

March 19, 2020

WWII Weekly Front Pages - The Evening Star, Bradford, PA

18 March - 24 March 1945

The Evening Star, Bradford, PA

The last Spring had come.

WEATHER
Bradford, Pa., Monday Evening, March 18, 1945.

BRADFORD EVENING STAR

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Goes to Senate
Reds Advance North of Mor in Hungary
RAF Hits Berlin After Big U. S. Raid on Capital
Third and Seventh Closing Trap on 80,000 Germans Fleeing Saarland Triangle
150 Students Seize Protesting Suspension
Ludendorff Span Likely to Be in Use Again Soon
Senate Votes Food Shortage Inquiry
Pfc. P. Z. Beck Dies in Action
3,500 Film Studio Workers Return as Strike in 2nd Week
Tokyo Reports Fleet Of Allied Subs Has Moved into China Sea
Steel Firms' Coal Stockpiles Are Low
Bell Offered State Superior Court Post
Fete to Address 3rd Ward PTA Tonight
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Patient Kills Another in Torrance Hospital
Attacks on Allies in Burma Repulsed
British Subs Rescue 525 From Sorey Isle
Sarah Kneafield To Talk at Meeting

Yank Tanks Within 14 Miles of Mainz
Paris, Mar. 18 (AP)—Third Army tanks closed within 14 miles of Mainz today and were within 40 miles of closing a trap with the Seventh Army. At least 80,000 Germans holding a corridor around Bonn, the city, Saarland and Palatinate.

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THE WAR TODAY
By DeWitt MacKenzie

WESTERN EUROPE

On Monday, Third Army tanks rolled to within 14 miles of Mainz and came within 45 miles of closing a trap with the Seventh Army on about 80,000 Germans retreating from the Saarland and Palatinate. The Seventh

Army, moving more slowly through Siegfried Line fortifications between Saarbrücken and the Rhine, had closed within 26 miles of Kaiserslautern, a key German base of 61,000. Two German armies had been either wiped out or were doomed in what was being called a debacle for the Germans, potentially costing them as many as 100,000 casualties at a time they could little afford to suffer them. Hundreds of thousands of German civilians were reported in full flight from the Ruhr Valley and menaced areas east of the Rhine. Roads leading east to Nuernberg and Munich were clogged with refugees, likening back to the situation in 1940 when the Nazi armies overran France. On Friday Mainz was captured.

The Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine, whose central span had collapsed Saturday, could be repaired and probably would be in operation soon, supporting First Army operations east of the river. The collapse was blamed on damage caused to a main supporting girder by a German demolition charge. A grand crossing by Montgomery of the lower Rhine from Dusseldorf to Arnheim was in the offing as well.

Bombing of Berlin continued throughout the week, including a record-breaking daylight assault by 1,300 US bombers on Sunday. The Flying Fortresses and Liberators rained 3,000 tons of bombs at the rate of 50 tons a minute on the battered capital. It was the 34th successive daylight raid on Germany by US warplanes.

On 22 March the full fury of American air might was turned directly on enemy troops jammed in the Ruhr as 1,300 American heavy bombers blasted nine of the largest army camps in western Germany. More than 7,000 aircraft total had taken part in the raids.

PACIFIC/ASIA

Defying the Japanese fleet to resist, hundreds of carrier planes and probably 350 Superforts, flying an estimated 3,000 sorties, bombed Japan with more than 5,000 tons of incendiaries and high explosives Sunday and Monday. Nagoya was the recipient of half the tonnage in incendiaries alone, following up on the destruction started the previous week. "We burned hell out of Nagoya," reported one of the fliers.

At least 17 Japanese warships, including a 45,000-ton superbattleship and eight aircraft carriers, were crippled by more than 1,000 American carrier planes which hunted down the bulk of the enemy home fleet hiding in Japan's inland 240-mile-long inland sea. Not one US ship was sunk.

Trapped Japanese forces in central Burma were counterattacking, indicating a possible attempt at a breakthrough. In the Meiktila area, 75 miles south of Mandalay, attacks had been repulsed with heavy losses to the Japanese. The enemy had no armor to match the British concentration of Sherman tanks.

EASTERN FRONT

The Red Army was advancing in Hungary in a new offensive, 98 miles from Vienna. The Germans had opened coastal dikes in an effort to slow the Russian advance. In southern Silesia the First Ukrainian Army plunged forward for gains of 15 miles or more, reaching a point less than three miles from the Czech border. In the north, Russian divisions wheeled westward from operations around captured Kolberg to add impetus to the raging battle for Stettin and the mouth of the Oder, the key to northern Germany.

ITALY

Patrols raided German lines in strength along the entire Fifth Army front while artillery hammered enemy outposts and communication centers, but there were no substantial changes in positions.

HOME FRONT

The US Senate voted unanimously for an investigation into food shortages by the Agriculture Committee. The goal would be to find a solution to the tightened supplies of meat and other commodities. The former had been cut to allocations at the lowest point in ten years. In addition, shoes, tires and manpower were items more tightly squeezed on the home front as the battle lines approached Berlin and Tokyo.

The US turned down Latin American countries' request for more money for coffee, but the action was said to carry no threat of a return to rationing, and there should be no effect on imports.

The War Department had countered a move by the Mayor of New York City to extend curfew time to 1 A.M. by ordering all military personnel to leave places of entertainment by midnight. This came as a surprise to café owners, barkeepers and grumbling soldiers.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Bradford Evening Star)