

GROUP TO STUDY CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS APPOINTED

Will Suggest Improvements
in Public Facilities

A committee to study need for public care and protection of children and suggest changes or improvements in existing public facilities was appointed Thursday following a meeting of the executive committee of the Council of Social Agencies at 211 Camp street.

Rabbi Emil W. Leipzig, president of the council, said that appointment of the committee had been authorized prior to the death of seven-year-old Clementine Bonnevill, whose mother, Mrs. Ernest Bonnevill, has been indicted for manslaughter. The case called attention to the need for more adequate facilities for the care of children.

"Its appointment at this time offers an opportunity for a careful analysis and report to the public on the needs of the community for appropriate care of its dependent and neglected children, and children presenting serious behavior problems," said Rabbi Leipzig.

Malcolm Dinwiddie was named chairman of the committee, which is composed of representatives of the executive committee of the Council of Social Agencies, the board of the department of public welfare, the Milne Municipal Boys' Home and other representative citizens.

"For a number of months," Rabbi Leipzig said, "the Council of Social Agencies has been conferring with the department of public welfare, the juvenile court, the Milne Boys' Home and other agencies, with particular respect to the limitations in the public program for the care and protection of children, and this committee is the result of recommendations growing out of those conferences, and represents an enlargement of a preliminary group which has been at work on these problems."

"The family and child welfare division of the Council of Social Agencies will co-operate with the committee in making available to it the information and knowledge which it has of this problem, and the committee will co-ordinate the findings and information of other groups interested."

"It constitutes the creation of a formal committee for the purpose of drafting specific recommendations for the consideration of city authorities."

Other members of the committee include Walter Barnett, Mrs. Moise Cahn, Miss Josephine Clark, Charles Payne, Home, Jr., William Guste, Miss Gladys Hall, Mrs. Adela Hutson, the Right Reverend H. Joseph Jacoby, Mrs. Charles Landry, Rabbi Leipzig, Mrs. Anna Many, Robert B. McElree, Miss Lillie Nairne, Ralph Pons, Miss Mary C. Raymond, James J. Reiss, George E. Schneider, Miss Eva Smill, George Stohman, Mrs. Arthur C. Waters, Fred Weiss, Leonard Wise and Miss Elizabeth Wisner.

President Truman Has a New Desk

(The Associated Press)
Washington, April 19.—President Truman has a new desk, a dark red mahogany double affair which replaces the trinket-cluttered desk used by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The Roosevelt desk and all the mementos and gadgets were offered to Mrs. Roosevelt by the president and she has accepted it. It will be placed in the Roosevelt library at Hyde Park.

The new Truman desk is one first used by Theodore Roosevelt and successively by five other presidents—Taft, Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, and for a time by Herbert Hoover.

Orders Clothing Price Rollback

(International News Service)
Washington, April 19.—OPA Administrator Chester Bowles announced tonight the issuance of a maximum average price order designed to roll back the cost of clothing for low- and middle-income families by 6 per cent.

Bowles said the order, part of a joint OPA-WPB clothing program, will become effective April 28 and require clothing manufacturers to sell goods at no more than the average prices they received in 1943.

The OPA chief pointed out that clothing costs have risen about 12 per cent since last May, threatening the price control structure.

Now, he added, most manufacturers will have to resume production of more low and medium-priced clothing, instead of following a trend to make higher-priced lines which have forced up the clothing bills for families in the low and average income brackets.

STRONGER CHECK ON PRICES URGED

Grocers' Head Scores OPA
Enforcement Methods

As the office of price administration here started a survey Thursday of all groceries in New Orleans to determine their compliance with the price program, A. Lloyd Keller, president of the New Orleans Retail Grocers' Association, charged that failure of OPA enforcement measures caused widespread black market activities.

Gilbert J. Fortier, district director of the OPA, said that the survey of the grocery stores required the service of 1000 persons as price panel assistants and urged men and women to volunteer for the job.

"A price panel assistant can give suggestions as to better pricing methods and call attention of the grocer to any item that is not properly priced," Mr. Fortier said. "Overcharges are reported to the panel when a grocer is unco-operative and refuses to change them, but the job of a price panel assistant is definitely not that of a snopper or detective."

Noting charges that women have been refused trade with a number of grocers because of their price panel work, the OPA director said that he believes that type of grocer is in the minority and hundreds of other legitimate grocers will welcome their trade.

"Assaults Blind Grocers"
"Our telephone have been busy with calls from grocers and women who are aroused over the fact that we do have some grocers in New Orleans so blind to their own personal good, and so willing to sabotage the war effort, and I am sure that our legitimate and law-abiding grocers will benefit," he said.

Mr. Keller, meanwhile, said that "too much stress is being placed and too much money sent an administrative activities and not enough on getting the job done in connection with holding prices down and breaking the back of chiselers."

"The OPA needs a strong system of investigation, with action against major offenders and less fooling with trivial matters," he said.

Public Mystified
"The conditions as they exist today here are making a fool of the OPA. The public is mystified. Housewives confront black market prices in efforts to purchase meat and chickens and the black market continues."

"If the FBI had it as easy in obtaining evidence as the OPA would have if proper investigation methods were employed, the FBI would have easy sailing. It is foolish to think that the OPA should try to depend so heavily on the public to act as policemen."

At the same time, Mr. Keller denounced grocers who may be refusing to sell items to women who act as price panel assistants.

REDS NEAR OWN 10 MILES FROM BERLIN; U. S. TAKES LEIPZIG, CLEARS RUHR TRAP

316,930 Prisoners Taken in Greatest Nazi Loss Since Stalingrad; Half Nuern- berg Taken

(The Associated Press)
Paris, April 19.—The inner German fortress of Leipzig and 20,000 fanatic defenders fell today to the United States First Army as the south the United States Seventh Army encircled and captured half the Nazi shrine city of Nuernberg and sent tanks racing 12 miles south to within 80 miles of Munich.

The United States First and Ninth Armies inflicted the worst defeat of Hitler's armies since Stalingrad with the final smashing of the Ruhr pocket, capturing 316,930 prisoners in that campaign, including at least 11 generals.

General Omar N. Bradley declared the first phase of the United States First, Third, Ninth and 15th Armies' offensive beyond the Rhine was completed, that there would be a temporary pause for consolidation "before we go into the next," and left the uneasy German high command to guess which direction it would take.

In that first phase, he said, 842,884 German prisoners had been taken, and all the German forces that faced his armies when the big push began now had been wiped out.

Bradley's statement that the Ruhr had been liquidated implied that the big munitions city of Dusseldorf had been captured, although it last was reported still being mopped up. The 20,000 prisoners taken at Leipzig represented half the city's estimated garrison.

With three American armies on, across, or nearing the Elbe river on a front of about 160 miles, and with a salient in the Dresden area driven to within possibly 50 miles of Russian lines, the main weight of the Allied offensive veered south toward the enemy's last mountain retreat.

At Leipzig, 75 miles southwest of Berlin, came with dramatic abruptness after a morning pincers assault, giving the First Army control of a good network of roads and railways radiating from this fifth city of the Reich and releasing troops for the second phase.

The United States Third Army was feeling out enemy defenses in Czechoslovakia 65 miles northwest of the munitions city of Pilsen, and were six miles from Asch, the Czech city where Konrad Henlein began his traitorous campaign that surrendered the Sudetenland to Hitler.

As the United States Seventh Army stormed into the heart of Nuernberg, it seized three Nazi generals, including General Gottfried von Witzendorf, chief of all anti-aircraft units in Upper Bavaria. All airfields near the Nazi party capital were in American hands.

To the southwest, the 10th Armored Division dashed 11 miles south into Kirchheim, only 30 miles north of the important Danube city of Ulm. Thus, the whole weight of the Seventh Army had veered from east to south toward the Danube.

On the Seventh's right flank, the French First Army broke all the way through the Black forest in a 13-mile dash to Tübingen, 20 miles southwest of the big communications city of Stuttgart, which was threatened with encirclement.

Counterattacks Smashed
In the north, the United States Ninth Army smashed two small attacks aimed at its Elbe river bridgehead 52 miles southwest of Berlin, and 55 miles northwest of Magdeburg checked a German counterattack after it had penetrated.

Raise in Textile
Wages Approved
Washington, April 19.—Stabilization Director William H. Davis approved today a general wage increase of 5 cents an hour for 50,000 textile workers in 54 Northern and Southern mills.

In approving an order of the war labor board authorizing the increase, Davis described the need for greater production of textile goods as "of almost unique significance in its critical relation to hold down the cost of living."

The war labor board order provides a minimum rate of 55 cents an hour and an increase of 5 cents an hour in rates above the minimum. Since the present minimum rate is 50 cents an hour, this amounts to a general increase of 5 cents an hour.

The WLB order specifically applies to 50,000 textile employees of the 54 participating companies represented by the Textile Workers' Union of America (CIO).

Davis said the OPA had advised him the wage increase "would not in itself require an industrywide boost in the maximum price of any of the major items which the firms produce, but that some of the companies might be entitled to individual price adjustments."



U. S. NINTH ARMY TANKS AND INFANTRY MOVE THROUGH MAGDEBURG

Allies to Give Nazis Last Warning Upon Atrocities

DROP WAR RULES, GOEBBELS PLEADS

People Urged to Use All
Means to Defend Reich

(The Associated Press)
London, April 19.—Paul Joseph Goebbels tonight called on the German people to throw away all the rules of warfare and use every means to defend the fatherland.

Hitler's propaganda minister said in his weekly newspaper Das Reich that "the rules of war of the past centuries have become out of date."

"In the battle against the terrible enemy all means are proper, right and allowed," said his article, quoted by the Berlin radio.

He warned the Germans that the "war has entered a phase in which only the utmost effort of the nation and everyone can save us."

"Every man, woman and child is to defend the sacred fatherland," he added.

Earlier Goebbels told the German people that the nation was "balancing on the razor's edge" and called upon them to stand behind Hitler and "by a last all-out effort, make sure that the Reich does not break apart."

He declared, "There should be no German village or town or hamlet which will at any time peacefully accept the enemy yoke, even if enemy tank columns have advanced far into the Reich."

The flaring of anger toward the Nazis atrocities have become of paramount importance in communications between the "Big Three," the prime minister said, disclosing that a delegation from Parliament would leave tomorrow at the invitation of Eisenhower to see first hand "these gruesome scenes."

One woman is on the eight-member committee appointed to get personal proof of the crimes.

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Truman, Churchill and Stalin in Draft Statement

(The Associated Press)
London, April 19.—The United States, Britain and Russia have drafted a final solemn warning to the Germans that both the top Nazis and those who have done the "foul work with their own hands" will be made to pay for atrocities committed against the Allies.

Prime Minister Churchill announced today.

Disclosure that the warning had been drafted by himself, President Truman and Premier Stalin and would be issued within a "very few days" was made by Churchill to the House of Commons, whose anger flamed as a result of direct word from General Eisenhower that atrocities just discovered "far surpass" anything seen before.

In what appeared to be a suggestion that the central Nazi government might not last even long enough to receive the warning, Churchill said it had been prepared "for the German government or whatever authorities exist."

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U. S. REJECTS RED STAND ON POLAND

Warsaw Regime Denied San
Francisco Invitation

(The Associated Press)
Washington, April 19.—The United States turned down for the second time today Russia's demand that the Warsaw provisional government of Poland be invited to San Francisco.

The resultant impasse left officials worried about the possible effects on the United Nations meeting, called to draft plans for a world organization.

The state department, announcing rejection of the twice-made Soviet proposal for acceptance of the regime, took the position that "only a new provisional government of national unity formed in accordance with the Crimea agreement" should have a place at San Francisco.

The Polish issue, storm center of Western Allied relations with Russia, promised to be top on the list of difficult subjects to be tackled by Big Three foreign ministers this week-end.

Russian Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov is expected here Friday or Saturday. The American and British ambassadors to Moscow, W. Averell Harriman and Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr, are already here to advise their foreign secretaries on the tense Polish situation.

Moscow has given no indication of how far it is prepared to go in insisting that the Warsaw government be invited to San Francisco, but the grave possibility lurked that the Russians might withdraw from the meeting, only a week away, rather than back down.

Most opinion here was that this government has gone as far as it can by agreeing to accept a coalition of the Soviet-sponsored group and "other democratic elements."

American officials kept up slim hopes that a new Polish government could still be agreed upon before the Russians met in the United States before the United Nations meeting closes.

Other tense questions will have to be taken up by the Big Three. That list includes international trusteeship for former mandates and territories to be taken from the Axis. This has been hotly debated within the American delegation and must now be taken to the other top Allies.

There is increasing evidence that the Russians will stand firm in their demand for three votes in the assembly of the proposed world organization and fight it through with the Yalta-pledged support of the United States and Britain.

Reds Tell of Crossing Oder, Neisse in First Official Word of Drive; Ger- mans Describe Giant Tank Battle Before City

(The Associated Press)
London, April 20 (Friday).—The Soviet high command officially announced late last night that a great Berlin-bound battle was raging before the German capital and Nazi reports said Russian tanks were thrusting toward Strausberg, only 10 miles from the burning city.

Clamping operational silence on what Berlin has called "the greatest Red army offensive of the war," Moscow's nightly war bulletin announced only that Red army forces had crossed both the Oder and Neisse rivers east and southeast of Berlin.

The communique did not reveal the depth of Soviet penetrations due east of Berlin, but said that fighting had been raging for three days for the "capture and extension" of bridgeheads. This was the first Moscow announcement that bridgeheads had been secured.

Along the Neisse river, Moscow revealed that the towns of Forst, Muskau and Weiswasser, 58 to 72 miles southeast of Berlin, had been captured.

But the Germans said that these forces had driven farther west, crossed Berlin's own river Spree and plunged within 55 miles of the Americans.

Moscow described the drive across the Neisse as in the "Dresden direction," but regarding battles the east of Berlin the Soviet communique said only:

"During the past three days in the area of the central grouping of our troops, there has been reconnaissance which went over to fighting for the capture and extension of bridgeheads on the rivers Oder and Neisse."

Enemy broadcasts said the greatest tank battle of all time was raging before Berlin's suburbs, reported by the Paris radio to be under shellfire. The Nazis claimed to have destroyed 1074 Red army tanks in the last 72 hours. The armored struggle that may decide Berlin's fate was reaching its climax, the enemy said, and the Germans were falling back.

As two Polish orders of the day gave the first Allied confirmation of the Russian offensive on Berlin, the German radio announced that the Red army had launched yet another mighty offensive.

The third giant blow was aimed at the great Baltic naval base of Stettin, northern anchor of Berlin's crumbling Oder river defense line. Thousands of Red army soldiers were reported surging across the Oder below Stettin under cover of artificial fog.

In Moscow—where official confirmation of the Red army's Berlin offensive was delayed by traditional silence—the Soviet radio declared that the "curtain was falling on the European war" and said that the time when the Allied and Russian armies would link up now was at hand.

Along the entire 170-mile front from Stettin to Saxony, invaded for the first time by the Red army, the relentless pressure of Russian armies beat back the defensive German arc toward Berlin.

Southeast of Berlin, the Russians had gained less than 22 miles by Berlin's account and had driven nine miles beyond the Spree river to reach the strategic communications center of Hoyerswerda in their closest approach to the American lines. Hoyerswerda is 31 miles northeast of Dresden, Saxony capital.

The Germans confessed themselves unable to halt the continuing flow of powerful Red army forces pouring into multiple bridgeheads across the shattered Spree river defense line.

Polish Armies Help
Allied confirmation of German reports of the four-day-old Red army general offensive came from Colonel General Michal Rolka.

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100 of Leipzig Nazis Stage Last Feast, Blow Selves Up

BY LEE CARSON
(The Associated Press)
Leipzig, Germany, April 19.—One hundred banqueting Nazis were blown to shreds last night when munitions manufacturer Herr Brundin destroyed himself and his guests at a Gotterdammerung dinner held at the United States First Army drove into Leipzig.

Crazed by fear as Lieutenant General Courtney H. Hodges' men smashed toward his city, Brundin arranged for his own death and that of 100 friends by transforming his banquet table into a huge land mine.

When the Americans reached the city, the manufacturer of one-shot bazookas invited his friends to a feast. The doomed guests were served caviar, champagne and all the trimmings.

After the banquet, while the hundred guests smoked costly cigars and sipped old cognac, Brundin pressed a button set under the table and wiped out the entire assembly.

This unbelievable action was only one of the fantastic incidents marking the American entry into Leipzig. The thrust into the city smashed open the heart of Nazidom and brought the brutal and obscene cruelty of that regime into full view.

Pretty, tow-headed children made the Nazi last stand in Leipzig. Kids from 10 to 15, banded together under SS officers, fought the Americans with grenades, bazookas and machine pistols.

One rear echelon column was blasted by children who hid behind a wall and hurled grenades at the Yanks. Tiny tots lurked in doorways with weapons hidden under their skirts.

In the mad melee of action at the front and behind it the Americans fought gray-bearded men and children, while thousands of trained Nazi soldiers surrendered.

In the disrupted countryside, concentration camps were being liberated by correspondents—who are generally lost—and by small groups of soldiers looking for sites on which to establish command posts.

From the freed prison camps stumble the wrecks of slave laborers, political prisoners and prisoners of war.

Through the barbed wire gates of these charnel houses and sink holes totter woman skeletons, too far gone under Nazi cruelty to realize that freedom has arrived.

And inside Leipzig, the last skirmishes against Nazi fanatics and armed children are coming to an end as the tide of liberation drives to the Mulde river.

Gist of the News

—Friday, April 20, 1945—

Allies draft final solemn warning to Nazi authorities, underlings against war crimes. —Page 2
Over 2000 Allied planes lash railways in narrowing strip of Germany between Russians and Americans. —Page 3
British push within 14 miles of Ferrara in Italy after breaking Nazis' "Ghenghis Khan Line." —Page 3
Resting place of Ernie Pyle, noted war correspondent killed on Ie Island, to be alongside fallen soldiers. —Page 3

Mrs. Roosevelt tells women press corps she expects to be out of White House today and will continue writing. —Page 1
Truman rounds out week in office with demonstration of intention to work with Congress. —Page 3
Mummified body of mother, who died in 1912, found enshrined in deserted Washington house after daughter dies. —Page 4
Funds for the new Negro school for juvenile delinquents will be available in next few days. —Page 6

Committee to study need for public care and protection of children, suggest changes in existing facilities named. —Page 1
Retail grocers' president says failure of OPA enforcement methods spurs black market activities. —Page 1
Constant patrol of main line levees is maintained as Mississippi river flood crest nears. —Page 2
Eight New Orleansians, freed by Russian advance, are home after months in German prison camps. —Page 3
Price chart formula for use of retail merchants to prevent price spiraling described by furniture group leaders. —Page 5
Wesley Ray, Dryades street merchant, is accused by police in series of burglaries. —Page 6
Plans for central fire station in business district above Canal street are being shaped, Gomila announces. —Page 8
Maurice J. Jeanfreau, aviation machinist's mate third class, USN, tells of being rescued when Bismarck Sea sank. —Page 8
Manufacture of fur garments in Louisiana from the state's fur yield is urged by Representative Horace Dugas. —Page 14
Public welfare financial aid amounting to \$1,368,739 given to 53,240 persons in state during March. —Page 16

CHOICE NOT MADE ON COLLEGE HEAD

Board Fails to Name President for MSC

(Special to The Times-Picayune)
Jackson, Miss., April 19.—Members of the state college board in session here today said that the names of approximately 60 persons had been before a subcommittee for consideration for the presidency of Mississippi Southern college at Hattiesburg.

However, the field has been sharply narrowed down to only a few men, members of the board said. They did not reveal the identity of those remaining in the field.

Chairman Martin V. B. Miller of Meridian said this afternoon he did not know whether the board would name the president of Southern at the current meeting or not, but explained the board would continue in conference through Friday.

It was explained, however, that the meeting of the board of trustees was called primarily to hear reports of consultants to the board in connection with the broad research being made of state-supported institutions of higher learning in Mississippi.

The study of higher education in the seven colleges and university is being directed by Joseph E. Gibson of the Louisiana department of education, onetime superintendent of schools at McComb.

A number of leading Southern educators and some from other sections of the country are consultants in the research study which is designed to eliminate the weaker links in the state's higher educational chain, and overhaul some parts of the existing program. The college board authorized the study last December and appointed Mr. Gibson as its director.

Consultants appearing before the board today or scheduled to appear Friday include Fred J.

PATROL OF RIVER DIKES CONSTANT

Main Line Levees in Good Shape as Crest Nears

As crest of the Mississippi river flood neared here Thursday, all main line levees were reported in good condition but United States Army engineers were maintaining constant patrol.

The United States weather bureau reported that the Mississippi flood crest was below Natchez, Miss., and the Red river crest below Alexandria. The crest time in New Orleans had been indicated for April 20-21. The bureau said the Mississippi river below Natchez, the Red river below Alexandria, and the Black river in Northeast Louisiana would change little this week and would start falling slowly next week. The Carrollton river gauge here showed 19.6 feet, a rise of one-tenth of a foot in 24 hours.

At St. Louis, the Mississippi was rising again but was falling in the Memphis, Tenn., area and was almost stationary below Vicksburg, Miss. The Atchafalaya was reported stationary at Morgan City, and the Ouachita river fell two-tenths of a foot at Monroe.

The Red Cross at Alexandria said health conditions in the flood area were excellent, and prepared to aid some families to return to their homes in Central and North Louisiana, where the Red river overflowed 2,142,000 acres.

The House of Representatives flood control committee Thursday approved resolutions calling for reviews of flood protection measures on the Red river and the Lower Mississippi.

For instance, it was explained by one member, that should the consultant on medical and nursing education recommend that this state should have a four-year medical school and central hospital, the board would discuss the proposal and take action on it at a future date.

The meetings were executive.

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ADVANCE IN FLOOD CONTROL IS URGED

Stronger, Safer System Is Required, Says Pyburn

Praising the team work of federal, state and local agencies in preventing greater damage from floods and in the evacuation of persons from the flooded areas, Devitt L. Pyburn, Baton Rouge, director of the state department of public works, said here Thursday Louisiana must have a stronger and safer flood control system.

Speaking at the luncheon meeting of the Members' Council of the Association of Commerce at The Roosevelt, Mr. Pyburn said that the flood control system was the greatest factor influencing the welfare and prosperity of the state.

Our agriculture, our plants and factories, our highways and other transportation facilities—virtually every field of our activity—is dependent for its very life upon the degree to which our levees hold back these periodic destructive flood tides," he said.

Periodic inspections by the state flood districts are the core of the flood control system, and constitute one of the most important safeguards against levee weakness, he continued.

"Although not perfect, the state flood control system is strong and effective," Mr. Pyburn said. "Otherwise what is today an extremely serious situation in our state might be instead an acute disaster, involving heavy loss of human life and great destruction of land, property and live stock."

He said the Red Cross is operating 74 shelters for refugees in the state, housing approximately 13,500 people. "In a 17-parish area there are at present 22,000 families affected, and 10,000 of these families have been moved from their homes to safety under Red Cross direction," he pointed out.

He listed the deep sea channel to the Gulf as one of the projects still under consideration by the United States engineers which should be the support of business men.

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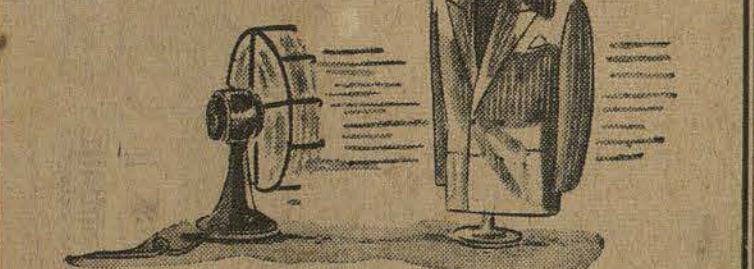
"Although not perfect, the state flood control system is strong and effective," Mr. Pyburn said. "Otherwise what is today an extremely serious situation in our state might be instead an acute disaster, involving heavy loss of human life and great destruction of land, property and live stock."

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He listed the deep sea channel to the Gulf as one of the projects still under consideration by the United States engineers which should be the support of business men.

GRAFF'S

Closeup of a Breeze...



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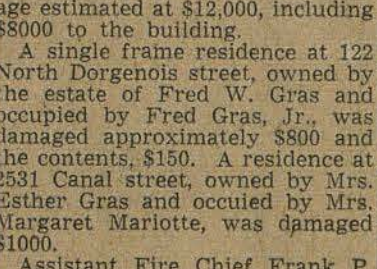
Smart play suit of frothy white pique... all in one shorts, matching skirt... sizes 10-16, 7.95.

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908 CANAL STREET

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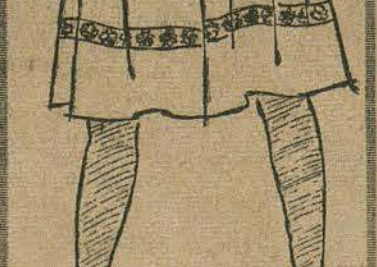
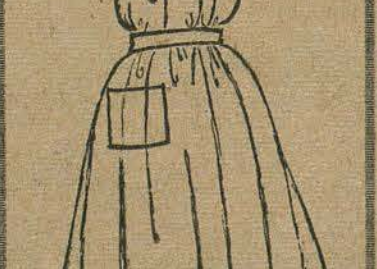
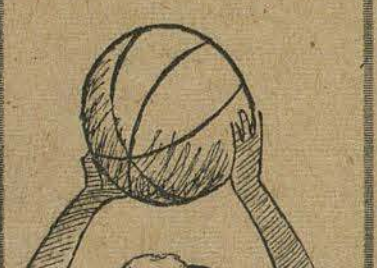


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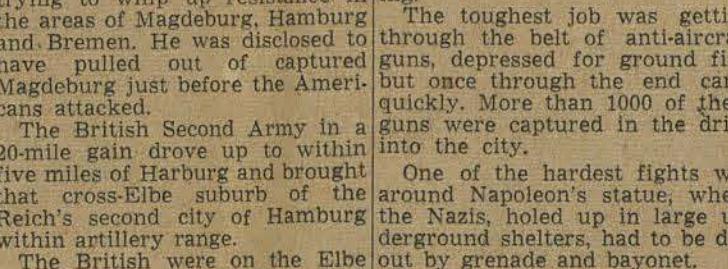
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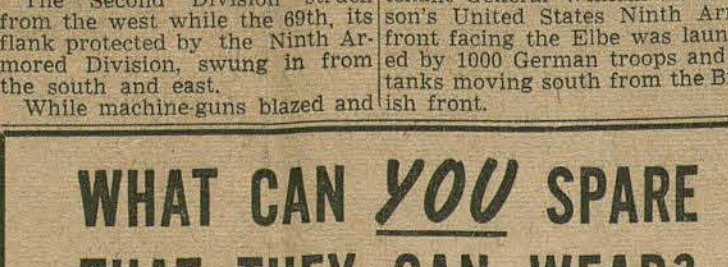
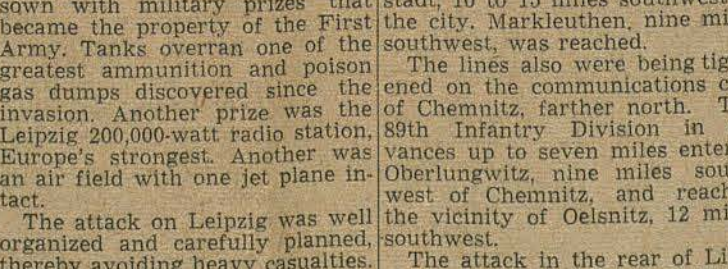
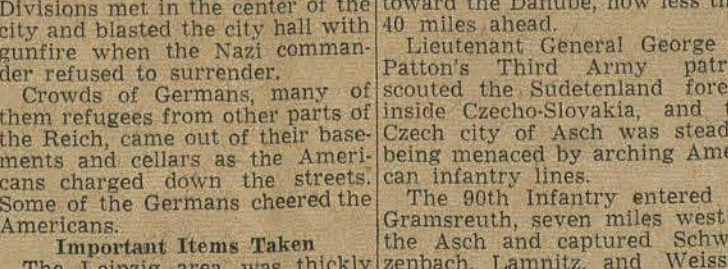
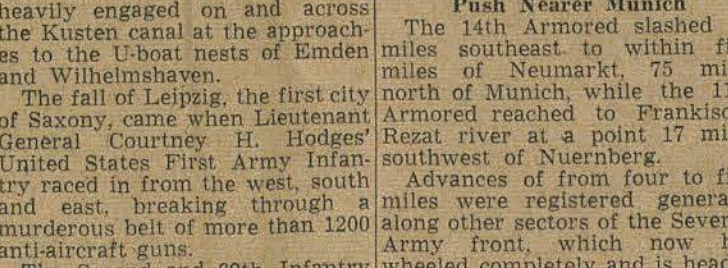


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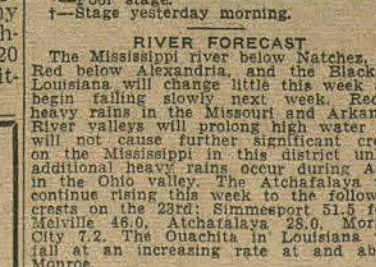
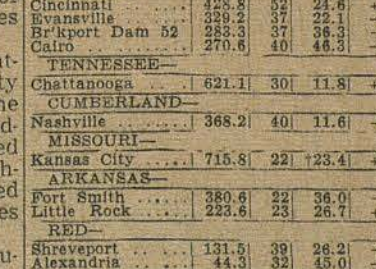
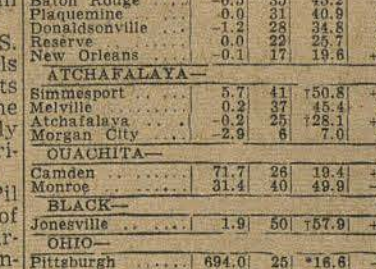
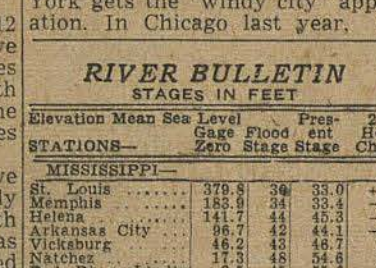


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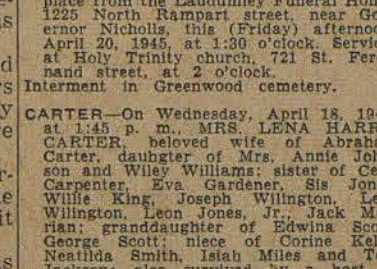
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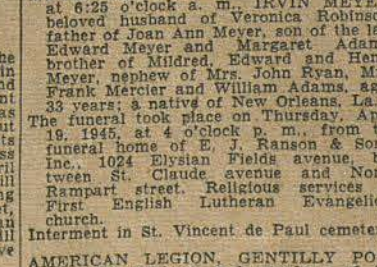
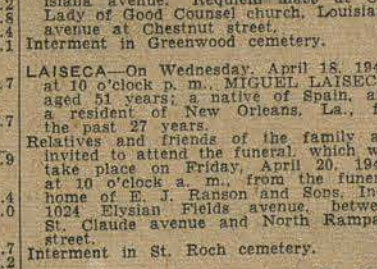


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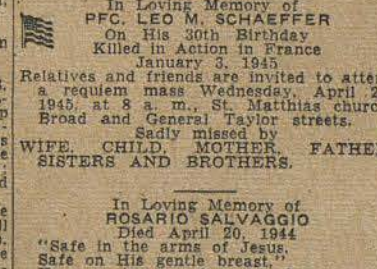
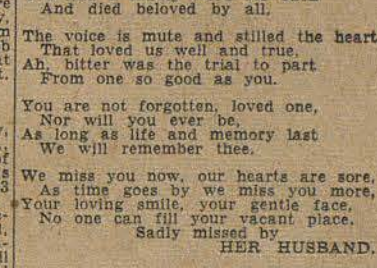


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WHAT CAN YOU SPARE THAT THEY CAN WEAR?

● In the war-torn countries ravaged by Nazi hordes, 125 million people—30 million of them children—are in desperate need of clothing—your spare clothing—to shield them against death from exposure, from disease and misery. Every garment helps. Take to 840 Union St., 1024 N. Rampart, Jerusalem Temple, 1137 St. Charles between 8:30 a. m. and 5 p. m., or your nearest fire station at any hour.

UNITED NATIONAL CLOTHING COLLECTION

FOR OVERSEAS WAR RELIEF

APRIL 1-30

WAR ACTIVITIES PROMOTION COMMITTEE

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2000 PLANES HIT SHRINKING REICH

Rails Between Allies, Russians Pounded

(The Associated Press) London, April 19.—More than 2000 bombers and fighters of three Allied air commands smashed today for the fourth straight day at rail bottlenecks in the narrowing strip of Germany between the converging Allies and Russians, and battered traffic moving into Hitler's Bavarian Alps redoubt area.

Some 600 United States Eighth Air Force Flying Fortresses and 550 fighters hammered rail yards and installations at Falkenberg, Elsterwerda and Perna, all within a 40-mile radius of Dresden. Others ranged into Czechoslovakia ahead of the United States Third Army and plattered objectives at Karlsbad, 70 miles west of Prague, and Aussig, 40 miles north of Prague.

Almost simultaneously a fleet of probably 200 planes, RAF Lancasters escorted by Mustangs, pounded the transformer station at Pasing near Munich, which serves part of a network of electric railways leading to the Bavarian fortress zone. It was the second straight day in which an attack was laid virtually at the gate of Hitler's fortress by British-based heavies.

On Wednesday American fortresses bombed rail yards within 15 miles of Berchtesgaden. RAF Lancasters hit objectives on the Nazi-held island of Helgoland in the North Sea, raining six-ton earthquake bombs on U-boat pens and other targets at the base, which was raided Wednesday by almost 1000 British bombers.

A hundred fifty or more two-engine Marauders and 500 fighters of the United States Ninth Air Force joined the assault on Bavaria. The Marauders attacked crowded freight yards at Ulm, when reconnaissance showed a heavy flow of supplies headed toward the redoubt area.

Fighter-bombers smashed rail and road routes in the area of Regensburg, beyond Nuernberg; beyond captured Plauen in the Third Army's path, and in Czechoslovakia, where two airfields also were hit.

The Germans lost 28 planes destroyed on the ground and seven in air combat. Eighth Air Force pilots said the clear weather was ideal for bombing. The fortresses met only slight flak fire and were unopposed in the air by enemy planes.

Mustangs roamed the area near Berlin and shot down at least five Nazi fighters. Italy-based United States 15th Air Force Liberators and fortresses attacked rail objectives in Austria and Southern Germany and Lightnings dive-bombed the rail yards at Vienna, 30 miles southwest of Munich, on the line to Garmisch and Partenkirchen. The fortresses also hit the rail bridge at Rattenburg, on the Innsbruck-Salzburg line, and Liberators assaulted the Klagenfurt rail yards.

Italian-based Liberators hit the aviation viaduct on the Brenner Pass line.

Wednesday night a strong force of RAF Lancasters bombed the freight yards at Komotau, in Czechoslovakia 32 miles south of Chemnitz, and swifly British Mosquitoes stung Berlin twice. The Russians again made it a two-way relay raid on the Nazi capital.

The air ministry said four RAF bombers and one fighter were missing from the force of 1250 which participated in the wide spread attacks Wednesday.

RED ADVANCE

Continued from Page 1

The Berlin superhighway, Cottbus was outflanked. South of Spremberg, other units crossed the Spree and swept nine miles westward to reach Hoyerswerda, key junction on the Cottbus-Dresden Highway. A "bottle" battle was under way for the transit center, the enemy said, as the Russians squeezed the narrow escape corridor south of Berlin.

Dresden Bastion Bypassed

Bautzen, reached in an apparent swift surge that left Dresden's outer guard of Goeritz 24 miles behind, carried Konev's troops into Saxony and they were on a high-speed autobahn to Dresden. Konev's men were fighting in Bautzen's suburbs, Berlin said, and a "gigantic battle of attrition" reportedly was raging.

Meanwhile, north of Berlin, the enemy said that Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's Second White Russian Army began its offensive against Stettin after an hour-long artillery bombardment from positions on the east bank of the Oder river only three miles south of the great port.

Rokossovsky's men were reportedly crossing the Oder mouth opposite Stettin between the port and Poddubich. Swarms of assault troops also bridged the Oder on a 19-mile front between Poddubich and Fiddichow.

At the same time, Rokossovsky's men reportedly were fighting to extend a bridgehead at Schwedt, 26 miles southwest of Stettin and were fighting near Angermunde, seven miles from the vital Berlin-Stettin autobahn.

A German radio reporter said that massed Russian artillery was pounding German positions incessantly, covering Red army attempts to build bridges. Russian infantry, he said, were even building make-shift spans with empty beer barrels with boards nailed on top.

Stettin itself was reported in flames as the Russians rained thousands of shells on the German garrison.

The prime minister said that any V-E proclamation would come in concert with the United States and Russia. He emphasized that both "military and political considerations" would be taken into account. He added that he did not mean domestic political considerations.

Discussing Nazi atrocities, Churchill declared that "no words can express the horror which is felt by His Majesty's government and their Allies at proof of these frightful crimes now daily coming into view."

The warning of retribution, he said, grimly, is being directed "not only to the men at the top but to the actual people who have done this foul work with their own hands."

"No order from superior authority would be any shield to them," he said.

The prime minister said he would not make his expected war statement to Commons for at least another two weeks.

Eight Freed by Red Advance Happy Over Returning Home

Hungry Months in Enemy Prison Camps Recalled

Freed by the Russian advance, in one case by a Russian woman tank officer, eight excited New Orleansmen were home Thursday, happily reunited with their families after hungry months in German prison camps and a long hitch-hiking trip through Germany and Poland to Russia.

They are Technician Fifth Class Fred P. Bernos, Jr., 4525 Baudin street; Staff Sergeant Camille W. Lafleur, 1426 Charles street; Sergeant Edwin Flad, 336 South Rendon street; Lieutenant Paul Thriffley, Jr., 31 Alford Boulevard; Lieutenant Alphonse Elmer, 2738 General Pershing street; Staff Sergeant Adrain P. Suberville, 317 Dekbar avenue; Sergeant Calvin K. Benedict, 212 Calhoun street; and Private Ralph Guglielmo, 1211 Toure street.

Technician Bernos, a copy boy in the Times-Picayune advertising department before he went into the service, was at III C camp, some 50 miles northwest of Berlin. He and Sergeant Lafleur and Flad had the experience of being liberated by a woman tank officer. Technician Bernos lost about 50 pounds in the prison camp.

"We made our way back through Germany, living off the land and what we could pick up anywhere along the line," he related. The Russians were busy fighting to do much for the liberated Americans. "Then we hit Poland and the Poles were swell. They didn't have anything themselves but what they had they shared with us."

It was in Poland, where the people opened their homes to the Americans, reported Sergeant Lafleur, that "a lot of our boys married Polish girls and decided to stay there." He lost about 40 pounds in the prison camp. Twice, he said, the Germans tried to evacuate the Americans, but the Russians hemmed them in and the Germans themselves fled.

"All I can say is that they had better get the rest of the Americans out of the camps as fast as they can because they will never live long on the food the Germans give them," said Sergeant Flad, 27-year-old pilot who lost 30 pounds during his imprisonment. He told how the young guards at their camp had been replaced by old men.

Lieutenant Elmer, sitting quietly in his living room, told an exciting story of escape from the Germans. He was captured December 15, 1943, at the Battle of Cassino in Italy and felt "pretty disgusted about being a prisoner and very thankful I was still living."

When his prison train reached Leipzig, there was an air raid and the prisoners were crammed in the station shelter with German civilians as Americans dropped their bombs.

"They took it pretty calmly and didn't show us any animosity," he recalled. "I had heard of cases where the civilians beat up American soldiers."

He was interned at Oflag 64 near Szubin in Poland. There the food was scarce and poor—soup, potatoes, occasionally a little meat—and Red Cross packages kept them alive. January 25, 1945, with the Russians closing in, the Germans began marching the 1400 men to Germany and in the confusion Lieutenant Elmer and two others escaped, and made their way through Polish snows to Russia.

"I never thought I would come home alive," Private Guglielmo said at a corner grocery where he was surrounded by friends. At Stalag 11-B his weight dropped from 156 to 98 pounds and he was forced to work from dawn until late at night. When he Pvt. Guglielmo was too tired to work, he said, he was beaten with a rifle butt which left his arm numb for three days.

"I lost about 60 pounds over there but the camp wasn't so bad," related 24-year-old Lieutenant Thriffley, an armor artillery officer captured in the invasion of Southern France. "A Colonel Drake had been there before and really made the Germans toe the line in our rear."

He was interned in a Polish corridor camp from which he escaped. Sergeant Suberville was too busy seeing friends to talk but his family reported that he weighed less than 100 pounds at one time during his internment.

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TRUMAN TO PRESS CONGRESS PLANS

Demonstrates Intention to Work With Lawmakers

(The Associated Press)

Washington, April 19.—President Truman, keeping up the prodigious work schedule he has followed since he was sworn in, rounded out one week in office today with a demonstration of his intention to work with Congress. While giving full evidence of his co-operative attitude in a meeting with Democratic leaders of both houses, the new chief executive at the same time made it clear he is not retiring from the field. Rather, he stepped into the current legislative picture by telling his visitors he stands fully behind the general legislative program of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Two elements of that program are now up in Congress. A House committee is considering a proposition to extend reciprocal trade legislation and permit tariffs to be cut 50 per cent under current levels in exchange for concessions from other nations.

Works on Draft Extension

The Senate is working on extension of the selective service act, with the war department opposing amendments to forbid conscription of 18-year-olds who have less than six months' training. Such amendments are backed by a bi-partisan group of senators.

The president's caller list illustrates the weight and range of his labors. Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio; the Democratic legislative leaders; the Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, Senate chaplain; Democratic National Chairman Robert E. Hannegan; General of the Army George C. Marshall; the judge advocates general of South American republics; Turkish Ambassador Ragıp Baydur; and Lebanese Minister Dr. Charles Malik, to present their credentials; Philippine President Sergio Osmena and the secretaries of war, navy and state; Dr. T. V. Soong, Chinese foreign minister; and the Truman cabinet; M. Georges Bidault, French foreign minister, who paid his respects and expressed his sorrow over Mr. Roosevelt's death.

Between times, Mr. Truman sent his first veto to Congress, appointed Spruille Braden, now ambassador to Cuba, to be ambassador to the newly accepted Argentine government, and took a minute out to accept the first buddy poppy in a Veterans of Foreign Wars drive for relief work funds.

That only took him up to lunch time, with the afternoon remaining for paper work and perhaps less formally arranged conferences.

Taft Presents Ideas

Senator Taft, making what he said was his second White House call in 12 years, beat the Democratic lawmakers to the executive offices. The first call was yesterday when, as chairman of the Senate Republican steering committee, he headed a delegation of fellow support in ironing out any differences over legislation.

Today the Ohio senator said no current legislative matters were discussed.

"I had an idea or two I wanted to place before the president concerning over-all legislative matters," he told reporters afterward. The Democratic callers from Capitol Hill were Senate Majority Leader Barkley, Kentucky; House Speaker Rayburn, Texas; Senator McKellar, Tennessee; Senate President pro tempore, and House Majority Leader McCormack, Massachusetts.

Mr. Truman told the group he stands committed to the general legislative program of the man he succeeded.

Details were not interpreted, but one of the group interpreted the president's words as giving support to the draft extension bill without amendments.

The army chief of staff was a late addition to the White House calling list. The conference began at 1:30 a. m. and lasted only 15 minutes.

Reporters asked General Marshall as he left whether he had any news.

"Lots and lots of it, but I can't give it to you," he replied with a smile and hurried off.

Refund Measure

The veto applied to a bill Mr. Truman had signed in the vice-presidential routine. It would have refunded \$1000 to Ben Grunstein of Hudson county, New Jersey, in partial satisfaction of a judgment for \$2500 on a forfeited bond on which he was a surety. Grunstein had signed the bond of a defendant in a white slave case. The latter failed to appear in court but was later arrested and imprisoned.

Mr. Truman said it has cost the government about \$1000, the amount Grunstein had paid, to find the missing man.

Braden, 51 years old, and a native of Elkhorn, Mont., is a veteran of inter-American diplomacy,

long experienced in business in that area before he went into government work. If confirmed he will be the first United States ambassador to Argentina since 1944 when diplomatic relations with the Farrell regime were suspended and Ambassador Norman Armour was recalled.

Just to keep the president really busy, Capitol Hill talk expressed belief he was working on cabinet changes to be made possibly within days. The two posts most often mentioned for quick changes were those of Labor Secretary Perkins and Agriculture Secretary Wickard. High in capital discussion were the names of Senator Harley Kilgore, Democrat, West Virginia, for labor, and J. B. Hutson, for food and that of Judge Marvin Jones, war food administrator. Hutson is now in charge of agricultural reconversion in the office of war mobilization.

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U. S. CASUALTIES ARE NOW 912,478

Americans' Rhine Battle Loss Put at 47,023

(The Associated Press)

Washington, April 19.—The battle for the Rhine and crossing of the river in March cost United States Army ground forces 47,023 casualties, Secretary of War Stimson reported today.

While this total was larger than in February, when there were 34,468 losses, Stimson pointed out that it was smaller than for any month since October.

The March casualty figure included 6214 killed, 35,443 wounded and 5366 missing.

Since D-Day last June, Stimson disclosed, American ground casualties on the western front totaled 473,215 up to the end of March. Included are 79,795 killed, 334,919 wounded and 58,501 missing.

At the same time, Stimson disclosed that army casualties in all theaters have reached \$13,870 on the basis of names compiled in Washington through April 7. Added to the navy's losses of 98,608, this put aggregate casualties since Pearl Harbor at 912,478, an increase of 13,088 since last week's report.

Stimson said that while current casualties on the western front are not yet available, they are "not high." In contrast, he said, more than 900,000 Germans were captured in April and the number of enemy killed and wounded has been high.

Since the landings in France last June, he added, Allied forces have taken well over 2,100,000 prisoners.

A breakdown on army casualties in all theaters and corresponding figures for the preceding week follows:

Killed 162,505 and 159,267;

Wounded 346,803 and 489,256; missing, 83,926 and 86,648; prisoners, 70,636 and 67,514. Of the wounded, 261,596 have returned to duty.

Similar figures on navy losses: Killed, 38,035 and 37,402; wounded, 45,725 and 44,444; missing, 10,589 and 10,605; prisoners, 4259 and 4254.

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BRITISH PLUNGE NEARER FERRARA

Break Nazi 'Genghis Line'; Americans Also Gain

(The Associated Press)

Rome, April 19.—British Eighth Army troops spilled out onto flatlands only 14 miles from the Po valley industrial center of Ferrara today after breaching the Germans' so-called Genghis Khan defense line and the American Fifth Army drove to within eight miles of Bologna from the south.

The enemy's attempt to hold the Argenta Gap near the Italian east coast proved costly. British forces slammed through Nazi defenses and quickly overran many positions, capturing a number of tanks and self-propelled guns intact.

In some instances exhausted German crews were slumbering beside their tanks.

Despite the danger this reverse posed to the left flank of their defense system across Italy, the Nazis so far showed no disposition to relinquish their grip on Bologna without a grim struggle.

What were officially described as "spectacular advances" were made yesterday in the sector southwest of Bologna, where earlier in the week the United States 10th Mountain Division jumped off in the direction of Modena, but no details were given.

Due south of Bologna the United States 91st Division underwent some of the bloodiest fighting of the entire Italian campaign before it dislodged the Germans from strategic Monte Adone, between Highways 64 and 65, and slugged its way onto Monte dei Frati in a bitter 60-hour battle.

For the first time in six months the Nazis had been knocked off dominating heights from which they had laid fire on American positions with deadly accuracy. From now on the troops advanced toward Bologna will have mostly downhill going, with each hill generally smaller than the last.

At their closest approach to the big gateway city to the Po valley American troops were in the village of Badolo, just east of Highway 64 and eight miles almost due south of Bologna. Other Fifth Army troops driving up Highway 65, the main Florence-Bologna road, were reported approaching Pianoro, seven miles from Bologna.

East of Bologna the Nazis were seen hastily digging a new defense works behind the Gaiana river. New Zealand, Polish and other Eighth Army troops fought up to the east bank of the Gaiana on an eight-mile front. The enemy was clearing obstructions to give a clear field of fire for guns being massed west of the flooded stream.

After storming through the Argenta Gap British forces captured the highway town of Boccaccone, 15 miles southeast of Ferrara, and drove on at least another mile.

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