

# 2 Columns Complete Encirclement of Berlin

Heading for the Last Roundup



Seventh Army troops, at the Dillingen bridgehead over the Danube (middle arrow) were last night reported to have reached the autobahn leading to Munich. Third Army forces, to the east, had reached the river on both sides of Regensburg. With the French attacking in the west, three Allied armies are heading south to the Germans' redoubt in the Alps.

—Stars and Stripes Map by Brown

## Allies Ram Into Bremen

Shaef Calls Foe's Army Kaput as Unified Force

The disintegration of the German army as a unified fighting force was announced yesterday by SHAEF as the Allies smashed into the northeastern port of Bremen and rammed deep into southern Germany to reach a point 18 miles from the Austrian border.

Three Allied armies, advancing along the 200-mile front from the Rhine to the Czech frontier, were sealing off the German national redoubt in the Bavarian Alps.

In the north, British troops opened an all-out assault on Bremen and stormed into the outskirts of Germany's second largest seaport. On the central sector, frontline reports said that linkup of American and Russian forces was expected momentarily. Detailed instructions were issued to line units for the junction, frontline reports said.

Reach Autobahn

Spearheading the southeastern offensive, the 7th Army's 12th Armored Div. fanned out from its bridgehead south of the Danube River and reached the autobahn to Augsburg at a point 20 miles east of Ulm.

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## Poland No. 1 Problem As Frisco Parley Opens

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25 (ANS)—The United Nations Conference, a gathering of delegates from 46 nations seeking to create a world security organization to prevent future war from breaking out, opened here today. President Truman was scheduled to welcome the delegates in a radio speech tonight from Washington.

The mood of America, which stayed out of the League of Nations formed after the last World War, was one of fervent hope. The conference opening was the signal for special church services throughout the land, at which the people prayed for the success of the meeting.

The single dark spot on the otherwise bright prospects for the conference was the knotty Polish question. At issue is whether the

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## Fall of Baguio Reported Near

MANILA, April 25 (ANS)—Baguio, the Philippines' summer capital which the Japs have been defending bitterly, is now almost in American hands, Gen. MacArthur reported today.

The 33d Div. held commanding positions in the hills north and west of the ruined city, with one column only a mile from its heart.

In the south, on Mindanao, the 24th Div. continued toward Davao.

The Army plans to start this summer releasing some men who will have been in uniform four to five years, it was learned today.

This release policy, which may preclude any marked cut in draft calls after June 30, was disclosed in official but publicity-shy quarters today.

The Army yesterday formally announced plans to honor discharge requests of enlisted men aged 42

## Fighting Rages Within Capital

Two mighty Russian armies have completed the encirclement of Berlin, Marshal Stalin announced last night in an order of the day.

The linkup came northwest of Potsdam, where Marshal Gregory Zhukov's 1st White Russian Army, slicing down from the north, met Marshal Ivan Koniev's 1st Ukrainian Army. Ketyin, a town 15 miles west of Berlin, fell to Koniev's troops.

The Hamburg radio, only source of German news heard yesterday, said that the Russians inside Berlin had reached the heart of the city. The regular German agency reports from DNB and Transocean Service have ceased.

Dispatches to Moscow papers reported that four years of bombing had left almost nothing of Unter den Linden, Alexander Platz and other central districts. The greater part of Berlin was pictured as a jungle of stones, bricks and deep craters, where thousands of German Tommy gunners hide.

Red Star reported that in the rear of Soviet assault teams smashing to the center of Berlin, Germans came out of subway tunnels to attack Soviet communications. There were many battles for subway stations miles behind the Russians in the city's bitterly defended center. The Soviet troops took artillery to the gates of some stations to blast out the SS forces.

Earlier today, German propagandists had broadcast that Hitler was still in Berlin, making battle decisions and conferring with high command.

## RAF Blasts Hitler's Den; Skoda Hit

LONDON, April 25 (AP)—Adolf Hitler's mountain chalet at Berchtesgaden, SS barracks on the grounds, and his mountain refuge on top of the Kehlstein, five miles from the chalet, were attacked between 9 and 10 a.m. today by 12,000-pound bombs unloaded by separate forces of RAF Lancasters.

Earlier in the morning an air force for the first time in aerial warfare warned the enemy exactly where its bombers were going to strike—while the bombers actually were on the way.

Soon after 550 Flying Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by 500 Mustangs, had left Britain to attack the Skoda munitions works at Pilzen, Czechoslovakia, the following warning was broadcast:

"Allied bombers are out in great strength. Their destination may be the Skoda works. Skoda workers must stay out till this afternoon."

Tirpitz Type Bombs

The Lancasters attacking Hitler's hideout unloaded six-ton bombs of the type that sank the battleship Tirpitz. The bombs, which were supplemented by other heavy explosives, were timed to bore deep

(Continued on Page 4)

## Five Years in ODs Bore You? You May Shed Them Soon

WASHINGTON, April 25 (AP)—The Army plans to start this summer releasing some men who will have been in uniform four to five years, it was learned today.

This release policy, which may preclude any marked cut in draft calls after June 30, was disclosed in official but publicity-shy quarters today.

The Army yesterday formally announced plans to honor discharge requests of enlisted men aged 42

and over, but the announcement did not mention a plan to discharge five-year men.

By next month, a considerable number of Uncle Sam's "emergency soldiers" will have spent five years in the service.

The policy of discharging veterans with four to five years' service is expected to get under way around the middle of this year, even should German resistance persist.

ROME, April 25 (Reuter)—Major elements of the Allied armies are now established along a 47-mile-long bridgehead on the northern side of the Po River and are striking northward, Allied Forces HQ announced today.

The U. S. 5th and British 8th Armies are driving from captured Ferrara toward the vital communications hub of Verona, itself only 25 miles from the main river route hub at the southern end of the Brenner Pass line.

Remnants of five German divisions still hold a strip of land south of the Po between Ferrara and Corbola, which lies about 18 miles from the mouth of the Po on the Adriatic.

# Mixed PWs, Deserted by Nazi Captors, Find Themselves Running Small Polish Village

## American Colonel Made Mayor by Red Officer

Following is the third of a series of stories written by Sgt. Thomas Hoge, Stars and Stripes correspondent who was captured by the Germans after his participation in the Holland airborne operation last September. Later he escaped during a Russian advance and made his way to Italy.

By TOM HOGE

Staff Correspondent

ODESSA, March 25 (Delayed)—Advancing warily into the German town of Wugarten some weeks ago, the commander of a Russian recon unit must have been slightly amazed when, instead of encountering an armed Nazi garrison, he was greeted by an American colonel and a group of bizarrely dressed U.S. officers.

Then, while the Red commander was probably trying to figure out how he had wound up on the wrong front, the colonel gave an order and 30 disarmed, disgruntled Nazi soldiers were led out and turned over to the Russian.

Thus was first brought to official light an episode in the career of Col. Hurley E. Fuller, of San Antonio, Texas, that ranks with an adventure magazine thriller. An episode that was climaxed when he became military commandant and burgermeister without portfolio of a German village on the Eastern Front.

### 'Rest Period'

Fuller, commander of the 28th Div.'s 110th Regt., had been undergoing a rest period with his battle weary outfit in Luxembourg, when the Germans launched their December counterattack.

Down the Dasburg-Bastogne road, directly in the path of the 110th came the southern pincers spearhead. Within 24 hours, Fuller's men had been engaged by two crack Panzer divisions and an infantry outfit.

Despite the staunch defense put up by the regiment, it was hopelessly outnumbered and cut to ribbons. In his CP in the beleaguered town of Clervaux, Fuller stood by the phone while his battalion commanders called up one by one to report themselves surrounded, with half their companies wiped out. For two days he stayed at this post shifting units to stem one break-through after another, employing every tactic at his disposal, while his regiment struggled in the final throes of death.

### Tanks Arrived

On the second day German tanks smashed through and reached Clervaux. Fuller was in his headquarters in a small hotel phoning to division for more reserves, when a barrage came crashing through the ground floor, killing several members of his S-1 staff. A second burst exploded in Fuller's room on the second floor. When the smoke had cleared an officer lay on the floor mortally wounded and an enlisted man, blinded by shell fragments, writhed in pain.

### The Stars and Stripes

GERMANY EDITION

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"I wrapped a bandage over the boy's eyes and gave him what first aid I could," said Fuller, "but it was too dark to do much."

Meanwhile, the Germans had entered the building and blocked off the front and rear exits. We had just about decided that it was all up, when an MP entered the room and whispered to me that he had found a ladder on the top floor leading over to a cliff."

### Ladder Escape

With the blinded man holding onto his belt, Fuller and the remainder of his staff tiptoed upstairs and made their way across the narrow ladder.

Their escape was short lived, however. The next day they were picked up by a German patrol and taken back to a collection point where they encountered a number of other captured members of their regiment.

"They jammed us in, 50 men and officers to a car," said Fuller, "and, although it was bitterly cold, we had neither heat nor food during the entire trip. One man died of pneumonia on the journey and upon arrival five more passed away."

Finally, one night, after the men had sunk down wearily to rest at the end of a particularly tough 25 kilometer hike, Captain Matz, the German officer in charge of the group heard the rumble of Russian guns in the distance and ordered them to push on.

### Made A Deal

"That was too much," said Fuller. "I told Matz that the men were in no condition to walk and pointed out the danger of moving at night in case the Russians overtook us and we would be unable to identify ourselves. Then, I made the captain a proposition. I suggested that he take the wagons and make a getaway with his men, leaving us a certificate stating that we had not killed our guards, in case we encountered a German patrol."

Matz rejected the proposal in a fury.

"Put it this way, then," said Fuller. "If you force us to march and we're overtaken by the Russians, and a single American is killed, I promise you that you'll never live to be taken prisoner. Either I or one of my officers will grab a gun and shoot you."

### One Night Reprieve

His fury suddenly subdued, Matz said he would confer with the other German officers. As a result the men stayed where they were for the night.

The next day, as Fuller had hoped, the group was encircled by the Russians. Overcome with rage and alarm, Matz marched them all that day in a vain effort to get out of the pocket. Finally, at the town of Wugarten he threw in the sponge, gave Fuller the certificate he had requested, gathered his guards together and fled.

"They departed in such a hurry," grinned Fuller, "that they left behind 26 rifles and two machine guns."

Sizing up the situation, Fuller decided to set up a garrison in

the town until the Russians arrived. Enlisting the aid of 180 Poles, who had been working as slave labor for the Germans, he formed an organization. In the group were the Poles, 80 Americans, 199 Italians (including 104 generals and three admirals), 38 Canadians, 12 Yugoslavs and 65 French, including a captain who claimed to be the grandson of the late Marshal Foch.

Realizing the imminent danger of a German attack, Fuller posted an armed platoon at either end of town. At the east end, where an attack was considered most likely, the two machine guns were set up.

Before long a band of Germans did try to enter the town, but before they had a chance to cause any disturbance they were captured.

### Close Call

"Late that day we had quite a scare," said Fuller. "Word got through to us that a full German battalion was approaching the town. I told the townsfolk to take cover and gave similar orders to my men, with instructions that if we were discovered to fight it out. As it turned out our fears were unnecessary. That battalion came through so fast that they didn't stop for anything. They just shot through as though Satan were after them."

By the end of the second day Fuller had things in running order in the place. That night the first Russian patrols reached the town. At the colonel's request they supplied the Americans with arms and ammunition. Shortly afterward a high ranking red officer visiting the town was so well pleased with the way it was being run that he set Fuller up as military commandant and unofficial mayor.

"There wasn't much of anything that we didn't have our hand in before it was over," laughed the colonel. "I even signed a number of death certificates for the relatives of deceased villagers so that they could perform burial."

On March 5 a convoy of trucks showed up to take the group to Wreschian, Poland, and start them on their homeward journey, and the government of Wugarten was turned over into other hands.



Pfc. Clester W. Hornsby, San Antonio, Tex., March 1; Cpl. John C. Thomas, Bronx, N.Y., April 19; Lt. Henry G. Ausburn, Prot. Byron, N.Y.—Patricia Ellen, April 19; S-Sgt. Daniel B. Hines, New York, N.Y., April 19.

Pvt. John J. Lachner, Chicago—John Joseph, March 30; Lt. Hal B. Barnes, Rockwall, Texas—Carole Dean, March 17; Sgt. Richard L. Woodyard, Parkersburg, W. Va.—Janet Sue, April 8; Lt. Robert T. Hagg, Marengo, Ill.—Robert T., April 19.

Capt. George O. Jenkins, Baton Rouge, La.—Marian Maureen, April 20; Capt. Victor B. Shoemaker, Riverton, N.J.—Lynn Wheeler, April 20.

Pfc. Albert Gearing, Millburg, Mich.—Albert Edward, Jan. 26; Lt. Edward T. White, Belton, S.C.—Edward Thornton, Feb. 21; Cpl. John B. Coriden, Hammond, Ind.—John Patrick, March 15; Pvt. Joseph Gallo, Patterson, N.J.—Joey, April 2; S-Sgt. Almar A. Short, Brooklyn—Edward, March 22.



### Wants Tip Space

I think The Stars and Stripes is a very good paper. I have just one suggestion to make: Couldn't you find a little space in which to print some tips on the different kinds of weapons and their nomenclature?

I think the men would appreciate this.

—S-Sgt. S. Dobrinski

### How's That Again?

Have just read the gripe of a Pfc. in Mail Call against the rear echelon PX.

I have been up front for almost 16 months and know for a fact that rear echelon men get less of a PX ration than we do. They are entitled to what the Army rations us all.

Why bitch when the rear echelon PX says they can't part with a ration except to those for whom it was intended? Let's be fair! The rear echelon Joe is doing the duties demanded of him. We front line men do ours. I sometimes wonder how much and what type of combat is done by those front line men who go around with a chip on their shoulders.

—Cpl. M. S. Gershbaum, Inf.

### Would Ban Migration

I believe that Congress should pass an act forbidding any migration from any country that held hostilities against the United States. Forbid these countries to send students to our universities and keep them out of the U. S. altogether except officials transacting government business.

All Germans, be they Nazi or anti-Nazi, hate Americans. Their hatred is so deep that it couldn't be erased in three generations. Would these people make good American citizens?

—Cpl. Charles L. Dearing

### Supplies for Scouts

An item in a recent issue of The Stars and Stripes refers to GI equipment being made available to the boy scouts.

Being a scoutmaster I know the need of camping equipment and supplies. Our troop is small and has limited capital. It is hard to get enough equipment to go around.

The boys of today will be the men of tomorrow who will be running our country. What little we do now will pay big dividends in later years.

All scout troops would benefit and could do a better job if they could obtain their scouting equipment through a GI PX at reasonable prices.

How do you other scouter in the service feel about this idea?

—Pfc. Walt Miller Jr.

WELL, THIS TOOK CARE OF TH SHIPPIN' SHORTAGE BACK T' TH STATES!

lessening due to many factors. Would it not be feasible to adapt these barrage balloons to carry cargo by adding a gondola and tow line?

Full cargo gondolas could be released in marshalling areas and empty gondolas re-slung for further cargoes at rail or dock head.

—S-Sgt. H.A. Christensen

## Birthday Wish for Hitler Was Buried in Nazis' Heart

By a Staff Correspondent

OYLER, Germany, April 20 (Delayed)—Frau Herm Luttense, 45 years old, who lives in a neat, large five-room, red brick farmhouse in the village of Oyler south of Bremen with her two teen-age daughters and two middle-aged female relatives, was the first German I met on the morning of April 20, Hitler's 56th birthday.

Like most Germans in the Reich's north German farming country she was red-cheeked well-padded, well-dressed and obviously well-fed. There was no trace of fear in her manner. She smiled tolerantly when we asked if she had birthday greetings for the Fuehrer. "The Fuehrer is a great man. My birthday wishes for our Fuehrer are in my heart. The subject is too sacred to discuss with you."

When she was asked whether she thought this was the feeling of all German people she said that there were now many traitors in the country who blamed Hitler for their troubles but that she thought she was a representative of many women.

"There will be another world coming for Germany, don't you worry," she said, talking fast and emphatically. Other women, listening, nodded assent. Asked if she had ever seen Hitler her eyes brightened and flushed and she straightened. "I saw him often in Hamburg where I lived before the bombers came. I stood waiting for

hours and I would have waited for days just like I would have waited for God."

There was no stepping her talk now. Words poured forth as if she was talking about a mystic and was under some compelling spell. She glorified Hitler and might have been talking to SS men in the year 1939 instead of a conquered Germany which is occupied by British troops.

Finally an interpreter broke in to ask her who she blamed for the bombing of Hamburg and for the whole war. For Hamburg she blamed the British and said it was brutal and murderous. Asked what was the difference between the British bombing Hamburg and the Germans' bombing London, she said "I'm not interested in what happens to London. Bombing Germany is criminal."

She was insistent that the war was started by the Polish over Danzig and was forced on the Fuehrer.

The last question asked was why all houses were flying white flags rather than swastikas honoring Hitler's birth. "The whole country would be flying a German flag today if we were allowed."

Her husband is in the Wehrmacht; she wouldn't tell where. We asked her what would have happened if we had talked like that in front of the SS even if the situation had been reversed.

"Nothing," she said, "Germans are gentlemen."

## Golden Gate Gallery

## U.S. Envoys to San Francisco Meeting



Sen. TOM CONNALLY

Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Democrat Connally, 67, has been in Congress 25 years. A cautious internationalist, he asks a permanent big Army, Navy and Air Force.



Rep. SOL BLOOM

Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a New York Democrat, 75-year-old Bloom is noted as an historian and prophet of world collaboration.

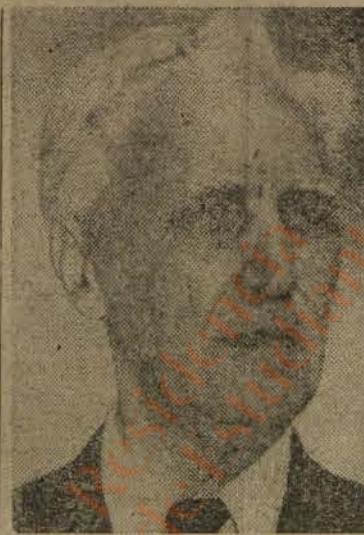


Cmdr. HAROLD STASSEN

The surprise Republican nominee to the conference, the 37-year-old former governor of Minnesota is rapidly becoming 1948 presidential timber. Fans call him "sound" and far ahead of the administration as a practical postwar planner.

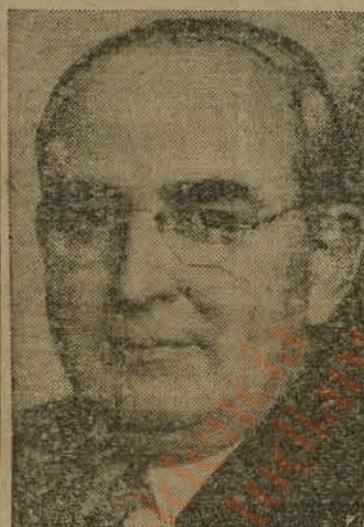


Sen. ARTHUR VANDENBURG



Rep. CHARLES A. EATON

The ranking Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, 77, a New Jerseyite and in Congress for 21 years, Eaton opposed the New Deal but admired the late President's foreign policies.



Sen. VIRGINIA C. GILDERSLEEVE

Dean of Barnard College, New York for 35 years, Ph.D., Litt.D., LL.D., world citizen, member and sometimes president of American and international non-political groups on international cooperation, and international relations. Dean Gildersleeve is a recognized expert on world affairs.

## Polish Problem Clouds Frisco Conference

(Continued from Page 1) Warsaw Polish government, with which Russia recently signed a mutual assistance treaty, shall be seated at the conference.

Both the U.S. and Britain have refused Russia's request that the Warsaw regime be represented at the conference, and have held that a "government of national unity," as agreed at Yalta, should be formed first.

Developments on the eve of the meeting were:

1—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius jr., British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Soviet Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov were to continue their discussions here, after failing to reach agreement on the Polish problem in Washington.

2—Foreign Minister Dr. Ellco Van Kleffens, chief of the Netherlands delegation, rapped Big Five veto control of the proposed security council, but qualified the Dutch stand by saying Holland would go along if other countries accepted the veto plan.

3—Avra Warren, director of the State Department's Office of American Republic Affairs, announced that Argentina has agreed to cooperate closely with Allied nations in military, naval and economic affairs.

4—Indian delegates signified their

intention of demanding a seat on the proposed security council.

5—French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault indicated that France would not lead any revolt of small or middle powers against the Dumbarton Oaks plan.

Shortly after Molotov met for a second talk with President Truman, the White House issued the statement that "in view of the limited time at his disposal in Washington... and in order to permit Mr. Molotov to consult with his government following these conversations, discussions in regard to the Polish situation will be continued by the three foreign secretaries in San Francisco."

French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault indicated that France would not lead any revolt of small or middle powers against the Dumbarton Oaks plan.

And in Brooklyn, St. Francis Prep has the dubious honor of being held hitless in two successive games. Thomas Greenfield, of Loughlin high, blanked St. Francis, 5-0, without a hit to repeat the no-hitter hurled by Walter Rooney, of St. John's Prep, a week earlier.

## 'Happy' Chandler New Baseball Czar

## BASEBALL SCORES

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

Boston, 8; Brooklyn, 6  
New York, 5; Phillips, 2  
Chicago at Cincinnati, rain  
St. Louis-Pittsburgh, not scheduled

## Standings

Club	W.	L.	Pct.	Club	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	6	2	.750	Boston	4	4	.500
Chicago	4	2	.667	Brooklyn	3	4	.428
St. Louis	3	2	.600	Phila.	2	5	.289
Cincy	3	3	.500	Pitt.	2	5	.289

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

St. Louis at Cleveland, rain  
Detroit at Chicago, rain  
Boston at Washington, rain  
New York-Philadelphia, not scheduled

## Standings

Club	W.	L.	Pct.	Club	W.	L.	Pct.
Chicago	5	0	1.000	Wash.	3	3	.500
New York	5	1	.853	Cleveland	1	4	.200
Phila.	4	2	.667	St. Louis	1	5	.166
Detroit	4	2	.667	Boston	0	6	.000

## INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Jersey City, 2; Toronto, 1  
Newark, 7; Rochester, 2  
Other games postponed, rain

## PACIFIC COAST

Portland, 7; Oakland, 1  
San Diego, 7; San Francisco, 3  
Other games postponed

## Standings

Club	W.	L.	Pct.	Club	W.	L.	Pct.
Portland	16	7	.695	Sacra.	11	12	.478
Seattle	14	8	.636	San Fran.	11	13	.458
San Diego	13	11	.542	Los Ang.	9	14	.391
Oakland	12	11	.522	Hollywood	6	16	.273

CLEVELAND, Ohio, April 25 (ANS)—Senator Albert B. (Happy) Chandler, 46-year-old Democrat from Kentucky, was unanimously elected to succeed the late Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis as high commissioner of baseball by the 16 major league clubowners in joint session, yesterday.

The former Kentucky governor and minor league baseball player, was given a seven-year contract calling for 50,000 dollars a year.



The selection of Chandler, staunch supporter of baseball, came as a distinct surprise since National League president Ford Frick and James A. Farley, former postmaster general, were believed to have had the inside track on the job.

Chandler becomes the second effective commissioner since the office was created in 1920, when Judge Landis was called in to clean up the game and see that it stayed clean following the famous "Black Sox" scandal of 1919.

## Nieman, Ott Win With Home-Runs

Sluggers stepped into the spotlight previously monopolized by pitchers as a pair of National League games Tuesday provided fans with their entire bill-of-fare of major loop baseball. Rain through most sections caused postponements.

Elmer (Butch) Nieman, hefty Boston Braves outfielder, and the aging but hardly slowed-down Mel Ott, New York Giants' manager, provided the homer-hammering that gave their respective clubs the victory.

Nieman, for the third straight day, hit for the circuit in the ninth inning to literally pull the Braves up by their bootstraps to an 8-6 triumph over the Brooklyn Dodgers. Two mates were on base and Boston was trailing 4-6 when Nieman prodded the clincher.

Ott, a pretty fair hand at that sort of thing, too, despite his 20 seasons with the Giants, twice hit home runs to pace the National League leaders to a 5-2 victory over the Phillies. Mel spoiled Ken Raffensberger's seven-hit pitching performance by poking the ball out of the park in the first with George Gausman aboard and again in seventh with Johnny Rucker on.

## WANTS ALL-STAR GAME

WASHINGTON, April 25—Clark Griffith, president of the Capital's American League Senators and baseball's closest contact with government officials, was prepared to agitate at the joint major league meeting for reviving the annual All-Star game.

## By Chic Young



Blondie

OH GOLLY! AND ME ALONE IN THE HOUSE

RING

ALL RIGHT—  
ALL RIGHT!

WHY DON'T YOU PUT THE MAIL IN THE MAILBOX, INSTEAD OF RINGING THE DOORBELL?

I LOVE PEOPLE TOO MUCH FOR THAT

# Two Armies Racing To Capture Munich

By PETER FURST, Staff Correspondent

SOUTH OF THE DANUBE, April 24 (Delayed)—The race is on. Reinforced by doughboys of the 3d Inf. Div., infantry units and tankers of the 12th Armored Div. today were expanding their bridgehead over the Danube and tonight were less than 50 miles from Munich.

This afternoon the doughboys moved into Wertingen, 15 miles northwest of Augsburg and less than 50 miles from Munich, just as the radio announced that the 3d Army, coming down from the north, was within 60 miles of that city. Bets were being made from the front lines back to division rear on who'd get to Munich first.

The story of the capture intact of the vital bridge by the 12th Armored approaches in drama and importance that of the Remagen bridge across the Rhine.

It was explained that the sudden dash south across the bridge left the Germans no time to organize any defense along the Danube. Thus the defenders of the redoubt in the Bavarian Alps may be faced with an Allied attacking force weeks sooner than they had expected.

Lt. Col. Clayton Wells, of Abilene, Tex., commander of the task force, which sped 50 miles in a day to take the bridge, said today, "Now all I have to do is find the man who took the Remagen bridge and say to him, 'Your bridge may have been bigger, but mine didn't collapse.'"

#### Planes Fail in Attack

German jet planes tried hard today to make it collapse, but without success. Yesterday's shelling by a few 88s proved completely ineffective.

The Danube at Dillingen is about 200 feet wide. The bridge is a concrete two-way structure 250 yards long, including the approaches.

No one had expected the Dillingen or any other bridge across the Danube to be taken intact, and even today ducks and other amphibious vehicles loaded with supplies were crowding the muddy roads north of the river.

Col. Wells' task force had torn down the road toward the Danube after slashing through spotty resistance. At one spot it surprised an enemy column of dilapidated trucks and horse-drawn wagons.

#### Prevent Demolition

German trucks were being knocked out with machine guns while the armor drove toward the bridge. Capt. William Riddell, of Liberty, Mo., a tank platoon commander, and Sgt. Ogden Huston, of Spokane, Wash., an armored infantryman, were first on the bridge. They caught a few Krauts

#### 'Blue' of the Danube Leads to Some Mix-up

By a Staff Correspondent

WITH THE 12TH ARMORED DIV., April 25—The blue Danube caused some confusion at division headquarters when Lt. Clayton Wells, of Abilene, Tex., radioed that he had reached the river and captured the Dillingen bridge intact.

His original message read, "Have bridge over Danube and it's blue." Someone on the transmitter thought "blue" was bad English and changed it to "blown."

and raced for the wires before demolitions charges could be set off.

Riddell and Huston found six American 500-pound bombs on each end of the bridge and hundreds of pounds of Italian dynamite. The latter, according to Riddell, "wouldn't have gone off if you'd lit a fire under it, the stuff was so wet and soggy."

The first attempt to destroy the bridge came the same afternoon. Three planes tried to bomb it but failed completely.

This morning 3d Div. troops moved across the bridge toward Munich and the redoubt. They were cheered along by tired, dirty tankers and the white and Negro armored infantrymen of the Hellcat 12th.

#### Tokyo Factory 'Blown to Hell'

GUAM, April 25 (ANS)—American Superfortresses scored several concentrations of bursts in their raid yesterday on the big Hitachi airplane engine plant near Tokyo and "blew the factory all to hell," returning crewmen reported today.

Photographs showed many hits on the main engine assembly plant and on another large assembly building.

The B-29 gunners reported 31 enemy planes destroyed or damaged out of 70 to 80 sighted. Four Superforts were lost. The crewmen said one Jap plane strafed three parachuting American airmen.

Doughs of the 45th Inf. Div. pause behind rubble piles as they advance into Nurnberg under sniper fire. At left a tank moves forward, turret gun turned to the right, to blast enemy positions.

—163d Signal Photo by Masser

## Cell Prepared for Petain, On Way to Treason Trial

PARIS, April 25 (AP)—A cell in a fortress near Paris was prepared tonight for Marshal Henri Philippe Petain—once the idol of France—who was reported by the official French News Agency to have crossed the French frontier from Switzerland near Geneva.

On arrival here he will be taken through the capital under heavy guard to the secret fortress prison.

The French minister of justice denied that Petain had left Switzerland. He will be placed under arrest the minute he steps on French soil, the minister added.

France already has seemed torn by the unexpected development. One day after the news was revealed that Petain was in Switzerland and wished to return to stand trial, passion was running high.

As far as Paris is concerned, he is already convicted, but in the provinces there are thousands who still idolize the 89-year-old marshal, who is charged with high treason for his collaboration with the Germans.

#### COAL PRODUCTION DROPS

WASHINGTON, April 25 (ANS)—Soft coal output up to mid-April was 16,500,000 tons short of production during the same period last year, the Solid Fuels Administration reported.

#### West Front

(Continued from Page 1)

Luxembourg radio reported that the 7th Army had entered Augsburg, 35 miles from Munich, but this report was not confirmed.

The 7th's 44th Inf. Div. and 10th Armored Div. mopped up in the vicinity of Ulm, while the 10th Armored entered Weblingen, two miles south of Ulm.

Another armored spearhead knifed 16 miles southward along the Iller Canal in joint operations with tanks of the 1st French Army.

Descending behind the spearhead forces of the north, the 7th Army's 63d Inf. Div. advanced to points 20 miles north of Ulm.

As the 12th Armored Div. pulled away from its Danube bridgehead, the 4th Inf. Div. followed up the tanks approaching the river at Dillingen. Patch's forces, it was disclosed, consist of more than nine divisions—the 3d, 4th, 42d, 45th, 63d, 100th and 103d Inf. Divs., and the 10th and 12th Armored Divs.

#### Third Also Pushes

Third Army forces advanced along an 80-mile front and drove up to 28 miles to reach the Danube opposite Regensburg. One column entered the city of Regen, only 80 miles from Berchtesgaden.

South of Nurnberg, Patton's forces advanced 11 miles and reached the Altmühl River, which flows parallel to the Danube, 10 miles north. Other 3d Army troops who gained 28 miles reached Kelheim, 12 miles southwest of Regensburg, in a move to outflank the area from the west.

Between Regensburg and the Czech border, three of Patton's divisions were advancing toward Austria.

Flanked by the 26th Inf. Div. on the west and by the 90th Inf. Div. on the east, the 11th Armored Div. drove into Regen.

French forces who crossed the Rhine at Kembs in southern Alsace reached the Swiss frontier near Basle.

## Yanks Peril Japs' Flank On Okinawa

GUAM, April 25 (ANS)—While the big guns of offshore battleships, cruisers and destroyers poured hundreds of tons of shells into enemy defenses on Okinawa, infantrymen of the 7th Div. seized high ground near the village of Ishin, threatening the eastern flank of the strongly defended Japanese line on southern Okinawa.

Capture of the elevation was the first marked change on the front since the all-out attack of almost a week ago. The fighting since then has been a slow job of digging out the Japs from caves and pillboxes in their elaborate interlocking defense belt.

After an inspection of the island, Adm. Nimitz said the enemy defenses on southern Okinawa, where the bulk of the Jap garrison of 60,000 or more is concentrated, appeared to be "as strong and perhaps stronger than any we have tackled before."

#### Hitler's Den

(Continued from Page 1)

into the earth before detonating. Two Lancasters are missing.

There was no official suggestion that the attacks were planned to catch Hitler in his hideaway, but it was pointed out unofficially that there was always that possibility. The United Press quoted an aerial gunner as saying he saw a six-ton bomb make a terrific flash on Hitler's chalet.

(German broadcasts have reported that Hitler was in Berlin, directing the encircled capital's defense.)

While Hitler's mountain retreat was being assaulted, more than 1,000 American warplanes blasted targets within 25 miles of Berchtesgaden.

As a result of the radio warning of the attack on Pilsen, German ground forces were prepared and some Luftwaffe opposition was encountered. The bombers reported dogfights below them around Pilsen, but the Germans were unable to reach the heavies. Great explosions and fires sending smoke up 1,000 feet were seen in the Skoda plant.

## Enemy Prowls Behind U.S. Armor

By GEORGE DORSEY, Staff Correspondent

WITH THE 5TH ARMORED DIV.—When they ask where the German army is in this neck of the woods, the invariable answer here is: "Behind the 5th Armored Div."

The statement is more grim than funny, however, because men are getting killed and wounded far behind this division's forward elements.

Roving bands of Germans who prowl the forests to the rear ambushed a recon party of an artillery group and killed or captured all 26 men in the party, including the group commander. Nazi forces whose armament included Tiger tanks recently raided the division's main supply route, shooting up and seizing supply trucks.

These depredations were made possible because of the 5th's lightning advance over great distances. In such blitz warfare, the armor doesn't stop to clean out each pocket, but takes chances in order to insert long steel shafts into the enemy's vitals. Although the 84th and 102d Inf. Divs. have been following the armor sweeping eastward, there still are strong groups of the enemy active in the rear.

Combat Command B, under Col. John Cole, turned back to close with a large German force making a pounce on supply columns from its base within Knese-

beck Forest, 50 miles behind the 5th Armored's front lines on the Elbe.

Men of the CCB set up dozens of roadblocks in a semi-circle at the forest's edge and settled down to wait for the Krauts.

It was in mid-morning that riflemen Pfc. Charles Shauberger, of Girard, Pa., peering out of a windmill tower, noticed a German column creeping out of the woods. He yelled down to the tanks, and his cries brought the enemy vehicles under fire. The German column answered with close but ineffective rounds, meanwhile moving ahead into another patch of woods.

When the column emerged from the screen of trees, it was in full flight northward. Acting platoon leader Sgt. Salvatore Candito, of Hingham, Mass., and his men were ready. Inside his tank Cpl. John Ivers, of Oakland, Ill., and Pfc. Alfred Cea, Hazelton, Pa., loaded. Pfc. Leo Roundy, of Escalante, Utah, assistant driver, and T-4 Joseph Meinen, of Sioux City, Iowa, went to work.

First they hit a Panther. Flame shot out of it. It ground to a halt—kaput. American guns swung to a light tank behind the Panther and finished it too.

The rest of the column disappeared, and its fate is still unknown. But the boys beneath the windmill are certain that at least two tanks will harry our rear no more.

