chairman. The unresolved demand was reported to involve foremen.

Lewis, in one of his original 18 demands, asked that all but the superintendent and one foreman in each mine be eligible for direct union membership.

Agreement now would set a record for bituminous wage negotiations in recent years. The WLB and Davis must pass upon any new contract. This will require a minimum of two weeks and possibly much longer.

Elmer Davis Negotiates Office in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Apr. 10 (AP)—Elmer Davis, chief of the Office of War Information, has completed negotiations in Brussels to open up an information office in the Belgian capital in the near future.

Davis talked with Edmond Rose, Belgian Minister of Information.

Civil War Vet, 108, Dies

MINNEAPOLIS, Apr. 10 (ANS)—Henry Mack, believed to be the oldest Civil War veteran in the U.S., died at the Veterans' hospital here today.

Commanded by 1/Lt. Joseph Darrigo, of Norton Heights, Conn., Able Co. slipped through lanes of German machine-gun fire to lead the first Bn. into the western section of the city.

One of the first men in, S/Sgt. John Braswell, a rifle squad leader from Jacksonville, Fla., said, "We took a chance on the fog and ran through the outer defenses. Once we got inside we were troubled only by sniper fire."

This regiment made a forced march to reach the jump-off line by 0530 hours. Pfc Seymour Ramsey, of New York, and Pfc Lambert Liebel, of Philadelphia, machine-gunners, said they had walked since 0100 and were "damned tired."

Not All Bloodless

Not all the fight for Hanover was bloodless. German tanks killed two infantrymen of Easy Co. on the Leine River bridge. This and other bridges were secured intact, however.

At the edge of the city, the Second Bn., commanded by Lt. Col. Birdsey Learman, of Santa Monica, Calif., was held up by a company of Germans lying in wait behind the canal bridge.

The pocket was erased by mortar of an H Co. platoon commanded by Lt. Charles Pemberton, of Clay, Ky. When

(Continued on Page 8)

309,250 Germans Captured East of Rhine in 2 Weeks

By James Long

Associated Press War Correspondent

In one of the most dramatic fortnights of the war—since Gen. Eisenhower carried his offensive across the Rhine—the Germans have lost more than 309,250 troops in captured alone, roughly 18,000 square miles of territory east of the river, and all chance of continuing an organized fight.

The greatest achievement of all was the giant pincer of the American First and Ninth armies which sealed off the Ruhr and cost Germany her whole Army Group B and the great war production belt, without which the Wehrmacht probably cannot stay in the field more than a matter of weeks.

The Germans captured since the Rhine crossing already exceed the quarter million captured in three weeks of the March mop-up west of the Rhine, which Gen. Eisenhower declared "one

of the greatest victories of this or any other war."

Moreover, the figure of 309,250 does not take into account the 30,000 to 40,000 of Army Group B pinned in the Ruhr, or the unestimated thousands of Army Group H caught in western Holland.

But an idea of the magnitude of the prisoner bag in two weeks can be obtained by comparing it to World War I figures. In all of the 1917-18 campaign American forces took 63,079 prisoners—barely more than one-fifth the number the Allies have captured in the west in the last two weeks. And in the whole of World War I American casualties in killed, wounded, missing, and those taken prisoner totaled 286,330—less than the Wehrmacht has lost in prisoners in a fortnight.

boats and Mustangs, also raided the same jet plane bases at Oranienburg, Larz, Burg, Brust, Neuruppin, Zerbat and Parchin—all within a 75-mile radius west and northwest of Berlin. There was no report of destruction by the heavies.

Bettered Record by 71

The 248 aircraft destroyed during the fighters' strafing attacks would better the previous daily high against German air power by 71. On Sept. 5, 1944, 177 were reported destroyed on the ground and in the air.

RAF Attacks Kiel

The 339th Fighter Gp. alone claimed 100 planes on two airfields. Lt. Col. Elwyn Righetti, of San Luis Obispo, Calif., reported he destroyed eight aircraft, which would give him 14 for the last two days.

Eight fighters were reported missing. There was no report on bomber losses. The U.S. armada struck in perfect weather after a night in which RAF heavies pounded Kiel's shipbuilding yards and Mosquitos raided the Reich capital.

Ninth AF, meanwhile, sent its first mission over Czechoslovakia, as mediums from Ninth Bomb. Div. and 19th TAC Thunderbolts raided Eger, 30 miles southeast of Hof.

Mediums also hit a 500,000-ton oil depot, 40 miles southeast of Erfurt, as Ninth AF, in more than 1,400 sorties, claimed destruction or damage of 1,200 railcars and destruction of 54 planes on the ground and in the air.

First Army troops were reported last night to have reached Nordhausen, about 120 miles southwest of Berlin. Nordhausen is a highway junction approximately in the center of the triangle formed by Kassel, Magdeburg and Leipzig.

Holland, including 20,000 combat men. The Canadians were only 15 miles from the North Sea and the mouth of the Ems River.

Supreme Allied Headquarters predicted that the virtually isolated Germans would stage a bitter fight in the difficult, canal covered Netherlands.

East of the Weser River, tanks of the First U.S. Army reached a point 60 miles from the Elbe River, salt water barrier before the Reich capital. Magdeburg, on the Elbe only 70 miles from Berlin, lies directly in the path of the latest First Army advance.

At the same time, the First and Ninth U.S. Armies continued their squeeze against the Rose Pocket, renamed for Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose, whose Third Armd. Div. linked with the Ninth Army's Second Armd. Div. to isolate the Ruhr. The Germans were making some attempts to evacuate troops from the pocket by plane at night.

Despite the fact that they were virtually cut off from the Reich, the 100,000 Germans in Holland were expected to carry on a bitter battle of attrition similar to that being staged in the Rose Pocket. Previous estimates that 80,000 rear echelon Germans were caught in the Netherlands were increased by reports that 20,000 German combat men had been planned against the North Sea coast in the vicinity of the Ems estuary.

On the Canadian right flank, the Second British Army, spearheaded by the Seventh Armd. (Desert) Rats Div. drove into villages skirting the great port and shipbuilding center of Bremen, while other British forces aimed at Hamburg.

(Continued on Page 8)

Nazis in Ruhr Blasted By Calls to Surrender

12TH ARMY GP. HQ., Apr. 10 (AP)—Truth is being used as the major weapon in psychological warfare now going full blast against some 100,000 Germans in the Ruhr pocket.

The basic idea is to let the Germans know their well-nigh hopeless plight and tell them how to surrender by loud-speakers mounted on tanks and by millions of leaflets delivered in shells and from planes.

German officer prisoners seated around the microphone discuss problems of the Germans in unrehearsed broadcasts aimed at German officers still at large.

known they still have enough to serve with "a not so powerful task force."

Hanover - - -

(Continued from Page 1)

the smoke cleared 22 Germans lay dead.

Hanover was assaulted by all three of the 84th's regiments. While the 835th hit the city from the west the 334th drove from the north.

When you first approached the city with doughboys plodding along the road you could hear an infantryman singing as he peered warily around. "Come out, come out, wherever you are."

When you swung onto the Limmerstrasse lined with apartment houses you saw crowds of German civilians standing silently as they eyed the dusty Americans. The civilians apparently obeyed the commands of the Nazi gauleiter well, for not a single white flag was flown from windows. As you moved deeper into town, however, a few women waved handkerchiefs.

Capt. William P. Thompson, of Carrollton, Ky., who had lost ten men to tank fire, reported seeing a woman wave an American flag. In no mood to be impressed, he muttered, "The two-faced bastards."

There are many bombed-out buildings in Hanover, especially in the factory and railroad districts, but this city is not as bad as others lying behind the Ninth Army.

The advance of the 335th Regt. brought liberation to thousands of Allied soldiers held prisoner. These derelicts, vermin infested, sick and starved, slowly becoming conscious of their masters' fall, timidly at first then excitedly began to circulate in the streets. Most of them made immediately for the shops and warehouses, shouting and clawing like animals in quest of food.

More Ships for Allies

West Front ---

(Continued from Page 1)

less than 70 miles away on the Elbe River.

Just to the south three American armies—the Ninth, First and Third—were moving along a solid 125-mile front running from Hanover to Meiningen.

Fierce battles were raging in the Seventh U.S. Army sector at the southern end of the West Front. The Germans held grimly to Heilbronn, a pivotal position on the Neckar River. On the Seventh's right flank, the First French Army made small advances toward Stuttgart.

30th Div. Captures 4,500

Mopping up in the wake of the Fifth Armd. Div.'s smash toward Brunswick, the 20th Inf. Div. captured 4,500 prisoners yesterday.

On the Weser River, the 83rd Inf. Div. cleared Holmeinden.

Driving hard against the northern perimeter of the Rose Pocket, which has now shrunk to a third of its original size a week ago, the 79th Inf. Div. reached the Ruhr River southeast of Essen, which was entered Monday. The 75th Inf. Div. took Lutgen, west of Dortmund. Limited gains were made by the 17th Airborne and 35th Inf. Divs.

At First Army headquarters, it was announced that 20,000 Germans had surrendered in the pocket. Original estimates put 100,000 Germans in the area.

Stiffened opposition in the Canadians' Holland sector was forming at Devanter, on the Issel River.

East of the Weser River, the British 11th Armd. and Sixth Airborne Divs. cleared a ten-mile stretch of the Leine River's east bank, 11 miles northwest of Hanover. At this point the British were in contact with the Ninth U.S. Army's left flank.

the
no
ma
slu

PH
Si
M
atta
urd
frel
her
con
Chi
to
O
the
rang
In
Div.
tua
pres
cled
In
expl
Kee
othe
coas
171
F
med
foun
ing
the

CI
Ne

W
3rd
sever
amm
SS t
Th
each
head.
guard
run t
The
that
bulan

rate
of
nis-
an
Ger-
r a

rds,
de)
ense
s a

eing
mer
out
in
zoo-
ght
emy
his

the
hil-
zer
ach
ain
of
be
pa-
orts
hr-
the

g

en.
of
Sir
α
ous
for

44,
of
sta-
ult.

1. 1. Division