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MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1945

THREE HALFPENCE

HIMMLER'S ANSWER ON THE WAY

THE BERLIN BLOOD BATH GOES ON

The slaughter inside Berlin to-day reached a new peak as the German garrison command recklessly threw more and more troops into a bid to halt the incessant Soviet attacks, cables Reuter's correspondent in Moscow.

The Russians have seen the Germans squandering their troops in such a manner only once before—at Stalingrad. History will record this battle as the "Bloodbath of Berlin."

German attempts to parachute reserve troops into Berlin were reported to-day. All the "sticks" of paratroopers, so far, have fallen or been taken prisoner or mopped up after landing in the Soviet-occupied zone. Goebbels' women battalions were reported to be fighting alongside the S.S. men in the centre of the city.

WITHOUT PITY

Berlin is a city of shelter, cellar, and cave dwellers, said in the Moscow radio correspondent. "We are not a cruel people, but we looked on without pity or sympathy, remembering Leningrad and Stalingrad."

It is they who have wanted war. Now they have got it they no longer want it. They hang out white nappies.

They openly curse Hitler now, although their soldiers are still fighting, counter-attacking and sometimes recapturing isolated buildings.

MILITARY TAKE OVER

The first Soviet military commanders have now taken over their duties in the captured sectors and Berliners are crowding round sign-boards to read their bright green posters.

"It is not our object to enslave the German people—we do not and cannot have such foolish aims," said one notice.

Builders' Hours Cut To 54

Hours of work in the building and civil engineering industry will be reduced from 60 a week to 54 from May 14, when Sunday work in London will also end.

Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Works, after consulting both sides of the two industries, has accepted their unanimous recommendation to introduce the cut.

The figure of 60 hours a week was fixed in 1942, but it is now considered that it is not practicable to maintain these very long hours and end overtime for any indefinite period.

Mr. Sandys has also decided to modify arrangements throughout Great Britain for licensing civil building, and the reviving scheme will be announced early in May.

FOOD BY AIR FOR DUTCH

Yesterday unescorted heavy bombers dropped more than 600 tons of food supplies for the Dutch population in enemy-occupied Holland.

Bernadotte Leaves Denmark On South-Bound Journey

Count Folk Bernadotte, Swedish intermediary in the surrender negotiations between the Allies and Germany, is stated to have left Denmark with Himmler's answer to the Allied demands.

One report says that he is returning to Stockholm, and another, put out by the German-controlled Danish radio this afternoon, that he "left for the south" last night.

The latest talks, said the radio, took place at a castle near Aabenraa, 15 miles north of the German-Danish frontier, but the broadcast gave no indication of the Count's supposed southern destination—whether it was in Hitler's Germany, or in Allied-occupied Germany, where he could meet General Eisenhower.

British Start Push To Baltic And Link-Up

ALLIED advances are reported to-day from practically all the European fronts.

In the north, famous British divisions are pouring across the Elbe and pushing on towards the Baltic and a link-up with the Russians driving east from Stettin. The Canadians have turned the Wilhelmshaven defence line.

In the south there is likely to be a link-up at any hour between the American and Russian armies surging along the northern bank of the Danube to cut off Czechoslovakia.

U.S. forces are practically knocking at the door of the southern redoubt, one force making for Salzburg at the eastern end and another for Innsbruck in the west. On a wide front the River Isar, which runs along the base of the Bavarian Alps, has been reached and crossed.

BRITISH and Russian forces are heading for a new northern link-up.

Tanks have followed the British Commandos over the River Elbe south-east of Hamburg, and a magnificent initial success is being rapidly exploited with a bridgehead already three miles deep, says a cable from S.H.A.E.F.

The famous 15th Lowland Scottish Division and the First Commando Brigade are pushing on victoriously towards the Baltic in a drive that may outflank Hamburg and cut through the neck of Denmark.

ONLY 50 MILES

Marshal Rokossovsky's troops at Neubrandenburg, in the lake area north of Berlin, are less than 50 miles from a new link-up with Montgomery's troops along the Elbe line in that sector.

Though some fighting continues in Leer, 14 miles south-east of Emden, the Allied bridgehead there over the Leda and Ems rivers is well in hand and rapidly expanding.

The Germans' defensive line protecting the Emden-Wilhelmshaven peninsula, between the Ems and Weser is now stated authoritatively to be considered turned at its right anchor. Advances have been made against moderate opposition.

INTO ALPS PASSES

U.S. Seventh Army troops, pushing three miles south of the Austrian border south of

Munich are practically knocking at the door of the southern redoubt.

They are fighting on the main road to the passes into the northern Alps.

Skirting around the East side of the Ammersee Lake, Spatzhausen, due north of Innsbruck, centre pivot of the redoubt, has been captured.

General Patton, over the Austrian border north-east of Passau, is threatening to lock the eastern entrance to the redoubt at Salzburg.

ISAR CROSSED

Patton has reached the Isar River, which runs roughly parallel to the Danube, and forced three crossings between Freising, 17 miles north of Munich and Deggendorf, 60 miles farther east. Troops are fighting in the outskirts of Freising.

Youths of 15 and 16 in the German Grenadiers fought bitterly to prevent Americans landing on the south bank of the Isar.

THOUSANDS CAPTURED

The Third Army in the last nine days has captured 112,000 prisoners, bringing this army's total to 565,000.

General Patch's army yesterday set up a new record for itself by bagging more than 35,000 prisoners against crumbling opposition.

Two American forces have thrust into the heart of Munich, the fall of which is imminent. The civilians are welcoming the Americans, who met no opposition except artillery fire.

The beer hall, where Adolf Hitler's Nazi party was born 27 years ago, has been taken.

Kesselring, whose command post has been south of Munich, probably sought the temporary safety of the German redoubt.

27,000 FREED

General Patton's Third Army overran a prisoner of war camp north of Munich, liberating 27,000 Allied soldiers.

Allied troops are in Oberammergau, scene of the world-famous Passion Play, 42 miles south-west of Munich, according to one report.

In Czechoslovakia the Allies had to fight fiercely for Cheb airfield, eleven miles south-east of Asch. A thousand Germans defended the airfield and 350 were taken prisoner.

Several large road convoys, mainly moving southward in the area east and south of Pilsen and a large number of rail cars, many of them loaded with motor transport, in the area were attacked by fighter-bombers.

Throughout yesterday more than 900 road vehicles and rail cars were destroyed or damaged.

Many enemy aircraft were destroyed or damaged on the ground.

COASTAL DUELS

The German garrisons at Lorient, La Rochelle, and St. Nazaire report artillery duels and increased Allied patrol activity, says Hamburg radio to-day.

"The enemy has not so far gone over to the attack," it was added.

COUNT BERNADOTTE is reported to be in possession of Himmler's final answer.

There is no further news from Allied official sources, but, says the Press Association diplomatic correspondent, there is no longer any doubt that armistice moves are in train and moving swiftly, with the end a matter of days or even hours.

MAY DAY VE

Speculation now centres on the possibility of a May Day announcement. The Red Army has striven to complete the conquest of the German capital by to-morrow and the fall of Berlin is almost certain to mark the com-

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HITLER DIED RAVING, SAY NEUTRALS

RUMOURS of Hitler's death continue to circulate in neutral capitals.

The Stockholm "Svenska Dagbladet's" Berne correspondent cabled that according to unconfirmed reports from military circles reaching Berne, Hitler died at noon yesterday.

His death is said to have occurred in the Nazis' great subterranean headquarters in the Tiergarten, Goebbels being present at the end.

HITLER RAVED

Hitler was raving during his last days, according to an account given by the Swedish "Morgon-Tidningen," based on a recent conversation between a prominent Nazi and a prominent Swede, who has just returned to Sweden.

Another report reaching Stockholm stated that Schwarz, chief of the Nazi Party's economic department, committed suicide yesterday.

Japs On German Surrender

The German surrender would have no effect on the Pacific war, Tokyo radio asserted to-day. "The Japanese Government has done its best to complete defensive arrangements, foreseeing such an unhappy event," it was added.

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"Hitler Died Raving, Say Neutrals." Derby Daily Telegraph, 30 Apr. 1945, p. 1. British Library Newspapers, link.gale.com/apps/doc/JA3236449911/GDCS?u=ed_itw&sid=bookmark-GDCS. Accessed 3 May 2024.