



COLOGNE UNDER FIRE—AND ONLY EIGHT MILES TO GO
Great push to Rhine goes on unchecked: Security black-out imposed

RESISTANCE CRUMBLING

British tanks pour through defences in hundreds

From MONTAGUE LACEY: SUPREME H.Q., Tuesday 11 p.m.

ENEMY resistance west of the Rhine is crumbling tonight. Hundreds of British tanks have carved a deep penetration between the Maas and the Rhine, while further south American armour has made a ten-mile dash to the north-east.

Only 30 miles now separate these fast-moving armies, which have a great pocket in their grip. So swiftly is the battle moving that a news black-out was imposed tonight because the enemy is disorganised and in "extreme confusion."

2½ HOUR DEBATE THEN BATTLE BEGINS

From LAURENCE WILKINSON

ROER FRONT, Tuesday.—The U.S. division which crossed the River Roer in a tearing advance of miles towards the Rhine today has been waiting for this.

Its field commander drove to higher headquarters yesterday with a plan of campaign. He was afraid that a die-hard would say the plan was too daring in its contempt for the enemy.

After 2½ hours' debate he was told, "Go ahead." At dawn he ordered massive columns of vehicles northwards.

This commander, the man who yesterday told me of his confidence that he could cut through the Germans, personally saw his men and tanks, and then returned to his command post and sat by his radio telephone.

So certain was he of success that he had sent Military Government officers with the column to rule the German towns he was confident would be captured within a few hours.

The towns were captured, and this afternoon I saw a major of his Military Government service wrestling with the problem of what to do with the 500 civilians found in a town several miles from our starting point.

8-inch shells on Cologne

From WILLIAM TROUGHTON

PLAINE OF COLOGNE, Tuesday.—Field artillery is now pounding Cologne. The shelling began just before midnight last night, and in a short period more than 100 rounds of 8-in. 250-pound shells were dropped in the city.

Tonight it is being bombarded by America's heaviest Long Toms. If the Hohenzollern Bridge, still virtually intact, can be destroyed, the Germans this side of the Rhine will be fighting with their backs to the river and with no way of escape for traffic.

Hard fighting is going on today along the First Army's 25-mile front, now reaching within a mile of the greater and lesser Ert Rivers and the Ert Canal.

During the day more than a dozen towns and villages were captured in a general advance east from the Roer towards the Ert river network.

The ground approaching the Ert River is almost all meadowland, sloping gently down to the water.

During the night the Germans brought tanks across to try to stem the relentless advance of the First Army's armour across the Cologne Plain.

There were sharp tank battles in today's fighting.

Tanks are shooting out spearheads in all directions. We have taken a score of places and many hundreds of prisoners today. It is evident that the Germans have not got the forces to hold the great weight of our attack.

The U.S. tank division which is racing up towards the British is reported to have by-passed the big industrial city of Munchen Gladbach, and to have captured a town to the north-west of it.

Two panzer divisions have been rushed up by the Germans from Patton's front in the hope of saving Cologne.

"Across the eight miles separating us from the city heavy shells are screaming into its streets. Battle has been joined along the River Ert, last water barrier before the great Rhine cities. The river's defences are being stormed by tank columns of the First and Ninth U.S. Armies, and armour is clashing along its banks.

IT IS MAJOR VICTORY

And hourly more spectacular: What the silence means

From JAMES WELLARD: Montgomery's H.Q., Tuesday

THE scale of the Allied victory on the Western Front is becoming hourly more spectacular. The atmosphere is electric with anticipation.

Reports have been coming in all day showing without a doubt that the Ninth Army has broken right through and inflicted a major defeat on the German armies defending the Rhine and the Ruhr.

The news black-out came tonight after it had been revealed that our tanks had reached the Ert Canal defences, the last barrier to Cologne and the stretch of the Rhine between Cologne and Dusseldorf.

Through the small town of Königshoven, on the canal, runs the "black-out line."

What is happening beyond this we may not know now for 48 hours or longer.

FOUR ARMIES IN

A large part of the Western Front is now ablaze, for the U.S. First Army has extended its attack on a 25-mile front.

In other words, Eisenhower has swung into action four armies along more than 150 miles of German territory reaching from Cleves in the north to below Trier in the south.

Tonight's keynote is sounded in the phrase "strong optimism." The First Army's gains, though less spectacular for the moment than those of the Ninth, may become a new headline at any minute.

To the south, Patton rumpages eastward with his crack armoured units.

Nobody can say from hour to hour where the front line has reached and what the Germans are doing. It is safe to say they can do little or nothing now to hold us long.

BRIDGES INTACT

Reports come in that bridges have been captured intact and towns overrun, with the Germans taking to the massive woods in this flat, green country.

Our armour has broken loose and swirls around, sometimes in spearhead columns, sometimes in line abreast.

You can picture the front as it looks tonight like this:—In the north, driving south along the west bank of the Rhine, the Canadian-British Army has cut loose with its tanks to smash road blocks and strongpoints and help the infantry clean out villages, towns, and woods.

Enemy paratroopers who have been fighting with their characteristic toughness against the Canadians appear either to be

→ BACK PAGE, COL. FIVE

24 hours in a jeep with ALAN MOOREHEAD—

The chickens in the tank

The Germans who slept

The buds that cheer us up

WITH BRITISH TROOPS, Tuesday.—This is a really good advance, the best for many days.

While the Americans in the south drove on today towards Gladbach and the Rhine here in the north the British and Canadians threw the Germans off their old line south of Goch.

Following the British troops, I travelled today across nine miles of Germany, most of which has been captured since yesterday morning.

And still the moving front line lies a little bit ahead.

At the end of my drive is Udem, the town that was captured at midnight last night and today is still under fire.

Here the Germans meant to stay. They riddled the place with 15-in. and tank ditch, and mined the bridges.

On the run

We bombed the houses to bits, and the Germans mounted machine-guns among the ruins and the cellars.

Last night the Canadian infantry took Udem on the run. They did not know about the mines in the ditches and on the bridges. They simply swarmed across in the darkness and when they got into the first house on the main road they found the Germans there—asleep.

These were the enemy engineers who were supposed to pull the wires that detonated the mines.

There was also a midge tank full of explosives which they were supposed to set off—and now today, with its wires cut, you can see the tank lying harmlessly beside the road.

For the rest, it was a matter of blind fighting in the night, street after street, house after house. In the morning the Germans suddenly bobbed out of their cellars and began firing again; and that is the noise that bursts out now among the ruins.

Snipers caught

Every now and then a couple of German snipers with their hands up come running through the rubble, with an angry Canadian soldier clumping along behind them.

The Germans run awkwardly with their hands in the air, and their helmets wobble from side to side. A corporal goes through their pockets in the baker's shop.

Then, when the mortar starts, everyone gets down into the mud at the bottom of the shellholes, or perhaps against a wall or under a tank.

One wonders sometimes, at this stage of the war, how far you can interest people in the "colour" of a battle. One seems to have written it all before, and yet it is such a living picture.

A squadron of tanks is bellowing and shooting its way up to the outer suburbs to engage. Clouds of chicken feathers keep blowing out of the turrets, and one tank has half a dozen fat birds strung up, plucked, and ready for cooking under the gun.

If they emerge from this action unscathed, the poultry will go into the pot tonight.

Cattle, horses, pigs, and fowls have been abandoned wholesale by the Germans in their flight and now they wander about the battle-field bewildered and hungry.

Out on either side of us the wet

→ BACK PAGE, COL. FOUR

What we face east of the Rhine

"WE are in a fine position today," said Laurence Wilkinson, Express war reporter, in a despatch printed yesterday. "The plain of Cologne lies open before us. We have passed through the great mine belt. The Germans had months in which to sow it."

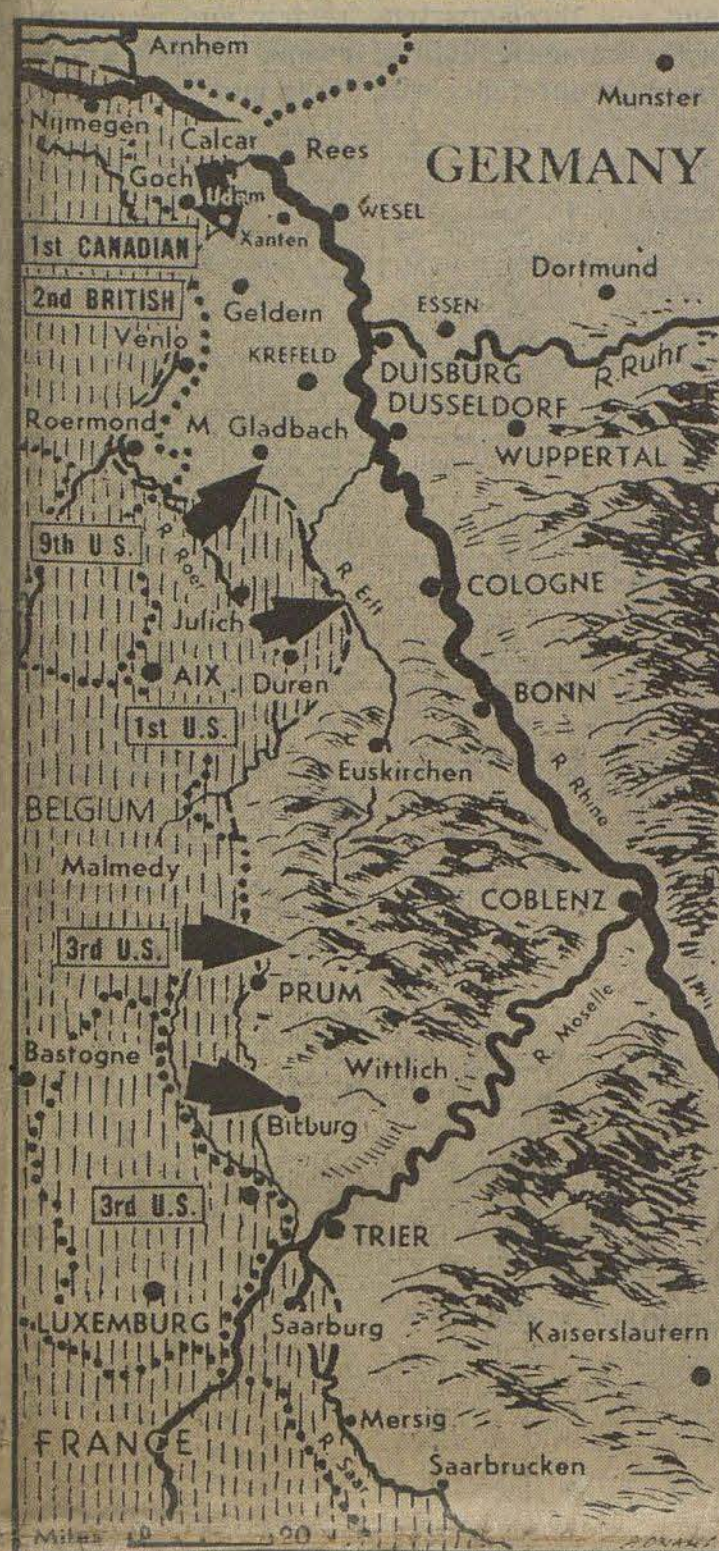
In this Arnhem-to-Strasbourg map, the terrain that faces Allied troops in the Rhineland is shown—and the positions of the armies fighting in the Montgomery and Bradley commands.

The troops to the south have hill country ahead of them. Heights are indicated in three regions.

Earl Lloyd George

There was no change yesterday in the condition of Earl Lloyd George, who is ill at his home in Llanystumdwy, near Criccieth (Caernarvonshire).

BLACK-OUT-TIME MAP



THESE were the positions of the Allied forces last night when the news black-out was imposed by Supreme Headquarters.

Three fake Dutchmen captured

Express Staff Reporter

THREE Germans escaped from a Dutch barracks in Kensington, London, S.W., in khaki uniform with a Netherlands flash. One was at large for 22 days.

They first turned up in Holland, told British Army officers that they were Dutch, and were turned over to the Dutch authorities in London.

The Dutch were not satisfied and kept them under arrest in barracks at Kensington. On January 30 they forced the lock of their cell door, picked up Dutch uniforms and escaped.

They had told the Dutch officials: "We hate the Nazis and want to fight the Germans," but all were found to be of German origin—members of the German Labour Corps.

Two were recaptured two days after their escape.

A routine check on identity cards caught the third in Birmingham. Now all are under double guard.

War strain holiday

Nine thousand employees of Boots the Chemists in London, Nottingham, and Heywood (Lancs.) are to have an extra week's holiday with pay to counteract "fatigue and strain due to war conditions."

A statement says: "The company is aware that despite long working hours many employees have been taking part in Civil Defence, Home Guard, and other duties, and our women have had to face heavy domestic responsibilities after the day's work is done."

One more

BEIRUT, Tuesday.—The Lebanese Chamber, by a unanimous vote, tonight declared war on Germany and Japan.—Reuter.

Set fair

Straits: Warm: set fair.

48 BEVIN BOYS: 'TRAITORS'

Shouted protests to magistrate

Express Staff Reporter

SPENNYMOOR, Tuesday.—Forty-eight Bevin boys accused here of absenteeism over the Christmas holidays shouted protests when the chairman, Dr Tinsley, announced that they would be fined £2, with £4 costs.

He told them: "You are traitors to your country, and I hope you know it."

Four other boys who claimed they had medical evidence of unfitness had their cases adjourned.

'Ignored them'

Major Jackson, who has lost an arm in this war, prosecuting said: "Notices were given to the boys that colliers have only two days' holiday at Christmas and New Year, but they openly ignored them. Some took between five and 15 days off, but they are being prosecuted for only three."

They claimed they want to go to the Services but had they been in the Services such a mass refusal would probably have meant their having to face a charge of mutiny.

For the defence it was claimed that Bevin boys should have regular leave like Service men but Major Jackson pointed out that some men in the Forces had had no leave for four years.

C.D. workers may get gratuities

Mr Morrison, as Minister of Home Security, is considering the grant of gratuities to full-time Civil Defence workers, and will make a statement in the House of Commons tomorrow if the War Cabinet approves his plans.

The gratuities, if given, will be on similar lines to those for the Services, but on a much lower scale.

Japs reorganise

The Japanese Government is to reorganise industry to increase arms production. Private firms may be taken over.

Poland: Revolt by 21 Tories

By GUY EDEN

REVOLT flared again last night among a section of Conservative M.P.s over the Crimea Polish settlement and after hearing Mr Churchill's defence of 21 of them tabled a hostile amendment to his motion of confidence.

The amendment, it is understood, will be called today and will be moved by Mr Maurice Petherick (Penryn and Falmouth) and seconded by Sir Archibald Southby (Epsom). It seeks to add to the Prime Minister's motion approving the work of the Crimea Conference these words:—

"But, remembering that Great Britain took up arms in a war of which the immediate cause was the defence of Poland"

4 a.m. LATEST

JAP ISLAND CAPTURED

MacArthur reports that destruction of Jap garrison on Verde Island, south-east of Manila, has been completed.

against German aggression, and in which the overriding motive was the prevention of the domination by a strong nation of its weaker neighbours, regrets the failure of the Government to ensure to those nations which have been liberated from German oppression the full right to choose their own Government free from the influence of any other Power."

The amendment was backed last night by these Conservative M.P.s:—

Mr Raikes, Professor Savory, Major Glyn, Mr Lloyd, Commander Bower, Sir William Wayland, Lady Aspley, Sir John Mellor, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, Captain A. G. G. Glyn, Sir Herbert Williams, Colonel Wise, Mr Donohue, Mr Peto, Sir Alfred Knox, Mr E. H. Keeling, Mr Stoughton, Flight-Lieutenant T. J. G. Glyn, and Admiral Taylor and Commander Agnew.

Further names may be added today.

Eden's task

The Prime Minister is also to consider their attitude, and while it is likely that the official decision will be to support the Government there may be abstentions, and a few may support the "Tory rebel" motion.

Mr Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, will try to convince the critics that the Polish settlement is the wisest that could have been worked out, and much may depend on his success. A great majority is assumed to be in the Government, but the Whips and party leaders did not conceal last night their concern about the development, especially as the hostile amendment was tabled after Mr Churchill—in what Mr Greenwood called a "masterly speech"—had explained and defended the Polish Plan.

CHURCHILL'S SPEECH BEGINS ON PAGE TWO.

Goop bombs did it

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—Air Force experts in Washington today studied reports about damage caused in Berlin by yesterday's daylight raid.

They concluded that the extensive fires were the work of improved "Goop" bombs—500lb incendiaries with a mixture of jellied oil, powdered magnesium, and other highly inflammable ingredients which, it is claimed, cannot be extinguished.—Express News Service.

The Empire is to confer

Express Political Correspondent

BEFORE the meeting of the United Nations to be held in San Francisco on April 25 to set up the world security organisation, representatives of the countries of the Empire are to meet to agree on their

attitude—possibly in Canada. It is likely that all countries will be invited to send representatives of their leading political parties so that what is done may receive wide approval and be in no danger of repudiation on a change of Government.

Mr Attlee, the Socialist leader, will join Mr Eden in the leadership of the British delegation.

Rail centre 'missing'

RECONNAISSANCE shows that all the 369 acres of the built-up area of Pforzheim was destroyed in the R.A.F. attack last Friday night.

Pforzheim was an important junction on a main line leading from east to west towards the battlefield.

Well over 1,200 Allied "heavies" continued the attack on German rail centres yesterday.

Leipzig was hit by 750 Forts and Liberators.

Halle, 25 miles north-west of Leipzig, was hit by 350 more U.S. heavies.

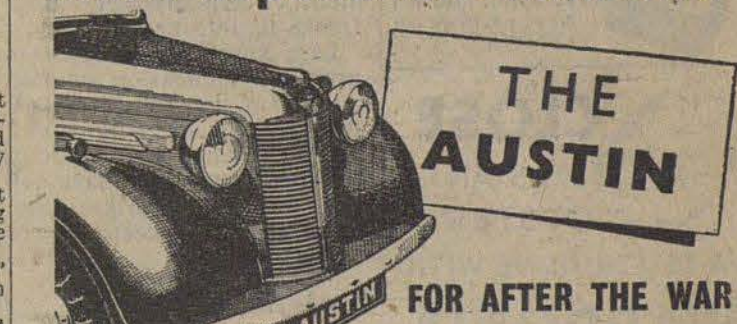
Mannheim on the upper Rhine, was attacked by a big force of R.A.F. Lancasters and Halifaxes.

Augsburg, 30 miles north-west of Munich, was hit by Italy-based bombers.

More cafés closed

PARIS, Tuesday.—It was announced today that 16 black market restaurants have been closed in Paris by the police.—Reuter.

More dependable than ever

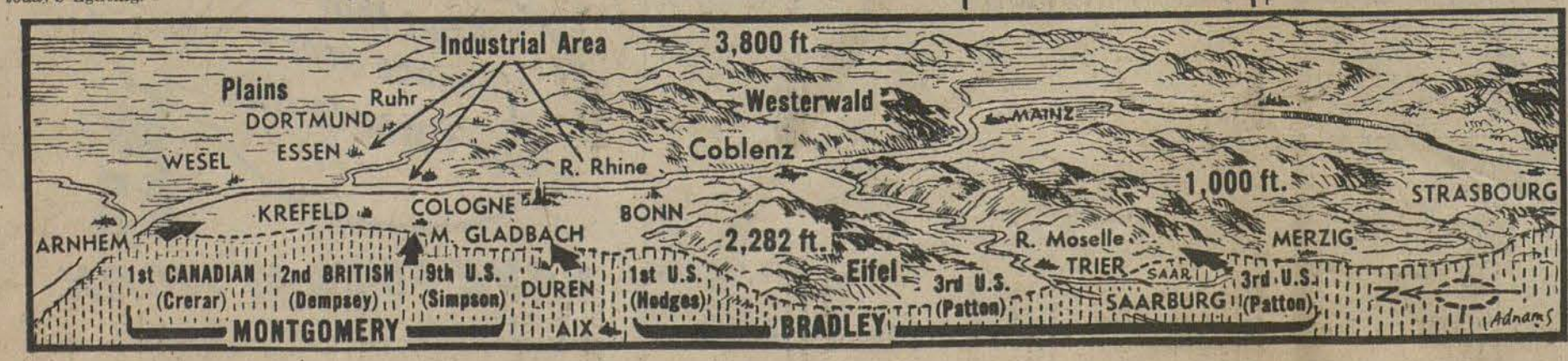


FOR AFTER THE WAR

Among the many advances which will distinguish Austins after the war are: improvements to the oil circulation in the engine, giving better lubrication and longer life to bearings; protection for exhaust valves; lubricated timing chain with patented rubber tensioner; "softer" rubber engine mountings to contribute to greater silence and durability; improved radiator, steering and gear-box, and quieter, sturdier back-axle. In these and other ways, war-time experience will make the Austin more comfortable, more economical, more dependable than ever.

* The Austin post-war range will comprise 8, 10, 12, and 16 h.p. cars—four-door saloons only, with choice of three colours.

THE AUSTIN MOTOR CO. LTD., LONGBRIDGE, BIRMINGHAM (also Export Dept.)



Peer asks Vansittart about German director

Rumanians shot crying
'Down with Premier'
King tries to settle crisis

Express Correspondent

BUCHAREST, Tuesday.—King Michael of Rumania, hurriedly recalled to his capital today, saw General Radescu, 70-year-old Prime Minister, for whose removal thousands of Rumanians have been demonstrating.

He also saw Radescu's rival, General Auramescu, Chief of the Rumanian Army on the Czech front.

Some form of arbitration from King Michael is demanded to settle the first-class political crisis that is boiling up.

The trouble started between 70-year-old Radescu and 36-year-old Teohary Georgescu, Home Office Secretary, who accused Radescu of sabotaging the purge of Fascists.

Other members of the National Democratic Front—coalition of Communist, Social Democrat, Peasants' Front and trades unions—joined Teohary.

Radescu retaliated with a speech in a large cinema in Bucharest attacking the National Democratic Front as "dogs barking at a passing caravan."

HIS SON MARCHED

Hundreds of thousands of Rumanians collected by the National Democratic Front gathered in the streets.

The climax came last Saturday when the Piazza of Nations was jammed with demonstrators, looting, bringing workers from the Ploesti oilfields and other industrial centres.

Among them was Radescu's son, a member of the Left Wing Party, marching with the crowd crying, "Down with Radescu."

The crowds marched to the square facing the royal palace. As they approached, machine-guns opened up from high buildings around the royal palace.

Two workers were shot dead, ten were wounded, and many trampled down.

BUCHAREST IS QUIET

Members of the Allied Control Mission immediately arrived on the spot and started an investigation.

Now the National Democratic Front are accusing Radescu of firing at the people who were demonstrating legally their protest.

Radescu is accused of the Left Wing of provoking the riots and disorder.

Bucharest was quiet today, but there were clashes in other parts of the country between the inhabitants and groups openly accused by the Rumanian Press of being Nazis and Legionnaires distributing leaflets marked with swastikas.

Generals dismissed

Bucharest radio broadcast last night a special communiqué from the Rumanian War Office announcing the dismissal of 11 senior army officers, including eight generals, for having pursued a personal policy at variance with that of the Government.—Reuter.

Fifth hold new attack

Express War Reporter

ITALY, Tuesday.—The Germans still have not given up hope of dislodging us from the mountains in the Fifth Army area, as is shown by today's report that they threw in an attack of battalion strength against Monte Della Torracca.

Even when they withdrew after heavy casualties and losing prisoners they continued to throw heavy artillery and mortar fire on our positions until dawn.

But the greatest activity on this front is still in the air, where we highlighted more than 150 sorties yesterday, with no fewer than 34 cuts on railway lines, 19 of them on the Brenner Line.

'PUBLIC ENTITLED TO KNOW'

LORD AILWYN, 57-year-old retired naval captain, challenged Lord Vansittart in the House of Lords yesterday to say if he was working with a German director of a publishing firm.

In his reply Lord Vansittart denied that he was a member of the organisation named—the Fight for Freedom Publishing Co., Ltd.

It was Left Wing and was not a German organisation, he added.

Lord Ailwyn's challenge arose out of a motion Lord Vansittart put urging the Government to begin now to devise better means than those which existed before the war to protect Britain from the infiltration of enemy agents and propaganda.

He said that the Government had been powerless to stop such organisations as The Link.

Lord Ailwyn, who once said that he was a "liberal-minded Conservative with occasional Labour sympathies," spoke first yesterday about the 40,000 Germans and between 15,000 and 20,000 Austrians now living in Britain.

Most of them were admitted in 1938, 1939, and 1940.

"One finds," he said, "that in the middle of the greatest war in history and after five and a half years' fighting for our lives and for the salvation of decency, morality and freedom throughout the civilised world against the most implacable and ruthless enemy the world has ever seen we are content to allow 40,000 of that country's nationals to live among us, to set up business in this country, actually to work in our Government departments."

It was said that there were 17 of them in the Admiralty, four at the War Office, two at the Air Ministry, and 66 employed in other Government departments.

Lord Vansittart was in a position to know about German propaganda methods through his connection with the Fight for Freedom Publishing Company, Ltd., and his association with its German director.

Turning to Lord Vansittart he said:—"It is no good your being con-

tent to ignore these things. It is not enough to wave them aside contemptuously as coming from unimportant persons. An answer is required."

"If Lord Vansittart were a private individual it would be impertinent on my part to question the company he keeps. But he is not a private individual. He is a great public figure."

"And the British public is entitled to know whether its anti-German policy in this country is or is not admitting Germans into its inner councils."

Lord Munster, who replied for the Government, said that the Government did not intend to allow the revival of such organisations as The Link.

A good German is—

Then Lord Vansittart spoke. He said that the Government's policy of admitting 40,000 Germans could not be seriously sustained.

A good German was one who was anti-German, and had been one in the fields of foreign and military policy by the Second Reich, the Weimar Republic and by the Third Reich.

He had met a few of them. And it was here that Lord Vansittart replied to Lord Ailwyn's challenge.

Lord Vansittart's motion about anti-propaganda methods was agreed to.

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—From the notepaper of the Fight for Freedom Publishing Co., Ltd.

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A day with Moorehead

FROM PAGE ONE

German fields are torn up by so many thousands of shell-holes that they have a curious honey-comb appearance.

Through this desolation, little groups of civilian men, women, and children are tramping away with bundles on their shoulders. In a way they resemble the looting Bedouin we used to see in the desert, except that these people are Germans and the bundles are scraps they have managed to save from the wreckage of their homes.

Heavy knows it is not much. When people talk about a place being levelled by bombing they are usually exaggerating strongly. But here, in towns like Cleves, there has been a frenzy of destruction.

Perhaps it is because so large a part of the houses are made from the timber of the surrounding pine forests.

Like a REFUSE HEAP

At all events there are acres of built-up areas that now look like a municipal refuse heap, and in the forest itself the trees have been stripped and torn out of the ground.

I saw a stuffed peacock perching on a sentry box, a bathtub on a chimney pot, a kitchen stove at the bottom of a well.

Half a mile after mile as you go forward the destruction unfolds in front of you.

The soldiers grow used to the wreckage and the ugliness. They light fires out of something that was yesterday's dining-room suite.

Lord Munster, who replied for the Government, said that the Government did not intend to allow the revival of such organisations as The Link.

A good German is—

Then Lord Vansittart spoke. He said that the Government's policy of admitting 40,000 Germans could not be seriously sustained.

A good German was one who was anti-German, and had been one in the fields of foreign and military policy by the Second Reich, the Weimar Republic and by the Third Reich.

He had met a few of them. And it was here that Lord Vansittart replied to Lord Ailwyn's challenge.

Lord Vansittart's motion about anti-propaganda methods was agreed to.

It is no good your being con-

tent to ignore these things. It is not enough to wave them aside contemptuously as coming from unimportant persons. An answer is required."

"If Lord Vansittart were a private individual it would be impertinent on my part to question the company he keeps. But he is not a private individual. He is a great public figure."

"And the British public is entitled to know whether its anti-German policy in this country is or is not admitting Germans into its inner councils."

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Red Army is shutting Baltic trap



DANZIG ESCAPE ROUTE NARROWS

From E. D. MASTERMAN; STOCKHOLM, Tuesday

STALIN announced tonight that Marshal Rokossovsky, making a new advance of 44 miles across the Pomeranian lakeland, is now only 28 miles from the Baltic coast where he will close the coastal escape route of the Danzig garrison.

Neustettin, on the Danzig-Stettin road, is outflanked by the capture of Bublitz, furthest point of the advance, and 28 miles beyond the last reported position of Rokossovsky's forces.

Other towns captured include the communications centres of Schlochau, Hammerstein, Baldenburg and Stegers, all in the 44-mile stretch between Chojnice on the Polish Corridor border and Bublitz.

German commentators tonight said that the advance on a 40-mile front is driving towards Kossling, seven miles from the Baltic, and that the escape route is now both on the Danzig-Stettin coast road.

On Rokossovsky's east flank, said the Germans, his troops are fighting in the streets, encircled Graudenz after breaking into the southern part of the city.

On the south-eastern approaches to Berlin, the Germans report that the Red Army has broken through the Konie two days after the breakthrough in the north and south of the city.

Russian gains in doomed Breslau are now counted in blocks and streets. Today's gain was 12 blocks.

A major victory

FROM PAGE ONE

tiring or retiring, for their opposition grows weaker.

Under a leader, sky and without the benefit of direct air support, the Canadians have worked over the forests in the Uden-Xanten area and penetrated the Hochwald (Hochwald forest), where the enemy appears to have his last line of defence in front of Xanten.

Turning from side to side, Canadian tanks have cut roads and smashed forward to the banks of the Rhine itself at the small town of Orsted, three and a half miles north-east of Xanten, which has been surrounded and by-passed.

There is tremendous news from the Ninth Army front. Here you can see the American armour, carefully built up across the River Rhine, suddenly getting the order to go.

The tanks were ready. They went west and north-east, crushing what remained of organised German resistance and roaring with closed turret through the villages and fields on the magnificent German highways which radiate out of Erkelenz and run north-east to Munchen Gladbach, and south-east to Cologne.

We cannot say exactly where the leading tanks are tonight because they may be already out of contact and some may be keeping radio silence.

As I write this I hear that the tanks are within two and a-half miles of Munchen Gladbach, the industrial city of 127,000 inhabitants which has received 5,500 tons of bombs from the R.A.F.

And Munchen Gladbach is only 11 miles from Dusseldorf.

Ten miles to the south-east of Munchen Gladbach, the 30th Infantry Division has reached the Erft Canal and is fighting in a village exactly half-way between Dusseldorf and Cologne—15 miles from each great city.

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