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GERMANY MAY COLLAPSE WITHIN WEEK

Canucks Make Narrow Gains East Of Rhine

Dominion Troops Run Into Some Stiff Resistance From Nazi Units.

By ROSS MUNRO

WITH THE CANADIANS IN THE RHINE BRIDGEHEAD, March 26—(CP Cable)—Canadians today made narrow gains in heavy fighting against the elements of three German divisions along the northwestern end of the Rhine bridgehead. Enemy paratroopers and panzer grenadiers are putting up some of the strongest resistance encountered east of the Rhine.

Some tanks, "Wasp" flame-throwers mounted on Bren gun carriers, a strong artillery force and Typhoon rocket planes are supporting the Canadians.

The North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment of Newcastle, N.B., advanced 1½ miles northeast from Bienen, four miles northwest of Rees, captured earlier by the North Nova Scotia Highlanders of Truro and Amherst and the Highland Light Infantry of Canada, Galt, Ont. The North Shores attacked Millingen and tonight fought in its streets. (Paris dispatches reported Millingen captured).

The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, Cornwall, Ont., put in a new attack in the general area north of Bienen, following up advances made in that direction by the N.H.L. after Bienen had been cleared.

(These units are from the 3rd Division which Prime Minister Mackenzie King told the House of Commons Monday was fighting with the British 2nd Army east of the Rhine.)

The Germans were fighting hard to prevent the Canadians breaking out from the bridgehead along the Emmerich Highway but Bienen was the key to its defence and the situation appeared to be loosening up slightly tonight.

The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa provided machine-gun support for the North Nova Scotia's drive on Bienen, the second town to fall to Canadians in this operation.

Troops of the German 6th Division have been identified on the Canadian sector. Previously the 8th Parachute Division and the 15th Panzer Grenadiers were identified. Whole divisions have not been committed but elements of these three formations have been providing plenty of opposition.

The enemy is defending farm houses, trench systems and villages with machine-guns, snipers and a few tanks and self-propelled guns.

These are some of the Prince Edward Islanders who came home to Canada Wednesday aboard the hospital ship "Letitia". Left to right—L-Sgt. A. B. Stewart, Murray Head; Pte. J. MacCallum, Charlottetown; Cpt. G. A. Elsworth, Montague; Pte. J. P. Jackson, Peaks Road; Pte. W. L. Kemp, Montague, and Pte. E. L. Gallant, Acadia. (Canadian Army Photo)

War Situation Last Night

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
(Associated Press War Analyst)

More significant than the depth to which Allied armies have lunged beyond the Rhine are the reports drifting back from all sectors of confusion and uncertainty in German ranks.

They do not yet approach the point of morale disintegration in German armies although that is broadly hinted at in some front-line accounts.

There is no evidence up to now, however, that the foe has any concerted plan covering the whole western front or a selected and prepared defence line east of the river into which to withdraw. He seems utterly off balance everywhere although the real test of that is still to come.

Ominous for the Germans as is the rapid encirclement of the Ruhr developing from British, Canadian and American break-throughs, it is southward on the front of the American 3rd Army that the most critical situation is taking shape. Third Army tanks by conservative estimate are nearly 50 miles east of the Rhine. With the Aschaffenburg bridge over the main river southeast of by-passed Frankfurt seized intact, there seems little chance that Lt.-Gen. George Patton can be barred out of the western edge of the great central plain of Germany itself except by a sweeping re-deployment that would amount to a general German retreat in the north all the way from the Main to the North Sea coast. There is nowhere else the foe could find men needed for the type of open warfare being forced upon him in the south.

The enemy's chance to contain and smother the multiple and fast expanding Allied bridgeheads east of the Rhine is lost. That galling 3rd Army prong is on the verge of a breakout into ideal tank warfare terrain that leads directly to Nuerenberg, Regensberg and even Munich. While the width of the 3rd Army breakthrough is not entirely clear, there are Berlin intimations that the American 7th Army on its south flank is already moving across the Rhine in the Karlsruhe area while to the north a 3rd Army junction with the 1st Army's explosive Remagen bridgehead is close if not already effected.

(Crossing of the Rhine by the American 7th has since been confirmed.)

It seems clear now that the foe was caught napping by Gen. Patton's prompt crossing of the Rhine following his Moselle breakthrough that sealed the fate of the Saarland and Palatinate. Every report from the front indicates the greatest concentration of seasoned enemy troops was in the north on Field Marshal Montgomery's front. It proved inadequate even so to hold the lower Rhine at any point Marshal Montgomery picked for crossing, and the concentration there fatally exposed the middle Rhine to combined 3rd and 7th Army operations that could make a quick end of German hopes of making a last stand against the Bavarian Alps.

Earl Lloyd George Died Yesterday At His Home

TY NEWYDD LLANYSTUMDWY, North Wales, March 26 — (CP) — Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, who as David Lloyd George was Britain's Prime Minister in the First Great War, died peacefully tonight in his modest, 400-year-old Welsh farm home. He was 82 last Jan. 17.

The King created him an earl in the last New Year's honors list but this fierce champion of the common man never sat in the House of Lords.

His second wife, the former Miss Frances Stevenson whom he married Oct. 23, 1943, was at his bedside when he died. She was his secretary for 30 years and the "glamour girl" of the Versailles peace conference. She was 25 years his junior.

His first wife, Dame Margaret Lloyd George, whom he married in 1888 when he was an unknown solicitor of 25, died in 1941.

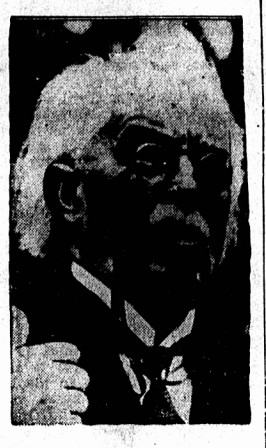
Earl Lloyd George, a small but robust man, had shaken off serious illnesses many times before, but he suffered an attack of influenza in January from which he never rallied. Since Jan. 20 he had been in grave condition and under the care of a heart specialist.

One Left Of "Big Four"

His death leaves Vittorio Orlando of Italy as the only survivor of the famous "Big Four" of Woodrow Wilson, Georges Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Orlando at the Versailles conference where the peace treaty was written after Germany's defeat in 1918.

As the British elder statesman gradually grew weaker, the countess remained with him as much as possible. So did his daughters, Lady Olwen Carey Evans and Lady Megan Lloyd George, and his son Maj. Gwilym Lloyd George, minister of fuel and power in the Churchill cabinet. A second son,

(Continued on Page 3 Col. 2)



EARL LLOYD GEORGE

INTERNATIONAL AT A GLANCE

By The Canadian Press

WESTERN FRONT — United States 7th Army crosses Rhine to join other Allied armies driving deeper into Germany; American 1st Army plunged 35 miles east of Rhine; British 2nd and American 9th Armies strike in Ruhr; Allied onslaught threatens to split German front.

EASTERN FRONT — Russians dash across Hungary to within 31 miles of Austria; Moscow discloses three-pronged push toward Austria now under way.

AERIAL—R.A.F. Mosquitos hit Berlin Monday night for 35th consecutive night; German industrial targets ahead of Russian offensive hit by Allied heavy bombers.

PACIFIC — American naval guns and carrier planes attack Kyukyu Islands; further liquidation of Japanese in Philippines announced.

BURMA — British and India armored units capture Myittha, rail and road junction.

Resources Minister Says One Voice For Empire Impossible

Debate Continues In Commons On World Security Problem.

OTTAWA, March 26 — (CP) — Resources Minister Crerar said today in the Commons that any attempt to have the British Commonwealth speak with one voice at the forthcoming San Francisco security conference or at any other conference would give rise to friction and difficulties which would break the Commonwealth to pieces.

Speaking during continued debate on world security, Mr. Crerar criticized the statements of Progressive Conservative party members who suggested that the British Commonwealth rather than the United Kingdom should seek representatives as permanent members of the security council in

(Continued on Page 3 Col. 4)

May Extend Income Tax Payment Date

OTTAWA, March 26 — (CP) — Official quarters said today there was a "reasonable prospect" that the deadline for payment of personal income tax for 1944 will be extended beyond April 30. Last year the deadline was extended to Aug. 31 to facilitate the purchase of victory bonds in the spring campaign.

Churchill Back In Great Britain

LONDON, March 26 — (CP) — Prime Minister Churchill was back in Britain tonight after seeing British and American forces begin the "one big heave" he previously said would win the war.

He is expected to give the House of Commons an eyewitness account of the drive across the Rhine before its adjournment Thursday for the Easter holiday.

OTTAWA HEARS RUMORS END IS NOT FAR OFF

OTTAWA, March 26 — (CP) — Prime Minister Mackenzie King's statement in the Commons that Allied successes in Germany gave reason to hope that final disintegration of the German army may not be long delayed lent emphasis tonight to reports current in capital circles during the week-end that the collapse was a possibility within a week.

Sources, usually well-informed, also said that information reaching here tell of plans already having been made for Hitler and his close henchmen to blow themselves up in a last defiant gesture to avoid personal capitulation.

Nazis Close To Admitting War Has Been Lost

BY RICHARD KASISCHKE

LONDON, March 26 — (AP) — Nazi propagandists pleaded with the German people tonight to fight on "though the situation may appear hopeless," and military commentators warned that the German western front was in danger of being split at Frankfurt-Am-Main.

Transocean's Guenther Weber declared: "To the Germans it is immaterial whether we hold a mile of ground more or less, but it is vital for us to maintain a continuous front from the Swiss frontier to Holland."

Although they are hard pressed also on the east front the Germans eyed the west more apprehensively. An official Berlin military spokesman declared that "the decisive fighting of the whole war now is unequivocally in the west."

Propagandist Dr. Rudolf Semmler declared: "We must not lose our courage, strength or self-confidence. We've kept our heads over other situations which appeared to be hopeless so why should we act otherwise now."

A German underground report said Field Marshal Walther von Model, commander of the German northern armies, had been wounded March 16 by a bomb, necessitating the summons of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring from Italy to take charge of the Western Front after Field Marshal von Rundstedt was removed.

Another report said two generals and an air force marshal had been removed as the result of sharp differences between various air force chiefs and the high command. Those reported removed were Field Marshal Baron Wolfram von Richthofen, cousin of the famous First Great War ace, who had been in charge of the German air force armament; Maj.-Gen. Deichmann, air force chief in Italy, and Lt.-Gen. Fiedig, air force chief in the Balkans and Hungary.

Rumors that Goering, chief of the air force, had been arrested also were heard in foreign capitals.

While pointing to reports that the German collapse may come in a week, these same circles made it clear that a "hard core" of organized Nazi resistance, centered at Berchtesgaden, will hold out for months after the military defeat.

Reports have been prevalent here that even now representatives of the German general staff abandoning hope after the crossing of the Rhine in force, have started to find ways to seek peace.

PARIS, March 26 — (AP) — The United States 7th Army hurdled the Rhine today as elements of six other Allied armies — paced by a 35-mile plunge east of the Rhine by the United States 1st Army — swept toward Berlin through crumbling German lines.

(German advices to Madrid said the big push was the greatest in size and intensity ever mounted by the Allies in Europe and declared the British and American armies were using new arms and tactics.)

Seventh army veterans struck without artillery or air preparation in a surprise assault at an undisclosed point. Earlier the Germans had said the Americans were hammering at the gates of the big traffic centre of Karlsruhe, on the south part of the front.

The United States 1st Army has driven 35 miles east of the Rhine to Heckholzhausen, it was announced late tonight after the 1st Army tanks teams raced unchecked into the city of Limburg 21 miles east of the river. Armored forces smashed eastward, trying to crush the Germans before they could escape a pincers being formed by the 1st and United States 9th Armies.

Into Middle of Germany

The United States 3rd Army's original break-through force —the 4th Armored Division — was ripping into the middle of Germany under a security blackout, probably well beyond positions last reported when it was 40 miles east of the Rhine.

Mop-up forces swung north into Frankfurt-On-Main, 32 miles from the 1st Army tanks in Limburg.

As these twin drives threatened to split all German armies in the west, the British 2nd and United States 9th Armies struck with such force in the Ruhr and on the North German plain that a high officer of the 1st Allied Airborne Army said "there is nothing to halt a breakthrough."

The radio at Frankfurt, Germany's ninth largest city with a peacetime population of 546,000, was heard calling Nazi leaders to report to field commanders "to help round up split German troops."

The United States 9th Army drove 17 miles beyond the Rhine against bewildered resistance, fought into the northern suburbs of the Ruhr port of Duisburg, and was by-passing Essen, biggest arsenal city in the Ruhr.

The British 2nd Army with which Canadian units are fighting had spilled out 15 miles onto the north German plain, and was driving east of Wesel.

(The BBC heard by NBC said the Anglo American bridgehead had been doubled in size in 24 hours, and another BBC report said the 9th Army was only about three miles from Essen.)

Commissioned

Word has been received that Charles S. Goff has been granted his commission. Lieut. Goff, who enlisted at the outbreak of war, has been overseas almost four years. He was several months in Africa before going to Italy where he has been for the past year.

His mother, Mrs. George E. Goff, resides in Charlottetown.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, TORONTO, March 26 — (CP) — Minimum and maximum temperatures: Vancouver 52; Edmonton 36, 43; Regina 37, 38; Winnipeg 45, 54; Toronto 41, 66; Ottawa 35, 71; Montreal 39, 69; Quebec 31, 51; Saint John 29; Moncton 23, 45; Halifax 27, 44; Charlottetown 23, 40.

Forecasts:

Lower St. Lawrence: Partly cloudy with a few light scattered showers and stationary or slightly lower temperature.

Gulf and North Shore: Fresh to strong winds; partly cloudy and becoming a little cooler with a few light scattered showers or snowflurries.

Bay Chaleur and Maritimes: Fresh winds; partly cloudy with not much change in temperature; light showers in a few districts.

High tide this evening at 11.33 and tonight at 11.29.

Sun set sthis evening at 7.21 and rises tomorrow morning at 6.49.

Full moon March 26th, 1.44 P.M.

Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

DAILY AIR SERVICE

Charlottetown — Summerside— Moncton
Leaves Charlottetown 7.45 A.M., 11.30 A.M., 5.45 P.M.
Arrives Charlottetown 12.55 P.M., 5.30 P.M., 8.45 P.M.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Leave Charlottetown 12.15, 5.45 P.M.
Arrive Charlottetown 3.20, 8.10 P.M
CHARLOTTETOWN— NEW GLASGOW
(Daily Except Sunday)

Leave Charlottetown 1.10, 4.00 P.M.
Arrive Charlottetown 2.35, 5.30 P.M.

Urges Super-Highway To Mar. Provinces

OTTAWA, March 26 — (CP) — Construction of a highway from Sherbrooke, Que., to the Maritime Provinces, cutting through northern Maine, was proposed tonight in the Commons by John R. MacNichol, Progressive Conservative member for Toronto Davenport.

Mr. MacNichol, taking part in the debate on the San Francisco security conference, said the Canadian delegation might well make the proposal for such a highway the subject of discussion with the United States delegation.

"The Maritime Provinces are like a forgotten part of Canada," he said. "They are cut off by that great northern bend of our international boundary around the state of Maine.

"If we allow our American cousins, as we should, to use the Alaska Highway they might help us to build a through highway from Sherbrooke straight east to Saint John, N.B., a super-highway that would bring the Maritime Provinces that much closer to our central provinces and provide quicker transportation. We must have quicker and better transportation to keep this country going."

Coming Events

**"Dance and box social Emerald Hall Easter Monday night. 3-27-3i

**"Zion Pantry Sale at Holman's Saturday afternoon, March 31, at 3 o'clock. 3-27-1i

**"Loading hogs every Thursday for Davis & Fraser Ltd. Merlyn Divine, Peakes. 1-23-tf

**"Taking hogs at Hunter River Thursday afternoon and Friday until noon. Borden Bagnall. 3-26-3i

**"On account of road conditions I will not be buying pigs anywhere but Fredericton until further notice. Knud Jorgensen. 3-26-2i

**"Loading hogs Thursday, March 29th as follows: Summerside till 1.30 P. M. Kensington till 3 P. M. Elmer Wigmore, Bradalbane, Friday till 11.30 A. M. Borden Bagnall, Hunter River, Friday till noon. McEwen and Caseley. 3-26-2i.

New Premium Basis For Seed Potatoes

OTTAWA, March 26 — (CP)— A definite basis for payment of premiums on seed potatoes and a schedule of retail and wholesale mark-ups in their handling were announced tonight by the Prices Board.

A new order, now in effect, clarifies previous regulations and reduces the amount of detail required in invoicing and recording sales, E. J. Chambers, administrator of fresh fruits and vegetables, explained in a press release.

Growers' prices for seed potatoes are stipulated by a schedule which provides premiums above the price of No. 1 table stock as follows: For certified seed, one cent; for foundation A, 1 1-2 cents; for foundation, two cents.

Wholesale and retail margins in handling seed potatoes are on the same basis as on table stock.

Urges Bill For Free Zones And Free Ports

OTTAWA, March 26 — (CP) — L. Philippe Picard (L., Bellechasse) has tabled a resolution on the Commons order paper today proposing introduction "at the earliest possible opportunity" of a bill providing for the establishment of free zones and free ports in Canada.

It was recalled that Mayor Lucien Borne of Quebec has at various times advocated establishment of a free port at that St. Lawrence City.

Different Interpretation Placed By Crerar On Prime Minister's Speech

(Special To The Guardian)

OTTAWA, March 26 — The debate on the motion in support of the San Francisco conference continued into its second week yesterday with more expressions of opinion against the proposals contained in the Prime Minister's speech of a week ago today.

The speech that was most significant was made by Hon. T. A. Crerar, (Churchill, Man.) Minister of Mines and Resources. Unless everyone in the House of Commons has been misinterpreting the remarks of the Prime Minister, he held out a plan last week where by Canada's commitments at San Francisco would be limited to planning, leaving the details of the place Canada would play in the world security organization to be determined on an individual basis, working with the security council. Canada's contribution would be limited in any dispute to whatever promises of assistance she had made in regard to that particular area and those predetermined circumstances.

As member after member has pointed out, there is little difference between such a plan of bilateral, specific agreements with the security council and bilateral agreements between two individual nations. In neither case are they likely to be operative until it is too late to do anything but fight such an "inevitable" war as the present; in neither case would it be possible to halt aggression in time.

Mr. Crerar's Interpretation

Mr. Crerar, however, interpreted the speech in an entirely different manner. To him, alone of all members, it meant that Canada was going to make sufficiently strong commitments immediately that she would be in a position to

(Continued on page 7, Col. 8)

Hanson Inquires Re Canadians In Italy

OTTAWA, March 26 — (CP) — Hon. R. B. Hanson (PC-York Sunbury) in the Commons today asked if the Department of National Defence was prepared to make a statement on the Canadian forces in Italy.

Mr. Hanson said relatives of men in the Carleton and York Regiment from New Brunswick had written him asking for information about the position of the Canadians in Italy.

Douglas Abbott, parliamentary assistant to Defence Minister McNaughton, said an announcement on the Canadian forces would be made as soon as such was possible.

3,000 More Dwellings Are Needed In Halifax

HALIFAX, March 26—(CP) — At least 3,000 more dwellings are needed to accommodate Halifax's present population, George T. Bates, executive secretary of the Civic Planning Commission, today told a service (Kiwanis) Club.

He said that the city's civilian population was slightly more than 80,000.

HALIFAX, March 26—(CP)— Leaders in the C. C. F. movement from all parts of the Maritimes, members of parliament and party officials from Ottawa and candidates for the federal election, will arrive in Halifax Thursday and Friday to attend the C.C.F. "leadership school" which opens its two-day session here Friday afternoon.

BLOSSOM OF CANADA FLOUR
IMPROVES YOUR BAKING

Probe Meat Shortage In The U. S. A.

Canada Discussed As U. S. Senate Subcommittee Begins Work.

WASHINGTON, March 26—(CP) —A Senate subcommittee tackled meat today as the first problem of what chairman Elmer Thomas declared will be "a nation-wide investigation of what is causing food shortages in the United States."

Mention of Canada and what it is doing to aid Britain's food problems entered the discussions immediately with Senator Burton Wheeler (Dem.-Mont.) waxing critical of lend-lease disposition of meat. He said he understood Canada has plenty of meat and wondered why more is not being sent to Britain by the Dominion.

Senator Wheeler also asked investigation of what he said were obstacles in the way of Canadian meat entering the United States and wanted to know why Canadian meat could not be used to supply requirements of the United Nations Relief and rehabilitation Administration. He suggested the needs of those countries now being supplied by the United States through lend-lease could be met by Canada.

Senator Henrick Shipstead (Rep.-Minn.) suggested that Britain is not getting more food from Canada because she has "to pay for it." Britain does not pay, he said, for lend-lease food from the United States. Senator Shipstead added that butter is unrationed in Canada. (The current butter ration in Canada is six ounces a person a week, to be increased to seven ounces weekly April 1.)

Lt.-Col. R.W. Olmstead, director of supply for the Commodity Credit Corporation, told the subcommittee "we have made efforts to get large quantities" of meat from Canada but the Canadian Government would not permit exports.

(OTTAWA, March 26—(CP)— An Agriculture Department spokesman said today that Britain takes from Canada as much meat as the Dominion can provide, and any quantity for which she cannot pay with Canadian dollars is covered by Canada through mutual aid.)

Airman Burned To Death In Fire

BELLEVILLE, ONT., March 26—(CP)—Flt. Lt. Robert H. Ellard, 47, of Toronto, died today in a $55,000 fire that swept through two wings of the No. 1 Instrument Flying Training School at the R.C.A.F. at Mohawk Airport, 14 miles east of Belleville.

Some of the 55 officers asleep in the officers' quarters when the flames broke out at 5:30 a.m. leaped from second story windows to escape. Flt Lt. Ellard is believed to have been blinded by the smoke and unable to find his way out from the second storey.

With the exception of two men, taken to hospital, all the others escaped with minor hurts.

The officers' quarters were completely gutted. All personal belongings were lost.

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