

miles beyond the Rhine in a sweep so swift that the Germans were caught without time to blow the Aschaffenburg bridge, 22 miles southeast of Frankfurt. Four Allied armies, including 3,000 tanks, were surging through wide breakthroughs in disintegrating German lines. Late in the week, Hannover, which was 142 miles from Berlin, was being menaced, and the city of Duisburg had been seized, as was Weisbaden. Late in the week the First and Third Armies drove toward a junction northeast of the Ruhr that would seal off Germany's greatest and last large arsenal and up to 40,000 enemy troops among its ravaged factories.

On Monday Allied airmen hit two oil plants, a gun factory and an armored car works in southeastern Germany as they switched back to strategic targets from a weeklong bombing prelude to the Rhine offensive. It was the 41st heavy bomber assault in 42 days. The Germans also indicated that the Russians had bombed Berlin.

General Eisenhower declared that the main German defensive line had been broken and the enemy had suffered a defeat which he cannot afford. He said there would be no negotiated surrender, but rather an imposed unconditional surrender when the Allies in the west link up with the Russians.

Nazi leaders appeared to be resorting to a campaign of stark terror in an effort to hold the German people in line during the nation's greatest hour of peril. The campaign seemed to be taking two forms: propagandists warned the Germans that they would be no better than slaves if the Allies were victorious, and at the same time they threatened with dire punishment all who failed to fight or cooperated with the invaders.

PACIFIC/ASIA

American troops were, according to Japanese sources, attempting landings on the Okinawa group in the Ryukyu chain, only 325 miles south of the home island of Kyushu. Aerial bombardments had preceded the supposed invasion. In a report from the US Navy, the island of Okinawa itself had been shelled by US battleships, presumably some of the newest, with 16-inch guns. Carrier planes had blasted air installations on the island. By late in the week, there had been six days of shelling, and a British task force had joined the Americans in the naval assault.

American assault troops, swarming ashore against elaborate beach defenses, swept almost to the outskirts of Cebu City, but that busy second city of the Philippines already was aflame and exploding from Japanese demolitions in a scorched-earth policy.

EASTERN FRONT

Early in the week the Red Army had reached places along the Austrian border, 39 miles southeast of Vienna. There was as yet no indication that Russian armor had crossed the frontier. By late in the week tanks were on Austrian soil. In the north, the Germans announced the evacuation of Kahlhoz Cape, their last toehold in East Prussia except north of Koenigsberg. The Russians had seized Danzig; Germans were giving up in large numbers in the city's main streets and squares.

ITALY

German patrolling became more aggressive along the Fifth Army front and there were a number of sharp clashes, particularly in the area southwest of Bologna.

HOME FRONT

Senators asked why Great Britain does not get more meat from Canada and less from the US as they began a broad investigation into the nation's food situation. The Canadians were understood to have ample meat and it more of it could be used for lend-lease.

Pennsylvania plans to observe Army Day on April 6 by collecting 20 million tin cans for the war effort. Pennsylvanians were asked to cut the ends and flatten the cans. They were told there was no substitute for tin.

Junior Red Cross members in six county schools had made a total of 750 favors to be distributed at military hospitals. The favors included place cards, some of which were made of egg shells; Easter basket centerpieces; and Easter baskets with Easter eggs.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Gettysburg Times)